FIRST SUNDAY of Advent

December 1, 2019

You must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.

Matthew 24:44
**Staff Directory**

| PARISH CENTER: | 28W441 Warrenville Rd.  
Warrenville, IL 60555 |
| PHONE: | 630.393.2400 |
| FAX: | 630.393.9680 |
| WEB: | www.st-irene.org |
| E-MAIL: | parishoffice@st-irene.org |
| PASTOR: | Rev. James Antiporek x 113 |
| DEACONS: | Brad Hentz - brad@st-irene.org  
Joe Urso x 130 - joe@st-irene.org |
| PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: | Annette Kubalanza x 122 |
| MUSIC DIRECTOR: | Ryan Matthew Rump |
| BUSINESS MANAGER: | Fred Schlick x 114 |
| FACILITY MANAGER: | John Marotto x 115 |
| ADMIN. ASSISTANT: | Pat Jackowiak x 110  
Shari Meyers x 110 |
| RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: |  |
| DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 1-6: | Cathy Berning x 121 |
| DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 7-8: | Pamela Keating x 120 |
| ADMIN. ASSISTANT: | Rosario Herbst x 119 |
| SCHOOL: | 3S601 Warren Avenue |
| PHONE: | 630.393.9303 |
| FAX: | 630.393.7009 |
| WEB: | www.st-ireneschool.org |
| PRINCIPAL: | Maggie Detwiler x 136 |
| ADMIN. ASSISTANT: | Julie Duquette x 116 |

**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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**First Sunday of Advent**

**Reflecting on God’s Word**

“O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel!” So begins the familiar chant that will be heard in churches throughout the world this Advent. It is based on the O Antiphons, which are the verses for the Gospel acclamation at Mass on the last seven days of Advent. Each of those antiphons prays for the coming of Christ, and each one seems to capture the spirit of a different Sunday of Advent. The verse that harmonizes with this Sunday’s scriptures expresses our longing for the “Radiant Dawn” of the Lord’s coming at the end of time when the “sun of justice” will “shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.” In the readings we hear Isaiah describe the peaceful “days to come,” when all will “walk in the light of the Lord!” (Isaiah 2:2, 5). Paul tells us it is time “to awake from sleep” and “put on the armor of light” for “the day is at hand” (Romans 13:11, 13, 12). Jesus, too, cautions us to “stay awake” to be ready for the “day your Lord will come” (Matthew 24:42).

All around us we seem to be getting a similar message: “No time to waste! Only thirty shopping days left till Christmas! Don’t be caught unprepared!” What’s the difference between the two messages? One tells us to anticipate a day of giving and getting and eating and drinking. We might prepare for that day by rushing and buying and wrapping and baking. The other tells us to anticipate a day, not of avarice and jealousy, but of justice for the oppressed and peace on earth. We will prepare for that day when we “throw off the works of darkness” and “put on the Lord Jesus Christ.”

—Virginia Stillwell

**LIVING GOD’S WORD:** What will it mean for you to “walk in the light of the Lord” this Advent? Will it mean changing an aspect of your life that is darkened by sin, or noticing and alleviating some of the suffering in our world?

**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

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**Mass Schedule**

- **Daily:** M-F 7AM  
- **Saturday:** 5PM  
- **Sunday:** 8AM & 10AM
December 4 - From almost 1300 years ago, John’s message for the church’s spirituality and mission is surprisingly contemporary. Pope Benedict said that in our modern culture of images, sacred images often speak more eloquently than words. This “incarnational theology,” the concept that visible, tangible elements can give believers access to divine realities beyond, found an eloquent champion in John of Damascus. He challenged the Iconoclasts (image-breakers), whose misinterpretation of the biblical prohibition of idolatrous images (Exodus 20:4-5) led them to campaign for the destruction of all sacred art. Before this controversy, however, John bore witness to Christ in a way that provides a timely example for Christians in today’s pluralistic society. Succeeding his grandfather and father, John served as chief financial officer to the Muslim caliph, professing his Christian faith without compromise, while winning the esteem of his Islamic sovereign by his competence and integrity. No wonder John could eloquently defend icons as “windows into heaven” — he had already learned to see Christ in the living icons of people different from himself yet fashioned in the same divine image!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
Family Faith Formation
(Religious Education)

Classes meet on Tuesday, Dec. 3rd (Gr 1-6 in the classroom) 5:30-7PM and Wednesday, Dec. 4th (Gr 7-8 in the ACL) 6:30-8PM. Parents meet their children on Tuesdays at 6:45PM in Church and Wednesdays at 7:45PM in the ACL.

Gospel Weekly Family Discussion:

Gospel of Matthew 24:37-44 - Jesus tells His disciples that He will surprise everyone when He returns. Since we expect Jesus’ return but do not know when it will be, we must be ready to welcome Him at any time.

Question of the Week:
♦ What can you do to get ready to celebrate Jesus’ coming at Christmas?

Gospel Questions:
♦ How do you stay attentive to God’s presence with us on a daily basis?
♦ When will Jesus come in glory?
♦ In what ways can we be ready for Jesus’ coming at Christmas?

Life Questions:
♦ What gifts has God given you to share?
♦ When have you felt scared and left out?
♦ What are some ways your family gets ready for Christmas?

