I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 31:33
MASS SCHEDULE

- Daily: M-F 7AM  
- Saturday: 5PM  
- Sunday: 8AM & 10AM

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  
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Bill Murphy - murphy807@aol.com  
Joe Urso x 130 - 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

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.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Reflecting on God’s Word

One of the earliest pictures of Jesus I can remember portrayed Him at prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. I still see His hands, clasped tight. They spoke to me of an inner struggle long before I knew about His words, “Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will” (Mark 14:36). More than any other scene in the Gospels, this one brought home what it meant to say Jesus was truly man.

Today’s Gospel has been called John’s version of the agony in the garden. The word agony (agonia in Greek) means struggle, and we can hear the struggle in Jesus’ awareness that “the hour” He has spoken of before in John’s Gospel, beginning at Cana, has finally arrived. It is the hour of His being lifted up—the hour of both His glory and His crucifixion. It is why He came into the world, and yet we hear Him say, “I am troubled.” We hear Him wrestling with Himself, asking for release from the hour, but then recognizing that it holds “the purpose for which I came.”

Hebrews affirms this when it says “He offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence” (5:7). He was able to bear the suffering and become the source of eternal salvation for all who listen to Him and follow in His steps.

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

LIVING GOD’S WORD: Loving God, give us a new heart in these final days of Lent, a heart that carries within it your loving imprint, that we may always know your will and yield to it, even when it calls for a dying of some kind. In such dying, may we trust that you will bring forth new life.

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encounter

Alefa

We encounter Alefa in Malawi, where seeds are helping her family survive an uncertain climate. How can you care for God’s creation this Lent? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

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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

Individual Confessions: Fr. Jim will be available to hear confessions on Thursday, March 22nd from 6-7PM and on Saturday, March 24th from 9-10AM in the church.

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.

Hand Carved Olive Wood from the Holy Land

Due to the lack of tourism and the instability of the political situation in the Holy Land, the Christian community is suffering financially. The Christian community needs your help by purchasing their products in order to maintain their presence in the Land of Christ.

Please stop by the beautiful olive wood items from the Holy Land and try to purchase an item or two. Proceeds go to benefit the Catholic schools and clinics in the Holy Land.

Star of Bethlehem has been approved by many bishops, and diocese of Jerusalem. Please take a look at these beautiful artifacts April 7th & 8th.

Over the next two weeks, as we hear of the interior anguish of Jesus, we are led to the Garden of Gethsemane, the scene of a night of suffering, failure, and loss. In Hebrew, the word means “olive press,” and it was an olive grove, although only a few trees remain. Olives can’t be eaten off the trees, they need to be cured—knocked from the trees at harvest time, scooped into a stone basin, and cracked open by a heavy millstone. The crushing stone weight was itself called a “gethsemane,” and once it was lowered onto the olives, oil from the fruit and the inner stone would drip into a groove and flow into jars. The night before his death, Jesus experienced such anguish that scripture says his own blood perspired from him, an image no one who understands olive oil production could miss.

Today, the Mount of Olives is within the city of Jerusalem and the site of the Church of All Nations, also known as the Basilica of the Agony. It was built in 1924, funded by Catholics in twelve different countries. An open-air altar on the grounds is used by Anglicans on Holy Thursday every year. Nearby is the Russian Church of Mary Magdalene, built by the czar in 1888, its magnificent golden domes a distinctive landmark. There is also another tiny Catholic Church, called Dominus Flevit, or “The Cry of the Lord,” built in a teardrop shape in the mid-1950s. For centuries, the Franciscan order has had the care of the shrines of the Holy Land, and our Good Friday collection helps sustain these precious sites.

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

Reading I: Jeremiah 31:31-34
♦ I will make a new covenant with Israel.

Background: The prophecy of Jeremiah in today’s first reading was spoken to the people of Israel while they were in exile. The people had not remained faithful to the covenant made at Sinai. The old covenant was written stone; the new covenant will be written in the people’s hearts.

