

CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —

St. Irenaeus #485
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the Pillar

St. Irenaeus Parish, Park Forest, Illinois

January 9, 2011 Baptism of the Lord



Ramblings

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. And we hear the Father say "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." This communication of God the Father with Jesus helps us to understand the intimate relationship that Jesus has with God the Father. It is a sign of God's desire to be in relationship with us and with the whole cosmos! What a gift, the freely given grace which opens us to intimate relationships with God and one another!

I wonder if we were to change that last line of the gospel a bit and insert our name where it says son-"This is my beloved ____ (insert your name here) _____, with whom I am well pleased." Perhaps to sit with this in prayer and wallow in the fact that God calls you by name! To appreciate and recognize how God is present in your life and how God longs and desires to live in you and through you! It is this, a deep and intimate relationship with God that we have been gifted with in our Baptism!

With the celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord the Christmas season comes to a close and we move into winter ordinary time. And so as we move from this holy season I would like to express my gratitude to many for all that was done to make Advent/Christmas a very special holy season.

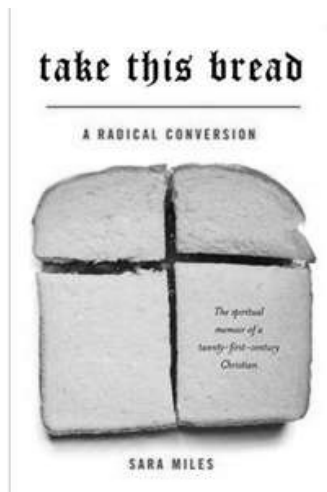
...to all those who served as Liturgical Ministers, you helped us all touch Jesus in a special way
...to all the Art and Environment Committee, you helped us see the beauty of the seasons
...to all those involved in the Children's Pageant, you helped us live the Sacred story in action
...to all who gifted me with gifts I am truly grateful for your expressions appreciation
...and to all who gifted this community in any way know you are welcome and loved

May the light of the Star of Bethlehem continue to illuminate your hearts with love!

On a personal note, you may have noticed I was not here at the parish this weekend. I have been accepted into the Spiritual Guidance Training Program with the Racine Dominicans up in Wisconsin. It is a two year program that meets 16 times in a two year period. So there will be some weekends that I will not be here and Fr Ron and others will be filling in. I am excited about the program and the opportunities it offers for my own spiritual and professional growth.

Fr Terry





TAKE THIS BREAD?

Have you ever wondered how to really live your faith?
What does it mean to live like Jesus?
Is it really possible to live like a Christian in the world in our times?
What do you mean when you say AMEN to receiving communion?
How has Eucharist worked to bring about transformation in the way you live for others?

If these or any other questions have ever crossed your mind or kept you awake then there is a group forming for you!

This group will meet at the rectory at a mutually agreed upon date and time to read and discuss the book "TAKE THIS BREAD" by Sara Miles. Here are a few of the comments from the back cover:

"Engaging, funny, and highly entertaining... Why would any thinking person become a Christian? is one of the questions she addresses, and her answer is also compelling reading."

-BOOKLIST

"Rigorously honest, TAKE THIS BREAD demonstrates how hard -and how necessary-it is to welcome everyone to the table, without exception." -San Francisco Chronicle

"Moving, delightful and significant." -The Christian Century

If you would be interested in being part of this circle of faith, call the rectory at 708.748.6891 or email the office at stirenaeus@archchicago.org. Let's journey together!

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.

Can You Help?

We are looking for a Washer & Dryer for a family. If you or anyone you know can help, please contact the rectory @ 748-6891. Thank you.

“ MANNA from HEAVEN”

*** **NEW to ST. J's** ***

SCRIP TRAVEL CARDS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST!!

AMERICAN AIRLINES / 5%
CHOICE HOTELS / 5% (Clarion, Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Mainstay, Quality, Sleep Inn)
DISNEY GIFT CARD/ 3% (Disney Cruise Line, Disney Hotel, Disney Stores, Disneyland Resort, DisneyShopping.com, Walt Disney World Resorts)
FAIRMONT HOTELS / 15%
HYATT HOTELS / 9%
MARRIOTT GIFT CARDS / 9% (Courtyard, Fairfield Inn, JWHotels & Resorts, Renaissance, Residence Inn, Spring Hill Suites, Towne Place Suites)
OMNI HOTELS & RESORTS / 9%
MT. OLYMPUS / TREASURE ISLAND/ 14%

Call 708.363.4082 FOR QUESTIONS OR TO ORDER!

ORDERS TAKEN & FILLED WEEKLY!

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED AT RECTORY BY 5 PM TUESDAY

REGULAR 'INVENTORY' AVAILABLE NOW... "NO WAITING"

**JEWEL & ULTRA
BP & SPEEDWAY
DUNKIN DONUTS & PANERA**

**January 9, 2011
Baptism of the Lord**

“In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.” - Acts 10:34-35

St. Peter reminds us that from the very beginnings of the Catholic Church everyone was invited to participate. We cannot be an “us” and “them” Church. By our common Baptism, we are all united with Jesus in carrying out His work here on earth. God shows no partiality but He does expect all to be active in living and building up the faith.

SAVE THE DATE!
JANUARY 29, 2011
TRIVIA NIGHT
SPONSORED BY
NINA COUNCIL 3602
LADIES AUXILIARY
MORE INFORMATION TO
FOLLOW NEXT WEEK

Reflections on Today's Readings January 9 Baptism of the Lord

1st Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7.

In this, the first of Isaiah's four "Servant Songs," he prophesies of the One who is to come, the One who will "bring forth justice to the nations." Isaiah's prophecy comes from his Book of Consolation as the time nears for the end of the Babylonian exile. He has already proclaimed to the captives that their redemption is at hand. Now, as he begins building their hopes for the reestablishment of the kingdom, he tells them that the One who will bring about justice for them will be a much different Messiah than they expect.

Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 9-10.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters." The Psalmist sings of the peace with which the Lord blesses his people. The image of water suggests the waters of baptism.

2nd Reading: Acts 10:34-38.

Peter preaches to Cornelius and the people, all Gentiles, assembled at Cornelius' house, of the baptism which John brought and of the baptism with the Holy Spirit and power with which God anointed his Chosen One. God had appeared in a dream to Peter, instructing him to meet with Cornelius and offer him and the Gentiles salvation. Thus, the servant of whom Isaiah prophesied, was formed as "a covenant of the people, a light for the nations."

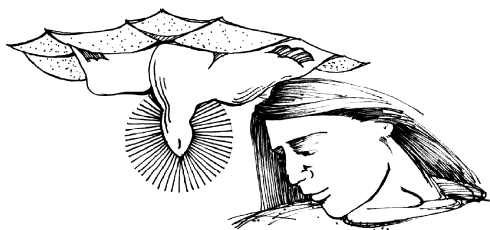
Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17.

Jesus came to John the Baptist at the River Jordan to be baptized. John protested, "I should be baptized by you, yet you come to me!" Jesus answered, "Give in for now. We must do this if we would fulfill all of God's demands." So John gave in. After Jesus was baptized, the sky opened and the Spirit of God descended like a dove and come upon him. A voice from the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son. My favor rests on Him."

John the Baptist was a transition prophet, the last of the Old Testament prophets, of whom he was representative. He stood with one foot in the desert, symbol of the Old Law out of which he came, and the other in the water, symbol of Baptism and gateway to the New Covenant. He heralded the fulfillment of prophecy and the coming of the Messiah in the person of Jesus. All the other Old Testament prophets told their people of the Messiah who was to come. John the Baptist came to tell the people, "Here He is!"

On the Third Sunday of Advent, Jesus told us (Matthew 11:11), "Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." Jesus said this, not to diminish John the Baptist in any way, but to recognize Himself (Jesus) as God's greatest gift of love. The Law, under which John was born, empowered him to cleanse but not to sanctify. We are born of the waters of baptism into Jesus, Son of God; true God and true man. We become the Body of Christ, part of His Kingdom on Earth, and will be a part of His Kingdom in Heaven. Jesus sanctifies us. He shares our humanity with us and, through Him, we share in the very divinity of God. In Christ we have eternal life.

Jesus later told His disciples (Matthew 13:17) how blessed they were to be living in the time when He, the Messiah, was in their midst: "Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."



Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday, January 10

8:00 Willamena Y. Hansen req by
Al Hansen

Tuesday, January 11

8:00 William Emmons req by
Kathy Murphy

Wednesday, January 12

8:00 Lawrence & Genoveva Sauter
& Family

Thursday, January 13

St. Hilary

8:00 Communion Service

Friday, January 14

8:00 Communion Service

Saturday, January 15

Blessed Virgin Mary

5:00 Angelo Principali req by
The Differding Family

Sunday, January 16

8:30 Special Intention Chris Blue req by
Don & Judy Korte
10:30 Arlene Burger req by
The Sagun Family

The Parish Office will be happy to send you a statement of your 2010 contributions for tax purpose. Please call the office @ 748-6891 if you would like a copy. Thank you for your generosity last year.

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, January 15 5:00 am

Lectors

Sally Fortune, Loren Bowns, Sam Bowns

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Eileen Rose, Joe Augustyn, Barbara Principali,
Merle Arr, Bob Steiert, Richard Marvin,
Dolly Mikolajczyk

Cantor

Melva LeBlanc

Altar Servers

Myles Greska, Mike Powers

Sunday, January 16 8:30 am

Lectors

Gerry Berish, Mary Jane Riopelle, Chris Blue

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Pat O'Connor, Dennis Condon,
Deanna Martin, Sara Veldhuizen,
Pat McCartan, Chrys Rudnik, Laurie Miller

Cantor

Marianne Velut

Altar Servers

Kevin Headly, Karen Ertl

Sunday, January 16 10:30 am

Lectors

Raye Warkenthien, Terry Townsend,
Mike Gonzalez

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Denise Douglas, Sevena Merchant,
Lyn Schober, Barbara Ostroski, Sandy Winder,
David Ostroski, Pat Benjamin

Cantor

Helen Silvia

Altar Servers

Stephanie Sagun, Vincent Oganwu Jr.,
Elysia Sawyers



*St. Irenaeus Parish
Coffee and...*

*A gathering of families
and friends in an
atmosphere of
community and
fellowship. Please join*

us in the back of the church.

Date: January 16, 2011

Time: After 8:30 and 10:30 mass

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 - 26 & 27

Budget Information	\$4,650.00
December 26 Collection	\$4,715.00
January 2 Collection	\$5,143.00
Thank you to the 168/114 families who used their stewardship envelopes last weekend.	
Money collected\envelopes	\$4,288.00
	\$4,676.00
Loose Money	\$429.00
	\$517.00
Budget Year to Date	\$125,550.00
Actual Income Year to Date	\$128,910.63
10/11 Budget Surplus	\$3,360.63
Maintenance Fund Dec. 26	\$537.00
Jan. 2	\$1,188.00
Maintenance Fund YTD	\$17,174.00
Collections Prior Fiscal Yrs.	\$358,390.00
Total Collections	\$375,564.00
Total Expenditures	\$321,232.33
Christmas	\$10,120.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$1,348.00

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*

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.

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.

Need prayers?

*Call the St.
Irenaeus Health
Ministry Prayer
Line at 747-0974
with your requests*

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.

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.