

CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —

St. Irenaeus #485  
78 Cherry Street  
Park Forest, IL 60466

PHONE —

(708) 748-6891

CONTACT PERSON —

Terri Cardin

SOFTWARE —

Microsoft Publisher 2002  
Adobe Acrobat 5.0  
Windows XP Professional

PRINTER —

HP LaserJet 1000 Series

TRANSMISSION TIME

Thursday 10:00 AM

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT —

Cover through 7

SUNDAY DATE OF BULLETIN —

March 14, 2010

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS —



# the Pillar

*St. Irenaeus Parish, Park Forest, Illinois*

*March 14, 2010 Fourth Sunday of Lent*

---

**My son,**

**everything  
I have  
is yours**

# Through Our Journey with Christ We Become a New Creation

## Lent – Scrutinies

Lent is more than “giving up” candy, smoking or something else we crave. This holy season calls us to “give up” sin and “give in” to Christ. Lent is about conversion, turning our lives completely over to Christ and his way of life. That always involves giving up sin in some form. The goal is not just to abstain from sin for the duration of Lent but to root sin out of our lives forever. Conversion means leaving behind an old way of living and acting in order to embrace new life in Christ.

As an example, we have the Catechumens, now also called the “Elect” after the Rite of Election during the first week of Lent. These are the people preparing to join our community at Easter. For them and for us, Lent is a period intended to bring an initial conversion to completion. The primary way that the Church assists the Elect in this conversion process during Lent is through the Scrutinies. We celebrate the rites of the Scrutinies on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sunday of Lent. To scrutinize something means to examine it closely. The community does not scrutinize the Catechumens; the Catechumens scrutinize their own lives and allow God to scrutinize them.

There is a danger in celebrating the Scrutinies if we think of the Elect as the only sinners in our midst who need conversion. All of us are called to continuing conversion throughout our lives, so we join with the Elect in scrutinizing our own lives and praying to God for the grace to overcome the power of sin that still infects our hearts.

We must spend time reflecting on what obstacles to gospel living exist in our lives. Then when the Scrutinies are celebrated in these weeks, we will know that the prayers are for us as well as for the elect.

Taking seriously this dynamic of scrutiny and conversion gives us a richer perspective on Lenten “giving up.” What we are to give up more than anything else is sin, which is to say we are to give up whatever keeps us from living out our baptismal promises fully. Along with the elect, we all need to approach the season of Lent asking ourselves what needs to change in our lives if we are to live the gospel values that Jesus taught us. Our journey through these forty days should be a movement ever closer to Christ.

## Lenten Services & Holy Week at St. Irenaeus Parish

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

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

## Scrutinize Ourselves

Lent is a time to reflect on our behavior, our habits, our lives. It is a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. The Church has long taught us that Easter is the most appropriate time to baptize adults and welcome those from other faith traditions into the Catholic Church. We celebrate this in a big way at the Easter Vigil. These 40 days before Easter are a time of purification for those we call “the Elect”; those preparing for Baptism. There are three Scrutiny rituals that take place, starting today, the Third Sunday of Lent and continuing on the Fourth and Fifth Sundays. These rituals are used to help the Elect examine their lives - to see where they might need healing from past wounds or where there may need some reconciliation - so that when they enter the Baptismal font, they enter the water with a clean and peace-filled heart. It is also a time of prayer and enlightenment, as each of the Elect search for a deeper understanding of Christ the Savior. In a very visible way, the Scrutinies are focused on the Elect, for they are the ones that come forward. But this is also a great time for all of us who are baptized to scrutinize ourselves, to look at our own lives. If we enter into the prayers for the Elect and ask God to heal their wounds, we can also ask God to be with us and heal the brokenness in our lives. We are all broken and wounded, we all have a need for healing or a need to ask for forgiveness from someone we have hurt. We are all tempted and sinful, sometimes in ways we are not even aware of. These Scrutiny rituals are a wonderful way to ask God to heal the aches and pains of our fragile relationships, to help us avoid the temptations that confront us and to strengthen the relationships that bless our lives. Use this time of Lent and the rituals of the Scrutinies, to open your hearts to the grace and loving mercy of God. Then we, like the Elect, can come to the water at Easter with a clean and peace filled heart. As the prayers and petitions, litanies and readings are proclaimed, allow the Scrutiny questions to fill your heart and mind. Then at the end of the 40 days of Lent, you will be ready to celebrate the Easter Triduum with a new heart - one that that is healed and filled with joy.

