Jesus said to his parents,
“Why were you looking for me?
Did you not know that I
must be in my Father’s house?”

Luke 2:49
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 to arrange preparation 6 months in advance.

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

LIVING GOD’S WORD: The feast of the Holy Family gives us pause to ponder the phenomenon of family. If we can duplicate the love Mary and Joseph and Jesus had for each other, there’s no telling what the positive and rich effects might be.

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Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal 2018 Pledge Report

If we exceed our goal in paid pledges, 65% of the additional funds received will be returned to the parish for our use. Please contact the Diocesan Development Office with any questions you may have about your pledge at 815.838.8515.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Reflecting on God’s Word

One of the all-time great Christmas movies is It’s a Wonderful Life! The classic scene is the final one. The townspeople are gathering in George Bailey’s living room. They’re pouring money onto a table, all with the intention of rescuing George from financial ruin. It’s not long before George’s brother enters the picture. Having heard of the hard times George had been going through, he secured a leave from the military, hopped a plane, and flew all day and night to make it to Bedford Falls. He wanted to be of help. Seeing the people and the mountain of money, he raises his glass and toasts his brother, “the richest man in the world!”

George Bailey was rich, all right, but not because he was suddenly inundated with money. He was rich because he had family and friends who loved him and cared about him. There’s much to be said for the benefits and blessings of family.

—Rev. Richard Zajac

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MASS SCHEDULE
- Daily: M-F 7AM
- Saturday: 5PM
- Sunday: 8AM & 10AM
The idea, dream, and reality of family is so strong and durable that we use it to describe all that is best about human gatherings. We speak of the family of nations, of our church and parish families. The greatest compliment we can pay a friend or gracious host is to say that we feel at home with them, we feel part of the family.

Families are the first crucibles in which love is tested and tempered. Jesus himself was one of three people who lived in the shadow of each other. This family, like our own, did not always “get it right,” but they always tried to. These three “amateurs” were on holiday, and one of them got lost. Two were worried sick and took great measures to find the third, a boy after all, who was seeking the meaning of his calling. He found his vocation—to do his Father’s work—but he also returned home with his parents.

Today’s feast is new as feasts go, and it sets us this year in a very modern crisis. Amid conflicting schedules and commitments, a young man, testing the limits, has strayed from his parents and gone off to the big city. Mary and Joseph search frantically, only to find the child Jesus in the temple, conversing with the elders and scholars of the law, who are amazed at his wisdom.

In the time of Jesus, the temple was the religious center of Jewish ritual. Outside of Jerusalem, people gathered in the synagogues, centers of learning, for daily prayer and study. Still, everyone longed to journey to the temple to participate in the offerings, and to fulfill certain obligations of the law that could only be done there. On this feast, we catch a glimpse of the family of Jesus: parents dealing with the normal stresses of raising a child, and yet completely grounded in the ways of faith and tradition.

There has always been an appreciation in Christianity for the value of pilgrimage—the journey to holy places that is a symbol of our life’s journey to God, and a sense of connection to important events in our family history. During the Christmas season, many of us undertake pilgrimages to the family homestead for festival meals, to the parishes where we were formed in the faith, or perhaps even to a beautiful manger scene or festival of lights. There are few better days than this in our calendar for spending time with the family, especially on a short pilgrimage to a favorite place. Just make sure that no one gets left behind!

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

Reading I: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
♦ Show reverence for God by honoring your parents.

Background: The Book of Sirach is among the group of writings known as Wisdom Books. Today’s reading focuses on the duties of children toward their parents. Children are to honor their parents as God had ordained through Moses at Mount Sinai.

Reading II: Colossians 3:12-21
♦ Serve the Lord by loving one another.

Background: This reading from Colossians reminds Christians of their duties toward one another, both in their immediate family and in the wider community. Paul instructs family members to remain faithful to the demands of their life-situation. In all relationships, forgiveness, love and a positive attitude should prevail.

♦ The boy Jesus stays behind in the Temple.

Background: In today’s Gospel, the Holy Family is on a pilgrimage from their hometown of Nazareth in Galilee to Jerusalem in Judea. It is the feast of Passover, one of the high feast days on which devout Jews came to the temple to celebrate. Luke stresses in the story of Jesus in the temple that even Jesus’ parents only come to know Jesus’ divinity and His connection to His heavenly Father, through the gift of faith.

Theme: Jesus establishes His obedience to and relationship with God the Father.

Gospel Weekly Family Discussion:

Gospel of Luke 2:41-52 - Mary, Joseph and Jesus travel to the Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. We see how the Holy Family’s life is centered on faith and prayer. During their return trip home Mary and Joseph realize Jesus is missing. For three days they search for their son and find Him in the Temple speaking with the teachers and sharing His knowledge and wisdom. Jesus then returns home with His mother and father and is obedient to them.

Gospel Questions:
♦ The Holy Family is the first Domestic Church… meaning a place of worship and holiness within the family. How is your family a Domestic Church?
♦ What religious celebrations does your family celebrate in Church together?
♦ How does your family celebrate religious traditions at home?

