

St. Irene Church

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



First Sunday of Advent December 3, 2017

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

Albert Cabral - 1st Anniversary Mass
Saturday, December 2 at 5:00 pm

James W. McNeill – Memorial Mass
Sunday, December 3 at 8:00 am

Charles Trebino – 5th Anniversary Mass
Sunday, December 3 at 11:00 am

Helen & Robert Gitschier - Memorial Mass
Tuesday, December 5 at 9:00 am

Jonathan Townsend – Healing Mass
Wednesday, December 6 at 9:00 am

Stanley Gacek - Memorial Mass
Thursday, December 7 at 9:00 am

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

Philip & Nancy Phalon - Memorial Mass
Friday, December 8 at 7:30 pm

Holly Herring – Memorial Mass
Saturday, December 9 at 9:00 pm

James & Mary Devlin – Memorial Mass
James & Margaret Bell – Memorial Mass
Sunday, December 10 at 8:00 am

Germaine Martin – Anniversary Mass
Sunday, December 10 at 11:00 am

Children's Liturgy

Our next Children's Liturgy will be hosted by Grade 7 this Sunday, December 3 at both the 8:00 and 11:00 am Masses.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

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

The Pastor's Corner

This Sunday begins the season of Advent. It is the time when we prepare for the birth of the Christ Child. Christmas is a very special feast in the church and in our families. It is also a busy time in our lives. There is so much preparation for Christmas that we can easily forget the reason for the season. Let us take a little time to prepare ourselves spiritually for the joy of the birth of the Christ Child.

Fr. Tom Donohoe

Low-Gluten Altar Bread is Available

If you have Celiac Disease and wish to receive Communion, please see the celebrant priest **prior** to Mass so he can consecrate the low-gluten hosts during the Mass.

Tuesday Evening Adoration & Benediction

All are invited every Tuesday at 7:30 pm to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. 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.

Daily Bible Readings

Please visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings/ to find the daily bible readings and other information.

Religious Education

Religious Education K-8

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

Christmas Pageant and "Holy Pancake" Breakfast

Please join us on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 9 am for our annual Christmas Pageant presented by our 5th grade students (*snow date Dec. 17*). 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 immediately following the pageant in the parish hall. For admission, we are requesting monetary donations for a local family in need. Thank you.

Peer Leaders

Calling all high school juniors and seniors! Come to peer leadership meetings the first Sunday of every month from 3:30 to 4:45 before the 5:00 Mass. In Peer Leadership, we will build our faith and give back to the community, and earn community service hours. As always, there will be food and games! The theme for our December 3rd meeting will be Vatican II. If you have any questions, contact Maeve Lobo, Peerleaders@StIrenes.org.

Parish Happenings

Children's Christmas Party – December 3

The St. Irene Parish Children's Christmas Party will be this Sunday, December 3 at 12 noon in the Parish Hall. There will be Games, Crafts, Pizza and More. Always a great time for the family. Free to attend. If you would like to make a small donation to the Lazarus House meals fund, then that will be greatly appreciated. See you there.

Adult Advent Event – Monday, Dec. 4

Matthew's gospel tells of the three Magi who came from the East to worship the new-born King. As we enter the season of Advent, here is an opportunity to learn about how the religion "from the East" coincides with and differs from Christianity.

Join us for a light breakfast in St. Irene's parish hall Monday, Dec. 4 at 9:30am, to watch on video, Natana J. DeLong-Bas, a visiting assistant professor of the Boston College Theology Department and Islamic Civilization and Societies Program. She will address issues of concern and interfaith dialogue and relations, discussion will follow.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Sunday, December 3 at 7:00 pm in the rectory.

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, Dec. 10**. Please securely attach the tag to the gift, so we can 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 by **Sunday, Dec. 10**.

Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities appreciates St. Irene's for helping our clients at Christmas time. Please note that all gift cards received will be distributed to our Healthy Families program, a home visiting program for first-time young parents. The program focuses on parents and children receiving adequate medical care, being economically self-reliant, and attaining educational goals. For the majority of these clients, what they receive from us is the only gift they give to their child. It is empowering for these moms/dads to be able to go shopping (staff take the parent to shop) and pick out the gift (s) for their baby themselves. It is also one of the only "choices" they get to make on their own. Thank you for your generosity.

Christmas Parking Volunteers Needed

We are seeking volunteers to help with parking during Christmas Eve Masses. If you can help, please call the rectory (978)369-3940. Thank you.

Women's Club Happenings

December 7th the Women's Club will be boxing up the gifts for the soldiers at 9:30 am. Items will be collected thru Dec. 6th and can be left at the back of the church.

December 14th the ladies will be putting together boxwood trees beginning after the 9:00 am Mass. Trees will be sold after the Masses over the weekend . . .again MANY hands make light work!

December 21st at 6:30 pm our Christmas party and Yankee Swap. Bring a wrapped \$10 gift for the Swap. Desserts or hors d'oeuvres are welcome! Come join the festivities!!

2018 Calendars - Thank You

St. Irene Church would like to thank the Dee Funeral Home of Concord, MA for their yearly donation of calendars to our parish. The calendars can be found on the tables at the entrance of our church. Please take one.

Concord Prison Holiday Gift Bag Project

We will be collecting items for the Concord Prison Holiday Gift Bag Project until Sunday, Dec. 3; 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 with no more than 5 inches of ribbing (no tube socks, knee highs or "tennis" socks), a bottle (plastic) of shampoo (12-15 oz.), and a handmade 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, contact Jean Donnelly, prison-gifts@stirenes.org.

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 18th for inclusion in the Christmas bulletin.

Keeping Christ in Christmas

The St. Irene Knights will have Catholic themed Christmas cards available for sale after Mass. When the true meaning of Christmas is lost in the noise of advertising; take this opportunity to remind others that it is about the birth of our Lord Savior Jesus Christ.

Library News - Advent Book Display

Advent books are on display at the back of the church. 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 this past weekend amounted to **\$31,501** towards our goal of \$125,000. 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.

Increased Offertory Campaign

We sincerely thank those who have participated in the increased offertory campaign. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Our goal is to appeal to the generous support of our community and increase the offertory by 20% to cover our operating expenses.

We are asking each of you to prayerfully review your commitment and consider an increase in your continuing offertory contributions consistent with your means. The parish needs the support of every parishioner to have a vibrant, long-term community where all are welcome to share in the light of Jesus Christ and each other. Thank you.

On-Line Giving at St. Irene's

St. Irene Parish provides Online Giving - a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donations. Getting started is easy - just visit our website, www.stirenes.org, and click our **E-Giving** link. When you participate, your gift will

be securely transferred directly to the parish. We thank you for your continued support.

The collection for the Retired Religious Sisters amounted to \$1875.

St. Irene Staff:

Pastor:

Reverend Thomas P. Donohoe

Parochial Vicar:

Reverend Romain Rurangirwa

Permanent Deacons:

Deacon Dean Bulpett

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 the rectory.

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.

Financial Details

November 2017

Year to Date

Weekly

\$28,858

\$291,135

Monthly

\$1190

\$28,206

Gifts & Bequests

\$8675

\$85,621.62*

*Includes a one-time bequest of \$42,751.62