God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

John 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. 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 x112.

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: We don’t always “come toward the light” (John 3:20). Sometimes we prefer the darkness. We might fear being condemned if our deeds are brought to light or we may simply be unable to find our way in the dark. We need the light of Christ to help us believe once more in God’s merciful love.

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

Join us after the 10AM Mass around Fr. Jim’s Rectory and the School! This event is for ages up to 10 but all are welcome to watch, and then enjoy our monthly Hospitality in the ACL for the Birthday/Anniversary Mass! The Easter Bunny will be there! Please bring a basket or bag for egg collecting!

Hope to see your family there!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
March 11, 2018

Reflecting on God’s Word

Andrea had done everything her parents had warned her against and had lied to cover it up. But it’s impossible to keep a secret in a small town, so she stopped talking to them. When they continued “nagging” her she moved out “forever,” telling her parents she “didn’t have a family” anymore. Eight months later, broke and lonely, she chanced to see her father on the street. Certain he would condemn her, she turned way—to late. “Hello, Andrea. How have you been?” Andrea could not contain her tears when she heard the words, “Sweetheart, your mom and I would love for you to come home.”

What must it have been like for the Israelites to learn that they were free to go home from their exile? No questions asked. All debts forgiven. A new beginning. If we can imagine their joy and gratitude perhaps we can understand more deeply the tremendous gift we have been given in baptism—God’s mercy gives us the courage to leave our self-imposed exiles and come home.

—Virginia Stillwell

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MASS SCHEDULE

▪ Daily: M-F 7AM  ▪ Saturday: 5PM  ▪ Sunday: 8AM & 10AM
Congratulations to Bailey Gysbers and Silvia Cruz who were called to the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Rite of Election. They will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

**Encounter Andrise**

We encounter Andrise, a teacher in Haiti who knows the importance of forming young people who will give back to the community - and their country. Reflect on the role teachers have played in bringing your closer to God and your community. 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.

**The Stations of the Cross**

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.

Easter Baskets for the Food Pantry

Please remember us for our upcoming Easter needs of hams, cereal, macaroni & cheese, soup, tuna, canned fruit and vegetables, yams, cake mix, frosting, jello, pancake mix & syrup. Bring Easter Hams to the Parish Center by Friday, March 23rd. The loving spirit of the St. Irene Community is shown through our generosity to the poor.

Year B of the Lectionary has the Letter to the Ephesians today. Ephesus, today in Turkey, was in the first century a great Greek city, the center for the worship of Diana, the goddess of the hunt. It was a vast city even by modern standards, having nearly half a million people in the time of Paul. Yet that was a time of economic recession and moral decay. No wonder Saint Paul stayed here the longest. It gave him an enormous and religiously curious audience. His preaching stirred up the artisans who depended on the pilgrims who came to honor (and buy mementos of) seventeen gods and goddesses enshrined in the city’s temples. You can still see the open-air theater where Paul’s homily triggered a riot. Paul did have success here, and many conversions among Jews and Gentiles. They seem to have struggled with hope, perhaps because of their suffering from economic woes and isolation.

Some old traditions say that the Apostle John lived out his days here, and that the Blessed Mother was cared for by him. There’s no biblical basis for this, but it is certain that a small house just outside the city has been treasured by Christians and Muslims for centuries as the last dwelling of Mary. Long ago, the harbor silted up and the city was nearly abandoned, becoming a small village. As is so often the case, that accident of history preserved the ancient city, so that archeologists have been very successful in revealing ancient Christian sites. One such site is the Church of Mary, probably the first church to be dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and the site of the Council of Ephesus in 431. Today, a visit to Ephesus is one of the most rewarding journeys for any pilgrim.

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

Reading I: 2 Chronicles 36:14-17, 19-29
♦ Early and often God sent messengers to them.

Background: The Second Book of Chronicles was written after the Babylonian exile as a reinterpretation of history for the new situation in which the people found themselves. A major focus of hope for the returned community was the rebuilt temple, a sign of the return of God’s presence. The people saw the destruction of the former temple as a punishment for their sins and a fulfillment of the prophets’ warnings.

