St. Irene Faith Community

March 31, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.

2 Corinthians 5:17
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.

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Parish Easter Egg Hunt & Hospitality

April 7th 11:15AM (after 10AM Mass) on Fr. Jim's Lawn

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.

SHOPRight

Help your parish, while planning your Easter celebration. Buy gift cards through SHOPRight to purchase your Easter candy, Easter bonnets, dinner and some fun. We have over 700 vendors that give percentages of the purchase to St. Irene including Fannie May (25%), Mariano's (4%), Jewel (4%), Maggiano’s (11%) Macy’s (10%), & TopGolf (10%).

There are 3 types of Cards:

♦ Physical – pick up at Mass the weekend after your order

♦ Reload – add more $ to the physical card previously purchased directly from your home computer or phone, ready for immediate use and no waiting for weekend Mass pickup

♦ ScripNow eCard – purchase directly from your computer or phone, ready for immediate use, and no waiting for weekend Mass pickup

Order Before 4PM on: Pick Up at Mass on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday, March 31st</th>
<th>April 6 &amp; 7</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, April 7th</td>
<td>April 13 &amp; 14</td>
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Haven’t had time to join? Send an email to st.irene.script@gmail.com with your first and last name, phone number and email address. We’ll get you started!

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?

MASS SCHEDULE

- Daily: M-F 7AM
- Saturday: 5PM
- Sunday: 8AM & 10AM
If your birthday or wedding anniversary is in the month of April I would like to extend a personal invitation to you and your family to join your parish family in celebrating this occasion. Next Sunday, April 7th 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.

HOLY MOMENTS at St. Irene - Holiness Is Everywhere!

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!

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: April 1, 8, 15

Today, “Laetare Sunday,” breaks the somberness of Lent for a little rejoicing, and the readings all summon us to an awareness of reconciliation. One of the best-loved stories of our tradition is today’s Gospel story of the runaway son and the prodigal father. Prodigal, of course, is an adjective meaning “spendthrift or extravagant to a degree bordering on recklessness,” and although the boy maxes out the credit cards, it is really the father who is prodigal with forgiveness.

Part of the excitement of this Laetare Sunday is rooted in the ancient catechumenate. Long ago, midway through Lent, the “elect” were focusing more and more on the gift of reconciliation accomplished for them by Christ and about to be realized in the Easter sacraments they were preparing to celebrate. In some places, the elect were even bedecked with roses on this day. A person bedecked with roses sticks out in a crowd; a person formed by the Eucharist and committed to living a life of reconciliation does, too. That’s you!

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

Reading I: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12
♦ They ate the produce of the land.

Background: The first reading recounts Israel's rebirth in the land of promise. As the people crossed the Jordan River, they celebrated Passover, just as they had when they crossed the Red Sea. The period of wandering in the wilderness was over.

Reading II: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
♦ We are reconciled with God through Christ.

Background: The main subject in Paul's second letter to the Church of Corinth is reconciliation. Paul stresses reconciliation with God, with himself, and with the Corinthian Community. Through Christ, sinners are reconciled to God.

♦ The son that was lost came back home.

Background: In the presence of the Pharisees and Scribes, who are outraged by Jesus' treatment of sinners, Jesus tells the story of the return of the prodigal son. Today's parable shows that God's forgiveness is for everyone. God's mercy and love is immeasurable and beyond human understanding.

Theme: God wants us to come back. Now is the time to reconcile.

Question for Adults:
How have you or your family welcomed a family member who has been distant and/or absent from you?

Question for Youth:
Is it difficult for you to say “I'm sorry” when you hurt another or get off track? Why or why not?

Question for Children:
Who is the one person you most need to say, “I'm sorry” to in your family?

Divine Mercy Sunday

On the Second Sunday of Easter of the Jubilee Year 2000, at the Mass for the canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska, Pope John Paul II proclaimed to the world that “from now on throughout the Church this Sunday will be called Divine Mercy Sunday.”

