



# St. Irene Church

181 East Street, Carlisle MA 01741  
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Visit our website at www.StIrenes.org

## Second Sunday of Advent December 7, 2014

### Mass Schedule

#### Daily

Monday – Saturday 9:00 am  
Saturday Vigil

5:00 pm

#### Sunday

8:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm

#### Confessions

Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 pm

### Liturgical Events

#### Mass Intentions

Arlene Lessard - 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass  
Saturday, December 6 at 5 pm

Gerard Forrester - Memorial Mass  
Sunday, December 7 at 8 am

Timothy and Clara Galvin  
Anniversary Mass  
Sunday, December 7 at 11 am

Mary and Edward Parlee - Anniversary Mass  
Sunday, December 7 at 5 pm

Sean Munis - Healing Mass  
Monday, December 8 at 7:30 pm

Jose Dias - Memorial Mass  
Tuesday, December 9 at 9 am

Joan Caldwell - 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass  
Thursday, December 11 at 9 am

Edmond Trotter - Memorial Mass  
Saturday, December 13 at 5 pm

Kathleen Yiptong  
1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass  
Sunday, December 14 at 8 am

Charles Trebino - 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Mass  
Sunday, December 14 at 11 am

Gerard Forrester - Memorial Mass  
Sunday, December 14 at 5 pm

### The Pastor's Corner

We are now celebrating the second week of the Advent Season. The dominant figure in our liturgy is John the Baptist. He is a voice crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths." John baptizes the people in the river Jordan as a sign of their repentance for the forgiveness of their sins. One memorable experience for me when I traveled to the Holy Land on a pilgrimage with Cardinal O'Malley was our visit to the Jordan River. We recalled the ministry of John the Baptist. Then Cardinal Sean renewed our baptism promises by pouring water from the Jordan River on our heads. Advent is our time to prepare for the coming of Christ in our Christmas celebration. It is a good time for us to repent our own sins and weaknesses and to renew our baptism promises. That is one of the spiritual ways in which we can make ourselves ready to share the joy of Christmas – that the Word, the Son of God was born on that day to be our Lord and Savior.

- Fr. Tom Donohoe

## Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. This is a day of holy obligation. Masses will be celebrated at 9:00 am and 7:30 pm.

### Christmas Mass Schedule

Masses for Christmas will be celebrated on Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm, 5:30 pm and at Midnight. Lessons & Carols will be celebrated at 11:15 pm on Christmas Eve prior to Midnight Mass. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 am on Christmas Day.

*There are no Masses at 8 am or 5 pm on Christmas Day.*

### Baby Jesus' Manger

The Empty Manger, hard and cold, is it ready to receive the newborn Christ Child? As a symbol of our turning our hearts in hope towards Him, we can create a more comfortable place for Him to rest. **You are invited to write down your good deeds and place them in the manger. You can also put in notes of thanksgiving for blessings received, or even just tell Him you love Him.** You can add them at any time. **There is no age limit!** All, from toddler to senior citizen, are invited to prepare the manger and our hearts to receive the Baby Jesus.

### Christmas Flowers

If you wish to make a donation toward the altar flowers in memory of a loved one, please place your donation in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" with the name of the person to be remembered. You may place the envelope in the collection basket or mail it to the rectory by December 18<sup>th</sup> for inclusion in the Christmas Bulletin.

### Music Ministry

Christmas is fast-approaching, and the St. Irene's Music Ministry welcomes parishioners ages 5-105 to come and sing with the Choir at the Christmas Masses. We look forward to having you join us!

### Christmas Children's Choir

All children in Grades K through 6 are invited to join the Children's Choir for Christmas! Rehearsals will take place in the

church from 6:15-7:00 pm on the following Mondays: 12/8, 12/15, and 12/22. Our choir will sing at the annual Christmas pageant on Sunday, December...and the 4:00 pm Family Mass on Christmas Eve

### Young Adult / Adult Choir

All parishioners in grades 7 and up (to age 105!) are invited to come and sing at the Christmas Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (5:30, Midnight, and/or 11:00 AM). Rehearsals will take place in the church from 7:15-8:30 on the following Mondays: 12/8, 12/15, and 12/22. No experience is necessary! For more information, please e-mail Cypriana at [music@StIrenes.org](mailto:music@StIrenes.org).

