St. Irene Faith Community
Catholic Schools Week
January 26, 2020

Let your light shine @ St. Irene Catholic School!
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflecting on God’s Word

Imagine a large group of travelers, lost in the midst of a dense forest on a starless black night. They cannot see the path; they cannot even see each other. Little by little they wander in different directions, trying desperately to find their way forward through the immense trees, all the while spreading further and further apart. Suddenly a bright white lantern shines from the edge of the forest. Their fear flees with the darkness. As they head toward the light they rejoin one another and rejoice to discover the one way out of the forest. The imagery of light in the darkness threads its way through the Sundays of Ordinary Time between Christmas and Lent. It reminds us that the Light of the World, whose dawning we celebrated during the Advent/Christmas season, is the same light of Christ whose flame will purify and enlighten us during Lent and enkindle the fire of the Holy Spirit in us during the fifty days of Easter. This week our first reading likens the salvation of the “District of the Gentiles” to light dispelling darkness, anguish and gloom. Matthew’s gospel characterizes Jesus as a light arising in “Galilee of the Gentiles,” beckoning the fishermen to join together in following Him along the way. Paul exhorts us to remain united on the one way that follows the light of our one and only Lord, Jesus Christ.

—Virginia Stillwell

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LIVING GOD’S WORD: How will you respond to the invitation this week to pray for the unity of Christians? Will you allow Paul’s words to enlighten you about another Christian denomination? Will you attend an event at a neighbor’s church?

The Lord is my light and my salvation. (Psalm 27)

Condolences to the Family of Thaddeus Kowalik

Father of Patricia Sowatzke

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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. MNN/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: 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.
January - 27

Born in Northern Italy, orphaned in childhood, Angela Merici faced a society in which education was largely the privilege of wealthy young men and based primarily in monastic schools. This reality shaped Angela’s insightful conviction that society’s disorder was caused by disorder in the home, and a lack of model Christian mothers the result of neglecting the education of young women. Transform the Christian family by placing an educated wife and mother at its heart, Angela believed, and the whole world would be renewed in Christ! So she gathered a small group of unmarried women, many of them Franciscan Tertiaries (lay affiliates) like herself, and set out to educate poor girls, free of charge, in their homes. She and her band of teachers called themselves companions, pioneering a new form of non-cloistered religious life for women, bearing witness to evangelical simplicity in the midst of the world, not as a formal “order” but as the Company (compagnia) of Saint Ursula. Known today as the Ursulines, Angela Merici’s spiritual daughters continue serving the Church and society in a rich diversity of ministries.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
In today’s readings we find ourselves being drawn more deeply into relationship with Jesus. We are getting to know more about Him as we see how He struggles with the news of His cousin John’s arrest. His first response is to withdraw, to leave Nazareth and go to Capernaum. There He is perhaps both consoled and challenged by the words of Isaiah that Matthew quotes: “the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen” (Matthew 4:16). Jesus contemplates His cousin’s death, perhaps His own death, and He seeks the light. Maybe it is these words of Isaiah that move Jesus out of His withdrawal and into action. He begins to preach, teach, cure disease and illness, and proclaim the gospel of the kingdom.

Background: In the first reading, Isaiah preaches to people who are discouraged by war and oppression. Among the first regions taken in the war were three sections of the northern Kingdom. The prophet promises that God will again restore the land.

Background: In today’s second reading Paul gives his reaction to the divisions among the Corinthians. The factions in the Corinthian church were dividing Christ’s Body. Paul insists that through Baptism all become members of one body, the Body of Christ.

Background: Because a majority of Matthew’s audience seems to have been Jewish Christians, the passage from Isaiah is used in today’s Gospel to explain the fact that Jesus’ ministry began in Galilee, not Jerusalem. The substance of Jesus’ preaching is summarized, “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” Jesus’ preaching calls for a radical change, the old way of living must be abandoned and a new way embraced.

Theme: Jesus calls us to follow Him; our lives will never be the same.

How does Jesus call you to assist in His ministry; the building up of the Reign of God? How do you know what God wants of you in this regard?

As you grow into young adulthood, Jesus calls you to follow Him in particular ways, both big and small. What are some of the small ways in which Jesus calls you to follow Him?

How do you hear Jesus calling you to do what He wants you to?
Jesus invites four fishermen: Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John, to leave their work and their families and to become his disciples. Jesus offers them to teach them to be fishers of men, to share the love of God with everyone around them.

This Sunday is the Sunday of the Word of God. Read the Gospel (Matthew 4, 12-23) as a family. Place your family Bible in a special place this week.

