ABOVE JESUS ON THE CROSS THERE WAS AN INSCRIPTION THAT READ,

“This is the King of the Jews.”

Luke 23:38
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

When we think of Christ the King, we usually do not think of Jesus hanging on the cross, but rather the risen Christ, seated at the right hand of the Father, wearing the crown bestowed upon Him by the Father. But Luke presents us with an image of Christ whose reign begins on the cross with His promise of Paradise to a thief hanging at His side.

Jesus brings about the kingdom even in the last moment of His life, extending the mercy of God to yet another nameless outsider, a thief “condemned justly” to death (Luke 23:41). This man recognizes Jesus both as a man who “has done nothing criminal,” but also one who is about to “come into [his] kingdom” (23:41, 42).

The kingdom of God that Jesus proclaimed as being “already in your midst” is present in Jesus on the cross, extending mercy by asking God to forgive those who have crucified Him, for “they know not what they do” (23:34). To the thief who asks Jesus to remember him when he comes into His kingdom, Jesus promises, “Today you will be with me in Paradise” (23:43). What wonderful words to bring the church year to a close.

We might think of this dying thief as one who stole heaven at the last moment, but perhaps that is inaccurate. How could it be a theft when Paradise was there for the taking? The Crucified One Himself being the King of Hearts, the Shepherd King lifted up one last time a beloved sheep who had wandered far astray but unexpectedly found Himself at heaven’s door. If we call Him king, it is because He was faithful to His calling, not to save Himself but to save us.

—James A. Wallace, c.ss.r.

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LIVING GOD’S WORD: Let your heart speak to the thief in this story. Do you have anything to say to or ask him? Then, talk to Jesus about what you want most to ask from Him, what you experience as your greatest need at this time in your life.

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Youth Group Friendsgiving

♦ Saturday, November 30th
♦ Join us for the 5PM Mass, followed by a Friendsgiving Dinner and fun in the ACL. Bring a dish to pass!
♦ RSVP to Rosario Herbst 630.988.9753

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MASS SCHEDULE

▪ Daily: M-F 7AM  ▪ Saturday: 5PM  ▪ Sunday: 8AM & 10AM
Help St. Irene to Help Those in Your Community!

Each year our Parish participates in the Christmas Sharing program. Since 1969 Churches, schools, and community organizations have come together to help the needy families. You can help by donating warm clothing, scarves, gloves, caps, coats, new and like-new toys, and baby items such as diapers and wipes. Please place your donations in the boxes labeled Christmas Sharing at any of the Church entrances. We provide each family with gift cards in hopes to provide a nice holiday meal. You can purchase these cards through ShopRite and help our Church ($10 increments). Cash donations can also be made at the Parish in an envelope marked Christmas Sharing. Volunteers who’d like to help pitch in with organizing donated items by sorting, folding, and displaying items are very much needed. Spanish speakers are extremely helpful on shopping days to help our guests with questions. Please reflect on how you might be able to help our community this year. You can call Teri Lindeman at 630.248.5885 with any questions. We will be collecting items the weekends of November 30th, December 1st and December 7th and 8th.

Pancake Breakfast with Santa!
Sunday, Dec. 8th
8:30AM-12:30PM
In the ACL

All-you-can-eat pancakes!
Photos with Santa Claus from 9AM-12PM!
Bring your family and friends for fellowship, all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, & eggs!
$6 per person / $20 for a family of 4 or more

Today’s solemnity, the final feast of the Church year, is a younger as feasts go. In 1925, Pope Pius XI was distressed by global political upheaval and the de-Christianizing of society. That year was a “Holy Year,” keyed to the sixteen hundredth anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, when the words “and of his kingdom there will be no end” were added to the Creed. The Pope explained that although most feasts had developed over many centuries, the Church sometimes provided a new feast to address new needs. He pointed to the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, showing Christ’s love and compassion in a time when many people embraced a cold and gloomy spirituality. Originally on the last Sunday of October, in the late 1960s the solemnity of Christ the King was moved to the last Sunday of the year.

Fresh from baptism’s waters, we are anointed with chrism “as Christ was anointed priest, prophet, and king.” This feast is a key to our identity. On this feast, we recognize Christ as a king who breaks the usual mold of kingship, and who shapes his kingdom with our hands, our words, our deeds of love and service.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Join us for Mass at Mercy Home
Sunday, December 15, 2019

You may be familiar with Sunday Mass at Mercy Home for Boys and Girls. We are invited to participate in a taping of the show and to join in the televised Masses for the Feast of the Holy Family to be celebrated with Fr. Carl Morello (brother of fellow Knight of Columbus, Vince Morello) and The Baptism of the Lord to be celebrated by Fr. Scott Donahue, head of Mercy Home. These Masses will be aired on Dec. 29, 2019 and Jan. 5, 2020.