## Religious Education

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Grade 4 will be hosting the 8 and 11 am Masses on Sunday, Dec. 7.

There will be **no classes** for grades 6-8 on Monday, Dec. 8 due to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Students may attend the 7:30 pm Mass in lieu of class with their families.

Christmas vacation will commence on Dec. 15 for grades 6-8 and Dec. 21 (*unless snow date for pageant*) for grades K-5.

### Christmas Pageant and "Holy Pancake" Breakfast

There will be a Christmas Pageant rehearsal for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 9:30 am.

Please join us on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 9 am for our annual Christmas Pageant presented by our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students (*snow date Dec. 21*). Students in grades K-4 will sit with their classes in the Church (in lieu of classes) for the event and will be dismissed to their parents following the pageant.

Plan to stay for the "Holy Pancake" breakfast hosted by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students immediately following the pageant in the parish hall. As admission we are requesting monetary donations for the Butare Junior Seminary Scholarship Fund. The fund supports orphan students in need tuition. Thank you for your support.

## Confirmation Classes

Level I will meet this week on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> after 5:00 pm Mass.

## Parish Happenings

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### Grand Annual collection

The Grand Annual Collection this past weekend amounted to \$35,675. If you have not yet contributed you may send your donation in to the rectory. Your generosity over the years has been outstanding. We are most grateful for your continued support to our parish.

### Children's Christmas Party December 7<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 2:00 pm

The annual children's Christmas party will follow the 11 am Mass this Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Please join in the fun with holiday arts and crafts, pizza, music and a visit from Santa. Tickets are available after Masses. Children 3 and under are Free, 4-12 \$5 and Adults \$7.

### Christmas Giving Tree

St. Irene's is once again collecting Christmas gifts for the needy. If you would like to participate please select a tag from the tree, purchase the gift (wrapping is optional for Catholic Charities gifts) and return it to St. Irene's by **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please securely attach the tag to the gift, so we know where to deliver it.

**Gift Cards:** The dollar amount should be clearly marked on all the gift cards. Tags need to be securely fastened to gift cards and placed in the box at the back of the Church. Please return gift cards for the Giving Tree by Sunday, **December 14<sup>th</sup>**.

Thank you for your generosity.

### Women's Club Happenings

**December 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>** we will be collecting items for the soldiers. Please leave your donations in the back of the church.

**December 9<sup>th</sup>** (Tuesday) - after 9:00 Mass we will be wrapping and packing up the boxes for the soldiers. Come give us a hand - remember many hands make light work!

**December 11<sup>th</sup>** (Thursday) the ladies will be putting together the boxwood trees be-

ginning after 9:00 Mass. Trees will be sold after the Masses over the weekend....again MANY hands make light work!

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** (Thursday) at 6:30 pm our Christmas Party & Yankee Swap. Bring a wrapped \$10 gift for the Swap. Desserts or hors d'oeuvres are welcome! Come join the festivities!!

### Theater News – “White Christmas”

Please arrive at St. Irene's parking lot by 5:30 pm on Tuesday, Dec. 16 for the bus. Thank you.

### Christmas Food Baskets

Once again we will be providing food baskets for Catholic Charities in Lowell at Christmas. Information is available at the back of the Church. Boxes will be provided by Olympia Movers of Watertown and can be found in the closets at the back of the Church. We will collect baskets on **Sunday, Dec. 14**, 3-5 pm in the Church parking lot for delivery on Monday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Debbie Boulé by email at [foodbaskets@StIrenes.org](mailto:foodbaskets@StIrenes.org) if you can volunteer or would like to contribute a food basket.

