The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

Mark 1:12–13
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. 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.

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**Staff Directory**

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
Bill Murphy - murphy807@aol.com
Joe Urso x 147 - joe@st-irene.org

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: Annette Kubalanza x 122
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Ryan Matthew Rump x 118
BUSINESS MANAGER: Richard Kaffka x 114
ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Pat Jackowiak x 110
Shari Meyers x 110

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
1-6 GRADE COORDINATOR: Jacqueline Skelly x 121
7th & 8th GRADE COORDINATOR: Pamela Keating x 120

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

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**First Sunday of Lent**

Reflecting on God’s Word

I suspect that the real reason we avoid the desert is because in all that monotony there are no hiding places, no paths to crawl our way behind some kink of hill, no busyness that allows us to duck beneath the rippling surface of honesty, no phone calls to undo the silence that echoes our real selves. Curious that we should be afraid of the nothing rather than of the something. Yet it is the nothing, in the end, that makes the revelation happen. Such is the unsettling power of any desert, to reveal what we most fear in life, the real self that is perhaps less known and more imposing than anyone else’s self. Deserts do that, and so we avoid them like kids dancing about their homework.

Over the years we learn that it’s safer to fritter about on the fringe of Lent than to get lost in its vast and desert emptiness. We’ve grown good at frittering, at tinkering with days stripped of television or meals that have surrendered their dessert. This frittering goes on simply because when it’s all over and done we are able to go back to the lives we’ve come to enjoy and treasure and nothing has been redone, least of all our real selves.

Jesus, however, risked the desert. Never just a tinkerer, He dared to trek about the emptiness for forty days and nights. This week’s first scripture is a piece from Noah’s tale in the bobbing ark. Thus we might wonder which desert was more daunting, forty days and nights of Jesus’ drought. Yet both found themselves in new and different worlds, neither of which had ever before been mapped.

—Rev. Joseph J. Juknialis

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**LIVING GOD’S WORD:** It’s time to decide in our own minds who we are and wish to be, to confess it to our God and to ourselves and to the whole world. Do not fear those places of desert; they are where you will recognize your truest self.

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**Eucharistic Adoration** - Join us on Thursdays 7:30AM-8PM on Thursdays. Please sign up for a 1/2 hour or a 1 hour segment by calling Cathy Kott at 630.393.9543 or Mary Mickel at 630.293.0774.

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**MASS SCHEDULE**
- Daily: M-F 7AM
- Saturday: 5PM
- Sunday: 8AM & 10AM
Our Lenten Cross of Mercy

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.” John 3:16

As we return to God with our whole heart this Lent we journey with Jesus and His Cross of Mercy. St. John Paul II wrote that Mercy is love’s second name. He taught that mercy is the greatest attribute of God. Mercy is love’s result and extension. Jesus is Divine Mercy. He loved the sinful world enough to suffer and die for our redemption. The cross is our visual reminder of His great mercy. The virtue of mercy flows from love of neighbor. It is that virtue that leads us to help a person suffering from want or despair.

Lent is a special time of prayer, penance, sacrifice, and good works in preparation for the celebration of Easter. This year our parish will focus on the Spiritual and Corporal works of mercy. Our Mercy Cross, located in the baptismal font, is the symbol of our desire to fulfill the promises of our baptism, promises that we will renew on Easter.

As we embrace our need for God’s mercy and unconditional love we recognize our need to share His mercy and love through our words and deeds. All are invited to practice the works of mercy during the 40 days of Lent. Each time you perform one of the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy you are invited to attach a tag to one of the nails on the cross.

When we enter the church, throughout Lent, the cross will be a constant reminder of God’s great fountain of mercy for us. And how His mercy flows through us into the world.

♦ Corporal Works of Mercy: feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned, bury the dead, give alms to the poor

♦ Spiritual Works of Mercy: instruct the unbelieving, counsel the doubtful, admonish sinners, forgive offences willingly, comfort the afflicted, pray for the living and the dead and bear wrongs patiently

Lenten Penance Service - Join your Parish family for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday, March 15th at 7PM.

Friday Night Soup Supper

Please join us for our annual Lenten Tradition of Friday Night Soup Supper in the ACL after Stations of the Cross. Mark your calendars for the five Friday nights February 23, March 2, 9, 16 & 23. Come for the delicious soups and wonderful fellowship. We hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, contact Pam Moseley at 630.293.4955 or email pjm9923@yahoo.com

The Stations of the Cross are a popular devotion among Catholics. Through prayer, we reflect in following Jesus Christ on His way to Calvary and we honor the passion of Jesus. St. Irene offers Stations of the Cross each Friday night at 7PM during Lent. Immediately following the Stations there is a “Soup Supper” in the ACL. Please follow the Cross during Lent - follow Jesus in His passion and see yourself mirrored in Him.

