

The Catholic Collaborative of CONCORD-CARLISLE



MASS SCHEDULE

Holy Family Parish – Concord

(St. Bernard's Church – 12 Monument Square,
Concord, MA)

- Saturday (Sunday Vigil): 4:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM
- Friday: 9:00 AM

St. Irene Parish – Carlisle

(St. Irene's Church – 181 East Street, Carlisle, MA)

- Sunday: 11:30 AM & 5:00 PM
- Monday: 9:00 AM
- Wednesday: Communion Service – 9:00 AM

CONFESSION / RECONCILIATION

- 1st Monday: St. Irene, Carlisle | 6:00–7:00 PM
 - 3rd Monday: Holy Family, Concord | 6:00–7:00 PM
- Other times by appointment — call 978-369-7442

PRAYER CHAPEL

Monday–Friday | 10:00 AM–3:00 PM
Parish Center – 70 Monument Square, Concord, MA

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

70 Monument Square, Concord, MA 01742
Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 10:00 AM–3:00 PM
Phone: 978-369-7442
Website: www.cc-catholic.org
Email: parishlife@cc-catholic.org

HOLY COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND

Unable to attend Mass due to surgery, illness, or disability? We can bring Communion to you.

Contact:

Linda Bentley – 978-505-8028
Barb Ewen – 978-505-9625

FAITH FORMATION

70 Monument Square, Concord, MA 01742
Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM
Phone: 978-369-7442 x 224
Email: Faithformation@cc-catholic.org



2nd Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025

“A voice of one crying out in the desert. Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” Matthew 3:3

Reflection

A Vision of Peace and a Messenger of Hope

The first reading today from the Prophet Isaiah is the vision of Peace and sets the tone for the Advent season, for we are awaiting the King. Then justice will flourish in his time and fullness of Peace forever. And the Gospel for today, introduces us to John the Baptist, the bridge between the Jewish scriptures, the Old Testament and the Christian scriptures, the New Testament. John the Baptist, who leapt in the womb of his mother Elizabeth, when Mary with child, greeted her cousin Elizabeth. He is now the herald announcing prepare the way of the Lord Jesus.

Preparing and getting ready for the King of Peace is our goal for the season of Advent. We will celebrate the Feast of Mary's Immaculate Conception on Monday December 8th at the 9AM Mass at Saint Irene's and the 7PM Mass at Saint Bernard's Church. We celebrate that Mary was born without original sin, she was given Prevenient Grace before she was even born! This coming week we have our Scripture series on the Advent readings on Wednesday, 7PM in Saint Bernard's Church. And we have Friday silent exposition and adoration on Fridays, 10AM-Noon in our Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the parish office at 70 Monument Square. In fact, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel is open for a visit Monday through Friday 10AM – 3PM. And finally, our Advent Reconciliation Service will be Thursday December 18th, 7PM in Saint Irene's Church.

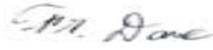
* * * * *

Many folks have been asking for a book signing event for my new book;

Twelve Tough Questions and a Pastor's Response. I do not have a supply of books on hand. One needs to order the book from Amazon.com The paperback edition is \$12.99 and the hard back edition is \$20.99. This is the book I wrote during my sabbatical studying at the Vatican's Institute for Continuing Theological

Education in 2024, for three months. Each chapter begins with a question from a parishioner, and I try to give an answer. If you get the book, I would be happy to sign it for you.

Pax Christi,



Very Reverend David O'Leary, VF, S.T.L., D.Phil.
Pastor

Family Recognized for Their Service to the Church

On Sunday, November 23rd, the Knights of Columbus joyfully recognized the **Sorchini-Sandoval** family as *Family of the Month* for the beautiful way they make the Domestic Church, the church within the home, present through their faithful service.



Like so many of our dedicated families, the Sorchini-Sandoval family witnesses to the Gospel through quiet consistency, love, and devotion. Jenny Sandoval serves generously as the Coordinator for Altar Servers at St. Irene, while her children, Alexander and Olivia, offer their hearts and hands to the Lord as altar servers. Their service is not simply a task, but an expression of their deep faith and love for God.

Their devotion to Our Lady is also visible within our parish community. Many have noticed the striking image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of the Americas, displayed at St. Irene. This beautiful image was a heartfelt gift from Jenny, a reminder of Mary's maternal presence among us.

