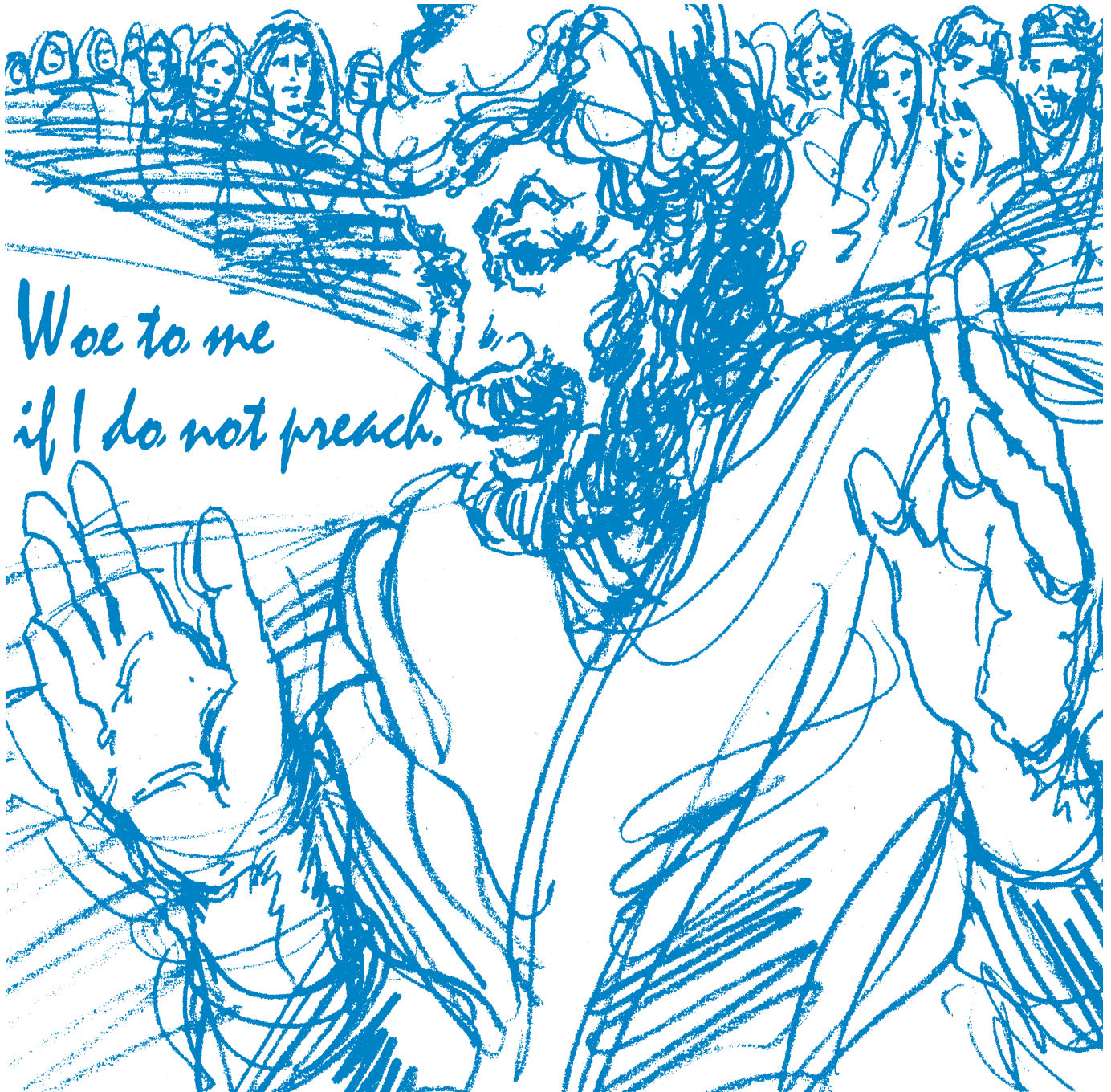




the Pillar

St. Irenaeus Parish, Park Forest, Illinois
February 5, 2012 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



*Woe to me
if I do not preach.*

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

January 2012

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The 2011 Annual Catholic Appeal has raised over \$16,200,000 thus far, continuing the generosity that has characterized the response to the Appeal in recent years. Even in these difficult economic times, we have worked together to raise the funds for the critical work of the agencies and ministries of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Congratulations to each of you – pastors, parish staff members and Annual Catholic Appeal Committee members for the leadership you provide.

