First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.

Luke 21:36
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. Volunteers who’d like to help organize 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

Hams or Turkeys for the Christmas baskets would be appreciated by Monday, December 17th. Other needed items are: sweet & instant potatoes, gravy, stuffing, frosting, canned vegetables, cereal, pork & beans, canned pumpkin, mac & cheese, pancake mix and syrup.

Thank you for your continued generosity to those in need. God Bless you and your family.

Upcoming Bulletin Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin: Deadline is 8AM on:
December 23, 2018 Thursday, Dec. 13th
December 30, 2018 Tuesday, Dec. 18th
January 6, 2019 Wednesday, Dec. 19th

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

The Christmas Giving Tree this year has tags for the Illinois Youth Center in Warrenville, as well as for our Bridge Community families. The tags have specific requests. Please return your unwrapped gift with the tag taped to the box or bag by Sunday, December 15th.

**MASS SCHEDULE**
- Daily: M-F 7AM
- Saturday: 5PM
- Sunday: 8AM & 10AM
Gingerbread House Campaign

As we begin the Advent Season we begin a journey to a New Born Christ in our lives. Yes, Christmas is the Birthday of Jesus, but if it is the same old Jesus then we missed an opportunity to grow in love with our God.

♦ Make time to spend with Christ and open yourself to new directions of service to the Kingdom of God. How will God call you if you do not listen?
♦ Give yourself the gift of reflection time this Advent. five minutes a day with Christ can make a difference - you'll see.
♦ Let us support one another these next 4 weeks with prayer and make the season bright with Christ as our focus.
May God Bless us one and all!

St Irene's Bridge Committee is an all volunteer team committed to being fiscally responsible stewards of the donations of the St Irene Community, with a policy to have the funds required for a family on hand before committing to a new family. All of the money raised goes to fund the housing of a St Irene sponsored family - our rent payments to Bridge are $965 per month per family (about $32 per day). Thank you to St. Irene's generous parishioners for supporting this wonderful ministry.

December 2, 2018                           FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT                                  PAGE THREE

Gingerbread House Campaign

For the past 5 years, St. Irene Parish, through Bridge Communities, has assisted families by helping them on their journey from homelessness to financial stability. We are currently working with two families and through your generous donations, we were able to commit to supporting these families through this transition for two years.

As we look to put a roof over every family, we ask you to help us build a roof on our Gingerbread House. Stop by the table in the back of the church to make your donation and add a shingle to our roof. In addition, you can make a donation to our campaign using our WeShare parish pay program. Any donation is appreciated.

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Please join your parish family on Saturday, December 8th at 9AM to celebrate The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

With grateful hearts the Community of St. Irene thanks the families who gave of their time and talents cleaning our beautiful church. Advent is a time of preparation and thanks to these families we have prepared our Sanctuary to begin our new liturgical year.

And a special thanks to Katie Augustynowicz for coordinating this wonderful ministry!

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.
Whole Parish Catechesis  
Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

**Reading I: Jeremiah 33:14-16**
♦ A shoot shall rise up.

**Background:** The prophets believed that the fullness of God’s kingdom could be experienced in history. Jeremiah was writing for an audience that was facing exile. In today’s passage, the prophet Jeremiah assures the people that even in the midst of disaster God would remain faithful.

**Reading II: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2**
♦ Love one another and act in ways pleasing to God.

**Background:** The Christians at Thessalonica believed that Christ’s return would come in their lifetime. Paul’s letter encourages them to live wisely in anticipation of Christ’s coming. The Thessalonians are urged to persevere in the way of life they had learned from Paul so that the day of the Lord would truly be a day of rejoicing.

♦ Jesus will come again in glory; be not afraid.

**Background:** Today’s Gospel uses apocalyptic imagery to describe the return of Christ. Luke’s audience recognized that the wait for Christ’s return could be long. Christians must always be ready because no one knows when the great day will come.

**Theme:** Be on guard!

**Question for Adults:**
Paul exhorts us to “make greater progress” in our spiritual lives. What one step could you take to make greater progress in your own life?

**Question for Youth:**
Advent is the Church season when we prepare for Christ’s birth at Christmas. What is one thing you can do to prepare yourself spiritually for Christmas?

**Question for Children:**
What helps you to grow in your faith? Who helps you?

**Special Event!**

Holidays can be a very difficult time for people who have experienced the loss of someone loved. Memories of good times and togetherness at the holiday season remind us of our loss and how our lives have been changed. For many people, this is the hardest part of grieving, when we miss our loved ones more than usual.

If you have experienced the loss of a loved one, through death, divorce, or separation, your parish community, invites you to a special gathering of Healing Horizons, **December 10th at 6:30PM in the ACL**. Grief counselor & spiritual director, Barbara Jarvis-Pauls, will be our guest presenter.

All are invited.

**Religious Education classes meet on Tuesday, December 4 (Gr 1-6 and First Reconciliation Preparation in the classroom) 5:30-7PM and Wednesday, December 5 (Gr 7-8 in the ACL) 6:30-8PM. Parents meet their children on Tuesdays at 6:45PM and on Wednesdays at 7:45PM in the ACL.**

**Gospel Weekly Family Discussion:**
**Gospel of Luke 21:25-28, 34-36** - The Gospel focuses on the Second Coming of Jesus. It contains a strong message for us to not be distracted by problems or our own bad behaviors while we wait. Jesus wants us to be good to others and ourselves while we prepare for his return.

