



Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative

serving Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport & West Newbury

"Come all you who are thirsty, come to the waters..."

HRIC COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY DIRECTORY

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied Graces"

1 Peter 4:10

If you are interested in any of the ministries found in this document, contact Collaborative offices at 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604.

* Revised May 2026

Introduction

The Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception parishes offer many different occasions for each of us to serve our church and our community in a variety of capacities. We welcome your interest and invite you to join us in this work.

This Ministry Directory describes the many opportunities to grow in faith, enhance the celebration of the Eucharist, and enjoy fellowship as we assist others in the communities served by our Collaborative.

Prayer helps us all to enlighten our hearts and discern and identify the particular gifts which God has given us. Please consider sharing your God-given talents with our Collaborative family and communities by joining one or more ministries.

Please use this booklet as a reference guide to learn more about each ministry opportunity and then ask yourself, “Am I currently serving in one of these ministries?” “Can I be of service to our Collaborative through these ministries?” “As I gather more information about a particular ministry, will it help me to discern which of my gifts will assist in service to God and our Collaborative?”

We hope that this information will enliven the hearts of those who are ready to come forward to actively live out their baptismal calling “to serve.”

If you are interested in any of these ministries, contact Collaborative offices at 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604.

Please note, in this directory:

HR stands for **Holy Redeemer Parish** which includes St. Ann Church in West Newbury, MA and Nativity Church in Merrimac, MA.

IC stands for **Immaculate Conception Parish** serving Newbury and Newburyport, MA.

Liturgical Ministries



Altar Linen Care

Purpose: To ensure that all the altar linens and altar robes are kept clean and in good repair. Linens are cleaned weekly.

Who: Any parishioner willing to help and able to meet the weekly commitment of duties. Training is provided.

Contact: IC Church: Loretta Haley

Nativity Church: Mary Falasca

St. Ann Church: Looking for volunteers

Altar Servers — Adult and Youth



Purpose: Altar servers are trained to assist the celebrant at Mass and to help enhance each celebration.

Who: Any adult parishioner in good standing with the church or any young person in 4th grade or above who is willing to serve their parish. Training is provided.

Contact: IC: Mary Zerigian

MaryAnn Lawler

HR: Tracy Blais



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Purpose: Extraordinary Ministers of Bread and Wine receive spiritual and practical preparation for their role to distribute both forms of Eucharist at Mass. They may also bring Holy Communion to parishioners confined at home, in hospitals, or in nursing and rehabilitation centers in the area.

Who: Any trained adult parishioner in good standing with the church.

Contact: IC: Mary Zerigian

MaryAnn Lawler

HR: Michelle Jablonski

Liturgical Ministries



Lectors

Purpose: A lector proclaims the scripture from the Old and New testament, except for the Gospel, during the Mass and presents the intentions for general intercessions when a deacon is not present.

Who: Any parishioner in good standing with the church.

Contact: IC: Mary Zerigian
MaryAnn Lawler

HR: Michelle Jablonski

Offertory Collectors



Purpose: The collectors pass the baskets throughout the congregation after the Prayers of the Faithful. All donations are put into a large basket to be brought forward with the gifts during the Offertory Procession at Mass.

Who: Any parishioner in good standing with the church. Any child under 16 must be accompanied by their parent/guardian.

Contact: IC: Jim Williamson

HR: Michelle Jablonski



IC Greeters

Purpose: Offer a welcoming presence at the doors of the church before and after Masses and other celebrations. Greet all parishioners and guests with a smile, answer any questions, hand out bulletins and other materials as needed.

Before each Mass ask parishioners to bring up the Offertory Gifts.

Who: Any parishioner (if under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult)

Contact: Kathie Williamson

Liturgical Ministries



Music Ministry, Cantors, and Choir

Purpose: Music augments the joy, solemnity, and festivity of the Mass through the use of instruments and voice.

Who: Anyone who enjoys singing is encouraged to join. **All are welcome.**

When: St. Ann Church- Choir sings weekly at the 10:00 a.m. Mass,
Rehearsal is at 9:45 a.m.

Nativity Church- Choir sings weekly at the 8:30 a.m. Mass,
Rehearsal is at 8:15 a.m.

IC Adult Choir (High school–adult) Sings weekly at the 11:30 a.m. Mass.
Rehearsal is Tues. from 7:00–8:45 p.m.

IC Youth Choir (Grades 1–8) Choir sings 2X a month at the 9:00 a.m. Mass
Rehearsal is Wed. from 4:30–5:30 p.m.

IC Ensemble (All ages) Plays weekly at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Piano, guitar,
string, or wind instruments.

