AS JOHN THE BAPTIST WATCHED
JESUS WALK BY, HE SAID,

“Behold, the Lamb of God.”

JOHN 1:36
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. 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.

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

LIVING GOD’S WORD: Our prayer can be full of words, giving voice to our plans, our needs, our desires. We can bring a lot of “help, help, help” or “gimme, gimme, gimme” to prayer. Try just listening.

If you or someone you know would be blessed by receiving a prayer shawl, please contact Paula Peterson at 630.319.3998 or Rainbow1085@yahoo.com.
The Road to Redemption

Join us this Lent for “The Road to Redemption”; a six week study of the Sunday readings for Lent. Are our hearts ready to accept the passion of our Lord so that we may share in His glorious Resurrection? The six weeks leading up to Easter mark our own 40 days in the desert with Jesus. Lent is an intense time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving for the entire Church.

This year the Sunday gospel readings at Mass come from the Gospels of Matthew and John. Our engagement with these gospels creates a beautiful tapestry of prepared anticipation for the Easter season into our hearts.

This study follows the Catholic Scripture Study format, but concentrates on the Sunday lectionary readings and incorporates the ancient method of Lectio Divina (praying the scriptures). Lectio Divina is a powerful way to ‘hear’ God speaking to us personally through scripture.

Fr. Mitch Pacwa is our presenter via DVD. An optional study guide may be purchased for $18. If you wish to purchase a study guide, place your order by phone to Annette at 630.393.2400 x 122 or email annette@st-irene.org by January 29th.

We will meet on the following Wednesday afternoons from 1-2:30PM in the Holy Family Room of the Parish Center: February 14, 21, 28 and March 7, 14, 21. Hope to see you there.

“Seeing Through the Eyes of Christ”
Monday, January 22nd at 7PM in the church

Presenter: John Donahue-Grossman

“John captivates audiences with his humor, dynamic energy and unique perspective. People are empowered to believe they can transform their lives and their world.”

St. Irene’s LunchBunch Ministry

Potluck Luncheon- last names starting with:
A-I: main course – main dishes - any type of casseroles/pastas, meat dishes
J-R: side dishes – vegetables or vegetable casseroles, salads of any type, cheese/crackers
S-Z: desserts of any type

Thursday, February 1, 2018
11:30AM-2PM
Lower Activity Center

Video: Life of St. Teresa of Calcutta
Fee: $3 each
Meals brought to the table could be store bought!
Any questions please contact Anna Saake @ 630.456.0644 or anna@saake.net.

All are welcome!

Help Wanted! We are looking for a replacement Minister to oversee the St. Irene LunchBunch Ministry starting in August. My "term" is up in June and due to personal reasons, I can no longer minister to this wonderful group of parishioners. It doesn't have to be one person - could be a group. It is a wonderful ministry and also fun! If you wish to start sooner, you are welcome to come and see what goes on by attending our upcoming lunches and help out! Our next luncheon is Thursday, February 1st. Please contact Anna Saake at 630.456.0644 or anna@saake.net with any questions.

“Ordinary Time” began for us this week. On the old calendar, the feast of the Presentation, still more than two weeks away, was the last day of the Christmas season. Sadly, Bethlehem is hardly a place of peace on earth these days. The ancient Christian community has been largely uprooted by political strife. The Church of the Nativity stands (barely) in remarkable disrepair and disorder in Manger Square. The roof is crumbling, the major doorways are blocked, the wiring is faulty, and the worship life is disrupted by quarrels among Eastern Christians.

The church was founded by the Emperor Constantine in 325, destroyed in a Samaritan revolt in 539, and rebuilt by the Emperor Justinian. When the area came under Muslim control in 638, the holiness of the church was respected, and in return Christians allowed Muslims to pray in the south aisle, a right still upheld. Earlier in that century, invading Persians were ordered to destroy all churches, but when they saw the magi carved over the doorway of the Church of the Nativity, they spared it out of respect for their ancestors who bore gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the same city. The Crusaders restored and redecorated the church by the twelfth century, and it is their plan that survives. Down a few stone steps is a stone grotto with a silver star marking the place of Christ’s birth: when the star was stolen in 1847 it triggered an international crisis that exploded into the Crimean War.