In their daily lives, through joys, challenges, and all the ordinary moments of family life, this family shows in a humble and unassuming way what it truly means to live the faith at home.

Collaborative News

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Weekly Offertory Collection

Week of November 23, 2025

	Holy Family	St. Irene
In Church & Mail In:	\$3,956.25	\$2,387.00
Electronic Giving:	\$2,866.00	\$1,786.00
2nd--Women's Religious	\$2,752.00	\$1,257.00

Week of November 30, 2025

In Church & Mail In:	\$4,069.25	\$2,971.00
Electronic Giving:	\$2,199.00	\$1,052.65
2nd--Women's Religious	\$0	\$80.00

TOTAL: \$15,842.00 \$9,533.65

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Supporting our parish has never been easier! Visit our website at www.cc-catholic.org and click on the Donate Online tab to set up your weekly or monthly contributions. You can also make your offering by simply scanning one of our QR codes. For more information, please contact Gerry Armstrong at 978-369-7442 x227 or finance@cc-catholic.org



Holy Family



St. Irene

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our parish community! Your support is deeply appreciated and needed.

PLANNED GIVING

A Tax-Savvy Way to Support the Catholic Collaborative of Concord-Carlisle (Holy Family and St. Irene Parishes)

Please help us cover our increased operating costs by considering a direct gift of securities or mutual funds. You can reduce or eliminate federal capital gains taxes on the transfer. You may also be entitled to a federal income tax charitable deduction based on the fair market value of the securities at the time of the transfer. For more information about donating Stock and/or Mutual Funds, please contact your financial advisor. To make a Stock and/or Mutual Fund electronic donation to The Catholic Collaborative of Concord-Carlisle (Holy Family and St. Irene Parishes), please visit www.bostoncatholic.org/finance-office and complete the Stock and or Mutual Fund Donation (Online Form). If you have any questions, please contact Eileen Murphy at the Archdiocese of Boston at 857-504-7204.

Spiritual Direction at the Parish Center Explore Your Spiritual Journey

Are you seeking a deeper connection with God? Wondering how God is moving in your life? Do you desire a prayerful space to talk about your spiritual experiences?

You may be ready for spiritual direction—a confidential, one-on-one conversation that helps you reflect on your spiritual journey and deepen your relationship with God.

Spiritual Direction with Michele Fisher

Spiritual direction will be offered at the Parish Center on the 2nd and 3rd Thursdays of the month, between 12:00–3:00 PM. Sessions are scheduled monthly and last 50 minutes.

Michele is a certified spiritual director who has lived in Concord for 29 years and has been active in our parish community in many ways.

Interested? Schedule a 15-minute exploratory call

Do you have questions or wonder if spiritual direction—Michele—is a good fit for you?

Contact Michele at michelespiritualdirector@gmail.com to arrange a 15-minute exploratory phone call.

Words of Thanks from Friends from Afar Coat Drive and Turkey Truck

How can one word, “thank you,” ever be enough when the good that has been done is so immense? One of the friends who received your coats was so moved by your generosity that she offered to come to my home to meet my family and cook for us. “Thank you,” she said, simply didn’t feel sufficient. I told her she would have to cook for all of your family, because this was not something Marie Noel and a few friends did alone. This was the work of an entire community of generous, God-loving people. This is what it means to build the Kingdom.

I find myself in her shoes now. I wish there were a bigger or more sophisticated word, a deeper way to express the gratitude overflowing in my heart. But since “thank you” or “merci” is all our language allows, I unite my own heart with the hearts of all the friends you are keeping warm this winter, and with those for whom you made Thanksgiving possible this past Thursday, to say: *Thank You*, from the very bottom of our hearts.

May God richly reward you for your kindness, your selflessness, and the love you show so freely.

Collaborative News



Knights of Columbus®

Council #287

Serving Holy Family Parish (Concord), St. Irene Parish (Carlisle), and Hanscom AFB

KofC287.org

Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held on the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays** of each month **6:00 – 8:00 PM**

Upcoming Events – Monument Hall, 62 Monument Square, Concord

- 14 Dec, Council Family Christmas Party, 6pm-8pm, Monument Hall, Concord MA



NURSE JEAN

Our **Parish Nursing and Health Ministry** supports the well-being of the whole person — **body, mind, and spirit** — and is here to serve the needs of our community. Whether you have a health question, need a listening ear, or just want to connect, **Nurse Jean is here to help!**

Where & When to Find Nurse Jean
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Concord – Holy Family Parish Center, 3rd Floor

Fridays: December 12, 19, & 26

Carlisle – St. Irene’s Parish Hall

Wednesdays: December 17, 24 & 31

Note: Nurse Jean will not be at St. Irene on the 10th.

