Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Mark 13:31
Help St. Irene to Help Those in Your Community!

Each year our Parish participates in the Christmas Sharing program. Since 1969 Churches, schools, and community organizations have come together to help the needy families of Warrenville. You can help by donating new toys, children's coats, and cash or gift cards for a meal. Please place your donations in the box in the narthex. Cash donations can be made in an envelope marked Christmas Sharing. Volunteers who'd like to help organizing donated items by sorting, folding, and displaying items are very much needed. Spanish speakers are extremely helpful on shopping days to help our guests with questions. Please reflect on how you might be able to help our community this year.

Collection date: December 1st & 2nd
Sorting items date: December 3rd - 5th
Shopping Days: December 7th & 8th
Sign up sheets in the office

Advent Scripture Series

The four weeks leading up to Christmas mark the beginning of the Liturgical year. The Church stresses that Advent is a time of reflection, meditation, and preparation. For many of us, those weeks are filled with shopping, baking, decorating, and parties. However, preparing to celebrate Christ's coming is more than preparing the things around us. It's a time to ready ourselves from within for the coming of the Savior.

Are we ready for the King? Are our hearts ready to receive our Savior?

Join us on the Monday afternoons from 1-2:30PM in the ACL for “Preparing for Christ.”

♦ November 26
♦ December 3, 10, 17

The Christmas Giving Tree this year will have tags for the Illinois Youth Center in Warrenville, as well as for our Bridge Community families. It will be in the narthex Nov. 24th & 25th. The tags have specific requests. Please return your unwrapped gift with the tag taped to the box or bag by Sunday, December 15th.
PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN

This workshop is for anyone who ministers to minors at St. Irene Parish.

The next workshop at St. Irene is Monday, December 3rd at 6:30PM in the ACL.

Registration for the classes can be found at www.virtusonline.org. Select Diocese of Joliet - St. Irene and then select the date to register.

Registration is required. If unable to do online, call Pamela at 630.393.2400 x 120.

Special Visit

Pancake Breakfast with Santa!

Sunday, Nov. 25th
8:30AM-12:30PM

In the ACL

All-you-can-eat pancakes!
Photos with Santa Claus from 9AM-12PM!
Bring your family and friends for fellowship, all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, & eggs!
$6 per person / $20 for a family of 4 or more

Coffee with the Pastor

There is no other parish in the Diocese of Joliet that embraces the sense of unity and family the way that the people of St. Irene Parish share daily. In an effort to nurture and grow this wonderful community, Fr. Jim will be hosting a monthly “Coffee with the Pastor” in order to provide time for open communication. Each meeting will last one hour. There is no agenda – just time to visit with Fr. Jim to talk about life and our Catholic faith. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the following:

♦ Saturday, December 1 at 9AM in the ACL

Bring friends and neighbors and enjoy this special time with Fr. Jim.

Month of Remembrance: The Book of Remembrance will be in the baptistry area throughout the month of November. All are invited to write the names of deceased family and friends in the book, as we remember our faithful departed.

November is a month of remembrance for the dead, and cemeteries have long been a focus for prayer. Our tradition holds great respect for bodily remains, since the body was created and redeemed by God, was once the “dwelling place of the Holy Spirit,” and has a destiny of life with God in glory. The funeral practices of the early church contrasted greatly with those of the pagans, who had a great dread of the dead body. The ancient Christian funeral liturgy ended with the relatives and friends giving a final kiss to the body. It expressed affection and showed their faith that the grave would not be the last word. This kiss horrified pagans, who thought that any contact with the dead was degrading.

Every year on their loved one’s “birthday to life,” the Christians would return to the place of their burial to mark their profound communion with those whose lives were hidden in Christ. Typically, they buried the dead with their faces turned toward the east, symbolizing the rising of the Sun of Justice, Christ, at the end of days. They were attracted to the catacombs or burial grounds just as we are today. They would often celebrate the Eucharist at the tomb. Before long, as soon as Christians were allowed to build places for worship, they relocated cemeteries from beyond the city walls to surround the church. This was not so much because the church made the ground holy, but because the bodies of the saints hallowed the ground on which the church was built, a subtle but beautiful difference.

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

Reading I: Daniel 12:1-3
♦ Those who lead others to justice shall be like stars!

Background: The first reading is an example of apocalyptic biblical literature. After predicting the great destruction of all human kingdoms, Daniel 12 portrays the ultimate victory. Today’s passage is the clearest statement concerning resurrection from the dead found in the Old Testament.