Since 1852, the church has been shared by the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Armenian Churches. The Greeks are in charge of the grotto, but don’t enjoy the best of friendships with the Armenians. Catholics have the care of the Chapel of the Manger, and avoid the squabbles by a separate entrance to the Franciscan monastery church of St. Catherine. Pray for peace in Bethlehem!

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

Reading I: Samuel 3:3b-10, 19
♦ Here I am. You called me.

Background: The reading from 1 Samuel tells the story of the call of Samuel. Samuel’s response to God’s call comes only after some confusion. Eli understands that it is God who is calling and instructs Samuel to respond in the proper way.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
♦ You belong to Christ.

Background: The second reading begins Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians. Paul wants the community members to change their ways. Paul stresses that our bodies are made holy by the indwelling of God’s Spirit. Everything we do must give glory to God.

Gospel: John 1:35-42
♦ We have found the Messiah!

Background: John the Baptist’s role, to point toward Jesus, is clearly shown in today’s Gospel. The two disciples who follow Jesus ask Him, “Where are you staying?” Jesus responds with, “Come and see,” an invitation to follow Him.

Theme: God calls us to follow Christ.

Question for Adults:
In what ways do you experience being called by Jesus? What does He want you to do?

Question for Youth:
Andrew seemed to know immediately that he should follow Jesus. Do you have that same sense of confidence in your faith in Jesus? What helps? What makes it hard?

Question for Children:
What can you do this week to show that you are a follower of Jesus?

The chains of grace are so powerful, and yet so sweet, that though they attract our heart, they do not shackle our freedoms.
—St. Francis de Sales

St. Irene’s 29th Annual Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, February 10, 2018
Doors Open at 6PM

St. Irene Activity Center
Sponsored by the St. Irene Athletic Association

Your $10 ticket buys you samples of all of the delicious chili offerings. This is a 21-and-older event. Hot dogs, soft drinks, beer and wine will be available for sale. You will also have an opportunity to bid on fabulous silent auction items and enter raffles for great prizes. There will be a 50/50 raffle this year with tickets sold after Masses. All proceeds benefit St. Irene School and the Athletic Program.

PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A CONTESTANT (AGAIN) THIS YEAR. The success of the Chili Cook-Off continues to depend on GREAT CONTESTANTS LIKE YOU! Each contestant will receive a variety of thank you gifts, including a $50 cash reimbursement toward their chili expenses! Rules for the Cook-Off will be forwarded when you sign up. Contact Stacey Riggs or Kim LaDeur if you or your organization would like to be a contestant and enter your favorite chili recipe. It’s ALOT of fun! (But enter early - the number of contestants had to be limited last year!)

PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A SPONSOR OR MAKING A RAFFLE OR MONETARY DONATION. We are looking for sponsors and monetary donations, as well as raffle and silent auction items (no amount is too small)! Contact Stacey Riggs or Shannon Ryson if you or your company can make a donation or would like additional information on how to donate or be a sponsor or be a sponsor.

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING IN ANY WAY. All proceeds benefit St. Irene School ~ but the fun of the evening benefits all who attend and contribute! We look forward to seeing everybody in February (and hearing from you sooner)!

FOR INFORMATION & TO SIGN UP, CONTACT
Stacey Riggs  Kim LaDeur
riggsstacey@aol.com  klad89@hotmail.com
Shannon Ryson
swryson@gmail.com
Join us for Mass at Mercy Home  
**Sunday, January 28, 2018**

You may be familiar with Sunday Mass at Mercy Home for Boys and Girls which airs on WGN-TV, Channel 9 on Sundays at 9:30AM. We have been invited to participate in a taping of the show and to join in the televised Masses for the 16th and 18th Sundays of Ordinary Time to be celebrated with Father Carl Morello (brother of fellow Knight of Columbus, Vince Morello). These Masses will be aired in July and August.

The date is Sunday, January 28, 2018. We will meet at 1:30PM at Mercy Home, 1140 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. The taping will occur between 2:30-4PM and there will be a complimentary luncheon beforehand. We hope to have a good showing, but can accommodate no more than twenty people for the television audience. RSVP by Monday, January 22nd so I can let Mercy Home staff know how many to expect for the luncheon.

There is free parking at Mercy Home and plenty of street-parking available. Unfortunately, the Home is not handicapped-accessible. Free will donations are appreciated by the Home which is a Catholic charity and child welfare agency. This event will be “first come, first served.” Seasonal clothing is de rigueur.