Friends From Afar Migrant Ministry

“It takes a village to raise the children.” Let us continue to help raise the children that were in the Concord Shelter. Even though the shelter has closed, our services to the children are still needed. Use QR code below to help!



Open Table's "Most Wanted" items for the month of December are: Vegetable Cooking Oil, Ground Coffee-no K-Cups, Tea, Salt, Sugar, Flour, and Hearty Soups or Stews Red.

Food donations for Open Table can be placed in the food collection bins located at the entrances to our churches. Thank you!

Note: Please bring your paper grocery bags for reuse.

Let's Walk Together!

Join me for a weekly walk — a great way to get some fresh air, gentle movement, and good conversation.

Wednesdays at 1:00 PM | Meet in the parking lot at St. Irene’s

(Check the bulletin for any date changes.)

Tips from the Heart

While preparing for the holidays remember:

- Get that flu vaccine.
- Take a social media break.
- Buy yourself flowers.
- Spend time with family by taking a walk.
- Share a warm coat or winter clothing with someone in need.
- Take time to attend a holiday concert or event.
- If feeling overwhelmed with the upcoming holidays, you are not alone, seek support. (988)

As always, Be kind to yourself.

If I can help, please call, email or stop by.

Be well,

Nurse Jean

jgifford@cc-catholic.org | 978-369-7442 x235

Prayer & Worship

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 6 |
 4:00 pm **Holy Family**
 Francis J. Arena Memorial

Sunday, December 7 |
 9:00 am **Holy Family**
 Phillip Moreau & James McMahan Memorial

11:30 am **St. Irene**
 Timoty J. Galvin Memorial

5:00 pm **St. Irene**
 Carol Mangiacotti Memorial

Monday, December 8 |
 9:00 am **St. Irene**

Wednesday, December 10 | Communion Service
 9:00 am **St. Irene**

Friday, December 12 |
 9:00 am **Holy Family**

Saturday, December 13 |
 4:00 pm **Holy Family**
 Alan Shaw Memorial

Sunday, December 14 |
 9:00 am **Holy Family**
 Teresa Fay Memorial

11:30 am **St. Irene**
 Richard H. Gentile Memorial

5:00 pm **St. Irene**
 Carol Mangiacotti Memorial

To schedule a Mass intention or to add a name to the parish prayer list, please contact Roberto Mercado at parishlife@cc-catholic.org or call 978-369-7442.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Father, your son accepted our sufferings to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness. Hear the prayers we offer for our sick sisters and brothers. May all who suffer pain, illness or disease realize that they have been chosen to be saints and know that they are joined to Christ in His suffering for the salvation of the world. Amen
 (Catholic liturgical prayer for the sick)

READINGS, SAINTS, OBSERVANCES 2025

SUNDAY Dec 7	Second Sunday of Advent Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
MONDAY Dec 8	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
TUESDAY Dec 9	Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3+10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14
WEDNESDAY Dec 10	Our Lady of Loreto Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
THURSDAY Dec 11	Saint Damasus I, Pope Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1+9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15
FRIDAY Dec 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Judith 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
SATURDAY Dec 13	Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
SUNDAY Dec 14	Third Sunday of Advent Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10./Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Pilot Bulletins



SCAN ME

Readings To-Go!

*2nd Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025*

Scan QR code to see this week's readings!



REMEMBER
in your prayers

Ray Snay, Joan Quigley, Mary Taylor, Juana Castro, Ignacio Casimiro, DR Norton, Kina Castro, Michael Castro, Cristina Nunez, Julian Casimiro, Juliauna Williams, Jace Williams, Jonathan Miller, Ted and Mary Snow, Joseph Donnelly, Lucrecia Choto, John Barbadoro, Gert Sullivan, Greg Symko, Henry Johnson, Julian Perez, Randi Tartaro, JoAnn Pozericky, Vanessa Duffy, James Walter, David Mello, Raimonda Beqari. **Please Note:** This list is for those who are living and have requested prayers for health or personal needs. If someone listed has passed away, or if you wish to add a name, please contact the Parish Office.

