

CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —

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

PHONE —

(708) 748-6891

CONTACT PERSON —

Terri Cardin

SOFTWARE —

Microsoft Publisher 2002  
Adobe Acrobat 5.0  
Windows XP Professional

PRINTER —

HP LaserJet 1000 Series

TRANSMISSION TIME

Thursday 10:00 AM

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT —

Cover through 7

SUNDAY DATE OF BULLETIN —

January 2, 2011

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS —

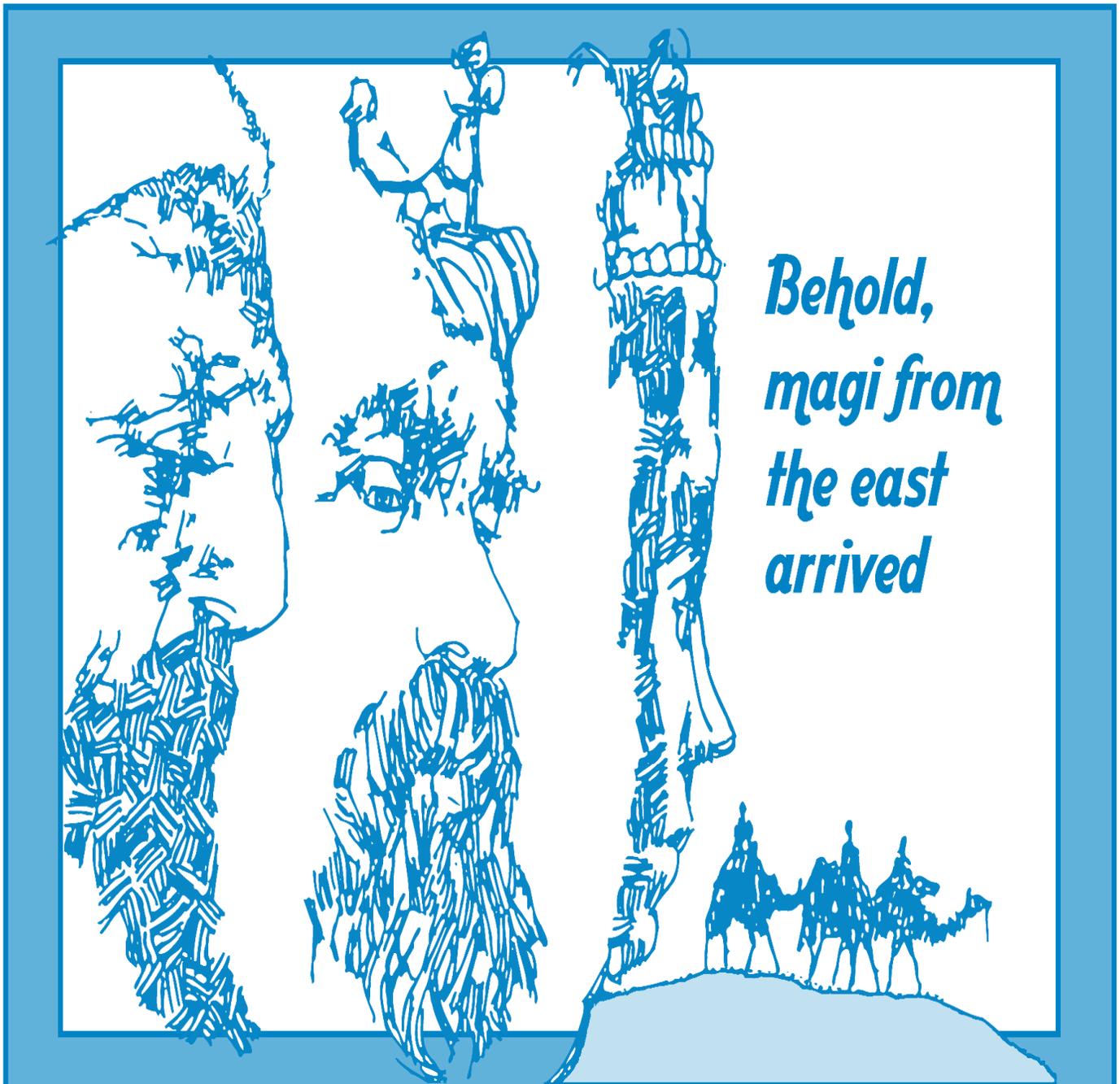


# the Pillar

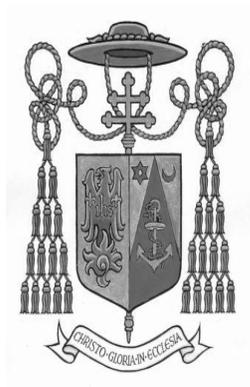
*St. Irenaeus Parish, Park Forest, Illinois*

*January 2, 2011 Epiphany of the Lord*

---



*Behold,  
magi from  
the east  
arrived*



## ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

December 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At the beginning of his papacy, Pope Benedict XVI said, “There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know him and to speak to others of our friendship with him. If we allow Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great. Only in this friendship do we experience beauty and liberation.”