Family Prayer:
♦ God, help us to make room in our home and our hearts to welcome Jesus. Amen.

Thank you for your generous support last week for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development that supports those who live on the margins and in poverty in the United States. If you missed the collection, it’s not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/cchd/collection and click on “How to Give” on the left.
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!

Advent Vigil Service with Gavin Coyle -
Join us at St. Joan of Arc Parish in Lisle on Friday, December 13th & 20th at 7PM for an Advent Vigil Service with Music led by Gavin Coyle. Hospitality will follow each service. For more information, go to www.sjalisle.org.

Live Nativity - Trinity Lutheran Church invites you to their Live Nativity on Saturday, Dec. 14th at 6PM and 7PM and Sunday, December 15th at 5PM & 6PM. This is an outdoor Nativity featuring: Trinity Lutheran Choir, Live Cast, Live Stable Animals and Refreshments. For more information, please call 630.393.9104.

The Agape Ringers - Join us for Sounds of the Season 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!

Happenings Around Town & the Diocese

Retirement Fund for Religious
Please give to those who have given a lifetime.
Religious brothers, sisters and order priests have dedicated their lives to ministering to those in need. Today, with longer life expectancies and rising health care costs, the challenge to provide retirement funding is compounded. Please prayerfully, consider contributing next week. For information go to retiredreligious.org.
This Week’s Meetings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 1</td>
<td>10-10:45a</td>
<td>Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, December 2</td>
<td>1-2:30p</td>
<td>Waiting with Joy (ACL)</td>
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<td>6-8p</td>
<td>Administration Commission (Staff)</td>
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<td>6:30-8:30p</td>
<td>Healing Horizons (ACL)</td>
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<td>7-8:30p</td>
<td>Waiting with Joy (Chapel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 3</td>
<td>5:30-7p</td>
<td>Elementary Religious Education (C, S)</td>
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<td>7-9p</td>
<td>School Board (HF)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, December 4</td>
<td>12:15-3:30p</td>
<td>Band (ACL)</td>
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<td>6:30-8p</td>
<td>Junior High Religious Education (C, S, AC)</td>
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<td>Thursday, December 5</td>
<td>11:30a-2p</td>
<td>The LunchBunch (ACL)</td>
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<td>7-8:30p</td>
<td>CCW (ACL)</td>
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<td>Friday, December 6</td>
<td>12:15-3:30p</td>
<td>Band (ACL)</td>
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<td>6-10p</td>
<td>Ladies of Columbus (ACL)</td>
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<td>Saturday, December 7</td>
<td>9-10a</td>
<td>Current Altar Server Meeting (HF)</td>
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<td>10-11a</td>
<td>Server CrossBearer &amp; Thurifer Training (C)</td>
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<td>11a-12p</td>
<td>New Server Training (C)</td>
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<td>6-9p</td>
<td>Our Lady of Guadalupe Mexican Fiesta (ACL)</td>
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<td>Sunday, December 8</td>
<td>8:30-12:30p</td>
<td>Breakfast with Santa (ACL)</td>
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<td>3-11p</td>
<td>PACE Set-up (ACU)</td>
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Join us for Mass at Mercy Home
Sunday, December 15, 2019

You are invited to participate in a taping of Mass at the Mercy Home for Boys and Girls which 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.

There is free parking at Mercy Home and plenty of street-parking available. If anyone has need of a chairlift, we need to know in advance. The chairlift has a 300 lb. limit. Free-will donations would be appreciated by the Home which is a Catholic charity and child welfare agency.

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.

Upcoming Bulletin Deadlines

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 22, 2019</td>
<td>Wednesday, Dec. 11</td>
<td>Sunday Bulletin: Deadline is 8AM on:</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 29, 2019</td>
<td>Friday, Dec. 13</td>
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<tr>
<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.

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: jac Clark1129@gmail.com. Registration required. Contact Jeannette Clark at 630.292.9349 with questions.

Readings for the Week

Monday:  Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday:  Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:  Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35-10:1
Sunday:  Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

Liturgical Calendar

Monday, December 2
Advent Weekday
7:00AM - Loretta Paver/ Family

Tuesday, December 3
St. Francis Xavier
7:00AM - Jerry Wilcox/ Friends

Wednesday, December 4
St. John Damascene
7:00AM - Margaret M. Hatch/ Hatch Family
7:00PM - Advent Penance Service

Thursday, December 5
Advent Weekday
7:00AM - St. Irene Faith Community
7:30AM - Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, December 6
St. Nicholas; First Friday
8:00AM - Carol Atkinson/ Friends
10:00AM - Birthday/Anniversary Mass
Blessing of the Rosary Tree
Elsie Simon/ Family
Hal Dirienzo/ Tom & Pat McHugh

Saturday, December 7
Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent
5:00PM - Our Lady of Guadalupe
Lupé Pyszka/ Friends

Sunday, December 8
Second Sunday of Advent
8:00AM - Carol Atkinson/ Friends
10:00AM - Birthday/Anniversary Mass
Blessing of the Rosary Tree
Elsie Simon/ Family
Hal Dirienzo/ Tom & Pat McHugh

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 Pendelton
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

We Hold in Pray For Those Who Serve Our Country