

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 Limpaecher
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



December 21, 2025

A Christmas Blessing for All

Dear Parishioners,

Each year, the holy season of Christmas invites us to enter anew into the beautiful mystery of the Incarnation, the mystery of a God who loves us so deeply that He chose to become one of us, so that we might share more fully in His divine life. As we contemplate the gift of Christ Himself, we are also invited to look around us and recognize the many ways our sisters and brothers in Christ are gifts to one another.

Over this past year, you have been such a gift to us. Through your faithful presence at our liturgies, your generous financial support of our ministries, and your service to our parish, our community, and the wider world, you have helped bring Christ's love to life among us. Thank you for welcoming and supporting our new staff, and for embracing our shared vision of creating a community where all are welcomed, all belong, and all are given the opportunity to grow and thrive in faith.

May this holy Christmas season and the coming New Year surround you and your loved ones with the love of the Holy Family. As we celebrate the birth of Emmanuel, God-with-us, may God's richest blessings be poured out upon you and those you hold dear.

Whether you are a longtime parishioner or new to our community, the entire staff of the Concord-Carlisle Collaborative, Holy Family Parish at Saint Bernard Church and Saint Irene Church, extends to you a heartfelt Christmas welcome. In this season of light and hope, we invite you to gather with us around the Lord's Table, to hear God's Holy Word, and to rejoice

together in the gift of Christ among us, not only at Christmas but throughout the year.

Please know this with confidence: **you are welcome here, just as you are.**

- **No matter your present status in the Catholic Church**
- **No matter your family or marital situation**
- **No matter your personal history, age, income, background, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity**
- **No matter how you see your own holiness or worthiness or where you find yourself on your spiritual journey**

You are welcomed, accepted, and always respected with dignity here in our Catholic family of Concord and Carlisle. We are truly grateful for the gift that you are. You are a beloved child of God, a brother or sister of our Incarnate Lord Jesus Christ, and you belong with us. On that first Christmas night, Christ came not for the perfect, but for all.

May the joy of the angels, the wonder of the shepherds, and the faith of Mary and Joseph fill your hearts this holy season. And like our Blessed Mother Mary, may we carry Christ within us and bring His love into our world.

Pax Christi,

Fr. Dave, Fr. George, Fr. John, Dcn. Chuck, Dcn. Gregory, Marie, Gerry, Tony, Roberto, Jim, Cypriana, Gary, Marvin, Jim, Robin and Susan.

Collaborative News

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT Weekly Offertory Collection

Week of December 14, 2025

Because of early bulletin publication deadlines, the financial report for the weekend of December 14 will appear in next weekend's bulletin.

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. 7. 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 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 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 Joseph Lonczak, Memorial
 Evelyn Mary Glinka Lonczak & Christine
 Mary Lonczak

5:00 pm **St. Irene**
 Robert Doiron Memorial

Monday, December 22 |
 9:00 am **St. Irene**
 Richard Paglia Sr. Memorial

Wednesday, December 24 | Communion Service
 9:00 am **St. Irene**

Friday, December 26 |
 9:00 am **Holy Family**
 Peter Nguyen Memorial

Saturday, December 27 |
 4:00 pm **Holy Family**
 Don Yacus Memorial

Sunday, December 28 |
 9:00 am **Holy Family**
 Joseph Cushing Memorial

11:30 am **St. Irene**
 Richard Paglia Sr. Memorial

5:00 pm **St. Irene**
 Mass for the People

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 21	Fourth Sunday of Advent Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6./Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
MONDAY Dec 22	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
TUESDAY Dec 23	Saint John of Kanty, Priest Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10+14/Lk 1:57-66
WEDNESDAY Dec 24	Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27+29/Lk 1:67-79
NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)	Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/ Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/ Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
THURSDAY Dec 25	Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/ Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10/ Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
FRIDAY Dec 26	Saint Stephen, The First Martyr Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6ab+8a, 16bc+17/ Mt 10:17-22
SATURDAY Dec 27	Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
SUNDAY Dec 28	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Pilot Bulletins



Readings To-Go!

