

St. Irene Church

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



Second Sunday of Lent February 25, 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

Thomas and Linda Doherty
Memorial Mass

Tuesday, February 27 at 9:00 am

Elizabeth Desharnais
Memorial Mass

Friday, March 2 at 9:00 am

Francis, Maureen & Kellen Doherty
Memorial Mass

Saturday, March 3 at 9:00 am

Robert Nelson
Memorial Mass
Sunday, March 4 at 11:00 am

Colleen Kelly
Memorial Mass
Sunday, March 11 at 8:00 am

The Pastor's Corner

If a tough demand comes asking us to sacrifice the chief object of our love, would we do it?

Abraham saw a convincing reason before he consented to sacrifice his son; he thought it was his duty to place the love and trust of God before every other love, no matter how deserving. He could not foresee the conclusion of the story but he never hesitated about his loyalty to God even if it meant immeasurable sacrifice. The happy result showed that his trust and surrender to God's will was the best guarantee of his wellbeing, including the safety of his son.

In the Transfiguration, Jesus takes us as he took Peter, James and John to an encounter with God the Father. The Voice of God the Father reminds us that in Jesus' presence we are safe. Peter wanted to stay. Jesus reminded him that he must come down and face the reality.

During this, our Lenten journey, with the faith and trust of Abraham, may we learn to surrender to God and be reminded to come down and face our realities especially when difficulties arise.

Happy and Holy Lent

Fr. Romain

The Light is on for You

You are invited! Please come and experience Christ's healing love and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The church is open on Wednesdays during Lent from 6:30–7:30 pm.

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.

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. 25 due to Winter Vacation. Classes will resume on Monday, Feb. 26 for grades 6-8.

6th Grade Stations of the Cross Rehearsals

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. 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.

Stations of the Cross

Women's Club – Soup and Bread

On Friday, March 23, prior to the Stations of the Cross, we will have our second "Soup & Bread" repast in the Parish Hall. This Lenten event hosted by the Women's Club will run from 5:30 pm and continue until 7:00 pm so as to give people ample time to enjoy their meal before going upstairs for the stations. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

"Will You Help to Build My Classroom?" Update

We've broken through the half-way mark on the fundraising thermometer! With three weeks left in the campaign to raise \$30,000 to build three elementary school classrooms adjacent to the Catholic Church in Thunga Malawi, generous parishioners have donated \$16,746 to date! Thanks to all!

Religious Education students are also getting involved! In an effort to help their fellow students who live on another continent, some 7,750 miles away, our children are saving change in boxes which were distributed in all the Religious Education classes. Students will return their boxes on Sunday, March 11, during the Children's Liturgy Masses at 8 and 11. Members of the Social Justice Committee will be available after each Mass until March 18 to answer questions and accept donations. 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.designcauseinc.org.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council is meeting on Sunday, March 4 at 7:00 pm in the rectory.

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

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/faithformation/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

Bowling / Pizza Event – April 8

On Sunday, April 8, the Knights of Columbus (Westford/Chelmsford Council) will sponsor their Spring Bowling / Pizza Event for children with disabilities and their families. It will be held at Collins Bowladrome in Billerica from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. The event includes duck-pin bowling, which is followed by pizza for all who attend. Interested families are asked to register for this **free event** by contacting Ken Desilets no later than April 1st. (email; kgdesigned@gmail.com)

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 **\$108,366** 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

Next weekend, the Catholic Appeal will be announced in all parishes throughout the Archdiocese. Each of us is responsible not only for the wellbeing of our parish, but also for the wellbeing of the Church throughout our Archdiocese and throughout the world. In preparation, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a generous gift. To make an online pledge, please visit www.bostoncatholicappeal.org. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this year's Appeal.

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 Monthly Collection amounted to \$2752.

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.