

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 4, 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

Liturgical Events

Mass Intentions

Susan Gaipo
Memorial Mass
Saturday, December 3 at 5:00 pm

Charles Trebino
4th Anniversary Mass
Sunday, December 4 at 11:00 am

Clara and Timothy Galvin
Memorial Mass
Sunday, December 4 at 5:00 pm

James Devlin
Memorial Mass
Wednesday, December 7 at 9:00 am

William Ernest Lachance
Memorial Mass
Thursday, December 8 at 9:00 am

Philip Phalon
2nd Anniversary Mass
Thursday, December 8 at 7:30 pm

Holly Herring
Memorial Mass
Saturday, December 10 at 9:00 am

Kathleen Yiptong

3rd Anniversary Mass

Saturday, December 10 at 5:00 pm

Michael Toth

2nd Anniversary Mass

Sunday, Dec. 11 at 8 am, 11 am, & 5 pm

The Pastor's Corner

We have begun the Season of Advent, the time of preparation for Christmas. It is a busy and hectic time for most of us. The shopping has already begun and soon we will be decorating our Christmas trees and homes. We will be sending out our Christmas cards and going to Christmas parties with our friends. All of these enhance our celebration of the great feast.

But Advent is really the time to prepare spiritually for Christmas. We have two models to help us on our Advent journey. John the Baptist is calling us to prepare the way for the Lord by changing what is wrong in our lives and reaching out to help others in need. He is calling us to action. On Thursday, we celebrate a feast of Mary – her Immaculate Conception. When Luke in his gospel describes the birth of Christ, he writes, "And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." She is the model of prayer and reflection for us during the Advent season.

(Continued)

Like Mary, we need to pray and meditate on the birth of Christ that will motivate us to prepare the way for the Lord.

~ Fr. Tom Donohoe

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

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

Banns of Marriage Second Publication

John Isnor and Victoria Correa

Daily Bible Readings

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

Tuesday Evening Adoration & Benediction

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.

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.

Religious Education

Religious Education

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 from 7:00 - 8:00 pm.

Christmas Pageant and "Holy Pancake" Breakfast

There will be a Christmas Pageant rehearsal for the 5th grade (4th grade) classes on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 9:30 am.

Please join us on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 9 am for our annual Christmas Pageant presented by our 5th grade (4th grade) students (*snow date Dec. 18*). 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 the Rwanda Butare Junior Seminary Scholarship Fund for orphan students and Razia's Ray of Hope.

Parish Happenings

St. Irene Christmas Party Sunday, December 4th

The annual Christmas party will be held Sunday, December 4th following the 11 am Mass. There will be Games, Crafts, Pizza and maybe an appearance by a special guests from the North Pole. The party is free of charge. We will be accepting small donations to help support Lazarus House Ministries. **There will be a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend until 6 pm Saturday, December 3rd.** Please sign up to help us plan for the amount of food needed.

Christmas Parking Volunteers Needed

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

St. Irene Christmas Ornament

Caring 4 Cameroon, a non-profit organization that works to provide students of St. Andrews school in Ngong, Cameroon with scholarships and school supplies is selling red, glass St. Irene Christmas ornaments. The proceeds from these ornaments will give students that are most in need the ability and materials to have a better education. Order forms are at the entrance of the church. Thank you so much for supporting this cause, Merry Christmas.

Welcome Committee

Have you ever walked in to St. Irene's a few minutes late and wished that there was someone to help you find a seat without drawing the attention of the whole congregation as you cast your eyes around to find a pew that can accommodate you and your family? How about when you go to a new church and you find that you need to use the restroom, how lost do you feel trying to find it? How nice is it to enter a church and have a parishioner greet and welcome you, someone who makes you feel that they are happy to have you visiting their parish.

We are starting a new Welcome Ministry at St. Irene's and are asking for volunteers to help with this new ministry. Please contact Sheila Zacharchuk at Welcome@stirenes.org for more information or to volunteer. Thank you.

Women's Club Happenings

December 6 the Women's Club will be boxing up the gifts for the soldiers at 9:30 am.

December 8 the Women's Club will be making boxwood trees in the church hall after 9:00 Mass. If ANYONE from the parish wants to help out, you are most welcome but we ask that you **please bring your own clippers**. Also, the trees will be available for sale from 4 - 6 that afternoon as well as over the weekend after the Masses.

December 15 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!!

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Sunday, Dec 4 at 7:00 pm in the rectory.

Christmas Giving Tree - Gifts Due Dec. 11

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 11th**. 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 11th**.

Concord Prison Gift Bag Project

We will be collecting items for the Concord Prison Holiday Gift Bag Project from Saturday, November 19th through Sunday, December 4th; 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 at prison-gifts@stirenes.org.

Keeping Christ in Christmas

The Saint Irene Knights will have Catholic themed Christmas cards available for sale after weekend Masses. In this day and age of the true meaning of Christmas being 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 for adults are on display at the back of the church and children's books can be found in the library. Please keep the books out for no longer than 3 weeks, so that all may enjoy them.

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 19th for inclusion in the Christmas Bulletin.

Financial Information

Grand Annual Collection

The Grand Annual Collection this past week-end amounted to **\$53,625** 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.

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.

Financial Details	Total Offertory
November	\$27,410
Year to Date	\$307,138

Total Offertory includes Weekly and Monthly donations.

Gifts and bequests to St. Irene Church year to date: \$36,494.79

Collection for the Retired Religious Sisters amounted to \$2,427.

We thank you for your continued support of St. Irene Parish.

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.