

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 16, 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

Kevin McCarron

15th Anniversary Mass

Saturday, December 22 at 5:00 pm

Eleanor F. Reid

41st Anniversary Mass

Sunday, December 23 at 5:00 pm

Liturgical Events

Mass Intentions

Charles Trebino

6th Anniversary Mass

Saturday, December 15 at 5:00 am

Robert & Mary Poirier

Samuel Pietropaolo & Yolanda Coppola

Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 16 at 8:00 am

Clara & Timothy Calvin – Memorial Mass

James Howlett - Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 16 at 11:00 am

Colleen Nesbit

Memorial Mass

Wednesday, December 19 at 9:00 am

Shirley Johnson

Month's Mind Mass

Friday, December 21 at 9:00 am

The Pastor's Corner

What a joy last Sunday when our children dramatized the story of the birth of Jesus in our Christmas Pageant. The Pageant relates the Christmas story with the words of the Gospel and the traditional Christmas carols. As usual, our young people were exceptional in their roles. Our young Children's Choir was outstanding in singing the Christmas music. I look forward to hearing them again on Christmas Eve. I was determined to attend our pageant and this was my first Sunday at church since my surgery. I am recovering quite well and hope to celebrate Mass soon. I wish to personally thank all who made this Pageant a wonderful event. And with all of you, I look forward to the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

~ Fr. Tom Donohoe

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.

Tuesday Evening Adoration

Please note: There will not be Adoration on Tuesday, December 25.

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.

Daily Bible Readings

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

Religious Education

Christmas Pageant Thank You

Thank you to the 5th grade students (several 4th grade students) and Xavier Bielat, baby Jesus, for a beautiful Christmas Pageant! Thank you to Marsha Cervantez for directing this wonderful event. We would also like to thank the fifth grade teachers: Maggie Ascillio, Joy Bonenfant, Stehanie Haley, Julie Barth & Bridget Ferrari as well as parent volunteers: Kim Kasparian, Tammy Smith & Brian Wigton. A special thank you to Suzanne Bohs for her time and photography expertise. The pageant program looked great.

Thank you to the 8th grade students as well as teachers: Jeanne Hall, Meg McCafferty & Christine White for a delicious "Holy Pancake" Breakfast. St. Irene's will donate \$469 to the Junior Seminary in Rwanda where Fr. Romain studied.

Religious Education Classes

Religious Education classes will be off on Christmas/New Year's Vacation. Classes for grades K-5 will resume on Sunday, January 6th, 2019 and on Monday, January 7th, 2019 for grades 6-8. Have a Blessed Christmas!

Confirmation

Classes for Levels 1 and 2 will resume on Sunday, Jan. 6th. Class begins with attendance at the 5:00 pm Mass. The Rite of Enrollment will take place on Sunday, Jan. 6th for Level 1.

Parish Happenings

Christmas Giving Tree

Gifts Due by Sunday, December 16

St. Irene's is once again collecting Christmas gifts for those in need. All gifts must arrive at St. Irene's by **Sunday, Dec. 16**. Please securely attach the tag to the gift.

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.

Christmas Party & Yankee Swap

Thursday, Dec. 20th at 6:30 pm the Women's Club will have a Christmas Party and Yankee Swap. Bring a \$10 gift for the swap. Desserts and hors d'oeuvres are welcome. Come join the festivities!

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.

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.

Church Christmas Decorating

We are seeking volunteers to help decorate the church after 9:00 am Mass on Christmas Eve (Dec. 24). Please email Mary Ellen Bakken at Altardec@stirenes.org if you have any questions.

St. Irene Women's Club 2018 Activities

The fall of 2018 was a very busy and productive time for the women's club. A Ham & Bean Dinner was hosted in October for parishioners. The food was homemade by members of the club. November saw the making of 67 apple pies while 41 handmade boxwood trees were produced in December. Profits from sale of the pies provided Thanksgiving food baskets for two local families. Boxwood tree profits will be used for the purchase of food and Christmas gifts for local families experiencing hard time this holiday season. The club also boxed and mailed gifts donated by parishioners for military personnel stationed in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay Cuba in December.

We are very thankful to the St. Irene parishioners for supporting our efforts through their purchases of pies and trees and troop donations. We are also thankful to the ladies of the women's club who participated in these projects and provided supplies.

Jan Brown, President, St. Irene Women's Club

Christmas Newsletter

St Irene's quarterly e-mail newsletter was distributed Dec 5th; If you did not see it, first check your spam folder, and if it isn't there, let the parish office know (stirene@comcast.net) to add your e-mail address to our distribution list for parishioners.

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.

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: Dec. 13 and 20. Please contact Cypriana at Music@StIrenes.org to join. We look forward to seeing all of the young singers.

Parish Library – New Books

Advent books are on display at the back of the church. Please keep the books out for no longer than three weeks, so that all may enjoy them.

Thanks to the efforts of one of our parishioners, as well as the Library Committee, there will be free books given out at all the Masses on Christmas Eve and day-- compliments of Dynamic Catholic. Copies of Matthew Kelly's new book, "The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity" will be at the back of the church. Please take one.

Three King's Day Party - January 6

Please join us for St. Irene's very special Epiphany celebration! We will celebrate The Three Kings Day on January 6, 2019, right after the 11AM mass in the church hall. There will be entertainment for the children and a potluck for all. This event is free of charge and always a great time! If you wish to participate in the potluck you may sign up here:

<https://www.signupge-nius.com/go/20F0C4CACA723AAFC1-three3>.

2019 Catholic Appeal Volunteer Needed

St. Irene's is seeking a volunteer to help as an Appeal Coordinator for the 2019 Catholic Appeal. If you are able to help please speak with Fr. Tom or call the rectory office (978-369-3940) Monday through Friday from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. Thank you.

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.

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.

CORI Checks – All Volunteers & Staff

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 week-end amounted to **\$82,122** 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.

Christmas Collection for the Clergy Trust

The Christmas 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 clergy-funds.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.

This week the second collection will be the Monthly collection.

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.