

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

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

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 or
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



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication;
with divine recompense he comes to save you.

Isaiah 35:4

December 14, 2025

Reflection

Exult, Rejoice, Everlasting Joy!

The third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, meaning rejoice! The Pink candle is lit on the Advent wreath, and the priest and deacon wear rose color vestments. The readings give a very positive message that the dry desert will be changed into a blooming mecca. The prophet Isaiah gives a very strong message of hope that God himself will come and save.

The second reading from the Letter of James uses the word patient four times in four verses. The image of the farmer is fitting. Everything comes in its season. But make no mistake; if patience is a human virtue, a healthy attitude, regarding the coming of the Lord, it now becomes an authentically Christian virtue, a component of faith that is characterized by steadfastness.

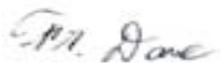
Finally, the Gospel from Matthew this Sunday gives us John the Baptists again, but this time he is questioning. For John is now in prison for reproaching King Herod because he was living with his brother's wife. If Jesus is the Messiah, then John wonders why he is locked up. But John remains steadfast and believed what his disciples told him that the blind see, the cripple walk, lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the good news preached to them. All because of Jesus! So, John was correct in proclaiming and saying get ready for the coming of Jesus the Messiah!

And a great way to be ready is to attend our collaborative reconciliation service this Thursday December 18th, at 7PM in Saint Irene's Church.

And tonight, Dec. 14th there will be a sung evening prayer at 7PM in Saint Bernard's Church. All are welcome!

So, as we continue our Advent journey, let us indeed REJOICE, for soon and very soon our Savior comes.

Pax Christi,



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

Help Shape Our Parish Future! Survey Opens This Weekend

We are excited to launch our Parish Engagement & Communication Survey on December 13–14!

Your input is essential as we look ahead to enriching parish life and offering events and ministries that truly meet the needs of our community.

- Scan the QR code to complete the survey online
- Grab a paper copy at the church entrance and return it to the Parish Office or place it in the collection basket next weekend

This survey takes only a few minutes, and your responses remain anonymous. Thank you for helping us build a vibrant, welcoming Catholic community!



Capuchin Mobile Ministries

Visit



Capuchin Mobile Ministries (CMM) will visit the Concord-Carlisle collaborative on the weekend of December 13-24, 2025 and speak at all Masses.

CMM is a street outreach vehicle operating in Boston and Cambridge providing spiritual care and emergency material supplies to those struggling on the streets. It is a ministry of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars of the Province of St. Mary (New York/New England). The CMM team will bring the van to the 4pm Saturday and 9:00am Sunday services and will be available to show you the van and talk about how you can become involved in the ministry. The van will be out on the street on Sunday afternoon, but the CMM team will still be giving a talk at the 11:30am and 5pm Masses to answer questions. For more information visit <https://www.capuchin.org/ministries/mobile-ministries>

Collaborative News

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT Weekly Offertory Collection

Week of December 7, 2025

	Holy Family	St. Irene
In Church & Mail In:	\$6,101.25	\$2,991.00
Electronic Giving:	\$4,991.00	\$2,528.00
Women's Religious	\$120.00	\$0.00
TOTAL:	\$11,212.25	\$5,519.00

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.

May We Collect Your Tree?

For twenty years, the Catholic Youth Ministry in Concord has partnered with Scout Troop 132 to collect Christmas trees (in Concord only) for disposal at the town composting site. Your donation supports opportunities for growth and service for our teens' faith formation like summer mission trips, fall mini-retreat, and other investments in our youth.



This year's pickup will be on Saturday, January 10, 2026. Registration is now open, with more information at our website: <https://cc-catholic.org/tree> or through the Youth Ministry page.

The suggested donation of \$25 per tree is made through Paypal or by cash or check - more information is provided when you sign up. Please sign up by Jan. 1. Late registrations cannot be guaranteed and will be assessed a \$10 surcharge.

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

- 16 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 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

Monday, December 15 |
 9:00 am **St. Irene**
 Mike Toth Memorial

Wednesday, December 17 | Communion Service
 9:00 am **St. Irene**

Friday, December 19 |
 9:00 am **Holy Family**
 Dr. & Mrs. Frank D'Ambrosio Memorial

Saturday, December 20 |
 4:00 pm **Holy Family**
 Deacon. Walter Miles Jr Memorial

Sunday, December 21 |
 9:00 am **Holy Family**
 Margery J Cleary Memorial

11:30 am **St. Irene**
 Edward Lonczak & Evelyn Lonczak & Christine Lonczak Memorial

5:00 pm **St. Irene**
 Robert Doiron 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 *Third Sunday of Advent*
 Dec 14 Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10./Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

MONDAY Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

TUESDAY Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19+23/Mt 21:28-32

WEDNESDAY Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

THURSDAY Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

FRIDAY Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

SATURDAY Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

SUNDAY *Fourth Sunday of Advent*
 Dec 21 Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6./Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Pilot Bulletins



SCAN ME

Readings To-Go!

