

St. Irene Church NEWS



Summer 2017

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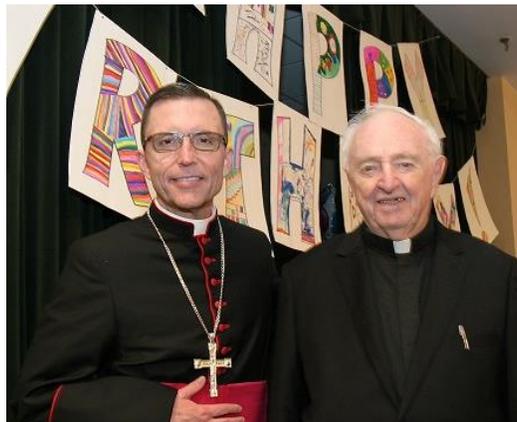
Financial Report 2016 and Budget 2017

Thank you for the support you have provided to St. Irene's, and know that we are in need of major repairs to the roof and the boiler system. Please consider helping us meeting our financial goals by increasing your contributions 20%, as Father Tom recently requested. Take a look at the [2016 Financial Report and the 2017 Budget](#).

Electronic giving is the easiest way to ensure that we meet this commitment. It's easy to set up. Please visit [St Irene's Electronic Giving page](#), and consider signing up for [E-Giving](#). This not only helps St Irene keep a more reliable, predictable stream of income especially over the summer, but it also helps parishioners not miss weekly donations during absences, followed by larger donations in order to catch up after returning.

Celebration for Fr. Tom

For those who were among the 250 or so parishioners who joined us on April 9th on Palm Sunday to celebrate Fr. Tom's 90th birthday at the Westford Regency, thank you for lending your presence to honor our beloved pastor. We were also honored to have Bishop Robert Reed join us for the gala, prior to also celebrating confirmation on May 5th. Take a look at the [photos and tributes to Father Tom](#).



Bishop Robert Reed and Fr. Tom Donohoe on April 9th 2017

Religious Education, grades K-8, 2017-2018

St. Irene offers Religious Education for grades K-5 meeting weekly at 9:00-9:50 a.m. or 10:00-10:50 a.m. on Sunday mornings between Masses. We use the Our Sunday Visitor's *Allelu!* curriculum for Kindergarten and RCL Benziger's *Blest Are We* Faith and Word edition for grades 1-8. We incorporate the *Keeping Children Safe* safety curriculum in the fall for 2 sessions. Our calendar includes Hosted Masses (grades 3-8), 2nd grade Parent Sacramental meetings, Thanksgiving Basket projects, 5th grade Hosted Christmas Pageant, and we end our year with the May Crowning. First Confession is held near the end of January and First Communion is held in May.

Grades 6-8 meet from 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Monday evenings. We incorporate the Archdiocese of Boston *Created for Love* program throughout the year. Our year begins and concludes with a special Mass and also includes: Hosted Masses, the Living Rosary, 6th grade Stations of the Cross production, 7th grade Hosted Breakfast, 8th grade Hosted Pancake Breakfast, Mardi Gras Mass and celebration, and Sundae Party.

Registration forms are due by June 30th. The fee is \$135 per child and is capped at 3 or more children at \$405. There is a \$65 Sacramental Fee for grade 2 and a Late Fee for Registrations received after June 30th. Please see [St. Irene Religious Education web page](#) for details and [Religious Ed registration forms](#).



First Communion, May 13th 2017

Confirmation Preparation, grades 9-10, 2017-2018

St Irene's confirmation program is a two year commitment, with 12 classes in level 1 for 9th graders and 12 classes in level 2 for 10th graders. Candidates also complete at least four Works of Mercy during their Confirmation journey (two in each level) and attend a retreat each year. Classes are on Sunday evenings and begin with attendance at the 5 pm Mass, and class follows in the parish hall until 7:30 pm. Classes run between September and April, the Confirmation Ceremony is generally the last week of April or first week in May. The calendar will be published mid June and can be found on the St. Irene website under Faith Formation dropdown menu.

Three years ago, we introduced a wonderful new Confirmation program called Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation. The goal of this program is to offer the candidates a powerful, and life-changing experience as he/she prepares to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This program features video segments with some of the most passionate and inspiring Catholic youth ministry experts and speakers from across the country.

