

St. Irene Church



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Day December 20 & 25, 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

Salvatore Gentile - 4th Anniversary Mass
Saturday, December 19 at 5:00 pm

Helen & Raymond Critch - Memorial Mass
Sunday, December 20 at 8:00 am

Pham T. Thanh - Memorial Mass
Sunday, December 20 at 11:00 am

Eleanor F. Reid - 38th Anniversary Mass
Sunday, December 20 at 5:00 pm

Lorna Phillips - Birthday Mass
Thursday, December 24 at 9:00 am

Claire Kelly - 18th Anniversary Mass
Thursday, December 24 at 4:00 pm

Mary Macumber - 45th Anniversary Mass
Thursday, December 24 at 5:30 pm

Mass Intentions

Amy Caruso - Memorial Mass
Friday, December 25 at Midnight

Kathryn McCarthy - 1st Anniversary Mass
Friday, December 25 at 11:00 am

Amy Caruso - 6th Anniversary Mass
Saturday, December 26 at 9:00 am

Kevin McCarron - 12th Anniversary Mass
Saturday, December 26 at 5:00 pm

Raymond Briere - Memorial Mass
Sunday, December 27 at 8:00 am

Pham T. Thanh - Memorial Mass
Sunday, December 27 at 11:00 am

Amy Caruso - Memorial Mass
Thursday, December 31 at 9:00 am

Francis Murphy - Anniversary Mass
Saturday, January 2 at 5:00 pm

Gerard Forrester - 7th Anniversary Mass
Sunday, January 3 at 8:00 am

Daniel Joyce - 1st Anniversary Mass
Sunday, January 3 at 11:00 am

Ed Fishencord - Memorial Mass
Tuesday, January 5 at 9:00 am

The Pastor's Corner

During this Holy Year of Mercy, doors are to be opened in the cathedrals of the world. On December 8, the first Holy Door was opened by Pope Francis at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Last Sunday, doors of mercy were opened at cathedrals around the world including our own Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston. This Holy Door will be open throughout the Holy Year of Mercy for pilgrims to enter the cathedral which is a house of mercy. The Holy Door is a symbol of God's mercy, helping us to experience a "passover" – to experience the grace of conversion. We encounter Christ who is the merciful face of the Father. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus this week, let us also experience his merciful love and forgiveness.

~ Fr. Tom Donohoe

Sacrament of Penance

Confessions will be heard on Thursday, Dec. 24th 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.

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

The Feast of Mary, Mother of God is a holy day of obligation. Masses for the holy day are on Thursday, December 31st at 5:00 pm and Friday, January 1st at 8:00 and 11:00 am.

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.

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

Religious Education K-8

Christmas vacation will commence on Dec. 14 for grades 6-8 and Dec. 20 for grades K-5. Classes will resume on Monday, January 4th for grades 6-8 and Sunday, January 10th for grades K-5. Second Grade Reconciliation Workbooks and journals are due at that time.

Confirmation

Level 1 Classes will resume on Sunday, January 3. Class begins with attendance at the 5:00 pm Mass. The Rite of Enrollment will take place on Sunday, January 3rd.

Parish Happenings

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.

Keeping Christ in Christmas

Your St. 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.

Three King's Day Party January 6th

Please join us for St. Irene's first annual Three King's Day party! Celebrate the Epiphany with us on Wednesday, January 6th from 6-8 PM in the church's parish hall. We will have an entertainer for the children and a potluck for all. Kindly visit our Sign Up page if you want to participate in the potluck: <http://tinyurl.com/StIrene-3Kings>. Please contact Karen Gettings at 3Kings@StIrenes.org or the rectory (978)369-3940 for more information. Merry Christmas, and we're looking forward to celebrating with you in January!

A Huge Thank You from Lazarus House

Lainey and Judy, the folks who run the thrift shops at Lazarus House, have asked me to extend to everyone at St. Irene's a "huge thank you" for the gently used clothing (particularly children's clothing and shoes/boots) that you have donated during the month of December! I brought more than three overflowing carloads of clothing to them. They were overjoyed to receive the clothing. In true St. Irene's fashion, some of the clothing was brand new (which will be given out as part of their "Project Bethlehem" project) and some people went to Lazarus House to deliver the clothing personally. You would understand what a direct impact you have made if you were to see the people lined up outside the thrift shop each morning. Lainey, Judy and I want to wish all of you a Blessed Christmas!

~ Pat Barry

Thank You from Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities

On behalf of Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities, I would like to thank the parishioners of St. Irene's Parish for their donation of Thanksgiving baskets and canned goods to our Lowell Food Pantry. With your help and other community partners, we were able to help 636 families this Thanksgiving season. On behalf of all those we serve, thank you again for your kindness and generosity.

Ethel Higgins, Director

Christmas Flowers

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

Anne C. Arcidi

The Barre Family

Raymond Briere

The Bulpett Family

Paul and Susan Champagne

The Clericuzo Family

Tristao and Leonore Correia

Helen and Raymond Critch

The Ferreira Family

Barbara and Ted Graczyk

Theresa Grady

James and Helen Lee

The McDermott Family

Francis Murphy

Bill and Louise O'Leary

Rita and Lionel Paquin

The Render Family

Ted Semrad

The Silva Family

Ursula Kocemba-Slosky

Sebastian Slosky

Ray St. Germain

Edward Trottier

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 will also continue to make deliveries throughout the season. Thank you.

Bulletin

The bulletin will not be published on the weekend of December 26/27th.

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.

Financial Information

Grand Annual collection

The Grand Annual Collection as of this past weekend amounted to \$70,725 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 Collection for the Clergy Trust

This Christmas the collection will support the health and well-being of our priests. Our priests have dedicated their lives to serving the Catholic faithful. Now, it is our turn to help fulfill the promises made to care for them in their time of need. Please give generously to the Christmas collection, which will directly benefit the 614 active and senior diocesan priests who are cared for through the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust. All are welcome to make a gift online at clergyfunds.org or use the envelopes that are provided. *All donations given at Christmas Masses go to the trust.* Thank you for helping to care for the priests who give so much to our Church.

Offertory Report

The weekly offertory last Sunday was 2.4% more than last year. Thank you for your continuing support of our parish.

Offertory	\$7,647
Last year's Offertory	\$7,464

Offertory YTD	\$294,785
Offertory YTD last year	\$308,306

Dedicated Church Maintenance and Upkeep Fund YTD	\$26,930
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Grand Annual as of 11/15	\$70,725
Amount needed to reach goal (\$29,275)	

Separate Gifts as of 11/15	\$11,650
Bequests to St. Irene Church	\$135,814

The second collection this week is for the Dedicated Parish Maintenance and Upkeep.

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.