



St. Irene Church

181 East Street, Carlisle MA 01741
(978) 369-3940 • info@StIrenes.org
Visit our website at www.StIrenes.org

The Epiphany of The Lord
January 4, 2015

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

Francis Murphy
Memorial Mass

Saturday, January 3 at 5 pm

Raymond Briere
Memorial Mass

Sunday, January 4 at 8 am

Jose Dias
Memorial Mass

Monday, January 5 at 9 am

Aminta Campins
Memorial Mass

Wednesday, January 7 at 9 am

Gerard Forrester
Memorial Mass

Thursday, January 8 at 9 am

Matthew Griffin
Memorial Mass

Friday, January 9 at 9 am

The Pastor's Corner

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It's interesting to see the different ways our culture and our church celebrate Christmas. Our culture begins its celebration on Black Friday with the promise of sales and discounts. The Christmas music on the radio and the Christmas specials on television begin right after Thanksgiving until Christmas Day. Then the celebration ends.

In the church we observe the season of Advent for four weeks to prepare ourselves for our Christmas celebration. We recall the words of the prophet Isaiah and the message of John the Baptist to prepare ourselves spiritually. Our celebration begins of Christmas Day and we continue to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child; the Incarnation for several weeks concluding with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord – this year on January 11. So let us continue our celebration and experience the love, joy and peace of the birth of our Savior, our Lord Jesus.

- Fr. Tom Donohoe

Religious Education

Classes will resume on Monday, January 5th for grades 6-8 and Sunday, January 11th for

grades K-5. Second Grade Reconciliation Workbooks and journals are due at that time.

Confirmation

Level 1 Confirmation class will have their Rite of Enrollment on Sunday, January 4th at the 5:00 pm Mass. In lieu of class Deacon Charlie will be giving a presentation to the **parents and candidates** regarding a mission trip in July 2015 in the parish hall immediately following the 5 pm Mass. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

Parish Happenings

Thank you!

During one of the Christmas Eve Masses, Deacon Dean remarked that he felt as though, "The Mormon Tabernacle Choir is here singing tonight!" Certainly this was not the case 😊, but it emphasizes just how many dedicated musicians came together to create the beautiful music we all enjoyed at the Christmas Masses this year.

Thank you: Marianne Vrotsos, our organist, who played so beautifully for all of the many rehearsals and Masses, and always did it with a smile; Jennifer Zuk, our talented flautist and vocalist who added so much to all of the Christmas Eve Masses and who was not fazed by the dozens of cherubs who surrounded her at the Children's Mass!; Jackie Pottle, our lovely junior cantor who sang like an angel at the Children's Mass; Julia Scott, who very recently joined the Music Ministry and played several lovely duets on her cello with Jenny; the members of the Adult Choir who worked so diligently and enthusiastically to learn all of the new music and truly "sang their hearts (and souls!) out" at the many Masses; the members of the Children's Choir whose innocence, exuberance, and angelic singing brought smiles to many a face; the Choir Moms who helped with many of our younger singers during the Christmas Pageant and Children's Mass; the parents of the Children's Choir who made time in busy schedules to bring their children to rehearsal every week; and Eric Peters, Jean

Butler, and Melissa Weiksner, our narrators at the Service of Lessons and Carols.

I continue to feel as though I have "the best job in the world" serving as the Music Director here at St. Irene. I am so very proud of all the Music Ministry has accomplished this year, and I am excited to see where our musical journey will take us in 2015! I wish you all a Happy New Year filled with good health, the love of family and friends, and abundant blessings.

Fondly, Cypriana Coelho

Make a New Year's Resolution to join the Music Ministry in the New Year!

After a well-deserved "long winter's nap," rehearsals for both the Children and Adult Choirs will resume on Thursday, January 15th. Both choirs rehearse in the church at the following times: Children's Choir, 6:15-7:00; Adult Choir, 7:15-8:30 pm.

Neither choir requires an audition or any previous singing experience. The only "requirements" are a positive attitude and the desire to grow spiritually through learning new music and sharing your talents during the Masses. For more information, please drop me a note at Music@stirene.org. I look forward to seeing YOU! 😊

Grand Annual Collection

The Grand Annual Collection total as of this past weekend is \$90,750 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.

Women's Club Bingo & Pizza Night

Women's Club will have an evening of pizza and bingo on Thursday, Jan. 15 at 6:30 pm. This is always a fun night so plan to attend, don't forget to call and RSVP Jan Brown so that we can have a head count. Please also bring a wrapped gift for the "winner's table". See you on the 15th.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Sunday, January 11th at 7 pm in the rectory.