Prayer & Worship



December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent
Is 11:1-10 | Rom 15:4-9 | Mt 3:1-12

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Today's Gospel is a challenging one, inviting us to consider how much spiritual fruit we are bearing in our lives. St. John the Baptist tells us, "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance," reminding us that the depth of our conversion will be measured by our fruit. Speaking to the Pharisees and Sadducees, John says it is not enough to say that "We have Abraham as our father." If he were speaking today, John might put it this way: it's not enough to say "I'm Catholic!" or "I belong to X Parish." Our lives must show outward evidence of the inward conversion we have undergone. The good news for us today is that we can pause and take stock of how well we are bearing spiritual fruit. Pay attention to what areas might need pruning or fertilizing to ensure that when we come to the Lord's threshing floor at the end of our lives, there is a bountiful harvest he can gather into his barn.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Our first reading gives us a glimpse of God's kingdom: The Son of David will rule with wisdom, understanding, counsel, and knowledge, judging "the poor with justice" and striking "the ruthless with the rod of his mouth." In his kingdom "the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb" and yet "there shall be no harm or ruin." What a poetic way of describing the harmony and wholeness that God longs for in society! As disciples, this is our mission. We're called to work so that God's kingdom vision can become reality. As we work for peace and justice, we're doing our part in the Church's work of evangelization. As the U.S. bishops reminded us in their letter *Communities of Salt and Light*, "social justice is an integral part of evangelization, a constitutive dimension of preaching the Gospel, and an essential part of the Church's mission."

REFLECT

In the Gospel, John the Baptist says of Jesus, "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Our ability to bear spiritual fruit comes from the power of the Holy Spirit within us. Take a moment to reflect on where you see the gifts (see the first reading from Isaiah!) and fruits of the Holy Spirit in your life. How might the Spirit of God be working to increase your spiritual fruitfulness this Advent?

Attention Men of Holy Family & St. Irene Parishes!



Cor

Prayer • Formation • Fraternity

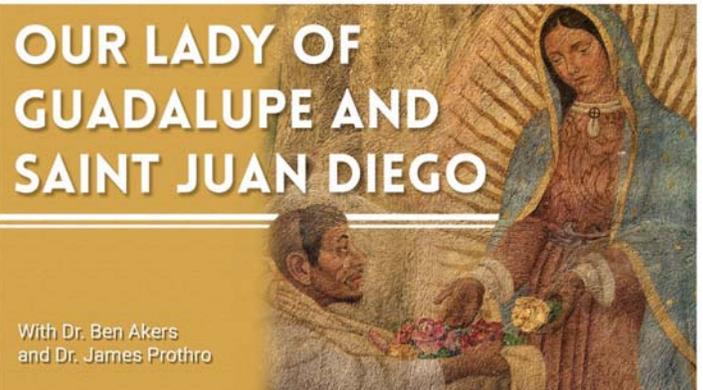
Knights of Columbus Council No. 287 invites you to Cor—a faith and fellowship opportunity for Catholic men to grow in prayer, virtue, and brotherhood.

Tuesday, January 20 | 6:00 PM
Monument Hall, 62 Monument Sq., Concord, MA

Join your fellow parishioners for dinner, prayer, and fraternity.
Learn more via the link or QR code.



Questions? Contact PGK Robert Norton:
Robert.Norton@kofc.org | (617) 293-1730



Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Juan Diego | Catholic Saints

Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Dr. James Prothro to discuss Mary's apparition to Saint Juan Diego on Tepeyac hill under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more!



Faith Formation

Give something small for women in need!



Give something small for women in need! Rosie's Place provides a safe and nurturing environment that helps poor and homeless women maintain their dignity, seek opportunity, and find security in their lives. It offers free meals, showers, laundry, lockers, and overnight beds.

Toiletries, both full and travel sizes, are needed on a continuing basis: shampoo, conditioner, lotion, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and soap and women's sanitary products. These items mean so much to them! Please place your donations in the baskets at Holy Family or St. Irene's in the baskets at the church entrances.

Thanks to the volunteers who have helped us complete our team!

Join us for Silent Exposition & Adoration every Friday 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

in the Chapel

70 Monument Square, Concord MA

(except December 26th and January 2nd)



Please sign-up by contacting
Sally-Ann Limpaecher
sallyannq@gmail.com

Young Adult Group

Selah: A Hebrew word meaning “to pause” or “when God invites you to pause.”

Pause, reflect, and lift up. Introducing **Selah**, a group for young adults ages 25-39! We invite you to take time out of your routines to deepen your relationship with God and connect with others in the faith.

