

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 17, 2023

All Are Welcome

hriccatholic.org



That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants... a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, "Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full." Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan."

(from Mt 18)

Friends OF THE POOR® WALK



Join both the
Holy Redeemer and
Immaculate Conception
St. Vincent de Paul Chapters
as we raise money for those in need

St. Vincent de Paul's "Friends of the Poor" Walk Saturday, September 23 10:30 a.m.

(Registration begins at 10:00)

Sign up the day of the walk or:

IC: Sign up online at www.fopwalk.org

Search for: SVPD WALK FOR OUR POOR
Immaculate Conception Parish, Newburyport

HR: Donate online at

<https://bit.ly/stvincent-holy-redeemer>

We will start and end at IC's parking lot (Green St., Nbpt.).

This 3K walk is an important fundraiser for SVdP.

We encourage all parishioners, families, and friends to join us as we walk through downtown Newburyport to raise awareness and money so we can continue to serve the many needy in our communities.

Holy Redeemer Parish
4 Green Street Merrimac

HAM + BEAN SUPPER

Followed with **BINGO**

Saturday, September 23rd

Doors open at 5:00... following the 4:00 Mass
\$10.00 per person 12 and younger \$5.00

4 Games of Bingo \$1.00 per card

CASH PRIZES

We will be serving sliced ham, baked beans,
cole slaw, rolls, and homemade apple crisp.
After dinner, join us for BINGO!



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

Saturday (9/16)

4:00pm **IC Carmella Herlihy, Richard & Barbara Hanley, Joseph Keefe, Laurie Ann Freeman** (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Dow)

4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Stanley & Deacon Moranski)

Sunday (9/17)

8:30am **Nativity Jozef Kardas & family** (Fr. Morin)

9:00am **IC** (Fr. Richard)

10:00am **St. Ann John Pallone** (Fr. Morin)

11:30am **IC Joseph Carmody, Josephine Minalio, Stanley Baikewicz** (Fr. Stanley & Deacon Moranski)

Monday (9/18)

9:00am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Tuesday (9/19)

9:00am (Fr. Stanley)

Wednesday (9/20)

9:00am **IC Marie Chmura** (Fr. Stanley)

Thursday (9/21)

9:00am **IC Patricia A. Mosher** (Fr. Morin)

Friday (9/22)

9:00am **IC** (Fr. Stanley)

Saturday (9/23)

4:00pm **IC Al Hasapis** (Fr. Stanley)

4:00pm **Nativity Jerry Mullen** (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (9/24)

8:30am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Moranski)

9:00am **IC For the Intentions of Denise Giacchetti** (Fr. McLaughlin)

10:00am **St. Ann Luella E. LeBlanc** (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)

11:30am **IC Alan Chu** (Fr. Stanley)

In your prayers please remember all of the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

Saturday Vigil Mass is live-streamed online through our website: hriccatholic.org and on Facebook: (Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes).



Questions of the Week

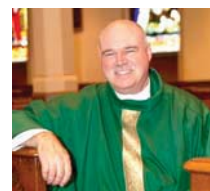


Adult: When do you find it difficult to show mercy and forgiveness?

Child: How do you let someone know that you forgive them?

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,



I can remember a time in my high school years when the math teacher made the astonishing statement that we were allowed to use calculators during the upcoming math exam. Shocked, I initially thought, "Well, in that case, I can't help but get them all right!" I quickly broke out my trusty little pocket calculator and began counting the A+ into my grade.... Not so fast, though! He then went on to explain that we were not going to be graded on whether we got the correct answers or not, but rather on HOW we calculated these answers...using the good, old-fashioned formulas and equations that we had supposedly learned all semester. Ughh. I still had to know how to do these. The calculator was really only there to double check things.

Sometimes in our human lives, we are tempted to take a shortcut or look for ways to make something easier to do. There is a time-honored and tested method for making a decent hamburger from scratch, and then there is take-out, fast food, and Door Dash! While the latter may be an attractive and convenient option on many days, there is something supremely satisfying about doing it the hard way, even if it only helps you to better appreciate the blessing of the present.

