

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

**SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 4, 2016**

**[hricatholic.org](http://hricatholic.org)**

*All Are Welcome*



**Wheat Grains and Chaff**

*"His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." (Mt. 3:12)*

# OUR COLLABORATIVE

## Holy Redeemer Parish



### St. Ann

Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985  
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985  
**Phone: 978-346-8604**  
Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net



### Nativity

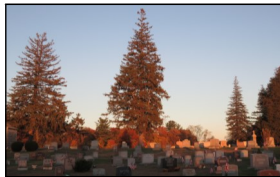
Parish offices and church:  
4 Green St., Merrimac 01860  
Office Hours: By appointment  
**Phone: 978-346-8604**  
Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

## Immaculate Conception Parish



### Immaculate Conception

Parish, church, rectory, and offices:  
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950  
Office Hours: M-F 8:00 am-3:30 pm  
**Phone: 978-462-2724**  
Fax: 978-234-7399  
Email: info@newburyportcatholic.org



### St. Mary's Cemetery

36 Storey Avenue,  
Newburyport 01950

### Immaculate Conception School

1 Washington Street, Newburyport 01950, Pre K-grade 8,  
Mary Reardon, Principal, Phone: 978-465-7780,  
Fax: 978-234-7331, www.icsnewburyport.com



## Collaborative Staff

### Pastor

Rev. Timothy Harrison,  
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604  
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### Parochial Vicar

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### Weekend Assistant

Rev. James Broderick

### Senior Priest in Residence

Rev. William McLaughlin

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### Music Ministry

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Doreen O'Leary, HR Religious Ed.  
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### St. Vincent de Paul

Saint Vincent de Paul Society at Holy Redeemer, 978-346-8604 x 8  
hrsudp300@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society at Immaculate Conception, 978-518-0728

### St Mary's Cemetery

Joseph Viel, 978-208-0266  
joeviel@comcast.net

**Website: hricatholic.org**

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Collaborative Mass Schedule

### Saturday (12/3)

4:00pm **IC** *Bill Moore, Stephen M. Boy, Bob Callahan, Ted LoPreste, The Gravallesse Family, Albert & Mary Salerno, Angelo & Eleanor Messina, For the intentions of Scott & Marilyn Callahan* (Fr. Morin)

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

### Sunday (12/4)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. Morin)

8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

9:00am **IC** *Alice M. Peltier, Alice Wanjiru, Jim Murphy, Helen Ebacher* (Fr. McLaughlin)

10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)

11:30am **IC** *Melva Heer, Jane Schneider, Carol J. & Jim Murphy* (Fr. Broderick)

### Monday (12/5)

9:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

### Tuesday (12/6)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)

### Wednesday (12/7)

7:15am **IC** *Marie A. Burke* (Fr. Morin)

### Thursday (12/8) Immaculate Conception

7:15am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)

9:00am **IC** School Liturgy (Fr. Harrison)

9:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)

7:00pm **IC** (Fr. Morin)

7:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

### Friday (12/9)

9:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)

### Saturday (12/10)

4:00pm **IC** *Katherine Sferrazza, For the intentions of the O'Connor Family—Elizabeth, John, & Ellen* (Fr. Broderick)

4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)

### Sunday (12/11)

7:15am **IC** *Bob MacKinnon* (Fr. McLaughlin)

8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)

9:00am **IC** *Russell & Rita Osborn, Donna Morris, Liza Mataac Dodson, For the intentions of Samuel McLachlan & Family* (Fr. Broderick)

10:15am **St. Ann** *For the intentions of Dorothy & Ralph Franzese* (Fr. Morin)

11:30am **IC** *Lena Filomia, Lena Charles* (Fr. Harrison)

5:00pm **IC Youth Mass** (Fr. Harrison)

In your prayers, please remember Paul F. Doyle, John J. Silva III, Joan Lee Cleveland and all the faithful departed.