**Holy Thursday April 1st**

6:00 PM Potluck

8:00 PM Mass of the Lord’s Supper

**Good Friday April 2nd**

12:00 Noon Stations of the Cross

3:00 PM Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion

**Holy Saturday April 3rd**

8:00 PM Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday April 4th**

8:30 Am 10:30 AM

# Witnesses of Faith

Sponsored by St. Irenaeus Adult Faith Formation Committee

## St. Irenaeus Catholic Church

Religious Education Center Room 8 7:00-8:30 pm

**Archbishop Oscar Romero**  
Monday March 15, 2010  
Fr. Terry Johnson

**Thomas Merton**  
Monday April 19, 2010  
Mr. George Stapleton

Each Presentation will conclude with refreshments and fellowship.

A free will offering will be taken to help offset the stipends for the speakers.

**RSVP to Terri Cardin at St Irenaeus Parish Office by the Wednesday prior to the session you will be attending, or if you need a ride 708.748.6891**

The **Parish Pastoral Council** is accepting nominations this weekend for two at-large openings for representatives from the parish. The three-year term begins in September. Individuals must be registered parishioners, 18 years or older, and must nominate themselves. If you are interested, please pick up a copy of the application form from the hymnal stands. If you have any questions call the rectory for further information.

**Religious Education News**

**SACRAMENT MEETING FOR PARENTS OF OLDER STUDENTS:** There will be a meeting for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist on Tuesday, March 16th at 7 p.m. in room 5. At least one parent from each family should be present at this meeting. The sacrament of Reconciliation will be on Wednesday, April 28th at 7 p.m. in church. Sr. Mary Anne

**Knights of Columbus Fish Fry**  
3/19, 3/26

**Location: St. Irenaeus Gym**  
**Time: 5:00-7:30 PM**  
**All you can eat Fish Dinners**

**Cost: Fish Dinner Adults \$8.00**  
**Children (under 10) \$4.00**

**Macaroni & Cheese Dinners**  
**Adults \$5.00 Children (under 10) \$4.00**

**Shrimp & Combo Dinners Are Not All You Can Eat (Only Fish)**  
**Six Piece Shrimp Dinner \$8.00**  
**Combo Dinner**  
**2 Fish and 3 Piece Shrimp \$10.00**  
**Dinners include: Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Bread & Butter, Dessert, Coffee & Tea**  
**Carry outs will be available**  
**Drinks Available at bar;**  
**Beer & Wine, \$2; Pop & Water, \$1**

Dear Father Johnson and Parishioners,

“Whether they are young or old, hungry or addicted, homeless or friendless, Catholic Charities sees the face of God in those in need. By providing food, clothing, shelter and counseling, we bring hope to the hopeless in the city of Chicago and its suburbs.”

“Catholic Charities not only believes in our clients, we journey with them.”

Father Michael Boland, Administrator of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago has made the statements quoted to re-emphasize the many services offered to the neediest by loving staff and donors. Your generous gift, of \$1,360.00, will help keep some people comfortably housed, and for that, we join in thanking you.

Be assured, once again, of a special mention in our Lenten prayers and works for all the members of St. Irenaeus Parish.

Sincerely,  
Fred Shannon  
Regional Services Representative  
Catholic Charities South Suburban Services

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.

