Palm Sunday
OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Christ became obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

Philippians 2:8–9
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.

PARISH CENTER: 28W441 Warrenville Rd. Warrenville, IL 60555
PHONE: 630.393.2400
FAX: 630.393.9680
WEB: www.st-irene.org
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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

Reflecting on God’s Word

Someone once told me that people come to church on Palm Sunday because they get something. But I like to think that palm says something they recognize as true.

“He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness,” writes Paul, quoting the words of an early Christian hymn. “He humbled Himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross,” follow soon after (Philippians 2:7, 8). Emptying and humbling are the two key words embracing the trajectory of the life of Jesus Christ, the Son of God: from incarnation to passion and death.

He poured himself out for us and for our salvation, certainly suffering physically—from the beating, the scourging, the crowning with thorns, being struck with a reed, spat upon, prodded, pushed, and stumbling up the hill to Golgotha. Then He was stretched out on a crossbeam, nailed to it, and lifted up, His body suspended between heaven and earth. Finally, He suffocated, unable to raise himself to take in more air.

There was also the inner suffering of abandonment, of seeing His disciples run off, of realizing that all those who had cried “Hosanna” a few days earlier had either been silent or had cried out, “Crucify Him.” Only the women had remained with Him.

Today, when we take home a piece of palm, it invites us to prepare to renew our baptismal promises on Easter. Then we can add our voices to that solitary voice almost two millennia ago, saying, “Truly, this is the Son of God!” (Mark 15:39).

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

LIVING GOD’S WORD: Loving God, lift up our hearts to give you thanks and praise for all you have done for us through the saving death of your Son. We sing out in our day, “Blessed is He who continues to come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.”

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The parish office will be closed on Holy Thursday, March 29th, Good Friday, March 30th and Easter Monday, April 2nd. We will reopen on Tuesday, April 3rd at 8:30AM.

MASS SCHEDULE
- Daily: M-F 7AM
- Saturday: 5PM
- Sunday: 8AM & 10AM
This is the last week of Lent. I pray your Lent was happy and benefited your relationship with God. On Monday representatives of our community and I will attend the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral and receive the holy oils we will use for the next year.

The Holy Week Celebrations at St. Irene begin with Mass at 7PM, the Mass of the Lord's Supper. We recall when Jesus gave us the Eucharist for the first time and ordained the first priests. After Mass, Jesus in the Eucharist is carried in procession to the Altar of Repose and is there for adoration until 11PM. On Friday we celebrate Our Lord's Passion at 3PM. We listen to the Passion Story, venerate the Cross, receive communion, and pray for the universal Church. On Holy Saturday, we will bless food at noon in the ACL and the Vigil of Easter begins at 8PM. Plan now with family and friends to make this time special and truly Holy.

I will keep all of you in my prayers this week in a special way.

Peace and blessings from you Pastor,

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

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.

St. Irene LunchBunch Ministry

Lunch with St. Irene Class of 2018

Thursday, April 12th
11:30AM-2PM in the ACL
Pizza/salad/desserts/beverages
Cost: $10 per person

Join us as we invite the St. Irene 8th grade class for food, fellowship and fun! The students will engage us in a game for all to participate. RSVP to Anna Saake at 630.456.0644 (text or call) or email her at anna@saake.net by April 9th!

Treasures from our Tradition
For many centuries, Christian pilgrims have longed to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, and on Passion Sunday the eyes of the world are on the Via Dolorosa, the "Road of Sorrows," in Jerusalem. As soon as it became safe for Christians to worship in public in the fourth century, a way was marked out. It was changed a few times over the years, and today's usual route was sketched by the Franciscans six hundred years ago, although Anglicans and Byzantines have their own unique detours. Friday is the most favored day, although it is crowded then. Almost everyone begins at the Lion's Gate in the Muslim Quarter, and ends at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. It’s less than a quarter mile, but it threads its way through crowded markets with souvenir shops and fast-food snacks. There are, just as in your parish church, fourteen stations along the way. The exact spots are not known, but what matters is the pilgrim's unique ability to see even an ordinary road in a teeming city as something more than meets the eye.

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

Reading I: Isaiah 50:4-7
♦ He opens my ear that I may hear.

Background: The first reading from Isaiah is taken from the third “Song of the Suffering Servant.” It shows us the disciple whose faithfulness is based on fidelity to God. Although the passage was originally written about someone else, when we read this passage we immediately think of Jesus.

Reading II: Philippians 2:6-11
♦ He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave.