Forgiveness can be like that.

We know the right answer. It is mercy. It is absolution. It is pardon. It is contrition. When faced with sin, either our own or the effects of the sin of others, we know what the right answer has to be: forgive! We may say it, we may pray it, we may do litanies of it, we may offer acts of service in honor of it. We do penance. We know what the final outcome has to be. Our "spiritual calculator" tells us so: forgive and be forgiven!

But in order to pass the test and excel on the exam, if life can be considered as such, we must know the how of it all and practice it intricately in our lives. Although we might avoid the image of God sitting down with a great abacus or calculator in heaven, trying to determine "who's been naughty and who's been nice..." it is imperative to remember that God knows everything that can be known and sees all things in detail. This means the greatest, most altruistic and loving moments of our lives are in clear focus before the Lord, as well as the embarrassing, scandalous, and most humbling times. God sees it all! If left simply to some cold, heartless calculation, many (if not most) of us might find ourselves wanting in the divine scales of justice.

Fortunately for us, God's calculator doesn't work right, or rather, it doesn't give fixed answers to humanly-impossible math equations. Mercy is thrown into the mix as a divine multiplier of God's Grace in our everyday lives, redeeming and sanctifying us, despite our sins and failings. Even so, we are still called to mimic and imitate that divine factoring of forgiveness in our daily lives. Recalling that, first and foremost, we have been forgiven a vast, immeasurable amount by God, our mere, limited human forgiveness (which always pales in comparison to the Divine) has to

(Continued on page 4)

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, September 18

IC Church Tours, Part II: Saints/Pastors/Benefactors
9:30am, 1:00pm, and 7:00pm IC Church

AA Meeting 10:30am, IC St. Louis Hall

Women at the Well 6:30pm, IC Charity Dining Room

Scout Troop 41 Mtg. 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Tuesday, September 19

Women's AA Mtg. 7:00am, St. Ann Hall

Breaking Bread Meal 4:45pm, IC St. Louis Hall

IC Choir Practice 6:30pm, IC Church

Wednesday, September 20

Holy Jammers Practice 10:00am, IC Nazareth Library

Cub Scout Pack 26 Mtg. 5:30pm, Nativity Hall

Thursday, September 21

Adoration 7:00pm, IC Church

Friday, September 22

AA Mtg. 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Saturday, September 23

Confirmation Retreat 10:00am, IC St. Louis Hall

SVdP Walk for the Poor 10:30am, Meet at IC Parking Lot

Confessions 3:00pm, IC Church

HR Ham & Bean Supper 5:00pm, Nativity Hall

Sunday, September 24

Faith Formation, K-8 10:00am, IC Parish Center

Interfaith Choir Concert & Social 2:00pm, IC Church

To schedule your group's in-person meeting, contact Collaborative offices at 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604 to reserve your space.

(Continued from page 3)

flow freely from our hearts in everything that we do.

In a way, we have to demonstrate to the Lord that we know how to forgive, even if we know what the final answer must be. We have to show God that we can put into motion genuine human forgiveness, even if it is not perfect, even if it has starts and stops, moments where we have crossed out a line or erased a sentence. Through our humble, human scribbles, we must be able to offer to God our significant understanding of His gift to us in Christ.

St. Paul writes in his Letter to the Romans: "But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by His blood, will we be saved through Him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by His life." (Rm 5:8-10)

Forgiveness will always be, first of all and at the end of time, an action of God. Even our best, fleeting human attempts at it will ultimately be reflections of what God has already done for us. Any success that we might find in experiencing forgiveness will be because we have found a way to involve God significantly in the process of rearranging our hearts and embracing the mercy that is presently ours in Christ.

So, we know the answer. That really was never going to be the hard part. How we got there...well, that is the real drama, the zest of human life, now isn't it! With Christ as our guide, however, the equation is clear, the calculations are straightforward and the solution is evident. Quod erat demonstrandum, QED, as they say: Mercy!

