



St. Irene Church

181 East Street, Carlisle MA 01741
(978) 369-3940 • stirene@comcast.net
Visit our website at www.stirenes.org

Mass Schedule

Daily

Monday – Saturday 9:00 a.m.

Saturday Vigil

5:00 p.m.

Sunday

8:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Confessions

Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Religious Education

Grades K-5:

Sunday 9:00 - 9:50 a.m.

Sunday 10:00 - 10:50 a.m.

Grades 6 - 8:

Monday 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Youth Ministry

Sunday 6:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Baptism Catechesis

Last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Call the rectory to register.

Baptisms

Sundays, 2nd and 4th of month at 1 p.m.

Weddings

Contact Pastor 6 months in advance

Reverend Thomas P. Donohoe

Pastor

Reverend Romain Rurangirwa

Parochial Vicar

Reverend Augustin Vondou

Resident

Deacon Dean Bulpett,

Permanent Deacon

Deacon Charles Ferraro,

Permanent Deacon

Cypriana Coelho

Music Director

Eileen Faber

Religious Education Coordinator

Frank de Alderete

Confirmation Coordinator

The Epiphany of The Lord
January 5, 2014

Liturgical Events

Mass Intentions

Francis Murphy, Memorial Mass
Saturday, January 4 at 5 pm

Normand Martin, Birthday Mass
Sunday, January 5 at 8 am

Tranfaglia Family, Memorial Mass
Sunday, January 5 at 11 am

Joseph Lojek, Memorial Mass
Monday, January 6 at 9 am

Parlee Family
Mass of Thanksgiving
Tuesday, January 7 at 9 am

Gunning and Whitehouse Families
Mass of Thanksgiving
Saturday, January 11 at 9 am

Daniel McCarron, Memorial Mass
Sunday, January 12 at 11 am

Young Adult Mass *Save the Date!*

Our monthly Young Adult Contemporary Mass is Sunday, Jan. 12th at 5:00 pm. If you plan to join us and sing or play an instrument, please e-mail us at music@st-irene.org so we will have your music ready. We will meet to rehearse in the church at 4:00 on that day and hope you will join us!

Religious Education

Classes for grades K-5 will resume on Jan. 5 and classes for grades 6-8 will resume on Jan. 6, 2014.

Confirmation

The Rite of Enrollment for first year Confirmation students will take place at the 5:00 pm Mass on January 12.

Christmas Pageant Thank You

Thank you to the 5th grade students and our 2 baby Jesus' for a beautiful Christmas Pageant! Lily Richman played Jesus at rehearsal and Grant Monagle-Fleming did a wonderful job filling the role of Jesus at the last minute. Thank you to Carol Yelle and Laura France for directing this wonderful event. We would also like to thank the fifth grade teachers: Celine Clark, Laura France, Theresa Lober, Maeve Lobo, Jody DeBye, Leah Paglia, Karen Moradi and Sarah Moradi as well as parent volunteers. A special thank you to Marianne Gallagher for her time and photography expertise, The Pageant Program looked great.

Thank you to the 8th grade students as well as teachers: Katie Dunn, Tina Ford, Jim

McNally, James Crowley and Elizabeth Gottmann-Hanrahan for a delicious "Holy Pancake" Breakfast. St. Irene's will donate \$450 to the Junior Seminary in Rwanda where Fr. Romain studied.

Parish Happenings

Red Cross Blood Drive

St. Irene's will be hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, Jan. 8 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Please visit www.RedCross-Blood.org or call 1-800-Red-Cross for more information. Please donate if you are able.

Thank you!

As I reflect on my first Christmas as Music Director at St. Irene, I am reminded, time and time again, of how lucky I am to be in such a wonderful parish. So many people gave of their precious time and talents, and I would like to make sure to offer my gratitude and heart-felt thanks to everyone who contributed to the beautiful music at the Christmas Masses this year.

Thank you: Marianne Vrotsos, our always calm and smiling organist and pianist who played so beautifully for all of many, many rehearsals and Masses; Jennifer Zuk, who helped with the Children's Choir, served as Cantor at the Children's Mass, and played her flute so magically; the members of the adult choir who worked so very hard to learn all of the music and sang with their hearts and souls at every Mass; the members of the children's choir whose enthusiasm and angelic voices brought smiles to many a face; the parents of the children's choir who made time in busy December schedules to bring their children to rehearsal every week; Dave and Mary Ellen Bakken who volunteered their time and expertise to setting up such a wonderful sound system for our choirs/instrumentalists; Eric Peters, Jean Butler, and Melissa Weiksnar, our narrators at the Service of Lessons and Carols; and Fr. Augustin Vondou and Fr. Tom Donohoe, who made my heart leap with joy when they asked if they, too, could join in the singing! I look forward to much more music-making in 2014.

Fondly, Cypriana Coelho

2014 Holy Hour for Life

The 2014 Holy Hour for Life is Tuesday January 21 at 7:30 pm at St. Irene Parish. This is in advance of the National Day for Prayer for Life in Washington DC and the 41st anniversary of Roe v Wade. Holy Hours will be held throughout the Archdiocese in support and prayer for those traveling to Washington from Boston. 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.

