

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 Lent
February 18, 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

Grace McCarron
2nd Anniversary Mass
Saturday, February 17 at 5:00 pm

Julie Riley
6th Anniversary Mass
Sunday, February 18 at 8:00 am

Claire Mariano
Memorial Mass
Saturday, February 24 at 9:00 am

Thomas and Linda Doherty
Memorial Mass
Tuesday, February 27 at 9:00 am

Elizabeth Desharnais
Memorial Mass
Friday, March 1 at 9:00 am

The Pastor's Corner

Once again we have begun the season of Lent. When we received the ashes on Ash Wednesday, we heard the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel." Those words emphasize the purpose of Lent. First we repent of those faults and sins we have committed in the past. We need to acknowledge our faults before we are able to change. Then we strive to believe in the Gospel. This is more than making an act of faith. This is living our faith. This means working to rid ourselves of our faults or at least one fault during Lent so that on Easter Sunday we will be renewed as more faithful disciples of Christ.

Fr. Tom Donohoe

Season of Lent

Lent is a time for spiritual renewal in our lives. It is a season of repentance calling us once again to a change of heart. It is a special time of prayer and fasting; a time of penance and charity towards our neighbors.

Lent is that special time when we prepare for our greatest feast – The Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday. Lent is a period of special penitential observance. Every Friday of Lent is a day of abstinence. On those days, adult Catholics over age 14 may not eat meat.

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.

Flu Season Advisory

In light of the severity of flu related illnesses the Archdiocese has issued some liturgical directives. The distribution of the Precious Blood for the faithful is suspended until the emergency subsides. We encourage you to exchange the sign of peace without any physical contact. If you are ill or suspect you are ill with a contagious illness, you are not bound by the Sunday Mass obligation. You should remain at home and return to church when you are well.

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. 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.

Religious Education

Religious Education K-8

Religious Education classes for grades K-5 Session I are from 9:00-9:50 am and Session II is from 10:00-10:50 am on Sunday mornings.

There will be NO RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES on Feb. 18, 19 and 25 due to Winter Vacation. Classes will resume on Monday, Feb. 26 for grades 6-8.

6th Grade Stations of the Cross Rehearsal Schedule

Classes will have a special start time for the following 3 classes:

Monday, Feb. 26th at 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Monday, Mar. 5th at 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Monday, Mar. 12th at 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Peer Leaders

Meeting Date – Sunday, March 4

Theme of the Meeting-The face of forgiveness. We will try to reflect on issues revolving around Lent.

Speaker: Kelsey from Design Cause is trying to raise money to help build a school in Africa and provide a better education. Please join us for an information filled afternoon.

Just a reminder we are still looking for recipes for our Parish Cookbook, which we hope to have out by the fall. Please send recipes to Peerleaders@stirenes.org.

Parish Happenings

St. Irene's Adult Faith Formation Presentation Monday, Feb. 26, 9:30 – 11:30 am BC Video: "Journey with the Saints of Lent"

Lent is the perfect season to take a reflective look at our spiritual needs and longings. We welcome you to join us in the church hall at 9:30 am (after the 9 am Mass) as we watch this video from the Boston College School of Theology. The presenter is Br. Michael O'Neill McGrath, O.S.F.S. As Brother Mickey shares his paintings and stories, the saints and Gospel stories of Lent come alive, leading to a deeper awareness of God's presence as we journey together toward Easter. Following the hour video, we have set aside an additional 45 minutes for discussion. A light breakfast will be served.

Parish Library

The parish library will have a basket of new free books for Lent -- available the weekend of Feb 17/18. Readers can take one and either: 1. keep it; 2. pass it on to a friend; 3. return it to the basket to be given to other parishioners. The parish library has books for Lenten reading displayed at the back of the church. Please only borrow the books for three weeks. We also would like any overdue books returned. Thank you.

"Will You Help to Build My Classroom?"

Update

The Social Justice Committee wants to thank everyone who made donations last weekend toward the goal of raising \$30,000 to build three elementary school classrooms adjacent to the Catholic Church in Thunga Malawi. Generous parishioners have donated \$12,626 to date! Two weeks into our fundraising, we are almost half way there in reaching the goal of \$30,000 by the end of the campaign on Sunday, March 18. A member of the Committee will be available after each Mass until March 18. Donations can be made by cash, check (payable to Design Cause Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit) or by credit card after each Mass, or made online at www.design-causeinc.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.

Save the Dates

Monday, Feb. 26 – Adult Ed. Class

Friday, Mar. 23 – Stations of the Cross

Saturday, Mar. 24 – Italian Night

Saturday, May 5 – Confirmation

Saturday, May 12 – 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/faithfor-education/catholiceducation/colleges.html.

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). Dates and locations for training are listed at https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list.cfm?theme=0.

The Archdiocese also requires a **yearly** criminal offender record information (CORI) check for all full and part-time paid staff members, all clergy and all volunteers (17 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 have any questions.

Area Events

The Advocacy Network to End Family

Homelessness presents:

Children Caught in Family Homelessness:

How They are Hurt and How We Can Help

Sunday, Mar. 18 from 3-5 pm at First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Rd, Concord

In Massachusetts, over 3,500 families are in shelters nightly with an average stay of 253 days. Children without permanent housing suffer more physical, social and emotional health problems. Learn how to make your voice heard to help homeless children and their families in our communities.

Speakers: Dr. Megan Sandel, Associate Director of the GROW Clinic at Boston Medical Center, nationally recognized expert on housing and child health, Carl Howell, Director of Housing and Homeless Services, Community Teamwork, Lowell, and Kelly Turley, Associate Director, Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless. See www.endfamilyhomelessness.net for more information.

LIFT Ministries Event February 20

A Quiet Intimate Night of Worship

Join us for a 2-hour evening that will lead believers and disciples more deeply into the heart of God through a greater yielding to the

power of the Holy Spirit. This evening features acoustic praise and worship, Eucharistic adoration and speaker Fr. Matt Williams.

This evening is OPEN TO ALL... but is best suited for those with a faith foundation who are looking to delve a little deeper. Tuesday, Feb. 20 from 7-9 pm at St. John the Evangelist Parish, 115 Middlesex St., N. Chelmsford.

Catholic Television

Catholic TV is available on Comcast Cable channel 238, Verizon FiOS channel 271, Sky Angel IPTV channel 142, RCN channel 85, EWTN channel 56 and streaming on www.CatholicTV.com.

Financial Information

Grand Annual Collection

The Grand Annual Collection this past weekend amounted to **\$107,766** 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.

2018 Catholic Appeal

Please take a moment to watch the 2018 Catholic Appeal video to see the positive impact that Central Ministries make throughout our Archdiocese: <https://vimeo.com/249722503>. If you have not already done so, please prayerfully consider making an early pledge. You may mail your pledge or visit bostoncatholicappeal.org to give online. Thank you in advance for your support.

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 second collection this weekend is the Monthly Collection.

The Ash Wednesday collection for Catholic Charities totaled \$836.

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.

The rectory office is usually open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm.