



# the Pillar

*St. Irenaeus Parish, Park Forest, Illinois*

*December 18, 2011 Fourth Sunday of Advent*

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Hail,  
full of grace!  
The Lord is  
with you.



## Ramblings

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God!" With these words the angel made its presence known to the young girl from Nazareth and changed her life forever. An declaration and invitation from the divine, from the creator of the universe! How does a young teenage girl from Nazareth respond to such a request? Is there a choice? Are there other options?

For Mary to say yes to the call from God to be the bearer of the Good News to the world seemed easy, her response was seemingly immediate. But I wonder if she asked Why? I wonder if she asked that the angel go away? I wonder if she doubted her own worth to be the one who gave birth to the Son of God? How many of us have asked the same questions of God? How many of us still ask those questions?

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent as we listen once again to the amazing YES of Mary perhaps we are yet again invited to say YES!...because we all have found favor with God! Meister Eckhart, a fourteenth century mystic says "Every Creature is a word of God." We all are favored in God's sight. We are all children of the God of the universe and are citizens of the cosmos.

As we come to the great feast of the Incarnation may we realize in new and more exciting ways just how we are the Word of God in the flesh, in our full and holy humanity. May the love of God which enlivens our hearts irrigate the universe with a love as vast and expansive as all the cosmos!

"Do not be afraid for you have fond favor with God!

Peace Fr. Terry

### Advent/Christmas Schedule

Sunday, December 18, 2011	<b>Advent Evening Prayer</b>	7:00 PM
Saturday, December 24, 2011	<b>Family Mass w/Pageant</b>	5:00 PM
	<b>Caroling</b>	7:30 PM
	<b>Vigil of Christmas</b>	8:00 PM
Sunday, December 25, 2011	<b>Christmas Mass</b>	8:30 AM
		10:30 AM
Saturday, December 31, 2011	<b>Vigil for New Year's Day</b>	5:00 PM
Sunday, January 1, 2012	<b>New Year's Day</b>	8:30 AM
		10:30 AM



### **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!*

### **MANNA NEWS**

Many thanks to Diane Cash who has worked tirelessly over the last year to get the Manna Project at St. Irenaeus off the ground and running efficiently. Best wishes to Diane for a healthy and happy retirement.



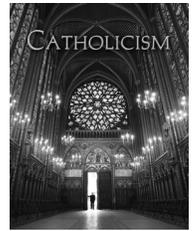
Thank you for your enthusiastic response to our request that you use Manna for your Christmas shopping. Manna gift cards are the answer for your last minute gifts. There is still time to order for Christmas delivery. Your continued support in purchasing Manna will be appreciated.



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 worldwide, please feel free to bring a neighbor or friend with you! If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office, 748-6891.

*Wednesday Morning Faith Sharing Group is using Father Barron's "Catholicism" series.*



*The goal of the program is to educate those inside and outside the faith about what the Catholic Church teaches and why.*

*Come join us every Wednesday Morning at 10:15 am to 11:30 am as we journey with Father Barron in helping us explore the heritage of the faith.*

*Please call the rectory at 708-748-6891 for further information or just drop in on Wednesday morning.*

## Retirement Fund for Religious



Share in the Care



Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

## Retirement Fund for Religious

### Religious give thanks.

A Benedictine nun writes: "We ask God to bless the faithful who made contributions in order to help us in our retirement." Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests offer their heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

## Holiday Office Hours

**December 26th the office will be closed.**

**December 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th the office will be open from 9:00-Noon.**

**January 2nd the office will be closed.**

**January 3rd normal office hours.**

# Office for the Protection of Children & Youth

## 5 Holiday Safety Tips!!

Give the gift of safety this holiday season. As your family begins holiday shopping, take 25 minutes to discuss these important safety tips

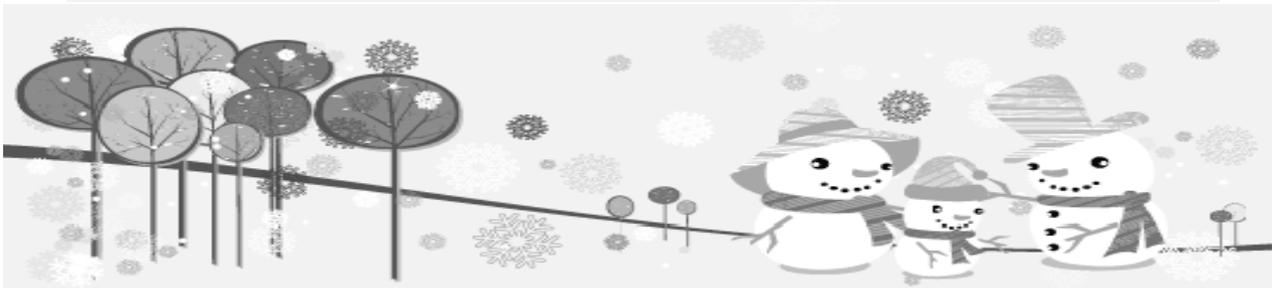
1. Make certain your children know to stay with you at all times while shopping and always **CHECK FIRST** with you or a trusted adult before they go anywhere.
2. If older children become separated from you while holiday shopping, have them meet you in a pre-designated spot such as the sales counter of the store or the mall's information booth.
3. If separated, teach younger children to look for people who may be sources of help within the store or mall such as a uniformed law-enforcement or security officer, store salesperson with a nametag, person with a nametag who is working in the information booth, or mother with children.
4. Make an outing to a mall a "teachable" experience in which children practice checking with you; locating the adults who may be able to help if they need assistance; and, for older children, going to the restroom with a friend.
5. Make certain to never leave children alone at public facilities such as video arcades, movie theaters, or playgrounds as a convenient "babysitter" while they are holiday shopping.

