

CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —

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the Pillar

St. Irenaeus Parish, Park Forest, Illinois

November 27, 2011 First Sunday of Advent



BE
CONSTANTLY
ON THE
WATCH!

Patience, but I need it now! Have you ever said that prayer? Have you ever been short of patience? Patience is not one of my virtues as my family and friends point out to me all the time. It is an area of my life that needs all the practice and prayer it can possibly handle.

Our theme for Advent/Christmas 2011 is celebrating God's Generous Patience! What is it like for us to consider God as a model of patience? As a model of the one who waits, who stays awake and alert? As the one who wakes us from our slumber? Our God is generous in all things and shows us the way!

This advent let's all take the time and the space to make room for the God of our Lives, the God of our Faith. As Kathy Coffee says in our bulletin insert today, "Come to me during this season-don't be distracted by imposters who don't deserve your attention." Stay ALERT and AWAKE so that the generosity of our God may come to us in new and more exciting ways! Happy Advent!

Fr. Terry

Advent Sacramental Reconciliation Service

*St. Irenaeus Church
Sunday December 11, 2011
2:00 P.M.*



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

Advent/Christmas Schedule

Sunday, November 27, 2011	<i>Advent Evening Prayer</i>	7:00 PM	Church
Sunday, December 4, 2011	<i>Advent Evening Prayer</i>	7:00 PM	Church
Sunday, December 11, 2011	<i>Parish Reconciliation Service Advent Evening Prayer</i>	2:00 PM	Church
Sunday, December 18, 2011	<i>Advent Evening Prayer</i>	7:00 PM	Church
Saturday, December 24, 2011	<i>Family Mass w/Pageant Caroling Vigil of Christmas</i>	5:00 PM	Church
		7:30 PM	Church
		8:00 PM	Church
Sunday, December 25, 2011	<i>Christmas Mass</i>	8:30 AM	Church
		10:30 AM	Church
Saturday, December 31, 2011	<i>Vigil for New Year's Day</i>	5:00 PM	Church
Sunday, January 1, 2012	<i>New Year's Day</i>	8:30 AM	Church
		10:30 AM	Church

This Advent we are offering another form of prayer life for our community to experience in Solemn Evening Prayer, also known as Vespers from the Liturgy of the Hours. We will celebrate Vespers each Sunday evening of Advent at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of the church. Please come add your presence, prayer and voice to this sacred time as we wait in anticipation for the coming of the Christ Child. Worship aids will be available to outline the various parts so there is no need to be familiar with the prayer form ahead of time. Additionally, since Vespers is celebrated in many faith traditions world-wide, please feel free to bring a neighbor or friend with you! If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office, 748-6891.



Retirement Fund for Religious



Share in the Care



Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests need your help. For years, these selfless women and men ministered for little, if any, compensation—educating the young, nursing the sick, promoting justice and peace. Their sacrifices now leave a substantial gap in retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for prescription medications, nursing care, and more. Please Share in the Care and give to those who have given a lifetime.

Christmas Memorial Poinsettia Tree



Since 2001, a ten-foot high red poinsettia tree has adorned our altar on Christmas. Each plant that makes up the tree is purchased by a parishioner in memory

of a loved one then taken home by the donor. The names of all the people you want to remember are printed in a special memory book and kept on the altar until the last day of the Christmas season.

Please order your memorial poinsettia plant now at \$10.00 for each plant. The envelopes are at the side altars. Put your envelope and check in the collection basket by November 27, 2011. We will assemble the Poinsettia Tree at the front altar Christmas Eve morning. You take home your red plant December 25th after the 10:30 Mass. Call Chris Blue for information at 747-2752.

FIRST WEEKEND OF THE MONTH FOOD PROJECT December 3 & 4

Thank you for your ongoing thoughtfulness and provision for the less fortunate. When you do your family's shopping this week, please remember the less fortunate who are unable to provide for enough food to supply even their most basic needs. Dry goods are always welcomed, as are



canned fruits, meats, soups and vegetables. Thank you for whatever you can do.

Our 31st Annual Spaghetti Dinner is now history. Your participation again showed the great spirit of



our parish family. Families and friends from our parish and outside our parish gathered to enjoy an excellent meal, to visit and to enjoy each other's company.

We would like to thank the following for their generous donations: Lain-Sullivan Funeral Home and Crematory, Chicago Dough Company, Solo Cup Company, Mike Jordan State Farm Insurance, Savoia T' Go. A special thanks to all of the people who made monetary donations to offset the cost of purchasing ingredients for our special sauce and our other expenses. We would also offer another special thanks to all the people who donated all of the beer, wine, pop and water that was needed for the bar. Desert makers you did a great job.

We thank all of our volunteer workers who worked so hard together for the success of our Annual Spaghetti Dinner: cooks, set-up crew, servers, bar workers, ticket sellers, students workers and clean-up crew both upstairs and in the kitchen.

We served dinners to 43 children and 335 adults. Our total income from ticket sales, donations, 50/50 raffle and the bar was \$4,204.70. Our total expenses came to \$561.91. The final income to the parish was \$3,642.79.

