

CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —

St. Irenaeus #485
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Park Forest, IL 60466

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the Pillar

St. Irenaeus Parish, Park Forest, Illinois
February 14, 2010 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Your reward will be great in heaven

Through Our Journey with Christ We Become a New Creation

Ramblings

Our journey, Our pilgrimage, Our trek, Our path, our road we have chosen to travel is the way we respond to our baptismal call to be disciples of Jesus. It is the way we come to know the grace and peace and mercy of God. It is the way we come to be in right relationship with one another. It is the way we come to be connected to all of creation, all of the universe. The journey is the way we experience the very heart of God pulsating throughout our bodies and souls. It is the very heart of God that calls us to journey once again with one another and with the One who made us into this Lenten season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is through this journey with Christ that we become a new creation.

Our prayer, fasting and almsgiving offer us many paths to reconnect and renew God's heart within!

Through the many opportunities for prayer and reflection-daily mass, stations of the cross and faith sharing groups. The parish Lenten booklet offers practical, concrete ways to witness our ever expanding hearts as we reach out to our community in love.

The late Joseph Cardinal Bernardin said, "Walking with Jesus captures what It means to be a Christian and Catholic community of faith." Come let us journey with Jesus this Lenten season and become a new creation as we reach out as a faith community to a world in need.

And so when we arrive at Easter we will know the presence of the Risen Jesus in our lives because we have met him along the way in our sisters and brothers of our global community. May we grow in faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ, our risen savior!

Fr. Terry

Lenten Services at St. Irenaeus Parish

Saturday February 13, 2010
after the 5:00 PM Mass: **Palm Burning**

Wednesday, February 17, 2010 **Ash Wednesday**
(distribution of ashes at all services)
6:30 AM Communion Service
8:00 AM Mass
9:30 AM Mass
4:00 PM Prayer Service
7:00 PM Mass

Fridays, February 19,26; March 5,12,19,26
7:00 PM **Stations of the Cross**
(led by different Commissions of the Parish Council)

Wednesday, March 3, 2010
Adult Faith Formation LECTIO DIVINA
Fr. Paul Wachdorf
7:00-8:30 PM, St. Irenaeus Room

Sunday, March 14, 2010
Afternoon of Reflection for Liturgical Ministers
(all parishioners are invited)

Sunday, March 28, 2010
2:00 PM **Parish Reconciliation Service**

Lenten Faith Sharing Groups
Call the Parish Office, 708-748-6891, for details

All are invited to attend an evening of Adult Faith Formation on Wednesday March 3, 2010. Fr Paul Wachdorf will be here to share with us LECTIO DIVINA, an Ignatian method of praying the scriptures. The presentation will be in the St Irenaeus Room from 7:00 pm-8:30 pm. You might want to bring a bible with you. There will be a free will offering taken to help cover the costs of the evening. Hope to see you there!

RCIA

As we continue our Faith journey with our RCIA community this year I am reminded that this is our 17th group, who has taken this journey with us here at St. Irenaeus. Yes, 17 years ago Father approached Harold and asked him to begin this ministry in our parish. Neither Harold nor I knew anything about this Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults so the two of us went to other parishes where this program was in place and asked if we could observe their classes. After three months of observation, note taking, reading many books on the subject, RCIA workshops, and fervent prayers asking God to bless our endeavors, we started putting articles in the Pillar. We knew we wanted this to be a team effort so we asked various people in our St. I's community to join us as we launched our first Monday evening class in September of 1993. During the summer of that year the team chose Mark Link's series, The New Catholic Vision and we drew up our first 93-94 schedule.

There were 8 people who responded to our articles and announcements and the 16 of us began our first RCIA Faith journey here in our parish. The Easter Vigil of 1994 was a glorious celebration of Resurrection and new life with six adult Baptisms, one person coming into full communion as a Roman Catholic, one person receiving Confirmation, and one person renewing her faith. Since that time 84 adults have participated and walked this Faith journey with us. Our team has changed faces as well as our presiders, over these past 18 years but the program has remained and has enriched our parish life. God has blessed us with wonderful new members and continues to be the Source and the Center of our endeavors. We ask that you continue to pray with us and for us as we journey toward this year's Easter Vigil on April 3rd.

