

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 27, 2016

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 and Ellen Costello
Memorial Mass

Saturday, November 26 at 5:00 pm

George Gould - 22nd Anniversary Mass
Sunday, November 27 at 5:00 pm

Emma Tonies - Birthday Mass
Thursday, December 1 at 9:00 am

Barbara Moschini - 15th Anniversary Mass
Friday, December 2 at 9:00 am

Susan Jean Gaipo - Memorial Mass
Saturday, December 3 at 5:00 pm

Charles Trebino - 4th Anniversary Mass
Sunday, December 4 at 11:00 am

Clara and Timothy Galvin
Memorial Mass
Sunday, December 4 at 5:00 pm

The Pastor's Corner

This Sunday we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is the season when we prepare for the Coming of the Lord on Christmas Day when we rejoice in the birth of the Christ Child in a stable in Bethlehem. But we also prepare for the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus when He will call all of us, both living and dead into his eternal home in heaven. During Advent we wear purple vestments but Advent is not a penitential season. It is rather a time of waiting, recalling the ages when the world awaited the Messiah – The Savior. During this busy season, we should find some time – in prayer and reading – to prepare for the Coming of the Lord so that at Christmas we will be prepared spiritually to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

~ Fr. Tom Donohoe

Please Note

Daily Mass on Monday, Nov. 28 will take place in the parish hall due to electrical work.

First Friday

First Friday Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 am on Friday, Dec. 2. First Friday Devotions will follow and conclude with Benediction.

Banns of Marriage First Publication

John Isnor and Victoria Correa

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is Thursday, December 8th. This is a day of holy obligation. Masses will be celebrated at 9:00 am and 7:30 pm.

Daily Bible Readings

Please visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings/ to find the daily bible readings and other information.

Parish Book of Life

During the month of November we offer special prayers in remembrance of the faithful departed. The Parish Book of Life is at the front of the Church so that you may record the names of your family members who have died. We will offer Mass for them on All Souls Day and on other days in November. We will also pray for them at Mass daily in November.

Tuesday Evening Adoration & Benediction

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.

Low-Gluten Altar Bread is Available

If you have Celiac Disease and wish to receive Communion, please see the celebrant priest

prior to Mass so he can consecrate the low-gluten hosts during the Mass.

Religious Education

Religious Education

Session I is from 9:00-9:50 am and Session II is from 10:00-10:50 am. Classes for grades 6-8 are held on Monday from 7:00 - 8:00 pm.

Reminder

There will be **no classes** for grades K-5 on Sunday, November 27th due to Thanksgiving weekend.

Christmas Pageant and "Holy Pancake" Breakfast

There will be a Christmas Pageant rehearsal for the 5th grade (4th grade) classes on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 9:30 am.

Please join us on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 9 am for our annual Christmas Pageant presented by our 5th grade (4th grade) students (*snow date Dec. 18*). 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 and Razi'a's Ray of Hope.

Parish Happenings

Saint Irene Christmas Party Sunday, December 4th

The annual Christmas party will be held Sunday, December 4th following the 11 am Mass. There will be Games, Crafts, Pizza and maybe an appearance by a special guests from the North Pole. The party is free of charge. We will be accepting small donations to help support Lazarus House Ministries. **There will be a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend until 6 pm Saturday, December 3rd.** Please sign up to help us plan for the amount of food needed.

St. Irene Christmas Ornament

Caring 4 Cameroon, a non-profit organization that works to provide students of St. Andrews school in Ngong, Cameroon with scholarships and school supplies is selling red, glass St. Irene Christmas ornaments. The proceeds from these ornaments will give students that are most in need the ability and materials to have a better education.

Order forms are in the bulletin and at the entrance of the church. Thank you so much for supporting this cause, Merry Christmas.

Volunteers Needed for Christmas Mass Parking

We are still seeking more volunteers to help with parking during Christmas Eve Masses. If you can help, please call the rectory (978)369-3940. Thank you.

Christmas Giving Tree – Beginning Nov. 26

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, Dec. 11th**. 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 places in the box at the back of the Church. Please return gift cards for the Giving Tree by **Sunday, Dec. 11th**. Thank you for your generosity.

Women's Club Happenings

December 6th the Women's Club will be boxing up the gifts for the soldiers at 9:30 am.

December 8th 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 15th 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!!

Thanks from the St. Irene Players

Thanks to everyone who came to the play, who laughed at our jokes, enjoyed our antics, and came up with such great answers to "Who Dun It?" It is a joy to see the camaraderie in the audience and the sound of laughter. This is what St. Irene's is all about. Special thanks to the Number One Actor—Fr. Tom Donohoe!!

Concord Prison Gift Bag Project

We will be collecting items for the Concord Prison Holiday Gift Bag Project from Saturday, November 19th through Sunday, December 4th; 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ (6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3 $\frac{5}{8}$ "), a pad of WHITE paper (6" x 9" or 5" x 8", 100 pages, no wire), a pair of white CREW socks with no more than 5 inches of ribbing (no tube socks, knee highs or "tennis" socks), a bottle (plastic) of shampoo (12-15 oz.), and a handmade holiday greeting card ("Happy Holidays, Seasons Greetings, Merry Christmas, no religious cards), signed with first names only. If you would like to assemble gift bags, make cards, have any questions or want to make a cash donation, contact Jean Donnelly at prison-gifts@stirenes.org.

Keeping Christ in Christmas

The Saint Irene Knights will have Catholic themed Christmas cards available for sale starting the weekend of November 19/20. In this day and age of the true meaning of Christmas being lost in the noise of advertising; take this opportunity to remind others that it is about the birth of our Lord Savior Jesus Christ.

Library News – Advent Book Display

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

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 19th for inclusion in the Christmas Bulletin.

Protecting God's Children / CORI Checks

All clergy, Parish staff, and volunteers who minister, work, or serve in a capacity involving contact with children under eighteen must complete the prevention and education programs mandated by the Archdiocese of Boston (Virtus/Protecting God's Children). Dates and locations for training are listed at https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list.cfm?theme=0.

The Archdiocese also requires a **yearly** criminal offender record information (CORI) check for all full and part-time paid staff members, all clergy and all volunteers (17 years and older) who minister to or have access to **children, youth, elderly or the disabled**. Please contact Wendy Krugh at (978)369-3940 if you have any questions.

Financial Information

Grand Annual Collection

The Grand Annual Collection this past weekend amounted to **\$20,310** towards our goal of \$125,000. 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.

On-Line Giving at St. Irene's

St. Irene Parish provides Online Giving - a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donations. Getting started is easy - just visit our website, www.stirenes.org, and click our **E-Giving** link. When you participate, your gift will be securely transferred directly to the parish. We thank you for your continued support of St. Irene Parish.

Retired Religious Sisters Collection

This weekend the Archdiocese will take up the Collection for Retired Sisters. Since 1988, the collection has provided needed financial support for religious communities who have served the Archdiocese of Boston as educators and health care and social service providers. Please give generously in recognition of the Sisters' years of dedicated service.

St. Irene Staff:

Pastor:

Reverend Thomas P. Donohoe

Parochial Vicar:

Reverend Romain Rurangirwa

Permanent Deacons:

Deacon Dean Bulpett

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 the rectory.

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.