



# St. Irene Church

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(978) 369-3940 • [info@StIrenes.org](mailto:info@StIrenes.org)  
Visit our website at [www.StIrenes.org](http://www.StIrenes.org)

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## The Epiphany of the Lord January 7, 2018

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### Mass Schedule

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#### 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

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#### Mass Intentions

Hedzika Morjakova  
Memorial Mass  
Saturday, January 6 at 5:00 pm

Richard Heneghan  
Memorial Mass  
Sunday, January 7 at 8:00 am

Joseph Femia  
Memorial Mass  
Sunday, January 7 at 5:00 pm

Charles Parlee  
Healing Mass  
Monday, January 8 at 9:00 am

Helen Dolan  
4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass  
Saturday, January 13 at 9:00 am

#### 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.

### The Pastor's Corner

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. We cherish the story of the Magi – the Wise Men or even Kings who follow a star and find the Christ Child. We are the spiritual descendants of those Magi who are also called to follow our star and find Jesus again in our lives. In many cultures presents are given not at Christmas but on the Epiphany to imitate the Magi who gave to the new born Messiah their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. This feast completes our Christmas celebration of the birth of the Lord.

Fr. Tom Donohoe

## Tuesday Evening Adoration & Benediction

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](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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### Religious Education

Classes will resume on Sunday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> for grades K-5 and Monday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> for grades 6-8. Second Grade Reconciliation Workbooks and Journals are due on Jan. 21.

There will be NO CLASSES on Sunday, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> and Monday, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> due to the Martin Luther King Holiday Weekend.

### First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation will take place on Saturday, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> (Snow Date: February 3<sup>rd</sup>) at 11:00 am in the Church followed by a luncheon in the Parish Hall for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and their families. Students will need to arrive to the church by 10:45 am and sit with their class in the **Reserved pews**.

Reminder: There will be a mandatory 2<sup>nd</sup> grade First Eucharist Parents Meeting in the parish hall during regularly scheduled class times on Sun., Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> (snow date: Feb. 11).

### Confirmation

Classes for Levels 1 and 2 will resume on Sunday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>. Class begins with attendance at the 5:00 pm Mass. The Rite of Enrollment will take place on Sunday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> for Level 1.

## Peer Leaders

Calling all confirmed teens! Join us at Peer Leadership on Sunday, Jan. 7 at 3:30. Come hangout and snack as we discuss the theme for this month, Every Day Epiphany.

The teens of Peer Leadership will also be putting together a parish cookbook for next year! Please help us to fill the pages by sending in your favorite family recipes to [Peersleaders@StIrenes.org](mailto:Peersleaders@StIrenes.org). Peer Leadership will be trying them all over the next few months and putting together our favorites.

## Parish Happenings

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### Three King's Day Party - January 7th

Please join us for St. Irene's third annual Three King's Day party! Celebrate the Epiphany with us on Sunday, Jan 7<sup>th</sup> after the 11:00 am Mass in the church's parish hall. We will have activities for the children and an international potluck for all.

Kindly visit our Sign Up page if you want to participate in the potluck: <http://tinyurl.com/3Kings-StIrene-2018>. Please contact Karen Gettings at [3Kings@StIrenes.org](mailto:3Kings@StIrenes.org) for more information. Merry Christmas, and we're looking forward to celebrating with you in January!

### Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

The Parish Pastoral Council is meeting on Sunday, January 7 at 7:00 pm in the rectory.

### Women's Club Bingo & Pizza Night

Women's Club will have an evening of pizza and bingo on Thursday, Jan. 18 at 6:30 pm. This is always a fun night so plan to attend, don't forget to call and RSVP [Womensclub@StIrenes.org](mailto:Womensclub@StIrenes.org) so that we can have a head count. Please also bring a wrapped gift for the "winner's table". See you on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

### 2018 Catholic Appeal Volunteer Needed

St. Irene's is seeking a volunteer to help as an Appeal Coordinator for the 2018 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.

## 14th Annual St. Irene's Trivia Night 2018

Saturday, Jan. 20, 6-10 p.m. (*snow date Feb. 3*)

St. Irene Parish Hall

If you have not reserved your tickets (or your entire table!), now is the time to do so. If you have not attended in the past, people sit in tables of 8 and discuss among themselves the questions. The entire table then submits a list of answers. There are 10 categories with 6 questions for each. This has grown to be a wonderful time to interact with other members of the St. Irene's community.

Come on out and stir up those brain cells from their midwinter torpor, and fill the night with cheer. As always, we offer complimentary snacks and beverages and door prizes. All this (and plenty of free parking) for the low price of \$5 per person. Bring your own team (up to 8 people per table) or let us seat you with friendly St. Irene folks. There will be a maximum of 18 tables (144 people) to prevent overcrowding.

Order now by emailing us at [Trivianight@Stirenes.org](mailto:Trivianight@Stirenes.org). We look forward to seeing you there!

*Jean & Tim Butler, David Bakken, Michelle & Flemming Christensen*

*The Trivia Night Committee*

## Red Cross Blood Drive – February 1

On Thursday, February 1 from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm St. Irene's is sponsoring a blood drive for the American Red Cross. You must be at least 17 years of age and in good general health to donate.

To schedule an appointment either call (800) Red-Cross or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter "SaintIrene." Please donate if you are able. Thank You.

## St. Irene's Women's Club 2017 Activities

The fall of 2017 has been 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 59 apple pies while 41 handmade boxwood trees were produced in December. Profits from the sale of the pies provided

Thanksgiving food baskets for 2 local families. Boxwood tree profits were used for the purchase of food and Christmas gifts for local families experiencing hard times this holiday season. The club also boxed and mailed gifts donated by parishioners for military personnel stationed in Afghanistan in December.

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

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

## Catholic Charities Thank You

On behalf of Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities, we sincerely thank you, St. Irene's, for your generous donation of Christmas gifts. You blessed so many families with your kindness and compassion this holiday season. Our clients truly appreciate the outpour of love from your parishioners. We wish you continued blessings and health for this upcoming New Year.

## 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).

## Parish Library

Register now and enjoy the many wonderful books in our Parish Library which is located in Room 6 of the Parish Hall. The library is open whenever the Church is open but not during religious education classes.

Please return all Advent books by January 15. 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](mailto:caring@StIrenes.org).

## Area Events

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### REBOOT! Live Tour

"Are you longing for more? Do you want to experience your faith – and live your life – more deeply? Then don't miss the **REBOOT! Live Tour** with Chris Stefanick, coming to Bedford's St. Michael Parish on April 25, 2018 at 7 PM! Draw closer to God. Deepen your understanding of His plan for your life. And gain a new passion to live the life God created for you. Buy your ticket online through [bedfordcatholic.org](http://bedfordcatholic.org) or call St. Michael's Religious Ed office at 781-275-6324. For more information visit [RealLifeCatholic.com](http://RealLifeCatholic.com)."

## Financial Information

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### Grand Annual Collection

The Grand Annual Collection this past weekend amounted to **\$100,541** 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.

### Increased Offertory Campaign

We sincerely thank those who have participated in the increased offertory campaign. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Our goal is to appeal to the generous support of our community and increase the offertory by 20% to cover our operating expenses.

We are asking each of you to prayerfully review your commitment and consider an increase in your continuing offertory contributions consistent with your means. The parish needs the support of every parishioner to have a vibrant, long-term community where all are welcome to share in the light of Jesus Christ and each other. Thank you.

### 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.

The collection for the Clergy Benefit Trust amount to \$8807.

### 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.