Reading II: Ephesians 2:4-10
♦ God is rich in mercy.

Background: The Letter to the Ephesians emphasizes that God’s salvation is a gift and not something earned by human effort. In the Hebrew Scriptures the major covenant virtues of love and fidelity are manifested in God and demanded of humans. In Ephesians we are told again that it is because of God’s great love and abundant mercy that we are brought to life is Christ.

Gospel: John 3:14-21
♦ The light came into the world.

Background: In today’s Gospel, Jesus explains the truth seen in faith to Nicodemus. Those who choose eternal life receive it because of faith in Christ. Humans choose salvation or reject it just as they choose or reject life.

Theme: We believe.

Question for Adults:
When is it difficult for you to believe? What particular line in this reading helps your faith?

Question for Youth:
The Gospel speaks of following God as coming toward the light. How can you move towards the light in your own life? What is the darkness that needs Jesus’ healing in your life?

Question for Children:
Who is one person in your life who supports your faith and helps it to grow?

The Road to Redemption
Join us for The Road to Redemption, a study of the Sunday readings for Lent. We will meet on the following Wednesday afternoons from 1-2:30PM in the Holy Family Room of the Parish Center: March 14 and 21.

BUNCO - April 21st
The Ladies of Columbus Auxiliary are once again hosting a fun filled evening of BUNCO in the ACL starting at 7PM. All proceeds will be donated to The Bridge Community. Admission is $20 in advance or $25 at the door. Food, dessert, and beverages will be provided; you can bring your alcoholic beverage if you like. Come join us in some fun and help a great cause at the same time. Please contact Missy Kemp at missyree2004@yahoo.com, or mail your payment to her at 2S450 Center Ave., Warrenville, IL 60555. Mark your calendars, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Upcoming Bulletin Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday Bulletin:</th>
<th>Deadline is 8AM on:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>Wednesday, March 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Wednesday, March 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Friday, March 23</td>
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Regular deadline - 8AM on the Friday a week prior to print.

St. Irene Council of Catholic Women Nomination of Officers Our Mission
The St. Irene Council of Catholic Women acts through its membership to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. Its programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.

It is time to elect officers for the Council of Catholic Women! Please prayerfully consider who you feel would best lead the organization in following our mission. Open positions include Vice-President and Recording Secretary. We are also in need of a Corresponding Secretary, which is an appointed position. Nominations need to be returned to the Parish Office either by mail, in person, or through the collection basket by April 8, 2018. A voting ballot is included in this bulletin. New officers will be announced at the April 17 meeting, and installed into their positions in May.
Lenten Penance Service - Join your Parish family for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday, March 15th at 7PM.

Are you clearing your calendar for the Sacred Triduum?

We Begin: Thursday, March 29th at 7PM with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. Let us enter into the sacred mysteries together. After listening to the scriptures, we will wash one another’s feet. Jesus gave us this image of what the church is supposed to look like, feel like, act like. This is rehearsal for Christian life. We process with food and alms for the poor. We celebrate the Eucharist. We enter into the Paschal fast. We keep vigil. The evening has no ending….

We Continue: We gather quietly on Friday, March 30th at 3PM and listen to scripture. We pray for all the world’s needs. We reverence the holy cross. We continue in fasting and prayer and vigil, in rest and quiet through Saturday. This Saturday for us is like God’s rest at the end of creation. It is Christ repose in the tomb.

Until the Night between Saturday and Sunday: Hungry now and excited, on Saturday, March 31st at 8PM the church gathers in the darkness and lights a new fire and a great candle that will make this night bright for us. We listen to some of the most powerful scriptures in the Bible, then we pray to all our saints to stand with us as we go to the font and bless the waters. These are the moments when death and life meet, when we reject evil and renew our baptismal promises to God. Together we go to the table and celebrate the Easter Eucharist. We break the fast with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. This is what we are about.

