SECOND SUNDAY OF Lent

From the cloud came a voice: "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

Mark 9:7
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.

LIVING GOD’S WORD: God of Abraham and Sarah, of Isaac and Rebekah, of Jacob and Rachel, God and Father of our Lord, give us a glimpse of the glory that you have prepared for all who trust in you and remain faithful to you. Strengthen us to walk through any darkness that may threaten our ability to believe.

Eucharistic Adoration runs from 7:30AM-8PM on Thursdays. For information or scheduling, please call Cathy at 630.393.9543.

Reflecting on God’s Word

Two of today’s readings take us up a mountain. Mountains are sacred places in the scriptures. Moses meets the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob on Mt. Sinai. Elijah has an experience of this same life-giving God on Mt. Horeb. Today Abraham goes up Mt. Moriah in obedience to God’s command to “take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love” (Genesis 22:2) and offer him there as a holocaust.

It is hard to get past this reading today and focus only on the story of the Transfiguration. This story of God testing Abraham to see if Abraham will obey is a story of great anguish. “See” is an important word here: Moriah means “the place of seeing.” Abraham responds to Isaac’s question about a victim, saying God will provide, a word rooted in the Latin word for seeing. God will see to it that there is a victim, just as God will see that Abraham is obedient in all things.

Seeing also takes place on Mt. Tabor. Peter, James, and John see Jesus in glory, His clothes dazzlingly white; they see Him speaking with Moses and Elijah, representing the law and the prophets; and they see a cloud overshadowing them, and hear a voice calling for their obedience: “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him” (Mark 9:7).

With them, we are invited to see Jesus as the beloved Son whom the Father “did not spare...but handed over for us all,” as Paul reminds us (Romans 8:32). The mystery of the Cross and Resurrection is an invitation to see God’s love for all God’s beloved children and trust in it.

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.
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

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

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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.

Are you interested in making your favorite soup, or trying a new recipe? Please contact Pam Moseley at Pjm9923@yahoo.com.

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The second Sunday of Lent every year recalls the Transfiguration of the Lord. Since the fourth century, Mount Tabor has been the focus of devotion to this event. As mountains go, it is not particularly lofty, rising about fifteen hundred feet, within view of the Sea of Galilee and very close to Nazareth. Scripture doesn’t identify the mountain, but in the year 348 Saint Cyril of Jerusalem said he preferred Mount Tabor to Mount Hermon as the site of the Transfiguration, and his opinion won. It has long been a strategic military site, and ancient fortresses are visible on the heights. Over the centuries, churches and fortified monasteries rose on the mountaintop, only to be destroyed by various invaders. Six hundred years ago, local Christians started to decorate the ruins with flags and banners on the Feast of the Transfiguration. In 1631, the Sultan granted permission to the Franciscans to live on Mount Tabor, and they have been there ever since, discovering the ruins of an old Crusader church and constructing the present church on the site in 1924.

The top of the mountain is divided into Greek Orthodox and Latin (that’s us) zones. At one time, tourists arrived on the summit by bus, but this is no longer permitted. Some ride bicycles up a challenging and winding path, while others take the four thousand three hundred steps constructed for Christian pilgrims in the fourth century. It’s hard to imagine the fishermen following Jesus up this craggy mountain without complaint. Visitors will sympathize with Peter’s plan to construct booths and stay put with Jesus, Moses, and Elijah for a while, enjoying the view, and planning the trip back down.

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

Reading I: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18
♦ Because you trusted Me, I will bless you greatly.

Background: In the story of the sacrifice of Isaac, the sin of disobedience that brought alienation and death is healed by obedience. The Canaanites believed the first born belonged to God. Abraham’s test of faith emphasizes the fact that God demands obedience, not sacrifice.

Reading II: Romans 8:31-34
♦ Who can be against us?

Background: The reading from Romans presents a parallel to God’s demand on Abraham. God does not demand the sacrifice of Abraham’s son as a price of the covenant relationship. God does sacrifice the life of his own Son to preserve the covenant relationship with humankind.

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10
♦ He was transfigured before their eyes.

