Jesus said to Thomas,

“Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

John 20:29
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: Father of the only-begotten Son, send your Spirit upon us that we might know more deeply the truth of your Son’s resurrection and allow it to penetrate our lives. Deepen our faith, hope, and love so the world will know us even now as children of the Resurrection.

Second Sunday of Easter

Reflecting on God’s Word

Can one “fathom” a mystery? “Fathom” derives from an Old English word meaning “outstretched arms;” eventually it referred to the length from fingertips to fingertip of arms opened wide. As a verb, it means to probe or penetrate in order to understand. Granting the impossibility of ever coming to fathom the Resurrection fully, I like the image of trying to reach out and put my arms around this great mystery—or, better yet, to have the risen Christ put his outstretched arms around me, drawing me into it more fully.

Which brings us to Thomas. He is the original person who tried to fathom the risen Christ, insisting that if his friends in the upper room wanted him to believe what he could only think of as nonsense, he needed to touch the wounds of the risen Lord. Jesus didn’t seem to have much of a problem letting him. We never learn whether Thomas did touch Jesus or not, but every second Sunday of Easter we are told this story about Thomas and the risen Lord. It encourages us to fathom the mystery that is our faith, to learn to penetrate it by confessing Jesus as Lord and God, then allow this belief to flow out into our daily activities, reaching out to embrace others. Don’t you think when Thomas left the upper room that day he knew that the Resurrection was not something to keep to himself? That his whole being was filled with the warmth and light absorbed from being in the presence of the risen Lord? Is it possible that this can happen to us?

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.
Sometimes children acquire nicknames in childhood that stalk them through adulthood: “Pinky,” “Boo-boo,” and the like. This Sunday was once called “Low Sunday,” a step down from Easter glory, and an unfortunate nickname since Easter rejoicing goes on for fifty days. Traditionally this is the day when the newly baptized put away their white baptismal robes and returned to their everyday life after a week of intense celebration. Of course, the goal was to take up everyday duties with a very new point of view.

A long title for the day was Dominica in albis deposito, or “The Lord’s Day for Putting Away the Albs,” so no wonder the nickname “Low Sunday” arose. In the old calendar it was also called “Quasimodo Sunday,” after the first word of the opening chant, Quasimodo geniti infantes, or “As newborn infants,” a reference to the newly baptized taken from the Epistle of Peter. Victor Hugo’s bell-ringing hero in The Hunchback of Notre Dame was abandoned as an infant on the threshold of the cathedral of Paris on Low Sunday, 1467, and named “Quasimodo” for the feast.

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

Reading I: Acts 4:32-35
♦ The community was of one heart.

Background: The readings for the Sundays after Easter reflect on the experiences of the early Church. Today’s first reading presents an ideal of the early Christian community. The result of true Christian love put into practice is justice.

Reading II: 1 John 5:1-6
♦ We are called to keep the commandments of God.

Background: In the second reading, John makes the point that through Christ’s blood and sacrifice, at the moment of Christ’s death, the world is saved. By our Baptism into the death of Jesus, we are born to new life as children of God. Our duty is simply to believe in Jesus Christ.

Gospel: John 20:19-31
♦ Peace be with you.

Background: The gospel is John’s description of the first appearance of Jesus since the resurrection. In the first appearance, Jesus gives the disciples peace and joy and breathes new life into them, bestowing on them the gift of the Holy Spirit. In the second appearance, Jesus appears to Thomas and by showing His wounds He gives Thomas the evidence he needs to believe.

Theme: Do not persist in your unbelief, but believe!

Question for Adults:
What strengthens your faith? Why do you believe in Jesus?

Question for Youth:
Jesus’ words of greeting were “Peace be with you,” followed by the invitation to forgive sins. How does forgiveness bring peace to you? How does it change the world?

Question for Children:
How can you believe in Jesus whom you have never seen?

BUNCO - April 21st

The Ladies of Columbus Auxiliary is 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 own 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.

St. Irene Council of Catholic Women Nomination of Officers

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.

Thank You!

We changed lives this Lent, thanks to YOU! Don’t forget to turn in your CRS Rice bowl at Mass this weekend. Visit crsricebowl.org for more.
SO THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE

It is not often that the author of one of the books of the Bible comes right out and tells us directly why he is writing what he is writing. In this Sunday’s Gospel reading, taken from the conclusion of John’s Gospel, the author tells us that he has chosen to record these events so “that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name” (20:31).

The letter of John echoes this idea by saying that “[e]veryone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God” (5:1)—what we might refer to as being “born again.” Our reading from the Acts of the Apostles for this Second Sunday of Easter shows us exactly what it looks like when believers are born again through faith.