The date is Sunday, December 15th. We will meet between 11:30-11:45AM at Mercy Home, 1140 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. The taping will occur between 12:30-2PM with a complimentary luncheon beforehand. We can only accommodate twenty people. You must RSVP by Monday, Dec. 9th.

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, contact Joe Kubal at 630.983.6159 or SMKubal0712@aol.com.
Family Faith Formation (Religious Education)

Happy Thanksgiving!
There are NO classes this week.

Gospel Weekly Family Discussion:
Gospel of Luke 23:25-43 - Jesus is ridiculed for not saving His own life as He has saved others. A fellow criminal speaks up for Jesus. He asks Jesus to remember him. Jesus promises that they will be in Heaven together soon.

Question of the Week:
♦ How do you know when you have been forgiven?

Gospel Questions:
♦ Which title better expresses who Jesus is for you - Christ the King or Christ Our King?
♦ What kind of king is Jesus?
♦ How does Jesus lead us?

Life Questions:
♦ Whom do you need to forgive?
♦ What is forgiveness like?
♦ Why can it be hard to ask for forgiveness?

Family Prayer:
♦ Jesus, forgiving other people is hard to do. Help us to follow your example of forgiveness. Amen.

Whole Parish Catechesis
Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Please be generous in this week’s special collection, which supports the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. In the United States, one in six people live in poverty. Through this collection, you support programs that address the causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for people across the country who struggle. In addition, 25% of the funds we collect will remain in our diocese to fund local antipoverty projects. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and work on the margins. More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development can be found at www.usccb.org/cchd/collection.

Altar Server Training and Refresher Saturday, December 7th
♦ 9AM - Current Server Meeting/ Refresher (HF)
♦ 10AM - Experienced Server Cross Bearer and Thurifer Training (Church)
♦ 11AM - New Server Training (Church)
♦ RSVP - st.irenechurchservers@gmail.com

Reading I: 2 Samuel 5:1-3
♦ David is anointed King.

Background: When the Israelites anoint David as king, they claim him as brother, a condition for kingship required to prevent foreign rule. After the kingship ceased, people longed for the time of David, an age of peace and prosperity. Some people hoped for a renewal of the kingdom. Others were looking for a specific person, a messiah of either kingly or priestly rank.

Reading II: Colossians 1:12-20
♦ Give thanks to the Father.

Background: This Letter presents a different image of kingship. Kingship now involved preeminence over all creation. The kingdom has moved into eternity, and Christ is the first within it.

♦ You will be with me in paradise.

Background: At the crucifixion, Jesus died with the sign nailed over His head, “The King of the Jews.” Jesus did not fit the common image of the anointed king or messiah. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus promises a place in His kingdom to one of the criminals executed with Him. The good thief was promised a place in “Paradise” because Jesus’ death marked the beginning of a new way to salvation.

Theme: In Christ, everything continues in being.

Question for Adults:
As you think about Jesus on the cross, having compassion on the “good thief,” what lesson do you draw from it for your own life?

Question for Youth:
This week we celebrate Christ the King. In the best sense of the word, a King is someone who cares for the people under his care, and also has authority over them. When have you felt Jesus’ care for you? How do you allow Jesus to have authority over you?

Question for Children:
Jesus is always kind to those who love Him. How do you show your love for Jesus?
The Christmas Giving Tree this year will have tags for the Illinois Youth Center in Warrenville, as well as for our Bridge Community families. The trees will be in the narthex starting Nov. 30th & Dec. 1st. The tags have specific requests. Please return your unwrapped gift with the tag taped to the box or bag by Sunday, December 15th.

The air is colder and the holidays are near, time to celebrate with friends we hold dear.

St. Irene Seniors’ LunchBunch Ministry
Christmas Luncheon

Where: ACL
When: Thursday, Dec. 5
Time: 11:30AM

Come join us for fun, fellowship and of course food!
Please RSVP no later than Monday, December 2nd to Annette at 630.393.2400 x 122 or annette@st-irene.org.

If you choose, you may bring a nonperishable food item for the St. Irene Food Pantry.