Join us every second and fourth Monday at 7:00pm at the Catholic Parish Center. (70 Monument

Square, Concord) We'll start with silent prayer, then pray Vespers together, and conclude with casual discussion and snacks. Examples of discussion topics include the Catholic monthly devotion, Sunday's Gospel reading, or a passage from the Catechism. Plus, look forward to occasional social events and outings!

Upcoming gatherings at the Catholic Parish Center:

Monday, December 29th at 7:00pm

Monday, January 12th at 7:00pm

Monday, January 26th at 7:00pm

Monday, February 9th at 7:00pm

Monday, February 23rd at 7:00pm

Monday, March 9th at 7:00pm

Monday, March 23rd at 7:00pm



SELAH

Concord-Carlisle Catholic Collaborative
Young Adult Group

We hope to see you at our first meeting! If you have any questions, please email parishlife@cc-catholic.org

December 7, 2025

Faith Formation

HOLY FAMILY – ST. IRENE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2025

❖ COMMUNITY EVENT ❖

CONCORD CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Sunday, December 7 • 3:00pm

Visit us at the Parish Center!

🙏 ADVENT PRAYER & FORMATION 🙏

Adult Faith Formation: Advent Scriptures

Wednesdays, December 3, 10 & 17 • 7:00pm

(Holy Family Church)

Advent Music & Evening Prayer

Sunday, December 14 • 7:00pm

(Holy Family Church)

Collaborative Advent Reconciliation Service

Thursday, December 18 • 7:00pm

(St. Irene Church)

🎄 FAMILY & PARISH EVENTS 🎄

Christmas Pageant & Parish Lunch

Sunday, December 21 • During 11:30am Mass

(St. Irene Church)

All are welcome — no fee!

⊕ CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST ⊕

CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, December 24

4:00pm — Holy Family (Concord)

4:00pm — St. Irene (Carlisle)

10:30pm — “Midnight Mass” — Holy Family

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, December 25

9:00am — Holy Family

11:30am — St. Irene

NEW YEAR LITURGIES

New Year’s Eve

Wednesday, December 31 • 7:00pm

(Holy Family)

New Year’s Day

Thursday, January 1, 2026 • 10:00am

(St. Irene)



Christmas Giving Trees

The Christmas Giving Trees will be set up at the entrances of St. Irene’s Church and St. Bernard’s Church during the Season of Advent. Please consider taking a tag and making a donation to a local organization or agency that serves families and residents in our area. Christmas Giving Tree donations should be returned to the collection baskets by **December 14, 2025**. Please continue to keep our neighbors in need in your prayers during this holiday season. Thank you for your generosity!

Sacrament & Administration Info.



Concord-Carlisle Parish Catholic Center

978-369-7442

Email: parishlife@cc-catholic.org

INFANT BAPTISM

Celebrated on the second (HF) and third (SI) Sundays of each month. Participation in a pre-Baptism session is required for parents presenting their children for the Sacrament of Baptism. Contact the parish office to make arrangements.

MARRIAGE

Congratulations on your engagement! Couples preparing to celebrate marriage in the Church are asked to make arrangements at least six months in advance. Call the parish office for details.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is offered to those whose health situation has been affected by illness, accident, or age. Contact the parish office to make arrangements for receiving the Sacrament in your home or health care facility.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (OCIA)

Interested in Becoming Catholic? Have you been attending Mass or felt drawn to the Eucharist? The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) offers a welcoming path into the Catholic Church for all ages and backgrounds.

To learn more, contact Marie Noel at 978-369-7442 or faithformation@cc-catholic.org

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

We seek to provide support to individuals and families in the Concord-Carlisle community who are in need of short term assistance and support possibilities.



For more information go to: www.svdpcconcordcarlisle.org or call 978-341-3151

Pastor

Fr. Dave O'Leary

Weekend Celebrant

Fr. George Collins, S.J.

Deacons

Gregory Burch
Chuck Clough

Coordinator of Parish Life

Roberto Mercado, Jr.

Directors of Music

Jim Barkovic (HF)
Cypriana Coelho (SI)

Director of Faith Formation

Marie Noel

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Tony Carbrello

Finance & Operations Manager

Gerry Armstrong

Parish Nurse

Jean Gifford

Concord-Carlisle Catholic Collaborative Pastoral Council

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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8

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