God called out to Moses from the burning bush and said, “Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.”

*Exodus 3:4, 5*
Third Sunday of Lent

Reflecting on God’s Word

One morning in 1888, Alfred Nobel, the man who invented dynamite, picked up the morning newspaper and, to his shock, read an account of his death. The reporter had made a mistake; it was his cousin, not he, who had died.

In reading his own obituary, Alfred Nobel realized just how he would be recognized and remembered should he die. He would be the “dynamite king,” a merchant of death. This so disturbed and upset Nobel that he decided to give his life a new direction. He became involved in the work of peace and justice and made it a point to ensure that money was set aside so an annual award could be given to those engaged in that important work.

So when Alfred Nobel died, his obituary made no mention of his being a merchant of death. He was hailed instead for his humanitarian deeds, especially the establishment of the Nobel Peace Prize. You could say that the mistake in 1888 gave Alfred Nobel a second chance at life. As a result, the world was awarded a wonderful legacy.

—Rev. Richard Zajac

LIVING GOD’S WORD: The Gospel today unfolds the parable of the fig tree, often described as the parable of the second chance. The owner of the vineyard wants it cut down. The vinedresser pleads that it be given a second chance. Great and wonderful results can often accompany a second chance.

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!
HOLY MOMENTS at St. Irene - Holiness Is Possible

How are you doing on your path to Holiness? Our faith and holiness enables us to walk through even the darkest times in our life. When we struggle to see the good of humanity, faith and holiness can assist us in putting our trust in God.

Each one of us is called to be a saint in the places we live today. From the moment of our Baptism, we are filled with the Holy Spirit to live a life of holiness. Saint Mother Teresa said, “Holiness is not the luxury of the few; it is a simple duty, for you and for me. We have been created for that. So let us be holy as Our Father in Heaven is holy. Nothing can make me holy except the presence of God and to me the presence of God is faithfulness in small things. Faithfulness in small things will lead you to Christ. Unfaithfulness in small things will lead you to sin.”

Small things are the ‘Holy Moments’ we allow to happen through us throughout our day.

Have you placed a heart on our “Holiness is Possible” display board in church? If not, do it today!

Lenten Penance Service - Join your Parish family for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday, April 1st at 7PM.

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.

Lenten Bible Study

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 25; April 1, 8, 15

Hollywood has given us an image of Moses slipping off his shoes before a burning bush. God has just called Moses by name, and so that Moses doesn’t miss the meaning of this breakthrough in human history, God requires that all barriers to the experience be eliminated. If you’ve ever tried to maneuver barefoot across hot sand, or pick your way along a rocky beach, you know how sensitive feet can be.

Within the Church, there are religious orders with a custom of going barefoot, not merely to show poverty, but to be an outward sign of a desire for connection with creation, a desire to go through life alert to what God is doing. In early days, when reconciliation was a once-in-a-lifetime possibility, penitents often went barefoot for a long period of time as a sign of their conversion. Even today, people follow an ancient practice of slipping off their shoes to walk in the procession to the cross on Good Friday. It is striking that the first use of our newly-scrubbed feet from Holy Thursday night is to walk resolutely in the footsteps of Christ to the cross.

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

Reading I: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15
♦ God’s name is: “I AM WHO AM.”

Background: In the first reading from Exodus, Moses questions God’s call. God’s answer, “I AM Who AM” has lead believers to contemplate the meaning of God’s reply to Moses. Today’s passage shows that even in the moment of personal revelation, God remains a mystery.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
♦ What is written about Moses is to help us.

Background: In this reading, Paul reflects on the fate of the people who were delivered in the Exodus. Not all of the people who were freed remained faithful to God. Paul stresses that being delivered from sin through Baptism is not enough. We must continue to turn back to God when we have turned away.

♦ Jesus tells us to repent.

Background: Today’s Gospel story was Jesus’ answer to those who judged others through the theory of retribution. Humans cannot see enough to judge God’s purpose in events. The parable illustrates God’s patience concerning human sin.

