After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him.

Matthew 3:16
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
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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
OFC. MNM/ADMIN. ASSIST.: Yvonne Aranda x 110
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 1-6: Cathy Berning x 121
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 7-8: Pamela Keating x 120
RE ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Rosario Herbst x 119
SCHOOL: 35601 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

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: All the baptized have been “anointed with the Holy Spirit and power.” What is the Spirit empowering you to do? Should you write a letter to your senator about a justice issue, or volunteer at a prison or a school for the blind?

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.
January - 13  Born in Poitiers, France, whose populace would later elect him bishop, Hilary, married and a father, was converted from paganism to Christianity through his reading of scripture. The focus of his prayerful study was the Prologue to the Gospel according to John, which portrays Jesus as the divine Logos, eternally begotten of the Father. As a result, Hilary became in the words of the biblical scholar Jerome, “the Latin Trumpet against the Arians,” heretics who believed Jesus to be merely human, not divine. In defense of Christ’s divinity, Hilary was not only eloquent in debate but utterly fearless in the face of relentless persecution and even exile. Thus by the witness of his own discipleship, Hilary taught that faith in Jesus as the divine Son of God has consequences. Reflecting on Jesus’ challenge to his disciples, “You are the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13), Hilary notes that, as salt both preserves from corruption and adds savor to food, so must the faithful disciple bear a witness that, by word and example, leads others to immortality and virtuous living.
—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
This Sunday’s celebration of the Baptism of the Lord closes the Christmas season. In the scriptures we see one more epiphany, or manifestation, of the Spirit of God in Jesus—but this time it is as an adult, rather than as a child. Jesus’ baptism also serves as the inauguration of his prophetic mission and the messianic age.

Today’s reading from Isaiah describes God’s chosen Messiah, upon whom God’s spirit rests. In the Acts of the Apostles Peter says that “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power” (Acts 10:38). Finally, in the proclamation from Matthew’s Gospel Jesus’ baptism in water goes almost unnoticed. The crucial moment comes when the Spirit of God comes upon Jesus and a voice from heaven echoes the words of Isaiah: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).

The Lord will bless His people with peace.
— Matthew 3: 11b
St. Irene Lunch Bunch Ministry

All seniors, age 55 and older are invited to attend a Pot Luck Luncheon on Thursday, February 6th at 11:30am in the ACL. Bring a friend and your favorite dish to share. Our theme this month is Mardi Gras. Entertainment will be provided by the barbershop quartet “Sound Investment.” Come join the fun!

A-L..............main dish J-R..............sides S-Z.................desserts

Donation is $5 at the door. Please contact Annette annette@st-irene.org or Denise dcagsch@comcast.net to RSVP.

St. Irene Parishioners,

Thank you for sharing your thoughts, prayers and the many Christmas gifts for the Illinois Youth Center, Warrenville. There are both girls and boys housed at this facility, aging 14 to 20. Once again you outdid your generosity! The gifts of toiletries, night clothes and other needed items have made the youth very happy and pleased that people other than their family cares for them.

A special thanks goes to Pam Keating and her helpers who set up the Christmas Trees and the gifts tags.

May all of you continue to share your time, talent and treasure in support of the Faith Community of St. Irene.

God Bless You, Deacon Joe

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

**Sunday, January 12**
- 7:30a-12:30p - Hospitality (ACL)
- 10-10:45a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-12:30p - Baptismal Prep 2nd Session (S)

**Monday, January 13**
- 1-2:30p - Second Greatest Story Ever Told (ACL)
- 4:30-5:30p - Ladies of Columbus Aux. (ACL)
- 7-8:30p - Second Greatest Story Ever Told (ACL)

**Tuesday, January 14**
- 5:30-7p - Elementary Religious Education (C, S)
- 7-8p - Bridge Communities (S)
- 7:15-9p - Faith Formation Board (ACL)

**Wednesday, January 15**
- 12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)
- 6:30-8p - Jr. High Religious Education (S, AC)
- 7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)

**Thursday, January 16**
- 6-10p - Knights of Columbus (HF)
- 7-8:30p - Rosary Group (ACL)

**Friday, January 17**
- 12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)

**Saturday, January 18**
- 8-10a - KC Color Guard Rehearsal (ACU)
- 2-5p - KC Free Throw Contest (ACU)

**Sunday, January 19**
- 10-10:45a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-12:30p - RCIA (ACL)

Liturgy of the Word for Children

Takes place on Sundays during the school year at the 10AM Mass. Children in Kindergarten through Grade 5 are invited to leave the assembly before the readings begin to participate in their own Word Service. They hear the readings, have their own homily, pray the Creed and the General Intercessions in language they can understand and then return to the assembly during the preparation hymn.

No pre-registration is required.

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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

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-ireneschool.org
- Shannon Nevins - Shannon.nevins23@gmail.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.

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.

Readings for the Week

**Monday:** 1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20
**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28
**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39
**Thursday:** 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45
**Friday:** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12
**Saturday:** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17
**Sunday:** Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

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 - Shaw AFB, SC
Sgt. Thomas Rasplicka - Fort Bliss, Texas