*4th Sunday of Advent
December 21, 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 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Is 7:10-14 | Rom 1:1-7 | Mt 1:18-24

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Throughout my life, I have had a litany of requests for God. I have asked for mundane and ultimately inconsequential favors and also for guidance in much more important matters. But I have often hesitated to ask for the deepest desires of my heart. Those requests feel too big, too impossible, and possibly too selfish — as though asking these things would take away from God’s ability to provide for others. But in thinking this way, I am putting limits on a limitless God. In today’s first reading, the Lord speaks to Ahaz and tells him to ask for a sign — “let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky!” When Ahaz refuses, God speaks through the prophet Isaiah to deliver the most impossible promise — that “the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.” God wants to give us everything we need to be close to him, so much so that he sent his Son to open the pathway to eternal life with him. God *wants* us to ask for him to do the impossible because he longs to give generously to us.

PRAY

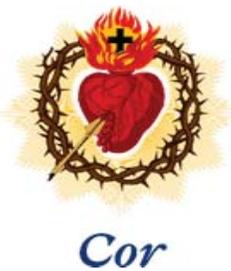
As we begin this final week of Advent, the Church continues to pray with the O Antiphons, which we hear in the hymn, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.” Listen to the refrain, which speaks of Israel’s immense longing to be set free and for her savior to appear. As you reflect on the first reading and upon this hymn, bring your own deepest desires to the Lord. Spend some time in prayer asking for what you need to draw closer to God.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

God brings about his plan of salvation in an extraordinary way: The virgin Mary conceives Jesus in her womb through the power of the Holy Spirit. Although God does all the spiritual heavy lifting here, notice that our Gospel tells us that he also desired and asked for Joseph’s cooperation. “Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home,” the angel tells Joseph. The Gospel tells us that Joseph “did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.” In our work of evangelization, God does the heavy lifting: it’s God who moves the hearts of others to seek him. But the amazing thing is that God still wants us to be part of the way his plan unfolds. We, too, cooperate with God’s work of sharing the faith and bringing salvation to others by our actions and obedience.

Attention Men of Holy Family & St. Irene Parishes!



Prayer • Formation • Fraternity

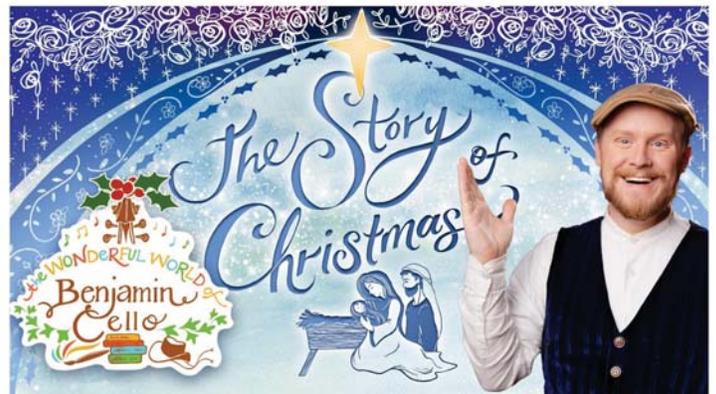
Knights of Columbus Council No. 287 invites you to Cor—a faith and fellowship opportunity for Catholic men to grow in prayer, virtue, and brotherhood.

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



The Story of Christmas | Benjamin Cello Christmas Special

In this special hour-long television event, Benjamin Cello and his friends travel to Pennywhistle Park for a spectacular shadow puppet retelling of “The Story of Christmas” by Brother Joseph and “The Shadow of His Wings” puppet theater.

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!



An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

Faith Formation

Christmas Pageant



Nothing says Christmas like our young people dressed as Angels and major characters such as Mary and Joseph, re-telling a new one of the greatest stories ever told. Don't miss it!

Please join us for the **Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 21, 2025**. The pageant will take place during the **11:30am Mass at St. Irene**.

Immediately following the Family/Pageant Mass, we will gather on the lower level of the church for a **homemade Christmas meal**, along with fun games and activities for our families, including a special appearance from **Santa** for pictures. Thank you, and God bless.

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!



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

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



SELAH

Concord-Carlisle Catholic Collaborative
Young Adult Group

Faith Formation

HOLY FAMILY – ST. IRENE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2025

🎄 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)



Family Christmas Party!

Sunday, December 21
St. Irene Parish Hall

Party Starts Right After the 11:30 Family Mass

Tons of food!

Crafts

Games

EVEN A VISIT FROM SANTA!



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. John 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

Pam D'Ambrosio

Maureen Foley

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Rob Norton

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Linda Tonies

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Ex Officio Member: Fr. Dave O'Leary



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