Pope John Paul had actively promoted the message of St. Faustina. In his 1980 encyclical on God's mercy, Rich in Mercy, he developed a scriptural and doctrinal basis for our faith in the mercy of God. Likewise, Pope Francis continues to emphasize this foundational belief of our Church. We, as Catholics, are profoundly called to reflect, in a prayerful and devote way, on the message of God's mercy.

Please join your faith community in acknowledging and accepting the merciful love of God, during a special holy hour, on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 28th, from 3-4PM in the Church.

Religious Education classes meet on Tuesday, April 2 (Gr 1-6 in the classroom) 5:30-7PM and Wednesday, April 3 (7th grade meets in ACL and 8th grade has assigned interview times in the school) 6:30-8PM. Parents meet their children on Tuesdays at 6:45PM in Church and Wednesdays at 7:45PM in the ACL.

Family Weekly Family Discussion:
Gospel of Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 - This Sunday is sometimes called “Joy Sunday.” It is a time to remember the joy that Easter brings after the time of repentance during Lent. The prodigal son is a reminder that we also stray from our Father through our sins and can return to the joy of His forgiveness.

Gospel Questions:
♦ How does a forgiving father show us what God is like?
♦ How does this parable tell us about God’s mercy?
♦ What does Jesus teach us about forgiving others?

Life Questions:
♦ How do you characterize yourself—more a wild, willful, wasteful child or more a responsible, obedient, dutiful child?
♦ What can you forgive?
♦ When have you needed forgiveness?

Family Prayer:
♦ Lord, open our hearts to ask for forgiveness and to forgive others. Show us your mercy and help us to be merciful to others.
**Lenten Penance Service** - Join your Parish family for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday, April 1st at 7PM.

**Are you clearing your calendar for the Sacred Triduum?**

**We Begin:** Thursday, April 18th at 7PM with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. Let us enter into the sacred mysteries together. After listening to the scriptures, we will wash one another’s feet. Jesus gave us this image of what the church is supposed to look like, feel like, act like. This is rehearsal for Christian life. We process with food and alms for the poor. We celebrate the Eucharist. We enter into the Paschal fast. We keep vigil. The evening has no ending…. 

**We Continue:** We gather quietly on Friday, April 19th at 3PM and listen to scripture. We pray for all the world’s needs. We reverence the holy cross. We continue in fasting and prayer and vigil, in rest and quiet through Saturday. This Saturday for us is like God’s rest at the end of creation. It is Christ repose in the tomb.

**Until the Night between Saturday and Sunday:** Hungry now and excited, on Saturday, April 20th at 8PM the church gathers in the darkness and lights a new fire and a great candle that will make this night bright for us. We listen to some of the most powerful scriptures in the Bible, then we pray to all our saints to stand with us as we go to the font and bless the waters. These are the moments when death and life meet, when we reject evil and renew our baptismal promises to God. Together we go to the table and celebrate the Easter Eucharist. We break the fast with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. This is what we are about.

**Come be church when the church is at her best.**

Let’s fill the church in praise of God. Many hands (and feet!) are needed to make these liturgies a profound experience for the entire parish. Sign up to help with the many ministry opportunities available. Sign up sheets are in the narthex.

**Holy Week Schedule**

**HOLY THURSDAY, April 18**
- Morning Prayer: 7AM
- The Lord’s Supper: 7PM

**GOOD FRIDAY, April 19**
- Morning Prayer: 7AM
- The Lord’s Passion: 3PM

**HOLY SATURDAY, April 20**
- Morning Prayer: 8AM
- Preparation Rites for Elect: 9AM
- Blessing of Baskets: 12PM

**THE EASTER VIGIL MASS**
- Blessing of New Fire: 8PM

**EASTER SUNDAY, April 21**
- Masses: 8AM & 10AM

**All are invited to bring a can of food to the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Thursday, April 18th at 7PM. During the offertory procession the assembly will be invited to bring their gifts forth as a sign of solidarity with the poor.**

Incense will be used on April 13 at the 5PM Mass & April 14 at 10AM. It will also be used at the Easter Vigil Mass at 8PM and on Easter Sunday at 10AM. If incense bothers your allergies, please celebrate with us at one of the other Masses.

