Behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.

Matthew 2:9

The Epiphany of the Lord
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.

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

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

Staff Directory

The Epiphany of the Lord

Reflecting on God’s Word

They were men in love with the lights of night astrologers, star-gazers, meaning-makers tuned in to the signs in the heavens, as Matthew tells it. A strange star moving across the sky led them into Israel. Arriving in Jerusalem, they asked where the newborn king of the Jews was, so they could offer homage.

Herod was less than delighted, indeed “greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him,” at hearing of a new king on the block (Matthew 2:3). But he assembled the chief priests and the scribes, who remembered that the prophet Micah had proclaimed that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

So they set out again, with Herod’s duplicitous request whispered into their ears. The star reappeared and led them to the house where the child and his mother were. Falling down in worship, they offered gifts, and went back home. End of story—as we like to remember it.

Of course, that is not the end. Receiving no word, Herod is enraged and orders the death of all children under the age of two. Joseph, Mary, and the child flee to Egypt. Power does not welcome competition, even in the form of a child.

But God wills all people to know salvation. Jesus came to draw all into the reign of God and to empower them to live the God-life that is the Father’s gift. The darkness of evil continues to threaten but it will not overcome as long as there are those who seek the light, follow it, and allow it to lead them to the child.

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

LIVING GOD’S WORD: We pray that the light of God’s love, shown to us in Jesus Christ and placed within us with the gift of faith, may lead others to this same faith. We also pray that we may continue our own journey into the mystery of God and find Christ waiting for us at journey’s end.

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Eucharistic Adoration - Join us on Thursdays anytime between 7:30AM-8PM. Please sign up for a 1/2 hour or a 1 hour segment by calling Cathy Kott at 630.393.9543.

masS SCHEDULE
• Daily: M-F 7AM
• Saturday: 5PM
• Sunday: 8AM & 10AM

Reflecting on God’s Word

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January 4 - Though her liturgical designation is “Religious,” Elizabeth Seton, her feast-day prayer reminds us, was also wife, mother, educator, foundress. Born into a wealthy Episcopalian family, Elizabeth married William Seton, whose untimely death in Italy where the young family sought healing for William’s tuberculosis, left her, at twenty-nine, a widow with five children. Inspired by the faith and charity of the Italian family with whom they stayed, Elizabeth embraced Catholicism despite her family’s disowning her and ceasing financial support. This woman of many firsts (and several vocations!) opened the first free Catholic school, beginning the American Catholic educational system, and founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity. The tuberculosis that claimed her husband took also her oldest and youngest daughters and, finally, at just forty-seven, Elizabeth herself. Another first: in 1975 she was canonized the first native-born American saint. Once asked to summarize her spirituality, she replied: “Faith lifts the staggering soul on one side, hope supports it on the other, experience says it must be, and love says let it be!”

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
They opened their treasures and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. — Matthew 2: 11b
To the Faith Family of St. Irene,

My heart is heavy as I share with you this message of farewell. I’ve accepted a new position and December 20th was my last day at the parish office. I wanted to share my heartfelt thanks. I have been blessed beyond measure here at St. Irene, spending the last 17 years as administrative assistant.

There are so many people to thank – Father Jim, my amazing and talented coworkers in the parish office and school, the wonderful volunteers at our parish who create this faith community and all who stopped in at the office, called with a question or offered a helping hand.

To the members of the parish - THANK YOU! You welcomed me and my family into the St. Irene church family without hesitation, and my daughters practically grew up in the office. Over the years I've had the joy of sharing in many of your celebrations, and at times, shared the pain of grief and loss. I wouldn't trade any of it for the world. I will always be grateful for my time working with you at St. Irene.

Sincerely,
Shari Meyers

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### Happenings Around Town & the Diocese

**Annulment Support Day** - Join us on Saturday, January 25th from 9AM-4PM at the Blanchette Center in Crest Hill. This day is for divorced persons who already have an Annulment case in progress with the Diocesan Tribunal and are working to complete their long questionnaire and need additional support. The $25 fee includes morning coffee, lunch, and materials. Pre-registration is required by January 20th. To register please call the Office of Family Ministry 815.838.5334.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter** - WWME begins with a private weekend experience with presentations about practical tools for growing in loving relationships, and continues with ongoing enrichments in the community after the weekend. **WWME supports living in love!**

2020 Marriage Enrichment Weekend Dates are:
- February 14-16 in Geneva
- February 22-23 in Crest Hill
- September 11-13 in Geneva
- October 24-25 in Mundelein

For reservations, or more information, please call 630.577.0778 or go to [wwme-chicagoland.org](http://wwme-chicagoland.org).