Joyce Hempen



Assistive Listening Devices

Are you having difficulty participating in the Liturgy because your hearing isn't as good as it once was? Do you currently wear a hearing aid? Do you think that if you had some form of listening device it would help improve your hearing? If you answered YES to any of these questions, we'd like to hear from you. We are currently investigating "Assistive Listening Systems" . . . cost, compatibility to our sound system, etc. And, of course, we also need to know just how many folks would use the receivers that are part of the system. Please contact the parish office at 748-6891 and let us know if are interested in knowing more about the devices. All information will be kept confidential.



VICARIATE VI ADULT CONFIRMATION

Any adults who have not been confirmed and wish to complete their Sacraments of Initiation are invited to contact our parish rectory. Sessions to prepare for the reception of this sacrament will take place at St. Irenaeus Parish, 78 Cherry St., Park Forest, beginning on Tuesday, March 2 at 7:00 PM. There will be seven sessions before Confirmation on May 23rd. There is a program fee of \$40, which includes the cost of a *New American Bible*. Pre-Registration is necessary and can be done by calling the rectory office at 708-748-6891.

LENTEN BOOK SALE

Bethany Retreat House will be here with a Lenten book sale February 20-21 in the back of church for the weekend liturgies. Sister Joyce Diltz will be happy to help you find just the right book for your Lenten reading. The bookstore offers a wide selection of adult and children's books, including titles on prayer and meditation, spirituality, personal growth, journaling, scripture, loss and grieving, and more. There are also CDs of meditation and liturgical music.



Reflections on Today's Readings February 14 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8:

"Cursed is the man who trusts in human beings..." Shortly before the fall of the Southern Kingdom, King Josiah undertook to restore the Temple. Workmen doing the restoration work turned up a Book of the Law which they gave to the priest Hilkiah. Hilkiah read it to Josiah, who had it read to the people. When Josiah saw how far he and his people had strayed away from the Lord, he undertook an effort to reform his country and urged his people to follow his lead and reform their lives.

We heard on the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time how the prophet, Jeremiah, took an active part in Josiah's reform effort. It failed, in large part because of the untimely death of Josiah at the hands of the Egyptians on the field of battle at Meggido. Without Josiah's protection, Jeremiah was persecuted by the people for his prophecies, but he persisted. His oracles condemned those people who put worldly concerns before the worship of God, and those leaders of Israel who tried to arrange military alliances against their enemies rather than trust in the Lord. In today's reading, Jeremiah condemns those who trust in human beings and blesses those who trust in the Lord.

Jeremiah was born in 646 BCE, about 100 years after Isaiah. He prophesied the coming doom of the Southern Kingdom just before it fell to Nebuchadnezzar and the Chaldeans. The people of Judah believed that, because they were the Lord's Chosen People, Jerusalem and the Temple were inviolable no matter how far they strayed from the Lord. Jeremiah tried to convince them that they were wrong. He told them that not even God's promise to David, "Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever" would save them unless they returned to the Lord. Jeremiah foretold the fall of the Davidic Kings, the Old Covenant and the institution of a new covenant through a new David.

Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6.

"Blessed are they who hope in the Lord." As Jeremiah cursed the man "who trusts in human beings," the Psalmist urges the people to a change of heart, singing in praise of people who "hope in the Lord." He compares those who do so to trees planted near running water. Quality trees thrive there and even trees of marginal quality do well.



Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20:

"If the dead are not raised, then Christ was not raised..." Paul addresses the Corinthian community's denial of the resurrection of the body which would also deny Christ's Resurrection. He points out that if the dead are not raised, Christ was not raised, the living have no hope beyond this earthly life and their faith is an absurdity.

Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26:

"Woe to you rich, for your consolation is now." Luke's sermon is on the plain while Matthew's version is on the mount. Luke picks up the theme of the first reading. Those who are not rich in worldly possessions realize more acutely their reliance on God and will find it easier to enter His kingdom. By contrast, those who depend on worldly alliances and material wealth for their well-being have their reward now. But, as Paul says in the second reading, if this world is all we have, our faith is an absurdity. People who can live well in this world because of their material success may begin to think that they are self-sufficient, that they don't need God. "But as it is written: 'What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him.'"

1 Corinthians 2:9)

Religious Education News

Valentine's Luncheon for our seniors in the parish: Date: Sunday, Feb. 14th Time: 11:30 a.m.