The Holy Father usually marks the solemn opening of the Lenten fast with a procession and Mass on Ash Wednesday evening. He walks from the Benedictine monastery, San Anselmo, down the Aventine hill to the Dominican monastery of Santa Sabina. This very old tradition was revived by Pope John XXIII in the late 1950s. Have you ever wondered who gives the Pope his ashes? It’s the cardinal who has been given the “title” of the church of Santa Sabina. The Pope’s homily at this Mass states his theme for Lent.

Santa Sabina dates from the fifth century, and is one of the most beautiful churches in Rome. One of the panels on its main doors features the Crucifixion, a scene not normally depicted in art until much later. In the year 1219 the pope gave the church to Saint Dominic for his new religious order, the “Order of Preachers,” commonly called the Dominicans, and it remains their world headquarters to this day. That pope, Honorius III, was a member of the Savelli family, and this church was their personal family chapel. Sabina was a wealthy Roman lady who became a Christian and was martyred, and whose home became a place of prayer. Later, the church built on that spot was dedicated to her memory.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
Whole Parish Catechesis
Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Reading I: Genesis 9:8-15
♦ I am setting my covenant with you forever!

Background: The first reading is the conclusion of the Noah story. The event takes place after the flood waters had receded. God makes a covenant with Noah and, through Noah, with all creation. For the author’s audience, whose world had seemed destroyed through exile, the story of God’s covenant with Noah established new hope.

Reading II: 1 Peter 3:18-22
♦ You are saved by your baptisms!

Background: The first Letter of Peter uses the imagery of the flood and the covenant with Noah as a symbol of Baptism. This letter was written to encourage Christians in the face of persecution. Today’s passage presents Christ’s death and resurrection as the true reason for deliverance from sin and death.

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15
♦ Jesus was sent by the Spirit into the desert.

Background: The story of the temptation of Jesus is told on the First Sunday of Lent every year. Mark’s brief account brings to mind figures and events from the Hebrew Scriptures. After Jesus’ baptism, the Spirit who had descended upon Him drove Him into the desert to be tempted by Satan. Today’s Gospel relates to Baptism and its meaning.

Theme: Reform your lives!

Question for Adults:
What is the one area of your life which you most want to “reform” as you get ready to embrace the Gospel?

Question for Youth:
Lent gives us a chance to do things differently - to “go to the desert.” How can you make Lent a time for growing in faith?

Question for Children:
What will you do this Lent to become more like Jesus?

Our Parish Easter Egg Hunt is coming Sunday, March 18th!

We need candy donations to stuff our plastic eggs for this Fun Parish Event! We will start collecting candy this weekend in the back of Church! Please look for the marked plastic bin! All candy must be individually wrapped and small enough to fit in a plastic egg! Any kind is totally appreciated!

The Road to Redemption

Join us this Lent for The Road to Redemption, a six week study of the Sunday readings for Lent. Are our hearts ready to accept the passion of our Lord so that we may share in His glorious Resurrection? The six weeks leading up to Easter mark our own 40 days in the desert with Jesus. Lent is an intense time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving for the entire Church.

This year the Sunday gospel readings at Mass come from the Gospels of Mark and John. Our engagement with these gospels creates a beautiful tapestry of prepared anticipation for the Easter season into our hearts.

This study follows the Catholic Scripture Study format, but concentrates on the Sunday lectionary readings and incorporates the ancient method of Lectio Divina (praying the scriptures). Lectio Divina is a powerful way to ‘hear’ God speaking to us personally through scripture. Fr. Mitch Pacwa is our presenter via DVD.

We will meet on the following Wednesday afternoons from 1-2:30PM in the Holy Family Room of the Parish Center: February 21, 28 and March 7, 14, 21. Hope to see you there.

Thank you to everyone who has already made a pledge to the 2018 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). Your gifts will benefit so many through the thirty ministries our annual appeal supports.

Our parish’s goal for the 2018 CMAA is $67,300. Our hope is that every parishioner who participates in caring, as every gift — large and small — makes a difference. If we raise more than our goal, 70% of the amount paid over goal will be returned to us for our use. This is an amazing opportunity for our parish! Please prayerfully reflect on your pledge to this year’s CMAA. In-pew envelopes are still available in the church, or you can make a gift online at jolietdioceseappeal.org.
Marriage Night of Enrichment
What have you done for your marriage lately? On Saturday, February 24th after the 5PM Mass, St. Irene will host a Marriage Night of Enrichment. Come join fellow parishioners for a pizza and salad date night. Catholic Marriage Speakers Troy and Kathleen Billings will present on the importance of "Dating Your Spouse." Childcare will be provided for a fee of $10 per family. Sign up will take place in the back of church the weekends of February 10th and 17th. If you have been telling your spouse "We need a date" here is your chance! We've done all the work for you.

