YOUR LIGHT MUST SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS AND GLORIFY YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

MATTHEW 5:16

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 9, 2020
NEW PARISHIONERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!
Call or come to the Parish Center to register.

REFLECTING ON GOD’S WORD
In today’s reading from the Letter to the Corinthians, Paul says it is the power of God working through him, not his own wisdom or talents, that allowed the Corinthians to put their faith in the gospel. The Corinthians themselves were so self-satisfied and proud about their gifts that they had forgotten who gave them what they had and what their gifts were for. Paul reminds them, and us, that everything we have—even our faith—is from the Lord and for others. It is the Lord’s light that shines through those who, like Paul, put their trust in God. To walk in that light is to allow God’s generosity, mercy, and justice to shine through us. And that means sharing all we have, as individuals and as a community, the way God has done and continues to do for us.

The Second Vatican Council’s Dogmatic Constitution on the Church is entitled Lumen Gentium, “Light of the Nations,” because that is what the Church is called to be. Christ’s light is given to us—not only for our own personal benefit now or salvation someday—but that others might “see the light” and turn their gaze and their lives toward the dawning Sun of Justice: Christ, our Light.

—Virginia Stillwell

Be Kind and Merciful through the 2020 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal
All parishioners will receive a mailing from the Diocese of Joliet this month about the 2020 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). Our annual appeal is vitally important to not only the diocese, but also to our parish as well. The CMAA supports 30 ministries that benefit every parish and allow us all to Be Kind and Merciful to the most vulnerable in our community.

Our parish’s goal for the 2020 CMAA is $66,200 and 70 percent of any amount we raise over goal will be returned to us. This is a great opportunity for our parish! Please review the materials and then prayerfully reflect on your gift to this year’s annual appeal.

If you do not receive a mailing from the diocese about the CMAA, please contact the parish office.

Condolences to the Family of Cari Martens
Sister-in-Law of Pamela Keating

MASS SCHEDULE
- Daily: M-F 7AM
- Saturday: 5PM
- Sunday: 8AM & 10AM
An evening of Lenten Reflection
Including Paczkis, a concert, and Palm Burning

All are welcome to join us
Tuesday, February 18th
Featuring:

ValLimar

Her concert will inspire a renewed, passionate love of our faith through song, story and movement. Fun for all ages!

6:00pm - Social in ACL with Paczkis (donuts)
6:45pm - Concert in Church with ValLimar
8:00pm - Burning of the Palms outside

Additional unique performances:
Feb 16 - Holy Spirit in Naperville 4:00pm
Feb 19 - St. Joan of Arc in Lisle 6:30pm

For Teens … Catholic Heart Workcamp

Our St. Irene youth had such an amazing experience the last 2 years that we are collaborating again with St. Mike’s for this awesome mission trip!

This July 19th - 25th our 8th - 12th grade teens are invited to join 350 teens from parishes all over the U.S. at Catholic Heart Workcamp (CHWC) in the Twin Cities, Minnesota. This is a week of fun, prayer, laughter, Mass & Reconciliation, and restoring hope through service to those less fortunate.

There are still a few spots available. For more information or for any questions, contact: Pamela Keating at 630-393-2400 x120 or pamela@st-irene.org.

40 Hours of Adoration Devotion – Save the Date!

Mark your calendars as St. Irene Parish will be doing our second annual 40 Hours of Adoration Devotion this year starting on Sunday, March 1 after the 10:00 am Mass and ending on Tuesday, March 3 with a Parish-wide Mass. Are you looking for peace in any area of your life? Are you looking for a way to strengthen your faith? Are you looking for a short respite from the noise and business of the world? Come spend an hour, or 15 minutes, in the real presence of Jesus Christ. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed continuously during our 40 Hour Devotion and all are welcome to come spend some time with Jesus. Not sure what Adoration is? Not sure what to expect or what to do during your time in Adoration? Don’t worry! Over the next few weeks, we will be providing information about Adoration, both in the bulletin and in the back of Church. Each week the bulletin will contain some information on Adoration to help you prepare. We have signup sheets and information in the back of Church as well. We will be asking each parish ministry to sponsor an hour of Adoration. Throughout the duration of the Devotion, we will have some hours with a meditation and prayer leader. The signup sheets will clearly indicate which hours of Adoration will be silent and which will contain spoken prayer and/or meditations which are lead.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Z. at amy.zielazinski@gmail.com.
Whole Parish Catechesis
Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Reading I: Isaiah 58:7-10
♦ True holiness is found in right relationships with one another.

