

St. Irene Church

181 East Street, Carlisle MA 01741
(978) 369-3940 • info@StIrenes.org
Visit our website at www.StIrenes.org



Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 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

Edmond Trottier

24th Anniversary Mass

Saturday, December 12 at 5:00 pm

Pham T. Thanh

Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 13 at 11:00 am

Robin Adams

Healing Mass

Monday, December 14 at 9:00 am

Phillips Families

Mass of Thanksgiving

Tuesday, December 15 at 9:00 am

Salvatore Gentile

4th Anniversary Mass

Saturday, December 19 at 5:00 pm

Helen & Raymond Critch

Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 20 at 8:00 am

Pham T. Thanh

Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 20 at 11:00 am

Eleanor F. Reid

38th Anniversary Mass

Sunday, December 20 at 5:00 pm

The Pastor's Corner

The Holy Year of Mercy began on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8 and will close on November 20, 2016 – the Solemnity of Christ the King. This jubilee year is extraordinary in many ways. Unlike the other jubilees that take place every twenty five or fifty years, Pope Francis has proclaimed a Jubilee based on a theme – God's mercy. He said that this Holy Year of Mercy is a journey, a "journey which begins with spiritual conversion." And we know that our personal conversion is a response to God's grace, his invitation to follow him more faithfully. This Holy Year of Mercy is an invitation to us from God to be "Merciful like the Father" and to practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. During this year we will be offering special programs in our parish to help us experience God's mercy and extend that mercy to others.

~ Fr. Tom Donohoe

Sacrament of Penance

Confessions will be heard on Thursday, Dec. 24th from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Masses for Christmas will be celebrated on Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm, 5:30 pm and at Midnight. Lessons & Carols will be celebrated at 11:15 pm on Christmas Eve prior to Midnight Mass. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 am on Christmas Day.

There are no Masses at 8 am or 5 pm on Christmas Day.

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.

Religious Education

Thank You

Thank you to the Grade 7 students for hosting both the 8:00 and 11:00 am Masses last weekend. Great job!

Religious Education K-8

Religious Education Classes for grades K-5 Session I are from 9:00-9:50 am and Session II is from 10:00-10:50 am on Sunday mornings. Grades 6-8 meet Monday nights from 7:00-8:00 pm.

Christmas Pageant and "Holy Pancake" Breakfast

There will be a Christmas Pageant rehearsal for the 5th grade classes on Saturday, Dec. 12 at 9:30 am.

Please join us on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 9 am for our annual Christmas Pageant presented by our 5th grade students (*snow date Dec. 20*). 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 the Rwanda Butare Junior Seminary Scholarship Fund for orphan students.

Confirmation

Level 2 Classes will meet on Sunday, December 13. Class begins with attendance at the 5:00 pm Mass. The Rite of Election will take place on Sunday, January 10th. A parent or sponsor is asked to attend.

Parish Happenings

Christmas Giving Tree Due by Sunday, December 13

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 13th**. 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 13th**. Thank you for your generosity.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Sunday, Dec. 13th at 7 pm in the rectory.

Volunteer for Christmas Mass Parking

For the past two years Lisa Hales and her family have coordinated the parking for the Christmas Eve Masses at St. Irene's. We are seeking a volunteer who can take over this duty. If you are interested, please call the rectory (978)369-3940 or email info@StIrenes.org. Thank you.

Christmas Flowers

If you wish to make a donation toward the altar flowers in memory of a loved one, please place your donation in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" with the name of the person to be remembered. You may place the envelope in the collection basket or mail it to the rectory by **December 17th** for inclusion in the Christmas Bulletin.

Women's Club Yankee Swap

Thursday, Dec. 17 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!!

Christmas Children's Choir

All children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Christmas Children's Choir. This choir sings at both the Christmas pageant and on Christmas Eve. Our final rehearsal will take place on Thursday evening, Dec. 17 from 6-7 pm. Please contact Cypriana at Music@StIrenes.org if you have any questions.