Fr. Timothy Harrison

Pastor

Bulletin Information

Email all bulletin submissions by Monday at noon to hricbulletin@gmail.com.

An Evening of Formation and Reflection

For All Liturgical Ministers Wednesday, **Sept. 27, 6-8 p.m.**

Location: Immaculate Conception Church, Newburyport

Presenter: Fr. George Morin

All Eucharistic ministers, lectors, greeters, servers, ministers of Communion to the sick and homebound and those in the hospital and in nursing homes, and anyone else interested in these ministries in both of our parishes are invited to this event. Current ministers are encouraged to attend as part of your ongoing training for these ministries.

Join us for an evening of reflection and formation to help all understand better the liturgical ministries to which they have been called. It will *not* be a training session as you have already been trained. Instead, it will be an evening where you will learn about the importance of your ministry and the theology behind its significance. The tone of the evening will be prayerful and reflective.

Laudato Si Meeting Cancelled

There will be no Laudato Si meeting in September due to a speaker conflict. The next meeting will be October 18 in IC St. Louis Hall from 6:30-8:00 p.m. The speakers will be the owners of Green House in Newburyport, a local business which provides us with environmentally sound options for products we use all the time. There will be a show and tell of their favorite products (maybe there will be samples?).

Adoration

All are welcome for one hour of sacred silence. Gift yourself some time with Jesus in the Eucharist.

Place: IC Church

Enter through the Green Street door only.

Times: Thurs. 7-8 p.m.

and

Fri. 9:30-12 noon

Note: If a Friday funeral is scheduled, or in the absence of a presider, IC Church will remain open for "Sacred Silence" only. Check the HRIC calendar online for updated information.



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Pelican Intervention Fund Update



For those who receive contribution envelopes in the mail, in October you will notice a new envelope for The Pelican Intervention Fund. These envelopes are not dated. You can drop your contribution in the collection at any time according to your means. Make checks payable to HR or IC Parish.

At the end of the September 16 and 23 Masses, P.I.F. will provide a brief update on our mission and our work to date which you have generously supported these last 8 years.

Unfortunately, the opiate crisis continues to grow. In 2022, over 2,357 Massachusetts opiate fatalities were confirmed, a 9% increase from 2016. To date we have placed 135 local men and women into 12-step residential sober living. 12-step recovery programs receive no federal/state funding and insurance won't cover costs due to its faith-based nature. So, your support is more important than ever.

Pope Francis spoke of this crisis on his August 27 weekly address, stating, ***"We cannot be indifferent to people caught in addiction. The Lord Jesus stopped, became close, healed wounds. We too are called to act to stop before situations of fragility and pain, to know how to listen to the cry of loneliness and anguish, to bend down to lift and bring back to new life those who fall into the bondage of drugs."***

We look forward to sharing the Pelican Intervention Fund updates and thank you in advance for your continued support.

Women at the Well

New Bible Study on the Women in Scripture Begins October 16.

Are you seeking a way to connect to other faith-centered women in the midst of a busy work, social, or parenting life? Or maybe you're just searching for a new way to regularly meet and connect with Jesus.

Join us for an information session about the new fall study, ***Discovering Our Dignity by Walking With Purpose***, on September 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the IC Parish Center.

We invite all women to come join us at any time, no matter where you may be in your relationship with God. The group meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in person at the IC Parish Center and virtually on Zoom.

If you have any questions, or would like to join via Zoom, please email HRICWomenAtTheWell@gmail.com.

Recitation of the Rosary



Join us for recitation of the rosary Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. (before 9:00 Mass) in person at IC Church or on Facebook. www.facebook.com/hriccatholic/

Collaborative Faith Formation School Year Programs (K-10, including Sacramental Prep.)

Faith Formation schedules and registration forms for the 2023-24 school year are now available on our website at www.hriccatholic.org/Faith-Formation.