Contact: HR: Jennifer Acorn
Kathy Peavey

IC: Donna Postle, Adult Choir
Paula Quann, Youth Choir



Ushers — Holy Redeemer

Purpose: To make the warmth and welcome of Christ real in our Collaborative, ushers greet and welcome parishioners and guests at all weekend services. Their duties include assisting with seating, selecting individuals to bring the gifts in the Offertory procession to the altar, collection of the offering and bringing it to the altar, and distributing the bulletin and other printed material.

Who: Any parishioner willing to serve the parish.

Contact: HR: Michelle Jablonski

Faith Ministries



Baptismal Preparation

Purpose: This class is a prerequisite for all parents/guardians seeking Baptism for their child. It is a one-session informational class.

Who: Any parent/guardian seeking Baptism for their child/children.

Contact : Melinda Burrell

Centering Prayer



Purpose: **Centering Prayer** is a prayer of silence and surrender to God's loving presence and action in our lives. **In silence we rest in God.** The name was taken from Thomas Merton's description of contemplative prayer as prayer that is "centered entirely on the presence of God...."
Lectio Divina/Divine Reading is a reading of, reflecting on, responding to, and resting in the word of God. In group Lectio Divina members share, at deepening levels, their reflections and response to the word of God that has been read.

Who: We welcome all members of our Collaborative community to join us.

When: Wednesdays from 6:00–7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Contact: Elizabeth McCarthy



Cursillo and Ultreya

Purpose: **Cursillo** weekend is an invitation to experience the love of Jesus Christ on a personal level and to bring this love into your daily life. Weekends are held at the St. Basil's Salvatorian Center in Methuen, MA.

Ultreya a monthly meeting for those who have experienced a Cursillo celebrated as a regional evening of prayer the HRIC community, the St. André Bissette community in Amesbury, and the All Saints community in Haverhill. Meetings are alternated among the three communities throughout the year.

When: **Cursillo:** Monthly, alternating men and women, beginning in October of each year. **Ultreya:** Monthly, see Collaborative calendar for schedule.

Who: Anyone who is interested in experiencing Cursillo, has lived their Cursillo or is interested in learning more.

Contacts: Pat Temple
Jon Temple

Faith Ministries



Laudato Sí

Purpose: In response to Pope Francis' urgent call for the care of our common home in his encyclical, *Laudato Sí*, the HRIC Collaborative *Laudato Sí* group meets to look at actions we can take to better understand the dynamics of local climate change and solutions to address environmental concerns. A variety of topics are presented by local and national experts on recycling, composting, planting of native species, the importance of bees, and planning for food sustainability.

Who: We welcome all members of our Collaborative community to join us.

When: Watch the bulletin for meeting dates.

Where: IC St. Louis Hall

Contact: Carol Robertson



Honduran Coffee Project

Purpose: For over 20 years, IC has been selling Honduran coffee shipped directly to us from a poor parish in the mountains of Honduras. Fr. Ray Richard, a Newburyport native and Capuchin missionary priest, realized that the farmers in his parish in Honduras were receiving only \$1 per pound for their coffee. He helped to teach them how to maximize their yields and improve the quality of their beans, and arranged with their sister parish in Newton, MA to ship the raw beans directly to a roaster in Orange, MA. IC began ordering periodic roastings of whole bean coffee to sell to our parishioners.

We currently sell about 240 pounds of coffee each quarter (whole bean and ground). All the proceeds go back to the farmers who now receive a fair price for their crops and are better able to support their families.

When: Quarterly sales are held in March, June, September, and December at all Masses.

Contact: Karen Finnegan

Faith Ministries



Lifelong Faith Formation

Purpose: Catechesis and life-long faith formation of children, youth, and adults in both parishes of the Collaborative. This involves ongoing faith formation for children and Sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and Eucharist (typically 2nd grade) and Confirmation in 8th grade. We strive to include the parents in the formation process, knowing that this is a privileged time for a family to grow in faith together.

When: During the school year K–7th grade meet every other Sunday. Confirmation preparation meets on Sunday afternoons or evenings. For more details on scheduling and registering for both school year and summer Faith Formation see our web page.

Contact: Director: Aaron Giard
Adm. Assistant: Melinda Burrell



OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

Purpose: This educational and preparatory program is for those considering becoming Catholics as adults or youth 7+ who had not received Sacraments at the traditional time. Candidates usually receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil Mass each year, but circumstances and pastoral considerations might allow for other times.

Who: Any person inquiring about/discerning becoming a Catholic or receiving Baptism, Holy Communion, and/or Confirmation.

Contact: Director: Aaron Giard
Adm. Assistant: Melinda Burrell

Ministry Committee



Purpose: To strengthen and enhance the ministries in the Collaborative by working with the coordinators of the ministries to recruit new members and train/form current ministers as needed.

When/ Where: Typically on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in IC St. Louis Hall. Check the Collaborative calendar on the website for location and time.

