



St. Irene Church

181 East Street, Carlisle MA 01741
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Visit our website at www.StIrenes.org

**Third Sunday of Lent
March 8, 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

Maria Kowalska

22nd Anniversary Mass

Sunday, March 8 at 8 am

Paul Dumont - 5th Anniversary Mass

Charlene Parlee - Birthday Mass

Friday, March 13 at 9 am

A. Dorethea Murphy

Memorial Mass

Saturday, March 14 at 5 pm

James Scacciotti

26th Anniversary Mass

Sunday, March 15 at 8 am

The Light is on for You

You are invited! Please come and experience Christ's healing love and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The church is open on Wednesdays during Lent from 7:00 - 8:00 pm.

The Pastor's Corner

I grew up in Lowell during the 1930's, the years of the Great Depression. At that time, there were two major ethnic groups in Lowell – the Irish and the French. The Irish came to Lowell through Ellis Island. Most of the French people came from Canada. In fact there were four French speaking parishes in Lowell. I thought of those days when I saw the Church calendar for next week. There are two great feast days!

On Tuesday, March 17th we celebrate Saint Patrick's feast and on Thursday, March 19th we celebrate the feast of Saint Joseph. Traditionally, Saint Patrick's feast day is special to the Irish since he converted the Irish people in the fifth century. Saint Joseph was the special patron saint of the French people. I believe that all of us now share our devotion to these great saints – Saint Patrick as the patron saint of the Archdiocese of Boston and Saint Joseph as patron of the universal church.

-Fr. Tom Donohoe

Morning Rosary

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

Season of Lent

Lent is a time for spiritual renewal in our lives. It is a season of repentance calling us once again to a change of heart.

It is a special time of prayer and fasting: a time of penance and charity towards our neighbors. Lent is that special time when we prepare for our greatest feast – The Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday.

Lent is a period of special penitential observance. Every Friday of Lent is a day of abstinence. On those days, adult Catholics over age 14 may not eat meat.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting for Catholics between the ages of 18 and 60 years of age.

Stations of the Cross

Women's Club – Soup and Bread

Stations of the Cross will be offered during Lent on Friday, March 27th at 7:30 pm. Prior to the service, the Women's Club will be serving complimentary bread and soup in the Parish Hall from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Please join us for this Lenten devotion.

Religious Education

Thank You

We thank the third grade students for hosting the 8:00 and 11:00 am Masses last weekend. Great job!

Attention 6th grade students

Rehearsals for the 6th grade presentation of the Living Stations of the Cross began on Monday, March 2nd. There are **2 mandatory rehearsals**: remaining on March 9th from 6:30-8:00 pm and March 16th from 6:00-8:00 pm Please note the special start times. It takes three rehearsals to prepare the students to depict the stations. For rehearsals students should meet in the church upstairs NOT the classroom. Pick up will be from upstairs in the Church. The sixth grade students will present the Living Stations of the Cross on Sunday, March 22nd from 9:00-10:00 am followed by a 7th grade hosted breakfast in the Parish Hall. All students in Sessions I and II will attend

with their classes. This is a family event and all are invited to attend!

Confirmation

Level 2 Classes will meet on Sunday, March 8th. Class begins with attendance at the 5:00 pm Mass.

Parish Happenings

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be on Sunday, March 8th at 7:00 pm in the rectory.

Women's Club Gathering

The Women's Club will be meeting on Thursday, March 19th at 6:30 pm in the parish hall for a demonstration and tasting of two hors d'oeuvres. This will be followed by a fascinating talk by Paul Callahan. The Carlisle author will discuss his ten year odyssey as a Maine fisherman several decades ago. Desserts are welcome.

Men's Retreat – 2015

On Friday, March 27th from 6:00 until approximately 9:15 pm, a men's retreat will be held at St. Benedict Abbey at 252 Still River Rd., Still River, MA (Harvard, MA).

The retreat is open to all men and will cost \$25 per person – dinner included. This retreat is sponsored by St. Irene's Knights of Columbus. Space is limited. Please email Kevin Donnelly at kofc@stirenes.org to make your reservation.

Tentative Schedule:

- 5:00 pm – Meet at St. Irene's
- 5:45 pm – Arrive at St. Benedict Abbey
- 6:00 pm – Vespers with community
- 6:30 pm – Dinner
- 7:15 pm – Rosary
- 7:35 pm – Address by Deacon Charlie
- 7:50 pm – Confession and Meditation
- 8:15 pm – Mass and Communion

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.

Catholic Appeal 2015

This week, Catholics across the Archdiocese are invited to pledge their support to the ministries of the Catholic Appeal. Your generosity helps us live our faith together as we seek to better embody the Gospel message in our lives. If you were unable to make your pledge at Mass, please take a pledge form from the back of the church or pledge at www.bostoncatholicappeal.org. St. Irene's goal this year is \$35,246. Thank you for your prayers and support for a successful Catholic Appeal.

Library News

For your spiritual journey, the parish library has a table at the back of the church with Lenten and Easter books for registered patrons to borrow. If you are not registered, you may do so at the table.

Books should be returned to the basket on the top shelf of the library, or the box in the church vestibule. Please do not put returned books back on the library shelves.

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.

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.

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.

Music Ministry

Weekly rehearsals take place on Thursday nights in the church: 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 email [Cypriana Coelho](mailto:Cypriana.Coelho@StIrene.org) at Music@stirene.org.

Area Events

Organ Concert at Holy Family

This year, building on an organ concert once a year for the past four years, Holy Family Parish is proud to host Trinity Episcopal Church, Concord, organist and music director, Robert Barney, in a concert on the parish's fully restored and functional 1875 vintage Hook and Hastings organ. The concert will take place on Sunday, March 22 at

3:00 pm in the church. There is no charge for this event but free-will donations for the ongoing upkeep of this vintage instrument are gratefully accepted.

Holy Family Scripture Course

Holy Family Parish in Concord, will be hosting Scripture scholar Michael O'Laughlin in a three week course on the letters of St. Paul. The title of the course is *Saint Paul and the Empowerment of Women*. A donation of \$5-10 is deeply appreciated for the classes that will be held in the lower level of the parish office building at 55 Church Street in West Concord on Tuesdays March 17, 24 and 31 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals is an international movement that sets up school feeding projects in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education. Mary's Meals provides a daily meal for chronically poor children 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. An average cost to feed one child for a whole school year is \$19.50. For more information visit their website www.marysmealsusa.org/.

College Planning

If you and your family are starting a college search please check St. Irene's website for a list of many Catholic colleges in the US at www.stirenes.org/faithformation/catholiceducation/colleges.html.

Financial Information

Offertory Report

The weekly offertory last Sunday was 5.8% less than last year. Thank you for your continuing support of our parish.

Financial Information

Offertory	\$7,537
Offertory last year	\$8,006
Offertory YTD	\$50,239
Offertory YTD last year	\$57,748
Dedicated Church Maintenance and Upkeep Fund	\$5,502

Next week the second collection will be for the Dedicated Parish Maintenance and Upkeep Fund.

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.