As the test of what the potter molds is in the furnace, so in tribulation is the test of the just.

Sirach 27:5
THE REAL PRESENCE

Sunday, March 10th 11AM through Tuesday, March 12th at 8:15AM

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, will be fully present on the Altar during our 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration.

The Real Presence...what does that mean? The moment we hear the word "Presence" we think of a personal relationship between two or more people. We are present to someone or someone is present to us when we are aware of them and they are aware of us. There is a sense a kinship and affection for each other that we hold in our mind and heart. The word “Real” means actually existing, not imagined. The Eucharist is the REAL PRESENCE of Jesus because He desires a personal relationship with me and His living body, blood, soul and divinity are really before me in the Eucharist.

Pope Francis said, “Immersing oneself in silent Eucharistic adoration is the secret to knowing the Lord.” Our presence before His Presence, in the Eucharist, changes us. We become like that which we gaze upon. Looking into a sunset, the face takes on a golden glow. Looking at the Eucharistic Lord for an hour transforms our heart in a mysterious way, just as the face of Moses was transformed after his encounter with God on the mountain.

Jesus’ first words after His Resurrection were “Peace, be with you.” The peace that surpasses all human understanding is experienced in His Real Presence. All Jesus wants is you: your time, your love, your presence. He waits for you to accept His invitation to “Come, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Sign up this weekend after Mass for your hour with Jesus, or visit volunteersignup.org/HMWKM.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Join us on March 6th for our Ash Wednesday Mass at 7AM, Noon or 7PM.

Ashes will be available in the church all day if you choose to bless yourself.
HOLY MOMENTS at St. Irene

In Matthew Kelly’s book, The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity, we realize that HOLINESS is possible! We are created in the image and likeness of God. As followers of Jesus, we are to be His hands, His feet, His eyes and His love in the world. God wants us to live holy lives, grow in character and virtue and become the best-version-of-ourselves.

As we learned from Michael O’Neill, “The Miracle Hunter”, at our Parish Mission miracles are happening all around us every day. God provides unexplainable wonders to help us on our path to holiness.

At St. Irene, our Lenten focus will be creating “Holy Moments.” To begin our journey, you are invited to spend one hour with Jesus to experience the JOY of His Holy Presence. Then we will go forth to bring His holiness to the world.

You might be asking, “What are Holy Moments?” Matthew Kelly provides a wonderful list of ideas on page 50 and 51 in his book. Here are some of these ideas:

♦ Begin each day with a short prayer of gratitude thanking God for giving you another day of life.
♦ Go out of your way to do something for your spouse that you would rather not do, as an intentional act of love.
♦ Offer the least enjoyable task of your day to God as a prayer for someone who is suffering.
♦ Control your temper, even if you are fully justified in losing it. Stay calm in the midst of a crisis.
♦ Encourage someone, praise someone, affirm someone, coach someone.
♦ Be patient with the person who drives you crazy.
♦ Do someone else’s chores.
♦ Teach someone how to pray.
♦ Get honest with yourself about your self-destructive habits.

A HOLY MOMENT banner will hang in church during Lent for us to share the ways we are changing the world…one moment at a time!

The Stations of the Cross

are a popular devotion among Catholics. Through prayer, we reflect in following Jesus Christ on His way to Calvary and we honor the passion of Jesus. St. Irene offers Stations of the Cross each Friday night at 7PM during Lent. Immediately following the Stations there is a “Soup Supper” in the ACL. Please follow the Cross during Lent - follow Jesus in His passion and see yourself mirrored in Him.

Are you interested in making your favorite soup, or trying a new recipe? Please contact Rosario at 630.988.9753 or rosario.herbst@gmail.com.

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

Next Sunday, March 10th at the 10AM Mass a special Blessing for you and others celebrating a birthday or anniversary will be included 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.

Many Catholics who are not active in the Church will still seek out ashes this Wednesday. Likewise, many Jews who are not otherwise observant will follow the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, with great exactness, fasting and refraining from work and entertainment. People customarily dress in white as a symbol of purity and a reminder of God’s promise that our sins will be made white as snow. While the overturer to Ash Wednesday for Christians may be a festive Mardi Gras celebration, for Jews it is the New Year feast of Rosh Hashanah. Ten days before the Day of Atonement to God, people are expected to repair breaks in human life. These are days for offering forgiveness and seeking to repair harmed relationships with family, friends, or coworkers. Everyone is expected to seek out someone and “clear the air” by asking for understanding for any mean words or thoughtless deeds in the past year.