Contact : Paula Higgins

Faith Ministries

HRIC Collaborative Pastoral Council



- Purpose:** The Pastoral Council was formed to assist the pastor in his responsibilities of planning, organizing, initiating, promoting, coordinating, and reviewing the evangelization, worship, religious education, and service activities within the Collaborative. They serve in a consultative role and there are members from both parishes.
- Who:** Members are chosen by lot after a period of prayer and silent reflection. Members chosen will serve for three-year terms. Each summer, interested parishioners are asked to submit names for consideration.
- When/** Generally meets on Saturday mornings, alternating between parish halls.
- Where:** Check the calendar on the website for dates and locations.
- Contact :** Vice Chairs: One representative from HR and one from IC are chosen yearly to co-chair the council. Contact Collaborative offices for more information.



IC Wedding Coordinators

- Purpose:** This ministry is a rich opportunity to work with couples at a very special time in their lives. The wedding coordinator acts as the liaison with the parish and the wedding party, offers hospitality (unlocking doors, lighting, Sacristy access, PA system, closing up, etc.), collects paperwork (the wedding license to be presented to the officiating clergy before the marriage can be witnessed, and collecting any monies due). The coordinator is present for the rehearsal to assist in any way needed as well as on the wedding day (arriving early, arranging furniture, lining up everyone, coordinating with the musicians, insuring all paperwork is signed, etc.).
- When:** At the rehearsal and wedding ceremony or Mass which are scheduled by the parish office.
- Contact:** Parish office

Faith Ministries



Women at the Well

Purpose: Do you ever feel like there must be something more than your day-to-day routine? 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.

Welcome to a community full of women just like you.

Who: Every woman is welcome, no matter the age, season in life, or status of a relationship with God.

When: Mondays from 6:30–8:00 p.m. in person in the IC Charity Dining Room and also via Zoom.

Contact : Rachel and Abby

Social Action Committee



Purpose: The Social Action Committee seeks to live the pillars of Catholic social justice teaching through activities which support the communities served by our Collaborative. They strive to engage parishioners in becoming familiar with social justice teachings through programs which are designed to educate and inspire us to act on behalf of the marginalized in our society both here and abroad. In particular, we seek to engage young people of the Collaborative to become involved as future leaders of our Church.

Who: All are welcome.

When: Monthly from 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Where: Usually at IC St. Louis Hall—check the bulletin for dates.

Contact : Greg Jablonski

Service Ministries

IC Consolers Circle Meal



Purpose: Volunteers prepare a free, light meal for families (up to 75 people) who have lost a loved one. The meal is held at the IC St. Louis Hall, following the funeral/memorial Mass.

Inform your funeral director know if you would like this service.

When: Following the funeral/memorial at IC.

Contact: Melinda Burrell



HRIC Prayer Shawl Ministry

Purpose: Our mission is to serve as an outreach to all who enjoy knitting or crocheting with prayers. Each item is blessed by our priest. You do not need to be a parishioner to receive a shawl or lapgan and there is no cost.

If you know of anyone who needs comfort and would like a shawl, please contact us.

Who: Anyone who wants to knit or crochet. IF you don't know how, we have all the supplies you will need and can teach anyone willing to learn.

When: First Thursday of each month, at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 2:00 p.m.

Contact: Helen Kelley

HR Activities Committee



Purpose: This group plans and organizes events and socials for the Holy Redeemer parishioners. Some of our annual events include the Holiday Fair, coffee socials at both churches, community chicken BBQ, BINGO night, and many more.

Who: Anyone interested in becoming involved with our events can join us. Many hands make light work.

When: Meetings are usually held either St. Ann or Nativity hall and the date and time is announced in the Collaborative bulletin or on the Collaborative calendar on our website.

Contact: Cindy Quinn

Service Ministries



IC Breaking Bread Meal

Purpose: Volunteers prepare and serve a free, sit down, home-cooked, three-course meal for anyone in need. No reservations required. Grab & go meals are also available. Typically 50–60 guests are served dinner each week. This three-course meal is sponsored by the IC St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Volunteers are always needed to set up the dining room, prepare the food, serve the meal, or assist in the cleanup each week.

Also offering “general store” personal care items for free during the meal.

When/ Every Tuesday evening in IC St. Louis Hall

Where: “Dining in” begins at 4:45 p.m. And “grab & go” at 5:30 p.m.

Contact: MaryAnn Lawler

Faith, Fun, and Fellowship Committee



Purpose: Hosting fun events as Collaborative. Some of our events included a Father’s Day BBQ, a Friendsgiving Dance, and clergy birthday celebrations.

Who: Anyone who would like to be involved in planning social events for the Collaborative.

When: Meetings are usually held at the IC St. Louis Hall to prepare for each upcoming event. Check the Collaborative bulletin or the Collaborative calendar on our website for meeting dates.