Come be church when the church is at her best.

Let’s fill the church in praise of God. Many hands (and feet!) are needed to make these liturgies a profound experience for the entire parish. Sign up to help with the many ministry opportunities available. Sign up sheets are in the narthex.

Holy Week Schedule

HOLY THURSDAY, March 29
Morning Prayer: 7AM
The Lord’s Supper: 7PM

GOOD FRIDAY, March 30
Morning Prayer: 7AM
The Lord’s Passion: 3PM

HOLY SATURDAY, March 31
Morning Prayer: 8AM
Preparation Rites for Elect: 11AM
Blessing of Baskets: 12PM

THE EASTER VIGIL MASS
Blessing of New Fire: 8PM

EASTER SUNDAY, April 1
Masses: 8AM & 10AM

All are invited to bring a can of food to the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Thursday, March 29th at 7PM. During the offertory procession the assembly will be invited to bring their gifts forth as a sign of solidarity with the poor.

Incense will be used on March 24 at the 5PM Mass & March 25 at 10AM. It will also be used at the Easter Vigil Mass at 8PM and on Easter Sunday at 10AM. If incense bothers your allergies, please celebrate with us at one of the other Masses.

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.
Volunteers needed for the Mass of the Lord’s Supper Phone 630.393.2400 x 122 if you can help with the following:

- **Apostles**: 12 people needed. Fr. Jim will wash your feet. You will then wash the feet of the people in the assembly. Rehearsal required on Tuesday, March 27th at 7PM.
- **Bowl/Pitcher bearers**: 12 people needed to carry the bowl/pitcher for the apostles. Rehearsal required on Tuesday, March 27th at 7PM.
- **Disciples**: You will be seated in the assembly and have your feet washed by one of the 12. No rehearsal is required but you will need to arrive 20-30 minutes early, with a towel, to get your seating assignment.
- **Banner bearers**: 3 people are needed for Holy Thursday. Rehearsal required on Tuesday, March 27th at 7PM.
- **Oil bearers**: 3 people are needed to carry in the holy oils. Rehearsal required on Tuesday, March 27th at 7PM.
- **Candle bearers**: 4 people are needed to carry candles for the enthronement of the holy oils. Rehearsal required on Tuesday, March 27th at 7PM.

### 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.

### Ladies of Columbus Auxiliary Nomination and Election

Our elections are being held on Tuesday, May 8th. We are looking to fill two positions: Secretary and Trustee. If you are interested in joining an organization that has so much to offer to our parish and the community, please join us. Contact Pat Kemp at patkemp2004@yahoo.com or call her at 630.653.1647.
### 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, March 12</td>
<td>Lenten Weekday</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00AM</td>
<td>For the Healing of Our Friends &amp; Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 13</td>
<td>Lenten Weekday</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00AM</td>
<td>Meg Higgins/ The Chicks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 14</td>
<td>Lenten Weekday</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00AM</td>
<td>For the Poor and the Hungry</td>
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<td>Thursday, March 15</td>
<td>Lenten Weekday</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00AM</td>
<td>Vivienne Bryant/ Friends</td>
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<td>7:30AM - Eucharistic Adoration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 16</td>
<td>Lenten Weekday; Abstinence</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00AM</td>
<td>Sr. Rosie Eck/ The Chicks</td>
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<td>8:15AM - St. Irene Faith Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 17</td>
<td>Vigil: 5th Sunday of Lent</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00PM</td>
<td>Leahy &amp; Grillo Families/ Pierson Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 18</td>
<td>Fifth Sunday of Lent</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Paul Grzybek/ Kathy</td>
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<td>10:00AM - Birthday/Anniversary Mass</td>
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<td>3rd Scrutiny</td>
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<td>Lee Mickel/ Family</td>
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### Readings for the Week

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13d-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33</td>
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If you or someone you know would be blessed by receiving a prayer shawl, please contact Paula Peterson at 630.319.3998 or Rainbow1085@yahoo.com.