4th Annual Hustle Up The Hill For The Homeless
Challenge yourself in a 30-minute walk/run up and down 150 foot Mt. Hoy at Blackwell Forest Preserve. How many trips can you do? 3? 4? More? 100% of proceeds go to house a homeless family for 2 years as they are transitioned to self-sufficiency. Tech shirt, water and snacks will be provided to all participants. Registration is now open on Active.com. Search “Hustle up the Hill”. This event is on Sunday, May 20th with heats at 9AM and 10AM.

Extraordinary Ministers Meeting
Monday, February 19 at 7PM in the church
Fr. Jim will bless us and anoint our hands
We will have a training session for some of the Ministers that wish to become Co-Captains and for those bringing Communion to the Handicapped. Parishioners who wish to become Eucharistic Ministers are invited to attend this very important meeting. There will be a training session also at this meeting and other meetings as needed for new Ministers. Please send your name and email address to me at information below.
Vivat Jesus, Ray Scott
e-mail: THEOPSROOM@AOL.COM
Phone: 630.393.0868

St. Irene Seniors’ LunchBunch Ministry
St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon
Thursday March 8th, 2018
Lower Activity Center (ACL) 11:30AM– 2PM
We will eat promptly at 11:45AM
Catered by: Hawthorne’s Backyard Grill -
Corned Beef/Cabbage/Irish Potatoes/Dark Rye/ Horseradish/Fried Chicken (for those of you who don’t like corned beef)/ Steamed Vegetables Dessert/hot and cold drinks

Speaker: Sen. Michael Connelly - State Senator Michael Connelly has served as a member of the Illinois Senate since 2013. He previously served in the Illinois House of Representatives from 2009 to 2012. His District is located in DuPage and Will Counties and includes Naperville, Lisle, Wheaton, Warrenville, Winfield, Carol Stream, West Chicago and Bloomingdale.
Topic: An update on our State Government – don’t worry; it will be nonpartisan. Bring any questions or concerns.

THIS IS A RSVP EVENT BY March 1st
TO: anna@saake.net or 630.456.0644
LET ME KNOW IF YOU PREFER CORNED BEEF OR CHICKEN PLEASE!
Cost: $12

A Big Thank you for a Successful Knights of Columbus Super Bowl Party and Raffle
The Knights of Columbus wish to thank all the parishioners and the Knights who participated in this year’s Super Bowl Raffle. Of the 300 tickets 249 were sold in the three pools. Half of the gross receipts were awarded as cash prizes and the other half were retained by the Council to help fund Bridge Communities and other Council programs. At the party, 25 attendees enjoyed good food, watched the football game, and had the opportunity to directly participate in the raffle drawings throughout the football game. All had a good time.
The top $500 winner was Loyola#1. The $250 winners were Jon & Nancy Ciolek, Ken Iniwar, Loyola#2, Marc & Debbie Alleruzzo, Ray Scott, and Tim McGowan. Other winners included: Alta Halama, Mike Hitchcock, Bill Hughes, Erich Pavel, Phil Kemp, Bill Lowendick, Maggie Nagode, Frank & Sophie Hanson, John Ernst, Richard Planek, Sandy Kelly, Scott Pointer, Tim Cosgrove, Tom LaRocco, Kevin Looby, Liz Pittman, David Sivesind, Karen Ernst, Kathy Kott, Keith Stanley, Leslie Labelle, Mike Smith, and Sue Gosewehr.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN
This workshop is for anyone who ministers to minors at St. Irene Parish.
Upcoming workshop at St. Irene is Thursday, March 1st at 6:45PM in the ACL.
Registration for the classes can be found at www.virtusonline.org. Select Diocese of Joliet - St. Irene and then select the date to register.
Registration is required. If unable to do online, please call Pamela at 630.393.2400 x 120.
This Week’s Meetings

Sunday, February 18
10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
11a-12p - Minister of Care Meeting (ACL)
11:15a-12:15p - Special Sacrament Group (S)

Monday, February 19
1-2:30p - Consoling the Heart of Jesus (ACL)
5-6:30p - Basketball Practice (ACU)
7-8:30p - Consoling the Heart of Jesus (ACL)
7-9p - Eucharistic Minister Training (C)
7:30-9p - Parish Council (Staff)

