

CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —

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the Pillar

St. Irenaeus Parish, Park Forest, Illinois

December 26, 2010 The Holy Family



Ramblings

It Is Not Over

It is not over,
this birthing.
There are always newer skies
into which
God can throw stars.

When we begin to think
that we can predict the Advent of God,
that we can box the Christ
in a stable in Bethlehem,
that's just the time
that God will be born
in a place we can't imagine and won't believe.

Those who wait for God
watch with their hearts and not their eyes,
listening
always listening
for angel words.

by Anne Weems

It is over but it is far from finished! Christmas has come, we have celebrated and eaten and unwrapped all that God has given us. We continue the season as we live our lives with an attitude of blessing and gratitude for the gifts given in love by the most generous God!

St. Irenaeus continues to be blessed with so many generous and loving people who come together as the Body of Christ each and every Sunday. I give thanks for the presence of God in this place and for the spirit of service that permeates all we do. It is a place filled with the spirit and with God's love made real in the hearts and souls of all! May our God continue to fill us with God's choicest blessings!
Merry Christmas once again!

Fr Terry



Peace be with you! The Music Ministries of Saint Irenaeus may be calling your name! If you would consider enhancing our worship services as a choir member, a cantor, or a musician, please leave your name and contact information at the parish house, at your earliest convenience. God bless you always. Robert M. Neal, Director of Music Ministries.

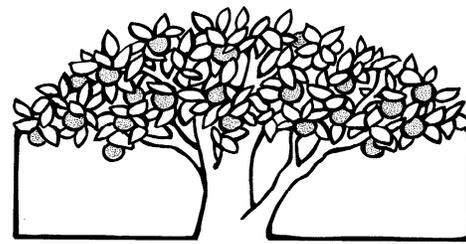


December 26, 2010

Feast of the Holy Family

“Over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts.” - Colossians 3:14-15

Jesus is God’s ultimate gift of love to us. The countless other blessing that God showers upon us are nothing compared to the gift of His only Son. And the only appropriate way for us to respond to such generous love is with our own generous love. When we dedicate our lives to sharing all the many gifts that God has placed within our hands, the peace of Christ truly will control our hearts. We will know Christmas joy every day those who do not. In today’s Gospel we see that with our own generosity we must bridge that gap between those who have much and those who have little or we may find ourselves on the wrong side of the chasm in the next life.



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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Over all [other virtues] put on
love, that is, the bond of
perfection.

Office for the Protection of Children & Youth BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON!

The holidays are filled with pageants, concerts and group events...including shopping. Adults and children gleefully play secret Santa searching in malls for the perfect gift for a parent, teacher or child; families pile into the car in search of the perfect Christmas tree; children and parents marvel at the beautiful decorations of the downtown area; groups gather in song and prayer. The Christmas Spirit is out in full force with greetings and good cheer. As we enjoy this special time of year, let us also be mindful of keeping our children safe during these outings and keeping vigilant in protecting all children.

**HAVE A BLESSED AND SAFE CHRISTMAS
AND NEW YEAR!**



Reflections on Today's Readings December 26 The Holy Family

1st Reading: Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14.

"The Lord sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons." Sirach sets out the guidelines that make for peace and harmony in family life.

Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5.

"Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in His ways." Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord." The Psalmist responds to Sirach. Happiness comes to those who follow the Lord.

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:12-21.

"Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another.... Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. Over all these virtues put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect." Paul expands the theme set by Sirach: happiness in family life is attained by following the Lord. Paul addresses his brothers and sisters in Christ and extends the concept of family to community, to country and to the kingdom of God. We must read this passage, as we read all of Paul's letters, indeed all of Scripture, in the context of the times in which they were written. Thus, what may be perceived as chauvinistic by women of today would have been perceived altogether differently in Paul's world where women were considered mere chattels along with real estate and cattle. When Paul addresses women and men about their responsibilities toward one another in marriage, he speaks to them, and of them, as equals, as "one in Christ." The key here is found in his admonition: "Over all these virtues put on love." Paul addresses many issues in his letters to his Christian communities and uses many approaches toward the resolutions of their problems. Almost always, though, the admonition he ends up with is "love." His great soliloquy on love (1 Corinthians 13), concludes, "So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love." In today's reading, Paul teaches that wife and husband are coequals in the love of Christ!

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23.

"After the astrologers had left, the angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to Joseph in a dream, commanding him to: 'Get up, take the child and His mother, and flee to Egypt.'" Here, we see one of Matthew's primary themes being played out -- the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies in New Testament events. Matthew, writing to a Jewish community, seeks to establish in their minds that Jesus is the Messiah of Old Testament prophecy. Joseph, legal father of Jesus and protector of the Holy Family, follows the path of prophecy and tradition. At the Angel's bidding, he flees with them to Egypt, the traditional Biblical place of refuge. The Angel returns after a time to bid them to return to Israel. Joseph is told in a dream to settle in Nazareth, fulfilling the prophecy, "He shall be called a Nazorean."

The Scriptures for today all extol the family and its members in support of one another. They take family in a larger sense than father, mother and children; even greater than the extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins familiar to the people of Israel. Family includes our neighbors, our nation, and all nations. We in the Body of Christ, the Kingdom of God, are one in Christ. We must do all that we do in His name. We should live our lives in such a way that we lead others to Christ -- that is real evangelization.



Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday, December 27

St. John

8:00 Leona M. Hansen req by
Al Hansen

Tuesday, December 28

The Holy Innocents

8:00 The Diane Patter Family

Wednesday, December 29

St. Thomas Becket

8:00 Elizabeth Sauter req by
A Friend
Joyce A. Collier req by
The Doty Family

Thursday, December 30

8:00 Communion Service

Friday, December 31

St. Sylvester I

7:00 Parishioners of St. Irenaeus

Saturday, January 1

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

9:30 Parishioners of St. Irenaeus

Sunday, January 2

8:30 Thomas M. O'Callaghan req by
Paul & Jane Cordes
Rosemary Corrigan req by
A Friend
10:30 Anna May Fischer req by
Ed & Mary Anne Fischer

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, January 1 9:30 am

Lectors

Sally Fortune, Jack Osmolski, Chris Blue

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Joe Augustyn, Joyce Hempen, Marilyn Carroll,
Jim Francesconi

Cantor

Phil Schwartz

Altar Servers

Barbara Ostroski

Sunday, January 2 8:30 am

Lectors

Chris Blue, Gene Schmittgens,
Mary Schmittgens

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Pat O'Connor, Dolly Mikolajczyk,
Jim Francesconi, Gerry Berish,
Sara Veldhuizen, Laura Hennessy,
Kathy Murphy

Cantor

Helen Silvia

Altar Servers

Kevin Headly, Karen Ertl

Sunday, January 2 10:30 am

Lectors

Mike Gonzalez, Loren Bowns, Sam Bowns

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Barbara Ostroski, David Ostroski,
Rita Oganwu, Lyn Schober, Valeria Wolff,
Connie Rice, Raye Warkenthien

Cantor

Marianne Velut

Altar Servers

Gary Marron, Linda Marron

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 - 24

Budget Information \$4,650.00

December 12 Collection \$4,816.00

Thank you to the 135 families who used their stewardship envelopes last weekend.

Money collected\envelopes \$4,191.00

Loose Money \$625.00

Budget Year to Date \$111,600.00

Actual Income Year to Date \$114,510.87

10/11 Budget Surplus \$2,910.87

Maintenance Fund Dec. 12 \$367.00

Maintenance Fund YTD \$15,278.00

Collections Prior Fiscal Yrs. \$358,390.00

Total Collections \$373,668.00

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

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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.