The kingdom of God

is like a mustard seed that is the smallest of all the seeds. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants.

Mark 4:31-32

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 17, 2018
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.

Reflecting on God’s Word
I watch most of the children in my three brothers’ families growing into what is called “emerging adulthood.” It must be very difficult at times for parents, only being able to watch, hope, and pray as their children start to move away from home and begin to make their own way into the world. Will they be safe, make the right choices, be happy?

Making use of images from nature, scripture reminds us that God gives the growth, whether it is to mighty cedars springing from small shoots, ripened grain sprouting from the blade, or a fully grown mustard plant emerging from the tiniest of seeds to offer its large branches as housing for the birds.

Such poetic language calls us to reflect on the mystery of the kingdom of God, whose seeds were found in the various covenants extended to Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David, and then fully enfleshed in Jesus so many millennia ago. This kingdom continues to sprout in our day, often where least expected.

Sometimes it breaks through like a mighty cedar, but more often it is a quieter blossoming, suddenly emerging like stalks of grain, or the first signs of life carried in a mother’s body. I am sure God has worried for all the children of every age who have filled the earth. The kingdom of life won by Christ continues to have the power to carry all God’s sons and daughters into the loving arms of the God Jesus taught us to call Father.

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

LIVING GOD’S WORD: God of all life, we thank you for the many ways life continues to flourish in our world and in our land. Bless the life you have entrusted to our care. Guide us in raising it to harvest. Remove any obstacles we place in its way. We ask this in Jesus’ name.

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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.

MASS SCHEDULE
- Daily: M-F 7AM
- Saturday: 5PM
- Sunday: 8AM & 10AM
Adults who are interested in completing the sacraments of Christian Initiation or who would like information about the process of becoming a Catholic Christian, are invited to attend an Inquiry session which will be held Sunday, June 24th in the Parish Center following the 10AM Mass. You may also contact Annette at 630.393.2400 x 22.

What is the R.C.I.A.?
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults—it is the way the Catholic Church welcomes new members.

Who is it for?
Primarily this Rite is for unbaptized adults and children of school age; however, it has been adapted for those adults and children baptized in other Christian denominations who seek membership in the Catholic Church.

What about baptized Catholics who have not received the Sacraments of Confirmation or Eucharist? Adults seeking these Sacraments will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Christian Initiation is the responsibility of the entire faith community. If you are interested in becoming active in this dynamic ministry, phone Annette at 630.393.2400 x 122 for information.

Inquiry sessions: These sessions are ongoing.

FEED the HUNGRY
Please help us refill the Food Pantry shelves with cereal, chili, pork & beans, toilet paper, paper towels and laundry detergent.

The loving spirit of the St. Irene Community is shown through your generosity to the poor.

The reign of God comes about because people commit to reversing their lives completely, to embracing new vision, new values. Many popular television shows exploit an unattractive side of human nature by pitting contestants against one another, even to the point of performing dangerous stunts or devious schemes, to gain money or favor.

At the liturgy, we counter that impulse by committing ourselves to live generously. In response to Christ’s total gift, we offer bread and wine as the emblems of our lives, our hopes, our joys and sorrows. The bread and wine carried to the altar contain our lives, and by offering our lives to God, we prepare to receive the gift of God’s own life. We are to become what we receive: the body of Christ.

On Sundays, this self-giving is often accompanied by a collection and procession of gifts for the poor and money for the upkeep of the parish. There are certainly other methods of collecting money, some perhaps more efficient. Yet the acts of giving from our abundance and attending to the needs of the poor open us up to participation in the changes the Reign of God requires.

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

Reading I: Ezekiel 17:22-24
♦ I will plant it. It shall put forth branches and bear fruit.

Background: Twice we hear the words “I will plant”. God makes promises and keeps them. God will rebuild the Davidic dynasty; then people will know that God can restore a people’s destiny.

Reading II: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10
♦ Walk by faith and not by sight.

Background: The Apostle uses the word “home” to explain how we really belong to Christ instead of the world where we live and work. The Lord is the distant homeland, believed in, but unseen. At judgment, we will be revealed as we truly are. We shall be valued not by our earthly monuments but by our imitation of the Lord who emptied Himself and left behind no earthly possessions.

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34
♦ Through Jesus will come the Kingdom of God.

Background: Only Mark records this parable of the seed’s growth. Here are two parables about growth from seed to full blooming plant. Sower and harvester are the same. The Kingdom of God develops quietly yet powerfully until it is fully bloomed. The Kingdom of God was initiated by Jesus.