Reading II: Hebrews 10:11-14, 18
♦ Jesus took His seat at the right hand of God.

Background: Today’s reading from the letter to the Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus’ victory over sin and death is one in which we already share. Jesus will come again, and the believer must be ready. The day and hour Christ will come, no one knows.

Gospel: Mark 13:24-32
♦ God alone knows the hour.

Background: The author of the Gospel of Mark expresses the urgency and need for vigilance felt at this time when Christ might return at any moment. Today’s passage is an apocalyptic discourse linking the events of the destruction of Jerusalem with the expected second coming of Christ. The imagery of cosmic catastrophe surrounds the expectation.

Theme: Jesus will come again.

Question for Adults:
If today was your last day what would you do with it?

Question for Youth:
If today was your last day, what would you be most thankful for? What would you regret?

Question for Children:
If Jesus came to visit you today, what would you do? What would you say? How would you act?

One act of thanksgiving when things go wrong with us is worth one thousand thank-yous when things are agreeable to our inclination. —St. John of Ávila

Support the 2018 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal this #GivingTuesday!

The Diocese of Joliet is participating in #GivingTuesday! If you have yet to donate to the 2018 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), please mark your calendar for Tuesday, Nov. 27.

The 2018 CMAA goal of $8.2 million is within reach — but we need the help of everyone in the diocese. Every gift, no matter the size, is greatly appreciated and will help support 30 ministries that benefit every parish in the diocese, including ours.

Remember, 70% of any amount we raise over our parish goal is returned to us for our use. This is a great opportunity for our parish. Our parish has now raised $65,496 of our $67,300 for the 2018 CMAA.

Thank you to everyone who has already pledged their gift to the 2018 CMAA, and for being a partner in caring to so many in our diocese.

For more information about the CMAA before #GivingTuesday, please follow @DOJCMAA on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or visit our website jolietdioceseappeal.org.
ShopRight Holiday News! Gifting that gives back to St. Irene Parish

Find gifts for everyone on your list while raising funds for our organization with the holiday gift guide. Shop gift cards from over 750 top brands, including Best Buy, Amazon, Nordstrom, The Home Depot and more. Whether you buy the gift cards to give as presents to family and friends, or to use them to buy your gifts—our Parish earns with every gift card purchased. It’s simple, it’s thoughtful and it’s truly the gift that keeps on giving. Shop the gift guide at ShopWithScrip.com/GiftGuide.

If you are interested in joining this fundraising program, please send an email to st.irene.script@gmail.com with your name, address, phone number and email address.

Remember - Shopping Helps Our Parish!

Introducing the New and Improved SHOPRight Fundraising Program

SHOPRight is a different kind of fundraiser. With the help of Great Lakes Scrip company, you can choose from over 750 brands of gift cards. By paying for your everyday purchases with gift cards, also known as scrip, you’ll earn money on your groceries, gas, dining out, home improvement projects, clothing, travel, and more. Every gift card has a rebate percentage on it, normally between 2% and 16%. That rebate goes directly to YOUR St. Irene Parish when a card is purchased at face value.

Here’s how it works…
♦ Send email to st.irene.script@gmail.com letting us know you are interested in signing up with script! You will then receive an email from Great Lakes Scrip company explaining how to register. We will need your first and last name, phone number and email address to keep you updated with script specials.
♦ Set up online Payment (PrestoPay) where you simply link your bank account to your ShopWithScrip account. Note: credit cards are not accepted for organizations or families as they add fees and would result in reduced earnings for your organization.
♦ Begin shopping and earn rebates for St. Irene Parish. Choose to purchase physical gift cards, ScriptNow or Reload (after initial purchase of a physical gift card).
♦ Orders placed by Sunday 4PM can be picked up the following weekend at any of the three Masses.

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart 2019 LUCKY CALENDAR

We invite you to participate in our annual “Lucky Calendar” program. Your cost of $30 per ticket gives you 365 chances to win daily awards of $50, $100 or $500. Buy one for yourself and give one as a gift - they make great stocking stuffers! Your donation of $30 per ticket helps us support our retired missionaries, our seminarians, and our missionaries around the world. For more information or to buy a Lucky Calendar ticket, call us at 630.892.2371.

www.misacor-usa.org

Please be generous in this week’s second collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. In the United States, one in seven people lives in poverty. With this collection you support programs that address the causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those who are struggling across the country. In addition, 25% of funds collected remains in our diocese to fund local anti-poverty projects. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and work on the margins. More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development can be found at www.usccb.org/cchd/collection.