**The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.**

**IC**—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

**Nativity**—Merrimac

**St. Ann**—West Newbury

## From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

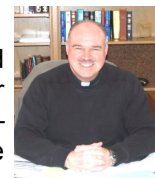
I don't know about you, but I constantly find myself sorting things. Start with the mail, for example. Before I even get to my desk, two-thirds of it is already tossed into the trash: the ads, junk mail, credit card applications, solicitations, catalogues, etc.... It is particularly brutal this time of year! I find myself doing the same to email and even text messages these days.... Ughh. Maybe it is just part of human nature—we have too many things that are competing for our attention or, rather, our money! There is never enough to go around, so we have to pick and choose, sort and discard that which we can let go of.

Additionally, there are moments when we have to pick out those things which do not belong. For example, I made pumpkin bread over the Thanksgiving holiday. Of course, in cracking a few eggs into the mixture, some pieces of eggshells fell in as well. There was great temptation to just ignore it and stir a bit more...but my conscience (and the image of my mother staring over my shoulder giving me “the look”) made me pause and then carefully pick out the offending bits. No one wants crunchy pumpkin bread, after all! In a worse-case scenario, failing to properly sort items could be disastrous. Forget to take off your watch and jewelry before having an MRI and you could be in for more entertainment than you imagine!

Oil and water don't mix, especially in your car's engine. Neither do sin and grace in God's Eternal Kingdom. They must be sorted and separated so that only the good enters the eternity that God has prepared. Otherwise, like a train wreck in slow motion, the true harmony that God wills for us might erode and dissipate. God demands that it be otherwise. So it must be sorted and refined. The “it” being us, creation.

The image of a winnowing fan clearing a threshing floor invites us to consider the breeze that will easily separate the light, useless chaff from the hearty and more solid

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Christmas Mass Schedule

### Christmas Eve Masses

*The 4:00pm Masses fill up quickly. Please arrive early.*

4:00pm Immaculate Conception

4:00pm Immaculate Conception School Gym

4:00pm St. Ann

4:00pm Nativity

6:00pm Immaculate Conception

6:00pm Nativity



### Christmas Day Masses

12:00midnight Immaculate Conception

8:00am Immaculate Conception

8:00am Nativity

10:00am Immaculate Conception

10:15am St. Ann

## COLLABORATIVE NEWS

### This Week in Our Collaborative

See our website calendar for more events and details.

[www.hricatholic.org](http://www.hricatholic.org)

#### Monday, December 5

AA 10:30am & 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205  
IC Religious Ed., Grades 1–6 6:00pm, IC Parish Center  
Boy Scouts Troop 41 Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall  
Merrimac Cub Scouts Den Mtg. 7:00pm, Nativity Lower Hall

#### Tuesday, December 6

IC Knitting Ministry 1:00pm, IC Conference Room 209  
Breaking Bread Meal 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall  
HR St. Vincent de Paul, 7:00pm Nativity Rectory

#### Wednesday, December 7

Holy Quilters 3:00pm, Nativity Hall  
IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church  
Adoration 6:00pm, IC St. James Chapel  
Centering Prayer 6:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room  
IC Adult Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm, IC Church

#### Thursday, December 8, Immaculate Conception

Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel

#### Friday, December 9

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel  
Staff Meeting 8:30am, IC Charity Dining Room  
AA 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205

#### Saturday, December 10

HR Grade 2 First Penance 11:30am, St. Ann Church  
Nativity Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, Nativity Church

#### Sunday, December 11

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church  
St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 9:45am, St. Ann Church  
IC Religious Ed., Grades K–6 10:05am, IC Parish Center  
RCIA 10:15am, IC Youth Ministry Room  
Collaborative Baptisms 1:00pm, IC Church  
IC & HR Collaborative Youth Mass 5:00pm, IC Church  
IC & HR Youth Service Learning Experience 6:00pm,  
IC St. Louis Hall

### Confession Times in Advent

In addition to the weekly schedule, Confessions will also be offered from 6:30pm–7:30pm on the following nights prior to Christmas.