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

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

“A Tapestry Unfolding: Becoming Women of Wisdom”

Date: March 29 Time 9:30 am-Noon Fee: \$20

Week of Fire: The Spirituality of Holy Week”

Date: March 26-28 Time: 7 pm (Friday)-11 am (Sunday) Fee: \$225 (includes 2 overnight stays and all meals)  
\$125 (commuter-includes all meals)

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

Dates: March 15-29; group sessions (15th and 29th) Time: 7-9 pm

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](http://www.portforprayer.org)

## ***Holy Thursday Potluck***

Each year on Holy Thursday evening we begin the celebration of the Triduum by gathering together as a parish family for a meal. We'll meet in the St. Irenaeus room at 6:00 p.m.. Bring a main dish and either a side dish or dessert. We'll provide the drinks. We need help setting up and cleaning up. If you could help please call the rectory @ 748-6891.



## **Scouting**

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Some parishioners may not be aware that St. Irenaeus sponsors a Cub Scout Pack. Cub Scouting is for boys from grades one thru five. It is an excellent program of character development, physical fitness, and has a religious component. A religious awards program is available. The Pack meets in the school basement on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. If you would like a glimpse of what Cub Scouting is like, there will be a District Pine-wood Derby at Lincoln Mall on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> starting at noon.



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## **Thank you! Thank you!**

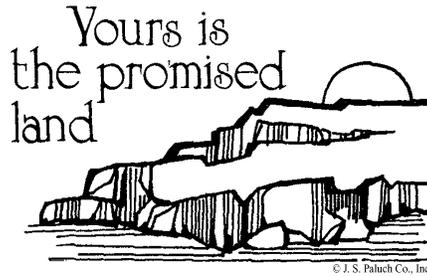
We had a very successful bake sale in February that netted the church \$354.00! We are **very grateful** to all of the bakers and buyers for this success. We were able to purchase three large round tables and four cold beverage servers. A special thank you to the 5:00 p.m. Mass for being the leader in the amount sold. We are hopeful that the next bake sale at St. Irenaeus Church will be even bigger and better. Remember we need a lot of baked goods donated and buyers at each Mass for it to be profitable. Thank you again for your support.

**Reflections on Today's Readings**  
**March 14 Fourth Sunday of Lent**

***First Reading: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12.***

“Today, I have removed the reproach of Egypt from you.” After the Passover, Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and across the waters of the Red Sea to freedom. Now after forty years in the desert, during which they were sustained by manna, the heavenly bread sent by God, the people of Israel are to experience another Passover.

Joshua, Son of Nun, Moses' faithful assistant, who is now in charge, will lead them across the waters of the River Jordan into the Promised Land. God has reconciled them to himself. They will no longer be given the manna of the desert, but will eat of the produce of the land.



***Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7.***

“Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.” The Psalmist sings in praise of the Lord. “Look to him,” he exults, “that you may be radiant with joy.”

***Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.***

Paul tells the people of the Corinthian community that the old things have passed away and new things have come. “God has reconciled himself to us through Christ.” Having been thus reconciled, we now become “Ambassadors for Christ.” God has freely reached down to us through his Son, Jesus Christ. We are reconciled, not because of anything we have done; we have earned no merit through any of our actions. Our reconciliation is God's gratuitous gift of love. We do incur an obligation to undertake “the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them” (Ephesians 2:10-11). But, as Jesus tells us, “My yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:30). He asks only that we love Him and show that love through love of one another. We must reconcile ourselves to all of God's people through Jesus so that we can become one Body in Christ.

***Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.***

There few more compelling stories of the phenomenon of reconciliation than Luke's account of the Prodigal Son. The son left his father's household with his share of his father's fortune and fell into a life of dissolute living, quickly exhausting his funds. Reduced to a life more miserable than that of his father's lowest servant, he decided to return to his father, beg forgiveness, and ask for charity.

In Jewish tradition, this son would have been considered dead. The traditional Jewish father would not even have acknowledged his return. He certainly would not have made the first move. The Prodigal's father, though, defied all Jewish tradition. Seeing his son in the distance, the father threw tradition to the winds and became, himself, the Prodigal. He did not wait for the son to approach him, as a traditional Jewish father would have done, but ran to meet him. Ignoring the son's plea for forgiveness, the father embraced him warmly, ordered him clothed in fine garments and showered him with gifts. Not waiting for the son to ask for charity, the father ordered a feast prepared in celebration of his return. To this father, his son had truly been dead but had returned to him from the grave.

