

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 3, 2016

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

Pham T. Thanh
Memorial Mass

Sunday, January 10 at 11:00 am

Margaret Tucker
Memorial Mass

Tuesday, January 12 at 9:00 am

Liturgical Events

Mass Intentions

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

Santo Incantasciato
Memorial Mass
Wednesday, January 6 at 9:00 am

Daniel William Murphy
1st Anniversary Mass
Sunday, January 10 at 8:00 am

The Pastor's Corner

The beginning of this new year - 2016 - is a natural occasion for us to want to improve our lives. Over the years many people have made New Year's Resolutions, although this custom has diminished in recent years. Yet the new year can give us another opportunity to improve our lives. This might be physical improvement through exercise or weight loss. Or it might be spiritual improvement. Pope Francis has designated this year as an extraordinary Jubilee – a Holy Year of Mercy. Pope Francis asks us to live this Holy Year in light of Jesus' words – "Be merciful as your Father is merciful." Merciful like your Father is the motto of this Holy Year. Our task is to contemplate, imitate and adopt God's mercy as our lifestyle.

~ Fr. Tom Donohoe

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.

2016 Holy Hour for Life

The 2015 Holy Hour for Life is Tuesday Jan. 19 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 43rd 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.

Religious Education

Religious Education K-8

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 Confirmation class will have their Rite of Enrollment on Sunday, January 3rd at the 5:00 pm Mass. Class will follow Mass.

Parish Happenings

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.

Peer Ministry Book Drive

The St. Irene Peer Ministry group will be collecting donations of books, DVDs, CDs and video games that will go to an organization called More Than Words. They are a non-profit social enterprise that empowers disadvantaged youth. The collection will go from January 3 - 24. **Please see the information sheet in the church for donation exclusions.** Thank you.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Sunday, January 10th at 7 pm in the rectory.

Women's Club Bingo & Pizza Night

Women's Club will have an evening of pizza and bingo on Thursday, Jan. 21 at 6:30 pm. This is always a fun night so plan to attend, please email womensclub@stirenes.org so that we can have a head count. Please also bring a wrapped gift for the "winner's table". See you on the 21st.

12th Annual Trivia Night *Please note date change*

Come on out for the 12th Annual St. Irene's Team Trivia Night on Saturday, January 23rd at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall. (Snow date is one week later on January 30). Bring your own team (max. 8 per table), or come on your own and we'll seat you with friendly St. Irene folks. Enjoy 60 stimulating questions, food and beverages, door prizes, and awards, all for \$5 per person.

Tickets will be on sale after Mass this weekend or contact Tim and Jean Butler at trivianight@stirenes.org. Seating is limited, so tickets will be available at the door only if not sold out in advance. We look forward to seeing you.

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
The Branco Family
Raymond Briere
The Bulpett Family
Paul and Susan Champagne
The Clericuzo Family
Tristao and Leonore Correia
Helen and Raymond Critch
The Duggan Family
The Ferreira Family
Barbara and Ted Graczyk
Theresa Grady
James and Helen Lee
Thomas Manning
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
Thomas Walsh

Save the Dates

The following are some of the events scheduled for 2016:

Saturday, March 19 – Italian Night
Saturday, Apr. 30 – Confirmation
Saturday, May 14 – First Communion

Please mark your calendars now and plan to come to these wonderful events.

Parish Library

Register now and enjoy the many wonderful books in our Parish Library which is located in Room 6 of the Parish Hall. The library is open whenever the Church is open but not during religious education classes.

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.

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

St. Irene Online

For more information about St. Irene Parish, please visit our web site: www.StIrenes.org or www.facebook.com/StIrenes. You are invited to explore both and offer suggestions via e-mail at feedback@stirenes.org. St. Irene's online calendar can be found at www.stirenes.org/quicklinks/calendar.html.

College Planning

If you and your family are starting a college search please check St. Irene's website for a list of many Catholic colleges in the US at www.stirenes.org/faithformation/catholiceducation/colleges.html.

Catholic Television

Catholic TV is available on Comcast Cable channel 238, Verizon FiOS channel 271, Sky Angel IPTV channel 142, RCN channel 85, EWTN channel 56 and streaming on www.CatholicTV.com.

Financial Information

Grand Annual Collection

We have surpassed our goal of \$100,000 for the Grand Annual Collection and collected \$106,171. We are most grateful for your continued support to our parish. Thank you.

Special Collection

Next weekend there will be a second collection for Catholic elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Boston. The proceeds will go toward these schools to assist more families with demonstrated financial need and to help grow enrollment. Thank you for your generosity and belief in the gift of a Catholic education.

Offertory Report

The weekly offertory last Sunday was 23.8% less than last year. Thank you for your continuing support of our parish.

Offertory	\$5,597
Last year's Offertory	\$7,353
Offertory YTD	\$306,530
Offertory YTD last year	\$321,913

Dedicated Church Maintenance
and Upkeep Fund YTD \$26,930

2015 Grand Annual to date \$106,171

Separate Gifts from 11/15 \$11,800

Bequests to St. Irene Church \$135,814

The Christmas collection for the Clergy Trust amounted to \$10,109.

Next weekend the special collection will be for the Catholic elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Boston.

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.