**Gospel Questions:**
♦ What are ways to prepare for Jesus’ coming in glory?
♦ How can we be ready for Jesus to come?
♦ In what special ways can you show love to others this Advent?

**Life Questions:**
♦ What are your hopes for yourself, your family, our world?
♦ What are you giving this Christmas?
♦ What do we do during Advent to prepare for Christ’s birth?

**Family Prayer:**
♦ Lord, we want to become the people you created us to be. Give us the grace to work on those things we need to correct or improve. Amen.

**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.
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 in the ACL

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

You are invited to the Christmas Posada
an evening with a re-enactment of the Christmas story, music, food and fun for the whole family.

Friday, December 14 at 6PM
Trinity Lutheran Church on Curtis
This event is hosted by the churches of Warrenville and Warrenville Youth & Family Services.

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!

Get involved with the Liturgies of the Advent season!

All are invited to sign up to light the candles of the Advent Wreath or bring up the Gifts of Bread and Wine during the Advent Season. Sign up at the table located in the Narthex.

Birthday/Anniversary Mass

If your birthday or wedding anniversary is in the month of December I would like to extend a personal invitation to you and your family to join your parish family in celebrating this occasion.

Next Sunday, December 9th at the 10AM Mass a special Blessing for you and others celebrating a birthday or anniversary will be in the Liturgy.

Please register with a minister of hospitality before Mass and join us in honoring everyone celebrating a special day this month.

Following Mass, join us in the Lower Level of the Activity Center for a special hospitality in your honor.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

All are welcome to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patron saint of the Americas on Saturday, December 8th at the 5PM Mass. A Mexican Fiesta will be held in the ACL afterwards. All authentic Mexican food is prepared by members of our parish. This celebration is sponsored by the Ladies of Columbus.

BEST ADVENT EVER ….. ‘Tis almost the Season!

Have you signed up yet? We prepare for everything we consider important in life. And that includes Christmas. We visit family and friends, bake cookies, decorate our trees, and shop for gifts until we are ready to drop.

This year, prepare for Christmas in a different way. Join our parish for the BEST ADVENT EVER, a free email program from Dynamic Catholic that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during the busy holiday season.

Go to www.BESTAdventEver.com/Christmas to register or visit www.St-Irene.org to find the link.
This Week’s Meetings

Sunday, December 2
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-12:30p - RCIA (ACL)

Monday, December 3
- 1-2:30p - Advent Scripture Series (ACL)
- 2:45-9p - PACE (ACU)
- 6:30-9p - Protecting God’s Children (ACL)

Tuesday, December 4
- 8-11:30a - Santa’s Workshop (ACU)
- 3-5p - Basketball Practice (ACU)
- 5:30-7p - Elementary RE (S, C, HF, ACL)
- 7-9p - School Board (HF)

Wednesday, December 5
- 12:30-3:30p - Band (ACL)
- 6:30-8p - Jr. High RE (S, AC, C)
- 7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)

Thursday, December 6
- 11:30a-2p - Seniors & Friends Luncheon (ACL)
- 3-5p - Basketball Practice (ACU)
- 7-8:30p - CCW (ACL)

Friday, December 7
- 12:30-3:30p - Band (ACU)
- 6:30-8:30p - Family Movie Night (ACL)

Saturday, December 8
- 6-9p - Our Lady of Guadalupe (ACL)

Sunday, December 2
- 7:30a-12:30p - Hospitality (ACL)
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)

Advent Penance Service
Please join us on Thursday, December 13th at 7PM in the church to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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 15th by phoning 630.393.2400 x122 or email annette@st-irene.org
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.

Liturgical Calendar

Monday, December 3
St. Francis Xavier
7:00AM - Adolph Dlugokienksi/ Fr. Jim

Tuesday, December 4
St. John Damascene
7:00AM - Margaret Hatch/ Cindy & Bob Stoothoff

Wednesday, December 5
Advent Weekday
7:00AM - Joel Rigera

Thursday, December 6
St. Nicholas
7:00AM - Ted Misna/ Family
7:30AM - Eucharistic Adoration
Florence Motyka/ Fr. Jim

Friday, December 7
St. Ambrose; First Friday
7:00AM - For the Recovery of Fr. Denis White
8:15AM - St. Irene Faith Community

Saturday, December 8
9:00AM - Immaculate Conception
John Garceau/ Family
5:00PM - Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent
John Dragas/ Betty Martin

Sunday, December 9
Second Sunday of Advent
8:00AM - Margaret Doran/ John & Mary Dugan
Edward Dugan, Sr./ John & Mary Dugan

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

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.

Chief Petty Officer Michael Spans - Deployed
1st Lt. Weston J. Umano USAF - Deployed
Jacob VanderMeulen, USNavy, Great Lakes
AB Patrick Reid - Lackland AFB, TX
1st Lt. Keegan Lohenry USMC - Camp Pendleton
Lance Cpl. Quin Lohenry USMC - Camp Pendleton
Master Sgt. Dan Peterson - Anchorage, AK
TSgt. Daniel Geinosky - Eglin AFB, FL
Sgt. Christian Wilkins - Serving in England
Capt. Patrick Looby - Eglit AFB, FL
Sgt. Eric G. Peterson - Serving in San Diego
Sgt. Peter Folz - Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Lance Cpl. Levi Dieter - Embassy of Latvia
Cmdr. Eric G. Peterson - Serving in San Diego
Sgt. Thomas Rasplicka - Fort Bliss, Texas