New: Online Payment Option

Online payment via our online giving site is now available in addition to the traditional payment-by-check option. Visit our website for more details and how to take advantage of online Faith Formation payments: www.hriccatholic.org/Faith-Formation.

Baptism

We celebrate this sacrament the second Sunday of each month at IC Church. Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604) for more information.

Collaborative Contacts

Holy Redeemer

4 Green St., Merrimac 01860

Phone: 978-346-8604

info@hriccatholic.org

Immaculate Conception

42 Green St., Nbpt. 01950

Phone: 978-462-2724

Fax: 978-234-7399

info@hriccatholic.org

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Rev. Timothy Harrison, Pastor
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604, info@hriccatholic.org

Christine Breslow, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper
978-462-2724 x 402 cbreslow@hriccatholic.org

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978-462-2724 x405, agiard@hriccatholic.org

Dennis LaMalfa, Business Manager
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Karen Leff, Media Outreach Coordinator,
hricbulletin@gmail.com

Pilgrimage Opportunities

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: April 8-16, 2024

With Fr. George Morin and Christine and Paul Blanchette

\$2,599 (double occupancy) from Boston
(add \$649/person for Dubrovnik option)

Visit www.206tours.com/blanchette/medjugorje/, scan the QR code, or contact us:
Alexandra@206tours.com or cat@206tours.com



Pilgrimage to Fatima and Flavors of Portugal Duoro With Fr. Harrison

\$8,174 (double occupancy) from Boston in Cabin D (Cabin upgrades available at an extra cost).

Visit www.206tours.com/blanchette/fatima/, scan the QR code, or contact us:
alexandra@206tours.com or cat@206tours.com



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Prayer Shawls for the Sick

Shawls and lapghans are given freely as a gift, to offer comfort and joy. The Prayer Shawl Ministry would like to deliver a prayer shawl to each and every person on our Prayers for the Sick list to let them know we are praying for them. The ministry group is searching for contact information for the names on our list. If you know any of these people, we would be happy to deliver to them (we will leave it at their door so we don't intrude). Please contact Helen at 978-771-4673 to set up a delivery time.

Prayers for the Sick

May the comfort and healing of Christ embrace all in our Collaborative who are suffering from illness, especially:

Patricia Baikewicz	Charmaine Haan	Donika Pulake
Carole Bradley	Hillar Haan	Douglas Rose
Priscilla Brown	Jay Hanslig	Maureen Russell
Vasfije Buhali	Ed Hardy	Rob Schweizer
Autumn Rose	Terence Healey	Frank Siderio
Coulombe	Linda Hofferty	Yvonne Sloban
Bill Crounse	Armand Hyatt	Gary Smith
Drew Daubach	Michael Juralawicz	Arlene Stoddard
Kristen	Sam Kitchen	Tom Tribble
D'Entremont	Arthur LaPointe	Michael Tucker
Jeanine Ebacher	Carol O'Neal	Helen Vaillancourt
Fowler	Eleanora Paciulan	Maddie Villers
Ann-Margaret	Joseph Palumbo	Laurent Vincent
Ferrante	Joanne Pesa	
Helen Fox	Lee Preble	

Contact the Collaborative offices to remove someone or to add someone on our prayer list: 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604.

IC Haiti

Thanks to all who contributed to the August collection for IC Haiti. Your generous response to our summer appeal puts IC Haiti in a good position to fund the 2023–24 school budget for the Father Marc Piché school in Puit Chacha, Haiti. We are currently waiting to receive a detailed budgetary request from our partner Health Equity International which oversees the operation of the school in Puit Chacha. The ongoing crisis in Haiti will certainly impact the costs for running the school, but we are confident we are now able to fund this year's school budget thanks to your generosity.

To learn more about IC Haiti, please go to our website ichaiti.org where you will find an eight-part series on the history of our engagement with Haiti.