Further information, as well as [Confirmation registration forms](#), are available from [St Irene's Confirmation Preparation web page](#). Registration forms are due by June 30th, the fee is \$175 for level 1 and \$255 for level 2. There is a late fee for registrations received after the June 30th deadline.



Confirmation May 5th 2017

Social Justice / St. Andrew's School in Ngong, Cameroon

St. Irene and our [Social Justice Committee](#) are excited to share with you the story of our parishioner, Kelsey Bradley, an amazing and promising young woman. Recently graduated from Architecture School at Philadelphia University, Kelsey ventured to northern Cameroon, where she helped build four new classrooms on to the school founded by Fr. Augustin, who spent two years with St. Irene a few years ago. Her innovative design provides a cooler learning environment inside, uses local materials, and enables the community to continue building more on their own. To learn more about Kelsey's efforts:

- Read [St Irene's web page about the Cameroon school project](#).
- Read [Kelsey's blog](#).
- Read & Like [Design Cause's Facebook page](#).
- [Donate to Design Cause](#) [independent 501(c)3, not directly affiliated with St Irene]



St Irene parishioner Kelsey Bradley supervising construction in Ngong, Cameroon, 1Q 2017.

PS: Unrelated to Kelsey's project, a group of parishioners have formed a non-profit organization named [Caring4Cameroon](#) to raise scholarship money, school supplies, and sports equipment for students of St. Andrew's School.

St. Irene Knights of Columbus

The [Knights of Columbus](#) is the largest worldwide Catholic men's fraternity dedicated to supporting the clergy and the family. Our [Council #13848](#) proudly serves the parish of Saint Irene. We help around the parish with the picnic, the children's Christmas party, setting up the crèche, and more. We help outside the parish by collecting funds for children with special needs, by helping single mothers, and by cooking dinner once a month at [Lazarus House Ministries'](#) Emergency Shelter in Lawrence, MA. And Knights are brothers helping each other as well. Membership is open to male Catholics at least 18 years of age and in good standing with the Church. Whether you can help an hour per year, or an hour per week, come join us and do what you can. This is a key opportunity to model Catholic values for your children and your family. For more information, contact kofc@stirenes.org

Low Gluten Hosts

St. Irene offers low gluten hosts for parishioners with Celiac disease, who wish to receive Communion. Please see the celebrant priest prior to Mass, so he can consecrate the low-gluten hosts during the Mass. Why must the host be low gluten rather than entirely gluten free? Please visit [St Irene's Eucharist page](#) for more information including an article on this point.

Welcome Feedback

Over the summer months, many St. Irene parishioners visit other parishes on their travels, whether vacationing, going to see family, or exploring the world and sightseeing. We want to ask a favor: Please send us your stories and observations from parishes you visit. If you felt especially welcome, or close to the Holy Spirit, or just observed something in a Mass that warmed your heart, what was it? Could we use the idea at St Irene? Don't forget the younger/teen family members. What did they enjoy? Send us a word and tell us the good you have seen in other parishes. We'll collect all the observations and share with the Pastoral Council. Please send your observations and suggestions to feedback@stirenes.org, thank you.

Collaborative with Holy Family in Concord

The Archdiocese of Boston recently indicated that the schedule for transitioning into the remaining collaboratives would be released shortly, but St Irene's rectory has not heard anything yet. The only thing we can say with certainty is that there are currently no plans for any change in services or clergy staffing at St Irene related to the potential collaborative. If so directed by the Archdiocese, we will engage in collaboration and share clergy between the two parishes. We fully expect services to continue in both places either way.

Calendar of Events

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

JUNE

Sun 6/18, 5:00 pm - Last Sunday 5pm Mass for the Summer.

Tuesdays, 7:30 pm - Eucharistic Adoration; does not interrupt in Summer

Tue 6/27, 8:00 pm - Knights of Columbus

Wed 6/28, 7:00 pm - Baptismal Preparation Class

JULY

Tuesdays, 7:30 pm - Eucharistic Adoration; does not interrupt in Summer

Wed 7/26, 7:00 pm - Baptismal Preparation Class

AUGUST

Tuesdays, 7:30 pm - Eucharistic Adoration; does not interrupt in Summer

Tue 8/15, 9:00 am and 7:30 pm - Mass; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wed 8/30, 7:00 pm - Baptismal Preparation Class

SEPTEMBER

Sun 9/17, all Masses - Welcome Back Sunday

Sun 9/17, 12 noon - Parish Picnic