Thank You!

Thank you to all the ladies who made the Lady of Guadalupe Mass & Fiesta celebration such a fantastic event. The Mass was inspiring, the food was delicious, and the dancers were exceptional! Thank you to all those who helped with organizing, decorating, cooking, serving, and cleaning up. A special thanks goes out to Maggie Nagode who has been the driving force behind this event for many years. Maggie is stepping down from being the chairperson so we are looking for someone to take her place. If you are interested, please email or call Cathy Kott at cakott1210@att.net or 630-393-9543.

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.

2020 Joliet Diocese Catholic Charismatic Healing Mass - “A clean heart create for me, God; renew within me a steadfast spirit.” Ps 51:12  Mass at St. Margaret Mary Church, Friday, January 31 at 7:30pm. For more information call Joey Rose (630)-926-6576; for directions go to https://smmp.com/about/directions.

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, IL
- February 22-23 in Crest Hill, IL - No overnight stay
- September 11-13 in Geneva, IL
- October 24-25 in Mundelein, IL

For reservations, or more information, please call 630.577.0778 or go to 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.dioceseofjoliet.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 the following event which is designed to help the widowed sort out challenges and learn to find joy in living again, while treasuring 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.

Email: joyfulagain7211@gmail.com   Website: www.joyfulagain.org
This Week’s Meetings

**Sunday, January 26**
9-1p - School Open House (S, ACL)

**Monday, January 27**
1-2:30p - Adult Education (ACL)
7-8:30p - Lenten Retreat (ACL)

**Tuesday, January 28**
5:30-7p - Elementary Religious Education (C, S)

**Wednesday, January 29**
12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)
6:30-8p - Jr. High Religious Education (S, AC)
7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)

**Thursday, January 30**
7p - Cultural Dinner (ACL)
8-9p - Cultural Night (ACL)

**Friday, January 31**
12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)

**Saturday, February 1**
10-2p - KC Spelling Bee (AC)

**Sunday, February 2**
10-10:45a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
11a-12:30p - Rite Christian Initiation Adult (ACL)
2-9p - KC Super Bowl (AC)

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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

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**St. Irene Giving Report**

**December Sunday Contributions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offering</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ 73,984</td>
<td>$ 62,917</td>
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**YTD Offering (7/2019 - 12/2019)**

<table>
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<th>YTD Budget (7/2019 - 12/2019)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>$ 361,383</td>
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**Christmas & Holy Day**

| $ 45,736                   |

**Caring for Our Parish Building Fund**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Contributions (7/2019-12/2019)</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<td>$ 8,076</td>
<td>$ 10,833</td>
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**YTD Contributions (7/2019-12/2019)**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>YTD Budget (7/2019-12/2019)</th>
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<tr>
<td>$ 56,110</td>
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**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.**
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.

Sue Lambert
Colette Malovany
Sam Vitale
Pat Wehner
Mary George
Sam Vitale
Desiree Sheppard

Liturgical Calendar

Monday, January 27
7:00AM - Paul Fullmer / St. Irene Family
St. Angela Merici

Tuesday, January 28
7:00AM - 7:00AM Mass Group
St. Thomas Aquinas

Wednesday, January 29
7:00AM - Monica Garceau / 1st Anniversary
Ted Mlsa / Family
Third Week in Ordinary Time

Thursday, January 30
7:00AM - St. Irene Faith Community
Third Week in Ordinary Time

Friday, January 31
7:00AM - Vivienne Bryant / St. Irene Family
8:15AM - Agustin Aranda / Family
St. John Bosco

Saturday, February 1
5:00PM - William Tomazin Sr. / Jarosz Family
Thaddeus Kowalik / Patricia Sowatzke
Blessed Virgin Mary; First Saturday

Sunday, February 2
8:00AM - Robert Collins / Cathy Kott
10:00AM - John Fedyski / Wife
Gregory Fedyski / Mom
William Tomazin Sr. / St. Irene Family
Thaddeus Kowalik / St. Irene Family
4th Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

Readings for the Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Ps 89:20-22, 25-26; Mk 3:22-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19; Ps 24:7-10; Mk 3:31-35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>2 Sm 7:4-17; Ps 89:4-5, 27-30; Mk 4:1-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Ps 132:1-5, 11-14; Mk 4:21-25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Ps 51:3-7, 10-11; Mk 4:26-34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Ps 51:12-17; Mk 4:35-41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]</td>
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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.

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 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

We Hold in Prayer Those Who Serve Our Country