**Tuesday, December 20, St. Ann's, West Newbury**  
**Wednesday, December 21, Nativity, Merrimac**  
**Thursday, December 22, IC, Newburyport**

### Bulletin Information

Please supply bulletin information by Monday noon to the collaborative bulletin email: [hricbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:hricbulletin@gmail.com).

kernel of grain. On this week's bulletin cover you can see a close-up of both, and it is not too hard to imagine how even the gentlest of zephyrs would whisk the chaff or outer husk of the wheat away, leaving only the good grain left to be harvested and made into flour, then cakes and breads... who knows, maybe even pumpkin bread?!

The preaching of John the Baptist is that wind of the Spirit, calling people to conversion, inviting us to let go of our sinful ways and believe in the good news of God's forgiveness. His words were sharp and challenging for those who clung to their old manner of life and perhaps had gotten too comfortable with the idea of compromise and mediocrity. John saw no middle ground when it came to following God. It was: "repent or suffer the consequences!" There was a real urgency in his voice, as he was keenly aware of the imminent coming of the Lord. There was no time to think it over, no time to consider the possibilities and maybe, someday, make a greater commitment. No, it was now! Right Now! John was as offensive as he was effective.

I think there is part of John the Baptist that should bother all of us a bit. The Lord came 2000 years ago and John was his herald. But the Church also believes that Christ will return and come again—on a day and at a time that no one knows. It is comforting and joyful to celebrate the babe born in Bethlehem of old. It is downright terrifying to face His judgment tomorrow or the day after next! And yet, we don't really know when He will return, or when any of us will face our own death and a just reckoning of how we have lived our lives. The only thing we know is that it will come some day...Wisdom, Prudence, and every other virtue calls us to live our lives well now, watching and being ready for whatever may come. If we do enough of the sorting in the present, God won't have to question whether we belong in His Eternal Kingdom to come. We will already be living it out in the here and now, anticipating its fulfillment and completion in the time to come. What is one sin that I can let go of this week?

May these Advent days be filled with many blessings for us all.

Fr. Tim Harrison, Pastor

### RCIA

RCIA meets weekly at 10:15 in the Youth Ministry Room at the IC Parish Center. If you are interested in learning more about this program, contact Marin at 978-462-2724 ext. 7411 or [fortune@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:fortune@newburyportcatholic.org).

### The Immaculate Conception

Thursday, December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass times for the Holy Day are as follows:

7:15am-Immaculate Conception, Newburyport  
9:00am-Immaculate Conception, School Liturgy  
9:00am-St. Ann, W. Newbury  
7:00pm-Immaculate Conception, Newburyport  
7:00pm-Nativity, Merrimac

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Youth Mass

Our next Youth Mass is **Sunday, December 11 at 5:00pm** at Immaculate Conception Parish, Newburyport. Donations at this Mass will benefit the **Pregnancy Care Center, Haverhill**.

Everyone is invited. There will be a service learning experience after Mass until 7:30pm in St. Louis Hall for grades 7–12. We will be making shawls for new moms with the Pregnancy Care Center.

### Suggested Donations for the Pregnancy Care Center (Cash donations welcome also)

Onesies (sizes S, M, & L)  
 Blanket sleepers (sizes NB–24 mos.)  
 New outfits (sizes 0–24 mos.)  
 Children's socks (infant–24 mos.)  
 Stretch sleeper/PJs (sizes NB–24 mos.)  
 Diapers/Pampers (sizes 1, 3, 4, 5 [no size 2 please])  
 Hooded bath towels & washcloths  
 Crib sheets  
 Baby blankets & receiving blankets  
 Baby wipes & Desitin ointment  
 Toiletries: toothpaste, toothbrushes, baby bath/shampoo, lotion, adult shampoo & conditioner, bar soap (regular size)  
 Formula (Similac—Powdered)  
 Baby food/juices  
 Baby bottles  
 Infant toys & books  
 XL baby gift bags

### Office Supplies

Staples or Walmart gift cards  
 Copy paper (8 1/2 x 11 size, white, asst'd.)  
 White address labels (size 1/2 x 2 5/8")  
 Cover/card stock  
 Postage stamps (Forever and postcard)

