

CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —

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

PHONE —

(708) 748-6891

CONTACT PERSON —

Terri Cardin

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St. Irenaeus Parish, Park Forest, Illinois

August 22, 2010 Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Some who are last will be first,



*and
some
who
are first
will be last*

Ramblings

God has shown us many blessings as individuals and as a community of faith. All of us know God has shown God's graciousness and fidelity to us each and everyday of our lives. We draw strength from our families, our faith, and our relationships with those around us. All of God's creation magnifies the beauty of God's presence in our world and in our lives. Our faith community of St Irenaeus brings us joy and happiness and grace as we go about the ordinary events of living our lives. This parish has a long history of faithful commitment to the mission of Jesus. From its foundation to now, the People of God have been those folks who stand with all that it means to be Disciples of Jesus. As we continue our journey into the 21st century we stand on the shoulders of all who have gone before us and continue to build the kingdom of God here in Park Forest. And so we all stand in awe and wonder as we acknowledge the many blessings God has given to us as individuals and as a community of faith.

This parish has been blessed with many volunteers and ministries. It has been blessed with folks with generous hearts and spirits. St. Irenaeus has been blessed many times over with a deep and abiding faith in the God who loves us. And as we move into the future this place of faith will continue to grow and nurture all who come through our doors into a relationship with Jesus and a relationship with the people here who make up the Body of Christ.

As we move into the future I wonder how we all can make a return to God for all the good God has done for us. What is God inviting us to that we might never have considered before? In September, for three weeks, we all will be invited to consider how God is inviting us to share our **Time, Talent and Treasure** with the faith community here at St. Irenaeus. We might consider how God is calling us to share the gift of **Time** with this faith community. What can I offer in terms of ministry and volunteering? Or God might be asking all of us to consider sharing those gifts and **Talents** that are uniquely mine with the parish. I am a superb teacher, or I am an outstanding nurse/doctor, or I am a great accountant, or I am a good listener or a people person. How can I be of service to the community of faith and share my faith through my gifts and talents? Or God might be asking us to review our weekly contributions to the parish for its ministries, for its mission work of spreading the Gospel message of Jesus to each other and to the world. How might I, in the current economic recession, be able to increase my offering? It is a balance of all three-**TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE** that can make a huge difference in the mission and ministry of the parish as it strives to live out the call of Jesus. How can I make a return to the Lord for all the good God has done for us?

So for the last three weeks in September our parish will engage in a process called the PLANNED OFFERTORY PROGRAM which will ask all of us to prayerfully consider how we each might give back to God, in a spirit of Thanksgiving and Gratitude, for all the blessings God has shown us. I will speak on the weekend of September 11 and 12. John and Therese Goodrich will offer a witness talk on the weekend of September 18 and 19 and finally on the weekend of September 25 and 26 we will all prayerfully offer the fruits of our discernment to the Lord God at liturgy that weekend. There will be three letters sent to everyone with more details after each of those weekends. The PLANNED OFFERTORY PROGRAM is a way to give back to God, to say thank you for all with which we have been blessed. Our **TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE** are the cornerstone of the mission and message of Jesus and our building of the Kingdom of God here at St. Irenaeus Parish. Let us pray for its success.

Fr Terry and the Finance Committee

Religious Education Open House:



Open House is scheduled for next Sunday, August 29th following both masses. All are welcome to come into the Religious Education Center to view the facility, meet teachers, and Michelle Helson; the new coordinator of the program. All are invited to tour the new parish computer lab as well! Registration will also be available at this time and will continue on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 1-6pm in the R.E. office.

Volunteers Needed:

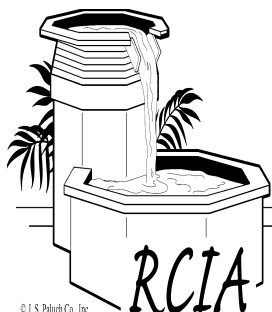
We are in need of catechists for 1st & 8th grades as well as in our pre-school program. Please consider sharing your time & talent in this program. Materials and training will be provided to prepare you for this rewarding opportunity. Please contact Michelle Helson at (708) 748-7997 for more information.



RCIA

If you or an adult you know is interested in becoming a fully initiated Catholic.

- ~want to deepen your faith through a learning and sharing experience.
- ~have been away from the Church but would like to return.
- ~have been baptized but never received religious instruction in the Catholic faith.
- ~have never been baptized.
- ~have never been confirmed.



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We have an opportunity for you or someone you know. Starting September 13th, here at St. Irenaeus, **RCIA** (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) meets at 7:30 on Monday evenings through Pentecost. Call the rectory 748-6891.

August 22, 2010

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last." - Luke 13:30

Our standards in our society are so different from God's standards. We often rate or rank people by what they have, how powerful they are, or how successful they are. Jesus reminds us that God will not judge us by the same earthly standards.