Perhaps the ashes you receive will be invested with deeper meaning if you follow a similar plan. A conversation with some Jewish friends or neighbors about their experience of a season of repentance may be a blessing on your Lent.

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

Reading I: Sirach 27:4-7
♦ Praise no one before he speaks.

Background: One’s faults show when we are shaken. Tribulation is the test of the just. One’s speech discloses the bent of one’s heart.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58
♦ God gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Background: Death will never be victorious. God gave us victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ. Be devoted to the work of the Lord.

♦ From the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.

Background: Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, but not the wooden beam in your own eye? A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree is known by its own fruit. What fruit do I bear?

Theme: Our words reveal what is in our hearts.

Question for Adults:
We humans are vulnerable to sin. But we see the sins of others more easily than we recognize our own sins. Why does Jesus warn us not to judge others?

Question for Youth:
Jesus says that our words reveal what is in our hearts. How do your words and actions reveal what is truly in your heart?

Question for Children:
Jesus teaches us to do good. What did you do this past week that was really good, kind or loving?

Knights of Columbus Eyeglass Drive
Please bring and donate your old or unwanted eyeglasses and drop them off in the collection box in the back of the church. Eyeglasses will be forwarded to the Lions Club International local chapter for renovation and reuse by those in need. The collection box will be in the back of the church until June 1st.
Questions may be directed to Joseph Kubal at 630.983.6159 or jdrk4715@aol.com.

Religious Education classes this week do not take place in the classroom but are replaced by our Ash Wednesday Mass at 7PM on Wednesday, March 6th.

Gospel Weekly Family Discussion:
Gospel of Luke 6:39-45 - Jesus says that when a person is fully trained, he will be like his teacher. This is one of the reasons that going to Mass and studying the Word of God, the Bible, are so important. We need to seek training in the ways of Christ and His Church.

Gospel Questions:
♦ How do you hear Jesus speaking to you in the Gospels?
♦ What does it mean that a good tree produces good fruit?
♦ Think of a time when you have criticized someone for something you have also done.

Life Questions:
♦ What is a hypocrite?
♦ How can we avoid being a hypocrite?
♦ What is a fault that you need to work on?

Family Prayer:
♦ Lord, help us to share the goodness you have put into our hearts. Amen.

St. Irene’s Senior LunchBunch Ministry
St. Patrick’s Day/St. Joseph Day Luncheon
Thursday, March 7th from 11:30AM-2PM
Lower Activity Center (ACL)
Catered by: Hawthorn’s Backyard Grill
Corned Beef/Cabbage/Irish Potatoes/Dark Rye
Horseradish/Chicken/Steamed Vegetables
Dessert/Hot and Cold Drinks

Please RSVP by March 4th to Denise at 630.930.0154 or Annette at 630.393.2400 x 122 or annette@st-irene.org.
Indicate your preference for chicken or corned beef.
Cost: $10

Coffee with the Pastor
Visit with Fr. Jim and talk about his journey to the priesthood, parish life at St. Irene and other topics in our beautiful Catholic faith. Please make time to join Fr. Jim on:
♦ Saturday, March 9, 2019 at 9AM in the ACL – sponsored by the Music Ministry
Thousands sought Jesus during His life.  
Only a few followed him to Calvary. What will you do?

Jesus doesn’t want our applause. He wants our hearts. Are you ready to draw closer to Jesus in His passion than you ever have before? Join us this Lent for No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion.

Monday afternoons from 1-2:30PM in the ACL: March 18, 25; April 1, 8, 15
RSVP to Annette 630.393.2400 x 122 by March 8
Cost: $15 for the book - $25 for the book and the study guide (both are optional)

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, No Greater Love is a five-part video series on the passion of Christ. Best-selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ’s life in this biblical pilgrimage. This study will take you step-by-step with Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane to the Mount of Calvary. Every step of the way, biblical experts reveal how Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ’s suffering and death. With these insights, Catholics can come to a deeper understanding and appreciation of God’s immeasurable and unconditional love—drawing closer to Jesus than ever before.