Background: The story of Jesus’ transfiguration is full of symbolism. The images of cloud and mountain suggest God’s appearance at the covenant-making on Mount Sinai. Moses, the major figure in the Exodus and Sinai covenant, represents the law, and Elijah, great ninth-century prophet of Israel, represents the prophets. Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and prophets.

Theme: Seeing Jesus.

Question for Adults:
In what ways does Jesus speak today, ways in which you can truly “listen to Him”?

Question for Youth:
The disciples had a very intense experience of Jesus on the mountain. Have you ever had a “mountain top” experience? What was it for you?

Question for Children:
Name or draw a picture of a time you knew that Jesus was with you.

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 are collecting candy 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 28 and March 7, 14, 21.

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 will contribute as partners 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.
Automated Giving - St. Irene Parish has an automated giving program called WeShare. It is a check-free, no-cost, convenient way for you to participate in stewardship and donate to special collections. For more information or to enroll, please visit st-irene.churchgiving.com or call the parish office at 630.393.2400 x 114.

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 your questions
and 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

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 pro-
vided to all participants. Registration is open on
Active.com. Search Hustle up the Hill. This event is
on Sunday, May 20th with heats at 9AM and 10AM.

Readings for the Week
Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13;
Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17,
21, 23; Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16;
Mt 20:17-28
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a;
Ps 105:16-21;
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12;
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17];
Ps 19:8-11; 1 Cor 1:22-25;
Jn 2:13-25

If God is for us, who can be against us?
— Romans 8:31b

The Knights of Columbus would like to
thank the 23+ fellow Knights, parishioners,
and other organization and church members
that braved slick streets and participated as
part of a larger group of 90 in the Feed My
Starving Children food packing event held
Saturday, February 10 at the Aurora facility.
Thanks to your dedication and hard work
over 173 boxes of food (4.8 pallets) were
packed - a total of 37,368 meals worth
$8,221. This is the equivalent of feeding 102
children for a year! The food was shipped to
Honduras and Haiti. The Knights graciously
donated $100 to help defray the cost of the
food. Again, thank you for your support!”

Healing Childhood Hurts Weekend Retreat
Is an opportunity to discover how your view of life was
shaped; and how to free yourself from any distortions
that may still be dictating your thoughts and behavior.
Restore your inner child with love and compassion.

March 9-11, 2018
At La Salle Manor Retreat Center 12480 Galena Rd, Plano, IL
Reservations and additional information
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
© (630) 892-2371 Extension 39
lhjretreats@misacor-usa.org
305 S. Lake St. Aurora, IL 60506
**This Week’s Meetings**

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

**Monday, February 26**
- 1-2:30p - Consoling the Heart of Jesus (ACL)
- 5-6:30p - Basketball Practice (ACU)
- 7-8:30p - Consoling the Heart of Jesus (ACL)

**Tuesday, February 27**
- 3-5p - Basketball Practice (ACU)
- 5:30-7p - Elementary Religious Education (C, S, ACL)

**Wednesday, February 28**
- 12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)
- 1-2:30p - Lenten Scripture Series (HF)
- 6:30-8p - Jr. High RE (C, S, HF, SF, AC)
- 7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)

**Thursday, March 1**
- 5-6:30p - Basketball Practice (ACU)
- 6:45-9:15p - Protecting God’s Children (ACL)

**Friday, March 2**
- 12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)
- 7-7:30p - Stations of the Cross (C)
- 7:30-9p - Soup Supper (ACL)

**Saturday, March 3**
- 8a-12p - KC Academy (AC)
- 7-9p - School Dance (AC)

**Sunday, March 4**
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-12:30p - RCIA (ACL)
- 11a-12:30p - Baptism Prep (S)
- 11:15a-12:15p - Special Sacrament Group (S)

**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 Cesia**
We encounter Cesia in Nicaragua, where, despite a lack of economic opportunity, young people pursue their dreams by building businesses to better their lives. How can you work to improve the lives of others this Lent? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more.
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.

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.

Liturgical Calendar

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<td>Tuesday, February 27</td>
<td>Lenten Weekday; Abstinence</td>
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<td>Wednesday, February 28</td>
<td>Lenten Weekday</td>
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<td>Sunday, March 4</td>
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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.

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