SPRED

Spred is an Archdiocesan program with a unique mission: to provide appropriate and meaningful experiences of faith formation, sacramental preparation and worship for children and adults with intellectual challenges. Many of these people live in our parish, while others live down the street at the Elisabeth Ludeman Center. Our Tuesday/Thursday group at St. Irenaeus needs more catechists who are willing to enter into friendship with these wonderful people. SPRED is not a teaching method, so we are not looking for special degrees or background. We invite ordinary people who enjoy friendship and laughter; who are open to meaningful relationships; who value the dignity of all people; who appreciate sacred and prayerful experiences; who are looking for a place of peace, security and love. SPRED offers all of this and more to both the catechist and special friend. For the sake of our friends who wait patiently, don't take this invitation lightly. We will resume our ministry in September when we calendar 24 sessions between September and May. There will be an information night on Wednesday, September 1st in the SPRED room in the rectory's basement at 7:00 for interested volunteers and parents of children, teens or adults with special needs. Call Denise or Ed Carriel at 708-231-6016.

St. Irenaeus Church Ladies Rummage Sale

Saturday, September 11, 2010

In the RE Center gym and on the Porch

8AM until 2PM, Rain or Shine

21 indoor spaces @\$15

16 outdoor spaces @\$8

Rent a space to sell your stuff

or

Bring your friends for a day of browsing, buying, bargains and fun. Refreshments for sale. Proceeds benefit St. Irenaeus Church.

Call 748-6891 for an application.



SIXTH TASTE OF ST. IRENAEUS UPDATE

The following folks have agreed to chair an ethnic table for our event on Sunday, September 26:

<u>Ethnic Table</u>	<u>Chair (Phone)</u>
Jamaican	Rita & Rudolph Thompson (754-8827)
Greek	Helen Funk (747-3536)
American	Mary Jane Riopelle (748-6205) and Barb Ostroski (748-7511)
Portuguese	Helen & Jim Silvia (747-0795)
German	Karen Ertl (747-5632)
Eastern European	Tony Mielcarz (748-2848) and Diane Cash (363-4082)
African American	Doris Foster (481-0930) and Sevena Merchant (748-2408)
Indian	Jai Sagar (363-4082)
Italian	Victoria Merlo (704-7759)
Nigerian	Nneka Green (503-9137)

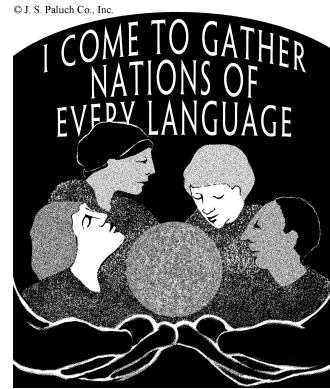
If you would like to provide a dish for any of these tables, please contact the chairperson directly. We are still looking for someone to chair a Mexican and an Irish Table. If you are interested in chairing either of these tables, please contact Terri Cardin (748-6891) at the rectory. And if you have a dish that does not necessarily fit one of these tables, we will also have an INTERNATIONAL Table to accommodate them.

All chairperson are asked to attend one final meeting on Wednesday, September 15, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8 in the R. E. Building. Please have your completed worksheets with you which identify the supplies you will need and the dishes your group will prepare.

Reflections on Today's Readings
August 22 Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 66:18-21.

The book of Isaiah closes with the promise that God will "gather nations of every language...." The opportunity for salvation will be offered to all. The oracle carries a sobering thought for the Jewish people. But they also begin to perceive some assurance for the future. Before the Exile, the Temple was the center of their lives; there is where God lived; there is where they worshiped. When the Temple was destroyed and they were taken captive into Babylon, they felt completely abandoned. The religion they knew died with the destruction of the Temple. Since their religion formed their entire lives around the Temple, they were lost. They quickly learned, though, that God was in Babylon with them. With the assurance born of that knowledge, they were reborn as a people of God, as His Chosen People. When they were brought back from Exile, they felt justified in once again assuming their Chosen People role. God tells them that although they are still His Chosen People, they are not the sole people in God's plan. They are to be the first among nations who will lead all other nations in the world to God's holy mountain, the New Jerusalem. Not only will salvation be offered to these people from distant coastlands, some of them will occupy positions of authority: "Some of these I will take as priests and Levites, says the Lord." The exile forced them to reinterpret all that had happened from the time of their ancestor, Abraham, and to and reinvent themselves as God's Chosen People. The beginnings of what would later become Rabbinic Judaism would have arisen during the Exile in Babylon.



Psalm: 117:1, 2.

"Go out to all the world and tell the Good News."

2nd Reading: Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13.

"My sons, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord nor lose heart when he reproves you; For whom the Lord loves, he disciplines....." The second reading last week exhorted us to "keep our eyes on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith." Discipline is the key to perfection. God will refine us like gold so that our faith will bring us through the narrow gate.

Gospel: Luke 13:22-30.

