Joy and Faith abounded at St. Irene Vacation Bible School as we prayed, played and praised God in song and dance! We were “Shipwrecked” on a deserted island and learned how “Jesus Rescues!!”
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflecting on God’s Word

“Live and let live.” “Mind your own business.” “Leave well enough alone.” “It’s not your problem.” “Don’t get involved.” So goes the wisdom of the world, the law of the jungle. One of these sayings may come to mind when you see a car accident, a bum on the sidewalk, a competitor going bankrupt, a parent slapping a child, a teenage prostitute, a news story about illegal immigrants being deported.

We who have received the love of Christ are to live by a different law. It is “very near to you...in your hearts; you have only to carry it out” (Deuteronomy 30:14). We are to live in Christ’s love and let our neighbor experience that same life-giving love. And yet, like the “scholar of the law” in today’s Gospel, we always try to define who is—or more precisely, who isn’t—our neighbor. There’s no escaping the message of this Gospel passage. Everyone we fear or despise, every victim, every outsider, every undeserving soul whom God loves, we are to “go and do likewise.”

—Virginia Stillwell

LIVING GOD’S WORD: The good Samaritan doesn’t ask the victim, “Who did this to you?” or “Did you deserve it?” or “Can you pay me back?” Like Christ, the Samaritan reveals “the image of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15) by treating the suffering person with compassionate mercy and healing his wounds, not counting the cost.

St. Irene Rosary Group

Our Rosary Group meets the third Thursday of each month in the ACL, from 7-7:40pm, followed by fellowship as schedules permit. Come join in the prayer Our Lady gave us, and be intimately and spiritually drawn into the most Holy Life of our Lord. As we connect our hearts with confidence to Her Immaculate Heart, Mary leads us to the Foot of His Cross, which is the doorstep to His Sacred Heart, and Fount of His Unconditional Love and Divine Mercy. We gather next on July 18th. Bring a friend...all are welcome! For more info, call Jeannette Clark at 630.292.9349.
On a summer day, with the windows open, we may hear the sound of church bells. Bells seem to have come into church life in Irish monasteries around the seventh century, and spread around the Christian world by Irish monks on missionary journeys. By the eighth century, bells were standard equipment in even small parish churches. An ancient ceremony, once called the “baptism of the bells,” recognizes that the church bell has a voice to call people to awareness and summon them to worship, and even bestows a name on the bell.

In a world without clocks or watches, the bell had an indispensable role. For calling monks in from the fields for prayer, or alerting far-flung visitors, the bell’s voice was enhanced by hoisting it high into a tower. Soon it was learned that the sound of several bells clanging together in harmony imparted a sense of joy to great celebrations, and bell towers prospered, some chock full of bells. Different combinations of rings could indicate a death, a Mass, a wedding, a fast day, the curfew at the end of day, and the Angelus. Before electricity, bell-ringing was hard work indeed: the biggest bell in the Catholic world, in Cologne, Germany, weighs twenty-seven tons! There’s no substitute for the resonant roar of a mighty bell; electric chimes are not eligible for blessing!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
Whole Parish Catechesis
Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Reading I: Deuteronomy 30:10-14
♦ Heed the voice of God.

Background: The Book of Deuteronomy, written in the seventh century B.C., was a long exhortation to God’s people, encouraging them to turn from everything else and to love God with a single passion. Today’s passage stresses that the command to love God with all your being is not difficult to understand or remember. The command is already found in the hearts of God’s people.

Reading II: Colossians 1:15-20
♦ In Christ all things were created.

Background: The passage from the Letter to the Colossians is an awe-filled hymn to Christ. The imagery and vocabulary are from the descriptions of Lady Wisdom in the Hebrew wisdom tradition. Christ is described as the image of God and the link between God and all creation.

♦ Who is my neighbor?

Background: Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan as an interpretation of the two great commands of Judaism: love God and love neighbor. In Jesus’ time, the Samaritan was a hated outsider, yet in today’s story, he did the right thing. Today’s parable illustrates love of neighbor.

Theme: “Go and do the same!”

We had over 110 kids and volunteers participate in VBS at St. Irene!
At “Shipwrecked” VBS we learned that in every circumstance, Jesus rescues!

A life preserver can save you. However, a life preserver does not pull you out of the deep water and carry you away to safety. Instead, it holds you up so you don’t drown. It keeps you on top of the water, supporting you and holding you. Jesus does that for us. He does not always carry us away from hard times, but he is right with us, holding us up, supporting us. Jesus is the light that guides us through hard times. If we turn to Jesus and TRUST in Jesus...we will learn that Jesus rescues every time!

