"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home."

Matthew 1:20

St. Irene Faith Community

Sunday of Advent

FOURTH

December 22, 2019
Staff Directory

PARISH CENTER: 28W441 Warrenville Rd.
Warrenville, IL 60555
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FAX: 630.393.9680
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E-MAIL: parishoffice@st-irene.org
PASTOR: Rev. James Antiporek x 113
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          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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reflecting on God’s Word

The Bible offers us a rich variety of men and women who qualify as heroes, warriors, prophets, and wise men and women. And every so often it places before us a dreamer. Jacob had the first big dream, with that ladder connecting heaven and earth, bearing ascending and descending angels.

His son Joseph started off with dreams that put himself at the center, much to his brothers’ chagrin, but later he saved himself by interpreting the dreams of others, including Pharaoh. However, the most important dreamer of all was Joseph, spouse of Mary and foster father to Jesus.

Joseph was asked to live out his dream. “Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her,” he was told in a dream (Matthew 1:20). And not only that, he was to name the child Jesus, which means “God saves.” What all this cost him we don’t know. All we hear is that when he awoke from the dream, he did what had been asked and took Mary into his home.

That wasn’t the end of the dreams. “Joseph, take the mother and child into Egypt—Herod is trying to kill him.” “Joseph, take the mother and child out of Egypt—Herod is dead.” And Joseph did. Maybe once you begin to live God’s dream it gets easier.

God’s dream is that we live in the world as God’s adopted and saved children, working to bring God’s peace and justice, mercy and forgiveness into our world wherever they are needed.

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

LIVING GOD’S WORD: We ask God to continue to save us in our own day from all that would lead us away from God. We ask God to continue to help us to know Jesus as Emmanuel, God with us, so that our faith may be rooted in the wisdom and power of God.

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From Everyone on Staff!

Mass Schedule
- Daily: M-F 7AM
- Saturday: 5PM
- Sunday: 8AM & 10AM
Gingerbread House Campaign

For the past 6 years, St Irene Parish through Bridge Communities has assisted families by helping them on their journey from homelessness to financial stability. We are currently working with two families and through your generous donations we are able to commit to supporting these families through this transition for two years.

We kicked off our Gingerbread House campaign the week-end of December 7th & 8th. The Gingerbread House Campaign is one of two annual fundraisers we hold to raise funds to continue the work of Bridge Communities. As we look to put a roof over every family, we ask you to help us build a roof on our Gingerbread House. Stop by the table in the back of the church to make your donation and add a shingle to our roof. In addition, you can make a donation to our campaign using our WeShare parish pay program. Any donation is appreciated.

St. Irene’s Bridge Committee is a volunteer team committed to being fiscally responsible stewards of the donations of the St. Irene Community. Our policy is to have the funds required to support a family for two years on hand before committing to a new family. All of the money raised goes to fund the housing of a St. Irene sponsored family. Thank you to the St. Irene generous parishioners for supporting this wonderful ministry.

Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24
5PM Youth Choir and Mass
10PM Parish Festival of Carols & Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25
10AM Mass of Christmas

Holy Family
Saturday, December 28 - 5PM Vigil Mass
Sunday, December 29 - 8AM & 10AM Masses

Solemnity of Mary
Wednesday, January 1 - 9AM Mass

Epiphany
Saturday, January 4 - 5PM Vigil Mass
Sunday, January 5 - 8AM & 10AM Masses

Automated Giving - St. Irene Parish has an automated giving program called WeShare. It is a check-free, no-cost, convenient way for you to participate in stewardship and donate to special collections. For more information or to enroll, please visit st-irene.churchgiving.com or call the parish office at 630.393.2400 x 114.

CHRISTMAS

A young mother, her eyes shining with fatigue, who is arranging her hair; a father who finds himself alone with his pretty wife and baby, straightening the stable to make himself useful in some way; shepherds who bring cheese and perhaps also some curdled milk; sheep who look at their shepherds while bleating; a donkey who is eyeing his manger changed into a cradle; an adorable swaddled baby whom one calls Savior, Christ and Lord: This is the manifestation of the goodness and the tenderness of God. This is the most fantastic birth in the history of humanity, the one which changed the face of the world! This is how far God humbled and compromised himself with us! This is Emmanuel!