Background: The second reading from Paul’s Letter to the Philippians is a quotation from an early Christian hymn that proclaims the meaning of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Even though Jesus was God, He obediently accepted the humiliation of the cross, and God raised Him in glory. Paul’s challenge is to make Jesus’ attitude our own.

Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47
♦ The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Background: The Passion story from the Gospel according to Mark shows Jesus to us as the suffering servant portrayed in the prophecy of Isaiah. Mark places Jesus’ suffering and death in the context of the Passover meal which draws on Jewish theology. In Mark’s account of the Passion, Jesus is alone with no one to comfort Him as He approaches the ultimate sacrifice.

Theme: Jesus dies for us.

Question for Adults:
Identify and share one way that you personally “die in Christ.”

Question for Youth:
We hear the story of Jesus’ death each year. What did you hear differently this year? How has your faith changed in the past year?

Question for Children:
Name one thing that you will do each day this week to remind you that Jesus died and rose to new life for you.

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!

Readings for the Week

Tuesday: Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25
Thursday: Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Ps 89:21-22, 25, 27; Rv 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21
Lord’s Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
Friday: Is 52:13-53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:42
Saturday: a) Gn 1:1-2:2 [1:1, 26-31a]; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35; or Ps 33:4-7, 12-13, 20-22; b) Gn 22:1-18 [1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18]; Ps 16: 5, 8-11; c) Ex 14:15-15:1; Ex 15:1-6, 17-18; d) Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; e) Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-6; f) Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Ps 19:8-11; g) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5, 43:3-4 or Is 12:2-3, 4b; c5d, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; h) Rom 6:3-11; i) Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mk 16:1-7
Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7 or (at an afternoon or evening Mass) Lk 24:13-35

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.
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 emphasize this foundational belief of our Church. We, as Catholics, are profoundly called to reflect, in a prayerful and devout 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.
encounter
Our Neighbors

We encounter Jesus this week in Jerusalem, a community He knew well. We prayerfully enter our own communities too, encountering those who are hungry and thirsty, those who need our help. How does our Lenten journey motivate us to serve those we meet in our daily lives? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

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 are provided 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.

St. Irene Parish is seeking to hire one or two persons to fulfill the duties of a parish Business Manager and separately, a parish Physical Plant Manager. Below is a general description of duties. If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact Fr. Jim at parishoffice@st-irene.org, or Erich Pavel, chair of the parish finance committee.

Position Description
St. Irene Business Manager

Reporting directly to the Pastor with responsibilities to the parish Finance Committee; also, facilitator to parish staff.
• Serve as financial and day-to-day administrative manager for the parish.
• Prepare annual budget and monthly financial reports.
• Conduct the accounting, bookkeeping, and payroll (Paylocity) operations.
• Prepare monthly bank reconciliation.
• Monitor revenue in relation to expenses and budget, and assume responsibility for budget control.
• With the Diocese administer the fringe benefit programs.
• Train, support, and manage church software programs including but not limited to: census/membership database, religious education and school membership, tuition, and donor database.
• Work with parish consultant to direct successful stewardship/annual giving programs.
• Work collaboratively with staff to facilitate their programs.

Physical Plant Manager

• Negotiate cost, terms, and conditions of all contracted services.
• Act as owner’s representative in selection of qualified contractors/bidders for any and all contracted services.
• Supervise any and all contracted services.
• Develop preventive maintenance schedules for all equipment based on need and manufacturer recommendations.
• Develop comprehensive major repair and improvement programs and make recommendations for priority inclusion to the annual budget.
• Develop systems to define and protect the organization’s interest under cost, terms, conditions, and cancellations.

For more information, please contact Fr. Jim at parishoffice@st-irene.org, or Erich Pavel, chair of the parish finance committee.
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.

Mary Hughes
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

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.

Liturgical Calendar

Monday, March 26
Monday of Holy Week
7:00AM - Tom Cosgrove/ Family

Tuesday, March 27
Tuesday of Holy Week
7:00AM - Lucy Bernard/ Cathy Kott

Wednesday, March 28
Wednesday of Holy Week
7:00AM - Edwin Sulima/ 1st Anniversary

Thursday, March 29
Holy Thursday
7:00AM - Morning Prayer
7:00PM - Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Friday, March 30
Friday of the Passion of the Lord; Fast & Abstinence
7:00AM - Morning Prayer
3:00PM - The Lord’s Passion

Saturday, March 31
Easter Vigil
8:00AM - Morning Prayer
12:00PM - Blessing of Easter Baskets
8:00PM - St. Irene Faith Community

Sunday, April 1
Easter Sunday
8:00AM - St. Irene Faith Community
10:00AM - St. Irene Faith Community

There will be NO Eucharistic Adoration on Holy Thursday.