I am also pleased to share the good news that many parishes exceeded their goals this year, resulting in rebates to date of nearly \$2,400,000!

This year's Annual Catholic Appeal in the Archdiocese of Chicago has as its theme words drawn from Saint Paul: *Be imitators of Christ!* Because we are his Body, we can truly participate in his generous, compassionate, and healing care of humanity and the world itself.

We come to *know* Christ by spending time with him in prayer, at Mass, and by reading the Scriptures. We learn to *work* with Christ by bringing his love to those who are suffering from loneliness, illness, and ignorance. Through the agencies and ministries of the Archdiocese supported by the Annual Appeal, we act with Christ in bringing reconciliation and healing to this ailing world. We welcome, serve, and support our brothers and sisters on their journey to God. This Appeal helps to sustain Catholic schools, parishes, religious education, ministerial formation, and initiatives for life, peace, and justice. And through its support of Catholic Relief Services, the Appeal serves people worldwide, without regard for religious affiliation, whose lives are devastated by natural disasters, wars and famines.

I trust that each of you share my confidence in the willingness of your parishioners to fund these goals. That is why I ask that in 2012 you continue to work with renewed confidence and thoroughness that will inspire past contributors to renew and increase their support, and engage even more of our parishioners as participants.

You and those you love are in my prayers. Please continue to keep me in yours.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George,
Archbishop of Chicago



Cantor Workshop

Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Time: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Saint Irenaeus Church

**Ann Koranda, Music Director
(708) 748 - 6891**

St. Irenaeus Director of Music Ministry, Ann Koranda and professional vocalist Kathryn Mantoan will be offering a Cantor Workshop on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 from 7-9 PM in the church. If you are musically gifted, are interested in leading the congregation in sung prayer, and would like to attend the workshop, please contact Ann Koranda, Director of Music Ministry at (708) 748-6891 to register.

**All current cantors are strongly encouraged to attend this event.*

Vicariate VI and Catholic Theological Union South Suburban Adult Faith Formation Series 2011-2012

"Preview of the Lectionary for Lent"

Sallie Latkovich, CSJ

Wednesday, February 15, 2012 7-8:30 p.m.

Host Parish: St. Lawrence O'Toole

4101 Saint Lawrence Ave., Matteson, IL 60443

Telephone: 708-748-6090

"Eucharist and Social Justice"

Speaker: Rev. Richard Fragomeni

Monday, March 19, 2012 7-8:30 p.m.

Host Parish: Infant Jesus of Prague Parish

1131 Douglas Ave. Flossmoor, IL 60422

708-799-5400

**Come and take part in this wonderful faith-sharing opportunity with fellow Catholics!
A free will offering will help defray costs for the each evening.**

ST. IRENAEUS MANNA PROGRAM

Buy A Manna Gift Card Today!

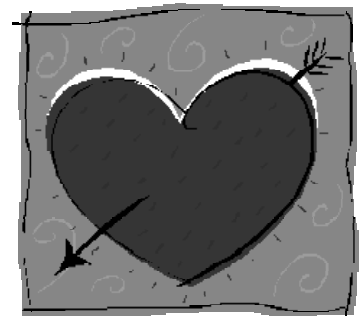
*Don't Forget About
Valentine's Day*



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

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

Let's Make A Difference—together!



St. Irenaeus Parish Life will host
‘A Night At The Races’
Saturday, February 11th 2012
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 \$35.00 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.