December 26 - “A man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit” (Acts 6:5): thus Luke introduces Stephen, first of seven deacons chosen by the community for its ministry of charity, first to lay down his life in witness to Christ. As the church’s first martyr, Stephen’s life and death mirror the preaching and passion of Jesus, “the faithful witness” (Greek, martyr) (Revelation 1:5). Like Jesus, Stephen works “great signs and wonders among the people” (Acts 6:8). Like Jesus, when falsely accused, Stephen’s face radiates angelic serenity (Acts 6:15), though his tongue, like Jesus’, is a two-edged sword. As the dying Jesus forgave his executioners, even making excuses for them, then commended his spirit into his Father’s hands (Luke 23:34, 46), so Stephen intercedes for his murderers and begs Jesus to receive his spirit (Acts 7:60, 59). How fruitful both passions! The penitent thief inherits Paradise; Saul, who consented to Stephen’s killing, is transformed into the fearless preacher Paul. Thus Stephen challenges us to bear witness not in words only, but by Christ-like forgiveness toward all.

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

On this final Sunday of Advent our scriptures focus on the historical birth of Jesus, who is son of David and Son of God, child and king, Jesus and Emmanuel. Isaiah the prophet begs Ahaz to ask for a sign, to allow God to offer him reassurance of the survival of the Davidic dynasty. The king hypocritically refuses to “tempt the LORD” in that way (Isaiah 7:12), but the prophet foretells the birth of a son, an heir to the throne, who will prove the Lord’s enduring protection of God’s chosen lineage on the throne of David. The child will be called Emmanuel.

Matthew’s highlights the contrast between the faithless refusal of trust shown by Ahaz, and the complete trust in God shown by Mary and Joseph in bringing about the birth of Jesus Christ.

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Family Faith Formation

There will be no classes until January 7th & 8th. Merry Christmas and New Year Blessings!

Gospel Weekly Family Discussion:

Gospel of Matthew 1:18-24 - Mary and Joseph learn that Mary is pregnant before they are married. Joseph dreams of an angel who assures him that the Holy Spirit has given Mary their son, who will grow to do great things. Joseph is consoled and prepares to marry Mary.

Question of the Week:

♦ When has God helped you make a choice when you needed help?

Gospel Questions:

♦ What ideal qualities of a husband and father does Joseph embody?
♦ How are Joseph’s dreams different from what he thinks awake?
♦ What does the angel tell Joseph? What makes Joseph ready to believe the angel?

Life Questions:

♦ What life choices are you glad that you slept on and weighed prayerfully?
♦ When have you seen Jesus in another person?
♦ What did you do this week to prepare for Christmas?

Family Prayer:

♦ God, you help us make choices that bring us closer to you. Help us to follow your guidance. Amen.
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.

Happenings at St. Irene

Children’s Liturgy of the Word - This introduces children Kindergarten through 5th Grade to the liturgy in an age-appropriate way, weekly during the school year at 10AM Mass.

Small Christian Communities - These groups gather periodically in homes to read and discuss the scriptures in light of their experiences and to respond in Christian service. For more information, call Dwight Sherman at 630.393.3221 or 630.362.1324.

Ministry of Care - Ministers of Care are available to visit the sick and the homebound. Please phone 630.393.2400 x 122 if you or a loved one would like a minister to visit.

Healing Horizons - This is a parish support group where people help people through the difficult experience of loss through death, divorce, or separation. For information, call 630.393.2400 x 122.

St. Irene School - We offer a stellar Catholic education from preschool through eighth grade. Contact Principal Maggie Detwiler at 630.393.9303 x 136 for information.

Religious Education - We encourage a life-long learning approach to religious education and faith formation. Our programs offer comprehensive preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. For more information, please call Cathy Berning (Grades PS-6) at 630.393.2400 x 121 or Pamela Keating (Grades 7-12) at x 120.

