

St. Irene Church NEWS



Christmas 2017

In this Newsletter:

- Christmas Mass Schedule
- Adult Faith Formation - continuation
- St. Irene's Volunteer Award Recipient 2017
- Advent and the 20th Anniversary of Our New Parish Church
- Trivia Night
- Fr. Tom's Visit to Pinehurst
- Calendar of Events

Guiding principles for St. Irene's e-newsletters include:

- We respect your time -- Only one hit to your inbox every three months.
- We respect your attention -- Only information provided that is important to your family and your choices within the parish. You can skim to find what you need.
- We want your input. Email feedback@stirenes.org with your suggestions.
- We respect your choices. You can unsubscribe at any point, but we hope you'll keep subscribing instead.

Past Newsletters can be found on the [Newsletter page](#) of St. Irene's web site. Feedback and suggestions for the quarterly e-mailed Newsletters can be sent to feedback@stirenes.org. Thank you.

Christmas Mass Schedule

The Christmas Mass Schedule for 2017 is:

- Sunday Dec 24th 4:00 pm Vigil Mass (Fr. Tom)
- Sunday Dec 24th 5:30 pm Vigil Mass (Fr. Romain)
- Sunday Dec 24th 11:15 pm Lessons and Carols (Fr. Tom)
- Monday Dec 25th 12:00 am Midnight Mass (Fr. Tom)
- Monday Dec 25th 11 am Christmas Day Mass (Fr. Romain)

Parking lot will be extra busy, especially between the two Vigil Masses with parishioners leaving after the 4:00 pm Mass and arriving for the 5:30 pm Mass, so please take care and allow extra time.

Adult Faith Formation

The [Adult Faith Formation program at St. Irene's](#) continues into Winter and Spring with more gatherings, scheduled at various times to reach as many parishioners as possible. All sessions take place in the Parish Hall. We give time to encourage discussion among attendees. Refreshments will be served at each session. All are welcome, young and old, parishioners and non-parishioners, with the hope that we can learn more about our faith, learn more about how our faith "works" in our busy lives, and learn more about those on the journey with us. Upcoming sessions include:

- Monday February 26th, 9:30 am: "Journey with the Saints of Lent – Part I"
- Monday March 12th, 9:30 am: "Journey with the Saints of Lent – Part II"
- Friday April 6th, 7:00 pm: "An Unfinished Council: Vatican II, Pope Francis and the Renewal of Catholicism"

Please mark your calendars for these inspiring and informative events.

Mary Ellen Bakken: Recipient of St. Irene's Volunteer Award 2017

As Ordinary time waned and the falling leaves revealed their quiet splendor, St Irene's honored an extraordinary woman for her generosity and excellence of service to the parish community -- Mary Ellen Bakken. If you haven't yet met Mary Ellen, she's the woman you may see watering the plants or redecorating the church to honor the seasons and feast days that mark the cycle of the liturgical year. If you attend 8 AM mass, you'll see a gaggle of fellow parishioners encircling her near the door to the sacristy. You may have received the Eucharist or the Sacred Blood from her, in her role as a eucharistic minister. Or perhaps you've seen her help with weeding, planting, or trimming the garden. She has a gift for creating beauty, which comes from the deep spirituality which infuses her life. Read Barbara Whitlock's tribute to Mary Ellen on St. Irene's website: ["2017 Award: Mary Ellen Bakken"](#).



Mary Ellen Bakken

Advent and the 20th Anniversary of Our New Parish Church

December 7, 2017 is the 20th anniversary of St. Irene's new parish church on East Street. Deacon Charlie Ferraro, who led the effort to build the new church, writes about what happened at the remarkable dedication ceremony in 1997 on St. Irene website: ["20th Anniversary of St Irene's new Parish Church"](#), when the Holy Spirit appeared to arrive in a snow storm. We will celebrate the anniversary with refreshments after the 11:00 am Mass on Sunday, December 17, 2017. Please join us.



The procession reaches the new church under blue skies, Dec 7th 1997.

It was a glorious day that represented culmination of years of Hope, Prayers and Community; not unlike the current Advent season. Our parish is about to enter a new phase of collaboration with Holy Family Parish in Concord, a change that we will meet with the

same Trust, Hope, Prayers and Community knowing *“that we can do all things through our God who strengthens us, for His love endures forever.”*

Trivia Night

St. Irene's [Trivia Night](#) has developed into a competitive sport with teams vying to answer a challenging variety of questions by pooling knowledge at their table. Most attendees bring their own “heavy hors d'oeuvres” to supplement the menu, settle in at tables, and wrack their brains for answers. It's all great fun, and a great St. Irene's tradition. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, January 20th in the Parish Hall. Snow date is February 3rd. Fr. Tom's table has done exceptionally well in recent years, but he will have strong competition as usual this year. Look for ticket sales in January. Tables have 8 seats each. Parties of less than 8 will be combined to form full tables.

Fr. Tom's Visit to Pinehurst

Fr. Tom wishes to express his sincere gratitude after a superb trip to the renowned golf course in Pinehurst, NC in September. The trip was a gift from parishioners for the occasion of Fr. Tom's 90th birthday last April. A foursome consisting of Fr. Tom, Deacon Charlie Ferraro, Jim Marchant and Bruce Traumuller hit the links of the famed golf course and grand times were had. Photo evidence is shared below. Thank you. Thank you.



St. Irene's foursome in Pinehurst

Calendar of Events

You can always find upcoming Masses and events in [St Irene's online calendar](#). Special events coming up soon include:

- Dec 10th, 9 am: Christmas Pageant with 8th grade pancake breakfast following
- Dec 12th, 9:30 am: Women's Club bow making for Boxwood Trees
- Dec 14th, 9:30 am: Women's Club, Boxwood Trees
- Dec 24th, 4:00 pm: Vigil Mass
- Dec 24th, 5:00 pm: Vigil Mass
- Dec 24th, 11:15 pm: Lessons & Carols
- Dec 25th, 12:00 am: Nativity of the Lord; Midnight Mass
- Dec 25th, 11:00 am: Christmas Day Mass
- Jan 7th, 12:00 pm: Three Kings' Party
- Jan 18th, 6:30 pm: Women's Club Pizza & Bingo
- Jan 20th: [Trivia Night](#)
- Feb 11th, All Masses: World Marriage Day
- Every Tuesday 7:30 pm Adoration and Evening Prayer
- Second Tuesdays of the month, St. Irene's Knight of Columbus meet at the Parish Hall 8 pm



Saint Irene