Theme: God’s reign is unfolding.

Question for Adults:
When do you find it hardest to have faith? Must you “see” answered prayer, or can you peacefully accept God’s will?

Question for Youth:
Do you pray and ask for faith? How do you work on building your faith?

Question for Children:
Have you ever had to walk in the dark with no light? How is that like walking by faith and not by sight? What did you have to do to keep going in the dark?

Mission Trip

For over 25 summers, CHWC has been providing opportunities for Catholic teens and adults to share their gifts, get out of their comfort zone and serve others.

In July, St. Irene is sending 6 teens and 1 adult (along with 20 others from St. Michael and St. Anne) to southern Indiana to serve and restore homes and hearts, feed the hungry, lift the spirits of children and the elderly, and to give tirelessly of themselves. The cost of each camp volunteer is approximately $500 which will be supplemented by fundraising efforts, supply & monetary donations, and personal contributions.

Please consider supporting our youth with any of the following contributions:
♦ 4" paint brushes and disposable drop cloths
♦ paint scrapers, painters tape and safety goggles
♦ 7-11 sturdy work gloves size small
♦ 1 - $500 full scholarship
♦ 10 - $50 gifts toward transportation fees
♦ 10 - $25 partial scholarships

Thank you for your prayers for a successful mission trip.

Garden Ministry

You may have noticed some sprucing up of the many gardens on the Parish grounds. A group of parishioners have come together to be part of the newly formed Garden Ministry. They will maintain the gardens by weeding, watering and replacing plants as needed. To properly maintain these gardens we ask that you do not leave potted plants/flowers in these areas. This will help us maintain the integrity and balance properly. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. If you are interested in becoming part of this ministry please call the parish office or drop a note in the collection basket and someone will contact you. Hope you are enjoying these beautiful gardens!

Eucharistic Adoration - Join us at 7:30AM-8PM on Thursdays. Please sign up for a 1/2 hour or a one hour segment by calling Cathy Kott at 630.393.9543.
Healing Horizons is a parish support group where people help people through the difficult experience of loss through death, divorce, or separation. Our focus is on the spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth of those who attend. People from all faiths are encouraged to join us. Join us on Wednesdays, July 11, July 25, August 8 and August 22 from 6:30-8PM in the lower level of the Activity Center. For more information, please contact Sue Battaglia at 312.213.2119.

Escape the Kingdom of Man: Discover True Happiness

Kingdom of Happiness: Living the Beatitudes in Everyday Life is a new 8-part parish program that unveils Jesus’ plan for happiness in the Beatitudes.

In a world that offers fleeting pleasures in place of true happiness and false promises that actually lead us away from happiness, it’s time more than ever to turn to the Beatitudes and enter into the Kingdom of Happiness.

**Kingdom of Happiness will:**

- Show how the Beatitudes are much more than nice sayings, they are the path to happiness charted by Christ himself.
- Expose the “anti-Beatitudes” for what they are: the kingdom of man’s false promises of happiness that lead only to misery.
- Inspire a renewed resolve to live the Beatitudes through video profiles of real-life people living the Beatitudes in their everyday life.

Featuring teaching videos by Fr. Jeffrey Kirby, and powerful profiles of normal people living out the Beatitudes in heroic ways, *Kingdom of Happiness* will not only inform about the Beatitudes, it will show the way to living them and achieving true happiness.

Please join us at 1PM or 7PM in the ACL on Mondays from June 25 to August 20 (No meeting on July 16th).

Cost is $10 for the Study Guide. For information, or to register, call Annette at 630.393.2400 x 122 or email annette@st-irene.org.

Survive the Kingdom of Man:
Discover True Happiness

Make a Difference in Someone's Life

St. Irene volunteers are helping to feed the hungry at Hesed House in Aurora this summer. No cooking involved, just setting up, serving lunch and cleaning up. Shifts are from 10AM-1PM on Monday, June 25 and Friday, June 29. "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40.

For more information or to serve, please contact Marge at mpst37@aol.com or 630.851.3708.

Are you looking for an education change for your children?

St. Irene School welcomes you to consider us for the 2018/2019 school year. There are openings in all grades, Pre-K through 8th Grade. Public school transfers are also eligible for a $2,000 discount per child for grades 1 through 8 for their first year. Scholarships may also be available. Please contact our school office at 630.393.3903 x 116. www.st-ireneschool.org

SAVE THE DATE!
ST. IRENE ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2018

BLISS CREEK GOLF CLUB, Sugar Grove
1PM Shotgun Start

We are currently looking for silent auction donations, sponsors, and volunteers.