Place: St. Irenaeus room. Cost: \$7.00 This can be paid at the door. The lunch will consist of chicken, salad, roll, beverage and dessert.



Family Mass: Family Mass is Sunday, Feb. 21st. Third, fourth and 5th graders will be in the procession. The students are learning a new song suggested by Ed Carriel.

Confirmation Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 23rd Time: 7:00 p.m. Place: St. Irenaeus room. This meeting is for Confirmation candidates, parents and sponsors. Lois DeFelice from the Office for Catechesis and Youth Ministry will be the speaker.

First Reconciliation: The second graders of our Religious Education program will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Sunday, February 28th at 1 p.m.

Recently two of our catechists took a workshop on Morality. They will attend another workshop on Saturday, Feb. 20th at Infant Jesus of Prague. I want to thank our catechists for taking these workshops. These workshops go toward their certification.

Fundraiser: We have a new company for a fundraiser. This company sells nuts and candy. The fundraiser will be from Feb. 14-Feb. 28th. The items will be delivered before Easter. There will be three prizes for the top sellers. The first prize will be a dinner for a family prepared by me. Second prize will be gift certificates to Subway and the third prize-gift certificates to Wendy's. Deer Creek Christian school had this fundraiser several times and it is a successful fundraiser. I would like to thank Angela Grzeskowiak for her help in with this fundraiser. Brochures will be on the back table in church.

Happy Valentine's day to all!

Sr. Mary Anne

“Film Series Part One: The New Stained Glass Window”

Date: February 19 Time: 6:30-9 p.m. Fee: \$25

What if film, as the modern stained glass window, could help us to see the mystery of faith within the contradictions of the world and rouse our passion for worship, fellowship, and human flourishing?

This workshop is an open-minded, through-provoking dialogue between Theology and Film, and promise to leave you with fresh and imaginative ways to make new connections between them.

Facilitator: Brother Antonio Sison, C. PP.S.

“A Film and Discussion on the Life of Dorothy Day”

Date: February 22 Time: 7-9 pm Fee: \$15

Facilitators Father Terry Johnson and Mary Ruth Broz, RSM

A Film and Discussion on the Life of Archbishop Oscar Romero”

Date: March 22 Time: 7-9 pm Fee: \$15

Facilitators: Father Terry Johnson and Mary Ruth Broz, RSM

“The Lenten Journey: Connecting the Threads of Women’s Lives”

Both the Wisdom Tradition in scripture and the ancient art of weaving provide strong and powerful images for us as we make our way through this Lenten Season, connecting what has been separated for too long. Together we will listen for what both can teach us about the long haul of faithfulness and a God who sits with us as the tapestry of each of our lives unfolds. You are invited to attend one, two, or all three sessions of this Lenten series.

“Stitch by Stitch: Finding our way”

Date: March 1 Time: 9:30am-Noon Fee: \$20

“Tangled Threads and Knotted Places.....Life, Death, Life Again”

Date: March 15 Time: 9:30-Noon Fee: \$20

“A Retreat in Everyday Life: Connecting the Sacred and the Ordinary”

Dates: March 15-29; group sessions (15th and 29th)
Time: 7-9pm Fee: \$150 (includes all materials and 5 spiritual direction appointments)

Spiritual Directors/Facilitators: Mary Ruth Broz, RSM; Norma Jenssen, OSF; Father Terry Johnson

“THE PORT”

9263 West St. Francis Road, Frankfort IL
815-464-3880

www.portforprayer.org

Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday, February 15

8:00 Frank Michalak

Tuesday, February 16

8:00 Carl H. King req by
Don & Judy Korte

Wednesday, February 17

8:00 Thomas Fletcher req by
The Family
9:30 Monsignor D.A. Mozeris req by
Al Hansen
7:00 Peter Rubinas req by
The Family

Thursday, February 18

8:00 Communion Service

Friday, February 19

8:00 Communion Service

Saturday, February 20

8:00 Communion Service
4:00-4:45 **Reconciliation**
5:00 Leonard Weaver req by
Barbara Principali
Dick Niendorf req by
Marie Caraher

Sunday, February 21

8:30 Norma McClain req by
Bette & Harlan Smith
10:30 John Drapac req by
Ann Peterson

