Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God.

Baruch 5:5
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. Please 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.

MASS SCHEDULE

- Daily: M-F 7AM
- Saturday: 5PM
- Sunday: 8AM & 10AM

Reflecting on God’s Word

On most days since early October, the students in the college residence in which I live have been eagerly and insistently bouncing Christmas carols off walls and into hallways. It began with occasional songs on the piano. Soon after, the Christmas CDs were brought out, and a week later one of them came upon an old turntable and some Sinatra Christmas LPs. As they left for Thanksgiving vacation, they each reminded me that the radio would begin playing Christmas music all day long on the day after Thanksgiving. As a result of all this I've found myself wondering what it is that's driven these twenty-year-olds toward such early visions of Christmas sugarplums.

I've come to believe that beneath all the glitter draped and swagged with ribbons and bows over these days, deeper longings are at play, longings beyond desire for the newest iPod or the latest cell phone, longings for community or healed relationships, longings too for peace among nations and for some sort of equality among people.

Curiously, such deepened longings are never marketed by any hype. Yet like Christmas spirit, they just seem to sprout wherever the human spirit finds a niche. I suppose one could make the observation that a twenty-year-old's longing for Christmas is little more than leftover nostalgia for childhood Santas and once-upon-a-time daydreams. Maybe so. Yet Paul once wrote to the Philippian community that such urgings for goodness all begin with God and that ultimately "the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6). In other words, these deeper longings, they seem to be God's doing, and who are we to put them on a timetable?

—Rev. Joseph J. Juknialis

LIVING GOD’S WORD: Advent is about the very place from which all of our dreams begin—in God. It's where gorges of human pain and suffering are filled and where mountains of injustice are brought low. It's the way God begins to lead the people home to where it all began.

Eucharistic Adoration - Join us on Thursdays from 7:30AM-8PM. This week, however, we will close Adoration at 6PM due to the Advent Penance Service.
Coffee with the Pastor

Thank you to all 15 people who braved the wind and rain to join Fr. Jim for Coffee with the Pastor on December 1. The group talked about the sense of community and how special traditions and holidays are celebrated at St. Irene. Several people shared stories of Fr. Jim presiding at the 5PM Mass on Christmas Eve and how their children look forward to attending each year. Fr. Jim shared family holiday stories from his days growing up in Cicero above his grandfather's bakery. The meeting closed with a reflection on the importance of Advent and making time to prepare hearts and minds to receive the light and joy of Christmas.

Fr. Jim hosts “Coffee with the Pastor” in order to provide time for open communication. Each meeting lasts one hour, and all are welcome. Meetings are held in the ACL. 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, January 12, 2019 – 9AM
- Saturday, February 2, 2019 – 9AM
- Saturday, March 9, 2019 – 9AM
- Saturday, April 27, 2019 – 9AM
- Saturday, May 18, 2019 – 9AM

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

We are Grateful for the Support of Our Parish Family!

The holiday season is officially underway. As you prepare your house for Christmas, it is also a time to care for your parish home. Making gifts to the Sunday collection, capital campaign and Christmas collection help keep St. Irene a healthy parish community.

There are some special opportunities to support St. Irene at year end:

Gifts of Appreciated Securities: Donating appreciated securities offers considerable tax advantages. Donors can deduct the current market value of a stock donation on the date of the gift and do not have to recognize the income from any related appreciation of the securities. To make a stock donation, instruct your broker to transfer the shares you wish to contribute to the Diocese of Joliet’s account with Stofan, Agazzi and Co., Inc. Your broker will need to know the Diocese’s DTC #0141 and the Diocesan Account #2496-9663. Donors are strongly encouraged to notify the diocese by calling 815.221.6192 on or around the date of such a gift and provide your name, the company name of the stock and the number of shares to be transferred so that the donation can be quickly processed and properly credited to St. Irene Parish.

IRA Charitable Rollover: For donors 70-1/2 or older, a charitable gift of up to $100,000 ($200,000 for married couples) can be made from your IRA account tax free for federal income tax purposes. The gift must come from a traditional or Roth IRA and be transferred directly from your IRA to St. Irene Parish in order to be tax-free. The amount donated will count toward your minimum required distribution and does not increase your taxable income.

Christmas Eve
Monday, December 24
5PM Youth Choir and Mass
10PM Parish Festival of Carols & Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day
Tuesday, December 25
10AM Mass of Christmas

Solemnity of Mary
Monday, December 31 - 5PM Vigil Mass
Tuesday, January 1 - 10 AM Mass

Epiphany
Saturday, January 5 - 5PM Vigil Mass
Sunday, January 6 - 8AM & 10AM Masses
Whole Parish Catechesis
Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Reading I: Baruch 5:1-9
♦ God will show the earth the splendor of Jerusalem.