*3rd Sunday of Advent
 December 14, 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 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent
Is 35:1-6a, 10 | Jas 5:7-10 | Mt 11:2-11

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

One morning, I woke up feeling exhausted after a fitful night of sleep. I was achy and generally under the weather. Despite this, I made a to-do list because the day's work still needed to be accomplished. I was determined to not let this sickness interrupt my productivity, even though I *knew* I needed to rest. It occurred to me, then, that rest — and dependence on others and God — is sacred also. In today's psalm, we hear of the many ways the Lord provides: The *Lord* gives, the *Lord* raises, the *Lord* loves, the *Lord* protects, the *Lord* saves. We cannot accomplish our own salvation, but we can rest in the promise the Lord provides, and we can hope in the salvation offered in Christ. As we wait in joyful anticipation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, let us find time to rest in his Word and his presence, trusting that our salvation does not depend on us and has already come to fruition in Christ.

REST

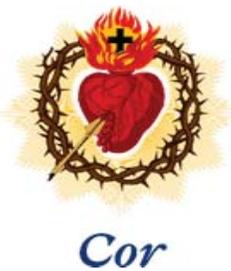
We are more able to see the signs of God's providence in our lives when we take time to reflect. Make time to rest in God's presence this week. This could mean stopping into a chapel for a couple minutes of quiet prayer, reflecting on Scripture using *Lectio Divina*, or reading the story of Christ's nativity in the Gospel. These simple practices will prepare our hearts to recognize Christ's presence and goodness at each moment of our lives.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As we saw in our psalm, God is the one who takes initiative, who provides for our salvation. In our work to share the faith with others, sometimes our task is simply to help others become aware of the ways God is providing for them by pointing out the signs of his action in their lives. When the disciples of John came to Jesus asking if he was "the one who is to come" or whether they should "look for another," Jesus reminds them of the evidence all around them: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised. As we help others to see God's work in their lives, we are also leading them to greater faith and trust in him.

Attention Men of Holy Family & St. Irene Parishes!



Prayer • Formation • Fraternity

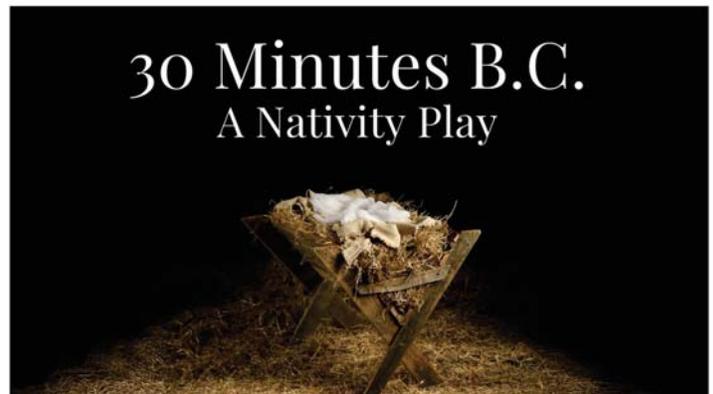
Knights of Columbus Council No. 287 invites you to Cor—a faith and fellowship opportunity for Catholic men to grow in prayer, virtue, and brotherhood.

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



30 Minutes B.C. A Nativity Play

30 Minutes BC

30 Minutes BC creatively explores the profound emotions and intimate struggles of Mary and Joseph during the final 30 minutes before the birth of Jesus. As the clock ticks down, the couple navigates a whirlwind of hope, joy, and uncertainty, turning to God amidst it all.

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!

Advent Evening Prayer

This Sunday, December 14 at 7:00 PM — Holy Family Church

Join Fr. Dave and our parish musicians for a beautiful 45-minute Evening Prayer liturgy with Scripture, song, and incense as we continue our Advent journey together.

We look forward to praying with you!



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!



SELAH

Concord-Carlisle Catholic Collaborative
Young Adult Group

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

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

Faith Formation

HOLY FAMILY – ST. IRENE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2025

🕯️ 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's Church)

🎄 FAMILY & PARISH EVENTS 🎄

Christmas Pageant & Parish Lunch
Sunday, December 21 • During 11:30am Mass
(St. Irene's Church)
All are welcome — no fee!

✚ CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST ✚

CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, December 24
4:00pm — Holy Family (Concord)
4:00pm — St. Irene's (Carlisle)
10:30pm — "Midnight Mass" — Holy Family

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, December 25
9:00am — Holy Family
11:30am — St. Irene's

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's)



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.



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.
Fr. Bill Murray, 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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Doug Koval
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Jeannie Morin
Rob Norton
Mark Rzepczynski

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Ex Officio Member: Fr. Dave O'Leary



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