Our ministry is for anyone 55 years or over. We don’t ask for much, just friendly faces at the tables.

The KC-6710, VFW Post 808, the Lions Club and the American Legion Post 589 will sponsor a Community Blood Drive on Saturday, December 7th from 7-11:30AM at the VFW. Make an appointment at www.versiti.org/IL. There will be a full breakfast. Photo ID is required. All presenting donors will receive a $10 Colonial Café gift certificate. Walk-ins Are Welcome!
Help us save lives this holiday season by donating blood. Remember, one donation can save up to THREE LIVES!

Advent Penance Service
Please join us on Wednesday, December 4th at 7PM in the church to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Happenings Around Town & the Diocese

Free Thanksgiving Dinner - Trinity Lutheran Church (on the corner of Warrenville Rd. & Curtis Ave.) is providing a FREE Thanksgiving Dinner to anyone who would like to come. Please join us on Thursday, November 28th from 12-2PM. No strings attached!

Catholic Charismatic Healing Mass - This Mass will take place at St. Margaret Mary Church in Naperville on Friday, November 29th. Father Paul Hottinger will preside. Sacrament of Reconciliation will begin at 6:30PM followed by Mass at 7:30PM. For more information, please call Joey Rose at 630.926.6576.

Marmion Christmas Craft Show - The Marmion Alumni Association is hosting the 29th annual Marmion Christmas Craft Show on Saturday, November 30th from 9AM-4PM and Sunday, December 1st from 10AM-2PM at Marmion Academy in Aurora. Admission is $5 for ages 12 and older with plenty of FREE parking. This year’s show will feature 180+ crafters and vendors. Enjoy lunch prepared by Belgio’s Catering and get your freshly baked pie sold by the Flannigan Rifles Drill Team. A Bloody Mary & Mimosa Bar will be available on Sunday for those 21 and older. For information, please visit marmion.org/craftshow or call the Marmion Alumni Office at 630.966.7628.

#GivingTuesday - On Dec. 3, the Diocese of Joliet is participating in Giving Tuesday! For information about the CMAA before Giving Tuesday, follow @DioceseofJoliet on Facebook or Twitter or visit jolietdioceseappeal.org.

Remember our Faithful Departed in your Prayers

♦ Richard White, Sr.
♦ John Robinson
**This Week’s Meetings**

**Sunday, November 24**
- 10-10:45a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 12:30p - Holiday Church Cleaning (C)

**Monday, November 25**
- 1-2:30p - Adult Education: Come Holy Spirit (ACL)
- 7-8:30p - Adult Education: Come Holy Spirit (Chapel)
- 7-9p - Boy Scout Court of Honor (ACL)

**Tuesday, November 26**

**Wednesday, November 27**
- 7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)

**Thursday, November 28**

**Friday, November 29**

**Saturday, November 30**
- 6-9p - High School Youth Group Friendsgiving (ACL)

**Sunday, December 1**
- 10-10:45a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)

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**St. Irene Rosary Tree**

The Holy Rosary is one of the most powerful prayers of our Catholic faith. Across the ages, Jesus and Mary have frequently reminded us to pray the Rosary often. To promote this beautiful prayer, the Knights of Columbus have generously donated the cost of having a wood artisan carve a tabletop Rosary Tree to display in our Church. The Tree, in the shape of a heart, honors the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and will serve as a beautiful reminder to pray the Rosary often.

Thanks to the Knights’ generosity, we will be able to borrow a Rosary from the Tree...Pray...and then either keep the Rosary as a reminder to pray it often or return it to the Tree for the next Prayer Warrior. The Tree will hold as many as 50 Rosaries; so we are looking for Rosary donations. There is a small, round cardboard box in the Narthex labeled **Knights of Columbus Rosary donations**. Please drop off any surplus Rosaries you have into the box. We will display them on the Rosary Tree when it arrives!

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**Upcoming Bulletin Deadlines**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bulletin</th>
<th>Deadline is 8AM on:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 1, 2019</td>
<td>Has Passed</td>
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<td>December 8, 2019</td>
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<td>December 22, 2019</td>
<td>Wednesday, Dec. 11</td>
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<td>December 29, 2019</td>
<td>Friday, Dec. 13</td>
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<td>January 5, 2020</td>
<td>Wednesday, Dec. 18</td>
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**Regular deadline - 8AM on the Friday a week prior to print.**

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**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Our Holiday Church Cleaning will take place on Sunday, November 24 at 12:30PM.**

This is a wonderful way to serve our community and honor our Lord as together we to prepare His house for the season of Advent.