Theme: Lent calls us to conversion.

Question for Adults:
What steps are you taking this Lent to make sure that your faith bears fruit in good works?

Question for Youth:
What needs changing in your life right now? How will you invite God into that change?

Question for Children:
God wants your faith to result in good living. What steps can you take during Lent to make sure that happens?

ALL ARE WELCOME!
Join us for our Holiday church cleaning on Sunday, March 31st after 10AM Mass.
This is a wonderful way to serve our community and honor our Lord as together we work to prepare His house for the season of Advent.
Families are invited. Children may serve with a parent. Please bring buckets and rags. Cleaning products will be provided.
Contact Katie Augustynowicz via email or text if you will be joining in the fun!
♦ katieaugustynowicz@hotmail.com
♦ or text her at 630.772.3171.

Religious Education does not meet this week due to Spring Break. We pray your family enjoys special, holy moments together.

Gospel Weekly Family Discussion:
Gospel of Luke 13:1-9 - Jesus wants us to understand that we must turn from bad things and practice doing good things. Our deeds are our fruit! God is the gardener who gives us more time to turn back to Him and increase our good deeds of mercy and love.

Gospel Questions:
♦ What relationship can you cultivate and give another chance this Lent?
♦ Why does the gardener want to fertilize the fig tree?
♦ Who in the Gospel story is Jesus like, the owner or the gardener? Why?

Life Questions:
♦ How are you being called to encourage others?
♦ When have you needed a second chance?
♦ Discuss how God helps all things grow.

Family Prayer:
♦ Lord, increase your love in us so that we may increase the fruits of your love.

What is Divine Mercy? Prepare to be AMAZED!
Join us to view the film Divine Mercy 101 on Sunday, April 14th in the ACL following the 10AM Mass. This is a one hour presentation by Fr. Mike Alar, MIC. Refreshments will be served.
Join us for Mass at Mercy Home - Sunday, March 31, 2019

We have been invited to participate 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) at the Mercy Home for Boys and Girls. 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 can only accommodate twenty people. RSVP by Monday, March 25th with how many individuals will participate.

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.

Volunteers needed for the Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Phone 630.393.2400 x 122 if you can help with the following:

♦ Apostles: 12 people needed. Fr. Jim will wash your feet. You will then wash the feet of the people in the assembly. Rehearsal required on Tuesday, April 16th at 7PM.
♦ Bowl/Pitcher bearers: 12 people needed to carry the bowl/pitcher for the apostles. Rehearsal required on Tuesday, April 16th at 7PM.
♦ Disciples: You will be seated in the assembly and have your feet washed by one of the 12. No rehearsal is required but you will need to arrive 20-30 minutes early, with a towel, to get your seating assignment.
♦ Banner bearers: 3 people are needed for Holy Thursday. Rehearsal required on Tuesday, April 16th at 7PM.
♦ Oil bearers: 3 people are needed to carry in the holy oils. Rehearsal required on Tuesday, April 16th at 7PM.
♦ Candle bearers: 4 people are needed to carry candles for the enthronement of the holy oils. Rehearsal required on Tuesday, April 16th at 7PM.

This year’s St. Irene’s Council of Catholic Women “Woman of the Year” is Sue Gosewehr!

Congratulations Sue!

Please join us Sunday May 5th, when we will honor Sue at the 10AM Mass, followed by the May Crowning and a luncheon in the ACL.

BUNCO! The Ladies of Columbus will host a Bunco event on Saturday, April 27th at 6:30PM. All proceeds will benefit DoodleBug Workshop. This organization helps individuals with intellectual and/or physical disabilities to develop functional life skills. Join us for the fun and help a great organization!

Congratulations to Shannon Nevins whom the Church has called to the Easter Sacraments during the Rite of Election!

Thank you to everyone who has pledged a gift to the 2019 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). Your support will help provide Signs of Hope to so many through the 30 ministries our annual appeal benefits.