Edward Sri also unpacks commonly misunderstood sayings of Jesus, such as:

♦ “Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass?”— Was Jesus thinking of backing out at the last minute?
♦ “My God, my God why have you abandoned me?”— Was Jesus really abandoned by the Father on the cross?
♦ “You have said so.”— What does that mean?

Immanuel Presbyterian Church on Batavia has 16 small raised beds inside a chain-link fence, with a new, near water spigot for watering ease. These beds are available to ANYONE in the community who wants to garden but needs space for it. If you’d like a free gardening starter kit, this will be provided by the Garden-Works Project, who will also provide garden coaching, if you need it. All that your garden produces will belong to you! Gardeners who prefer to donate to the food pantries at Immanuel or St. Irene are welcome to take a plot or two for that purpose, too. If you know of anyone who would like a garden plot, contact Jeannie at www.gardenworksproject.org, or call Immanuel’s church office at 630.393.4400.

Join us for Mass at Mercy Home - Sunday, March 31, 2019

You may be familiar with Sunday Mass at Mercy Home for Boys and Girls which airs on WGN-TV, Channel 9 on Sundays at 9AM. We have been invited to participate in a taping of the show and to join in the televised Masses for the 4th Sunday of Easter and The Ascension to be celebrated with Father Carl Morello (brother of fellow Knight of Columbus, Vince Morello). The Masses will be aired on May 12th and June 2nd, respectively.

The date is Sunday, March 31. We will meet at 1:30PM at Mercy Home, 1140 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. The taping will occur between 2:30-4PM with a complimentary luncheon beforehand. We hope to have a good showing, but can accommodate no more than twenty people for the television audience. RSVP by Monday, March 25th with how many individuals will participate,

There is free parking at Mercy Home and plenty of street-parking available. If anyone needs a chairlift, I will need to know that in advance. The chairlift has a 300 lb. limit. Free-will donations would be appreciated by the Home which is a Catholic charity and child welfare agency. This event will be “first come, first served”.

This is a fun experience and I encourage families to bring their children (over 5 years old). For information, or to make your reservation, please contact Joe Kubal at 630.983.6159 or SMKubal0712@aol.com.
This Week’s Meetings

Sunday, March 3
10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
11a-12p - Baptism Prep 1st Session (S)
11a-12:30p - RCIA (ACL)

Monday, March 4
1:2-3:30p - Bible Study (ACL).
6:30-8p - Healing Horizons (ACL)

Tuesday, March 5
7-9p - School Board (HF)

Wednesday, March 6
12:30-3:30p - Band (ACL)

Thursday, March 7
11:30a-2p - Seniors & Friends (ACL)
7-8:30p - CCW (ACL)
7-9p - Worship Commission (Staff)

Friday, March 8
12:30-3:30p - Band (ACU)
7-7:30p - Stations of the Cross (C)
7-9p - Soup Supper (ACL)

Saturday, March 9
9-10a - Coffee with Fr. Jim (ACL)

Sunday, March 10
7:30a-12:30p - Hospitality (ACL)
10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
11a-12p - Baptism Prep 2nd Session (S)

St. Joseph’s Day Table Potluck

Come join your parish family for a St. Joseph’s Table Potluck Dinner in the Activity Center on Saturday, March 16th following the 5PM Mass. The Ladies of Columbus and the Council of Catholic Women will provide the main course. Please bring a dish to pass:

♦ Last Name A-G: salads, fruit or appetizers
♦ Last Name H-P: side dishes
♦ Last Name Q-Z: desserts and beverages

Questions, please contact Cathy Kott at 630.393.9543 or cakott1210@att.net.

Fifth Annual Hustle Up The Hill For The Homeless (May 19)

As a sure sign of spring, the annual Hustle up the Hill is just around the corner. Every year this event gets bigger and better. This year will be no exception. Are you ready to conquer the mountain? How many times can you hustle up Blackwell’s Mt. Hoy? Beautiful Mt. Hoy, which rises 836 feet above sea level, gives you an awesome panoramic view of the western suburbs and if the skies are clear, you can see the Chicago skyline in the distance. But first, you have to get to the top. Lace up your running (or walking) shoes and join us as we have fun while raising funds for Bridge Communities. Run solo or form a team. Run with the family. Do your thing. T-shirts and gourmet coffee await you at the finish line. Register on Active.com, search “Hustle Up The Hill.” For more information, contact quinndel@aol.com.

