I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.

Luke 3:16
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 info.

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.

PARISH CENTER: 28W441 Warrenville Rd.
Warrenville, IL 60555
PHONE: 630.393.2400
FAX: 630.393.9680
WEB: www.st-irene.org
E-MAIL: parishoffice@st-irene.org
PASTOR: Rev. James Antiporek x 113
DEACONS: Brad Hentz - brad@st-irene.org
Joe Urso x 130 - joe@st-irene.org

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: Annette Kubalanza x 122
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Ryan Matthew Rump
BOOK KEEPER: Cheryl Clayton x 114
FACILITY MANAGER: John Marotto x 115
ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Pat Jackowiak x 110
Shari Meyers x 110

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
1-6 GRADE COORDINATOR: Jacqueline Skelly x 121
7th & 8th GRADE COORDINATOR: Pamela Keating x 120

SCHOOL: 3S601 Warren Avenue
PHONE: 630.393.9303
FAX: 630.393.7009
WEB: www.st-ireneschool.org
PRINCIPAL: Maggie Detwiler x 136
ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Julie Duquette x 116

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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.

**Bequest Intentions:** Donors who wish to leave some portion of their estate to support St. Irene Parish are encouraged to have their attorney or estate planning professional include specific language in their will that identifies the charitable beneficiary as St. Irene Parish. Donors choosing this philanthropic option are encouraged to notify the Pastor or the business office of their intention so that their generosity may be acknowledged.

The **Caring for Our Parish, Caring for One Another** capital campaign has provided dollars this year to replace the Parish Center roof and the windows in the lower level of the School, as well as repairing the lower level ceiling in the School. These were in addition to the original projects of the North Parking lot with landscaping, a new HVAC system for the Activity Center, and repair of Church Columns. We have more work to do, including re-building our garage, replacing the Church roof, repaving the south Parking Lot and new windows in the Parish Center. We can only move forward with the help of parishioners supporting the campaign. If you can make a pledge or offer financial help through the capital campaign envelope, it is much appreciated.

Deciding to make charitable donations of time and financial resources and how much we can give of ourselves is based on each and everyone’s individual situation. We pray that you continue your generosity. We hope the information above will be useful in determining the timing of your decision to give.

Again, my thanks for all that each of you do every day for St. Irene Parish. May peace and joy fill your homes this holiday season and always.

God bless,

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

Reading I: Zephaniah 3:14-18a
♦ Rejoice, for the Lord is in your midst.

Background: The prophet Zephaniah preached during a difficult time in Israel's history. Zephaniah told his listeners that the day of the Lord would be a joyless day because they had not been faithful. The faithful remnant, who knew their only hope was in God, would be saved.

Reading II: 1 Philippians 4:4-7
♦ Rejoice in the Lord always.

Background: The sense of excitement at the arrival of the Lord continues in the second reading. Paul calls the Philippians to joy and peace because of the coming of the Lord. They should live their lives as a people saved by the mercy and love of God.

♦ John the Baptist announces the coming of the Messiah.

Background: At the time the Gospel of Luke was written, Christians had begun to realize that Christ’s return might not be immediate. They needed to learn how to live in readiness, to be aware that their own deaths might come before the day of the Lord.

Theme: John baptized with water, but the Messiah will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Question for Adults:
Do you live the promise of your Baptism each day?

Question for Youth:
What do you remember from stories about your Baptism? What does your Baptism mean to you now?

Question for Children:
Why is it so important to keep promises which you have made?

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. — Zephaniah 3:15b

Religious give thanks. “This money is pure gift,” writes a religious sister of the support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. “It enables us to continue providing care for our elderly sisters.” Your gift to last week’s collection helps hundreds of religious communities meet pressing retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Thank you for your generosity!

Family Faith Formation
Gospel Weekly Family Discussion:
Gospel of Luke 3:10-18 - John the Baptist told people how to live holy lives. The people had a real desire to change for the better; they wanted to hear truth. They wondered if John was the Messiah, but he told them about someone who would be coming soon (Jesus) who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Questions:
♦ What should we do as Christians with our extra coats, food and wealth?
♦ How does John the Baptist teach us to act with mercy?
♦ How does John the Baptist teach us to be generous with our belongings?

Life Questions:
♦ Who are the kind and gentle teachers in your life?
♦ Where do you go for good advice?
♦ What do you do with the toys and clothes you have outgrown?

Family Prayer:
♦ Holy Spirit, you move us and help us change. Teach us to follow Jesus in all things.

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 16th.
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!
The generosity of our parish and community never ceases to amaze. This year's Knights of Columbus Share Your Soles Shoe Drive was a resounding success. We collected nearly 1,100 pairs of shoes that will be repurposed and sent to those in need. It took five vehicles to make the trek down to the Share Your Soles warehouse located in Chicago's Pullman neighborhood. A check for $81 was given to the organization to defray shipping expenses. We are sincerely grateful for your continued support of our charitable projects.