Our parish’s goal for the 2019 CMAA is $ 64,600. Every gift - large and small - makes a difference! If we raise more than our goal, 70% of the amount over goal will be returned to us for our use. This is an amazing opportunity for our parish.

Please prayerfully reflect on your pledge to this year’s CMAA and make your gift today. Pledge envelopes are available in the church. You can also return the pledge card you received in the mail, make a gift online at jolietdioceseappeal.org, or text “Donate” to 815.205.1949 to link to a donation form from your mobile phone.
This Week’s Meetings

**Sunday, March 24**
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-12:30p - RCIA (ACL)

**Monday, March 25**
- 1-2:30p - Lenten Bible Study (ACL)
- 6:30-9p - Protecting God’s Children (ACL)

**Tuesday, March 26**

**Wednesday, March 27**
- 7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)

**Thursday, March 28**
- 7-7:30p - Stations of the Cross (C)
- 7:30-9p - Soup Supper (ACL)

**Friday, March 29**
- 7-7:30p - Stations of the Cross (C)
- 7:30-9p - Soup Supper (ACL)

**Saturday, March 30**

**Sunday, March 31**
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-12:30p - RCIA (ACL)
- 11a-1:30p - Clean the Church (C)
- 1-3p - Uniform Exchange (ACU)

Eucharistic Adoration - Join us on Thursdays 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.

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 is in the back of the church until June 1st.

Questions may be directed to Joseph Kubal at 630.983.6159 or jdrk4715@aol.com.

St. Irene Lunchbunch Ministry

**Think Spring!**

Bring your favorite dish to share to our Pot Luck Luncheon on Thursday, April 4th at 11:30AM in the ACL.

- **Cost:** $3
- **Topic:** How does your garden grow?

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.

Upcoming Bulletin Deadlines

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<tr>
<th>Sunday Bulletin:</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 14, 2019</td>
<td>Wednesday, April 3</td>
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<td>April 21, 2019</td>
<td>Wednesday, April 10</td>
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<td>April 28, 2019</td>
<td>Wednesday, April 17</td>
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Regular deadline - 8AM on the Friday a week prior to print.
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.

Joe Gattone
Javier Tecuatl
Paula Lopat
Mary Vander Meulen
Valde Morales
Max Mallesh
Colette Malovany

Paulette Porter
Pat Wehner
Gary Rufo
Ann Mulcahy
Dan Cyrus
Barb Olson
Lynette Meany
Don Clevenger, Jr.

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, March 25th 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
1st Lt. Weston J. Umano USAF - Deployed
Jacob VanderMeulen, USNavy, Groton, CT
AB Patrick Reid - Lackland AFB, TX
1st Lt. Keegan Loheny 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. Peterson - Serving in San Diego
Sgt. Peter Folz - Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Major Patrick Looby - Kunsan AB, S.K.
Sgt. Thomas Rasplica - Fort Bliss, Texas

Liturgical Calendar

Monday, March 25
Annunciation of the Lord
7:00AM - Thelma Ellingson/ Mary Hafertepe

Tuesday, March 26
Lenten Weekday
7:00AM - Tom Cosgrove/ Family

Wednesday, March 27
Lenten Weekday
7:00AM - Donna Nilges/ Cathy Kott

Thursday, March 28
Lenten Weekday
7:00AM - St. Irene Faith Community
7:30AM - Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, March 29
Lenten Weekday; Abstinence
7:00AM - Ted Mlsna/ Family
8:15AM - No Grade School Mass

Saturday, March 30
Vigil: 4th Sunday of Lent
5:00PM - Marie Horan/ Friends

Sunday, March 31
Fourth Sunday of Lent
8:00AM - Theresa Pavel/ 1st Anniversary
10:00AM - RCIA 2nd Scrutiny
Deacon Richard Nowak/ Family
Lei Family/ Family

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-35
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23
Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Alternate readings (Year A):
1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41