Life Questions:
♦ What is your favorite family prayer?
♦ Does your family pray the Rosary together?
♦ For the New Year, make a plan for regular family prayer time. Then look for the many blessings that come from this commitment.

Family Prayer:
♦ God, thank you for the gift of family. Teach us to follow the beautiful example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus, the Holy Family. Help us grow in prayer, faith and holiness.

Question for Adults:
How are you, too, called to our Father’s house?

Question for Youth:
Jesus was obedient to His parents, even though He was the Son of God. Why is obedience so important? Is it something you struggle with?

Question for Children:
Why is it important to obey our parents? Why is it important to obey God?

Readings for the Week
Monday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
Tuesday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
Friday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
Saturday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 1:43-51
Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12
Information Meeting for Navajo Mission in Chinle, Arizona

The Joliet Diocese - Partnership in Missions announces the formation of a construction team to serve in Chinle, Arizona. The mission will leave on June 1st and return on June 14th, 2019.

This will be a construction mission. We invite men and women who would like to assist local people in building projects for the poor. No special construction skills are necessary, just willing hands and a warm heart.

Two information meetings will be held: January 8th, 2019 from 7-9PM and January 16th, 2019 from 7-9PM at the Bishop Blanchette Center in Crest Hill. Interested persons are invited to attend. Further information can be found at [http://bit.ly/missionappl](http://bit.ly/missionappl) or call 815.221.6258, email: missions@dioceseofJoliet.org.

Happenings Around Town & the Diocese

Jobs Ministry Meetings - Join us at St. Thomas the Apostle Church for Friday meetings. Formats include announcements, speaker presentation, and 2 rounds of networking. Prepare your elevator speech, and bring enough handbills to pass out to 20 fellow networkers. Here are the upcoming topics:

- **Friday, Jan. 4th @ 9:30AM**: **Kevin Crews** will present *Resume Writing: Is Your Resume a Frequent Flyer in the Circular File?* With everyone giving out resume advice, it probably has your head spinning and has left you wondering if you should once again modify your resume. I think the answer is YES! Learn not only how to write an effective resume that grabs the attention of your target audience, but the "WHY" behind my recommendations that have gotten thousands of people hired in my 20+ years as a recruiter and career consultant. Come with an open mind to hearing "out-of-the-box" techniques that will put your resume at the top of the pile. Kevin is the Principal and Chief Consultant for Corporate Transition Services (CTS).

- **Friday Jan. 11th @ 9:30AM**: **Tim Murphy** will present *"Self Assessment."* Periodically throughout our lives and in the job search we need to self-assess. Tim will take us through this methodical investigation into ourselves in order to discover facts about where we are in the process, and then develop a plan of action based on what we discover. Tim is the Managing Director at SearchPath Career Source in Lisle and has 18 years of recruiting experience.

- **Friday, Jan. 18th @ 9:30AM**: **Kay Carroll and Walt Reilly** - *Defeating Age Bias on Your Journey to a New Job.* This presentation, and interactive workshop, will tackle the tough issues faced by more senior job seekers in competing in the job market. Walt and Kay will present a brief introduction to the socioeconomic and demographic conditions in the U.S. presently for more senior job seekers, including demographic and present legal issues. There will be an interactive discussion of critical issues from the employer's view point when considering more senior candidates, such as: "Over qualification", salary level, attitude toward change and adaptability, drive and energy, physical appearance, etc.

Prayer Breakfast - Join us on Wednesday, January 9th from 9-10AM at the Nazareth Spirituality Center in Batavia as we begin our day in prayerful reflection on relevant topics to our lives. Our topic is *We are our Brother's Keeper - How YOU and St. Vincent de Paul help!* There will be a continental breakfast and a free will donation. For more information, call Linda Isleib at 630.879.1296. Visit our website at [www.sscm-usa.org](http://www.sscm-usa.org) for information on programs at Nazareth Spirituality Center.

Annulment Support Day - This day is designed for divorced persons who have already petitioned the Diocesan tribunal to begin the annulment process, and who need support to complete the long questionnaire. Join us on **SATURDAY, January 26, 2019** from 9AM- 4PM *(Check-in at 8:30AM)* at the Blanchette Catholic Center, 16555 Weber Road, Crest Hill. The $25 fee includes morning coffee, lunch, and materials. **Pre-registration is required by January 20, 2019.** To register, please call the Office of Family Ministry 815.838.5334 or register online: [https://conta.cc/2JqUyBe](https://conta.cc/2JqUyBe).

Worldwide Marriage Encounter - WWME begins with a private weekend experience with presentations about practical tools for growing in loving relationships, and continues with ongoing enrichments in the community after the weekend. **WWME supports living in love!** Our next Marriage Enrichment Weekend is February 8-10 in Elk Grove Village. For reservations, or more information, please call 630.577.0778 or go to [wwme-chicagoland.org](http://wwme-chicagoland.org).
This Week’s Meetings

Sunday, December 30

Monday, December 31

Tuesday, January 1

Wednesday, January 2

Thursday, January 3
7-8:30p - CCW (ACL)

Friday, January 4

Saturday, January 5
4:30-8:30p - Eagle Court of Honor (ACL)

Sunday, January 6
10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
11a-12:30p - RCIA (ACL)

The Parish Office is closed for Christmas Break. We will reopen on Wednesday, January 2nd at 8:30AM.

