

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 30, 2018

hricatholic.org



“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.” (Mk 9:43)

All Are Welcome



Immaculate Conception School (IC)

Teaching children to be good role models is a top priority



Kindness, caring and respectful behavior are reflected in every aspect of the learning environment at the IC... and that's what makes us such a special school!

OPEN HOUSE

9 - 11 am: October 24 • November 27 • December 18 • January 8 & 16
1 - 2 pm: Sunday, January 27 (Catholic Schools Week)
Call Kelley Pappalardo (978) 465 - 7780 for a private tour

Meet our Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers at the Early Education Fair, November 7 (6:30 - 8 pm) Newburyport City Hall

Immaculate Conception School is an affordable, private Catholic elementary school (pre-k – eighth grade), providing high-quality, faith-based education, preparing young people for life, spiritually, academically and socially.

One Washington Street, Newburyport, MA 01950 • (978) 465 - 7780 • icsnewburyport.com

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (9/29)

1:00pm **St. Ann Confirmation** (Fr. Harrison)
 4:00pm **IC Stanley Jancewicz, Stephen M. Boy, Jack Curry, Ted LoPreste, Mary Grace Petrillo, Gerry Seely, For the intentions of Elaine Brislin** (Fr. Harrison)
 4:00pm **St. Ann Confirmation**

Sunday (9/30)

7:15am **IC Regina M. Stronge, Longin J. & Beatrice B. Kijek** (Fr. Harrison)
 8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 9:00am **IC Mary McInerney, Paul Turbide** (Fr. Harrison)
 10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 11:30am **IC Sheila Russo** (Fr. Harrison)

Monday (10/1)

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

Tuesday (10/2)

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

Wednesday (10/3)

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

Thursday (10/4)

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

Friday (10/5)

9:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)
 1:30pm **Avita** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Saturday (10/6)

4:00pm **IC Rita Snow, Thomas Lyons, Noreen Driscoll and Parents, Robert Clements Thomas** (Fr. Morin)
 4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Sunday (10/7)

7:15am **IC Regina M. Stronge** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)
 9:00am **IC Paul D. Turbide, Mary Dwyer** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 10:15am **St. Ann Helen & Paul Ringenbach** (Fr. Harrison)
 11:30am **IC Gordon P. Mitchell, Sr. & Catherine L. Mitchell, Robert Filomia** (Fr. Morin)

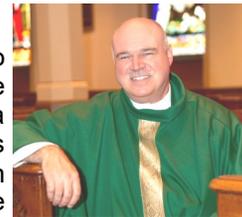
In your prayers, please remember Elizabeth Ramsay, Marion Carew, Luella LeBlanc, Bartley "Bart" Welch, Eugene Bucco, and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport
Nativity—Merrimac
St. Ann—West Newbury

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,



This past weekend I was able to do something that I don't usually have the opportunity to do: sit and listen to a good homily. Bishop Hennessey was celebrating one of the Confirmation masses in our Collaborative and he gave a great homily connecting our call to holiness with the individual witness of family members, particularly grandparents. Images of my own grandparents flashed through my mind, and I could appreciate the gift of their own faith and the powerful effect it had in my life as I grew up. I hope that our young people who were being Confirmed were listening.

We don't often think of our own role in nurturing the faith of others. As Bishop Hennessey pointed out by citing examples from the letters he received from those being confirmed, holiness is something that is often witnessed and absorbed, rather than given or directed. When we make the time to attend mass, spend regular time in prayer, engage in works of charity, and model forgiveness and patience, these things are noticed by those around us. How we spend our time and energy leaves an impact on those who journey through life with us.

Apparently I was one to notice this as well, when I was growing up. This week I was able to spend some time with my Dad who was visiting from Florida. In a family gathering, he related a story from many decades ago when he and my mother made a concerted effort to practice their faith in our home. This mostly consisted of saying grace before dinner and spending some time individually reading the Bible. An occasional activity like making an Advent Wreath or filling a Lenten Mite Box were thrown into the mix for good measure. He tells me that at one point I said in mild protest: "You know, its getting awfully religious around here all of a sudden!," although I have no memory of it. But my parents'

(Continued on page 4)

This Weekend's Second Collection

Cardinal Seán has authorized a special collection to be taken up in the parishes of the Merrimack Region to assist our brothers and sisters suffering the effects of the recent tragedy in our Region. The collection will take place in our Collaborative on the weekend of September 29–30.

