

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

September 5, 2010 Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Ramblings

Beginning in October there will be a four parish Adult Faith Formation Series here in the southern suburbs. In conjunction with Catholic Theological Union, St. Irenaeus, St Agnes, Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Lawrence O'Toole we will all have the opportunity to hear and learn from four outstanding professors from Catholic Theological Union. This is a new and exciting endeavor between these four neighboring parishes and CTU with the goal of providing quality, up-to-date adult faith formation for the Church in the southland.

We begin at St. Agnes in October with Fr Van Thanh Nguyen, SVD speaking on THE BIBLE AND MIGRATION. The series continues in November here at St Irenaeus with Sister Sally Latkovich, CSJ leading a reflection on the GOSPEL OF MATTHEW, the gospel for the coming liturgical year. The Adult Faith Formation continues after the holidays in February with Dr Scott Alexander leading a discussion on CATHOLICISM AND ISLAM. The series concludes with our own Dr C. Vanessa White, offering us insight into EVERYDAY SPIRITUALITY in March which will be hosted at St Lawrence O'Toole. This is an exciting new initiative and one that promises to offer us the opportunity to meet and learn with our sisters and brothers in faith in our neighboring parishes. Please plan on attending!

The following is a portion of the RAMBLINGS article from August 22 and 23. I thought I would reprint it as the time draws closer for the Planned Offertory Program to begin. It is offered as information so that we are all informed and aware of this important program beginning in September. We are blessed and fortunate as a parish, as a community of faith. So let us all reflect on how we might make a return to God for all the good God has done for us!

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

Peace be with you. The Adult Parish Choir will resume rehearsing on Tuesday evening, September 14, 2010. Rehearsals are from 7:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. The choir will resume singing at the Sunday morning 10:30 Mass on Sunday, September 26. If you, or persons you know, are interested in participating in parish music ministry, please leave all contact information for Mr. Neal at the parish house. God bless you always.
Mr. Robert Neal.



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.



"Protecting God's Children"

St. Irenaeus will host a Virtus: Protecting God's Children training session Thursday, September 9th 6:00pm – 9:00pm in the R.E. center. This training is mandatory for any volunteers or diocesan employees who work with children.

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.



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.

Volunteers Needed

Nina Council #3602 Knights of Columbus will be conducting their annual Tootsie Rolls Sale on September 17 and 18, 2010. We need volunteers to help take donations. If you can give us a few hours of your day, please contact Deputy Grand Knight/Committee Chairman Mike Gonzales- 708.481.4107.



All proceeds from this sale go to help People with Intellectual Disabilities. Nina Council serves the parishes of St. Irenaeus, St. Lawrence O'Toole & St. Mary

September 5, 2010

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." - Luke 14:33

When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.

PADS

The St. Irenaeus PADS co-site managers and our guests wish to thank each of you who has so generously donated needed items and/or has contributed financially this past PADS season. Our site shall re-open this season on Thursday, October 7th and will operate on subsequent Thursdays thru April; the following items are badly needed:



- Hand towels
- Washcloths
- Crew socks (men & women)

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

The Begesha Family
Charles
Suzet
Steven
Anthony



The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, September 6th in observation of the holiday.

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 & Barb Ostroski 748-7511
Portuguese	Helen & Jim Silvia 747-0795
German	Karen Ertl 747-5632
Eastern European	Tony Mielcarz 748-2848 & Diane Cash 363-4082
African American	Doris Foster 481-0930 & Sevena Merchant 748-2408
Indian	Jai Sagar 363-4082
Italian	Victoria Merlo 704-7759
Nigerian	Nneka Green 503-9137
Irish	Moira & Linda Differding 748-3287

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 September 5 Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18:

Chapter 9 of the Book of Wisdom is headed, "Solomon's Prayer." The Book was written for Jews in Egypt who were swayed by Greek philosophy. The Greeks were enamored of the body and earthly pleasures. The author wants his readers to know that the body is earthly and corruptible but the soul is spiritual. Wisdom is of the spirit and the source of wisdom is God. We should empty ourselves of earthly concerns so that we can open ourselves to the wisdom of God.

Psalm: 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17.

"Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart". The Psalmist speaks of the wisdom and kindness of the Lord.

2nd Reading: Philemon 9b-10, 12-17.