If you prefer, checks can be made payable to Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities, 70 Lawrence St., Lowell, MA 01852. Please note “Lowell Food Pantry” on the memo line.

### Women's Club Christmas Gifts for Soldiers

Each year St. Irene's Women's Club sends Christmas gifts to our deployed men and women serving our country. We are once again collecting small but welcome gifts for the soldiers. There is a detailed information sheet at the back of the Church for those who would like to donate. Items will be picked up by the Women's Club on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> for Christmas delivery. Please consider a small remembrance for our deployed soldiers serving you and our country.

### Concord Prison Holiday Gift Bag Project

We will be collecting items for the Concord Prison Holiday Gift Bag Project from Saturday, Nov. 15 through Sunday, Dec. 7; please put your contributions in the box located in the church vestibule. Donations do not have to be in sets. Adult volunteers

will assemble the gift bags. Each gift bag will contain a bar of deodorant soap (4-5 oz.), toothpaste (5.8 - 6 oz.), white envelopes #6 ¾ (6 ½" x 3 5/8"), a pad of WHITE paper (6" x 9" or 5" x 8", 100 pages, no wire), a pair of white CREW socks (no tube socks, knee highs or "tennis" socks), a bottle (plastic) of shampoo (12-15 oz.), a stick deodorant (no roll-ons, 2.5 oz. or larger), and a holiday greeting card ("Happy Holidays, Seasons Greetings, Merry Christmas, no religious cards), signed with first names only. Handmade cards are especially appreciated. If you would like to assemble gift bags, make cards, have any questions or want to make a cash donation, email Jean Donnelly at [prison-gifts@stirenes.org](mailto:prison-gifts@stirenes.org). Thank you.

### **Keeping Christ in Christmas Cards**

The Saint Irene Knights will be selling Catholic themed Christmas cards after Masses. Please consider buying your cards to support the great charitable work the Knights do in our community.

### **Tuesday Evening Adoration & Benediction**

Take a break from the world's demands and rest in the Lord! All are invited every Tuesday at 7:30 pm to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by Benediction. First Tuesdays of the month include periods for silent prayer, recitation of the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy and finish at 9:00 pm. All other Tuesdays include the Liturgy of the Hours, silent prayer, the Litany of the Blessed Sacrament, and conclude at 8:30 pm. Please email Mary Ellen Bakken at [adoration@StIrenes.org](mailto:adoration@StIrenes.org) for more information.

### **Wednesday Morning Adoration**

Every Wednesday morning, the Holy Mass is followed by the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration until 12 noon. During this time Fr. Romain is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Adoration is concluded by the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Benediction. Come by anytime and spend some time with Jesus.

### **Parish Pastoral Council**

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 7:00 pm in the rectory.

### **Offertory Report**

The weekly offertory last Sunday was 10% less than last year. Thank you for your continuing support of our parish.

### **Financial Information**

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Offertory     | \$5906    |
| Offertory YTD | \$290,943 |

### **St. Irene Staff:**

#### **Pastor:**

Reverend Thomas P. Donohoe

#### **Parochial Vicar:**

Reverend Romain Rurangirwa

#### **Resident:**

Reverend Augustin Vondou

#### **Permanent Deacons:**

Deacon Dean Bulpett

Deacon Charles Ferraro

#### **Music Director:**

Cypriana Coelho

#### **Religious Education Coordinator:**

Eileen Faber

#### **Confirmation Coordinator:**

Sheila Zacharchuk

#### **Religious Education**

Grades K-5: Sunday 9:00 – 9:50 am

Sunday 10:00 – 10:50 am

Grades 6-8: Monday 7:00 – 8:00 pm

#### **Youth Ministry**

Sundays, 1<sup>st</sup> of month 3:30 – 6:00 pm

#### **Baptism Catechesis**

Last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. Please call the rectory to register.

#### **Baptisms**

Sundays, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of each month at 1:00 pm.

#### **Weddings**

Contact Pastor 6 months in advance.