Our key Bible verses each day were:
♦ The Lord will hold me close --Psalm 27:10
♦ The Lord comes to the rescue each time --Psalm 34:19
♦ Be still and know that I am God! --Psalm 46:10
♦ Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world. --John 16:33
♦ The power that saves us...is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead. --Ephesians 1:19-20

The music from “Shipwrecked” VBS by Group, Inc. is available on iTunes and the music videos are available on YouTube. The music and videos are powerful and inspiring...check them out!

Many thanks to Our Lady of the Wayside Parish in Arlington Heights who gifted us their VBS program materials and decorations from the prior summer. This is a large cost savings for us and allows us to provide an AWESOME week at VBS! We thank our parishioners, Trish and Randy Patterson, whose daughter, Katie Utech is the VBS Leader at Our Lady of the Wayside. And many thanks to Trish and Randy who stored the decorations for a year and then lead our decorating team. We are forever grateful!

Question for Adults:
Jesus tells us today to love God, our neighbor and our self. How will you love God this week? How will you love your neighbor this week? How will you love yourself this week?

Question for Youth:
The Samaritan reached out to a stranger and helped him. Who are the strangers who you could reach out and help in the coming week or month? How will you respond?

Question for Children:
Jesus tells us to love today. Name a time when you showed your love for your family or friends during the past week or two.
Welcome to Summer!

Nothing says summer like a refreshing salad dinner. Please join the CCW on Tuesday, July 16th at 6PM in the ACL for our Summer Social & Service Project. **You are welcome to bring a dessert to share if you’d like.**

A light salad supper will be provided as we pray over and assemble the Boxes of Joy items we have been collecting to send to children around the world at Christmas. This *Cross Catholic OUTREACH* ministry has been our CCW focus throughout the Diocese of Joliet for the past 2 years and has brought much JOY to all the participants as well as the children who receive these gifts, the FIRST Christmas gift they’ve ever gotten. Come to share fellowship as we assemble these boxes and see an inspiring video that will warm your heart as children from Guatemala, El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic smile with JOY!

Collection boxes for donated items will be in the Narthex 7/6 and 7/13. Please see list of needed items to be packed.

https://crosscatholic.org/boxofjoy/

♦ **Toys:** small plush toys/animal, small ball, car, truck, doll, puzzle, finger puppet, silly putty, hacky sack, unopened fast food toys, Legos, harmonica or kazoo, jump rope, paddle ball, slinky, mini board game, craft kit

♦ **School Supplies:** colored pencils, solar calculator, sharpener, small board books, erasers, pencil case, crayons, pens, markers, glue stick (no liquid), safety scissors, coloring book, notepad, stickers, flash cards, dry paint

♦ **Apparel/Accessories:** socks, shorts, underwear, t-shirts, flip flops, bandanas, hats, shoelaces, plastic poncho, watch, purse, wallet, sunglasses, necklaces, hair ribbons, headbands, scrunchies, barrettes, bracelets, earrings, scarf, cross, rosary

♦ **Useful Items:** sewing kit, utensils, compass, LED key chain, duct tape, no-battery flashlight, drawstring bag

♦ **Hygiene/Home:** comb, brush, bar soap, fork/spoon, cup/bottle w/lid, toothpaste in box, toothbrush, floss, lip balm, bandages, hand wipes (no gels), tissues, manicure kits, nail clippers, emery board

♦ **DO NOT PACK:** Food, beverages, medicine, vitamins, shampoo, nail polish, gels, chocolate, toy weapons (police or military), glass, breakables, knives, tools, ANY liquids
Teams forming for our Hospitality Ministry

Teams will be comprised of 6 - 8 people and rotate on a monthly basis. If enough people come forward, the time commitment will be one or two hours, every other month. Duties include ordering and picking up donuts/bagels, making coffee, pouring juice, setting out donuts/bagels, cups, plates, napkins. This is a great service project for families. Training will be provided.

If you are interested in joining the hospitality team, please phone Annette 630.393.2400 x 122.

School Supplies

The churches of Warrenville once again will collect school supplies for the needy children in our community. This year St. Irene has been assigned 90 students in 1st and 2nd grades. We will collect the school supplies through Sunday, July 28th. This year we will distribute “supply packs” - therefore there is no need to purchase backpacks.