Please join St. Irene’s Council of Catholic Women as we celebrate the Christmas Season with fellowship, food and fun! December 6th from 6:30-9PM Lower Activity Center

Please bring an appetizer/dessert to share! There will be a “brief” meeting before the festivities! Bring a friend – see you all there!

BEST ADVENT EVER

Rediscover the JOY of Christmas with BEST ADVENT EVER, a free email program that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during the busy holiday season. Each day of Advent, you will receive:
♦ Short inspirational videos
♦ Practical tips
♦ Real-life Encouraging Stories
This Week’s Meetings

**Sunday, November 18**
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-12:30p - Baptism Prep 2nd Session (S)
- 11a-12:30p - RCIA (ACL)
- 11a-1p - Clean the Church (C)
- 1:30-3:30p - School Service Project (ACL)

**Monday, November 19**
- 11:30a-3p - 6th Grade Friendsgiving (ACL)
- 3-5p - Basketball Practice (ACU)

**Tuesday, November 20**

**Wednesday, November 21**
- 7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)

**Thursday, November 22**

**Friday, November 23**

**Saturday, November 24**
- 7a-1p - Knights of Columbus (ACL)

**Sunday, November 25**
- 8:30a-12:30p - Pancake Breakfast with Santa (ACL)
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)

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January Bible Study

In Bishop Barron’s new film and study program, *David the King*, Bishop Barron helps us to understand this pivotal figure in light of the first king and the King of kings.

His kingship recalls that of Adam in the Garden of Eden, and yet it points toward the King par excellence, Jesus Christ. Adam was the first king and steward of the rightly ordered Garden of Eden. He was called to govern the garden according to God’s mind and purpose, but by allowing negative influences to wreak havoc on Eden, he did not fulfill his kingly responsibility. Long after Adam, David emerged as the definitive king who would restore order in the Garden and bring the world under the lordship of God. But like Adam, David fell, and his reign ushered in a succession of compromised kings and rejected prophets. The New Testament, however, foretold a son of David who would realize the fullness of Israelite kingship...but whose actual reign defied expectation. King David causes us to look back toward Adam’s kingship and forward toward Christ the King, seeing Christ as the fulfillment of the Davidic line and the realization of the Kingdom of God on earth.

Please join us on selected Monday afternoons from 1-2:30PM in the ACL.

♦ January 7, 14, February 4, 11, March 4, 11

Please register by **December 15** by phoning 630.393.2400 x122 or email annette@st-irene.org

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There will NOT be Eucharistic Adoration Thanksgiving Day.
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.

Scott Hurley
Baby Reyna Zizzo-Urso
Paula Lopat
Barb Olson
John Martin
Sharon Booth
Lynette Meany
Don Clevenger, Jr.
Phelan Welch
Joe Gattone

Jean Roe
Robert Neameyer
Javier Tecuatl
Bernie Malovany
Paige C. Robertson
Mary Vander Meulen
Valder Morales
Max Malvesh
Colette Malovany

Readings for the Week

Monday: Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 18:35-43
Tuesday: Rv 3:1-6, 14-22; Ps 15:2-5; Lk 19:1-10
Wednesday: Rv 4:1-11; Ps 150:1b-6; Lk 19:11-28
Thursday: Rv 5:1-10; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 19:41-44
Thanksgiving Day—Suggested:
Sir 50:22-24; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19
Friday: Rv 10:8-11; Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131; Lk 19:45-48
Saturday: Rv 11:4-12; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Lk 20:27-40
Sunday: Dn 7:13-14; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Rv 1:5-8; Jn 18:33b-37

How Many People Attend Mass Here at St. Irene?

Did you know that, during the Month of October, the Diocese of Joliet requests that all parishes count weekly attendance? The average attendance at each Mass in October was:

♦ 5PM Mass - 197 People
♦ 8AM Mass - 206 People
♦ 10AM Mass - 420 People

Our average weekly attendance in October would then be 823. According to our census program, we have 1,038 families, with a total of 3,195 members.

How can we increase attendance at Sunday Masses? Where are our members?

The parish office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 22nd & 23rd. We will reopen on Monday, November 26th at 8:30AM.