

**Saint Irene Parish – Carlisle
Concord-Carlisle Parish Office
70 Monument Square, MA 01742**

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach the joyous season of Christmas, I extend to you and your loved ones my heartfelt wishes for a blessed Christmas and a peace-filled New Year. This sacred time reminds us of the boundless love of Jesus Christ, whose light breaks into our world and fills our hearts with hope, joy, and peace.

I also want to express my deep gratitude for your support and generosity throughout the past year. It has been a year of significant growth within our collaborative, and one that fills me with great hope. As I complete my first year as your Pastor, we have also welcomed three new staff members: Marie Noel, Director of Faith Formation; Roberto Mercado, Jr., Coordinator of Parish Life; and Gerry Armstrong, CPA, our new Finance and Operations Manager. Together with Deacons Gregory Burch and Chuck Clough, Youth Minister Tony Carbrello, Parish Nurse Jean Gifford, Directors of Music Jim Barković and Cypriana Coelho, and our devoted Facilities/Cemetery team, Gary McKeon, James Seaver, and Marvin Gonzales, we now have a complete and dedicated team serving our parish. I am profoundly grateful for their ministry, and most especially for yours. Your faithfulness, generosity, and kindness inspire all of us.

As we look to the future, I ask for your support in two important ways.

First, I need your help addressing the persistent *false* rumors that St. Irene's is closing or being sold. Despite our listening sessions and efforts to clarify the truth, misinformation, especially following the town's recent rezoning vote has continued to circulate and has caused some parishioners to leave. This has affected both the spiritual and financial health of the St. Irene community. Please help us by gently correcting these rumors when you hear them. St. Irene's is *not* closing.

Second, I ask for your support of our **Grand Annual Collection**, which funds both planned and unexpected capital needs at St. Irene Church and the Carlisle Rectory. Immediate priorities include rebuilding the stone wall along the sidewalk and, in the coming years, replacing the roof and completing necessary exterior painting.

I am humbly asking each family to consider a gift of **\$500** to this year's Grand Annual. I know this may not be possible for everyone, especially during a time of rising costs. Please give as you are able, whether that is less or more. Every gift, no matter the amount, is deeply appreciated and will directly support the present and future needs of our parish. Donations may be mailed to the Parish Office or made easily online at www.cc-catholic.org by selecting *Donate Online*. Our full financial report is also available on the website.

Enclosed with this letter, you will find our schedule of Advent and Christmas events. I hope you will join us as we grow together in faith, and I encourage you to invite family and friends to celebrate the season with us.

Please know of my prayers for you and your loved ones.

Pax Christi,

Fr. Dave O'Leary
Pastor

Concord-Carlisle Collaborative

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Concord, MA
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HOLY FAMILY - ST. IRENE ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

*Look for us at the Concord Christmas Tree Lighting,
Sunday, December 7 (Parish Center) Starting at 3:00pm*

Silent Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Every Friday 10:00am-12:00pm starting on December 5th (Office Chapel)

Adult Faith Formation: Advent Scriptures
Wednesdays, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 7:00pm (Holy Family)

Advent Music and Evening Prayer
Sunday, December 14, at 7:00pm (Holy Family)

Advent Reconciliation Service
Thursday, December 18, at 7:00pm (St. Irene)

Christmas Pageant and Christmas Parish Lunch (no fee)
Sunday, December 21, during 11:30AM Mass (St. Irene)

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 24,
4:00 p.m. **Holy Family** (Concord)
4:00 p.m. **St. Irene** (Carlisle)
Late Mass at 10:30 p.m. Mass -**Holy Family** (Concord)

Christmas Day
Thursday, December 25,
9:00 a.m. **Holy Family** (Concord)
11:30 a.m. **St. Irene** (Carlisle)

December 31, New Year's Eve
7:00 p.m. **Holy Family** (Concord)

January 1, New Year's Day
10:00 a.m. **St. Irene** (Carlisle)

May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you, your family and all those you love throughout the New Year.