Rabbinic lore taught that there were seventy-two nations in the world. The seventy-two disciples whom Jesus sent forth to teach, preach and prepare the way for Him are symbolic of Jesus' mandate to bring salvation to the whole world. "Then Jesus approached and said to them, 'All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age'" (Matthew 28:18-20). Luke's thematic Journey to Jerusalem is emphasized in Jesus' actions in today's reading: "Jesus went through cities and towns teaching -- all the while making his way toward Jerusalem. Someone asked him, 'Lord, are they few in number who are to be saved?'" The Scriptures for the Eighteenth through the Twenty-first Sundays are focused on this question: "Who will be saved?" Notice that Luke restates his "Journey to Jerusalem" theme and then has a conveniently anonymous "someone" pose the question, "who will be saved?" The stage is set for the climax of his teaching module which began on the Eighteenth Sunday with the parable of the rich man who had a good harvest. Jesus here speaks to those whose faith has become lax - those who presume they are of the elite who are already saved. He speaks also to those who feel justified in their thought that they are of the elite -- that only certain nations are favored by the Lord. They will be surprised to see that the table of the Lord includes people from all nations who have chosen the way of the Lord. Many who presumed they were included and who were not on their guard may find themselves locked out of the Messianic banquet.

Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday, August 23

St. Rose of Lima

8:00 Ron & Margaret Sauter & Family

Tuesday, August 24

St. Bartholomew

8:00 Willamena Y. Hansen req by
Al Hansen

Wednesday, August 25

St. Louis of France; St. Joseph Calasanz

8:00 Frank & Martha Michalak

Thursday, August 26

8:00 Communion Service

Friday, August 27

St. Monica

8:00 Communion Service

Saturday, August 28

St. Augustine

4:00-4:45 **Reconciliation**

5:00 Steve Cardin req by
Terri & Ben Cardin
Angelo Principali req by
The Family

Sunday, August 29

8:30 The Carson Family req by
Harlan & Bette Smith
Marie Esperance Gervais req by
The Family

10:30 Salvatore Preite req by
The Principali Family
Joseph Angelo req by
Julie Dionne

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, August 28 5:00 pm

Lectors

Jack Osmolski, Tim Blumenthal, Bob Carreras

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Jan Pattyn, Sally Fortune, Dolly Mikolajczyk,
Loren Bowns, Merle Arr, Bob Steiert,
Marilyn Carroll

Cantor

Cathy Williams

Altar Servers

Mike Powers, Myles Greska

Sunday, August 29 8:30 am

Lectors

Deanna Martin, Helen Silvia, Laurie Miller

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Kathy Murphy, Carol McCullough,
Pat McCartan, Richard Thomas,
Laura Hennessy, Pat O'Connor

Cantor

Faye Predny

Altar Servers

Kevin Headly, Karen Ertl

Sunday, August 29 10:30 am

Lectors

Denise Douglas, Bill Carreras, Lyn Schober

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Sevena Merchant, Rita Oganwu,
Kathy Anderson, Vincent Oganwu,
Raye Warkenthien, Connie Rice, Pat Benjamin

Cantor

Phil & Lori Schwartz

Altar Servers

Stephanie Sagun, Gary Marron, Linda Marron

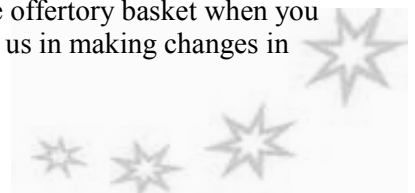
Vacation Souvenirs

Please bring a copy of the Church Bulletin back with you when you attend Mass at another church. Write a note about how the liturgy was the same or different from how we celebrate at St. Irenaeus. Then just drop the bulletin with your note (please sign it in case we have a question) in the offertory basket when you return. This will assist us in making changes in the future.

Thank you.

St. Irenaeus Church is very happy to welcome the following parishioner into our family:

Alice Louis



Church Stewardship

Budget Information - Wk 7

Budget Information \$4,650.00

August 15 Collection \$4,897.73

Thank you to the 187 families who used their stewardship envelopes last weekend.

Money collected\envelopes \$4,412.00

Loose Money \$485.73

Budget Year to Date \$32,550.00

Actual Income Year to Date \$31,568.90

10/11 Budget Shortage (\$981.10)

Maintenance Fund August 15 \$658.00

Maintenance Fund YTD \$4,930.00

Collections Prior Fiscal Yrs. \$358,390.00

Total Collections \$363,320.00

Total Expenditures \$321,232.33

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 during the weekend liturgies. Parents are asked to attend a baptism preparation session. 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

Loren & Sam Bowns, Deacon couple

Michelle Helson

Coordinator of Religious Education

Robert Neal, Director of Music Ministry

Deanna Martin, Lay Minister

Terri Cardin, Parish Secretary

Web-site www.stirenaeuschurch.com

E-Mail stirenaeus@archchicago.org

Mailing address:

78 Cherry St. Park Forest, IL 60466

Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Friday: 9:00 am-5:00 pm,

closed from 12pm-1:00pm

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.

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.