

# St. Irene Church NEWS



Summer 2018

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- 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](mailto:feedback@stirenes.org) with your suggestions.
- We respect your choices. You can unsubscribe at any point, but we hope you'll keep subscribing instead.

## Parish Collaborative

As we approach the Archdiocesan date (June 1<sup>st</sup> 2019) for [St Irene Parish](#) to become a collaborative with [Holy Family Parish](#) in Concord, our Pastor Fr Tom and the Parish Council want to communicate with transparency what to expect and how we prepare. The [March 2018 Newsletter](#) discussed what a collaborative means. To supplement what was said there, the Archdiocesan "[Countdown](#)" page will help you understand the general time table. More important than the time table is the fact that we must focus the new collaborative on evangelizing to attract new members. In fact, the Archdiocese makes that focus very clear in their [General Questions page for the Disciples in Mission](#) program, saying:

*"Ultimately, the New Evangelization is not a set of strategies, not a set of bullet points which, if we can check them all off, we've "accomplished" the task. The New Evangelization is about one-on-one encounters, with people who are formed and trained in the art of witnessing to their faith, inviting their fellow Catholics back into a powerful and transforming love relationship with Jesus."*

The web and digital communications committees from Holy Family and St Irene have started an effort to identify joint actions between the parishes supporting that kind of evangelization.

## Religious Education, grades K-8, 2018-2019

St. Irene offers Religious Education for grades K-5 meeting weekly at 9:00-9:50 a.m. or 10:00-10:50 a.m. on Sunday mornings between Masses. We use the Our Sunday Visitor's Allelu! Curriculum for Kindergarten and RCL Benziger's Blest Are We Faith and Word edition for grades 1-8. We incorporate the "Keeping Children Safe" safety curriculum in the fall for 2 sessions. Our calendar includes Hosted Masses (grades 3-8), 2nd grade Parent Sacramental meetings, Thanksgiving Basket projects, 5th grade Hosted Christmas Pageant, and we end our year with the May Crowning. First Confession is held near the end of January and

First Communion is held in May. Grades 6-8 meet from 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Monday evenings. We incorporate the Archdiocese of Boston "Created for Love" program throughout the year. Our year begins and concludes with a special Mass and also includes: Hosted Masses, the Living Rosary, 6th grade Stations of the Cross production, 7th grade Hosted Breakfast, 8th grade Hosted Pancake Breakfast, Mardi Gras Mass and celebration, and Sundae Party. Registration forms are due by June 30th. The fee is \$135 per child and is capped at 3 or more children at \$405. There is a \$65 Sacramental Fee for grade 2 and a Late Fee for Registrations received after June 30th. Please see [St. Irene Religious Education](#) web page for details and [Religious Ed registration forms](#).

### **Confirmation Preparation, grades 9-10, 2018-2019**

St Irene's confirmation program is a two-year commitment, with 12 classes in level 1 for 9th graders and 12 classes in level 2 for 10th graders. Candidates also complete at least four Works of Mercy during their Confirmation journey (two in each level) and attend a retreat each year. Classes are on Sunday evenings and begin with attendance at the 5 pm Mass, and class follows in the parish hall until 7:30 pm. Classes run between September and April, the Confirmation Ceremony is generally the last week of April or first week in May. The calendar will be published mid-June (dependent on hearing from the Archdiocese about the 2019 Confirmation date) and can be found on the St. Irene website under Faith Formation dropdown menu. Four years ago, we introduced a wonderful new Confirmation program called Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation. The goal of this program is to offer the candidates a powerful, and life-changing experience as he/she prepares to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This program features video segments with some of the most passionate and inspiring Catholic youth ministry experts and speakers from across the country. Further information, as well as Confirmation registration forms, are available from [St Irene's Confirmation Preparation](#) web page. [Registration forms](#) are due by June 30th, the fee is \$175 for level 1 and \$255 for level 2. There is a late fee for registrations received after the June 30th deadline.

### **Peer Leadership Voices**

[St Irene Peer Leaders](#) consist of post-Confirmation youth interested in developing leadership skills by mentoring Catholic values and skills to Confirmation, middle school and younger parish children. Below three peer leaders share their thoughts on the completed year.



Peer leaders conducted a book drive (prior year)

It's been a great year in Peer Leadership! We have begun working on our cookbook and the community of peers has been a great experience. Our events outside of our meetings have also been great and I am sad that I only have one year left with everyone. I have also enjoyed being a Eucharistic minister. Being a Eucharistic minister has allowed me to feel involved with the parish more than ever. It's been really great to get to know new people and be able to give back to the church. I am excited for another year of Peer Leadership and being a Eucharistic minister and would recommend it to anyone who wants to get involved with the church.

- Maggie

On Sunday, May 20th Peer Leadership held a successful bake sale to raise money for our parish cookbook. Multiple Peer Leadership members brought the leftover cupcakes to Lowell Transitional Living Center. We are very excited about the parish cookbook. The funds raised from the bake sale will allow us to obtain an ISBN for the book! We hope to continue giving back to the community and appreciate the support of parishioners in our efforts to do so. I have enjoyed organizing the bake-sale to give back to others.

- Hannah

Leadership can be found in unusual places. As Peer Leaders we try to be leaders and discuss various themes at every single meeting. Once we discussed how a prison radio outreach program showed leadership in Hong Kong. Another time we had a guest speaker, Kelsey Bradley, talk about how she played a huge role in building a school in Africa. In addition, we also play games and just have a good time. We play trivia games and have competitions to find verses in the Bible. Over Christmas we even played musical chairs. This experience was a great one because it got you closer to your peers. Over the last year we have tried to develop a sense of community and nurture a supportive network.

- Kiran

Peer Leaders meet on the first Sunday on every month in the parish library at 3 pm. We are always looking for new members. Contact us at [peerleaders@stirene.org](mailto:peerleaders@stirene.org) about the coming year.

### **Summer Mass schedule**

Sunday 5:00 pm Masses are suspended during school vacation. The last Sunday 5:00 pm Mass before the summer vacation season will be June 17<sup>th</sup>. The Sunday 5:00 pm Masses will resume after Labor Day.

### **Thunga Primary School - Project Update**

“A Young Architect Transforms African Communities”:

Kelsey Bradley interviewed by Barbara Whitlock. Both are parishioners of St Irene.

Kelsey Bradley is leading her non-profit corporation [Design Cause Inc.](#) into another major project, with the help of \$36,000 from parishioners at St Irene’s in Carlisle, MA, along with another \$43,000 raised directly by Design Cause. These funds have enabled Kelsey to expand her latest project to build a five-classroom addition to the [primary school in Thunga](#), a southern region of Malawi in southeast Africa. In addition to the building, Design Cause will provide blackboards, desks, and teaching equipment to meet their classroom needs. Kelsey has her flight for Malawi booked for July, and she hopes to finish the project by late September.

Kelsey, a 2009 graduate of Concord Carlisle High School, carried her commitment to service as a parishioner of St Irene’s into her college years, where she tested the boundaries at Philadelphia University. Instead of developing an avant-garde building for her senior thesis, she designed a school in Ngong, northern Cameroon, sourcing local materials and employing local workers. Prior to travelling to Cameroon to oversee construction of the school, Kelsey established Design Cause Inc, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, to facilitate her plan to use her design skills to support practical needs in developing countries. Kelsey explained: “My dream for this organization is that it will bring the positive effects of design to communities in need around the globe because everyone deserves the chance to flourish in functional and beautiful buildings.”

Kelsey added that the mission of Design Cause Inc is “to teach a replicable skill using local resources at lower costs to ensure that the buildings are sustainable, built with local labor, coordinated with local leaders, and provide economic stimulus to the local economy while improving conditions.” By collaborating with local leaders, Kelsey ensures that the money donated is utilized to build a resource that is not limited to a one-off contribution. Instead, the schools Kelsey has designed in Cameroon -- and soon in Malawi -- provide a model easily duplicated.



Where is Kelsey?

Kelsey attributed her vision for Design Cause to the influence of her family and church community's tradition of "giving back," as well as to frustrations in her college architecture studies. She described: "Although I can't pinpoint the exact moment I knew I was meant to do humanitarian work, I can safely assume it came out of a period of frustration in my third year of architecture school. Frustration with what I was learning in architecture school. Frustration within myself that I wasn't doing anything meaningful or impactful." Kelsey challenged her university and built her first school, and now she's embarking on her second school project, with the generous support of St Irene's and other donors to Design Cause Inc.

This is the third major project in Africa supported by St Irene's in Carlisle. In 2008, St Irene's Social Justice Committee raised over \$30,000 and built five wells and 10 latrines with improved ventilation systems for Chinyama Village in Malawi. In 2010, St Irene's raised an equivalent sum to fund the development of a biogas converter to provide renewable, low cost, low carbon-emitting fuel for the seminary that trains Catholic priests in Rwanda.

St Irene's Social Justice Committee chair Ken Mostello said that St Irene's is "a very socially-conscious parish" that seeks to "support and fulfill the social and humanitarian mission of the Catholic Church. We are fortunate in that we are able to leverage the local, in-country resources of the Church to facilitate the construction process, control costs and assure the success of these projects."

In addition to helping those in need, St Irene's Social Justice Committee hopes to demonstrate the commitment of the parish to others while providing role models for the parish youth. Ken said: "Kelsey, a long-time parishioner and CCHS graduate, is the personification of the Christian example we want to set for children and our community."

### **St Irene Online Giving**

Parishioners are encouraged to sign up for electronic giving, as it really helps smoothen income over the year by avoiding a drop in the summer, while many parishioners are away. Please consider using [online giving](#) through St Irene's web link or via scheduled payments through a bank, see the [Electronic Giving page](#) on St Irene's web site.

### **Welcome Feedback**

Over the summer months, many St. Irene parishioners visit other parishes on their travels, whether vacationing, going to see family, or exploring the world and sightseeing. We want to ask a favor: Please send us your stories and observations from parishes you visit. If you felt especially welcome, or close to the Holy Spirit, or just observed something in a Mass that warmed your heart, what was it? Could we use the idea at St Irene? Don't forget the younger/teen family members. What did they enjoy? Send us a word and tell us the good you have seen in other parishes. We'll collect all the observations and share with the Pastoral Council. Please send your observations and suggestions to [feedback@stirenes.org](mailto:feedback@stirenes.org) thank you. That address forwards to the web committee, who will aggregate suggestions and present to the Parish Pastoral Council after Labor Day.

## Calendar of Events

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

- Jun 7<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm, Parish Calendar meeting – planning the 2018-2019 calendar
- Aug 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am & 7:30 pm Masses, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- First Sunday of the month 7:00 pm, Parish Pastoral Council meeting at the Rectory
- Every Tuesday 7:30 pm, Adoration and Evening Prayer
- Second Tuesdays of the month 7:30 pm, St Irene's Knight of Columbus meet at the Parish Hall
- Pastoral Council and Knights do not meet in July and usually delay the August meeting.



Saint Irene

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