**Background:** Isaiah's audience had recently returned from exile. They were frustrated that the restoration of Jerusalem was taking so long. Isaiah is unsympathetic and tells them to share, regardless of disappointments.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
♦ Paul's second illustration of holiness: become transparent to let God's light shine through.

**Background:** Paul met rejection in Corinth. Paul says he can't rely on human eloquence. He wants faith to have a strong foundation.

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16
♦ Salt is another image of holiness, and saltiness is given by God.

**Background:** Jesus' disciples are to be like salt, constant and self-giving. Light symbolizes the goodness of the disciples, their sharing the life of God, who is light. Those who see the light in the disciples will praise not the disciples, but God.

**Theme:** We are all called to be children of the light.

**Question for Adults:**
What specific efforts do you take to maintain your light? Do you let your light dim? Why?

**Question for Youth:**
How do you feel when Jesus says that YOU are the salt of the earth and that YOU are called to be the light for others?

**Question for Children:**
What can you do to bring the light of Jesus into the lives of your family, friends, and people you meet?

Family Faith Formation
(Religious Education)

Classes meet on Tuesday, Feb. 11 (Gr. 1-6 in the classroom) 5:30-7PM and Wednesday, Feb.12 (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 5:13-16** - Jesus tells us how important we are. He compares our lives to salt and light, things we need and use every day. Our daily lives can make a positive difference to the people around us. We should strive to share love and kindness with everyone.

**Question of the Week:**
♦ When have another person’s actions inspired you to do something good?

**Gospel Questions:**
♦ Why does Jesus want us to let our light shine? What are ways we can do that?
♦ What are ways you can let your light shine?
♦ Why do you think Jesus compares His followers to salt?

**Life Questions:**
♦ What does it mean to let your light shine?
♦ What does being salt of the earth mean?
♦ Who makes a difference in your life? How?

**Family Prayer:**
♦ Thank you, God, for giving each of us special gifts. Help us to find new ways to share our talents with one another. Amen.

HELP! We need shoeboxes for the Fat Tuesday Celebration on Tuesday, February 18. Shoeboxes will be used to make Family Prayer Boxes for Lent. Please drop off boxes in the Narthex of the Church by Sunday, February 16. Thanks in advance!

Palm Burning

We will once again observe the centuries old tradition of burning palms from last year’s Palm Sunday for use at our Ash Wednesday Liturgies. The ritual of burning palms will be celebrated on Tuesday, February 18th as part of our Lenten Evening of Reflection. All are invited.

We will begin collecting palms next weekend. Please deposit last year’s palms in the baskets provided.

Condolences to the Family of
Mary Jane Kacerovsky
Sister of Bob Rauko
Thank You from IYC-Warrenville!

Letter from the Youth Center Coordinator - “I would like to extend my deepest thanks to you all for the kindness and generosity you blessed our youth with during the holidays! Your commitment to brightening the lives of the young men and women here is truly appreciated. We thank your generous hearts for providing so many wonderful and special activities and for the plethora of Christmas presents you gifted to the young people here.”

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Seniors Invited to Defer Property Taxes

Qualified senior citizens aged 65 years and older are invited to apply for the Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral Program. The program allows participants to defer property tax payment until the property is sold. The deferral is treated as a loan and accrues 6 percent simple interest until paid. To qualify, the applicant’s household income cannot exceed $55,000. Additionally, the property must be used exclusively for residential purposes. The application period closes March 2, 2020. For more information, contact DuPage County Treasurer’s Office at 630-407-5900 or www.dupageco.org/treasurer.

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MAKE THIS LENT ABOUT WHAT YOU DO, NOT WHAT YOU DON’T DO!

During the coming Lenten season, instead of depriving yourself of some type of food or some form of entertainment, join a small community for six weeks and participate in Lenten Longings, an opportunity to read Scripture and share your faith with some of your fellow parishioners. Small groups will meet for 90 minutes once a week at the parish or at someone’s home. It’s a great way to make Lent a more meaningful season as you prepare to celebrate the resurrection. Make your commitment today!