Clothing Needed

Lazarus House has an immediate need for all sizes of children's clothing, and especially infant clothing and children's coats. Lazarus House operates several thrift shops in Lawrence and their supply is drastically low coming into the winter months. Please drop off items inside the right-side closet of the main church entrance. We would like to respond to their urgent need in early December, but will also continue to make deliveries throughout the season. Thank you.

Bulletin

The bulletin will not be published on the weekend of December 26/27th.

Three King's Day Party January 6th

Please join us for St. Irene's first annual Three King's Day party! Celebrate the Epiphany with us on Wednesday, January 6th from 6-8 PM in the church's parish hall. We will have an entertainer for the children and a potluck for all. Kindly visit our Sign Up page if you want to participate in the potluck: <http://tinyurl.com/StIrene-3Kings>. Please contact Karen Gettings at 3Kings@StIrenes.org or the rectory (978)369-3940 for more information. Merry Christmas, and we're looking forward to celebrating with you in January!

Keeping Christ in Christmas

Your St. Irene Knights of Columbus will be selling Keeping Christ in Christmas cards after weekend Masses. Please consider purchasing these Catholic themed cards that represent what Christmas is all about.

Concord Prison Gift Bag Thank You

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Concord Prison Holiday Gift Bag Project. The goal this year is to deliver gifts and a greeting card to all 1,700 inmates at MCI-Concord and the Northeastern Correctional Center. Of all the gifts you buy, these may be the most appreciated. For some men, it may be the only gift they receive.

Library News – Advent Book Displays

Advent books for both adults and children are on display at the back of the church and also downstairs in the library. Please keep the books out for no longer than 3 weeks, so that all may enjoy them.

Area Events

Lessons, Carols, Bells and Song Saturday, December 19 at 7:00 PM

Holy Family Parish in Concord is happy to announce a special Advent service, which will take place on Saturday evening, December 19 at 7:00 PM at Holy Family Parish/St. Bernard Church, located in Monument Square, Concord. The Handbell Choir will join the Parish Choir, both led by Music Director Jim Barkovic. Parish lectors who will

be reading some of the most beautiful scriptures from this wonderful Advent season will join the choirs in this program. There is no charge for this event but donations will gladly be accepted to help support the music program of the parish.

Catholic Television

Catholic TV is available on Comcast Cable channel 238, Verizon FiOS channel 271, Sky Angel IPTV channel 142, RCN channel 85, EWTN channel 56 and streaming on www.CatholicTV.com.

Financial Information

Grand Annual collection

The Grand Annual Collection as of this past weekend amounted to \$65,090 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.

Christmas Collection for the Clergy Trust

This Christmas the collection will support the health and well-being of our priests. Our priests have dedicated their lives to serving the Catholic faithful. Now, it is our turn to help fulfill the promises made to care for them in their time of need. Please give generously to the Christmas collection, which will directly benefit the 614 active and senior diocesan priests who are cared for through the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust. All are welcome to make a gift online at clergyfunds.org or use the envelopes that are provided. ***All donations given at Christmas Masses go to the trust.*** Thank you for helping to care for the priests who give so much to our Church.

Offertory Report

The weekly offertory last Sunday was 19.5% less than last year. Thank you for your continuing support of our parish.

Offertory	\$6,477
Last year's Offertory	\$8,049
Offertory YTD	\$287,138
Offertory YTD last year	\$300,227

Dedicated Church Maintenance
and Upkeep Fund YTD \$26,830

Grand Annual as of 11/15 \$65,090
Amount needed to reach goal (\$34,910)

Separate Gifts as of 11/15 \$11,650
Bequests to St. Irene Church \$135,814

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

St. Irene Staff:

Pastor:

Reverend Thomas P. Donohoe

Parochial Vicar:

Reverend Romain Rurangirwa

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
Please contact Deacon Charles Ferraro

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

Please contact Pastor 6 months in advance.