Background: The passage from Baruch borrows the prophetic language of Second Isaiah which presents a glorious vision of the vindication of God’s people. Jerusalem, clothed in the glory and justice of God, would welcome her children home. All creation would share in the delight and make a smooth shady path for the people of God.

Reading II: 1 Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
♦ He who has begun a great work in you will continue to strengthen you.

Background: Paul’s Letter to the Philippians expresses his great hope for the people in Philippi whom had enthusiastically accepted the Gospel of Christ. The Philippians had supported Paul financially and shown kindness to him during his imprisonment. Paul reminds them to love one another and to value what truly matters.

♦ The preaching of John the Baptist.

Background: In today’s Gospel, Luke sets the story of Jesus in historic context for his Gentile audience by listing the important figures of the time. At the end of the list, he concentrates on John the Baptist. The lone prophet, John the Baptist, was to preach the arrival of God’s salvation in Jesus.

Theme: We are getting ready to welcome Christ into our hearts.

Question for Adults:
Name one thing you can do to help “prepare the way of the Lord.”

Question for Youth:
How do you share the Good News of Jesus with others?

Question for Children:
What do you do to get ready for a big celebration?

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.

Religious Education classes meet on Tuesday, December 11 (Gr. 1-6 and First Reconciliation Preparation in the classroom) 5:30-7PM and Wednesday, December 12 (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.

The Sacrament of First Reconciliation is at 6PM in the Church on Tuesday, Dec. 11th. Please arrive at 5:45PM. Children should wear their Sunday best. There will be a reception following this beautiful Sacrament.

Gospel Weekly Family Discussion:
Gospel of Luke 3:1-6 - John the Baptist told people Jesus was coming to save them. He shared the Good News of Jesus, and we should too. John gave hope to people. He was not afraid to talk about Jesus’ coming and to encourage people to turn away from sin.

Gospel Questions:
♦ What do you need to turn away from this Advent?
♦ What is a prophet?
♦ What are some ways you can prepare this Advent for Jesus’ birthday?

Life Questions:
♦ How will you prepare your heart and home for Jesus’ coming at Christmas?
♦ What are your favorite ways to get ready for Christmas?
♦ What are some ways your family prepares for your birthday?

Family Prayer:
♦ Lord, help us to recognize what hurts your heart and have the courage to work to change it.

Are you having the BEST ADVENT EVER? If not, go to Dynamic Catholic at www.BESTAdventEver.com/Christmas to register or visit www.st-irene.org to find the link. Prepare your heart, mind, body and spirit to receive our Savior on Christmas Day.
Journey Through Transitions

Holidays are a very difficult time for people who have experienced the loss of someone loved. 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, is our guest presenter.

Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little-to-no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today’s second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.

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

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.

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!
This Week’s Meetings

**Sunday, December 9**
- 7:30a-12:30p - Hospitality (ACL)
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)

**Monday, December 10**
- 1-2:30p - Advent Scripture Series (ACL)
- 6:30-8:30p - Healing Horizons (ACL)

**Tuesday, December 11**
- 5:30-7p - Elementary RE (S,C, ACL)
- 7-8p - Bridge Communities (Staff)
- 7:30-8:30p - Ladies of Columbus (ACL)

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

**Thursday, December 13**
- 3-5p - Basketball Practice (ACU)

**Friday, December 14**
- 12:30-3:30p - Band (ACU)

**Saturday, December 15**
- 7-9p - School Junior High Dance (AC)

**Sunday, December 16**
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-12:30p - RCIA (ACL)

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The St. Irene Chili Cook Off will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2019 in the Activity Center. We are looking for volunteers, raffle donations and silent auction items.

**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.

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.

**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.

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.

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**Liturgical Calendar**

**Monday, December 10**
Advent Weekday

7:00AM - Anna Antiporek/ Fr. Jim

**Tuesday, December 11**
St. Damasus I

7:00AM - Anastasia Dlugokienski/ Fr. Jim
William Mulcahy/ Family

6:00PM - First Reconciliation

**Wednesday, December 12**
Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:00AM - George Hazdra/ 1st Anniversary

**Thursday, December 13**
St. Lucy

7:00AM - Margaret Hatch
7:30AM - Eucharistic Adoration
7:00PM - Advent Penance Service

**Friday, December 14**
St. John of the Cross

7:00AM - Nick Tableriou/ Fr. Jim
8:15AM - Gladys Aranda/ Family
Pedro Aranda/ Family

**Saturday, December 15**
Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent

2:30PM - Baptism Ceremony
5:00PM - Anne Bresingham/ Ray & Bev Scott
Pedro Chaidez/ Looby Family

**Sunday, December 16**
Third Sunday of Advent

8:00AM - St. Irene Faith Community
10:00AM - Deacon Richard Nowak/ Family
John Martin/ Carol & Ken Sweder
Jim Durante/ Lichtenberg Family

11:30AM - Baptism Ceremony

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**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.