### Bathroom/Kitchen needs

Liquid hand soap  
 Paper towels, toilet paper, tissues  
 Lg. garbage bags  
 Ziploc bags (gallon & quart sizes)  
 Kitchen-size trash bags  
 Cans of coffee (regular)  
 Bottled water  
 Animal crackers (large containers or snack size)  
 Snack crackers (Cheez-Its & Wheat Thins, snack size pkg)  
 Light bulbs (75/100 watt & 3 way)

### Youth Masses (5:00pm) for the year

December 11	Immaculate Conception
January 22	Holy Redeemer, Church of the Nativity
March 12	Immaculate Conception
April 2	Holy Redeemer, Church of the Nativity
May 7	Immaculate Conception

## Advent Vespers Service

Experience a prayer-filled hour in the tradition of the Church at Vespers.

**Tuesday, December 13** from 7:00pm–8:00pm at IC's Parish Center. Put some quietude into your Advent while entering into a Collaborative moment of prayer.

The theme of the evening is "Waiting in Hope."

**The speaker will be John Leary.**

(Sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Team)

## Disciples in Mission Pastoral Plan Writing Team Contacts

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## Blue Christmas Prayer Service

### A Prayer Service of Comfort and Hope

The Catholic parishes of Amesbury, Merrimac, Newburyport, Salisbury, and West Newbury extend an invitation to all for whom the joy of this season does not seem to match the current reality of their lives. To those who are lonely, broken-hearted, or grieving, join us in a Blue Christmas prayer service at 3:00 p.m. on **Sunday, December 18**, at the Star of the Sea Parish Town Church, 18 Beach Road in Salisbury. Our prayer time together will help us to feel the true meaning of love and hope that this season gives to each one of us.

## Collaborative Web Site

Visit [hricatholic.org](http://hricatholic.org) for information on Collaborative groups, religious ed., Mass times, events, and more.

Second Sunday  of Advent

## COLLABORATIVE NEWS

### Fr. Broderick's Scripture Study

Scripture Study will meet on December 4

Father Broderick's Scripture Study will meet on its regular first Sunday of the month on December 4 at 2:00pm in the IC Parish Center. We will be reading and discussing Chapters 62-66 in Part III in *The Book of Isaiah. Part III, Return of the First Captives*, contains oracles composed by disciples from a later period who continued the work of the great prophet.

Our beloved teacher, Father Broderick, not only explains the meaning of the Scripture passages, but also presents rich description of the period and places cited, as well as the culture and practices of the people involved. He connects the events in the New Testament to Old Testament prophecies and events, as well as to our own time. This is a worthwhile way to spend an hour and fifteen minutes on a Sunday afternoon. All are invited to attend these sessions and grow in knowledge and faith.

### Centering Prayer for Advent

As the days shorten and we enter the darkest season of the year we light Advent candles and anticipate the coming of our Savior Jesus, the light of the world. In the business of preparing for Christmas we may miss the gifts of Advent. Waiting with trust in God's promise of love that saves deepens our faith and we become people of true hope who, loved by God, are able to love.

During Advent, join us weekly for Centering Prayer. As we enter the silence of God's love we assent to God's presence and action within us. We say yes to His invitation to be transformed into people of hope. Resting in God in silence, we surrender and come to know in our hearts God's unmerited, unconditional love for us and transformed by this grace we can share His love in daily life.

All are welcome to join as we pray in this ancient Christian tradition and together prepare this Advent to welcome the Savior into our hearts and our lives.

Centering Prayer meets every Wednesday from 6:00pm-7:00pm in the IC Charity Dining Room. For more information contact Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483.

### Women's Evening of Prayer

There will be a Women's Evening of Prayer on Wednesday, **December 21** from 7:00pm-8:00pm in St. Ann's Church.

Come take time with the Lord. We will have some readings, music, and quiet prayer and reflection time. All women of the collaborative parishes and friends are invited.

### March for Life

The March for Life will be held in Washington, DC on Friday, January 27, 2017. If you are interested in taking part in the March, contact Steve Swochak, (978) 270-4924, swochak@netzero.net. More details will follow in the weeks to come.



