

St. Irene Church NEWS



Lent 2017

In this Newsletter:

- St. Irene Newsletters
- Fr. Tom's birthday celebration April 9th 2017
- St. Irene Knights of Columbus, Right to Life
- Parish Collaborative
- Ministry Report: Music Ministry
- Confirmation Program Update
- Calendar of Events

St Irene Newsletters

What's new or different about this new St. Irene's e-newsletter?

- We respect your time -- Only one hit to your inbox every three months.
- We respect your attention -- Only information provided that is important to your family and your choices within the parish. You can skim to find what you need.
- We want your input. Email feedback@stirenes.org with your suggestions.
- We respect your choices. You can unsubscribe at any point, but we hope you'll give it a try.

Main Event: Father Tom's 90th Birthday!

How can you join in celebrating his 65 years of priesthood and 28 serving St. Irene's?

- Join the party on Sunday, April 9th after 11 AM Mass for a luncheon at the Westford Regency. Gathering from 12:15 pm. Lunch starts 1:15 pm. Check your mailbox for the invitation or call the rectory to get your name on the list asap 978-369-3940. (No later than March 24th).
- Read his incredible story (<http://stirenes.org/about/frtom.html>) that began amidst the Great Depression in Lowell, and glimpse his perspective on the health of St. Irene's and how he's shepherding the parish through likely collaboration with Holy Family in Concord, although the date remains uncertain.



Fr. Tom

St Irene Knights of Columbus Nurturing Life

St. Irene's chapter of the Knights of Columbus would like your help to support expectant mothers. They are collecting crib sheets, newborn summer outfits for boys and girls, bottles in both 4 and 8 ounce sizes, and large-sized diapers for stages 5 & 6. Please watch for the bulletins for collection instructions including deadlines. The Knights are collecting these items to support the Archdiocesan Pro-Life office in Natick, MA. Nurturing life at all stages heralds back to the original 1800s mission of the Knights of Columbus: to provide support to widows and orphans. By state law all items must be new with original sales tags attached. Thank you for your generosity! And if you're a male Catholic parishioner of at least 18 years of age interested in joining our chapter, please contact us via kofc@stirenes.org, thank you.

Parish Collaborative

Are you wondering about what a Parish Collaborative with Holy Family in Concord might look like some day? At present, there is no time table for movement to collaboration, although Fr. Tom has met with Fr. Fleming, and the two parish councils have met several times to get to know each other in preparation. When collaboration does take place, finances will remain separate, although there will be some shared activity programs as well as priests. You can learn more about the whys behind collaboratives at the Archdiocesan web site Disciples in Mission (<https://disciplesinmission.com/>).

Ministry Report: Music Ministry

Would you like to add your singing voice to the parish? While singing helps you pray twice, according to St. Augustine, those with a gift for song play an important role in helping the Mass. The Music Ministry welcomes everyone who would like to join. There are never auditions or previous experience required. The only "requirement" is a positive attitude and a willingness to learn. If you have a song in your heart, please come join us! You may contact the music director via e-mail to music@stirenes.org.

- Young musicians are invited to rehearse bimonthly on Thursday evenings.
- Adolescents and young adults (both vocalists and instrumentalists) are welcome to join the monthly contemporary Mass on the first Sunday of the month. Rehearse at 4 and participate in the Mass at 5.
- Adults of all ages are invited to join the Adult Choir to rehearse twice monthly on Thursday evenings and participate in 11 AM Masses.



Adult Choir

Confirmation program update

Set your calendar for May 5th for Confirmation, when Bishop Robert Reed will celebrate this pivotal Sacrament. A Lenten reminder to both Level 1 & 2 Confirmation candidates: Remember to perform a Corporate Work of Mercy this Lent by raising funds for Mary Meals. Check out this short video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFU8cU-clCs>) to

learn more about how your contributions make a difference. And remember Fr. Romain's words in a recent pastoral message in our bulletin:

The Lord is sending us, you and me, the Church to feed his children. Recently I had the privilege to meet Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, founder of Mary's Meals, an international movement that sets up school feeding projects in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education. Mary's Meals is a simple idea that works by providing a daily meal in a place of education, for chronically poor children who are attracted to the classroom where they can gain a basic education that provides an escape route from poverty. Today, Mary's Meals allows over 920,000 children from impoverished areas in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and South America, to go to school and receive meals every school day.
-Fr. Romain Rurangirwa

Calendar of Events

You can always find upcoming Masses and events in [St Irene's online calendar](#). Special events coming up soon include:

- Mar 31, 5:30 pm, Soup & Bread
- Mar 31, 7:00 pm, Stations of the Cross
- Apr 09, Palm Sunday, normal Mass schedule
- Apr 09, 12:15 pm, Fr. Tom's birthday celebration
- Apr 13, 7:30 pm, Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper
- Apr 14, 3:00 pm, Good Friday service
- Apr 15, 8:00 pm, Easter Vigil
- Apr 16, 7:00 am, Easter Sunday Mass
- Apr 16, 9:00 am, Easter Sunday Mass
- Apr 16, 11:00 am, Easter Sunday Mass (no 5 pm Mass today)
- May 5, 7:00 pm, Confirmation Mass
- May 7, 9:15 am, May crowning
- May 13, 10:00 am, First Communion Mass



Saint Irene