Mass at Mercy Home Recap
A group of seven parishioners trekked to Mercy Home for Boys and Girls in downtown Chicago on the rainy Sunday of November 4 for the television taping of Mass at Mercy Home. The St. Irene group was joined in the television studio congregation by several other of the faithful from the Mercy Home community.
Father Carl Morello (our own Vince Morello’s brother) celebrated Masses for the 2nd and 4th Sundays of Advent which will be aired on WGN-TV (Channel 9) at 9:30AM on December 23rd. A check for $100 from our council was presented to Narek Mkrtoumian, Special Projects Coordinator of Mercy Home as a donation to forward their mission of helping distressed and abused youth. We hope to continue this charitable event again in the future. Thank you for your support of this wonderful ministry! - Joe Kubal

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is looking for people who knit or crochet to make prayer shawls. We can provide you with patterns if you need them. For more information, contact Paula Peterson at 630.319.3998 or ppeterson1085@gmail.com.

St. Irene Rosary Group
Our Rosary Group meets the third Thursday of each month in the ACL, from 7-7:40pm, followed by fellowship as schedules permit. Come join in the prayer Our Lady gave us, and be intimately and spiritually drawn into the most Holy Life of our Lord. As we connect our hearts with confidence to Her Immaculate Heart, Mary leads us to the Foot of His Cross, which is the doorstep to His Sacred Heart, and Fount of His Unconditional Love and Divine Mercy. We gather next on December 20th. Bring a friend… all are welcome! For more info, call Jeannette Clark at 630.292.9349.

Readings for the Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45</td>
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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 16**
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-12:30p - RCIA (ACL)

**Monday, December 17**
- 1-2:30p - Advent Scripture Series (ACL)
- 3-5p - Basketball Practice (ACU)

**Tuesday, December 18**
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-12:30p - RCIA (ACL)
- 11:15-11:45a - Altar Server Practice (C)

**Wednesday, December 19**
- 12:30-3:30p - Band (ACL)
- 7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)

**Thursday, December 20**
- 3-5p - Basketball Practice (ACU)
- 7-8:30p - Rosary Group (ACU)

**Friday, December 21**

**Saturday, December 22**

**Sunday, December 23**
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-12:30p - RCIA (ACL)
- 11:15-11:45a - Altar Server Practice (C)

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**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.

saint.irene.athleticboard@gmail.com

**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.

**Eucharistic Adoration** - Join us on Thursdays from 7:30AM-8PM. Please sign up for a 1/2 hour or a 1 hour segment by calling Cathy Kott at 630.393.9543.

**The Parish Office will close at 11AM on Friday, December 21st for Christmas Break and will reopen on Wednesday, January 2nd at 8:30AM.**

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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.

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 17th 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 17
Late Advent Weekday
7:00AM - Mary Beth Bajis/ Berni & Tony Malovany

Tuesday, December 18
Late Advent Weekday
7:00AM - Joseph Wodarczyk/ Pam Schefke

Wednesday, December 19
Late Advent Weekday
7:00AM - Nick Tableriou/ Schefke Family

Thursday, December 20
Late Advent Weekday
7:00AM - Joellyn Schefke—Birthday/ Fr. Jim Alexander Pawlowicz/ St. Irene Community
7:30AM - Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, December 21
St. Peter Canisius
7:00AM - St. Irene Community
8:15AM - For the Faculty & Staff of St. Irene

Saturday, December 22
Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent
5:00PM - Antiporek & Dlugokienski Families

Sunday, December 23
Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:00AM - Cateno Baglio/ 1st Anniversary
10:00AM - Joseph Zielazinski/ Amy Craig Farmer/ Mom & Dad
Brian Cleary/ Cleary Family
Living Members of Bruss Family/ Nancy Bruss

Communion Assistance

We want to insure that every parishioner who wishes to partake in the Communion Sacrament be able to do so. In order to assist us with this process, please notify an usher prior to the start of Mass if you or someone in your party needs communion brought to you. Extraordinary Ministers will bring the Precious Body & Blood to you in your pew.

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.

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

Javier Tecuatl
Bernie Malovany
Paige C. Robertson
Mary Vander Meulen
Valder Morales
Max Malesh
Colette Malovany

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 Lohenny USMC - Camp Pendleton
Master Sgt. Dan Peterseni - Anchorage, AK
TSgt. Daniel Geinosky - serving in England
Sgt. Christian Wilkins - stationed in Iraq
Capt. Patrick Looby - Eglin AFB, FL
Sgt. Thomas Rasplicka - Fort Bliss, Texas

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.