

# St. Irene Church

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



## Fourth Sunday of Advent December 18, 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

Salvatore Gentile

5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass

Saturday, December 17 at 5:00 pm

Pat and Mike Enwright

50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Mass

Sunday, December 18 at 8:00 am

Kevin McCarron

13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass

Sunday, December 18 at 11:00 am

Eleanor F. Reid

39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass

Sunday, December 18 at 5:00 pm

Gordon Troup

1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass

Tuesday, December 20 at 9:00 am

Lorna Phillips

Birthday Mass

Saturday, December 24 at 9:00 am

Claire Kelly

19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass

Saturday, December 24 at 4:00 pm

Mary Macumber

46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass

Saturday, December 24 at 5:30 pm

Amy Caruso

Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 25 12:00 am

Colleen Kelly

Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 25 at 11:00 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 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 next weekend.

~ Fr. Tom Donohoe

## Sacrament of Penance

Confessions will be heard on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 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/](http://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](mailto: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

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### Christmas Pageant Thank You

Thank you to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students (several 4<sup>th</sup> grade students) and Greyson Thomas, baby Jesus, for a beautiful Christmas Pageant! Thank you to Marsha Wigton Cervantez for directing this wonderful event. We would also like to thank the fifth grade teachers: Marianne Caizza, Elizabeth Gottmann-Hanrahan, Bethany Richman and Lois Lombardi as well as parent volunteers. A special thank you to Scott Tiola for his time and photography expertise, the pageant program looked great.

Thank you to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students as well as Celine Clark-Gibbon and parent volunteers for a delicious "Holy Pancake" Breakfast. St. Irene's will donate \$363.35 to the Junior Seminary in Rwanda where Fr. Romain studied and Razia's Ray of Hope.

### Religious Education

Classes will resume on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> for grades K-5 and Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> for grades 6-8. Second Grade Reconciliation Workbooks and journals are due at that time.

### Confirmation

Classes for Levels 1 and 2 will resume on Sunday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>. Class begins with attendance at the 5:00 pm Mass. The Rite of Enrollment will take place on Sunday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> for Level 1.

## Parish Happenings

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### St. Irene Christmas Ornament

Caring 4 Cameroon, a non-profit organization that works to provide students of St. Andrews School in Ndong, 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. If you preordered the ornament, they will be available at the back of the church this weekend. More are available for sale at \$10 each. Thank you so much for supporting this cause, Merry Christmas.

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> for inclusion in the Christmas Bulletin.

## Three King's Day Party January 6th

Please join us for St. Irene's second annual Three King's Day party! Celebrate the Epiphany with us on Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> 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/3Kings-StIrene>. 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

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.

## Save the Dates

The following are some of the events scheduled for 2017:

*Saturday, Jan. 28 – Trivia Night*

*Friday, May 5 – Confirmation*

*Sunday, May 7 – Tea & Fashion Show*

*Saturday, May 13 – First Communion*

## Library News – Advent Book Display

Advent books for adults are on display in the parish hall and children's books can be found in the library.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## St. Irene Online

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

## Financial Information

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### Grand Annual Collection

The Grand Annual Collection this past weekend amounted to **\$85,850** 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](http://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.

### 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 [clergy-funds.org](http://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.

There are two collections this weekend. The first is the weekly and the second is the monthly.

### 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of each month at 1:00 pm.

#### Weddings

Please contact Pastor 6 months in advance.