Our next collection will take place in December which is actually the first collection for the 2024–25 school year. If you would like to contribute to IC Haiti at any time during the year, you can do so by any one of the means listed below:

- Place an envelop marked "IC Haiti" into a second collection box in any of the churches. If you write a check, make it out to "IC Haiti"
- Send a check made out to "IC Haiti" to IC Haiti, 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
- Go to our website ichaiti.org and donate via PayPal.

IC 175TH ANNIVERSARY

IC Church Tours

IC Church Tours Part II: Meet the Team!

Who were the architects, painters & founding pastors that bequeathed us this Neo-Gothic worship space?

Recognize OT & NT Biblical Saints amid 2nd Millennium patron Saints standing guard as we pray 175 years later.

Note: Mini bios meet sacred silence regarding IC's mostly anonymous ancestors.

Date: Monday, September 18

Place: IC Church interior

Times: 9:30 a.m.* and repeated

1:00 p.m. and

7:00 p.m.

*If a funeral is scheduled, it will preempt this session.



Harvest Fair Items Needed

Holiday Items **Raffle Prizes** **Grandma's Attic Items**
Wall of Wine Prizes **Baked Goods**

Please consider helping us make our Harvest Fair a success by dropping off your donations for **Grandma's Attic** or the **Holiday tables** in the baskets provided at the entry of St. Louis Hall. If you have a gift card or voucher for the **Raffle table**, please give it to Melinda in the parish office.

Baked goods are needed! It's not too early to start baking and freezing cakes, breads, and cookies. Pies are welcome too **and** perhaps consider gluten-free items. Baked goods may be dropped off on Friday, October 20 after 3:00 p.m. or on the day of the fair (Oct. 21), any time after 7:30 a.m.

Volunteers: We could use the help of people who might want to volunteer for the day of the fair to help sell raffle tickets, assist with serving lunch, help at the bake table, etc. If you are interested in helping out, please attend our meeting on **October 5 at 9:45 a.m.** (following Daily Mass) in IC St. Louis Hall.

If you have any questions, please email hbees@comcast.net.



The IC Harvest Fair committee introduces the. **"Wall of Wine"** booth at the IC Harvest Fair on **Saturday, October 21**. The "Wall of Wine" will be filled with bottles of wine valued from \$15–\$75 or more! Each bottle will be in a foil sack and numbered. (Red foil for Red/Rose wines, silver foil for white wines)

For only \$10.00 you can try your luck and choose any bottle. The bottle will always be valued at \$15 or more and the bottle may be a premium wine valued at \$30+. You must be 21+ to participate.

Want to help make this booth a success? Please purchase one or more bottles of wine valued at \$15.00 or more and donate them to the Wall of Wine. We will be collecting all wine donations at weekend Masses in October, prior to the Fair. Call Kathie 978-992-6450 for more information or to have your wine donations picked up.

Free Concert



Interfaith Choir Concert

All Are Welcome

Sunday, September 24
2:00-3:30 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Church
42 Green St., Newburyport

Join us as we celebrate the bond of shared music at a concert featuring church choirs from the City of Newburyport.

All are welcome to attend this interfaith program of sacred music, hymns, and spirituals performed by church choirs of Newburyport.

Audience members will have a chance to join in singing as well!

This event is hosted by Immaculate Conception Parish in continued celebration of our 175th anniversary.

Parking is available in the lot in the rear of the church on Court Street.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

IC Offertory, Sept. 9–10	\$4,214.00
IC Mailed-in Offertory, Week Ending Sept. 8	\$1,355.00
IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$3,228.84
Total Weekly Offertory	\$8,797.84
Monthly, Sept. 9–10	\$1,251.00

This week's second collection (Sept. 17) supports the retirement, medical, and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church, and you. Please be generous to this important collection. For more information, please visit www.clergytrust.org. The second collection next weekend (Sept. 24) is Ongoing Church Maintenance. Unless otherwise indicated, make out checks to Immaculate Conception Parish with the second collection noted in the memo.