For more Holiday Safety Tips, visit <http://www.missingkids.com>.

**National Center for Missing & Exploited Children**  
699 Prince Street Alexandria, VA, 22314, USA

Office for the Protection of Children & Youth [www.archchicago.org/departments/protection/protection.shtml](http://www.archchicago.org/departments/protection/protection.shtml)

312.534.5254



**December 18, 2011**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*"Do not be afraid, Mary."*

*-Luke 1:30*

It can be a little scary to do as God asks – to give Him the first fruits of our time, talent and treasure. The comforting words the angel spoke to Mary can comfort us, too, when we strive to be good Christian stewards – *"Do not be afraid."*

## Mass Intentions For The Week

### Monday, December 19

8:00 Francis Mesick req by  
The Mesick & Lindecker Family

### Tuesday, December 20

8:00 Dan Ward req by  
Bud Ward

### Wednesday, December 21

#### St. Peter Canisius

8:00 Bernadine M. King req by  
Don & Judy Korte

### Thursday, December 22

8:00 Communion Service

### Friday, December 23

#### St. John of Kanty

8:00 Communion Service

### Saturday, December 24

5:00 The Parishioners of St. Irenaeus  
8:00 The Parishioners of St. Irenaeus

### Sunday, December 25

8:30 The Parishioners of St. Irenaeus  
10:30 The Parishioners of St. Irenaeus

## 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.

## Liturgical Ministers

### Saturday, December 24 5:00 pm

#### Lectors

Religious Education Students, Bill Seifert

#### Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Sandy Winder, Terri Cardin, Sally Fortune

#### Cantor

#### Altar Servers

Michael Rosenquest

### Saturday, December 24 8:00 pm

#### Lectors

Sam Bowns, Vanessa White

#### Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Sara Veldhuizen, Therese Goodrich,

Marilyn Carroll

#### Cantor

Cathy Williams

#### Altar Servers

Myles Greska

### Sunday, December 25 8:30 am

#### Lectors

Mary Jane Riopelle, Chris Blue

#### Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Eileen Rose, Jim Francesconi, Jane Mattio

#### Cantor

Faye Predny

#### Altar Servers

Karen Ertl, Michael Rosenquist

### Sunday, December 25 10:30 am

#### Lectors

Mike Gonzalez, Bill Carreras, Vanessa White

#### Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Vincent Oganwu, Connie Rice, Rita Oganwu,

Diane Gonzalez, Doris Foster

#### Cantor

Lori Schwartz

#### Altar Servers

Vincent Oganwu Jr.



We need Ushers & Greeters at all Liturgies. If you can help please call the rectory 708-748-6891

## ***Church Stewardship***

### **Budget Information - 24**

	<b>\$5,100.00</b>
December 11 Collection	\$4,746.00
Thank you to the 134 families who used their stewardship envelopes last weekend.	
Money collected\envelopes	\$4,066.00
Loose Money	\$680.00
Budget Year to Date	\$122,400.00
Actual Income Year to Date	\$114,253.55
<b>11/12 Budget Shortage</b>	<b>(\$8,146.45)</b>
<b>Maintenance Fund Dec. 11</b>	<b>\$650.00</b>
<b>Maintenance Fund YTD</b>	<b>\$15,664.00</b>
<b>Collections Prior Fiscal Yrs.</b>	<b>\$389,280.00</b>
<b>Total Collections</b>	<b>\$404,944.00</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$321,232.33</b>
<b>Immaculate Conception</b>	<b>\$819.00</b>
<b>Christmas YTD</b>	<b>\$425.00</b>

### ***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.

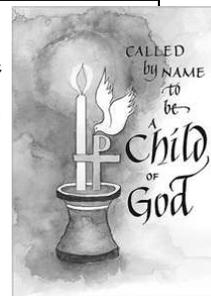
### ***The Sacrament of Marriage***

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

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.