This is a fun experience and I encourage families to bring their children (over 5 years old). For more information or to make your reservation, please contact Joe Kubal by telephone at 630.983.6159 or by email at SMKubal0712@aol.com.

**Jan. 18 - Knights of Columbus Youth Free Throw Challenge**

All boys and girls ages 9-14 are invited to participate in the 2018 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest to be held at St. Irene’s Activity Center Gym on Thursday, January 18 just after school at 3PM. Winners will progress through district and state competitions. The regional competition will take place in March at Benedictine University, Lisle. Participants are required to furnish proof of age. Registration begins at 3PM at the gym. Please contact Scott Hurley at 773.677.9057 for details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Readings for the Week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday:</strong> 1 Sm 15:16-23; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mk 2:18-22</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday:</strong> 1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 89:20-22, 27-28; Mk 2:23-28</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday:</strong> 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Mk 3:1-6</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday:</strong> 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Ps 56:2-3, 9-13; Mk 3:7-12</td>
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<td><strong>Friday:</strong> 1 Sm 24:3-21; Ps 57:2-4, 6, 11; Mk 3:13-19</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday:</strong> 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Ps 80:2-3, 5-7; Mk 3:20-21</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday:</strong> Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20</td>
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**22nd Annual Knights of Columbus Super Bowl Raffle & Party**

**Parishioners and Friends,** you are invited to participate in the 21st Annual Knights of Columbus Super Bowl Raffle to be held during a Super Bowl party held at the St. Irene Activity Center on February 4. The Raffle is a major fundraiser for the St. Irene Knights of Columbus Council at St. Irene. It is a 50-50 cash raffle with half of the proceeds awarded to participants, and the other half retained by the local Council to be used for programs that benefit the St. Irene Parish, Grade School, and community outreach programs. This year our focus is to fund Bridge Communities.

For the raffle, tickets at $25 dollar per square are being sold for two separate Faith and Hope Pools, and a $50 ticket per square is being sold for the Charity Pool. Cash prizes ranging from $25 to $500 will be awarded throughout the football game on Super Bowl Sunday. You may split the cost of a ticket with your friends.

**Buy your raffle tickets early for two early drawings.** Starting January 13, raffle tickets will be available from KC representatives prior to, and following the Masses at St. Irene each weekend until Super Bowl Sunday. Tickets will be placed into Early Bird drawings to be held after the 10AM Masses on January 21 and 28. Early bird raffle winners remain eligible for drawings on Super Bowl Sunday.

**2017 Charitable Giving Reports**

All parishioners who donated money or other gifts to the church or school will receive a report of those donations before January 31, 2018. These will be itemized to show all your gifts to the church, school, or its activities. When you receive this, please review and contact the office 630.393.2400 x 110 if you find information that does not agree with your records. We will work with you to reconcile that issue.

Donors using the WeShare (formerly Parish Pay) will not receive a separate report from We Share. Those gifts will be reflected on the statement you receive from the parish.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>This Week’s Meetings</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, January 14</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30a-12:30p - Hospitality (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)</td>
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<td>11a-12:15p - HS Confirmation Class (HF)</td>
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<td>11a-2p - CCW Carenet Baby Shower @ Hospitality</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15a-12:15p - Special Sacrament Group (S)</td>
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<td><strong>Monday, January 15</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2:30p - Consoling the Heart of Jesus (ACL)</td>
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<td>3-5p - Basketball Practice (ACU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30-7p - Basketball Practice (ACU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-8:30p - Consoling the Heart of Jesus (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, January 16</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3-5p - Basketball Practice (ACU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30-7p - Elementary Religious Education (C &amp; S)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-8:30p - CCW (ACL)</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, January 17</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8-10:30a - PACE (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-5p - Basketball Practice (ACU)</td>
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<td>6:30-8p - Jr. High RE (Off Site)</td>
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<td>7-9p - Worship Commission (HF)</td>
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<td>7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, January 18</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2-5p - KC Free Throw Contest (ACU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30-8:30p - Ecumenical Potluck (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-8p - Rosary Group (HF)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, January 19</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-8:30p - American Heritage Girls (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, January 20</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2-4p - Marriage Prep (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, January 21</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11a-12:30p - RCIA (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11a-12:30p - Baptism Prep 2nd Session (S)</td>
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**Week of Prayer 2018**

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity began as an eight day period of prayer called the Church Unity Octave by founders of the Society of the Atonement. This week of prayer emphasizes the importance of cooperation and understanding. As Christians, we pray and work together seeking to bring about unity in our divided world.

