

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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the Pillar

St. Irenaeus Parish, Park Forest, Illinois

December 12, 2010 Third Sunday of Advent



“PATIENCE PEOPLE, AWAIT!”

Advent 2010: Patience People Await

Advent Sacramental Reconciliation Service

*St. Irenaeus Church
Sunday December 19, 2010
2:00 P.M.*



*Come together as a Faith Community
To celebrate God's
Generous mercy and forgiveness*

Please join in the Advent preparation by doing the following as you feel called to respond:

First Sunday, November 27/28:
Feed the hungry. Bring additional food to the stable at Mary's altar.

Second Sunday, December 4/5:
Clothe the cold and naked. Bring mittens, gloves and scarves for people who are cold.

Third Sunday, December 11/12:
Comfort the homeless: our P.A.D.S. ministry needs cash donations, white tube socks, small towels and washcloths, sample sized toiletries.

Fourth Sunday, December 18/19: Bring animals to the stable: what animals came to the stable the night Jesus was born? Cows, Oxen, Sheep, Donkeys? Bring your loaned animal for the A&E committee to arrange for the Christmas crèche.

Sunday December 19	Parish Reconciliation Service	2:00 P.M.
Wednesday December 22	Simbang Gabi (Filipino Christmas Novena)	7:00 P.M.
Friday December 24	Family Mass w/Pageant Caroling/Christmas Eve Liturgy	5:00 P.M. 7:30 P.M./8:00 P.M.
Saturday December 25	*Christmas Mass	9:30 A.M.
Friday December 31	New Years Eve Vigil Liturgy	7:00 P.M.
Saturday January 1*	Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God	9:30 A.M.
Sunday January 2	Epiphany of the Lord	8:30 A.M and 10:30 AM

*Due to the holiday being on Saturday there will be no 5:00 P.M. Anticipated Mass.



Simbang Gabi 2010
18th Year Celebration
Southwest Fil-AM Catholic Community
Ihanda ang Iyong Puso

Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Catholic tradition of celebrating a novena (series of nine) of Advent evening Masses. It is meant to help the Filipino-American and other Catholics in the area to intensify their spiritual preparation for the grace-filled celebration of Christmas. The nine host parishes invite the parishioners, families and friends to celebrate Simbang Gabi with them each night. LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE COMING OF OUR SAVIOR

On Wednesday, December 22, our Parish will be hosting one of the nine (9) novena nights for Simbang Gabi. We are calling all Filipino-American parishioners and anyone who would like to be involved in this wonderful religious tradition. Please call the following parishioners for more information:

Del Sagun 708-748-0961/708-908-0525
Cherrie Burger 708-898-4091/708-363-3415
Gemma Maghirang 708-757-0923

Date	Hosting Parish
12/15 Wed. 7:00 pm	St. Julie Billart Church 7399 W. 159th St. Tinley Park, IL 60477
12/16 Thur. 7:00 pm	St. Catherine of Alexandria 4100 W. 107th St. Oak Lawn, IL 60453
12/17 Fri. 7:00 pm	St. Michael Church 14327 Highland Ave. Orland Park, IL 60462
12/18 Sat. 5:00 pm	St Lawrence O' Toole 4101 Lawrence Drive Matteson, IL 60433
12/19 Sun. 5:00 pm	St. Adrian Church 7000 S. Washtenaw St. Chicago, IL 60629
12/20 Mon. 7:00 pm	St. Damian Church 5200 W. 155th Oak Forest, IL 60452
12/21 Tue. 7:00 pm	St. Fabian Church 8300 Thomas Ave. Bridgeview IL, 60455
12/22 Wed. 7:00 pm	St Irenaeus Church 78 Cherry St. Park Forest, IL 60466
12/23 Thur. 7:00 pm	St. Albert The Great 5555 W. State St. Burbank IL, 60459

Annual Poinsettia Tree

The tribute poinsettia tree is assembled each year in the church on Christmas Eve. Your purchase of a poinsettia plant adds the names of your departed loved ones to the memory book that is displayed throughout the Christmas season. Your plants go home with you on December 26th. The envelopes are at Mary's Altar. The cost of each plant is still \$10. Please print the names clearly. Orders are accepted until December 17, 2010. Contact Christine Blue at 747-2752 for additional information.

Next weekend there will be a second collection for Christmas flowers to decorate the church.

Reflections on Today's Readings December 12 Third Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10.

"The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom.....They will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.....Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy." Isaiah moves quickly from remembrance to promise and from promise to the joy of fulfillment. Although this reading still speaks to the future and its promise is yet to come, the imagery of fulfillment is persuasive: "Be strong, fear not! Here is your God...."

Psalm: 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10.

"O Lord, come and save us." "The Lord God keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the captives free." The Psalmist advances Isaiah's theme of joy.

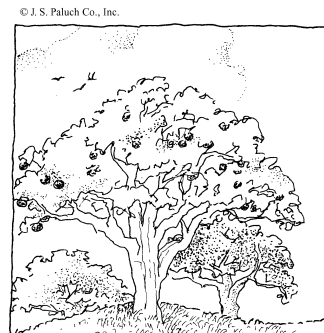
2nd Reading: James 5:7-10.