Reading II: Hebrews 5:7-9
♦ Jesus learned to obey God.

Background: The reading from the Letter to the Hebrews describes the prayer of Jesus during His passion. It is His reverence that makes Jesus perfect and the source of salvation for all who obey Him. Salvation comes through obedience bought with suffering.

Gospel: John 22:20-33
♦ If it dies, it produces much grain.

Background: The author of today’s Gospel is writing for a Greek audience. Jesus’ response to some Greeks asking to see Jesus becomes a prediction of His death and glorification. In the image of the grain of wheat that dies to produce life we see that God will be glorified in the death of Jesus. Jesus will be exalted, drawing all persons to Himself and thus to eternal life.

Theme: Death and New Life

Question for Adults:
Name one area in your life that you need to let go of, to die to, in order to rise with new life.

Question for Youth:
Sometimes one thing needs to die in order for something new to be born. When have you experienced this in your own life? What do you need to let go of now for something new to grow?

Question for Children:
Name one thing you can do or stop doing that will help you have a better friendship with Jesus.

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!

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 at 630.653.1647.

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.

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. Voting ballots are in the back of church. New officers will be announced at the April 17 meeting, and installed into their positions in May.
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 reposes 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.

Divine Mercy Sunday - On the Second Sunday of Easter of the Jubilee Year 2000, at the Mass for the canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska, Pope John Paul II proclaimed to the world that “from now on throughout the Church this Sunday will be called Divine Mercy Sunday.”

Pope John Paul had actively promoted the message of St. Faustina. In his 1980 encyclical on God’s mercy, Rich in Mercy, he developed a scriptural and doctrinal basis for our faith in the mercy of God. Likewise, Pope Francis continues to emphasis this foundational belief of our Church. We, as Catholics, are profoundly called to reflect, in a prayerful and devote way, on the message of God’s mercy.

Please join your faith community in acknowledging and accepting the merciful love of God, during a special holy hour, on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 8th from 3-4PM in the Church.
This Week’s Meetings

**Sunday, March 18**
- 7:30a-12:30p - Hospitality (ACL)
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-12p - Easter Egg Hunt (Grounds, AC)
- 11a-12:30p - RCIA (Staff)
- 11a-12:30p - Baptism Prep 2nd Session (S)
- 11a-12:15p - HS Confirmation Class (HF)
- 11:15-12:15p - Special Sacrament Group (S)
- 7-8:30p - Consoling the Heart of Jesus (ACL)

**Monday, March 19**
- 1-2:30p - Consoling the Heart of Jesus (ACL)
- 7-8:30p - Consoling the Heart of Jesus (ACL)

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

**Wednesday, March 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 (C, S, HF, SF, AC)
- 7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)

**Thursday, March 22**
- 7-8:30p - Faith Formation Meeting (ACL)

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

**Saturday, March 24**
- 8-10:30a - KC Color Guard (ACU)

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

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.

Regular deadline - 8AM on the Friday a week prior to print.
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.

Bernie Malovany  
Paige C. Robertson  
Ann Mulcahy  
Susanne Lambert  
Bev Oliveri  
Patti Menconi  
Mary Hafertepe  
Judy Coloner  
Joe Gattone

Donna Pelletier  
Lynette Meany  
Mary Vander Meulen  
Valder Morales  
Max Malesh  
Barb Houston  
Paula Lopat  
Colette Malovany  
Charlie Fahrenwald

Remember our Faithful Departed in your Prayers
♦  Lucy Bernard

Donations are needed of size 3 pampers and size 4T pull ups. A Bridge family desperately could use help with these items. God bless you for your help! If you have any questions, call Susan at 630.649.8720.

AB Patrick Reid - Keesler AFB, MS  
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 Gienosky - 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 Raspicka - Fort Bliss, Texas

Readings for the Week

Monday:  2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Tuesday:  Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday:  Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42
Thursday:  Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59
Friday:  Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42
Saturday:  Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56
Sunday:  Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16; (procession)  