

# St. Irene Church

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Visit our website at www.StIrenes.org



**First Sunday of Advent  
November 29, 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

George Gould

21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass

Saturday, November 28 at 5:00 pm

Ernestine Secovich

Memorial Mass

Sunday, November 29 at 8:00 am

Pham T. Thanh - Memorial Mass

Sunday, November 29 at 11:00 am

Bill Whitehouse – Birthday Mass

Justin Whitehouse

Mass of Healing and Thanksgiving

Tuesday, December 1 at 9:00 am

Barbara Moschini

14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass

Wednesday, December 2 at 9:00 am

Charles Trebino

3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Mass

Saturday, December 5 at 5:00 pm

Pham T. Thanh - Memorial Mass  
Sunday, December 6 at 11:00 am

Paule Bréant  
Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 6 at 5:00 pm

## The Pastor's Corner

Last April, Pope Francis announced an “extraordinary jubilee, A Holy Year of Mercy that is to have God’s mercy at its center.” He wants us to live this Holy Year in “the light of Jesus’ words.” “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” So the motto of this Holy Year is “Merciful like the Father.” The Holy Year will begin December 8 on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. God’s mercy is greater than any sin and no one can place a limit on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive. Jesus affirms that mercy is not only God’s action, but as God’s people, we are called to show mercy to others. Pardoning offenses becomes the clearest expression of merciful love for us as Christians. Pope Francis concluded – “May the balm of mercy reach everyone, both believers and those far away, as a sign that the Kingdom of God is already present in our midst.”

~ Fr. Tom Donohoe

## Banns of Marriage

2<sup>nd</sup> Publication

Dan Boffo and Kristen Kilfoyle

## First Friday

Next Friday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> is the First Friday of June. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 am. First Friday Devotions will follow and conclude with Benediction.

## Feast of the Immaculate Conception

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

## 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.

## Religious Education

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### Religious Education K-8

There will be **NO** classes for grades K-5 on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> due to Thanksgiving weekend. Grades 6-8 **WILL** have class on Monday, Nov. 30 from 7-8 pm.

### Our Next Hosted Mass

The next hosted Mass will take place on Sunday, Dec. 6. The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade will host both the 8:00 and 11:00 am Masses.

## Thank You

Thank you to the Grade 7 students for coordinating the sale of Advent candles and wreaths. We were able to ship 9 boxes of clothing to Nicaragua.

## Christmas Pageant Directors Needed

After several years of directing Carol Yelle and Laura France will be retiring. Please email Eileen Faber at [Reled@StIrenes.org](mailto:Reled@StIrenes.org) if you are interested in volunteering. You would be involved in assisting this year and take over for next.

## Christmas Pageant and "Holy Pancake" Breakfast

There will be a Christmas Pageant rehearsal for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes on Saturday, Dec. 12 at 9:30 am.

Please join us on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 9 am for our annual Christmas Pageant presented by our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students (*snow date Dec. 20*). 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. For admission, we are requesting monetary donations for the Rwanda Butare Junior Seminary Scholarship Fund for orphan students.

## Confirmation

Level 1 Classes will meet on Sunday, December 6. Class begins with attendance at the 5:00 pm Mass. There are no classes on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> due to Thanksgiving weekend.

## Parish Happenings

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### Parish Children's Christmas Party Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

Calling all kids to come to the Saint Irene Children's Christmas Party. Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup> following the 11am Mass in the Parish hall. There will be crafts, games, music, pizza, and a visit from Santa to bring the Christmas cheer. Please buy

tickets after Masses prior to the 6<sup>th</sup> if possible, so we can have an accurate headcount. Tickets will be on sale after weekend Masses: Kids \$5 Adults \$8.