The experience of beauty transcends time and space and points us to the very experience of God. Adoring the Christ Child, we are drawn by the beauty of what we see in front of us to the God we cannot see, but whom we experience if we allow ourselves to follow the path along which beauty will lead us. Jesus is the standard for all that is beautiful. St. Augustine wrote of “Beauty ever ancient ever new,” who makes the human spirit restless until it rests in God forever. Our experiences of created beauty fill us with joy and excitement. Yet, they never fill our capacity for the experience of what is beautiful. We are left empty again, and our search continues. We are disturbed by wanting something more, something which we do not seem able to reach, and that nothing less than God can satisfy.

Christianity begins with a relationship barely understood but beautifully attractive and ends with that relationship fulfilled. The beauty of Jesus Christ — this dynamic, inviting, perfect, transcendent Christ — disturbs us, for we cannot fit him into our present way of life or our usual categories of understanding. He changes us, converts us, empties us, sends us to places and situations unknown. He leaves us always wanting more, because he is always more. He invites us to silence, as he would have us listen. The contemplation of Christ in our lives forms us for speaking about him to others, for we will be unable to resist sharing the beauty we have found in Christ.

May the beauty of Christ fill your heart with love and your life with joy. You will be remembered in my Christmas Masses and prayers. God bless you and Merry Christmas!

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.  
Archbishop of Chicago

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.



**St. Irenaeus Parish Life will host  
'A Night At The Races'  
Saturday, February 19th 2011  
at Balmoral Park Racetrack  
Rt 1-Crete**

Balmoral has live harness racing which may be viewed from your heated clubhouse seat or elsewhere. Each table has a TV set to view the races. There are windows where you can place your wagers.

Cost for the evening is \$30.00 per person for all you can eat which includes an elaborate dinner buffet which is served 6:30-8:30. Dessert until 9 pm. The buffet includes a chef's carving table and chef attended pasta station, unlimited soft drinks, coffee and tea included.

Also included is free general parking, club house admission tickets, official race program, special St. Irenaeus race dedication and a group photo in the winners circle.

Come bring your friends, you do not have to be a St. Irenaeus parishioner to attend, call the rectory to purchase your ticket 748-6891. See you at the races.

**Save the Date  
Saturday, February 26, 2011  
Archdiocese of Chicago  
2011 Parish Leadership Day  
Our Church: Ever Ancient,  
Ever New**

**Maria High School**

Maria High School,  
6727 S. California Avenue in Chicago

Gather with Chicago-area Catholics for a day of active worship, learning and dialog at the Archdiocese of Chicago's 2011 Parish Leadership Day. Choose from a wide variety of workshops designed to help us build a vibrant community of faith. Hear inspiring speakers talk about active Lay Leadership and what unifies us within "Our Church: Ever Ancient, Ever New." Participate in a luncheon dialog with Cardinal George. Whether you're thinking about getting involved or are already active in our parish, join us as we worship, learn, and unite for a day of parish leadership formation.

“MANNA from HEAVEN”

\*\*\* **HAPPY NEW YEAR** \*\*\*

To all of our faithful customers  
AND

To all of our soon to be NEW customers!!

During December, our first month in ‘ business’ in 2010,  
we had a **PROFIT OF \$742.53**

How about planning to make one of your NEW YEAR resolutions to be  
**“never purchase anything without a scrip card!!”**

If that's a bit too much all at once,  
this month, why not plan to use ONLY Scrip cards  
for **All your car expenses!!!**

AMOCO, ARCO, BP, CHEVRON, DELTA SONIC, EXXON,  
GAS CITY, JIFFY LUBE, MARATHON, MOBIL, RICH GAS, SHELL,  
SPEEDWAY, SUPER AMERICA

Remember if we net a profit of only \$200 a week would add over  
\*\*\* **\$10,000** \*\*\*  
to our parish budget!!

**ORDERS TAKEN & FILLED WEEKLY!**

**Questions? Call 708.363.4082**

**January 2, 2011**  
**Epiphany of Our Lord**

*“Then they opened their treasures and offered  
him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”  
- Matthew 2:11*

The image of the Magi kneeling before the  
infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests  
for Him is an image that we should all try to  
embrace. Each of us is called to open our gifts  
before Jesus, offering Him what He  
needs. We can remember that we are called to  
share our gifts by keeping one of the Magi  
from our Nativity set on our desk or dresser as  
a year-round a reminder to bring our gifts to  
Jesus.

| <b>ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL<br/>PLEDGE REPORT</b> |             |
|---|-------------|
| As of December 20, 2010                         |             |
| PARISH GOAL:                                    | \$15,478.26 |
| AMOUNT PLEDGE:                                  | \$16,474.00 |
| AMOUNT PAID:                                    | \$16,059.00 |
| REMAINING BALANCE:                              | \$415.00    |

## Reflections on Today's Readings January 2 Epiphany of the Lord

### **First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6.**

"Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you."

### **Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13.**

"Lord, every nation on earth will adore you."

### **Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6.**

".....in Christ Jesus, the Gentiles are co-heirs with the Jews, members of the same body and sharers of the same promise.."