If you would like to mail in your envelopes, send them to **Immaculate Conception Parish, 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.**

You can also sign up for online giving. Visit our website to learn more: hricatholic.org/IC-Online-Giving.

IC St. Vincent de Paul

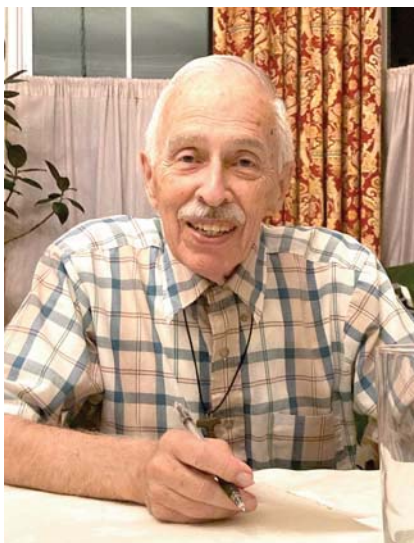
If you know someone living in Newbury/Newburyport who needs assistance, please suggest that they call our **help line 978-518-0728**. We are ready to assist.

You can now make online donations on our website: **www.svdnewburyport.org**. If you would like to mail in your donation, please make your check payable to "**SVdP of Newburyport**" and drop it into the collection box at Mass or mail it to the parish office at 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.

Breaking Bread Meal Dining-in Now Available

We serve our weekly Breaking Bread meal on Tuesday evenings. It is a hot, nourishing, 3-course dinner. Supper is served from 4:45–5:30. Those who prefer to continue "Grab & Go" can pick up at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome!

Farewell to Fr. Ray



This week we bid a fond farewell to Fr. Ray Richard, O.F.M., Cap as he returns to his work in Honduras.

It has been a blessing to get to know Fr. Ray over the years and to enjoy his presence and gentle ministry among us while he vacations in his hometown. Please make it a point to wish him well in his travels this coming week. We look forward to seeing him again when his schedule allows. God Bless!

Immaculate Conception School

Incorporating faith-based experiences into the school day is woven into the fabric of the Immaculate Conception School community. On Friday, September 8, Fr. Tim attended Morning Meeting to welcome everyone to the new school year and to share a special blessing to mark the occasion. After reading a prayer, Father blessed all the Pre-K to grade 8 students with holy water as they held up their backpacks. School families were in attendance, and were blessed as well. It was a unique way to start the day—at the end of a very hot first week of school.

The IC community wishes all families with school-age children a wonderful year of learning, growth, and joy.



Grade 4 students hold up their backpacks as they are blessed with holy water.

Photo courtesy of L.Capobianco

IC St. Vincent de Paul Walk for Our Poor



Immaculate Conception's St. Vincent de Paul Society's annual fundraiser, "The Walk for our Poor" will be held on **Saturday, September 23**. See **page 2** of the bulletin for details.

To register online, go to our SVDP WALK FOR OUR POOR website at: <https://www.fopwalk.org/event/2930> and you can sign up to walk for IC or donate to one of the walkers already registered. This link will take you directly to the Immaculate Conception, Newburyport walk page.

Community Service of Newburyport

Roll into September: Toilet Paper and Paper Towel Drive

Community Service of Newburyport is collecting toilet paper and paper towels through September. You can drop off your donation in the IC Parish Center Lobby, The Dance Place in the Tannery (50 Water Street, Nbpt.), or the YWCA Newburyport (13 Market St., Nbpt). Paper products are not covered by WIC and SNAP benefits (as food is) and these costly items are often sacrificed for the sake of feeding the family. Please help if you can. These items fly off the shelf as soon as they come in.

