

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 19, 2010 Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

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## GRATITUDE EVERYTHING IN LIFE IS A GIFT.

To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything He has given us and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him. Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God. For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience. And that is what makes all the difference.

Thomas Merton

### A new day

The rising sun

Warm blankets

The smell of coffee

A hot shower

### THANKS BE TO GOD

Electricity

A seat on the el

No traffic

Employment

Saturday mornings

### THANKS BE TO GOD

The crunch of an apple

Fresh cut flowers

Grandma's lap

Puddles

Playing barefoot

### THANKS BE TO GOD

New beginnings

The first day of school      Your first dance

All that we have and all that we are is a gift from God.

Amazingly blessed, God asks us to recognize the numerous gifts in our lives and say in a heartfelt way, "Thank you."

The smell of spring

The home opener

A clean bill of health

### THANKS BE TO GOD

Fireworks over Lake Michigan

The wisdom of an elder

Sweet 16

Being chosen

### THANKS BE TO GOD

Understanding      Friendship      The Sacraments      Opportunity      The gift of faith

The journey      Grace      An answered prayer      Inspiration      Unconditional love

### THANKS BE TO GOD

**FOR OUR FAITH COMMUNITY OF ST IRENAEUS!**

## St. Irenaeus's Job Club / Drop-In Night

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During this period of economic uncertainty, do you find yourself unemployed? . . . underemployed? . . . thinking it just might be the time -- just in case -- to learn-the-ropes of successful job searching?

Join others who share similar circumstances for an evening of comradeship and learn more about St. Irenaeus's Job Club.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> 7pm**

**St. Irenaeus Religion Education Building Room 1  
(Enter through the door at the far south end of the building.  
Room 1 is the first classroom on your right.)**

Our hosts Phyllis Bacon and Sheila and Kenny Thomas have invited three guest speakers. One a parishioner, Bob Kurnat, after 2+ years of unemployment landed a job with the State of Illinois!

Linda Daniels and Phil Schmehl, also experienced job seekers, landed their dream jobs!!

**For more information contact Phyllis Bacon at 708-527-6834.**

### ST. IRENAEUS 30TH ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 2010

SERVING 2:00 TO 6:00 PM

Buy your tickets after Mass

And at the rectory & R.E. Center

Adults-\$8.00 Children under 10-\$3.00



#### Menu

**ALL YOU CAN EAT!**

Spaghetti & Meatballs

Our Own Special Sauce

Bread & Butter

Cole Slaw & Dessert Table

Drinks available: Beer, Pop & Wine

**September 19, 2010**

#### **Stewardship Awareness Sunday 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*"It is my wish, then, that in every place the people should pray, lifting up holy hands, without anger or argument." - 1 Timothy 2:8*

Try to make it a habit to give God the first few minutes of each day by simply praying, "Lord, what do You want me to do today with all the gifts You have given me?"

Then be sure to listen for His response throughout each day.



## Reflections on Today's Readings September 19 Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### ***1st Reading: Amos 8:4-7.***

Amos, a shepherd of Tekoa in Judah during the reign of Jereboam II (786-746 BC), prophesied against the injustice and idolatry of Israel. In Amos' time, Israel was prosperous, at least for the merchant and ruling classes. Amos criticized their practice of cheating the poor and helpless to build wealth for themselves. God's plan was for the Promised Land to benefit all his people, but the merchants and princes rejected that for self-aggrandizement. The Lord says, "Never will I forget a thing they have done!"

### ***Psalm: 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8.***

"He raises up the lowly from the dust.....to seat them with princes, with the princes of his own people". The Psalmist celebrates the glory and justice of the Lord.

### ***2nd Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-8.***

"First of all, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be offered for all men, especially for kings and those in authority....". Paul continues his pastoral advice to Timothy. This reading describes what became the Prayer of the Faithful that we include in our liturgy today. It was a part of early Christian liturgies that got dropped somewhere in time, but was restored as part of the Liturgical reforms of Vatican II. The format provides that the Presider first invite the Assembly to pray. Then, at least one petition is offered from each of five categories: The Church, Public Authorities, The Salvation of the World, Those Oppressed by any need and the Local Community. Each petition evokes an appropriate response from the Assembly. Finally, the Presider offers a concluding prayer.

### ***Gospel: Luke 16:1-13.***

"Give me an account of your service." The Dishonest Steward knows he is in deep trouble. He has embezzled his Master's funds. The Master suspects as much and has confronted steward, calling for an audit to confirm his suspicions. The Steward knows the Master will dismiss him once the audit lays bare the details of his mismanagement.

The Steward has a Plan B, though. Since Jewish merchants could not legally charge interest, the unscrupulous ones, or their stewards, inflated the amounts their debtors owed when they recorded sales transactions in their ledgers. The Dishonest Steward, knowing that his Master's books reflected the practice of this deceit, could safely discount the amounts of the loans, sacrificing only the amount illegally added. The Master could not complain without admitting that he had acted illegally. If the Steward, himself, had inflated the amount, he would have to forego his present and future illegal gains. Either way, the Master, having recovered his money, was made whole and, in an expansive mood, gave grudging admiration to the Steward's cunning.

The Steward intent was to insure himself a comfortable life on earth. Today, we too often read of sophisticated and complex schemes practiced by clever embezzlers to bilk people out of money. "Why?" we ask ourselves, reasoning that the perpetrators could do very well in the business world if they applied their abilities to honest endeavors.

We might conclude that the parable teaches us to use our abilities astutely in managing the gifts God has given us. But God doesn't expect such astute behavior of us. He really asks only that we live our lives in love: loving Him and loving our neighbors. He knows that if we live our lives thus, then if we have been given much, we will share those gifts, or the largesse they bring, with those less fortunate ones who may not have much. The Prophet Micah says, "You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God." What better advice for Christian living could we find?





## ***Church Stewardship***

### **Budget Information - Wk 11**

**Budget Information           \$4,650.00**

September 12 Collection   \$4,331.40

Thank you to the 146 families who used their stewardship envelopes last weekend.

Money collected\envelopes \$3,651.00

Loose Money   \$680.40

Budget Year to Date       \$51,150.00

Actual Income Year to Date \$48,698.55

**10/11 Budget Shortage   (\$2,451.45)**

**Maintenance Fund Sept. 12 \$794.00**

**Maintenance Fund YTD   \$7,627.00**

**Collections Prior Fiscal Yrs. \$358,390.00**

**Total Collections         \$366,017.00**

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

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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](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.