## **Christmas Children's Choir Be Part of a St. Irene's Tradition!**

All children in grades Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> are invited to join the Christmas Children's Choir! This choir sings at both the Christmas pageant and on Christmas Eve, and is much-loved by many in the parish. No experience is necessary, and rehearsals will take place in the church on the following Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:00 pm (December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>). Please contact Cypriana at [Music@StIrenes.com](mailto:Music@StIrenes.com) if you have any questions, to join or plan to come to the first rehearsal. We look forward to seeing all the young singers!

## **Clothing Needed**

**Lazarus House** has an immediate need for all sizes of children's clothing, and especially infant clothing and children's coats. Lazarus House operates several thrift shops in Lawrence and their supply is drastically low coming into the winter months. Please drop off items inside the main church entrance. We would like to respond to their urgent need in early December, but will also continue to make deliveries throughout the season. Thank you.

## **Greater Merrimack Valley Thanksgiving Thank You**

Catholic Charities is extremely grateful to all of the parishioners who donated so generously towards the Thanksgiving Baskets this year. Volunteers delivered a total of **86 baskets** to families in need this past Sunday. We also collected \$790 in donations. Thank you to all who made food and monetary donations. We are most grateful to the Peer Leaders and Deacon Charles Ferraro who coordinated the collection and delivery of the food to the Greater Merrimack Valley Food Pantry in Lowell. Our Religious Education classes from Kindergarten through Confirmation donated over 22 of the food boxes.

## **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 13<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 13<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you for your generosity.

## **Women's Club Happenings**

**December 10<sup>th</sup>** the ladies will be putting together the boxwood trees beginning after 9:00 Mass. Trees will be sold after the Masses over the weekend...again MANY hands make light work!

**December 17<sup>th</sup>** 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!!

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

We will be collecting items for the Concord Prison Holiday Gift Bag Project from Saturday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>; 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 or gels, 2.5 oz. or larger), and a hand made holiday greeting card ("Happy Holidays, Seasons Greetings, Merry Christmas, no religious cards), signed with first names only. If you would like to assemble gift bags, make cards, have any questions or want to make a cash donation, email Jean Donnelly at [prisongifts@stirenes.org](mailto:prisongifts@stirenes.org).

## Keeping Christ in Christmas

Your Saint Irene Knights of Columbus will be selling Keeping Christ in Christmas cards after weekend Masses. Please consider purchasing these Catholic themed cards that represent what Christmas is all about.

## Library News – Advent Book Displays

Advent books for both adults and children are on display at the back of the church and also downstairs in the library. Please keep the books out for no longer than 3 weeks, so that all may enjoy them.

## Caring Friends Network

If you know of a parishioner who is in need of a meal, a ride to church or a Get Well or Sympathy card, let us know. We have volunteers who have signed on to help a fellow parishioner in need. Please contact: [caring@StIrenes.org](mailto:caring@StIrenes.org).

## Financial Information

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### Grand Annual collection

The Grand Annual Collection this past weekend amounted to \$26,096 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.

### Catholic Appeal 2015

Thank you to all who have participated in the 2015 Catholic Appeal. St. Irene Parish has raised \$25,255 towards our goal of \$35,246 from 82 donors and families. If you would like to make a donation, envelopes are at the back of the church or visit [www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com](http://www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com). Thank you.

### Offertory Report

The weekly offertory last Sunday was 4.6% more than last year. Thank you for your continuing support of our parish.

Offertory	\$6,165
Last year's Offertory	\$5,889
Offertory YTD	\$273,521
Offertory YTD last year	\$285,037

Dedicated Church Maintenance  
and Upkeep Fund YTD \$26,430

Grand Annual as of 11/15 \$26,096  
Amount needed to reach goal \$73,904

Separate Gifts as of 11/15 \$700

The collection for the Retired Sisters amounted to \$2,343.

## St. Irene Staff:

### Pastor:

Reverend Thomas P. Donohoe

### Parochial Vicar:

Reverend Romain Rurangirwa

### 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  
Please contact Deacon Charles Ferraro

### 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

Please contact Pastor 6 months in advance.