### Scripture for the Week

4	Sun	Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
5	Mon	Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
6	Tue	Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
7	Wed	Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
8	Thu	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
9	Fri	Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
10	Sat	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
11	Sun	Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

### Questions of the Week

**Adult:** In your own sphere of influence, what situations call out for justice and peace? What can you do about them this week?

**Child:** What would the world be like if everyone did what God wanted us to do?

### Thank You from the PCC

Thank you to all those who participated in the Pregnancy Care Centers' Baby Bottle Campaign. Your commitment to save the lives of unborn babies speaks volumes to your compassion and understanding of our mission. God has blessed us with partners like you and we appreciate your support.

## HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

### Christmas Decorating at Holy Redeemer

All are welcome to assist with decorating and preparing our Churches for Christmas.

**St. Ann:** Sunday, December 18 directly after 10:15 mass. Call Sue Coppinger with questions: 978-465-4078.

**Nativity:** Friday, December 23 at 10:00am. Call Cindy Quinn if you know you are able to help: 978-346-0072.



### HR Prayer Shawl

Would you like to help those in need this winter without it costing you anything? Join us at 1:00pm on **Thursday, January 5**, at Nativity Hall, Merrimac. We knit/crochet hats, scarves, and mittens for Merrimack Valley Hope Mission, the group supported by our Parish youth. We'll provide yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks, and patterns. We can even teach you to knit/crochet. Or, gather your own group at a time convenient for you, give us a call, and we'll supply everything you need. If you need information or a blessed prayer shawl, they are free, call Helen Kelley, 978-771-4673, Connie Cormier, 978-363-2020, Terry Duhamel 978-384-8099.



# HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

## Offertory Collection

Offertory November 20	\$3,131.00
Retired Religious	\$1,370.00
Offertory November 27	\$3,897.00

## Thank you Fair Sponsors



The Holy Redeemer Holiday Fair has come and gone-again! Somehow, it all comes together for one big day! Thanks to our parishioners, neighbors and professional fair hoppers who come together to support our parish. A heartfelt "thank you" goes out to all who work to make our fair so wonderful: Arnie and Barbara Boucher, Ellen Colburn, Elaine Cox, Pauline DuHamel, Marie Greeley, Dorine Gorski, Elise, Laura and Roberta Homan, Bridie Hubley, Helen Kelley, MaryEllen LaPointe, Susan MacLeod, Maryann Mikson, Alice Mulvaney, Joyce Nevins, Leona Preble, Jim and Maureen Quinn, Yvonne Sloban, Carole and Tony Sokolowski, Dionne Sutton, Jackie Willis and Stefania Zak.

Students of our parish who helped out and who braved the cold to wave and smile to draw attention to our fair-we thank you: Sydney Babb, Tallia, Tess and Tim Beech, Malia Bolduc, Cori Foster, Sophie and Nate Heusser, Luke Kreuser, Maddie Mailhot, Emma Milne, Bridget O'Brien, Conor O'Neil, Alex Pederson, Cassandra Plisinski, Anna and Lucy Powell, Colby Pratt, Julia Reading, Isabel Schutz, Olivia Sisson, Katie and Will Sutton, Edyn Winter, Angelina and Brian Yacubacci. I thank you all for a job well done!

Sincerely, Cindy Quinn- Fair Committee Chair

## Holy Redeemer Giving Trees



The Giving Trees help area programs help people in need during the Christmas season. We are currently giving to five programs: Emmaus, Inc., Haverhill, The Holiday Helper Program for the Pentucket Area, Pregnancy Care Center, Haverhill and Newburyport areas, Lazarus House Ministries, Lawrence, and our St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Some of the tags on the trees are for specific items that the groups are requesting, including toys, clothing, and food pantry items. Please return the **unwrapped** gifts with the tags to the churches by the weekend of **December 10-11**. This allows time for us to deliver them to the programs to be distributed in time for Christmas.

If you take a tag and can't find the specific item, please either return the tag to the tree as soon as possible or consider a gift card. Thank you for all your generosity in the past, present, and future. Call Dottie Carr 978-363-2909 with questions.