Families are invited, children may serve with a parent. Please bring buckets and rags. Cleaning products will be provided.

Contact Katie Augustynowicz via email or text if you will be joining in the fun!
- katieaugustynowicz@hotmail.com
- or text her at 630.772.3171.

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**Our Lady of Guadalupe**

All are welcome to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patron saint of the Americas, on Saturday, December 7th at the 5PM Mass.

A Mexican Fiesta will be held in the ACL afterwards. All authentic Mexican food is prepared by members of our parish. A free-will donation will be taken at the door.

The monies raised will go to the most immediate repairs needed at St Irene. This celebration is sponsored by the Ladies of Columbus Auxiliary.
Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told

The original 33-Days group is back! Join Mary, Jeannette, Donna and Amy as we delve deeper into Jesus’ Unconditional Love and Divine Mercy. This no-cost Retreat, titled Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told, is narrated by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, and will move you like no other. Join us on this journey as Fr. Gaitley uncovers the many ways God has approached us through the ages to deliver the message that He truly is Love and Mercy. God’s Love abounds beyond anything we have experienced or could imagine. As for His Mercy…well, let’s put it this way…There is no sin greater than His Mercy. Discover the power that comes with complete Trust in Our Lord, as we follow Jesus’ path through history, and walk with the Saints He chose to help Him spread His Love and Mercy message. This 11-session Lenten Retreat begins January 6th and meets Mondays at 1PM or 7PM. It concludes at the doorstep of Holy Week, Easter Sunday, and the Feast of Divine Mercy. Sign up in the Narthex or via email: jaclark1129@gmail.com. Registration required. Contact Jeannette Clark at 630.292.9349 with questions.

Last Day to drop off for “Share Your Soles” is next Sunday, December 1st!

Marc Alleruzzo
Pat Wehner
Mark Sevik
Fred Smith
Sam Vitale
Desiree Sheppard
Patti Grispino
Mary George
Tim Rasplicka
Fr. Jim
Rachel Jaraisus
Lynette Meany
Mary Vander Meulen
Valder Morales
Max Malesh
Colette Malovany

Lance CPL Jeff Sommer - Camp Fuji, Japan
Chief Petty Officer Michael Spans
Capt. Weston J. Umano USAF - Deployed
E3 Jacob VanderMeulen, USNavy, San Diego
1st Class Patrick Reid - Lackland AFB, TX
1st Lt. Keegan Loheny USMC - Camp Pendleton
Master Sgt. Dan Peterson - Anchorage, AK
TSgt. Daniel Geinosky - Serving in England
Sgt. Christian Wilkins - stationed in Iraq
Sgt. Levi Dieter - Virginia Marine Base
Cmdr. Eric G. Peterson - Serving in San Diego
Sgt. Peter Folz - Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Major Patrick Looby - Kunsan AB, S.K.
Sgt. Thomas Rasplicka - Fort Bliss, Texas

Liturgical Calendar

Monday, November 25
St. Catherine of Alexandria
7:00AM - Carol Pitz/ Cathy Kott

Tuesday, November 26
Weekday
7:00AM - For Those Who Attend 7AM Mass

Wednesday, November 27
Weekday
7:00AM - Irene Bollweg/ Family

Thursday, November 28
Weekday; Thanksgiving
9:00AM - St. Irene Faith Community

Sunday, December 1
First Sunday of Advent
7:00AM - No Mass
8:15AM - No Mass

Friday, November 29
Weekday

Saturday, November 30
Vigil: First Sunday of Advent
10:00AM - Baptism Ceremony
5:00PM - Mackenzie Walsh/ Gruneisen Family
Luann Jonsen/ St. Irene Community

Sunday, December 1
First Sunday of Advent
8:00AM - Ed & Edna Miller/ Friends
10:00AM - Elsie Simon/ Family
Battaglia Family

Readings for the Week

Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Dn 3:52-56; Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45; Dn 3:57-61; Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Dn 3:62-67; Lk 21:12-19
Thursday: Dn 6:12-28; Dn 3:68-74; Lk 21:20-28
Thanksgiving Day, Suggested:
Sir 50:22-24; Ps 145:2-11; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19
Friday: Dn 7:2-14; Dn 3:75-81; Lk 21:29-33
Saturday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22
Sunday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44