Christmas Flowers

The Christmas Flowers decorating our church were donated in memory of or in honor of the following:

Margaret Brennan
William Brennan
Ray Briere
Cristina and Leland Carr
Marie Casserly
Leonore and Tristo Correia
Francis Creran
Helen and Ray Critch
Celia Frazier
Mark Frazier
Barbara and Ted Graczyk
The Gregory Family
The Guarino Family
The Hamilton Family
James and Helen Lee
Anna P. Lenda
The MacCormack Family
The Murphy Family
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Noone
Rita and Lionel Paquin
The Sullivan Family
The Tobin Family
Francesca & Pasquale Tranfaglia
The Tranfaglia Family
The Trottier Family
The Wright Family

Deceased Members of:
The Clericuzio Family
The Ferreira Family
The Silva Family

Christmas Thank You

A special thank you to all that worked so hard this Christmas season to make it joyous for so many others.

We thank Jean Morin who organized the Soldier Gift Boxes to our men and women serving overseas; Jean Donnelly who organized the Gift Bag Project for the Concord Prison; Debbie and Rich Boule for making the Catholic Charities Thanksgiving and Christmas food basket drives so successful. A total of 58 Thanksgiving baskets and 20 Christmas baskets were given to those in need; Judy Andrews for coordinating and delivering over 300 gifts for the giving tree. Gifts were distributed through Catholic Charities, Elder Services of Merrimack Valley, Carlisle COA, Spring House and House of Hope.

We also thank Eileen Faber's and Carol Yelle's 7th grade class for making the tags for the Christmas Giving Tree and to Marvin Gonzalez for setting everything up.

Thank you to all of the parishioners who donated food and gifts, and all those who helped collect and distribute to so many families in our area. Your generosity helped to make Christmas a happier celebration for so many this year.

We also thank Lisa Hales for stepping forward and coordinating the parking on Christmas Eve. Thank you also to Kristen Kerouac, Paul Flanagan, Alex Dardinski and John and Alexander Noone who assisted, making parking safe and orderly.

We thank all who made our Church so beautiful for Christmas with the banners, wreaths and flowers. Many people helped to make our Church Liturgies both wonderful and inspirational. We also thank our Lectors, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers for their contributions.

We thank our deacons, Deacon Dean and Deacon Charles as well as our parochial vicar Fr. Romain and our resident priest Fr. Augustin. Everyone worked together to make our celebration of the birth of the Lord a joyful experience.

Rwanda Scholarship Fund Thank You

Over the past two years money has been collected for the Butare Junior Seminary Scholarship Fund for orphan students in Rwanda.

St. Irene's and most especially, Father Romain would like to thank everyone who contributed towards this fund through bake sales, pancake breakfasts and monetary donations. Father Romain was able to bring his bishop a check for \$4,060.93 for his old school. Thank you to all who donated towards this wonderful cause.

Grand Annual Collection

The Grand Annual Collection this past weekend amounted to \$100,334.01. If you have not yet contributed, you may send your donation in to the rectory. We are most grateful for your continued support to our parish.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Sunday, Jan. 12th at 7:00 pm in the rectory.

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. For more information, please contact Mary Ellen Bakken at adoration@StIrenes.org.

Family Prayer for Vocations Icon

St. Irene's has a beautiful new icon of Christ the High Priest which will go each month to a family wishing to host it to pray for religious vocations as well as discern God's will in their lives. The kit includes the icon, a stand, a votive candle, a booklet of prayers, questions to help your family discern what God may want them to do with their lives, some scripture references, and more. Also included is a prayer card listing the current seminarians, so you can pray for them by name if you wish. Please join us in this beautiful initiative to pray for priestly vocations and to guide and bless us all in our vocation in life. To sign up contact Mary Ellen Bakken at vocations@StIrenes.org or 978-692-3315.

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.

St Irene's Web Presence

We have recently upgraded St Irene's web site (www.stirenes.org) and also added a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/StIrenes). You are invited to explore both and offer suggestions via e-mail to feedback@stirenes.org. Thank you.

Offertory Report

The weekly offertory increased 146% from last year. The total weekly and monthly offertory since May 12 has increased by 19.7%. Thank you for your generosity.

Christmas Collection

The Christmas Collection amounted to \$14,287. This collection supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. Thank you for your extreme generosity and continued support. For more information, please visit www.CareForSeniorPriests.org.

Special Collection Sunday

We have been informed by the Archdiocese that there will not be a Special Collection on Sunday, Jan. 12. You may discard the yellow envelope included in your envelope package. Thank you.

Catholic Appeal Update

Good news! We have exceeded our goal for the 2013 Catholic Appeal. Thank you to all the supporters who made this happen. We truly appreciate your donations. Our parish goal was \$32,187 and we have raised \$32,527 from 89 donors and families. Visit www.BostonCatholicAppeal.org for more information. Thank you for your generosity.

Financial Information

Offertory	\$10,191
Offertory YTD	\$333,350

The Christmas Collection amounted to \$14,287 last week. Thank you for your generosity. There will not be a second collection next week.

The Pastor's Corner

Father Romain left on Christmas day to visit Rwanda. He will be away for two weeks. While he will visit family and friends, the main purpose of his visit is to see his bishop and request permission to remain with us at Saint Irene's. This is necessary because his term here ends in January. I feel confident that his bishop will grant him an extension that will allow him to stay.

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. It is our custom to exchange gifts at Christmas. In other countries, gifts are exchanged on the feast of the Epiphany. As the Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the new born King, so people exchange gifts in remembrance of this event. The feast celebrates the manifestation of Jesus to all people. It is the day that we should be thankful for one of the greatest gifts we have received - the gift of faith.

-- Fr. Tom Donohoe