Community Service of Newburyport has been helping families in need since 1912.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

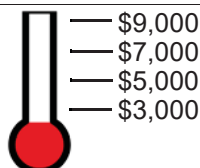
HR Offertory, Sept. 9–10	\$1,882.00
HR Mailed-In Offertory, Week Ending Sept. 8	\$ 275.00
HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving	<u>\$1,110.00</u>
Total Weekly Offertory	\$3,267.00
Monthly, Sept. 9–10	\$1,469.00

This week's second collection (Sept. 17) supports the retirement, medical, and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church, and you. Please be generous to this important collection. For more information, please visit www.clergytrust.org. The second collection next weekend (Sept. 24) is Ongoing Church Maintenance. Unless otherwise indicated, make out checks to Holy Redeemer Parish with the second collection noted in the memo.

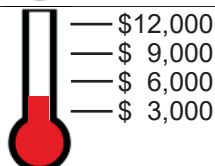
If you would like to mail in your collections, send them to **Holy Redeemer Parish, 4 Green Street, Merrimac, MA 01860.**

You can also sign up for online giving. Visit our website to learn more: hrccatholic.org/hr-online-giving.

St. Ann Church Painting Project
Goal \$9,000.00
To Date \$1,478.00



Nativity Hall Air Conditioning
Goal \$12,000.00
To Date \$4,815.00



Friends of the Poor Walk

The Holy Redeemer SVdP conference will once again be raising money as part of the national Friends of the Poor Walk conducted each year in connection with the celebration of the feast of our patron St. Vincent de Paul.

The Friends of the Poor Walk will be held on Saturday, **September 23** in conjunction with the Immaculate Conception conference. **See page 2** of the bulletin for details.

Donations can be made in person at the walk or you can donate any time by using the envelopes provided in the pews of each church (Cash or checks made out to "HR St. Vincent de Paul"). You can mail donations to 4 Green St. Merrimac, MA 01860. You can also now donate online by credit card or paypal at <https://bit.ly/stvincent-holy-redeemer>.

As always, we appreciate your generosity and ask that you pray for the success of our work. If you know of someone who needs assistance, please have them call our hotline at 978-346-8604 X4.



St. Ann Coffee Hour

St Ann Church Welcomes All to the Return of Our Coffee And...

We are happy to announce that the first Coffee And... will be on **Sunday, October 1**, after the 10:00 Mass. We hope you will join us in the church hall, for coffee and baked goods, to visit with old friends, and to make new ones. For your convenience, the side door on the parking lot side will be open with easier access to the hall.



Activities Committee Updates

Next Meeting: September 27

We will meet on Wednesday, September 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the Merrimac hall to get our Holiday Fair plans underway. Many, many hands are needed and we welcome your help!

Coffee and Conversation, September 17

Please join us after the 8:30 Mass on September 17 for coffee and conversation. We would all love to hear what you did on your summer vacation!

Ham & Bean Supper, September 23

See page 2 of this bulletin for more Supper details.

We are looking for some help. We need muscle to help us move tables and chairs for the set up of the ham and bean supper. The committee will be meeting on Friday, September 22 at 10:00 a.m. at Nativity Hall. Please mark your calendar and come lend a hand.

Holiday Fair, November 18

Bake sale table: planning ahead! Our bake table could use some homemade zucchini breads. We understand they freeze well. Bake now to avoid the rush!

Lawn signs: Anyone who has an advertising lawn sign from last year, please return to the back of either church so we can change the date and get it cleaned up and ready to use for this year's fair.

Holiday Fair baskets We are collecting baskets for the November fair. Please consider donating your empty wicker baskets by leaving them in the back of either church. Also, we are looking for donations of 1 1/2"-2" wired Christmas ribbon, clear jumbo plastic bags for the baskets, and heavy-duty paper for wrapping and stuffing the baskets. Donations can be left in the back of either church.

Shawls and Lapghans



Shawls and lapghans are given freely as a gift, to offer comfort and joy! We would be happy to deliver to anyone. Or if you personally would like to give one to a friend, relative or neighbor, please contact Helen at 978-771-4673.

Come join us. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Nativity Hall in Merrimac at 2:00 p.m. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We will teach you! All are welcome.

Our next meeting is Thursday, October 5 at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 2:00 p.m.



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Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr. Nestor is known for fostering a sense of community wherever he goes.

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