## HR St. Vincent de Paul

If you are writing a check for us, please write the check to HR Saint Vincent de Paul. That will help expedite our banking.



## HR Religious Education

Sunday, 12/4

**Grades 3-6 class**, 9:00am, Merrimac

**Grade 10 class with sponsor or parent**, 6-7:30pm, Merrimac

Saturday, 12/10

**First Penance for our second graders**, 11:30am, St. Ann Church. **Please arrive a little early.**

Sunday, 12/11

**Youth Mass** at IC, Newburyport 5:00pm. All of our Religious Education families are invited. High School students who attend are invited to help with a service project to benefit Pregnancy Care's new moms. We will be making prayer shawls.

**New HR Religious Ed. Email Address**

Please change it in your contacts: [reledhrp@gmail.com](mailto:reledhrp@gmail.com).

## HR Parish Planning Study

We have been conducting a Parish-wide Planning Study to formulate a strategy for addressing some needed improvements to our parish facilities. Both St. Ann's and Nativity have a number of deferred maintenance issues and other possible projects that need our attention.

Careful consideration and thoughtful planning is required for us to move forward. **Input from our parishioners is of the utmost importance.** Your opinions and suggestions will enable us to formulate a final plan that will help meet the needs of our entire parish.

Every registered household has already been mailed a questionnaire so this study can include your valued input. The survey form is strictly confidential and no names will be attributed to any direct or indirect quotes. Please complete and return the questionnaire within 10 days. Mail it to Holy Redeemer Parish, 4 Green Street, Merrimac, 01860; place it in the collection at Mass; drop it off at the parish office in Merrimac; or fill out the questionnaire online at our parish website: [www.hriccatholic.org](http://www.hriccatholic.org). Please make every effort to participate in the survey so that we may complete this study with your open and honest input.

## Sanctuary Light

The Sanctuary Light at Nativity, Merrimac, the week of December 4 is donated for a special intention.



## Outdoor Nativity Figurines Update

We were not able to get all the promised outdoor figurine statues and checks returned in time to purchase the sets for this year. We will pursue collecting figurine papers and checks for our new Nativity sets for next Christmas.

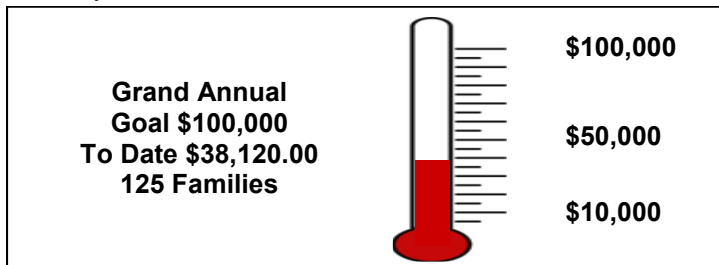
Questions about donating? Cindy Quinn: 978-346-0072.

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## Offertory Collection

<b>Offertory, November 20</b>	<b>\$8,936.00</b>
<b>Retired Religious</b>	<b>\$3,294.00</b>
<b>Offertory, November 27</b>	<b>\$8,475.00</b>
<b>Restoration/Renovation</b>	<b>\$1,701.00</b>

The second collection this weekend is the Restoration/Renovation. The second collection next weekend is the Monthly.



## IC Haiti

In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, you responded with a generosity that far exceeded the expectations of IC-Haiti's Board of Directors. Thanks to your generosity we raised \$35,000 in the month of October. We've sent \$30,000 to aid in hurricane relief efforts and will send another \$5,000 as soon as we are made aware of the costs to repair any structural damages to the Father Marc Piché Immaculate Conception School in Puit Chacha. We want to assure you that IC-Haiti has been and continues to be a good steward of the funds you have donated not only to aid recent hurricane relief efforts but also to continue to support the Father Marc school, its lunch program, and a variety of health programs run through the Saint Boniface Hospital complex in nearby Fond-des-Blancs. Since the beginning of 2015 and prior to sending our most recent hurricane relief donations, we've sent \$176,260 through the Saint Boniface Haiti Foundation to directly address these matters. During that time period, administrative costs here have amounted to less than 0.3% of all our expenditures.