Would that we all had such an earthly father! We certainly have such a father in heaven. Is there any doubt that the Father in this parable is God and that we are His children? We could all be prodigal sons and daughters to our heavenly father and many times we are. But the instant we turn our faces to Him, He shows His prodigal nature, forgiving us instantly, welcoming us with open arms, showering us with gifts of His love, and feeding us from the bounty of the Eucharist.

## Mass Intentions For The Week

### Monday, March 15

8:00 John R. Sons req by  
James Wilfinder

### Tuesday, March 16

8:00 William & Lillian Schaper & Family

### Wednesday, March 17

#### St. Patrick

8:00 Patricia O'Connor  
Frank Michalak

### Thursday, March 18

#### St. Cyril of Jerusalem

8:00 Communion Service

### Friday, March 19

#### St. Joseph

8:00 Communion Service

### Saturday, March 20

8:00 Communion Service

#### 4:00-4:45 Reconciliation

5:00 Dick Niendorf req by  
Pauline Caraher

### Sunday, March 21

8:30 Ray Wright

10:30 Christopher Kawiorski req by  
The MacKenzie Family

## Liturgical Ministers

### Saturday, March 20 5:00 pm

#### Lectors

Dolly Mikolajczyk, Merle Arr, Beverly Helm

#### Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Barb Principali, Gerry Berish, Joe Augustyn,  
Sally Fortune, Marilyn Carroll, Eileen Rose,  
Richard Marvin

#### Cantor

Cathy Williams

#### Altar Servers

Roy Garcia, Kendrick Gilmore

### Sunday, March 21 8:30 am

#### Lectors

Laurie Miller, Helen Silvia, Mary Schmittgens

#### Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Pat McCartin, Laura Hennessy, Jim Silvia,  
Richard Thomas, Kathy Murphy,  
Carol McCullough, Pat O'Connor

#### Cantor

Marianne Velut

#### Altar Servers

Jack Osmolski, Kevin Headly

### Sunday, March 21 10:30 am

#### Lectors

Vanessa White, R.E. Youth

#### Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

David Ostroski, Vincent Oganwu,  
Rita Oganwu, Raye Warkenthien,  
Pat Benjamin, Virginia Piechocki,  
Sevena Merchant

#### Cantor

Helen Silvia

#### Altar Servers

Michael Rosenquist



The Church of the Holy Family and the Park Forest Association of Churches presents their Annual Choir Fest on Sunday, March 21, 2010, at 2:00 P.M. The host will be the Episcopal Church of the Holy Family, located at 102 Marquette Street, Park Forest, IL. The facility is wheel-chair accessible.

The participating church choirs are Calvary United Protestant - St. Paul's Good Shepherd Churches, Faith United Protestant Church, First Baptist Church of Park Forest, Grace United Protestant Church, St. Irenaeus Catholic Church, and The Episcopal Church of the Holy Family.

Light refreshments will follow the program. For further information or directions please call 708-748-1100.

## ***Church Stewardship***

### **Budget Information - 36**

**Budget Information           \$4,650.00**

March 7 Collection           \$4,384.00

Thank you to the 156 families who used their stewardship envelopes last weekend.

Money collected\envelopes \$3,638.00

Loose Money   \$746.00

Budget Year to Date       \$167,400.00

Actual Income Year to Date \$156,700.31

**09/10 Budget Shortage (\$10,699.69)**

**Maintenance Fund Mar. 7 \$1,210.00**

**Maintenance Fund YTD \$22,835.00**

**Collections Prior Fiscal Yrs. \$325,363.00**

**Total Collections           \$348,198.00**

**Total Expenditures       \$295,987.83**

## ***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.

## ***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.

### ***Need prayers?***

*Call the St.*

*Irenaeus Health*

*Ministry Prayer*

*Line at 747-0974*

*with your requests*

### ***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*

## ***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](http://www.stirenaeuschurch.com)

E-Mail [stirenaeus@archchicago.org](mailto:stirenaeus@archchicago.org)

78 Cherry St. Park Forest, IL 60466

### ***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](mailto: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.

## ***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.