Dates: Tuesdays: February 25, March 3, March 10, March 17, March 24, March 31

Times: 10:00am Parish Center - Staff Room
        7:15pm ACL
Please circle: 10:00am 7:15pm Off Site: M, T, W, TH
I am able to host a small group off site________

Name:_______________________________________
Address:_____________________________________
Email:_______________________________________
Phone:______________________________________

Please register by Sunday, February 16th.
Phone 393-2400 x122 or drop this form in the collection basket or sign up on the forms provided at the table in the narthex.
This Week’s Meetings

**Sunday, February 9**
- 7:30-12:30p - Hospitality (ACL)
- 10-10:45a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)

**Monday, February 10**
- 1-2:30p - Adult Education (ACL)
- 4-5:30p - Ladies Auxiliary (ACL)
- 7-8:30p - Adult Education (ACL)

**Tuesday, February 11**
- 5:30-7p - Elementary Religious Education (C, S)
- 7:15-9p - Faith Formation (ACL)

**Wednesday, February 12**
- 8:30-10:30a PACE (ACL)
- 12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)
- 7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)

**Thursday, February 13**
- 6-10p - Knights of Columbus (ACL)

**Friday, February 14**
- 12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)

**Saturday, February 15**
- 8a-12p - KC District Free Throw (ACU)

**Sunday, February 16**
- 10-10:45a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-12:30p - Rite of Christian Initiation Adult (ACL)

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**K of C Annual FMSC Food-Packing Event**

Jesus challenged believers to perform works of charity. One of those acts is to feed the poor. Come join fellow parishioners at the Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) facility at 555 Exchange Ct. in Aurora on Saturday, February 15, from 9:00a.m. until 11:00a.m.

We will be packing food for needy children overseas. No experience is necessary. Individuals over the age of 5 are welcome to participate. Get the entire family involved in this worthy cause. Students can earn service hours.

To participate, just register at https://www.fmsc.org/join-group?joincode=GGKXWV. If you have any questions, contact Joe Kubal at 630-983-6159 or email at jdrk4715@aol.com.

If you cannot attend, please consider a monetary donation to this worthwhile organization.

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**Join us for Mass at Mercy Home**

We have been invited to participate in the taping of Sunday Mass at Mercy Home for Boys and Girls for airing on May 3rd The Fourth Sunday of Easter and May 24th The Ascension.

We will meet on Sunday, March 8th at 11:30a.m. at Mercy Home, 1140 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. The taping will occur between 12:30p.m.-2:00 p.m. and there will be a complimentary luncheon beforehand.

We hope to have a good showing, but can accommodate no more than 20 people for the TV audience. Mercy Home is a Catholic Charity and free-will donations would be appreciated. For questions or more information please contact Joe Kubal at 630-983-6159 or SMKubal0712@aol.com.

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**Walking with Purpose**

The Modern Woman’s Guide to the Bible

Are you in search of your “one thing” for Lent? Join other women like you for “Living in the Father’s Love” a Women’s Bible study beginning Thursday, February 27th at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM.

* 92% of participants recommend the study to a friend.
* 97% report at stronger relationship with Christ.
* 97% say their prayer life has improved.

Find out why! Check it out Walkingwithpurpose.com

Contact the St. Irene Parish Office for more information (630) 393-2400 x110.

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**K of C Eyeglass and DME Drive**

Please donate your old or unwanted eyeglasses and drop them off in the collection box in the back of church.

Eyeglasses will be forwarded to the Lions Club International local chapter for renovation and reuse by those in need. The collection box will be available from February 29th through May 31st.

Also, we will be collecting used durable medical equipment (DME) such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, bath chairs, crutches, and hearing aids. These items will be donated to appropriate healthcare facilities and/or senior organizations.

Please leave your donations in the church narthex or contact Joe Kubal at 630-983-6159 or jdrk4715@aol.com to schedule a pick-up.
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 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Ps 132:6-7, 8-10; Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Ps 84:3-5, 10-11; Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10; Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40; Mk 7:14-23
Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13; Ps 106:3-4, 35-37, 40; Mk 7:24-30
Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19; Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-15; Mk 7:31-37
Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-22; Mk 8:1-10
Sunday: Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 [20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37]

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.

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 Mujuk Korea
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

Liturgical Calendar

Monday, February 10
St. Scholastica
7:00AM - Judith Tullis / Carmelite Sisters

Tuesday, February 11
Our Lady of Lourdes
7:00AM - Rebecca Aranda Ruiz / Family

Wednesday, February 12
Lincoln’s Birthday
7:00AM - Cari Martens / St. Irene Parish Family

Thursday, February 13
Fifth Weekday in Ordinary Time
7:00AM - St. Irene Faith Community
8:15AM - Michael Adler / Family

Friday, February 14
Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Valentine’s Day
7:00AM - St. Irene Faith Community
7:30AM - Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday, February 15
Vigil: Blessed Virgin Mary
5:00PM - Tony Jeanquart / Carl & Alexandra

Sunday, February 16
Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time
8:00AM - William Tomazin Sr. / Gulli Family
10:00AM - Mary and Vernon Steinke / Family
Joe Gattone / Mary Mickel
Rich Evaschuk / Jane Evaschuk