Tuesday, February 20
5:30-7p - Elementary Religious Education (C & S)
7-8:30p - CCW (ACL)

Wednesday, February 21
12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)
1-2:30p - Lenten Scripture Series (HF)
5:30-6:30p - Kids Choir (C)
6:30-8p - Jr. High RE (S, HF, SF, AC)
7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)

Thursday, February 22
3-5p - Basketball Practice (ACU)
5-6:30p - Basketball Practice (ACU)
7-8:30p - Faith Formation Board (ACL)

Friday, February 23
12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)
7-7:30p - Stations of the Cross (C)
7:30-9p - Soup Supper (ACL)

Saturday, February 24
8a-12p - KC Free Throw Contest (ACU)
9-11a - Altar Serving Training (C)
6-9p - Dating Your Spouse (ACL & S)

Sunday, February 25
10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
11a-12:30p - RCIA (ACL)

PADS NEEDS YOUR HELP

Most of us are blessed with a roof over our heads, food on the table, and clothes on our backs. Not everyone is as fortunate. That is the reason PADS exists. Our parish supplies PADS with meals for the homeless, on the 4th Thursday of each month. We thank the handful of people that have volunteered the past with their generosity and caring by providing needed items. We need more help and would like to put together a call list with phone numbers of anyone that can donate part of the meal. Would you consider being part of our ministry? Do you have any sweatshirts, especially hooded ones, coats that are gently used, gloves, and scarves that you could donate? The homeless can always use warm items in all adult sizes. We can also use new socks and underwear in all adult sizes, male and female. Thank you in advance for your help.
Barbara Olson 630.393.1279

FEED the HUNGRY

Please help us refill the Food Pantry shelves with macaroni & cheese, ravioli, spaghetti’s, spaghetti, pasta sauce, soup and peas.

The loving spirit of the St. Irene Community is shown through your generosity to the poor.

Lenten Regulations

1. Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

2. Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

3. On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one’s needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

4. To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.

5. Lent is the principal season of penance in the Christian year. All of the faithful are strongly urged to develop and follow a program of voluntary self-denial (in addition to following the Lenten regulations), serious prayer, and a performance of works of charity and mercy.

encounter
Majd

In Iraq, we encounter Majd and his family, people forced to flee violence, searching for stability. How are we called to welcome the stranger in our midst? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their home to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

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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.

Liturgical Calendar

**Monday, February 19**
**Lenten Weekday**
7:00AM - Rev. Ronald J. Hart/ St. Irene Community
Francis Thulin/ Kristin Kocan

**Tuesday, February 20**
**Lenten Weekday**
7:00AM - William Mulcahy/ Family

**Wednesday, February 21**
**St. Peter Damian**
7:00AM - St. Irene Faith Community

**Thursday, February 22**
The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
7:00AM - Deacon Alan Symonais/ St. Irene Community
7:30AM - Eucharistic Adoration

**Friday, February 23**
**Lenten Weekday; Abstinence**
7:00AM - For the Healing of Our Friends & Family
8:15AM - Carol Proft/ Proft & Sullivan Families

**Saturday, February 24**
**Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Lent**
5:00PM - Kathy Ulanowski/ Family
Rick Lovelace/ Cathy Kott

**Sunday, February 25**
**Second Sunday of Lent**
8:00AM - Tommaso Siele/ Family
10:00AM - Lynn Torre/ Pam Zimmerman
Mary Gattone/ Family

Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
**Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
**Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
**Thursday:** 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19
**Friday:** Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
**Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
**Sunday:** Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

Knights of Columbus Eyeglass Drive

Please bring and donate your old or unwanted eyeglasses and drop them off in the collection box in the back of the 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 in the back of the church until May 1st.

Questions may be directed to Joseph Kubal at 630.983.6159 or jdrk4715@aol.com.

AB Patrick Reid - Lackland AFB TX
1st Lt. Weston J. Umano USAF - Holloman, NM
1st Lt. Keegan Lohenry USMC - Camp Pendleton
Lance Cpl. Quin Lohenry USMC - Camp Pendleton
Master Sgt. Dan Peterson - Anchorage, AK
TSGt. Daniel Geinosky - serving in England
Sgt. Christian Wilkins - stationed in Iraq
Lance Cpl. Levi Dietz - Embassy of Latvia
Cmdr. Eric G. Peterson - Serving in San Diego
Sgt. Peter Folz - stationed at Okinawa
Capt. Patrick Looby - Elgin AFB, FL
Chief Petty Officer Michael Spans
Sgt. Thomas Raspliska - Fort Bliss, Texas

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