

CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —

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

PHONE —

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Terri Cardin

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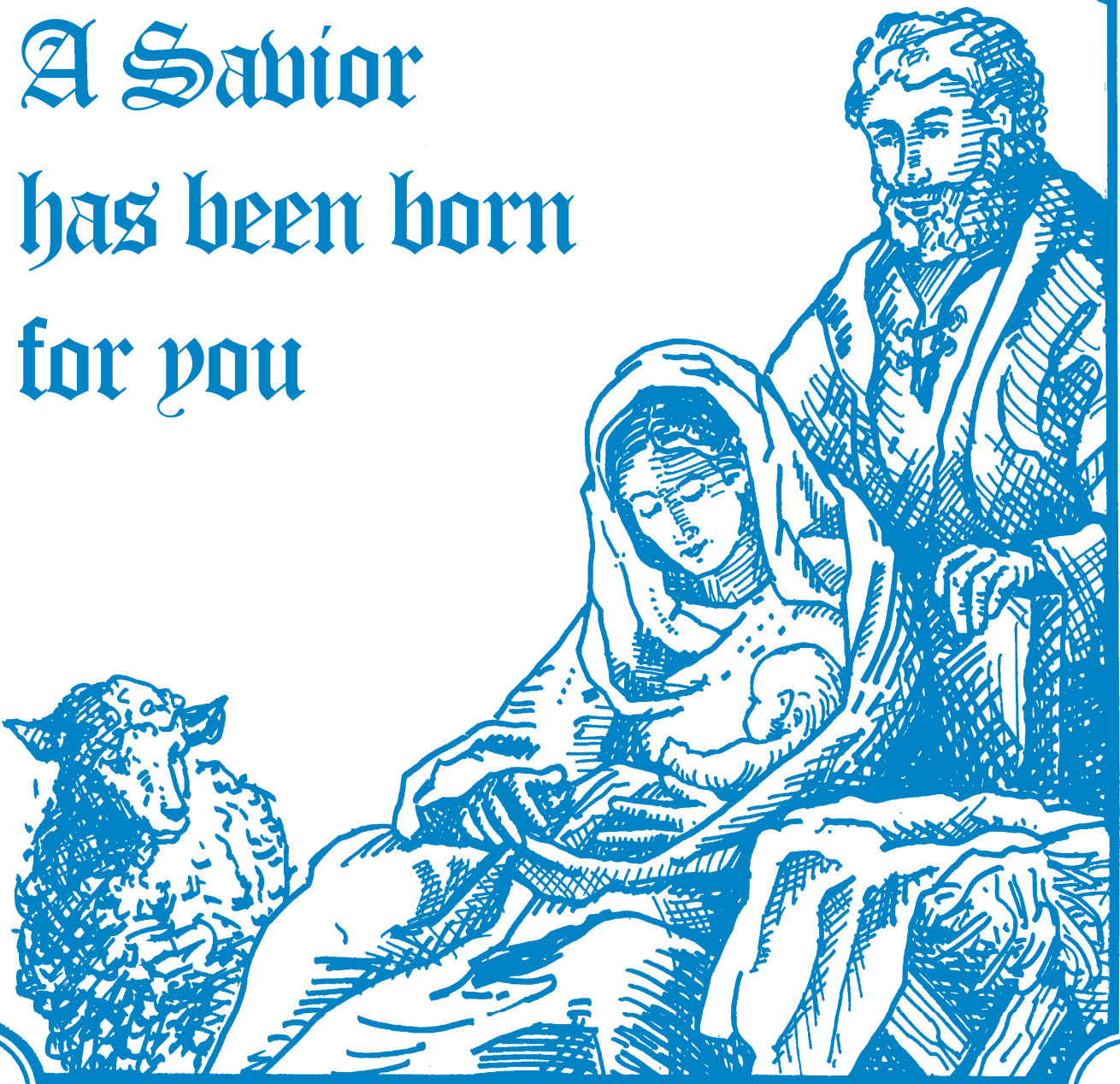


the Pillar

St. Irenaeus Parish, Park Forest, Illinois

December 25, 2011 The Nativity of the Lord

A Savior
has been born
for you



WE ARE FIELDS BEFORE EACH OTHER

How is it they live for eons in such harmony -
the billions of stars -

when most men can barely go a minute
without declaring war in their mind against someone they know.

There are wars where no one marches with a flag,
though that does not keep casualties
from mounting.

Our hearts irrigate this earth.
We are fields before
each other.

How can we live in harmony?
First we need to
know

we are all madly in love
with the same
God.

~ St. Thomas Aquinas ~

(*Love Poems From God: Twelve Sacred Voices from the East and West* by Daniel Ladinsky)

May this Christmas season bring Peace

Comfort

and Hope

...to all those who pray and worship here at St Irenaeus

...to all those for whom this community of faith is a refuge and a home

...to all those in Park Forest with whom we live and play

...to all citizens of our world because we are all madly in love with the same God.