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING!
For more information or to help, contact Scott Reid or Shannon Nevins at saint.irene.athleticboard@gmail.com

www.fmsc.org

Feed My Starving Children's Aurora packing site is running a full schedule this summer, but due to summer schedules and vacations, volunteering is down. Do you have a couple hours during the daytime or evening? Come and pack with us! Groups of any size are welcome. Please sign up for your desired session at www.fmsc.org. Children around the world thank you!
This Week’s Meetings

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<td>9a-12p - VBS (AC, Grounds)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9a-12p - VBS (AC, Grounds)</td>
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<td>7-8:30p - RE Family Book Study (ACL)</td>
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<td>9a-12p - VBS (AC, Grounds)</td>
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<td>7-8:30p - RE Family Book Study (ACL)</td>
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<td>9a-12p - VBS (AC, Grounds)</td>
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<td>7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9a-12p - VBS (AC, Grounds)</td>
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<td>7-8:30p - Rosary Group (ACL)</td>
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School Ceiling Update

After inspection by their office and by the structural engineers, we received the following update from the Director of Buildings & Properties of the Diocese of Joliet.

“The block piece that fell is part of a cast concrete floor system. Instead of removable wood forms, the lightweight blocks were used on the underside of the floor to form the recessed areas between the beams. When the floor was cast they became part of the assembly to provide additional rigidity and sound deadening. The ceiling of this area is not air conditioned and hairline cracks are not unusual in these systems. But this particular piece was directly below a recessed south facing entrance on the main floor above. It is likely that the extremely high temperatures over several days combined with corrosion in the ceiling rebar and provided expansion beyond the range of materials to resist the movement.

Some measures to help prevent the conditions which combined to result in the block failure:

1. It is recommended to regularly observe the underside for any areas experiencing failure. To make this easier the lay in ceiling system should be removed to expose the complete underside of the floor.

2. Air conditioning or dehumidifying the entire basement space to help arrest the corrosion of the rebar.

3. Door and window openings should be tightly sealed to prevent moisture or heat intrusion into the basement.

4. The blocks with hairline cracks could be scrubbed with an epoxy mortar to try and penetrate and repair the cracks.

5. Widespread block removal is not recommended because dislodging one block could cause adjacent blocks to loosen, or could damage the concrete floor system.

Smith LaSalle (structural engineers) has prepared a proposal to provide engineering drawings for the repair of the entire ceiling system. This includes a repair location plan, repair details and required notes for any potential trouble areas. This is a unique ceiling assembly that is not easily addressed, it needs to be handled with care so other problems are not created.”

The parish has accepted this proposal from the engineers and will make the necessary repairs as quickly as prudently possible.

Richard Kaffka, Business Manager

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The St. Irene School Blackboard

We recently received an update from the Hamfeldt family who attended St. Irene School before moving to Georgia. Please see the following email from Lynn, mother of Katie.

“We are happy to let you know that a former student, Katie Hamfeldt, class of 2018, received the Chi Rho award from the Archdiocese of Atlanta. As parents we know that St Irene helped give Katie the foundation necessary to receive the award. Again, thank you to St Irene for the amazing foundation you gave our girls. Lynn Hamfeldt Chi Rho Award: The Chi Rho Award, sponsored by St. Pius X High School, is given to one student in each Catholic grade school who in the judgement of the school's faculty, possesses the qualities of faith, determination, caring, and integrity which are needed to pursue an education to the best of one's ability.”

Congratulations to Katie Hamfeldt!
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.

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Kgs 21:1-16; Ps 5:2-3ab, 4b-7; Mt 5:38-42
Tuesday: 1 Kgs 21:17-29; Ps 51:3-6ab, 11, 16; Mt 5:43-48
Wednesday: 2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14; Ps 31:20, 21, 24; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Sir 48:1-14; Ps 97:1-7; Mt 6:7-15
Friday: 2 Kgs 11:1-4, 9-18, 20; Ps 132:11-14, 17-18; Mt 6:19-23
Saturday: 2 Chr 24:17-25; Ps 89:4-5, 29-34; Mt 6:24-34
Sunday: Vigil: Jer 1:4-10; Ps 71:1-6ab, 15ab, 17; 1 Pt 1:8-12; Lk 1:5-17

Parish Office Summer Hours

Monday - Thursday → 9AM-3PM
Friday → 9AM-12PM