### **Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12.**

"Astrologers from the East arrived one day in Jerusalem inquiring, 'Where is the newborn king of the Jews?'"

"To understand and experience the season of Christmas-Epiphany more fully, it is useful to recall how the feasts that make up the liturgical year came into being and developed. It is not until the fourth century that a calendar mentions the celebration of the Lord's nativity. This was the Christianization of the pagan feast *sol invictus* -- "the invincible sun" -- introduced in 274 by the emperor Aurelius (270-275) and celebrated in Rome on December 25. The sun wanes continually from the end of June until the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year. As if to vanquish darkness, however, the sun wins out over the long, dark days by shining a little longer each day until its brightest and most glorious moment at the summer solstice.

The substitution of one feast for another was easy for those who, having once participated in the pagan feast, became Christians. The prophet Malachi had said that one day "the Sun of justice" (Malachi 3:20) would arise, and Jesus called himself "the Light of the world" (John 8:12). The true Sun, the "vanquisher of darkness," is the one who has triumphed over sin and death. After the Peace of Constantine (313), the feast of the Nativity of the Lord also supplanted altogether the pagan celebration of the Sun. From the beginning, it also had a definite paschal dimension that is somewhat overlooked today.

About the same time, as a Christianization of the celebration of the winter solstice observed in Egypt and Arabia on January 6, the feast of Epiphany came into being. Epiphany means "showing forth," "manifestation," and as if to refute certain pagan myths, emphasis was placed on the baptism of Jesus, his mission, and on the miracle at Cana by which he revealed his glory (John 2:11). Soon, Epiphany was celebrated throughout the West: we find mention of it as a great feast in Gaul in 361. The East gradually adopted the feast of Christmas somewhere between the end of the fourth century and the first half of the fifth.

The earliest celebration of Christmas at Rome was a very simple papal Mass at the basilica. The Mass was no doubt similar to our present Mass at Dawn, with the proclamation of the Prologue to the Gospel of John. In opposition to the Arian heresy, this Mass clearly affirmed that it was celebrating the eternal Word made flesh. This celebration had a decidedly Christological and dogmatic character, including, in 360, a commemoration of the Adoration of the Magi and the slaughter of the children of Bethlehem.

From: "The Days of the Lord" --"The Season of Christmas-Epiphany"



## Mass Intentions For The Week

### Monday, January 3

#### The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:00 Patricia O'Connor  
Chuck Differding req by  
A Friend

### Tuesday, January 4

#### St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:00 Donald & Eileen Sauter & Family  
Chuck Differding req by  
Don & Judy Korte

### Wednesday, January 5

#### St. John Neumann

8:00 Tony & Carol Rupsis & Family  
George Derrig req by  
The Derrig Family

### Thursday, January 6

#### Blessed Andre Bessette

8:00 Communion Service

### Friday, January 7

#### St. Raymond of Penafort

8:00 Communion Service

### Saturday, January 8

5:00 Margaret Neal req by  
Georgiana & Sr. Joanne Delehanty  
Richard Zaworski req by  
The Family

### Sunday, January 9

8:30 Norma McClain req by  
Tony Trunzo  
Chris Predny req by  
Mom & Dad  
10:30 Deno Caselli req by  
George & Nancy Gaster

## Liturgical Ministers

### Saturday, January 8 5:00 am

#### Lectors

Beverly Helm, Dolly Mikolajczyk, Merle Arr  
**Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist**  
Bob Steiert, Sally Fortune, Sam Bowns,  
Eileen Rose, Marilyn Carroll, Jim Silvia,  
Loren Bowns

#### Cantor

Cathy Williams

#### Altar Servers

Mike Powers, Michael Rosenquist

### Sunday, January 9 8:30 am

#### Lectors

Chrys Rudnik, Laurie Miller, Eleanore Burns  
**Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist**  
Deanna Martin, Pat McCartan, Gerry Berish,  
Kathy Murphy, Jim Francesconi,  
Dennis Condon, Joe Augustyn

#### Cantor

Faye Predny

#### Altar Servers

Kevin Headly, Karen Ertl

### Sunday, January 9 10:30 am

#### Lectors

Vanessa White, Barbara Ostroski, Lyn Schober  
**Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist**  
Connie Rice, Valeria Wolff, Pat Benjamin,  
Doris Foster, Kathy Anderson, Denise  
Douglas, Dave Perkins

#### Cantor

Phil Schwartz

#### Altar Servers

Elysia Sawyers, 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 - 25**

**Budget Information**            \$4,650.00

December 19 Collection    \$4,541.76

Thank you to the 141 families who used their stewardship envelopes last weekend.

Money collected\envelopes \$3,917.00

Loose Money    \$624.76

Budget Year to Date    \$116,250.00

Actual Income Year to Date \$119,052.63

**10/11 Budget Surplus**        \$2,802.63

**Maintenance Fund Dec. 19** \$171.00

**Maintenance Fund YTD** \$15,449.00

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

**Total Collections**            \$373,839.00

**Total Expenditures**        \$321,232.33

**Flower Collection**            \$1,283.00

### ***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)

E-Mail [stirenaeus@archchicago.org](mailto: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](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.