May the blessings and peace of the season continue to live with us for the entire year!
Merry Christmas

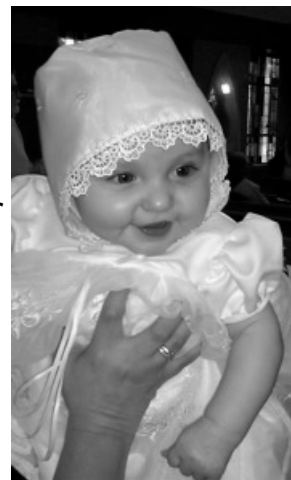
Fr Terry Johnson
Pastor

Our Recently Baptized



We are so blessed lately with the new children being baptized into our community! God is so good! Please welcome little Vanessa Sofia Horner who was baptized on December 4th at our 10:30 mass by Father Terry. Vanessa was accompanied by her proud parents, Randy and Lety and her godparents, grandparents and friends. Please take a

moment to congratulate them when you see them at mass.



In a Feed Box, in a Stable

by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

*In a feed box, in a stable,
Jesus slept upon the hay;
So, our God, you came among us,
Bringing peace on earth that day.
Beautiful upon the mountain!
Christ, you bring us God' s shalom;
May we share your love and justice
In each land and town and home.*

*In a shelter, poor and homeless,
Sleeps a child upon her bed;
In a basement hides a family,
Bombs exploding overhead.
Jesus, you knew want and hunger;
Your own family fled the sword.
May we see you, may we hear you,
In each one oppressed or poor.*

*In the church, we seek your presence;
Prince of Peace, you meet us here:
See! A Person seeking shelter.
See! Another filled with fear.
See! A world where lives are broken;
Give us strength and help us care,
Till our love for every neighbor
Fills each thought and act and prayer*

Tune: Alleluia, Sing To Jesus

ST. IRENAEUS MANNA PROGRAM

Buy A Manna
Gift Card Today!



**The Manna Program provides year-round
fund raising for Saint Irenaeus!**

Hundreds of retail, grocery, specialty stores, restaurants and gas stations
are in the offering.

**By using Manna gift cards, you can give 3% -30% of your
everyday purchases back to the church.**

\$100 Dominick's card (groceries) 4% = \$4

\$50 Wal-Mart card (cleaning supplies, diapers etc.) 2% = \$1

\$25 Speedway Card (gas) 4% = \$1

\$10 Starbucks card 7% = \$.70

TOTAL: \$6.70 per week going back to St. Irenaeus!

x 52 weeks in a year = \$348.40

x 20 families = \$6,968 a year!!!

Together We Can Make A Difference!



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!*

December 25, 2011

Nativity of Our Lord

“She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”- Luke 2:7

Where is Jesus in your life? Have you made room for Him or is He still in the manger wrapped in rags? If we are living our lives like all the rest of the modern and commercial world, we may be leaving Jesus out. It might be time to pick up this Infant Child and make Him a priority in our lives.

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.

Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday, December 26

St. Stephen

8:00 The Deceased Members of the Derrig Family req by The Derrig Family

Tuesday, December 27

St. John

8:00 Chris Predny req by Mom & Dad

Wednesday, December 28

The Holy Innocents

8:00 Robert E. Sella req by Rita L. Sella

Thursday, December 29

St. Thomas Becket

8:00 Communion Service

Friday, December 30

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

8:00 Communion Service

Saturday, December 31

St. Sylvester I

5:00 The Parishioners of St. Irenaeus

Sunday, January 1

8:30 The Parishioners of St. Irenaeus

10:30 The Parishioners of St. Irenaeus

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, December 31 5:00 pm

Lectors

Mary Jane Riopelle

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Sandy Winder, Joe Augustyn

Cantor

Faye Predny

Altar Servers

Michael Rosenquest

Sunday, January 1 8:30 am

Lectors

Chris Blue

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Jim Francesconi, Sara Veldhuizen, Jane Mattio

Cantor

Marianne Velut

Altar Servers

Karen Ertl, Michael Rosenquist

Sunday, January 1 10:30 am

Lectors

Felicia Jones, Vanessa White

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Vincent Oganwu, Rita Oganwu, Doris Foster

Cantor

Cathy Williams

Altar Servers

Vincent Oganwu Jr.

New Year's Schedule

Saturday, December 31, 2011 **Vigil for New Year's Day** 5:00 PM

Sunday, January 1, 2012 **New Year's Day** 8:30 AM

10:30 AM

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.



Church Stewardship

Budget Information - Not Available
\$5,100.00

December Collection \$00

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

Money collected\envelopes \$00

Loose Money \$00

Budget Year to Date \$00

Actual Income Year to Date \$114,253.55

11/12 Budget Shortage (\$8,146.45)

Maintenance Fund Dec. 11 \$00

Maintenance Fund YTD \$00

Collections Prior Fiscal Yrs. \$389,280.00

Total Collections \$404,944.00

Total Expenditures \$321,232.33

Immaculate Conception \$00

Christmas YTD \$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

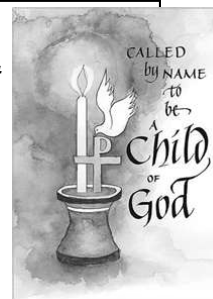
Couples planning to marry must call the rectory at least six months prior to their desired wedding date. All couples must attend a Pre-Cana Conference.

Need prayers?

Call the St.

*Irenaeus Health
Ministry Prayer
Line at 747-0974
with your requests*

The Sacrament of Baptism



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
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.