



# St. Irene Church

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Visit our website at [www.StIrenes.org](http://www.StIrenes.org)

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 1, 2015**

## 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

Edna Moschini - 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Mass  
Sunday, February 1 at 8 am

Pia Centofante - 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass  
Sunday, February 1 at 11 am

Jim Hannon - 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass  
Monday, February 2 at 9 am

Jose Dias - Memorial Mass  
Wednesday, February 4 at 9 am

Julie Riley  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Mass  
Sunday, February 8 at 11 am

Marie Riccio - 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass  
Michael Riccio - 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass  
Monday, February 9 at 9 am

### Morning Rosary

Please join us for the Rosary before daily  
Mass at 8:40 am.

## The Pastor's Corner

By St. Irene's Parochial Vicar

When I was growing up on a small farm, life was not easy. On a farm you depend on what you grow and growing depends on the weather. Some seasons were challenging. This was hard for my parents who had 9 children to feed. I remember many days when I walked to school with an empty stomach and came home to an empty table. I remember the tears in the eyes of my sweet mother and the shame on the face of my hard working father when the storm of hail had destroyed all our crops. I remember the long eight hours in the classroom while my brain was not following the teacher. I remember the long walk home and the dreams of a sizzling plate. I remember listening to the Gospel in Church about Jesus feeding the crowds and wishing he was there at that moment to feed the hungry kids sitting there.

This situation changed when my older brothers got jobs and started helping to improve the farm and supplying with what the field could not.

Unfortunately there are so many other families out there who are still sending their children to school with empty stomachs. There are still children who sit in classes dreaming of a warm plate

instead of studying. And there are still children sitting in church somewhere wishing Jesus was there to feed them.

Isn't Jesus present in those churches? Isn't he willing to feed those children? Isaiah 6:8 says: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom Shall I send? Who will go for us?' 'Here I am,' I said, 'Send me.'"

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.

The challenge is that Mary's Meals cannot do this without help. The good news is that everyone can help them. An average cost **to feed a child for a whole school year is \$19.50**. You can find all this information on their website, [www.marysmealsusa.org/](http://www.marysmealsusa.org/).

-Fr. Romain Rurangirwa

## Thank You

Thank you to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and teachers for hosting both Masses on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Great job!

## First Friday

February 6<sup>th</sup> is the First Friday of February and Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 am. First Friday Devotions will follow and conclude with Benediction.

## World Marriage Day

Next Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> is World Marriage Day. We will have renewal of marriage vows and presentation of flowers at all Masses next weekend.

## Religious Education

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The Peer Leadership Group will be Hosting the "Mardi Gras" celebration for grades K-5 on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.

The 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades will be having their Mardi Gras Celebration on Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. This special 2 hour class will begin with Mass and then followed with a Pizza Party and "Lenten Stations" in the Parish Hall. Please note the SPECIAL START TIME OF 6:00 PM for Mass. Pick up will be at the usual time of 8pm.

There are no Religious Education classes on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> due to Winter Vacation. Classes will resume on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> for grades 6-8.

## Confirmation

Level 2 Classes will meet on Sunday, February 1st at **4:00 pm** (due to the Super Bowl) followed by 5:00 pm Mass.

## Parish Happenings

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### Theology on Tap at St. Irene's Church Friday, February 6

Come to St. Irene's first "Adult Ed" program for 2015 - on Friday night, February 6, from 7:00-9:00 pm. Fulfill your New Year's Resolution to learn more about Catholicism! Pope Francis is making headlines! Are you up with the times?

"The Theology" - Discuss current questions of faith, morals and ethics in roundtable discussions. Moderated by Fr. Austin Fleming of Holy Family Parish.

"The Tap" - Craft Beer Tasting hosted by The Craft Beer Cellar, Westford (local wine tasting, too).

Come and bring your friends! Make it a date night!

## **Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the rectory.

## **Women's Club Hors d'oeuvres Night**

The Women's Club will hold an hors d'oeuvres tasting evening on Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the church hall (weather permitting). Come see our "Culinary Chefs" prepare and serve their special "tidbits" all the while enjoying friendly conversation. As always desserts are always appreciated to complete the evening. Please contact Jan Brown or email Jean Morin at [womensclub@StIrenes.org](mailto:womensclub@StIrenes.org) for more information.

## **Mission Trip - July 2015**

St. Irene parish in conjunction with Holy Family parish is organizing a mission trip for High School age students. The trip is through Young Neighbors in Action (YNIA) and is during the week of July 19 through July 25 in Worcester, MA. If you are interested in finding out more or want to sign up, please contact Deacon Charlie at [DeaconCharlie@StIrenes.org](mailto:DeaconCharlie@StIrenes.org).

## **Make a New Year's Resolution to join the Music Ministry in the New Year!**

In spite of the frigid weather, the Spring Season of both the Children's and Adult's Choirs is in full swing! Come join us!

Weekly rehearsals take place in the church at the following times: Children's Choir, 6:15-7:00; Adult Choir, 7:15-8:30.

Neither choir requires an audition or any previous singing experience. The only "requirements" are a positive attitude and the desire to grow spiritually through learning new music and sharing your talents during the Masses. For more information, please drop me a note at [Music@stirene.org](mailto:Music@stirene.org).

*Cypriana Coelho*

## **Library News**

Please remember to return any overdue books. *Many of the Lent books have not been returned.* We would like to have them for the upcoming season. Thank you.

## **Grand Annual Collection**

The Grand Annual Collection total as of this past weekend is \$93,000 towards our goal of \$100,000. 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.

## **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](mailto: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.

## **2014 Catholic Appeal Update**

Good news! We have exceeded our goal for the 2014 Catholic Appeal. Thank you to all of the supporters who made this happen. We truly appreciate your donations. Our parish campaign goal was \$33,894 and we have raised \$35,470 from 84 donors and families. For more information, please visit [www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com](http://www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com).

## **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](mailto:caring@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 please contact Mary Ellen Bakken at [vocations@StIrenes.org](mailto:vocations@StIrenes.org).

## Area Events

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### Workshop on Visiting the Sick St. Elizabeth of Hungary

A two day workshop on visiting the sick on February 28 and March 7 (with a snow date of March 14) will be offered at St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Acton from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Timothy Duff, a certified chaplain, will teach the course.

The workshop will include a review of communication skills, the basics of pastoral visitation, key illness issues, spiritual needs and concerns, grief, loss and dying, and caregiving issues. Eucharistic ministers, pastoral visitors, parish nurses and others are encouraged to attend. Fee: \$40. Registration information is available in the parish office or call 617-746-5843. Pre-registration is required. Please register by February 23.

## Financial Information

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### Offertory Report

The weekly offertory last Sunday was 4% more than last year. Thank you for your continuing support of our parish.

## Financial Information

Offertory	\$4995
Offertory last year	\$4796
Offertory YTD	\$23,025
Offertory YTD last year	\$23,775

Dedicated Church Maintenance and Upkeep Fund	\$3660
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Last week the second collection for the Church in Latin America amounted to \$803.

### 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of each month at 1:00 pm.

#### Weddings

Contact Pastor 6 months in advance.