Throughout the Biblical narrative of salvation, an unmistakable motif is the unrelenting determination of the Lord to form a people whom He could call His own. The formation of such a people, united in a sacred covenant with God, is integral to the Lord’s plan of salvation and to the glorification of His name. The prophets repeatedly remind Israel that their covenant demanded that relationships among its various social groups should be characterized by justice, compassion and mercy. Reconciliation often demands repentance, reparation and healing of memories.

As Jesus prepared to seal the new covenant in His own blood, His earnest prayer to the Father was that those given to Him by the Father would be one, just as He and the Father were one. When Christians discover their unity in Jesus, they participate in Christ's glorification in the presence of the Father, with the same glory that He had lived in the Father's presence before the world existed. Therefore, God's covenanted people must always strive to be a reconciled community that serves as an effective sign of how to live in justice and peace for all the people of the earth.

Once again the Churches of Warrenville will gather for prayer and fellowship. This year St. Irene Parish will host the Unity Service and Pot Luck on Thursday, January 18 at 6:30PM in the ACL. All are welcome. Please sign up to bring a dish to pass at the table located in the Narthex.

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**Grief Support**

Losing someone close has never been and will never be an easy part of life, and grief is a natural and necessary component of the healing process. Every individual’s experience with grief is unique. There is no set amount of pain felt, no predetermined timeline, no fixed number of tears. We recognize the importance of having a strong support system. In response to the needs of our community, our parish offers a bereavement support group to assist those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. The winter sessions will be held on Thursday evenings at 6:30PM on January 11, January 25, February 1, and February 15 in the Holy Family Room of the Parish Center.

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**Remember our Faithful Departed in your Prayers**

♦ Connie Butler
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.

St. Irene Rosary Group

The St. Irene Rosary Group meets the third Thursday of each month in the ACL** from 7-8PM then followed by fellowship. Please plan on joining us on January 18th and bring a friend.

For more information, please call Jeanette Clark at 630.292.9349.

** This month we will meet in the Holy Family Room located in the Parish Center.

Scout Sunday 2018

All area scouts, including American Heritage Girls, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, & Girls Scouts are invited to attend the 2018 Scout Sunday Mass on: Sunday, February 4, 2018 at the 10AM Mass.

Please arrive at 9:30AM in the ACU to line up. Remember to wear your uniform. If you have any questions, contact Elaine Perez at 630.851.9551 or elaine_perez@hotmail.com.

Liturgical Calendar

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Mass</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, January 15</td>
<td>7:00AM</td>
<td>Clyde Nilges/ Cathy Kott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 16</td>
<td>7:00AM</td>
<td>Susan Tappen—Birthday/ Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 17</td>
<td>7:00AM</td>
<td>Lon Russell/ Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 18</td>
<td>7:00AM</td>
<td>Roberta Featherstone/ Friends</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30AM</td>
<td>Eucharistic Adoration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, January 19</td>
<td>7:00AM</td>
<td>For the Healing of Our Friends &amp; Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, January 20</td>
<td>5:00PM</td>
<td>Leahy/Grillo Family/ Pierson Families</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, January 21</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>St. Irene Faith Community</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00AM</td>
<td>Jim Rieser/ Carol &amp; Greg Bartus</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:30AM</td>
<td>Baptism Ceremony</td>
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St. Irene School will host our Annual Open House on January 28, from 9 AM-1PM, and on February 2, from 9-11AM. St. Irene school provides all day preschool, all day Kindergarten, and before and after school care. In addition, students can choose to participate in a variety of arts and athletic programs, all the while serving their community. For information please stop in and talk to our families, or call our office at 630.393.9303.

Michelle Vize
Ann Mulcahy
Susanne Lambert
Beverly Oliveri
Patti Menconi
Kate Preston
Mary Hafertepe
Judy Colonero
Joe Gattone

Donna Pelletier
Lynette Meany
Mary Vander Meulen
Valder Morales
Max Malesh
Barb Houston
Paula Lopat
Colette Malovany
Charlie Fahrenwald