Three agencies have been identified as recipients of the collection. Cor Unum (www.corunummealcenter.org) will receive 50%, Lazarus House (www.lazarushouse.org) will receive 25% and Notre Dame Education Center (www.ndeclawrence.net) will receive 25%. I am sure that most of you know the good work that has been done by these agencies, but if you need more information, links have been provided.

We ask parishioners to address their checks to the parish, with "Merrimack Region Collection" in the memo.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, October 1

AA Meeting 10:30am, IC Nazerath Library, Room 205
HR Boy Scout Troop 41 Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall
Pastoral Plan All Teams Meeting 7:00pm, St. Ann Hall

Tuesday, October 2

IC Knitting Ministry 1:00pm, IC Conference Room 209
Breaking Bread Meal 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
HR Religious Ed., Grades 7 & 8 6:00pm, Nativity Lower Hall
HR PFC Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Wednesday, October 3

Holy Jammers Practice 9:00am, IC Conference Room 209
IC PTO Meeting 8:30am, IC St. Louis Hall
"The Mass" Video Series 1:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
Holy Quilters 1:00pm, Nativity Hall
IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church
Adoration 6:00pm, IC St. James Chapel
Centering Prayer 6:00pm, IC Conference Room 209
IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church
IC PTO Meeting 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Thursday, October 4

HR Prayer Shawl 1:00pm, Nativity Hall
Pastoral Plan Discipleship Priority ChristLife Meeting 6:15pm,
IC Charity Dining Room
Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel

Friday, October 5

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel
AA Meeting 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
Ultreya 7:00pm, IC St. James Chapel/Charity Dining Room

Saturday, October 6

Holy Quilters 8:00am, Nativity Hall
Nativity Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, Nativity Church

Sunday, October 7

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church
IC Coffee & Bakery Social 10:00am, IC St. Louis Hall
St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 9:45am, St. Ann Church
Baptism Class 1:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room

(Continued from page 3)

efforts seemed to have been ultimately successful. I mean, just look at me now! Who woulda' thunk?! Kids notice. Lived-out holiness speaks to the heart.

The nurturing of faith and the support of those who may be discerning vocations is most often done on the lowest, simplest of levels. Our good efforts at home and in our wider community to put into practice that which we believe in our hearts will be the water, sunshine, manure, and pruning that will enable the seed of faith that God has planted to grow and mature into something truly beautiful in the lives of those around us. Don't ever underestimate the power of prayer, mercy, and forgiveness. Never discount your good efforts to help those in need. Don't ever think it doesn't mean something or that you are not actually making a difference in our world by being faithful. The Communion of Saints is sometimes referred to as "the great body of witnesses" — meaning those who showed us how to be holy by the way they lived their lives. Kinda like parents and grandparents...ya know?!

May God give each of us the grace to share the gift of our faith with someone this week.

Happy Fall,

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

Collaborative Contacts

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All Care Hospice

Did you know that All Care Hospice provides free grief support services to the community and volunteer opportunities to support our hospice program? To learn more about our grief groups and workshops, please contact our Bereavement Coordinator at 781-244-1198. Registration is mandatory for all programs. To learn more about volunteer opportunities in our office providing administrative support or with our patients and families providing companionship, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at 781-244-1129. Opportunities available close to home! Visit our website, allcare.org to download a volunteer form.

Cor Unum Ministry

Cor Unum Meal Center, located in South Lawrence at St. Patrick Church, is in need of volunteers to serve meals to the poor.

Immaculate Conception and Holy Redeemer Parishes serve breakfast to the poor of Lawrence on the first Saturday of every month. Volunteers meet in the IC parking lot at 5:00am on Saturday morning. The Center serves breakfast from 6:00am to 8:00am. If you are able to give a few hours of your time serving this meal, please contact Larry Lambert at (978) 462-4842 for further information.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer, resting silently in God, facilitates the process of inner transformation. Our prayer without words is one of intention to surrender to God's presence and action in our lives and desire for a closer relationship with God. Join us on Wednesdays, 6:00pm–7:00pm, in the IC Conference Room 209. Join us as we pray in this ancient Christian tradition and together deepen our understanding of this prayer in our own spiritual journey. For information please contact Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483.

Mass Scripture Readings: Sept. 30–Oct. 7, 2018

In praying with the Scriptures, we have the opportunity to deepen our relationship with the Lord while discerning His ever-gracious invitation to love as He loves us. Please refer to the HRIC webpage to learn about Lectio Divina as a way of praying the Scriptures. Go to <http://www.hriccatholic.org/blog/lectio-divina> or to www.HRICcatholic.org and click on HRIC Pastoral Plan and then click on Lectio Divina.