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The Prayer Shawl Ministry

This ministry makes and distributes shawls for people in need of comfort. Many blessing are prayed into each shawl before it is given. Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted, affirmed, and their days made brighter by knowing they are being remembered and prayed for. For more information about receiving a shawl, or to help knit/crochet shawls, please contact Paula Peterson at 630.393.3989 or paula.lp.peterson@gmail.com. Join us at our next meeting on Tuesday, April 24th at 7PM in the Parish Center.

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.

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!

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.

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.

DupagePads Strikes Back - We would like to invite you to our 16th annual DuPagePads Strikes Back bowling event, Saturday, April 14 from 12–3PM. If you are interested in participating in this event, simply email Carrie at cflick@dupagepads.org to sign up.

Conference for the Divorced and Widowed - The Office of Family Ministry is pleased to offer a day of encouragement and support on April 21st. The goal of this day is to help you learn ways to Rebuild and begin to move forward in your life. The conference day begins with a 8:30AM check-in at the Joliet Diocesan Blanchette Catholic Center in Crest Hill, and concludes with a Vigil Mass at 4PM. The suggested donation is $35 which includes morning coffee and refreshments, lunch, and materials. Please register by April 11 by calling the Office of Family Ministry at 815.838.5334.

Women of the Old Testament - Join us at St. John the Baptist in Winfield on Sunday, April 22nd from 3-6PM to learn about how important women in the Old Testament, such as Hannah, Sarah, Ruth and others, prefigure and typify the Blessed Virgin Mary. A free-will donation will benefit the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary. RSVP to Jan by Tuesday, April 17 at 630.653.2953 or janbrooker@att.net.

North Star Shred Event/Donation Drive/ Recycling Event - April 21st from 9AM-12PM at the Warrenville location. Limit 2 boxes of documents for shredding per guest; tube style televisions and monitors cannot be accepted for recycling. Donations will support Little Friends - items needed are: shampoo, deodorant, body wash, toothpaste, elastic hair ties, combs, hair brushes, Aquaphor & Eucerin.
## This Week’s Meetings

### Sunday, April 8
- 7:30a-12:30p - Hospitality (ACL)
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11:15a-12:15p - Special Sacrament Group (S)
- 4-5p - Small Christian Community (ACL)

### Monday, April 9
- 1-2:30 - Consoling the Heart of Jesus (ACL)
- 7-8:30p - Consoling the Heart of Jesus (ACL)

### Tuesday, April 10
- 5:30-7p - Elementary Religious Education (S, C)
- 6-7p - Ladies Of Columbus Auxiliary (ACL)
- 7-8p - Bridge Communities (Staff)

### Wednesday, April 11
- 8-10:30a - PACE (ACL)
- 12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)
- 6:30-8p - Jr. High RE (C, S, HF, SF, AC)
- 7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)

### Thursday, April 12
- 11:30a-2p - Seniors & Friends (ACL)
- 6-10p - Knights of Columbus (ACL)
- 6:30-8p - Healing Horizons (HF)

### Friday, April 13
- 12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)
- 3-11p - Religious Education (AC)
- 7-8p - Wedding Rehearsal (C)

### Saturday, April 14
- 8:30-11:30a - 1st Communion Retreat (AC)

### Sunday, April 15
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-12:30p - RCIA (ACL)
- 11a-12:15p - HS Confirmation Class (HF)
- 1-3p - School Service Project (ACL)

## St. Irene Rosary Group

The St. Irene Rosary Group meets the third Thursday of each month in the ACL from 7-8PM then followed by fellowship. Please plan on joining us on April 19th and bring a friend.

For more information, please call Jeanette Clark at 630.292.9349.

## St. Irene Employment Opportunity

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 one of these positions, contact Fr. Jim at parishoffice@st-irene.org, or Erich Pavel, chair of the parish finance committee, at epavelli@aol.com.

**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.

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.

Readings for the Week

Monday:   Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday:  Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21
Thursday:  Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36
Friday:  Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15
Saturday:  Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; Jn 6:16-21
Sunday:  Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Ps 4:2, 4, 7-9; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48

Liturgical Calendar

Monday, April 9
The Annunciation of the Lord
7:00AM - Linda Carter/ Cathy Kott

Tuesday, April 10
Easter Weekday
7:00AM - St. Irene Faith Community

Wednesday, April 11
St. Stanislaus
7:00AM - Daniella Walczak/ 1st Anniversary

Thursday, April 12
Easter Weekday

Sunday, April 15
Third Sunday of Easter
Baptisms at Mass
8:00AM - For The Healing of Our Friends & Family
10:00AM - Grace Fratgalone/ Family
11:30AM - Baptism Ceremony

AB Patrick Reid - Keesler AFB, MS
1st Lt. Weston J. Umano USAF - Holloman, NM
1st Lt. Keegan Lohrey USMC - Camp Pendleton
Lance Cpl. Quin Lohrey USMC - Camp Pendleton
Master Sgt. Dan Peterson - Anchorage, AK
TSgt. Daniel Geinovsky - 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