Eucharistic Adoration

We need coverage for ALL hours of adoration which runs from 7:30AM-8PM on Thursdays. Please sign up for a 1/2 hour or a 1 hour segment by calling Cathy Kott at 630.393.9543 or Mary Mickel at 630.293.0774.

St. Irene's 30th Annual Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, February 9, 2019
6-10:30PM
St. Irene Activity Center
Sponsored by St. Irene School

Your $10 ticket buys you samples of all of the delicious chili offerings. This is a 21-and-older event. Hot dogs, soft drinks, beer and wine will be available for sale. You will also have an opportunity to bid on fabulous silent auction items, enter raffles for great prizes and compete in the Liquor Loop. There will be a 50/50 raffle this year with tickets sold after Masses.

PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A CONTESTANT (AGAIN) THIS YEAR. The success of the Chili Cook-Off continues to depend on GREAT CONTESTANTS LIKE YOU! Each contestant will receive a variety of thank you gifts, including a $50 cash reimbursement toward their chili expenses! Rules for the Cook-Off will be forwarded when you sign up. Contact Stacey Riggs or Shannon Ryson if you or your organization would like to be a contestant and enter your favorite chili recipe. It's A LOT of fun! (But enter early - the number of contestants had to be limited last year!)

ALSO CONSIDER BEING A SPONSOR OR MAKING A RAFFLE OR MONETARY DONATION. We are looking for sponsors and monetary donations, as well as raffle and silent auction items (no amount is too small)! Contact Stacey Riggs or Shannon Ryson if you or your company can make a donation or would like additional information on how to donate.

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING IN ANY WAY. All proceeds benefit St. Irene School ~ but the fun of the evening benefits all who attend and contribute!

We look forward to seeing everybody in February (and hearing from you sooner)! In the meantime, enjoy this blessed and holy season!

FOR INFORMATION & TO SIGN UP, CONTACT

Stacey Riggs
riggsstacey@aol.com

Shannon Ryson
swryson@gmail.com
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.

Thank You to Everyone who Participated in the 2018 Panther Classic Golf Outing!

A Special THANKS to Our 2018 Sponsors

♦ Fr. Jim
♦ St. Irene Knights of Columbus - Council 6710
♦ The LaDeur Family
♦ The Kenealy Family
♦ Aurora Fraternal Order of Police
♦ N.O.B.L.E. - NIC
♦ Riggs Bros Auto Interiors
♦ Connor & Gallagher
♦ The Schrimpl Family
♦ One Digital
♦ Rosati’s Pizza
♦ Bloom Child Care
♦ NorthStar Credit Union
♦ Tuffy of Aurora
♦ Pezza Landscaping
♦ Windy City Trucking
♦ St. Irene School PACE
♦ Williams Kampp Funeral Home

CONGRATULATIONS to our 2018 Winning Foursome!
Steve Ryson          Gary Rachford
John Riggs            Steve Brummel

We look forward to seeing you next year -- The 2019 Panther Classic Golf Outing will be held on:
Friday, September 13, 2019
Bliss Creek Golf Course
1PM Shotgun Start!

SAVE THE DATE!

Liturgical Calendar

Monday, December 31
Vigil: The Solemnity of Mary
7:00AM - No Mass
5:00PM - Connie Butler/ 1st Anniversary
          LeRoy & Irene Bollweg/ Family

Tuesday, January 1
The Solemnity of Mary
10:00AM - St. Irene Parish Family
          LeRoy & Irene Bollweg/ Family

Wednesday, January 2
Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
7:00AM - For the Poor and the Hungry
7:00PM - Wedding Ceremony
          Kenneth & Michelle Freyer

Thursday, January 3
The Most Holy Name of Jesus
7:00AM - Vivian Dalton/ Friends
7:30AM - Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, January 4
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
7:00AM - For the Healing of our Friends & Family

Saturday, January 5
Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord
5:00PM - Peggy Vitale/ Family
          Christopher Malik/ Family

Sunday, January 6
The Epiphany of the Lord
8:00AM - Margaret Hatch/ Bob & Cindy Stoothoff
          Joseph M. Voegtle/ Family
10:00AM - Josephine Allen/ St. Irene Friends
          Daniel Walsh/ Joan Walsh
          Florence Motyka/ Fr. Jim

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 Lohreyn USMC - Camp Pendleton
Master Sgt. Dan Peterson - Anchorage, AK
TSGt. Daniel Geinosky - serving in England
Sgt. Christian Wilkins - stationed in Iraq
Lance Cpl. Levi Dieter - Embassy of Latvia
Cmdr. Eric G. Petersen - Serving in San Diego
Sgt. Peter Folz - Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Capt. Patrick Looby - Eglin AFB, FL
Sgt. Thomas Rasplicka - Fort Bliss, Texas