Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions.

Luke 12:15
NEW PARISHIONERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! 
Call or come to the Parish Center to register.

BAPTISMS: Dates for Baptism will be arranged after attending the Pre-Baptismal Catechesis. Please call Annette in the Parish Office for information.

MARRIAGES: Call Annette in the Parish Office to arrange preparation 6 months in advance.

SICK CALLS: Call Annette in the Parish Office and Ministers of Care will visit the sick or shut-in.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4:20-4:40PM in the Reconciliation Room.

FOOD PANTRY: Our pantry is open Wednesdays from 9AM-12PM. Call 630.393.2400 x 112.

FUNERALS: The Pastoral Staff works with families to plan the Funeral Mass.

SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES: Call Dwight Sherman at 630.393.3221 or 630.362.1324.

CRISIS PRAYER CHAIN: Contact Deacon Joe Urso at 630.853.2070 at joe.urso@outlook.com.

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REFLECTING ON GOD’S WORD

“You can’t take it with you,” Aunt Frances used to say. “I never saw a hearse pulling a U-Haul.” Aunt Frances had a point. We expend a lot of effort making money for our families, planning for retirement, and managing our investments. Yet we have no control over when our lives will be demanded of us. And wealth may not be the only “treasure” that we “store up.”

We have many ways to preserve a false sense of security, to mask the vulnerability that we humans share. We may install security systems, move into gated communities, or buy a gun. We may buy SUVs with antilock brakes. We may store up good deeds that allow us to feel smug and self-satisfied, or grudges that put others in our debt. The scriptures today remind us that whatever we might be banking on to keep us safe is mere “vanity.”

—Virginia Stillwell

LIVING GOD’S WORD: Christians have a great treasure in Jesus Christ, who personified for us the loving kindness of God. Whenever we feel overwhelmed by our vulnerability we can turn in hope to the life and love that flow from His cross.

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Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal 2019 Pledge Report

Monthly pledge payments for the CMMS should be made in the next few days. Thanks you for your support. Please contact the Diocesan Development Office with any questions you may have about your pledge at 815.838.8515.
Apart from the period from Thanksgiving through Christmas, the summer is a favored time for family reunions. We trace family trees and recall our origins. Worship has a family tree as well, and the way we celebrate today has been influenced by various styles and customs through the centuries. We are Western Christians of the Latin Rite. By far, we are the most numerous Western Christians, but there are other ritual families as well. The Archdiocese of Milan in Italy follows the Ambrosian Rite, Toledo in Spain preserves the Mozarabic Rite and the Arab language, and Lyons in France is home to the Gallican Rite. Other liturgical families, such as the Celtic in Ireland and the Sarum in England, faded away after the Reformation. Until recent times, members of some ancient religious orders such as Carmelites and Trappists followed a pattern of Mass that varied slightly from the plan observed in Latin Rite parishes.

Isn't the Catholic Church the same everywhere? Not at all. It never has been! The existence of so many liturgical families in the West reminds us that unity, not uniformity, is what the Church seeks to achieve among her children. We are united in faith, but wonderfully diverse in rituals, ceremonies, languages, customs, and spirituality.

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

**Reading I: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23**
♦ What do all her/his labors profit a person?

**Background:** Today’s first reading was written by a sage, or philosopher, who had spent much time reflecting on human life. The author observes that one pervasive human vanity is the inability to enjoy those things we earn. The reading from Ecclesiastes stresses that we have only the present moment - and that moment is a gift from God.

**Reading II: Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11**
♦ Seek the things that are of Christ.

**Background:** The Letter of Paul to the Colossians warns against excessive attachment to material possessions. These sins which pertain to worldly life were part of the community’s everyday life before they were Christian. Now they have put on Christ, the new Adam.

♦ What is really important to you?

**Background:** In the Gospel of Luke, the question of possessions is treated often. In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about a wealthy fool who thought possessions guaranteed life. He is a fool because in the midst of his good fortune he has lost the sense of what is truly important.

**Theme:** Faith helps us set Godly priorities.

**Question for Adults:**
What wisdom do you pull out of this reading to help you set priorities in your life?

**Question for Youth:**
It is easy to get self-centered and greedy. What do you have in your life that is unnecessary? In your life, what keeps you close to God? What distracts you from your relationship with God?

**Question for Children:**
What is the most important thing in your life?

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.

Come Holy Spirit!

The gift of the Holy Spirit is not merely something reserved for Confirmation. The Spirit desires a relationship with us that will take us on the greatest adventure imaginable: a journey to the very heart of God.

Come experience the life giving breath of God’s Spirit. **The Wild Goose** is a 14 week series with Fr. Dave Pivonka. We will meet Mondays from 1-2:30PM and again from 7-8:30PM beginning August 12th in the ACL. Please register with Annette at annette@st-irene.org or 630.393.2400 x 122.