Christmas Thank You

A special thank you to all that worked so hard this Christmas season to make it joyous for so many others. We thank Jean Morin and the Women's Club who organized packing and sending 22 Soldier Gift Boxes for our men and women serving overseas; Jean Donnelly who organized the Gift Bag Project for the Concord Prison; Debbie and Rich Boule for making the Catholic Charities Thanksgiving and Christmas food basket drives so successful. A total of 98 Thanksgiving baskets and 26 Christmas baskets were given to those in need; Judy Andrews for coordinating and delivering over 300 gifts donated by our generous parishioners for the Giving Tree. Gifts were distributed through Catholic Charities, Elder Services of Merrimack Valley, Carlisle COA, Spring House and House of Hope.

We also thank Eileen Faber's 7th grade class for making the tags for the Giving Tree and to Marvin Gonzalez for setting everything up.

We also thank Lisa Hales for once again coordinating the parking on Christmas Eve. Thank you also to Katie, Danny and Kris Hales, Paul Flanagan, and John and Alexander Noone who assisted, making the parking safe and orderly. St. Irene's would also like to thank the Carlisle Police Department for their traffic control help.

We thank all who made our Church so beautiful for Christmas with the banners, wreaths and flowers. Many people helped to make our Church Liturgies both wonderful and inspirational. Cypriana Coelho, Marianne Vrotsos and the entire Music Ministry provided beautiful music. We also thank our Lectors, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers for their contributions. Everyone worked together to make our celebration of the birth of the Lord a joyful experience.

Thank You from Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities

On behalf of Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities, we would like to thank the parishioners at St. Irene's for their generosity. We were able to provide more than 700 families with a Thanksgiving meal.

We also thank you, St. Irene's Church, for your generous donation of Christmas gifts. You blessed so many families with your kindness and compassion this holiday season. Our clients truly appreciated the outpouring of love from your parishioners.

We wish you continued blessings and health for this upcoming New Year.

Christmas Flowers

The Christmas Flowers decorating our church were donated in memory of or in honor of the following:

Paul and Loretta Bolduc
Fran and Rita Booth
Raymond Briere
The Clericuzo Family
Tristao Correia
Raymond and Helen Critch
Evald Thunbo Christensen
Francis J. Creran
The Ferreira Family
Mark Frazier
Barbara and Ted Graczyk
The Gregory Family
The Hamilton Family
Duane E. Irmen
Kurt Kelly
James and Helen Lee
The Murphy Family
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Noone
Rita and Lionel Paquin
John and Beverly Schirmer
Ted Semrad
Nicholas and Louise Sherman
The Silva Family
Ursula Kocemba-Slosky
Sebastian Slosky
Mr. and Mrs. Stenrose
The Sullivan Family
The Trottier Family

2015 Holy Hour for Life

The 2015 Holy Hour for Life is Tuesday Jan. 20 at 7:30 pm at St. Irene's. This is in advance of the National Day for Prayer for Life in Washington DC and the 42nd anniversary of Roe v Wade. Holy Hours will be held throughout the Archdiocese in support and prayer for those traveling to Washington We will have adoration and prayer to promote the inherent dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. Come and join us in prayerful witness to life.

Council on Aging Thank You

Dear St. Irene Parishioners: The seniors and the Carlisle Council on Aging would like to thank all of the parishioners who so generously took a tag off the Caring Tree and provided a very helpful gift certificate. Many calls saying thank you for your generosity have been received. Your support means a great deal to us and is *so* appreciated. We would also like to thank the Woman's Club for the meals, and gifts that helped a number of families and for their hosting our Minuteman Senior Services/Chelmsford Crossing Lunches. Thanks to Father Tom and all of St. Irene's staff for all their support throughout the year, and a special thanks to Judy Andrews for her coordination of the Caring Tree. We are blessed to have such a supportive parish!

Best, Carlisle Council on Aging

Library News

Please remember to return any overdue books. *Many of the Lent books have not been returned.* We would like to have them for the upcoming season. Thank you.

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 for more information.

2014 Catholic Appeal Update

Good news! We have exceeded our goal for the 2014 Catholic Appeal. Thank you to all of the supporters who made this happen. We truly appreciate your donations. Our parish campaign goal was \$33,894 and we have raised \$34,070 from 80 donors and families. For more information, please visit www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com. Thank you.

Offertory Report

The weekly offertory last Sunday was 27% less than last year. Thank you for your continuing support of our parish.

Financial Information

Offertory	\$7353
Offertory last year	\$10,191
Offertory YTD	\$321,913
Offertory YTD last year	\$333,350

The Christmas amounted to \$12,267. Next week's second collection is for Special Collection Sunday.

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, 1st 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, 2nd and 4th of each month at 1:00 pm.

Weddings

Contact Pastor 6 months in advance.