- Sunday, Sept. 30: Numbers 11:25-29; James 5:1-6; Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48
- Monday, Oct 1: Job 1:6-22; Psalm 17; Luke 9:46-50
- Tuesday, Oct 2: Job 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23; Psalm 88; Matthew 18:1-5, 10
- Wednesday, Oct 3: Job 9:1-12, 14-16; Psalm 88; Luke 9:57-62
- Thursday, Oct 4: Job 19:21-27; Psalm 27; Luke 10:1-12
- Friday, Oct 5: Job 38:1, 12-21 and 40:3-5; Psalm 139; Luke 10:13-16
- Saturday, Oct 6: Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Psalm 119; Luke 10:17-24
- Sunday, Oct 7: Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 128; Hebrews 2:9-11; Mark 10:2-16

Discovering Christ

In the spring of 2019, the Discipleship Team of the Collaborative will be offering everyone a unique opportunity to deepen their relationship with Our Lord through an experience known as Discovering Christ. This offering is linked to the second priority of the Collaborative Pastoral Plan: forming ever more intentional disciples of Christ. (The Plan is available electronically on our website: hriccatholic.org.) To prepare for this, the team will undergo its own experience of Discovering Christ beginning this week and ending the week before Thanksgiving. We ask for your supportive prayers. More information about the Discovering Christ experience scheduled for the spring will be made available in the bulletin in January.

Bulletin Information

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

Give Us This Day

Daily Prayer for Today's Catholic



The October monthly edition is available free in the back of the churches.

Your invitation to daily prayer. Whether you have only a few minutes or a half hour, *Give Us This Day* supports your desire to pray. This exquisite daily devotional evokes the classic personal missal—printed and bound so that it lays open in the hand. Morning prayer, profiles of saintly witnesses, Mass texts, reflections, evening prayer—experience firsthand how *Give Us This Day* nourishes you.

Please consider a subscription for yourself or give it as a gift. Visit <https://giveusthisday.org>.

Questions of the Week



Adult: Who is God for you? What opportunities do you have to promote or explain your faith?

Child: What does God look like to you? How does God help you to live each and every day?

The Mass Like You've Never Known It!

Each Wednesday through October 31, a superb DVD series presented by Bishop Robert Barron is shown at IC St. Louis Hall, from 1:00pm–2:30 p.m. The videos last 30 minutes. Fellowship, refreshments, and Q/A or table discussion will be facilitated for those who want follow-up. Opportunities to view a lesson you may have missed will be made available by sign-up sheet. This series is **free** and it is **life-changing!** Join the 23 participants from HRIC: there is room for you and friends you may want to invite!

October 3: **Called Out of the World**

October 10: **God Speaks Our Story**

October 17: **Responding to God**

October 24: **Preparing for Sacrifice**

October 31: **The Real Presence Creates Communion**

{Sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Team}



Some of the September 19 participants enjoying the video.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Entertaining Angels: Creating a Culture of Radical Hospitality

The Bible says that when we create a culture of radical hospitality, where every person serves as an open door to Jesus Christ, we “entertain angels” (Hebrews 13:2). With that in mind Holy Family Parish, Amesbury and Star of the Sea Parish, Salisbury have invited the Catholic Hospitality Training Institute to lead a one-day workshop, Entertaining Angels, on Saturday, **October 6, 2018**, from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. The workshop will be held in the parish hall in Amesbury and includes continental breakfast beginning at 8:30 a.m., lunch, materials, and a full year of monthly reflections. First Saturday Mass will be offered at 8:00 a.m. The Sacrament of Penance will be available at lunchtime and again at 3:00 p.m. Registration is \$25 per person. Register online at <http://stpaulse.com/livingwater/>. If you have questions or need assistance with online registration, please contact Sue Greaney (978-388-0330 or 978-465-3334, ext. 107 for both numbers).

The Mysteries of Icons Unveiled

The expanse of religious art available to Catholics as a means to inspire and teach are treasures in our own community!

The Greek Orthodox Church invites us to attend a presentation on Icons on October 27. IC will expand on this lecture by including a separate talk on Russian icons also, how artists “write” them and how viewers read them. Watch the bulletin for dates and sign-up for the road trip to the Clinton Icon Museum and a mini food fest of ethnic Russian & Greek cuisine!

(Sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Team)

VIRTUS Training

VIRTUS training for all volunteers within our Collaborative will be held at the hall at Nativity Church in Merrimac, on **Thursday, October 18** beginning at 6:30 p.m. You need only to attend this training once. All volunteers and staff need to fill out a CORI form each year.

Film Series Announced

The Anti-Racism Affinity Group of Greater Newburyport, in partnership with the Newburyport Human Rights Commission and the YWCA of Greater Newburyport, is sponsoring a film series at the Newburyport Senior Center on Tuesdays from 6:30–8:30 p.m.

- *I Am Not Your Negro* (Oct. 16)
- Then 3 films from <https://world-trust.org/films/>
- *Cracking the Codes, The System of Racial Inequality* (Oct. 30)
- *Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible* (Nov. 20)
- *The Way Home: Women Talk about Race in America* (Nov. 27)

New England Tenors

Save the Date: November 25, 2:00 p.m.

The New England Tenors will be performing a Christmas Concert at Immaculate Conception Church, Newburyport.



Date: Sunday, November 25, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

Watch the bulletin for additional information coming soon.

R.C.I.A

**RCIA classes meet at 10:15 in
IC Parish Center Room G19.**

The R.C.I.A. program is for people interested in joining the Catholic Church and/or learning about the Catholic faith. Anyone over the age of seven who wishes to become baptized, or has been baptized in another Christian Church and/or is interested in the sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation is welcome. If you have a friend or family member who might be interested, please have them contact Marin Fortune: fortune@newburyportcatholic.org.

Voice of the Faithful 2018 Conference

Attend VOTF’s 2018 Conference, Progress and Promise, on Saturday, October 6, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. at the Providence, RI Marriott Downtown.

Featured speakers:

Marie Collins, abuse survivor & former Pontifical Commission member and Fassimo Faggioli and Fr. William Clark, theologians.

Register at www.votf.org.

*Voice of the Faithful: Working together to keep
the faith and change the Church*

Pelican Intervention Fund Fundraiser

The Traveling Pelican quilt begins its tour on Columbus Day weekend, October 7–8 at the Newburyport Harvest Festival. The quilt will be traveling to the communities the Pelican Intervention Fund serves from Columbus Day until Saturday, November 24.

The winning raffle ticket will be drawn at the Wreath and Trees event at the Old South Presbyterian Church in November.

The quilt will travel to churches, libraries, Senior Centers, and festivals in the communities we serve. We will keep you posted on the locations in future bulletins.

When we know the amount raised from Flatbread’s event last week we will share it. Our thanks to the many who attended to support us.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

Offertory, September 22–23 \$11,654.00
Restoration/Renovation \$ 1,597.00

The second collection **this** weekend will support the victims of the gas explosions. See page 3 of the bulletin for details. The second collection **next** weekend is the **Monthly**.

Offertory Envelopes Correction

There was an envelope date misprint for our IC Monthly Collection. The monthly collection will take place on October 7, not October 14, as the printed envelope states.

The second collection for October 14 is Holy Father Missionary Efforts.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection	\$ 0.00
Poor Box	\$ 192.00
Total	\$ 192.00

Call for Bakers



We are in need of Bakers for our monthly coffee hours. This could be a good service project for a student or maybe just a way to use your “Star Baker” talents. If you would like to help, email Maureen Catino at

Maureenc@monumentmortgage.com.

Coffee & Baked Goods Sunday



The Pastoral Plan Welcoming Committee will sponsor a Coffee and Baked Goods Sunday at IC St. Louis Hall on Sunday, October 7 at 10:00 a.m. (between the 9:00 and 11:30 Masses). All are invited.

IC Knitting Ministry



The Prayer Shawl Knitting Group meets Tuesdays at 1:00pm in room 209 in the IC Parish Center. We knit/crochet prayer shawls, hats, mittens, scarves for charity.

Come join us; we meet every Tuesday at 1:00pm. Everyone is welcome! For more information, call Julia O'Connor 978-465-3350 or Frances Ronan 978-462-4972.

Adoration

Join us for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in IC's St. James Chapel on Fridays from 8:00am–12:00noon.

