

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 December 2, 2018

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

Barbara Moschini
17th Anniversary Mass
Sunday, December 2 at 8:00 am

Albert Cabral
2nd Anniversary Mass
Sunday, December 2 at 11:00 am

Colleen Kelly
Memorial Mass
Sunday, December 2 at 5:00 pm

Donald Wallace
Memorial Mass
Tuesday, December 4 at 9:00 am

Helen and Robert Gitschier
Memorial Mass
Wednesday, December 5 at 9:00 am

Philip and Nancy Phalon
Memorial Mass
Saturday, December 8 at 9:00 am

Tuong K. Vu
Memorial Mass
Sunday, December 9 at 11:00 am

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

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

The Pastor's Corner

This Sunday begins the season of Advent. It is the time when we prepare for the birth of the Christ Child. Christmas is a very special feast in the church and in our families. It is also a busy time in our lives. There is so much preparation for Christmas that we can easily forget the reason for the season. Let us take a little time to prepare ourselves spiritually for the joy of the birth of the Christ Child.

~ Fr. Tom Donohoe

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.

Tuesday Evening Adoration

All are invited every Tuesday at 7:30 pm to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. 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.

Daily Bible Readings

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

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 nights from 7 - 8 pm.

Christmas Pageant and "Holy Pancake" Breakfast

Please join us on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 9 am for our annual Christmas Pageant presented by our 5th grade students (*snow date Dec. 16*). 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.

Peer Leaders

The next Peer Leaders meeting will be Sun., Dec. 2 at 3:30. We will welcome the season of Advent with a few games and quizzes.

Parish Happenings

Parish Christmas Party

The St. Irene Parish Christmas Party will be on Sunday, Dec. 9 after the 11:00 Mass in the parish hall. This is a great time for families to enjoy crafts, games, music, pizza and maybe a visit from a special guests all the way from the North Pole.

Good News! The Thunga, Malawi Project Has Been Completed!

The St. Irene's Social Justice Committee is happy to report that our parishioner, Kelsey Bradley, has returned from Thunga, Malawi, having completed the project which was supported by so many members of St. Irene's Parish. Kelsey will be at St. Irene's after each Mass on the weekend of Dec. 1 and 2 to show us pictures of the completed project—which included 4 new classrooms, 4 new latrines, water retaining landscaping, repair of an existing roof, and supplies for the classrooms. The headmaster, teachers, people, and children of Thunga Village are overjoyed at their new classrooms. Thank you all!

Gifts for Soldiers

Once again as is our custom, St. Irene's Women's Club will be sending gifts to our deployed men and women serving overseas. A detailed information sheet is included at the back of the church for those who would like to donate. Items can be left in the collection box provided at the back of the church and will be collected by Dec. 3rd for Christmas delivery. Please consider donating a small remembrance for our deployed soldiers serving you and our country.

Boxing Gifts for Soldiers

Dec. 4th the Women's Club will be boxing up the gifts for the soldiers at 9:30 am. Items will be collected thru Dec. 3rd and can be left at the back of the church in the collection box provided. A list of items for donation can be found at the back of the church.

Making Boxwood Trees

Dec. 6th the ladies will be putting together boxwood trees beginning after 9:00 am Mass. Trees will be sold after the Masses Dec. 8/9. **Please bring your garden clippers!**

Christmas Party & Yankee Swap

Dec. 20th at 6:30 pm our Christmas party and Yankee Swap. Bring a wrapped \$10 gift for the Swap. Desserts or hors d'oeuvres are welcome! Come join the festivities.

Christmas Parking Volunteers Needed

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

2019 Calendars - Thank You

St. Irene Church would like to thank the **Dee Funeral Home** of Concord, MA for their yearly donation of calendars to our parish. The calendars can be found on the tables at the entrance of our church. Please take one.

Christmas Giving Tree

St. Irene's is once again collecting Christmas gifts for those in need. 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. 16**. Please securely attach the tag to the gift, so we can 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 by **Sunday, Dec. 16**. Thank you for your generosity.

Be Part of a St. Irene's Tradition

All children in grades K-8 are invited to join the Christmas Children's Choir! This choir sings at both the Christmas pageant and on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals will take place in the church on the following Thursday evenings from 6:15 - 7:00: Nov. 29, Dec. 6, Dec. 13 and Dec. 20. Please contact Cypriana at Music@StIrenes.org to join, or plan to come to the first rehearsal. We look forward to seeing all of the young singers.

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 18th for inclusion in the Christmas bulletin.

Parish Library – New Books

The Library Committee has purchased two new books to be given out for free at the first weekend of Advent Masses (Dec. 1&2) - 60 copies are available. The big news is that there will be a third and different free book to be given out at all the Masses on Christmas Eve and day-- compliments of Dynamic Catholic. There will be 200 copies of this new Matthew Kelly book. Look for your copy at the back of the church.

Keeping Christ in Christmas

Our Saint Irene Knights will have Christmas Cards for sale after the Masses. These Christ centered cards are a great opportunity to celebrate what Christmas is all about.

Concord Prison Outreach Project

We will be collecting items for the Concord Prison Holiday Gift Bag Project from **Saturday, Nov. 10 - Sunday, Dec. 2**; 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.), 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.), a stick of deodorant 2,5 oz. or larger (no roll-ons or gels) and a hand made 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.

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.

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).

The Archdiocese also requires a criminal offender record information (CORI) check for all paid staff members, all clergy and **all volunteers (18 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 need a form or have any questions.

Financial Information

Grand Annual Collection

The Grand Annual Collection this past weekend amounted to **\$54,182** 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.

The collection for the Retired Religious Sisters amounted to \$2024.

St. Irene Staff:

Pastor:

Reverend Thomas P. Donohoe

Parochial Vicar:

Reverend Romain Rurangirwa

Permanent Deacon:

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/Peer Leaders

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.

Financial Details	Weekly	Monthly	Gifts
November 2018	\$23,954	\$1055	\$100
Year to Date 2018	\$276,351	\$31,860	\$58,565*
Year to Date 2017	\$290,421	\$28,181	\$85,596**

*Includes a one-time gift of \$50,000

**Includes a one-time bequest of \$42,751