

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 11, 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

Kathleen Yiptong

3rd Anniversary Mass

Saturday, December 10 at 5:00 pm

Michael Toth

2nd Anniversary Mass

Sunday, Dec. 11 at 8 am, 11 am, & 5 pm

Walden and Grace Ward

Memorial Mass

Wednesday, December 14 at 9:00 am

Ellen Ward

Healing Mass

Thursday, December 15 at 9:00 am

Mark Anderson

Memorial Mass

Saturday, December 17 at 9:00 am

Salvatore Gentile

5th Anniversary Mass

Saturday, December 17 at 5:00 pm

Pat and Mike Enwright
50th Wedding Anniversary Mass
Sunday, December 18 at 8:00 am

Kevin McCarron
13th Anniversary Mass
Sunday, December 18 at 11:00 am

Eleanor F. Reid
39th Anniversary Mass
Sunday, December 18 at 5:00 pm

The Pastor's Corner

This Sunday we dramatize the story of the birth of Jesus with our Christmas pageant. This is a wonderful tradition here at Saint Irene's – when our young children act out the Christmas story. It is a story that we all treasure when the Son of God became one of us. We remember the shepherds who come to the stable to honor the Christ Child. We wonder at the angels appearing in the heavens to proclaim, "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to all people of good will." We rejoice in the message of Christmas – "Today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." As we prepare for this celebration, let us make sure that the reason for our joy and happiness is the birth of our Savior.

~ Fr. Tom Donohoe

Banns of Marriage Third Publication

John Isnor and Victoria Correa

Sacrament of Penance

Confessions will be heard on Saturday, 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.

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.

Daily Bible Readings

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

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.

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

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.

Christmas Pageant and “Holy Pancake” Breakfast

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 Razia’s Ray of Hope.

Parish Happenings

Christmas Giving Tree – Gifts Due Dec. 11

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 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 placed in the box at the back of the Church.

Please return gift cards for the Giving Tree by **Sunday, December 11th**.

Christmas Parking Volunteers Needed

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.

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 at the entrance of the church. Thank you so much for supporting this cause, Merry Christmas.

2017 Calendar - 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. 2017 calendars can be found at the entrance to our church.

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.

Concord Prison Gift Bag Project

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 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.

Women's Club

December 10/11 the Women's Club will be selling Boxwood Trees after the Masses for \$30.

December 15 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!!

Merrimack Valley Thanksgiving Thank You

Catholic Charities is extremely grateful to all of the parishioners who donated so generously towards the Thanksgiving Baskets this year. Volunteers delivered a total of 81 baskets to families in need this past Sunday. We also collected \$130 in donations. Thank you to all who made food and monetary donations. We are most grateful to Lauren Dominguez who coordinated the collection and delivery of the food to the Greater Merrimack Valley Food Pantry in Lowell and all of the volunteers who helped. Our Religious Education classes from Kindergarten through Confirmation donated 20 of the food boxes.

Keeping Christ in Christmas

The Saint Irene Knights will have Catholic themed Christmas cards available for sale after weekend Masses. 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.

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. 15 from 6-7 pm. Please contact Cypriana at Music@StIrenes.org if you have any questions.

Welcome Committee

Have you ever walked in to St. Irene's a few minutes late and wished that there was someone to help you find a seat without drawing the attention of the whole congregation as you cast your eyes around to find a pew that can accommodate you and your family? How about when you go to a new church and you find that you need to use the

restroom, how lost do you feel trying to find it? How nice is it to enter a church and have a parishioner greet and welcome you, someone who makes you feel that they are happy to have you visiting their parish.

We are starting a new Welcome Ministry at St. Irene's and are asking for volunteers to help with this new ministry. Please contact Sheila Zacharchuk at Welcome@stirenes.org for more information or to volunteer. Thank you.

Save the Dates

The following are some of the events scheduled for 2016/2017:

Saturday, Jan. 28 – Trivia Night

Friday, May 5 – Confirmation

Sunday, May 7 – Tea & Fashion Show

Saturday, May 13 – First Communion

St. Irene Online

For more information about St. Irene Parish, please visit our web site: www.StIrenes.org or www.facebook.com/StIrenes. You are invited to explore both and offer suggestions via e-mail at feedback@stirenes.org. St. Irene's online calendar can be found at www.stirenes.org/quicklinks/calendar.html.

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

Grand Annual Collection

The Grand Annual Collection this past weekend amounted to **\$62,705** 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.

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.