**CAN YOU HELP?** One of our Bridge families has a 19 year old car with nearly 200,000 miles on it. She took it to a mechanic who said it will not survive another winter. There is no air conditioning, which her two young children struggle with, and to repair it would cost more than the car is worth. St. Irene Bridge Committee is asking if anyone has a used car to donate. The car would be donated through Bridge Communities so it will be eligible for a tax deduction. If you or someone you know has a car to donate, please contact Vince Sherwin at vince1230@comcast.net or 630.393.4463.
Wedding Anniversary Mass

The 41st Annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on **Sunday, August 18 at 2PM** at the Cathedral of St. Raymond in Joliet. Couples celebrating anniversaries of **25 years and more**, are welcome to attend. Bishop Conlon will celebrate the Mass and will lead all couples in a special renewal of wedding promises. Those who bring a camera can also have a special picture taken with the bishop on the occasion of their anniversary. Please register as soon as possible by calling the Office of Family Ministry at 815.838.5334.

Are You Called to the Permanent Diaconate?

The Diocese of Joliet is inviting men to discern the call to the diaconate in a series:

- **The Blanchette Catholic Center in Crest Hill**
  August 6, 13 - 7-9PM (English)
- **The Blanchette Catholic Center in Crest Hill**
  August 7, 14 - 7-9PM (Spanish)
- **St. Petronille Church in Glen Ellyn**
  August 8, 15 - 7-9PM (English)

If you sense God is calling you, please attend the information Sessions. No registration is required and wives are welcome. For more information, see our website at [www.dioceseofjoliet.org/diaconate/](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/diaconate/).

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We had an AMAZING time serving God at Catholic Heart Workcamp!
Thank you for your participation with your support in prayer and monetary assistance.

- My group and I built a roof on a shed and helped our resident Judy with all of her gardening. Bekah D.
- I cleaned and helped to paint a house in Cresco. I also did some gardening and folded clothes for an elderly woman. Emily D.
- I worked with the residents at the Ossian senior hospice, and did yard work around the perimeter of the building. We also organized the basement. My work group became really close through out the week and we are now great friends! Megan D.
- Cleaned, painted and gardened a house for an elderly person. Elen R.
Opportunities to become involved in the ministries of YOUR Church

Social Justice Ministry:
- Food Pantry

Education Ministry:
- Catechist/assistant: Pre-School
- Catechist/assistant: Elementary
- Catechist/assistant: Jr. High
- Catechist/assistant: High School
- Bible Study Facilitator

Formation Ministry:
- RCIA
- Baptism prep
- Baptism prep child care
- Marriage prep
- Small Christian Communities

Liturgical Ministry:
- Lector
- Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist
- Altar Server – Elementary/ Jr. High Level
- Altar Server – High School
- Choir – Adults
- Choir – Children
- Children’s Liturgy of the Word Leaders/ Assistants/ Musicians
- Usher/ Greeter

Hospitality:
- Seniors LunchBunch Leader & Assistants
- New Parishioner Welcome Team
- Monthly Hospitality

Pastoral Ministry:
- Minister to the Homebound

YES! After prayerful consideration, I will help!
(Please drop in collection.)

This Week’s Meetings

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, August 4</td>
<td>11a-12:30p</td>
<td>RCIA Inquiry Session (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, August 5</td>
<td>1-2:30p</td>
<td>Adult Education (ACL)</td>
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<td>6:30-8:30p</td>
<td>Healing Horizons (ACL)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, August 6</td>
<td>7-9p</td>
<td>School Board (HF)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, August 7</td>
<td>6:30-9p</td>
<td>Protecting God’s Children (ACL)</td>
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<td>7-8:30p</td>
<td>Adult Choir (C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 8</td>
<td>6-10p</td>
<td>Knights of Columbus (ACL)</td>
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<td>Saturday, August 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, August 11</td>
<td>7:30a-12:30p</td>
<td>Hospitality (ACL)</td>
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Remember our Faithful Departed in your Prayers
- Jack Radicker

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.
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.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Nm 11:4b-15; Ps 81:12-17; Mt 14:13-21
Tuesday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Lk 9:28b-36
Wednesday: Nm 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26-29a, 34-35; Ps 106:6-7ab, 13-14, 21-23; Mt 15:21-28
Thursday: Nm 20:1-13; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Mt 16:13-23
Friday: Dt 4:32-40; Ps 77:12-16, 21; Mt 16:24-28
Saturday: 2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2, 5-9; Jn 12:24-26
Sunday: Wis 18:6-9; Ps 33:1, 12, 18-22; Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 [1-2, 8-12]; Lk 12:32-48 [35-40]