Contact: Collaborative offices



Holy Jammers Music Group

Purpose: The Holy Jammers is an impromptu group of musicians that meet weekly to play their instruments. They perform at many Collaborative and community functions throughout the year.

Who: Anyone is welcome. Bring your instrument.

When: Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in IC Nazareth Library

Contact: Just show up any Wednesday

Service Ministries



HRIC Soup & Sandwich Program

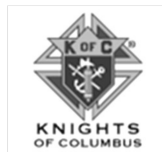
Purpose: We deliver soup and sandwiches to the Lazarus House Ministry at the Good Shepherd Center in Lawrence twice a month. 200 sandwiches are needed each time to feed the hungry.

To assist please make sandwiches using 1 loaf of bread, a sandwich meat and /or cheese (no condiments) and wrap each sandwich individually and return it to the plastic bread bag.

When: On the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays** of each month. Deliver your sandwiches to St. Ann Church, West Newbury from 7:00–9:00 a.m.

Contact: Nancy Jean

Knights of Columbus



Purpose: The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic, family, fraternal, service organization that was formed to render financial aid to members and their families. The Knights of Columbus Newburyport Council 231 was founded in 1897. We serve St. Ann Church, West Newbury; Church of the Nativity, Merrimac; and Immaculate Conception Parish, Newburyport.

Note: At IC on the first Sunday of each month, the Knights host coffee and donuts in the Pastoral Center, following the 9:00 a.m. Mass. All are welcome for food and fellowship.

The Knights of Columbus have recently moved from in-person initiation to an online only membership process. Please visit kofc.org to become a member today.

When/ Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the IC

Where: Nazareth Library.

Contact : Collaborative offices

Not-for-Profit Organizations

The following organizations are not-for-profit entities that are supported by the Collaborative, but are independently run by their own members.



IC-Haiti

Purpose: IC Haiti’s goal is to improve the life of the community of Puit Chacha on Haiti’s southern peninsula by providing hope in the form of education, a daily school meal program, dental care, and emergency relief services and supplies. IC Haiti is the sole funding source for Fr. Marc Piché elementary school in Puit Chacha.

We see hope rising when we look at our mission in Haiti. When IC Haiti was first formed back in 2009, we adopted the motto “IC Haiti: I see Hope.” Now that our mission has become a Collaborative effort of IC parishioners and Holy Redeemer parishioners, we’ve chosen to adopt a new motto:

“Hope Rising: IC Haiti.”

Funding: Quarterly second collections are taken up at both collaborative parishes; fundraisers are held—see Collaborative calendar for information. Send a check made out to “IC Haiti” to IC Haiti, 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950. IC Haiti is a 501(c)3 tax exempt charitable organization.

Contact: Nancy Rose

Pelican Intervention Fund (PIF)



Purpose: This organization was established in 2015 by parishioners Kim and Steve Keene. The Mission of PIF is to help those struggling with addiction by funding 12-step sober living programs. As of now PIF has supported **130+ men and women**. They support clients in the greater Newburyport area and beyond. Please see our website to learn more about the work of PIF, video testimonials, upcoming events, past events, and how to apply for help at www.pelicaninterventionfund.org

When: Meetings are held as needed to plan fundraising events.

Contact: Kim Keene

Not-for-Profit Organizations

The following organizations are not-for-profit entities that are supported by the Collaborative, but are independently run by their own members.



St. Vincent DePaul Society

Purpose: The St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVdP) is a worldwide Catholic lay organization of women and men who strive to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to neighbors in need. The Vincentians may collaborate with other local groups in advocating for our neighbor's needs and addressing the cause, making no distinction of race, creed, or national origin. Vincentians, on a rotating basis, retrieve **Help Line** messages, respond to requests, and conduct home visits with those in need. Our conference depends totally on donations and fundraisers to support our activities.

SVdP Clothing and Shoe Drop Boxes:

Immaculate Conception SVdP offers a clothing drop box located behind the IC Parish Center, nearest Green Street.

Holy Redeemer SVdP offers drop boxes at two locations. One is located in the Nativity church parking lot and another is located at the West Newbury Food Mart parking lot (Main St.).

Please drop off only clothes and shoes.

When: **HR Conference** meetings are held virtually. Contact the conference for times and dates.

IC Conference meetings are held at IC St. Louis Dining Hall, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, at 6:15 p.m.

See the IC SVdP website, www.svdpnewburyport.org for more information and to donate.

Who: Any parishioner wishing to grow in spirituality and has a willingness to follow Jesus and serve others. Please come and attend a meeting.

Contacts: **HR Conference:** Serving the communities of West Newbury, Merrimac, and Georgetown

Help Line voicemail: 978-346-8604– Ext. 4

IC Conference: Serving the communities of Newbury and Newburyport

Help Line voicemail: 978-518-0728.

Note: All messages left on **HELP LINES** are retrieved by volunteers and calls are returned as soon as possible.