Paul writes a letter from prison to his friend, Philemon. While in prison, Paul had befriended Onesimus, Philemon's slave, who was also in prison. Paul had converted Onesimus to Christianity and now was sending Him back to Philemon. The letter urges Philemon to welcome Onesimus back, not as a slave, but as a brother. Even though Paul says he has the right to order Philemon to do so, he does not. Rather, he appeals to Philemon to act out of love; to humble himself and accept Onesimus as a brother. We might wonder why Paul does not attack the practice of slavery directly. He knew, however, that slavery was so firmly entrenched in the culture of the day that a head-on attack would be non-productive. Rather than take that non-productive route, he takes a familiar Pauline route: accept the world as it is and live with one another in Christian charity and love. "Put on Christ," Paul argues. In Christ, we can embrace one another as equals regardless of race, national origin, or any other earthly trait. In so doing, we help to bring about, from within, the interpersonal and cultural changes that pave the way for the legislative abolition of slavery and other social abominations. That Abraham Lincoln knew this well is evident in the way he conducted his presidency. He is quoted as saying, "With public sentiment, nothing can fail; without it, nothing can succeed. Consequently, he who moulds public sentiment goes deeper than he who enacts statutes or pronounces decisions." Lincoln acted on this belief in determining the proper time to release his Emancipation Proclamation.

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33.

"If anyone comes to me without turning his back on his father and mother, his wife and his children, his brothers and sisters, indeed his very self, he cannot be my follower." The Hebrew language could express love and hate, but not intermediate shades of feeling. "Turning one's back" on his parents did not literally mean hating them, but that love of God must come first. We are familiar with, "God, family and country," as a way of ordering the priorities of our loves. The harsh language does, however, drive home the message that God must be first in our lives. Whatever love we may have for our parents, friends, family or the idols in our lives must take second place to our love for our God and His ways.

We must take stock of our resources as did the builder and the king in Luke's Gospel. We must identify our goals and the means we have to attain them. Christ tells us, "Anyone who does not take up his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." God never challenges us with a burden so great that we cannot overcome it. Luke told us earlier in his Gospel, "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more." We cannot know how great a burden we can overcome by any human comparison or analysis. We can only look deep within ourselves to Christ, who dwells there, calling forth His power in the knowledge that He will sustain us through any difficulty or burden that may befall us.



Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday, September 6

8:00 Frank Michalak

Tuesday, September 7

8:00 Patricia McCartan req by
The McCartan Family

Wednesday, September 8

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 Dino J. Pieri req by
His Loving Family

Thursday, September 9

St. Peter Claver

8:00 Communion Service

Friday, September 10

8:00 Communion Service

Saturday, September 11

Blessed Virgin Mary

4:00-4:45 Reconciliation

5:00 Becie Kennedy

Sunday, September 12

8:30 Eugene F. Korte req by
Don & Judy Korte
Glen Russell req by
His Family

10:30 For the Homebound Parishioners req by
The Ministers of Care
Joseph Angelo req by
Julie Dionne

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, September 11 5:00 pm

Lectors

Loren Bowns, Sam Bowns, Beverly Helm
Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist
Richard Mervin, Sara Veldhuizen,
Barbara Principali, Jim Silvia, Sally Fortune,
Joe Augustyn, Merle Arr

Cantor

Faye Predny

Altar Servers

Virginia Differding, Moira Differding

Sunday, September 12 8:30 am

Lectors

Gene Schmittgens, Mary Schmittgens,
Jack Osmolski

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Deanna Martin, Gerry Berish, Pat O'Connor,
Chrys Rudnik, Carol McCullough,
Laura Hennessy, Kathy Murphy

Cantor

Marianne Velut

Altar Servers

Karen Ertl, Kevin Headly

Sunday, September 12 10:30 am

Lectors

Adele Perkins, Mike Gonzalez

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Barb Ostroski, Sandy Winder, Dave Perkins,
Vincent Oganwu, Raye Warkenthien,
Pat Benjamin, Connie Rice

Cantor

Helen Silvia

Altar Servers

Vincent Oganwu Jr., Gary Marron,
Linda Marron



Bible Sharing

The Wednesday Morning Bible Group begins its regular 10:15 AM to 11:30 AM meetings on Wednesday, September 8. We will use taped presentations by Dr Thomas Curran, Executive Directive of Trinity Formations Resources, on the Catechism of the Catholic Church as a basis for our discussions. The Baltimore Catechism told us “what,” Dr. Curran will tell us “Why.” Our discussions are very basic, requiring no prior knowledge of Scripture or the Catechism. Bibles and all other needed materials will be furnished. If you have questions or need more information, please call Merle Arr @ 708-748-7465 or Sylvia Lindecker @ (708) 747-8313. We welcome all our current members back and invite anyone interested in the Scriptural basis for our Catholic faith to join us.

Church Stewardship

Budget Information - Wk 9

Budget Information \$4,650.00

August 29 Collection \$3,845.25

Thank you to the 144 families who used their stewardship envelopes last weekend.

Money collected\envelopes \$3,238.00

Loose Money \$607.25

Budget Year to Date \$41,850.00

Actual Income Year to Date \$39,543.15

10/11 Budget Shortage (\$2,306.85)

Maintenance Fund August 29 \$499.00

Maintenance Fund YTD \$5,669.00

Collections Prior Fiscal Yrs. \$358,390.00

Total Collections \$364,059.00

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.