

St. Irene Church

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



Second Sunday of Advent December 6, 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

Charles Trebino - 3rd Anniversary Mass
Saturday, December 5 at 5:00 pm

Pham T. Thanh - Memorial Mass
Sunday, December 6 & 13 at 11:00 am

Paule Bréant - Memorial Mass
Sunday, December 6 at 5:00 pm

Edward Parlee – 4th Anniversary Mass

Mary Parlee – 6th Anniversary Mas
Monday, December 7 at 9:00 am

Gerard Forrester - Memorial Mass
Tuesday, December 8 at 9:00 am

Philip Phalon - 1st Anniversary Mass
Tuesday, December 8 at 7:30 pm

Kathleen Yiptong - 2nd Anniversary Mass
Thursday, December 10 at 9:00 am

Michael Toth - 1st Anniversary Mass
Friday, December 11 at 9:00 am

Edmond Trottier - 24th Anniversary Mass
Saturday, December 12 at 5:00 pm

The Pastor's Corner

We have already begun the season of Advent, our preparation for Christmas and the birth of Christ. Even though we wear purple vestments during Advent, it is not a season of penance, like Lent. Rather it is a season of waiting, a time of anticipation. We remember the long years of waiting for the coming of the Messiah. We recall how John the Baptist prepared the people for the coming of Christ. And we strive to prepare ourselves for His coming – not only at Christmas but for his final coming as Lord and Savior. This is a busy time for all of us and it is difficult to focus on Advent as a time of waiting. But it is good for us to capture that sense of anticipation that will enhance our joy at our Christmas celebration.

~ Fr. Tom Donohoe

Children's Liturgy

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

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is Tuesday, December 8th. This is a holy day 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 for more information.

Religious Education

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 if you are interested in volunteering. You would be involved in assisting this year and take over for next.

Religious Education K-8

Religious Education Classes for grades K-5 Session I are from 9:00-9:50 am and Session II is from 10:00-10:50 am on Sunday mornings. Grades 6-8 meet Monday nights from 7:00-8:00 pm.

Christmas Pageant and "Holy Pancake" Breakfast

There will be a Christmas Pageant rehearsal for the 5th 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 5th 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 8th grade students im-

mediately 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. The Rite of Enrollment will take place on Sunday, January 3rd.

Parish Happenings

Parish Children's Christmas Party Sunday, December 6th

Calling all kids to come to the Saint Irene Children's Christmas Party. Sunday December 6th 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 6th if possible, so we can have an accurate headcount. Tickets will be on sale after weekend Masses: Kids \$5 Adults \$8.

Christmas Giving Tree Due by Sunday, December 13

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 13th**. 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 places in the box at the back of the Church. Please return gift cards for the Giving Tree by **Sunday, December 13th**. Thank you for your generosity.

Volunteer for Christmas Mass Parking

For the past two years Lisa Hales and her family have coordinated the parking for the Christmas Eve Masses at St. Irene's. We are seeking a volunteer who can take over this duty. If you are interested, please call the rectory (978)369-3940 or email info@StIrenes.org. Thank you.

Women's Club Happenings

December 10th 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 17th 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!!

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 17th for inclusion in the Christmas Bulletin.

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

All children in grades Kindergarten through 6th 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 10th and 17th). Please contact Cypriana at Music@StIrenes.org 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 right-side closet of 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.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Sunday, Dec. 13th at 7 pm in the rectory.

Concord Prison Holiday Gift Bag Project

We will be collecting items for the Concord Prison Holiday Gift Bag Project from Saturday, Nov. 14th through **Sunday, Dec. 6th**; 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ (6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3 $\frac{5}{8}$ "), 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, please email JeanDonnelly@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.

Area Events

Lessons, Carols, Bells and Song Saturday, December 19 at 7:00 PM

Holy Family Parish in Concord is happy to announce a special Advent service, which will take place on Saturday evening, December 19 at 7:00 PM at Holy Family Parish/St. Bernard Church, located in Monument Square, Concord.

The Handbell Choir will join the Parish Choir, both led by Music Director Jim Bar-kovic. Parish lectors who will be reading some of the most beautiful scriptures from this wonderful Advent season will join the choirs in this program. There is no charge for this event but donations will gladly be accepted to help support the music program of the parish.

Financial Information

Grand Annual collection

The Grand Annual Collection this past weekend amounted to \$49,690 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

Good news! We have exceeded our goal for the 2015 Catholic Appeal. Thank you to all of the supporters who made this happen. We truly appreciate your donations. Our parish campaign goal was \$35,246 and we have raised \$35,255 from 83 donors and families. For more information, please visit www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com. Thank you.

Offertory Report

The weekly offertory last Sunday was 20.1% more than last year. Thank you for your continuing support of our parish.

Offertory	\$7,140
Last year's Offertory	\$5,906
Offertory YTD	\$280,661
Offertory YTD last year	\$290,943

Dedicated Church Maintenance and Upkeep Fund YTD	\$26,705
Grand Annual as of 11/15	\$49,690
Amount needed to reach goal	\$50,310
Separate Gifts as of 11/15	\$1,450

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

Weddings

Please contact Pastor 6 months in advance.