**Attention All Scouts - Female & Male** - The Joliet Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting invites you to our Annual Day of Recollection retreat on Saturday, February 29, 2020, from 9AM-1PM. The theme is Leap of Faith. The event will be held at The National Shrine and Museum of St. Therese, 8501 Bailey Rd., Darien, Illinois. The event is open to all registered American Heritage Girls, Boy Scouts, Brownies, Camp Fire Youth, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Scouts BSA, and Venturers. All ages invited! Activities will be age-appropriate. More information is available at [www.dioceofjoliet.org/scouting](http://www.dioceofjoliet.org/scouting) click on the ‘Day Of Recollection’ announcement banner on the front page. While there, check out the Early Bird Registration Discount!

**Joyful Again Widowed Ministry** - The Joyful Again! program brings understanding and hope to help you on your new life’s journey. *“I felt welcome.” “Found hope.” “Am more at peace.”* Please join us at one of the following events which are designed to help the widowed sort out challenges and learn to find joy in living again, whiletreasuring memories of their spouse.

- March 14 & 15 - Mt. Assisi Center in Lemont

For more information or to register contact us at Joyful Again! Widowed Ministry at 708.354.7211.

**Healing Horizons** is a grief support group. We welcome those in all stages of grief to interact with others in similar situations. We are a comfortable, confidential and safe place where you can express what you feel. We do so from a Christian perspective to help our members make some sense of what has happened in their lives. **We meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 6:30-8PM in the ACL.**
### This Week’s Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday, January 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-10:45a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11a-12:30p - Baptismal Prep 1st Session (S)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Monday, January 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2:30p - Second Greatest Story Ever Told (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30-8:30p - Healing Horizons (ACL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-8:30p - Second Greatest Story Ever Told (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Tuesday, January 7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:30-7p - Elementary Religious Education (C, S)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-9p - School Board (HF)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Wednesday, January 8</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-10:30a - PACE (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30-8p - Jr. High Religious Education (S, AC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Thursday, January 9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-10p - Knights of Columbus (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-8:30p - CCW (Staff)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Friday, January 10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Saturday, January 11</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7a-1p - KC Christmas Decoration Take Down (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-10a - KC Color Guard Rehearsal (ACU)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Sunday, January 12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30a-12:30p - Hospitality (ACL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-10:45a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11a-12:30p - Baptismal Prep 2nd Session (S)</td>
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</tbody>
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### Navajo Construction Mission Information Meetings

The Joliet Diocese - Partnership in Mission is planning its next Navajo Construction Mission to Chinle, Arizona. Two information meetings will be held one on January 7th from 7-9PM and the other on January 15th from 7-9PM at the Bishop Blanchette Catholic Center in Crest Hill. Interest persons are invited to attend. For information, please call 815.221.6258 or email missions@dioceseofjoliet.org.

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### 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

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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.

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**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!)

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**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.

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**PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING IN ANY WAY.** All proceeds benefit St. Irene School ~ but the fun of the evening benefits all who attend and contribute!

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**FOR INFORMATION & TO SIGN UP, CONTACT:**

- Scott Reid - S.Reid@st-ireneschool.org
- Shannon Nevins - Shannon.nevins23@gmail.com

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Navajo Construction Mission

Information Meetings

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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: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30
Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17

Communion Assistance

We want to insure that every parishioner who wishes to partake in the Communion Sacrament be able to do so. In order to assist us with this process, please notify an usher prior to the start of Mass if you or someone in your party needs communion brought to you. Extraordinary Ministers will bring the Precious Body & Blood to you in your pew.

Liturgical Calendar

Monday, January 6
St. André Bessette
7:00AM - Lorraine M. Talaga/ 1st Anniversary
Mary & Carl Galligan/ Mary Mickel

Tuesday, January 7
St. Raymond of Penyafort
7:00AM - St. Irene Faith Community

Wednesday, January 8
Christmas Weekday
9:00AM - For the Poor and the Hungry

Thursday, January 9
Christmas Weekday
7:00AM - Vivienne Bryant/ Friends
7:30AM - Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, January 10
Christmas Weekday
7:00AM - Marylu Fitzgibbon/ Friends
8:15AM - Denise Gallina/ Friends

Saturday, January 11
Vigil: Baptism of the Lord
5:00PM - Joseph Morrissey/ Sam & Carolyn Vitale

Sunday, January 12
The Baptism of the Lord
8:00AM - Irene Cullen/ Axelson Family
Robert Collins/ Bob & Diane Lichtenberg
10:00AM - Birthday/Anniversary Mass
Joe Gattone/ Mary Mickel

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
Master Sgt. Dan Peterson - Anchorage, AK
TSgt. Daniel Geinosky - serving in England
Sgt. Christian Wilkins - stationed in Iraq
Sgt. Levi Dieter - Embassy in Ecuador
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