Thanks again for making the St. Irenaeus Annual Spaghetti Dinner a success.



P.A.D.S

We all know the familiar song “The weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful,” and for most of us that second part is very true. No wonder we can sing out “let it snow, let it snow” as our homes offer warm refuge from the elements and life’s daily stress. But what if there were no inside, no safe, sacred place where we could experience the delightful aspects of home: warmth, comfort, food and drink, a hot shower, family time, relaxation... what if we simply had no home? What if the frightful uncertainty of wondering where we or our families might spend the night was an everyday concern? In today’s economic climate, this is a reality for more and more individuals and families.

For our guests in the P.A.D.S program, the hospitality of St. Irenaeus offers relief from the elements, a safe place to sleep, a good meal to share during conversation with others. Some come for dinner only, some spend the night. Some walk, some get dropped off, some ride bikes, some drive. Some will ask to be awakened during the night so they can get to a night shift on time. All will be given a sack lunch, prepared by our volunteers, to take when they leave. Still more volunteers prepare and serve a hearty breakfast.

This ministry to homeless men, women and children in our midst belongs to the entire parish, not just the dedicated volunteers who already make calls, cook, pick up supplies, or spend part of a Thursday evening once a month at the site. We need your continued prayers, we need donations of men’s crew socks and sample-sized toiletries, especially lotion, deodorant and razors. And we need *you*.

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me...” Is Jesus calling you to service through the needs of our guests? Are you looking to be more involved, to make a direct difference in someone’s life and to support the gospel mission of your faith community? Would you like to pair with someone and work a shift to see if this ministry is for you? Would you like to know more about P.A.D.S? If so, please contact Jim Silvia at 747-0795, Karen Pastore at 747-8735, or Colette Wisnewski at 534-9081. We are already praying you will say *yes!*



November 27, 2011

1st Sunday of Advent

“O Lord... we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.”

- Isaiah 64:7

When we realize that it is God who formed and blessed us, we must also realize that we have an obligation to share our blessings as God intended when He created us. It is not a matter of pointing fingers and asking what others are doing. We need to search our own hearts and ask what we are doing to fulfill God’s plan for us.

Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday, November 28

8:00 Lotteo Balaco req by
Amanda Borkowicz

Tuesday, November 29

8:00 For the souls in Purgatory req by
Rita Oganwu

Wednesday, November 30

St. Andrew

8:00 Marlene Hamill req by
Kathy Hamill

Thursday, December 1

8:00 Communion Service

Friday, December 2

8:00 Communion Service

Saturday, December 3

St. Francis Xavier

5:00 Becie Kennedy req by
The Family

Sunday, December 4

8:30 Patricia McCartan req by
Pat McCartan
10:30 Martha Dalle req by
John Taylor

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, December 3 5:00 pm

Lectors

Loren Bowns, Beverly Helm, Bob Carreras

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Sally Fortune, Dolly Mikolajczyk,
Terri Cardin, Eileen Rose, Jim Silvia,
Richard Marvin, Barbara Principali

Cantor

Faye Predny

Altar Servers

Myles Greska

Sunday, December 4 8:30 am

Lectors

Laurie Miller, Helen Silvia, Chrys Rudnik

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Walter Cooper, Eloise Cooper, Gerry Berish,
Jane Mattio, Dennis Condon, Marilyn Carroll,
Sara Veldhuizen

Cantor

Melva LeBlanc

Altar Servers

Kevin Headly, Michael Rosenquist, Karen Ertl

Sunday, December 4 10:30 am

Lectors

Arthur Bourgeois, Mike Gonzalez,
Raye Warkenthien

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Sevena Merchant, Rita Oganwu,
Vincent Oganwu, Pat Benjamin,
Diane Gonzalez, Kathy Anderson,
Sandy Winder

Cantor

Cathy Williams

Altar Servers

Vincent Oganwu Jr., Stephanie Sagun,
Elysia Sawyers

**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: Call to schedule

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

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

**BUY A MANNA CARD
TODAY!!**
An effortless way to
donate to
St. Irenaeus

Church Stewardship

Budget Information - 21

	\$5,100.00
November 20 Collection	\$4,743.00
Thank you to the 147 families who used their stewardship envelopes last weekend.	
Money collected\envelopes	\$3,936.00
Loose Money	\$807.00
Budget Year to Date	\$107,100.00
Actual Income Year to Date	\$98,577.55
11/12 Budget Shortage	(\$8,522.45)
Maintenance Fund Nov. 20	\$709.00
Maintenance Fund YTD	\$13,635.00
Collections Prior Fiscal Yrs.	\$389,280.00
Total Collections	\$402,915.00
Total Expenditures	\$321,232.33

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



Baptisms are celebrated the first and third weekends of each month. Parents must attend a baptismal preparation session prior to securing a date for their child's baptism. Please call the parish office for further information and/or to sign up for a baptismal prep session.

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
Ann Koranda, Director of Music Ministry
Terri Cardin, Administrative Assistance
Nancy Pfeiffer, Business Manager

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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. 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.