Immaculate Conception School



The Cross Country season is off to an impressive start. The 2018 IC team is fifty runners strong, the biggest in school history for the second year in a row. The first competitive meet was held at Maudslay State Park on September 20 against Pentucket, St. Joseph's, and Nock Middle Schools. Seventh grader Nicolette Lecare broke her own school record, set last year, with a time of 13:23. Nicolette also broke the 7th grade record of 14:05 set by Caroline Affolter in 2014. Eight other runners ran personal bests. The IC school community celebrates the accomplishments of all of its runners during morning meeting. With over 60% of our Junior High students participating in Cross Country, there is a lot to celebrate!



Knights of Columbus

The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday, October 9** at 7:30pm in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205. We welcome new members to this long-standing group of Catholic men. For more information, contact us at membership@kofc231.org, (978) 572-0231.

K of C Tootsie Roll Drive



The Newburyport Knights of Columbus will be conducting its annual Tootsie Roll Drive benefiting people with intellectual disabilities after weekend masses on October 6–7. Join online at www.kofc.org.

IC Back-to-School Socks and Underwear Drive Thank You

Our Annual Sock and Underwear drive was a huge success! We were able to donate a total of **1,068 items** to the Community Service Center to be distributed to children in need. Items collected included socks and undergarments for boys and girls. Thanks to all parishioners who contributed to make this generous donation possible.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Religious Education

Fall Programs

Classes have begun for Grades **K–8**, but it isn't too late to register! Forms can be found on our Collaborative website at www.hriccatholic.org/IC-Children-s-Religious-Education or by getting in touch with the Religious Ed Office.

Classes are held Sunday mornings from 10:05–11:05.

We would love to have a list of **substitutes** to call upon should one of our catechists not be available. Please consider helping us in this capacity.

Confirmation

Confirmation 1 and 2 will meet Sunday, **October 28** at 1:00 p.m. in the Church. Please remember: your candidate must be accompanied by an adult.

Registration forms can be found on the Parish website at <http://www.hriccatholic.org/Confirmation--Immaculate-Conception-Parish> or by contacting the Religious Ed. office.

Congratulations to those who received the Sacrament of Confirmation this past Sunday, the 23rd, and to their families! Over 80 candidates were presented to our Regional Bishop, Most Rev. Robert F. Hennessey.

This was the culmination of two years of preparation by these students. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way during this time—especially to the parents and sponsors who were a constant source of encouragement to their teen.



Baptism Dates to Remember

Baptism information: www.hriccatholic.org/Baptism

Sunday, October 7 Parent Class 1:00 p.m.

Pre-register by calling the IC Parish Office at 978 462-2724

Sunday, October 14 Group Baptisms 1:00 p.m.

Reconciliation / First Eucharist

Sunday, **October 14** 2:30 p.m. IC Church

Parent Orientation. Forms to register are available on the website at <http://www.hriccatholic.org/First-Eucharist--First-Reconciliation--Immaculate-Conception-Parish> or by contacting the Religious Ed office at 978-462-2724.

Liturgical Ministers CORI Forms Are Due

Please complete and submit your CORI to the Parish Office as soon as possible. Forms are available in the sacristy. Please be aware that the Archdiocese **will not** accept copies so please submit your form in person or by mail. Thank you!

Monday Night Religious Ed.

Due to a very low number of registrants for Monday evening Religious Education, we will not be able to offer Monday evening as an option this year. Please join us on Sunday mornings at 10:05. If that time is not possible please reach out to us regarding a Home School option.

Best Wishes Dr. Mag

This past weekend we bid farewell to Dr. Margaret McKinnon as our Director of Religious Education at Immaculate Conception Parish. Dr. Mag, as she was known to all, came to us in 2014 following the retirement of Ms. Marin Fortune who previously held the position in our parish for many years.

In addition to her faithful work in running our parish Religious Education Program, Dr. Mag also involved herself in reaching out to returning Catholics through the Landings program, enabled many adult education opportunities and was very generous in working with the Pastoral Plan Writing and Implementation Teams over the past several years. We wish Dr. Mag well in her new work in the Beverly Collaborative. Ms. Melinda Burrell will take over our program as Interim Director for this coming year.

IC Parish Boosters

Christmas Fair

Saturday, December 1, 2018 9am–2pm., IC School Gym. (Setup Friday, November 30, 2018 5:30–8:30pm.)

Contact: Melinda Burrell, 978-462-2724 or email burrell@newburyportcatholic.org

Call for vendors and crafters: Cost: \$35 for space and table. (Those selling personal items are to take with them what does not sell.)

