



# St. Irene Church

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

**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 14, 2014**

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## 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

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## Liturgical Events

### Mass Intentions

Edmond Trottier - 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 Masses

Sunday, December 14 at 5 pm

Saturday, December 20 at 9 am

Lorna Phillips

Tuesday, December 16 at 9 am

Mary Hagerty – Mass of Thanksgiving

90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Saturday, December 20 at 11 am

Salvatore Gentile – Anniversary Mass

Saturday, December 20 at 5 pm

James J. Burke – Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 21 at 8 am

Kevin McCarron – 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass  
Sunday, December 21 at 11 am

Eleanor F. Reid – 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass  
Sunday, December 21 at 5 pm

## The Pastor's Corner

This Sunday is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. The name comes from the first Latin word of the entrance antiphon of the Mass. The word Gaudete means Rejoice. It sets the tone of joyful anticipation of the Lord's birth celebrated at Christmas but also of the Second Coming. It is also the reason for the pink candle lit on the third Sunday of Advent.

When Pope Francis wrote his first apostolic exhortation, he entitled it, "The Joy of the Gospel." In it, Pope Francis offers his vision of the church and a "call for action" for the world's believers. He invites all Christians everywhere to a renewed personal encounter with Christ since no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord. Gaudete Sunday is a day for us to rejoice as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child and to experience in our own lives the joy of the gospel.

- Fr. Tom Donohoe

## Sacrament of Penance

Confessions will be heard on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon.

## 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: 12/15 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 – Note Change!

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). **Rehearsal will take place in the church from 7:15-8:30 on Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.** 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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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

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 2 will meet this week on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> after 5:00 pm Mass.

## Parish Happenings

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### Grand Annual collection

The Grand Annual Collection total as of this past weekend amounted to \$65,850 towards our goal of \$100,000. 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.

### **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**

#### **Yankee Swap Christmas Party**

On Thursday, Dec. 18, we are having our Yankee Swap Christmas Party at 6:30 pm in the parish hall. Please bring a \$10 gift for the swap and a dessert or hors d'oeuvres to share. Come join the festivities!!

#### **Theater News – "White Christmas"**

Please arrive at St. Irene's parking lot by 5:30 pm on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> for the theater 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.

### **Parish Pastoral Council**

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

### **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.

### **Gifts for Soldiers - Thank you**

The members of the Women's Club would like to send a big "thank you" to ALL the parishioners who so generously donated all the articles for the soldiers. We were able to send 22 gift-wrapped boxes full of "goodies" to our soldiers overseas. This is really a worthwhile project and very much appreciated by all the recipients. –Thank you again!!

### **Concord Prison Holiday Gift Bag Project Thank You**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Concord Prison Holiday Gift Bag Project. The goal this year is to deliver gifts and a greeting card to all 1,700 inmates at MCI-Concord and the Northeastern Correctional Center. Of all the gifts you buy, these may be the most appreciated. For some men, it may be the only gift they receive.

### **Bulletin**

The bulletin will not be published on the weekend of December 27/28th.

### **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.

## Family Prayer for Vocations Icon

St. Irene's has a beautiful new icon of Christ the High Priest which will go each month to a family wishing to host it to pray for religious vocations as well as discern God's will in their lives. The kit includes the icon, a stand, a votive candle, a booklet of prayers, questions to help your family discern what God may want them to do with their lives, some scripture references, and more. Also included is a prayer card listing the current seminarians, so you can pray for them by name if you wish. Please join us in this beautiful initiative to pray for priestly vocations and to guide and bless us all in our vocation in life. To sign up please contact Mary Ellen Bakken at [vocations@StIrenes.org](mailto:vocations@StIrenes.org).

## Christmas Collection

At all of our Christmas Masses, our only collection will be to support the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests in the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, please visit [www.clergyfunds.org/](http://www.clergyfunds.org/).

## 2014 Catholic Appeal Update

Thank you to all the supporters of the 2014 Catholic Appeal. St. Irene Parish has raised **\$22,070 towards our goal of \$33,894** from 79 donors and families. If you have not yet contributed please consider a donation to the Catholic Appeal. Donation envelopes are at the back of the Church. For more information, please visit [www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com](http://www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com). Thank you.

## Offertory Report

The weekly offertory last Sunday was 20.5% more than last year. Thank you for your continuing support of our parish.

## Financial Information

Offertory	\$8049
Offertory YTD	\$300,227

Next week's second collection will be for the Dedicated Parish Maintenance and Up-keep Fund.

## 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.