



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
November 30, 2014**

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

John Hiltz

5th Anniversary Mass

Saturday, November 29 at 5 pm

Christian Phillips

Monday, December 1 at 9 am

Barbara Moschini

13th Anniversary Mass

Tuesday, December 2 at 9 am

Arlene Lessard

14th Anniversary Mass

Saturday, December 6 at 5 pm

The Parlee Family

Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 7 at 5 pm

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is Monday, 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

Today we celebrate the beginning of a new year in our Church. Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Many of us think of the Advent Season as a time to get ready for Christmas. On a practical level, it is certainly that. But the Advent Season is more than getting ready for Christmas. Advent is also an announcement about our future. It is a time of preparation for the second coming of Christ, when the Lord will establish His kingdom. At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus – born to be our Savior. As we celebrate this wonderful day, we look forward to the fulfilling of the great promise of our faith. Christ will come again and bring all of us who believe into the everlasting life in our Father's house in heaven.

- Fr. Tom Donohoe

Music Ministry

Christmas is fast-approaching, and the St. Irene's Music Ministry welcomes parishioners ages 5-105 to come and sing with the Choir at the Christmas Masses. We look forward to having you join us!

Christmas Children's Choir

All children in Grades K through 6 are invited to join the Children's Choir for Christmas! Rehearsals will take place in the church from 6:15-7:00 pm on the following Mondays: 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, and 12/22. Our choir will sing at the annual Christmas pageant on Sunday, December...and the 4:00 pm Family Mass on Christmas Eve. No experience is necessary! For more information, please e-mail Cypriana at music@Stlrenes.org.

Young Adult / Adult Choir

All parishioners in grades 7 and up (to age 105!) are invited to come and sing at the Christmas Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (5:30, Midnight, and/or 11:00 AM). Rehearsals will take place in the church from 7:15-8:30 on the following Mondays: 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, and 12/22. No experience is necessary! For more information, please e-mail Cypriana at music@Stlrenes.org.

Young Adult Contemporary Mass

The next Contemporary Mass will take place on Sunday, November 30th at 5:00 pm. All teens/young adults are invited to come and sing and/or play at this Mass. We will meet in the church at 4:00 pm on this day to rehearse, then stay to participate in the Mass. No experience is necessary! If you wish to play an instrument, please e-mail me so I can have music ready for you – music@Stlrenes.org. We look forward to having you join us!

Religious Education

There will be **no classes** for grades K-5 on Sunday, Nov. 30 due to Thanksgiving weekend.

Grade 4 will be hosting the 8 and 11 am Masses on Sunday, Dec. 7.

There will be **no classes** for grades 6-8 on Monday, Dec. 8 due to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Students may attend the 7:30 pm Mass in lieu of class with their families.

Christmas vacation will commence on Dec. 15 for grades 6-8 and Dec. 21 (*unless snow date for pageant*) for grades K-5.

Christmas Pageant and "Holy Pancake" Breakfast

There will be a Christmas Pageant rehearsal for the 5th grade classes on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 9:30 am.

Please join us on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 9 am for our annual Christmas Pageant presented by our 5th grade students (*snow date Dec. 21*). 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 snacks for the students at the Pan y Amor School in Managua, Nicaragua.

Confirmation Classes

There are no Confirmation classes on Sunday, Nov. 30. Level I will meet next week.

Parish Happenings

Grand Annual collection

The Grand Annual Collection this past weekend amounted to \$32,665. 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.

Children's Christmas Party December 7th 12:00 – 2:00 pm

The annual children's Christmas party will follow the 11 am Mass on December 7th. Please join in the fun with holiday arts and crafts, pizza, music and a visit from Santa. Tickets are available after Masses. Children 3 and under are Free, 4-12 \$5 and Adults \$7.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Sunday, Dec. 14 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, December 14th**. 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 14th**.

Thank you for your generosity.

Women's Club Happenings

December 6th & 7th we will be collecting items for the soldiers. Please leave your donations in the back of the church.

December 9th (Tuesday) - after 9:00 Mass we will be wrapping and packing up the boxes for the soldiers. Come give us a hand - remember many hands make light work!

December 11th (Thursday) the ladies will be putting together the boxwood trees beginning after 9:00 Mass. Trees will be sold after the Masses over the weekend....again **MANY** hands make light work!

December 18th (Thursday) 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!!

Thank you

Catholic Charities is extremely grateful to all of the parishioners who donated so generously towards the Thanksgiving Baskets this year. Volunteers delivered a total of **98 baskets** (*last year's total was 58*) to families in need this past Monday. Thank you to all who made food and monetary donations. We are most grateful to the Peer Leaders who coordinated with Project 351 and Walmart. A total of 3,920 pounds of food will be matched and given to the Greater Merrimack Valley Food Pantry. Our Religious Education classes from Kindergarten through Confirmation donated over 22 of the food boxes.

Christmas Food Baskets

Once again we will be providing food baskets for Catholic Charities in Lowell at Christmas. Information is available at the back of the Church. Boxes will be provided by Olympia Movers of Watertown and will be available in closets at the back of the Church by Dec. 2nd. We will collect baskets on **Sunday, Dec. 14**, 3-5 pm in the Church parking lot for delivery on Monday, Dec. 15th. Please contact Debbie Boulé by email at foodbaskets@StIrenes.org if you can volunteer or would like to contribute a food basket.

If you prefer checks can be made payable to Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities, 70 Lawrence St., Lowell, MA 01852. Please note "Lowell Food Pantry" on the memo line.

Women's Club Christmas Gifts for Soldiers

Each year St. Irene's Women's Club sends Christmas gifts to our deployed men and women serving our country. We are once again collecting small but welcome gifts for the soldiers. There is a detailed information sheet at the back of the Church for those who would like to donate. Items will be picked up by the Women's Club on Dec. 7th for Christmas delivery. Please consider a small remembrance for our deployed soldiers serving you and our country.

Concord Prison Holiday Gift Bag Project

We will be collecting items for the Concord Prison Holiday Gift Bag Project from Saturday, Nov. 15 through Sunday, Dec. 7; 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 (no tube socks, knee highs or "tennis" socks), a bottle (plastic) of shampoo (12-15 oz.), a stick deodorant (no roll-ons, 2.5 oz. or larger), and a holiday greeting card ("Happy Holidays, Seasons Greetings, Merry Christmas, no religious cards), signed with first names only. Handmade cards are

especially appreciated. If you would like to assemble gift bags, make cards, have any questions or want to make a cash donation, email Jean Donnelly at prison-gifts@stirenes.org. Thank you.

Keeping Christ in Christmas Cards

The Saint Irene Knights will be selling Catholic themed Christmas cards after Masses starting the weekend of November 8th. Please consider buying your cards to support the great charitable work the Knights do in our community.

Tuesday Evening 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. 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.

Library News – Advent Book Display

Advent books for both adults and children are on display downstairs in the library. 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.

Offertory Report

The weekly offertory last Sunday was 20.5% less than last year. Thank you for your continuing support of our parish.

Financial Information

Offertory	\$5889
Offertory YTD	\$285,037

Last week's second collection for the Retired Religious Sisters amounted to \$2411.

St. Irene Staff:

Pastor:

Reverend Thomas P. Donohoe

Parochial Vicar:

Reverend Romain Rurangirwa

Resident:

Reverend Augustin Vondou

Permanent Deacons:

Deacon Dean Bulpett
Deacon Charles Ferraro

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

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

Contact Pastor 6 months in advance.