On the weekend of **December 17–18**, we will be taking up the fourth and final IC-Haiti collection of this calendar year to support the school and vital health programs. We trust in the power of the Holy Spirit and the example of Jesus to continue to move your hearts and minds to meet the annual needs of our mission to the people of Haiti. We are confident that you will continue to respond with the same generosity that has provided education, sustenance, health care, and hope to our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Thank you and thank God! *The Board of Directors of IC-Haiti*

## IC School Calendar Sale

Immaculate Conception School is selling holiday calendars after IC Masses. Calendars are \$10 each for 40 chances to win a total of \$5,000 in cash prizes. From December 24–February 1, daily winners are randomly chosen to receive cash prizes of \$100, \$200, \$300, or \$400. Participants can win as often as their number is drawn. The winners will be announced in the Communicator and the bulletin. The school will also contact each winner directly.

## Immaculate Conception School



Dear Friends,

November 15 was the optional memorial of St. Albert the Great, the patron Saint of scientists and students. We talked about St. Albert at our Morning Meeting, pointing out that Thomas Aquinas was one of St. Albert's students and wondering what greatness was yet to be revealed from our students.

By coincidence, representatives from our Technology Team, Mrs. Mary Beth Noe, Mrs. Elizabeth Tracy, and I went on a tour of Rochester Electronics.

Rochester Electronics and Immaculate Conception School have formed a partnership around Science and Technology. As one of the first steps in our collaboration, we visited two of Rochester Electronics' facilities.

In January, our eighth grade, along with Mrs. Reidy, our Science teacher, will visit Rochester Electronics and begin to plan to build their own individual Bluetooth speakers. There will be some preliminary research by the eighth grade to build learning connections. This truly promises to be an exciting experience for all of us!

Mr. Loren Krott and Mr. Gary Francoeur of Rochester Electronics have been gracious and hospitable as we have made plans for this collaboration. We are indeed grateful to them and to Mr. Curt Gerrish for making this all possible.

It is hard for me to put into words what the Tech Team and I experienced when we visited Rochester Electronics. We saw marvelous machines, people working diligently at their jobs, deep dedication to quality and precision, engineers and scientists truly excited, enthused, and proud of their enterprise and mission.

To witness what these people have created and are fine-tuning on an ongoing manner, for me, points to the source of our creative abilities, to our Creator, who endows us with the gifts and talents to be problem solvers, innovators, and to help each other! You might say, I was impressed!

By the way, the gentleman who started Rochester Electronics, Mr. Curt Gerrish, now CEO, is a graduate of Immaculate Conception School. I can't wait to see how God will use each of our current students!

Warm regards,  
Mary Reardon, Principal

### Upcoming Events

**Tuesday Tours** ~ IC school tours, including classroom visits, second Tuesday of each month, 9:00–11:00 a.m. Call Mrs. Kelley Pappalardo at (978) 465-7780.

## IC Christmas Flowers

We are taking monetary donations and memorials for the purchase of flowers for the church for the Christmas season. You can find envelopes in the IC church for your donations. It is helpful if you do not have flowers delivered to the church but allow us to purchase them. The deadline for donations is **December 12 by noon**.



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## San Marcos Coffee Sale

San Marcos Christmas Coffee Sale December 10–11

We will have a large order of freshly-roasted Honduran coffee available for purchase after all IC Masses December 10–11. Perhaps there is a coffee lover on your Christmas list who would enjoy this as a gift, and at the same time you will be helping to support the poor farmers of Honduras. Coffee is \$10 per pound for this specialty whole bean or ground coffee. Call Karen Finnegan with questions. 978-465-4173.



## Help Us Help Others

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul at Immaculate Conception invites parishioners to donate gift cards during the Season of Advent. The gift cards—for food, gasoline, household products, and medicine—are used to help local residents who call on the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for help. There is a display in the entrance of the church. Please take a tag, purchase the gift card, and return it in the offertory basket at any Mass during Advent. If you have any questions about this Advent project, please call the St. Vincent de Paul line at 978-518-0728. Thank you for helping us help others.