The parish will host a 50/50 raffle and a table for **any items that people would like to donate to the Fair**. We are asking for the following:

- Donated candies, homemade baked goods, penny candy for children
- Items for children to go shopping for their parents
- Craft items
- Books
- DVDs
- Be creative!

Children's Area

Face painting, temporary tattoos, shopping, etc. (Teen volunteers to assist with children's area and gift wrapping.)

Food

Chili and cornbread, coffee, pastries, hot dogs, chips, soda, bottled water, desserts

Silent Auction

We are looking for donated items to support the Silent Auction. Vendors and Crafters will also donate items for the raffle table.

Visit "North Shore Vendor Events" on Facebook to see our Christmas Fair ad.

Catholic TV

Visit www.catholicTV.com for a schedule of the latest program details on America's Catholic Television Network.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

Offertory, September 22–23 **\$2,735.00**

The second collection **this** weekend will support the victims of the gas explosions. See page 3 of the bulletin for details.

The second collection **next** weekend is the **Monthly**.



Catholic Appeal

Goal **\$22,862.00**
To Date **\$21,935.00**



\$22,862

\$15,000

\$10,000

\$5,000

Yards Cleanup Thank You

A big **thank you** to those who were able to come out on Saturday to clean and prep the church yards for the winter.

HR Prayer Shawl



Do you know of any woman, man, or child who needs comfort and could use a Blessed Prayer Shawl or Lap Blanket? Please call Helen Kelley 978-771-4673 or Terry Duhamel 978-384-8099 for a shawl or more information.

Come join us. Don't know how? We will teach you to knit or crochet and give you yarn. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 1:00pm. Our next meeting is **Thursday, October 4**.

Veterans Gift Bags

50 gift bags, for male and female veterans, will be put together on Sunday, November 11 for Veteran's NE Outreach Center—Haverhill. We are asking for donations: travel size personal hygiene items, perfume, cosmetics, playing cards, socks, mints, notepads, pens, Dunkin' Donuts gift cards, candy, gum, hat, gloves, etc. Please label your bag "Veterans Donations" and leave in the back of either church.

HR Holiday Fair Updates



Plans are being made for our annual **Holiday Fair**. This year, our fair will be Saturday, November 17.

Donations Needed

White tags with requested basket donations for items needed for the popular gift baskets are now available on the little trees in the backs of both churches.

Silent Auction Items Requested

We are looking for Silent Auction items. Do you have something to donate? Questions? Call Carole 978-346-9031.

HR Religious Education

All families can find registration forms, class schedules, and calendar events online at: hrccatholic.org. Click on *Faith Formation*, then *Holy Redeemer* tab. Collaborative bulletins can be found on this site, too.

Sun., 9/30 Grades 3–6 at Merrimac, 9–10 a.m.
Grade 2 student & parent at Merrimac, 9–10 a.m.

Tues., 10/2 Grades 7 & 8 at Merrimac, 6–7 p.m.

Thurs., 10/18 VIRTUS Training at Merrimac, 6:30pm

Contact Info: Office of Religious Education

Doreen O'Leary (Rel. Ed. email: reledhrp@gmail.com)

Saturday Mass at Nativity

Please remember that our Saturday 4:00pm Mass will move to **Nativity** in Merrimac on **October 6**.

HR St. Vincent de Paul Society

There is a wonderful way to honor someone who has requested "No gifts, please." You can send a check to Holy Redeemer Saint Vincent de Paul at 4 Green Street in Merrimac. Your donation will honor someone's celebration and will also help those in need. A note will be sent to let that someone know about the donor's meaningful gift. Donations can be made to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and other significant occasions.

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

Champagne Breakfast for Spiritual Adoption Program

We are hosting a champagne breakfast on October 28 after the 8:00 Mass at Nativity to celebrate the Spiritual Adoption Program that our Collaborative started 9 months ago. We are incorporating the baby bottle campaign for the Pregnancy Care Center of The Merrimack Valley & Southern New Hampshire (PCC). Parishioner Mary McCarthy will speak at the breakfast about services the Center is able to provide as a result of our donations.



Bottles will be distributed this weekend, September 29–30. Please take a bottle home. Then, as a family, fill them with checks (made payable to PCC), cash or coins, and return them to the church no later than at our breakfast on October 28.

PCC is a crisis pregnancy center offering loving alternatives to abortion, and confidential counsel to women who are facing unplanned pregnancies. In addition, they provide sexual integrity education, post abortion counseling and material assistance (baby items/food). The services are free, thanks to support from individuals and local churches.