School supply list

♦ 24 Count Crayola Crayons
♦ Pre-sharpened Ticonderoga wood pencils
♦ Pink pearl erasers
♦ Fiskar Scissors
♦ Elmer’s glue
♦ Glue sticks
♦ 8 Count Washable Broad Tip Markers
♦ Composition Notebooks
♦ Spiral Notebooks Wide Ruled (70 count)
♦ Vinyl pocket folders – 2 red, 1 yellow, 1 orange, 1 blue, 1 purple, 1 green
♦ Pencil Box
♦ 1 inch think flexible binder (polycarbonate)

We will sort and pack the supplies on Wednesday, July 31st at 9AM in the ACL. The block party will be on August 3rd at Johnson school from 11AM-1PM. If you can help distributing the supplies or manning our treat table, phone Annette at 630.393.2400 x 122 or sign up in the narthex.

Thank you for your generosity.

Healing Horizons

Healing Horizons is a parish support group where people help people through the difficult experience of loss through death, divorce, or separation. Our focus is on the spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth of those who attend. People from all faiths are encouraged to join us on Mondays, July 15, August 5 and August 19 from 6:30-8PM in the lower level of the Activity Center. For more information, contact Sue Battaglia at 312.213.2119.

Parish Office Summer Hours

Monday - Thursday → 9AM-3PM
Friday → 9AM-12PM

Whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:40

St. Irene volunteers are helping to feed the hungry at Hesed House in Aurora this summer. No cooking involved, just set up, serve lunch and clean up. Shifts are from 11AM-1PM on Monday, August 12 and Friday, August 16. Contact Marge Steinhoff at mpst37@aol.com or 630.851.3708 for information or to help.
Liturgical Calendar

**Monday, July 15**
St. Bonaventure

- **7:00AM** - For the Recovery of Fr. Jim

**Tuesday, July 16**
Our Lady of Mount Carmel

- **7:00AM** - Adele Ridge/ Kristin Kocan

**Wednesday, July 17**
Weekday

- **7:00AM** - For the Poor & the Hungry

**Thursday, July 18**
St. Camillus de Lellis

**Sunday, July 21**
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- **7:00AM** - Carolann Chiodo/ Friends

**Friday, July 19**
Weekday

- **7:00AM** - Carolann Chiodo/ Friends

**Saturday, July 20**
Vigil: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- **5:00PM** - Kathy Ulanowski/ Family

**Sunday, July 21**
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- **8:00AM** - St. Irene Faith Community
- **10:00AM** - Hal Dirienzo/ Thomas & Patricia McHugh
  - Joe Gattone/ Mary
  - Jim Hughes/ St. Irene
  - Joyce LaDeur/ Mary Hafertepe

Readings for the Week

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Reading 1</th>
<th>Reading 2</th>
<th>Reading 3</th>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>Ex 1:8-14, 22; Ps 124:1b-8; Mt 10:34-11:1</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Ex 2:1-15a; Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34; Mt 11:20-24</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Ex 3:1-6, 9-12; Ps 103:1b-4, 6-7; Mt 11:25-27</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Ex 3:13-20; Ps 105:1, 5, 8-9; 24-27; Mt 11:28-30</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Ex 11:10-12:14; Ps 116:12-13, 15, 16bc, 17-18; Mt 12:1-8</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Ex 12:37-42; Ps 136:1, 23-24, 10-15; Mt 12:14-21</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Gn 18:1-10a; Ps 15:2-5; Col 1:24-28; Lk 10:38-42</td>
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St. Irene Vocation Prayer

In every age Lord, You raise up women and men who are strong in their faith and bold in their actions to give witness to the Gospel. Fill St. Irene Parish Community with Your Spirit and give us a burning desire to make a difference in our world. Because of our love for You, Bless our Church with holy and courageous priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, devoted married couples, dedicated single men and women, and enthusiastic youth. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Rachel Jaraisus  
Paulette Porter  
Ann Mulcahy  
Lynette Meany  
Javier Tecuatl  
Paula Lopat  
Mary Vander Meulen  
Valder Morales  
Max Malesh  
Colette Malovany

We call to mind those who have departed from us during the week:

- John Mares
- Pat Wehner
- Tyler Ricamato
- John Rossi
- Ronda Slupik
- Rob Miller
- Elizabeth Mangini
- Marge Steinhoff
- Sandy Decker
- Sandi Meaenner

We remember all those who have departed from St. Irene Parish Community.

We ask God’s grace for our community.

Feed My Starving Children: The Aurora packing site is running a full schedule this summer, but due to summer schedules and vacations, volunteering is down. Do you have a couple hours during the daytime or evening? Come pack with us! Groups of any size are welcome. Please sign up for your desired session at www.fmsc.org.