## The Compassionate Friends

Our Annual Memorial Candle Lighting is Sunday, December 11 from 7–8:00pm, followed by refreshments and an optional discussion. The candle lighting event will be held at TCF chapter leader Barbara Hopkinson's home, 64 Northern Blvd, Plum Island, Newbury. 978-697-1349 or [barhop@comcast.net](mailto:barhop@comcast.net) for questions.

## Knights of Columbus

The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday, December 13** at 7:30pm in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205.

## IC Knitting Ministry

We meet every Tuesday from 1:00–3:00pm at the IC Parish Center, Room 209 to knit prayer shawls, hats, mittens, and scarves for the sick and their caregivers and to celebrate happy occasions. We have made and distributed hats and scarves to the hundreds of homeless children in our area. Help us keep these children warm this winter and to send joy to our friends experiencing illness. Membership is open to all. No experience necessary. If you know anyone who needs a prayer shawl or for more information, call Frances Ronan, 978-462-4972 or Julia O'Connor, 978-465-3350.

## The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Poor Box	\$ 537.00
Collection	\$ 1046.00
Total	\$ 1583.00

## IC Religious Education

*Amoris Laetitia*...Pope Francis

Jesus Restores and Fulfills God's Plan—In #67—The Second Vatican Council, in its Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, was concerned “to promote the dignity of marriage and the family” (cf. #47–52). The Constitution “defined marriage as a community of life and love (cf. #48), placing love at the centre of the family... “True love between husband and wife’ (49) involves mutual self-giving, includes and integrate the sexual and affective dimensions, in accordance with God’s plan” (cf. 48–49). The conciliar document also emphasizes “the grounding of the spouses in Christ. Christ the Lord ‘makes himself present to the Christian spouses in the sacrament of marriage’ (48) and remains with them. In the incarnation, he assumes human love, purifies it and brings it to fulfillment. By his Spirit, he gives spouse the capacity to live that love, permeating every part of their lives of faith, hope and charity. In this way, the spouse are consecrated and by means of a special grace build up the Body of Christ and form a domestic church (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, 11), so that the Church, in order fully to understand her mystery, looks to Christian family, which manifests her in a real way.”

### Religious Education Classes

School Year Registration is ongoing. Class: 12/4 and 12/5.  
Grades K–6: Next classes: 12/11 and 12/12.  
Grades 7–8: Class: 12/4. Next class 1/8.

### Baptism

Baptism info: <http://www.hriccatholic.org/Baptism>

Dec. 4 Parent Class—Charity Dining Room 1:00pm  
Dec. 11 Group Baptism—Church 1:00pm

### Confirmation

The next Confirmation sessions are:

- Sunday, December 11 following the 5:00pm Youth Mass in the hall—making shawls for new moms with Pregnancy Care Center.
- Sunday, January 29 from 3:00–5:00pm in the Church for Years 1 and 2. The candidate and his/her sponsor, parent or another adult are to attend the session.

### Praying for the Living and the Dead

“I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men” (Eph 4: 31-32).

Prayer is a by-product of hope. Hope is something you can't buy but is freely given if you ask. Hope is the one thing people cannot live without. Hope, like mercy, is beautiful.

### John Michael Talbot...Empathetic Mercy

We have the wonderful privilege to be able to pray with petition and the intercessory power of Jesus Christ for those most in need of his mercy—both those who are alive and those who are departed. This is more than just rattling off prayers with a perfunctory “Lord, hear our prayer” at the end. This is deep, gut-wrenching, love-pervaded prayer. It's prayer on your knees or prostrate before God. Liturgical space and time might not accommodate this externally, but it must be our inner attitude. There is always a sense of victory in these prayers. Jesus has died, risen and ascended, and he has given us his Spirit to pray for all those most in need of his mercy with the confidence of faith. (*Beautiful Mercy: Experiencing God's Unconditional Love so we can share it with Others*, Dynamic Catholic, pp. 163, 167).

This is our last Spiritual Work of Mercy.