"Be patient, my brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer awaits the precious yield of the soil." James tells us, "The coming of the Lord is at hand." James speaks of promise, but like Isaiah, he also includes the reality of fulfillment. Even though Christ's return is imminent, we must still be patient and order our lives after the example of the prophets to live as members of the kingdom of God.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11.

"John the Baptist, in prison, heard about the works Christ was performing, and he sent a message through his disciples to ask Christ, Are you 'He who is to come or do we look for another.'" In answer, Jesus tells them to look around and see what is happening in the land. A ministry of preaching the good news is being brought to the people. The sick and the infirm are being healed and returned in health to their families and loved ones. This healing ministry was foretold by Isaiah in today's first reading: "Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; Then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the dumb will sing. Streams will burst forth in the desert, and rivers in the steppe." Then Jesus speaks of John and the kingdom of God. John, also, is a fulfillment of prophecy: "Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me; And suddenly there will come to the temple the LORD whom you seek, And the messenger of the covenant whom you desire. Yes, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts" (Malachi 3:1). John, Jesus says, is the greatest man born of woman but the least of those who are born into the Kingdom of God is greater.

The Third Sunday of Advent, also called Gaudete Sunday after the Latin "Gaudere," to rejoice, brings us to the brink of fulfillment. Christ, the Messiah, the kingdom of God, is in our midst. By His works we know him. But even as he is in our midst, we still anticipate the fullness of His reign. The threefold nature of our liturgical celebration unfolds. The liturgy is celebrated, first, in remembrance of Jesus' Incarnation, of His coming to us, as one of us, in Bethlehem and our life with him now in His kingdom. Then, we celebrate the unique joy of His coming to us today, His presence among us in the Eucharist. Finally, we celebrate the hope, born of faith, of His coming to us in the fullness of time when He and His kingdom will be fully manifested to us. The entrance antiphon for our liturgy today expresses our mood: "Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near."



**Be patient until the
coming of the Lord**

Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday, December 13

St. Lucy

8:00 Paul & Louise Sauter & Family

Tuesday, December 14

St. John of the Cross

8:00 The David Stone Family

Wednesday, December 15

8:00 Fr. Dan O'Sullivan req by
Don & Judy Korte
Pat Dahlberg req by
A Friend

Thursday, December 16

8:00 Communion Service

Friday, December 17

8:00 Communion Service

Saturday, December 18

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

5:00 George Yaras req by
Al Hansen

Sunday, December 19

8:30 David Newhuis req by
Rosemary & Children
10:30 John J. Turner req by
Bill Scanlan Sr.
Francis Mesick req by
Bob & Sylvia Lindecker

December 12, 2010
3rd Sunday of Advent

"Go and tell John what you hear and see:
the blind regain their sight, the lame
walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear,
and the dead are raised..."

- Matthew 11:4-5

When Jesus cured the sick we called it a miracle. Yet God has blessed us with many good things – our eyesight, our hearing, our talents, our health and so much more – and we often take it all for granted. The good steward recognizes every blessing in life as a miracle from God and strives to use those gifts for God's honor and glory.

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, December 18 5:00 pm

Lectors

Laurie Miller, Mary Jane Riopelle,
Tim Blumenthal

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Eileen Rose, Merle Arr, Sam Bowns,
Sally Fortune, Marilyn Carroll, Joe Augustyn,
Loren Bowns

Cantor

Faye Predny

Altar Servers

Myles Greska, Michael Rosenquist

Sunday, December 19 8:30 am

Lectors

Eleanor Burns, Harlan Smith, Gerry Berish

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Sara Veldhuizen, Jim Silvia, Richard Thomas,
Kathy Murphy, Pat O'Connor, Pat McCartan,
Dolly Mikolajczyk

Cantor

Helen Silvia

Altar Servers

Kevin Headly, Karen Ertl

Sunday, December 19 10:30 am

Lectors

Stephanie Sagun, Marilyn Bourgeois,
Arthur Bourgeois

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Denise Douglas, Vincent Oganwu,
Doris Foster, Connie Rice, Raye Warkenthien,
Sevena Merchant, Kathy Anderson

Cantor

Phil Schwartz

Altar Servers

Vincent Oganwu Jr., Michael Adami,
Vincent Adami

St. Irenaeus's Job Club

Find yourself unemployed, underemployed, or just testing the waters for a career change? Join others who are working together to:

- Lend support when the job of looking for a job gets tough.
- Learn new job search skills.
- including strategies for online job searches.
- Network to find job leads.

Date & Time: To Be Determined

Place: Religious Education Center / Room #5 (Computer Lab)

Contact: Phyllis Bacon 708-527-6834 to schedule day and time.

Church Stewardship

Budget Information - 23

Budget Information \$4,650.00

December 5 Collection \$6,119.00

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

Money collected\envelopes \$5,114.00

Loose Money \$1,005.00

Budget Year to Date \$106,950.00

Actual Income Year to Date \$109,694.87

10/11 Budget Surplus \$2,744.87

Maintenance Fund Dec. 5 \$1,191.00

Maintenance Fund YTD \$14,911.00

Collections Prior Fiscal Yrs. \$358,390.00

Total Collections \$373,301.00

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.