St. Irene Food Pantry - Our Food Pantry services ALL Warrenville residents. Food is ready for pick up on Wednesdays from 9AM-12PM. For information, call 630.393.2400 x 112.

Music Ministry - We have various choirs for youth and adults. If you have a talent you would like to share, please call Ryan at 630.393.2400 x 118.

St. Irene has MUCH to offer you! - Consider joining an organization to develop lasting friendships: Knights of Columbus, Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights, Council of Catholic Women, Hospitality, the Senior Group. For information, please call the parish office at 630.393.2400 x 110.

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 January 16th. Bring a friend…all are welcome! For more information, call Jeannette Clark at 630.292.9349.

Part-time Administrative Position Available at St. Irene!

A part-time administrative position is available in our Parish Office. Proficiency in Microsoft office and Publisher is required. Please contact our Business Manager at businessmanager@st-irene.org or x114 for more information.
This Week’s Meetings

Sunday, December 22
10-11a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
6:30-9p - High School Youth Group (ACL)

Monday, December 23

Tuesday, December 24

Wednesday, December 25

Thursday, December 26

Friday, December 27

Saturday, December 28

Sunday, December 29

Upcoming Bulletin Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin: Deadline is 8AM on:
December 29, 2019 Has Passed
January 5, 2020 Has Passed

Regular deadline - 8AM on the Friday a week prior to print.

St. Irene’s 31st Annual Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, February 8, 2020
6-10:30PM
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, enter raffles for great prizes and compete in the Liquor Loop. There will be a 50/50 raffle this year with tickets sold after Masses.

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 Scott Reid or Shannon Nevins if you or your organization would like to be a contestant and enter your favorite chili recipe. It’s A LOT OF fun! (But enter early - the number of contestants had to be limited last year!)

ALSO 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 Scott Reid or Shannon Nevins if you or your company can make a donation or would like additional information on how to donate.

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)! In the meantime, enjoy this blessed and holy season!

FOR INFORMATION & TO SIGN UP, CONTACT

Scott Reid
S.Reid@st-irene.org

Shannon Nevins
Shannon.nevins23@gm

HELP AFTER ABORTION
For confidential help call
888-456-HOPE
or visit hopeafterabortion.com
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.

The Parish Office is closed for Christmas Break and will reopen on Thursday, January 2nd at 8:30AM.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Liturgical Calendar

Monday, December 23
St. John of Kanty
7:00AM - Terri Jelinck/ St. Irene Community

Tuesday, December 24
Vigil of Christmas
5:00PM - St. Irene Faith Community
10:00PM - St. Irene Faith Community

Wednesday, December 25
The Nativity of the Lord
10:00AM - St. Irene Faith Community

Thursday, December 26
St. Stephen
7:00AM - Linda Russell/ Family
7:30AM - Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, December 27
St. John
7:00AM - Lon Russell/ Family
8:15AM - No Mass

Saturday, December 28
Vigil: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
5:00PM - Bee Duquette/ Church Ladies

Sunday, December 29
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
8:00AM - Sr. Rosie Eck, CSJ/ Meyers Family
10:00AM - Elsie Simon/ Family
Fr. Tom Mc Andrews/ Marge Steinhoff
Deacon Richard Nowak/ Family

Lance CPL Jeff Sommer - Camp Fuji, Japan
Chief Petty Officer Michael Spans
Capt. Weston J. Umamo USAF - Deployed
E3 Jacob VanderMeulen, USNavy, San Diego
1st Class Patrick Reid - Lackland AFB, TX
Master Sgt. Dan Peterson - Anchorage, AK
TSgt. Daniel Gienosky - 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

Sue Lambert
Joe Schille
Marc Alleruzzo
Pat Wehner
Fred Smith
Sam Vitale
Desiree Sheppard
Mary George

Tim Rasplicka
Fr. Jim
Rachel Jaraisus
Mary Vander Meulen
Valder Morales
Max Malesh
Colette Malovany