Remember our Faithful Departed in your Prayers
♦ Gary Lapetina

Lenten Regulations

1. Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.
2. Everyone 18 years of age and under 60 years of age is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
3. On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one’s needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
4. To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.
5. Lent is the principal season of penance in the Christian year. All of the faithful are strongly urged to develop and follow a program of voluntary self-denial (in addition to following the Lenten regulations), serious prayer, and a performance of works of charity and mercy.
6. Those who are sick, pregnant, or nursing, or whose health would adversely be affected by fasting or abstinence, should not consider themselves bound by these norms.
Parish Easter Egg Hunt
& Hospitality

April 7th 11:15AM (after 10AM Mass)
on Fr. Jim's Lawn
Easter Bunny will be there too!
Ages 0-10 - Bring your baskets or receive a
small bag to collect your eggs!

Donations of small wrapped candy that will fit in the eggs
will be collected in the back of Church through March. Call
Diane at 630.836.9991 with questions.

Hop into a fun time!

Readings for the Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Sir 17:20-24; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 10:17-27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Sir 35:1-12; Ps 50:5-8, 14, 23; Mk 10:28-31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Dt 26:4-10; Ps 91:1-2, 10-15; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13</td>
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Pledge your gift to the CMAA!

God calls of us to be Signs of Hope for those in need
our Diocese. The CMAA supports 30 ministries that
benefit so many and allow us to do God’s work here
on earth. Our parish could not possibly accomplish all
that the diocese is able to when we all work together.
Our parish’s goal for the 2019 CMAA is $64,600. If we
raise more than this goal, 70 percent of the amount
over goal will be returned to the parish.

Prayerfully reflect on how you can support this year’s
CMAA. You may make a gift using a pledge envelope
available in the church, returning the pledge card you
received in the mail, visiting joliedioceseappeal.org,
or texting “Donate” to 815.205.1949 to link to a dona-
tion form from your mobile phone.

Pat Wehner  
Gary Rufo  
Ann Mulcahy  
Dan Cyrus  
Baby Reyna Urso-Zizzo  
Barb Olson  
Lynette Meany

Don Clevenger, Jr.  
Joe Gattone  
Javier Tecuatl  
Bernie Malovany  
Valder Morales  
Max Malesh  
Colette Malovany

Liturgical Calendar

Monday, March 4
St. Casimir
7:00AM - Margaret Hatch/ Bob & Cindy Stoothoff

Tuesday, March 5
Weekday
7:00AM - Lucy Bernard/ 1st Anniversary
Le Thi Lai (Moise)/ Le Family
William Mulcahy/ Family

Wednesday, March 6
Ash Wednesday; Fast & Abstinence
7:00AM - Florence Motyka/ Fr. Jim
12:00PM - For the Poor & the Hungry
7:00PM - St. Irene Faith Community

Thursday, March 7
Ss. Perpetua and Felicity

Friday, March 8
St. John of God; Abstinence

Saturday, March 9
Vigil: 1st Sunday of Lent
5:00PM - James R. Burnett/ St. Irene Community

Sunday, March 10
First Sunday of Lent
8:00AM - Lorraine Slott/ Jim & Barb Sevenich
10:00AM - Birthday/Anniversary Mass
RCIA Rite of Sending
Lai & Hieu Le/ Le Family
Deceased Members of Gattone Family

11:00AM - 40 Hour Devotion Begins

Chief Petty Officer Michael Spans - Deployed
1st Lt. Weston J. Umano USAF - Deployed
Jacob VanderMeulen, USNavy, Groton, CT
AB Patrick Reid - Lackland AFB, TX
1st Lt. Keegan Lohenry USMC - Camp Pendelton
Master Sgt. Dan Peterson - Anchorage, AK
T Sgt. Daniel Geinosky - serving in England
Sgt. Christian Wilkins - stationed in Iraq
Lance Cpl. Levi Dieter - Embassy of Latvia
Cmdr. Eric G. Peterson - Serving in San Diego
Sgt. Peter Folz - Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Major Patrick Looby - Kunsan AB, S.K.
Sgt. Thomas Rasplicka - Fort Bliss, Texas