**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.
### This Week’s Meetings

**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)

**Monday, April 1**
- 1-2:30p - Lenten Bible Study (ACL)
- 6:30-8p - Healing Horizons (ACL)

**Tuesday, April 2**
- 5:30-7p - Elementary Religious Education (S,C, ACL)
- 7-9p - School Board (HF)
- 7:30-8:30p - Ladies of Columbus Auxiliary (ACL)

**Wednesday, April 3**
- 12:30-3:30p - Band (ACL)
- 6:30-8p - Jr. High Religious Education (S, ACL)
- 7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)

**Thursday, April 4**
- 11:30a-2p - Seniors & Friends Luncheon (ACL)
- 5-9p - Egg Stuffing (ACL)
- 6-8p - Confirmation Rehearsal (C)

**Friday, April 5**
- 12:30-3:30p - Band (ACU)
- 7-7:30p - Stations of the Cross (C)
- 7:30-9p - Soup Supper (ACL)

**Saturday, April 6**
- 8-10a - KC Color Guard (ACU)

**Sunday, April 7**
- 7:30a-12:30p - Hospitality (ACL)
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-1p - Easter Egg Hunt (Fr. Jim’s Lawn)
- 2-6p - Confirmation (AC)

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### 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 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.

### 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.

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**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. So mark your calendars to have a lot of fun while helping a great organization!
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.

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

Joe Gattone
Javier Tecuatl
Paula Lopat
Mary Vander Meulen
Valder Morales
Max Malesh
Colette Malovany

Liturgical Calendar

Monday, April 1
Lenten Weekday
7:00AM - Thelma Ellingson/ Mary Hafertepe
7:00PM - Lenten Penance Service

Tuesday, April 2
St. Francis of Paola
7:00AM - St. Irene Faith Community

Wednesday, April 3
Lenten Weekday
7:00AM - For Those Who Attend 7AM Mass

Thursday, April 4
St. Isidore of Seville
7:00AM - Margaret Zielazinski/ Family
7:30AM - Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, April 5
St. Vincent Ferrer; First Friday; Abstinence

Saturday, April 6
Vigil: 5th Sunday of Lent
5:00PM - Florence Motyka/ Fr. Jim
Kathy Ulanowski/ Family

Sunday, April 7
Fifth Sunday of Lent
8:00AM - Mary Paschall/ Friends
10:00AM - RCIA 3rd Scrutiny
Birthday/Anniversary Mass
Lei Family/ Family
3:00PM - Confirmation

Upcoming Bulletin Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin: Deadline is 8AM on:
April 14, 2019 Wednesday, April 3
April 21, 2019 Wednesday, April 10
April 28, 2019 Wednesday, April 17

Regular deadline - 8AM on the Friday a week prior to print.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6,
11-13b; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6,
8-9; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9,
13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23;
Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23;
Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12;
Jn 7:40-53
Sunday: Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 3:8-14;
Jn 8:1-11
Alternate readings (Year A):
Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11;

We Enlist in Prayer Those Who Serve Our Country

Chief Petty Officer Michael Spans
1st Lt. Weston J. Umano USAF - Deployed
1st Lt. Keegan Loherny USMC - Camp Pendleton
Master Sgt. Dan Peterson - Anchorage, AK
TSGt. Daniel Geinosky - Lackland AFB, TX
Sgt. Peter Folt - Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Maj. Patrick Looby - Kunsan AB, S.K.
Sgt. Thomas Raspicka - Fort Bliss, Texas

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