

St. Irene Church NEWS



Fall 2017

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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.

Adult Faith Formation

The [Adult Faith Formation program at St. Irene's](#) presents a number of programs throughout the year, which we hope you will find fulfilling and informative. Gatherings are scheduled at various times - some on mornings after the 9 o'clock Mass; others on Friday evenings - with the aim of reaching many parishioners at times available to them. All sessions take place in the Parish Hall.

This year's faith formation program will use multiple media—videos from the Boston College School of Theology, articles from the popular and Catholic press, plus an on-site presentation by a well-known Catholic theologian. 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.

The 2017-2018 Program includes:

- Friday October 27th, 7:00 pm: “Theology on Tap”
- Monday December 4th, 9:30 am: “Islam for Catholics 101”
- 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”

Oct 27th: When you are reading a magazine (e.g. *National Geographic, America, Time*), you will often find an article that deals with the topic of “Religion.” For the Theology part of the program, attendees of the first session on October 27th will choose three topics to discuss based on current religious issues and their impact on our daily lives. The discussions will be moderated by Fr. Austin Fleming, Pastor of Holy Family Parish in Concord. For the Tap part of the program, staff from Colonial Liquors in Concord will show us how to prepare three “signature” drinks and share them with us. Signature drinks are sometimes used at weddings, for example. Beer, wine, cold drinks, and cheese and crackers will add to the opportunity to get to know the folks at your round table prior to discussion of the topics chosen.

Details for this and the remaining sessions can be found on [St Irene's Adult Faith Formation web page](#). Please mark your calendars for these inspiring and informative events.

Peer Leaders

[St Irene's Peer Leaders program](#) engages post confirmation youth in faith based activities including social justice and leadership skills development through faith mentoring for Confirmation, middle school and younger parish members. The 2017-2018 program will start up in October, after everyone has settled into the new school year. We are currently seeking additional Adult leaders to assist in the program. The amazing youth self-organize much of the activity, and the Adult leaders provide guidance and oversight. Working with our youth is deeply inspiring. Regular meeting schedule is monthly after the first Sunday 5 pm Mass. If interested in helping guide, please contact PeerLeaders@stirenes.org – thank you.

PS: All adults working with youth need to complete Virtus Training “Protecting God’s Children”. The next Virtus training opportunity at St. Irene’s is offered on Friday Sept 15th 9:30 am. If this time doesn’t work for you, we will work to plan a time that does.



Peer Leaders Book Drive last winter

Religious Education & Confirmation start

As a reminder for parents of children in the Catechism or Confirmation programs, classes are about to start:

- Catechism for grades K-5 starts Sunday Sep 17th 9 am and 10 am.
- Catechism for grades 6-8 starts Monday Sept 18th (special start time 6:30 pm this first lesson)
- Confirmation Level 1 starts Sunday Sept 17th with 5 pm Mass (incl mandatory parent meeting 7 pm)
- Confirmation Level 2 **started** Sunday Sept 10th with 5 pm Mass (incl mandatory parent meeting 7 pm)

See you soon!

Parish Collaborative

St Irene's has received word from the Archdiocese of Boston that – as anticipated – we will be forming a collaborative with Holy Family in Parish to share clergy, and this will happen in the summer of 2019. This is NOT a merger of parishes. The two parishes will continue to have separate facilities, separate finances, and separate finance councils. The collaborative will help address a shortage of priests, and it will allow Fr Tom to finally retire at then 92 yrs of age! What a fantastic service he has provided. He will always be our pastor, but he has surely earned that 2019 retirement! In the meantime, the two parish pastoral councils have started communicating to explore opportunities for collaboration on select programs, but no specific steps have been taken yet. We will keep you informed.

Ministry Report: Facilities

In the light of Fr. Tom's appeal for increased giving, St. Irene's wants you to know your donations are being put to good use. Over the summer, we have arranged for replacement of the aging boiler. Last winter we learned that the boiler was at risk of not even lasting the rest of the heating season. Given the added complexity of replacing it in winter, we took the chance of waiting, and it operated okay until summer, allowing for a much easier replacement while we don't need heating. The old boiler has been removed, and the new should be installed this very week. This is a necessary capital expense and it will draw down our reserves, but it's great to be able to worship, to educate, and to build community in a well-functioning facility, one that is warm any day of the year! Thank you for your generosity to all who donated so far, and to those who will donate, to rebuild the reserve.



St Irene worship space reflected in the chandelier
(Planned to show the new boiler; but it isn't here yet!)

Fall Events

Don't miss these key Fall events at St Irene's:

- [Parish Picnic](#) Sunday Sept 17th: Start the school year right and reconnect with parish friends after summer absences. The Knights of Columbus are assisting the parish with the organization of the Parish Picnic. Tickets will be available at Masses in Sept and on the day of the picnic. We greatly appreciate advance ticket purchases, as they help plan how much food to prepare.
- Ministry Weekend Sept 30th/Oct 1st: On this day, we ask you to volunteer for various ministries throughout the parish. Our vitality depends on continuously engaging more volunteers to do the Lord's work. Whether you can volunteer an hour per year, or an hour per week, whether you do things from home or at the Church, we can use your help! Please carefully consider what skills and time you can offer, then sign up on forms handed out at Mass. If you're out of town that weekend, please contact the Rectory Office to offer your assistance. Thank you!

- [Mystery Dinner & Play](#) Saturday Nov 18th: Uniquely St Irene, this is a fantastic evening featuring St. Irene's Players (incl Fr Tom) acting in a Mystery Play, written and directed by a parishioner. Tickets will be sold after Masses several weeks before the play.

Calendar of Events

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

- Sept 17th 12-2 pm, Welcome Back Sunday & Parish Picnic
- Sept 21st 6:30 pm, St. Irene Women's Club Pot Luck dinner
- Sept 30th/Oct 1st all Masses, Ministry Sunday
- Oct 27th 7 pm, Theology on Tap, Adult Faith Formation
- Nov 16th 9:30 am St. Irene Women's Club Apple Pie Day
- Nov 18th 6:15 pm, St. Irene's Mystery Dinner & Play
- Dec 3rd 12-2 pm, St. Irene's Christmas Party for Children
- Dec 4th 9:30 am, Adult Education, Refreshments, Video & Discussion
- 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