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, February 20 5:00 pm

Lectors

Merle Arr, Beverly Helm, Sally Fortune

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Eileen Rose, Barbara Principali, Gerry Berish,
Dolly Mikolajczyk, Richard Marvin,
Marilyn Carroll, Joe Augustyn

Cantor

Melva LaBlanc

Altar Servers

Elizabeth Hurd, Roy Garcia

Sunday, February 21 8:30 am

Lectors

Deanna Martin, Gene Schmittgens,
Helen Silvia

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Kathy Murphy, Pat McCartan,
Richard Thomas, Jack Osmolski,
Carol McCullough, Pat O'Connor, Jim Silvia

Cantor

Helen Silvia

Altar Servers

Kevin Headly, Karen Ertl

Sunday, February 21 10:30 am

Lectors

Mary Anne Yanz, R.E. Youth

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

David Ostroski, Sandy Winder,
Vincent Oganwu, Valeria Wolff, Lyn Schober,
Connie Rice, Pat Benjamin

Cantor

Bill Carreras

Altar Servers

Vincent Oganwu Jr., Moira Differding,
Virginia Differding

Dear Father,

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your contribution to *RESPOND NOW* of \$415.00. Your generosity will make an immediate difference in the lives of our clients. I'm going to make sure of that.

Your generosity is a powerful factor in helping *RESPOND NOW* assist our clients with food and financial programs designed to help stabilize families and prevent homelessness. Your support demonstrates a vote of confidence in the work being done by *RESPOND NOW*.

Again, thank you for your continued generous support. It means the world to our staff, volunteers and especially all of the families who participate in our program!

Sincerely,
Carl J. Wolf
Executive Director

Church Stewardship

Budget Information - 32

Budget Information **\$4,650.00**

February 7 Collection \$5,557.00

Thank you to the 168 families who used their stewardship envelopes last weekend.

Money collected\envelopes \$4,582.00

Loose Money \$975.00

Budget Year to Date \$148,800.00

Actual Income Year to Date \$138,245.81

09/10 Budget Shortage (\$10,554.19)

Maintenance Fund Feb. 7 \$1,176.00

Maintenance Fund YTD \$20,508.00

Collections Prior Fiscal Yrs. \$325,363.00

Total Collections **\$345,871.00**

Total Expenditures **\$295,987.83**

Haiti **\$2,596.00**

Christmas **\$12,394.00**

Hotlines:

COURAGE

*For single mothers and
unplanned pregnancies
708-636-8001*

*Catholic Charities Family Shelter
312-655-7700*

*Senior Services
708-596-2222*

*Crisis Center for South Suburbs
708-429-7233*

*Grief Support Center for New
Beginnings
708-985-3010*

*So. Sub. Family Shelter Domestic
Violence
708-335-3028*

*So. Sub. Council on Alcoholism
and Substance Abuse
708-647-3333*

Ministry of Care & Anointing of the Sick

Please call the rectory if you, or someone you know, is unable to join us for Eucharist. Our ministers of care visit parishioners at home and in the hospital or nursing home. Arrangements can be made for the celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

The Sacrament of Marriage

Couples planning to marry must call the rectory at least six months prior to their desired wedding date. All couples must attend a Pre-Cana Conference.

Need prayers?

Call the St.

Irenaeus Health

Ministry Prayer

Line at 747-0974

with your requests

The Sacrament of Baptism

We celebrate the sacrament of baptism on the fourth Sunday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Parents must attend a baptism preparation session. These sessions are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory. Please call the rectory to make arrangements.

St. Irenaeus Ministerial Staff

Rectory Phone: 748-6891

***Religious Education Center Phone:
748-7997***

Rev. Terry Johnson, Pastor
Deanna Martin, Lay Minister
Robert Neal,
Director of Music Ministry
Terri Cardin, Parish Secretary
Sr. Mary Anne Yanz, O.P.
Director of Religious Education

Web-site www.stirenaeuschurch.com

E-Mail stirenaeus@archchicago.org

Bulletin Submissions

Articles are due by 10 AM on Fridays 8 days prior to publication date. Electronic submissions are preferred – email to stirenaeus@archchicago.org. Please include “Bulletin article” in the subject line. Questions? Call Terri Cardin at 708-748-6891 between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM.