

St. Irene Church NEWS

Summer 2019

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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.

Welcome Fr. Frank Silva

On June 1st, 2019, Father Frank Silva becomes the pastor of both St. Irene Parish in Carlisle and Holy Family Parish in Concord, as the two parishes form a 'parish collaborative'. The individual identities and financial obligations of the parishes will remain the same. In time, however, it can be expected that some administrative and programming matters within the parishes will experience a degree of collaboration that make sense in order to further the mission of the Church in Carlisle and Concord. In preparation for Fr. Silva's arrival, he offered the following:



Fr. Frank Silva

“I was born and grew up in Lowell until my family eventually moved to Chelmsford. During my high school years, I went to Keith Academy in Lowell and participated in many CYO activities sponsored by my home parish (St. Patrick’s in Lowell) and the Boston Archdiocese. Though he has a few years on me, it can literally be said that, as we grew up, Fr. Tom and I drank the same Merrimack River water! Interestingly, my first role as a parish administrator was at St. Lawrence Parish in Brookline, where I succeeded Fr. Tom on his appointment in 1988 as the Pastor of St. Irene’s Parish. I was the Director of the Permanent Diaconate at that time, having previously served as the Dean of Students at St. John’s Seminary in Brighton and the Vocation Director for the Boston Archdiocese. Eventually I was to become the Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Malden/Medford, another parish in which Fr. Tom had previously served. I’ve come to believe that it’s the water of the Merrimack River that leads us on similar paths!”

“St. Ann’s in Wayland (now Good Shepherd Parish) was my next assignment as a pastor and my first ‘Metro West’ parish. I was there at the time of “9/11” and when the clergy abuse scandal came to light. I will be forever grateful for the support of the Wayland parishioners during those difficult times. In 2006, I was assigned to Corpus Christi/St. Bernard Parish in Newton, becoming the pastor of one parish with two worship sites. It was in 2012 that I moved to Burlington and the parish of St. Margaret.”

“What now brings me to Carlisle and Concord is the implementation of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan known as “Disciples in Mission.” Since 2012, this plan has been implemented in parishes throughout the archdiocese by Cardinal Seán to address present needs in our parish communities, as well as to strengthen our parishes for meeting the needs of the future.”

“We have all witnessed a decline over the years not only in the number of priests being ordained (and, therefore, available for parish assignments), but also in the number of those attending Mass regularly, and in the financial resources needed for maintaining parish programs and structures. To grow and survive, parish communities need to encourage a move ‘from maintenance to mission’ – a move that helps us all to become ‘intentional disciples’ that we may carry out the mission given by Jesus Christ to the Church.”

“I am not coming to St. Irene and Holy Family Parishes with a ready-made program or ready-made decisions. I come, first and foremost, with an admiration for what the parishes of Carlisle and Concord are already doing. I live in the hope that we can build upon the legacy of these fine communities and, by doing so, strengthen the presence of the Church. To do that, we must confidently display our faith every day. I am honored and humbled to have received the opportunity to minister among and with the people of St Irene and Holy Family Parishes.”

Breaking News: Welcome Fr. Bill Robinson

As predicted by Fr. Frank Silva in the above interview, one of the newly (May 18th) ordained priests has been assigned, shortly before the Newsletter deadline, to the St. Irene & Holy Family Collaborative as well. Welcome Fr. William Robinson!

Fr. Bill was born and raised in Lexington, MA, and is a 2002 graduate of Lexington High School. Wanting to make the world a better place, he first thought of running for political office, but gradually discerned God’s call to the priesthood. Read more about Fr Bill [here](#), and do reach out and welcome both Fr. Frank and Fr. Bill, when you see them at Masses.



Fr. Bill Robinson

Thank You Fr. Tom, Fr. Romain, and Deacon Dean

The Masses were full on Sunday May 19, as parishioners came to say thank you to Fr. Tom and Fr. Romain before they move on at the end of the month, and to recognize Deacon Dean for his continued service. Stories were shared after Mass, and we had a little reception downstairs with coffee and pastries. Many came to have fellowship with each other and greet our priests and deacon. A little journal was provided at three tables, one for each clergy, for people to write notes of appreciation. We will miss Fr. Tom and Fr. Romain, but we wish them well and many more blessed days ahead. Deacon Dean is currently working on arrangements for continued service, planning to somewhat reduce his hours.



Photos from the Sunday 8 am Mass and following reception on May 19th.

Religious Education, Confirmation, and Adult Faith Formation

Because this year's Summer newsletter is being distributed prior to the June calendar meeting, where dates are coordinated, the exact dates for [Religious Education](#), [Confirmation preparation](#), and [Adult Faith Formation](#) are not yet known. The 2019-2020 program is still being worked out, and we want to give the new Pastor a chance to review before we lock in dates, etc. So please keep tabs on updates via the web site, and in the next newsletter.

Peer Leaders

Peer Leadership hosted an Easter egg hunt for children after the 9am mass. In spite of the rain, the kids had a great time and found lots of eggs! We need to have more eggs next year.

- Maggie

The Peer Leaders will be hosting the final event of the year with a PL picnic on June 9th 2019. We are hoping the Confirmation candidates will attend and enjoy an afternoon of gobbling and games.

- Kiran

May arrived reminding me that it is almost time to say farewell to our group of senior Peer Leaders. In the fall they will be navigating new paths, and we pray that they meet any difficult challenges with fortitude. They have been a most engaging group and came up with innovative service projects. Our conversations have been perforated with somber thoughts, laughter and honesty but, at all times the group has been very respectful. These high school students have kept the group alive and have shown a commitment to St. Irene's parish life. Andy, Chris, Hannah, Katherine, Kiran, Maggie and Matt have all inspired me in their own way, and I hope they remain connected to a faith community. With a tinge in my heart, I reluctantly say goodbye to this wonderful group of kids.

- Maeve

Abide & Mission Trip

Sincere thanks and appreciation is extended to all the parishioners, who gave so generously to support the young adults in our parish, who attended Abide Boston 2019, as well as those going on the Mission Trip with Catholic Work Camps to New Jersey in July. The generosity of our parishioners is incredible! On the weekend of March 30/31, the collection for the 11 teenagers attending Abide Boston amounted to \$1,149, and on the weekend of May 4/5, the collection for the Mission Trip amounted to \$2,000.

The young adults, who attended the Abide, fasted from food and technology for 24 hours, and on March 31 they spent the day at the Pine Knoll Nursing Home in Lexington interacting with the residents, playing board games, helping to serve and clean up from lunch. They ended with a much-appreciated sing song! The money raised at Abide will go to support local Catholic Charities.

When the Mission trip participants return from New Jersey, they will give us an update on their experience and will share how they helped a community in need. Thank you to all the adults, who chaperoned at Abide, and to the teenagers who took part. We are blessed to have such wonderful parishioners, who supported the youth in our parish.

Women's Club Tea & Fashion Show

[St. Irene Women's Club](#) threw a fantastic Fashion Show and Tea on Sunday May 5th. The parish hall was decorated, with multiple women sporting Kentucky Derby inspired hats. A buffet of delicious sandwiches was served, and the tea was divine. Fashions were provided by the Grasshopper Shop of Concord, and the models loved their outfits. Guests also had the chance to win raffle baskets!



Runway fun.



St. Irene Women's Club models.

Knights of Columbus

[St. Irene's Knights of Columbus](#) wish to extend a warm thank you to all parishioners, who donated baby items to the May 4-5 & 11-12 collection. Loads of items were collected at St. Irene's and delivered to the Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office in Natick. They were most grateful for your generosity, enabling them to support new mothers in need.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic men's charitable organization operating worldwide in alignment with the Church's teachings ("[We Do Not Stand Alone](#)"). To join the Knights, reach out to kofc@stirenes.org for more information.

Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRAs

A message from St. Irene's Finance Council regarding Charitable Planning Opportunities for Parishioners over 70½ years of age.

You're allowed to give up to \$100,000 to charity directly from your individual retirement account (IRA) without counting the distribution as taxable income. This type of charitable gift is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Normally, taking money out of your IRA adds to your taxable income and increases your adjusted gross income (AGI). If you give the same amount to charity, the charitable gift reduces your taxable income by the amount of the gift, but it does not reduce your AGI.

By contrast, a QCD is not taxable income and has no effect on your AGI, which can be a significant tax benefit. Furthermore, giving a QCD directly from your IRA can allow you to benefit from charitable giving even if you don't normally itemize your deductions. QCDs count as IRA distributions and can be used to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution.

To fully count as a QCD, the distribution can only be made from an IRA where the beneficiary is over 70 ½, it must transfer directly to a "qualified charity," and you must receive a confirmation letter from the charity, including a statement that no goods or services were received in exchange for the gift. You may have to make the contribution to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston and earmarked for St. Irene Parish.

If you are interested in making a QCD, we recommend that you speak with your financial advisor or accountant.

Calendar of Events

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

- May 26th, 5:00 pm, Last Sunday 5 pm Mass of the school year
- Jun 4th, 7:30-9:00 pm, Adoration / Evening Prayer
- Jun 6th, 6:30 pm, Parish Calendar meeting for 2019-2020
- Jun 7th, 9 am, First Friday Mass and Benediction
- Jun 11th, 7:30 pm, Knights of Columbus, election of officers for 2019-2020.
- Jun 26th, 7 pm, Baptismal Preparation Class
- Jul 24th, 7 pm, Baptismal Preparation Class
- Aug 15th, 9 am & 7:30 pm, Mass for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Aug 28th, 7 pm, Baptismal Preparation Class
- Every Tuesday 7:30 pm, Adoration and Evening Prayer
- First Sundays, 3:30-4:30 pm, Peer Leaders (no meetings during summer)
- Second Tuesdays of the month, 7:30 pm, St. Irene's Knight of Columbus (skip July, August)



Saint Irene

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