February 5, 2012

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed...He told them, ‘Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.’” - Mark 1:35, 38

Through today's Gospel reading we see a perfect example of stewardship. Jesus gives His time to doing all that God wishes - healing the sick and preaching. Yet Jesus also makes time to be alone in prayer. It is only through prayer, through spending time with God, that any of us can find the strength to do all that God wishes us to do. Be sure to find time this week to be with God.

Annual Catholic Appeal 2012

Please spend some time this week reflecting on the Annual Catholic Appeal brochure. While funding a number of Archdiocesan ministries, **the Appeal supports parish ministries that provide religious education to children, youth and adults in economically disadvantaged communities.** It is also one of the largest philanthropic sources of financial assistance for Catholic schools in the Archdiocese.

Please remember that the Annual Catholic Appeal campaign is **much different than a one time special collection. It is a pledge campaign** where you can make a gift payable in installments.

As you review the work enabled by your contribution to the Annual Catholic Appeal, please reflect on God's gifts to you. He has given you all that you have. Your gifts to our parish, to the Archdiocese and to the work of the Church throughout the world are given in gratitude for the continuing gifts that God gives you.

Sometimes it is difficult to envision how one pledge can help an organization the size of our Archdiocese, how it can make a real difference. But each pledge does make a difference because all parishes participate in the campaign and the gifts of many enable our Archdiocese to deliver needed ministries and services.

Our combined gifts not only signify our gratitude to God, they fund a significant portion of the work of our Archdiocese. After our parish goal of \$16,654.00 is reached in cash, 100% of the additional funds come back to our parish to help to fund our needs.

If you received your pledge form in the mail, please complete it and mail it back or bring it to Mass next weekend. For those of you that did not receive a mailing or have not had time to respond to it, we will conduct our in-pew pledge process at all Masses next weekend.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.

Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday, February 6

St. Paul Miki and Companions

8:00 Mary Ann Rosenblum req by
The Meden Family

Tuesday, February 7

8:00 Marlene Hamill req by
Bill Hamill

Wednesday, February 8

St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita

8:00 James R. Clark req by
Don & Judy Korte

Thursday, February 9

8:00 Communion Service

Friday, February 10

St. Scholastica

8:00 Communion Service

Saturday, February 11

Our Lady of Lourdes; Blessed Virgin Mary

5:00 Dominic Cianchetti req by
Bill Hamill

Sunday, February 12

8:30 Donella Cooper req by
St. Irenaeus Parish

10:30 Ollye Worthington req by
St. Irenaeus Parish

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, February 11 5:00 pm

Lectors

Tom Koranda, Bob Carreras,
Mary Jane Riopelle

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Bob Steiert, Sam Bowns, Richard Marvin,
Loren Bowns, Sally Fortune, Eileen Rose,
Barbara Principali

Cantor

Lori Schwartz

Altar Servers

Myles Greska

Sunday, February 12 8:30 am

Lectors

Chrys Rudnik, Gene Schmittgens,
Mary Schmittgens

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Laura Hennessy, Mark Keth, Jim Francesconi,
Sara Veldhuizen, Gerry Berish,
Walter Cooper, Eloise Cooper

Cantor

Faye Predny

Altar Servers

Karen Ertl, Michael Rosenquist, Kevin Headly

Sunday, February 12 10:30 am

Lectors

Terry Townsend, Vanessa White,
Mike Gonzalez

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Pat Benjamin, Sandy Winder,
Kathy Anderson, Richard Guiney,
Doris Foster, Sevena Merchant,
Raye Warkenthien

Cantor

Melva LeBlanc

Altar Servers

Michael Adami, Vincent Adami,
Vincent Oganwu, Jr.

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.



The Parish Office will be happy to send you a statement of your 2011 contributions for tax purpose. Please call the office @ 748-6891 if you would like a copy. Thank you for your generosity last year.

Church Stewardship

Budget Information - 31

\$5,100.00

January 29 Collection \$4,487.00

Thank you to the 129 families who used their stewardship envelopes last weekend. Money collected\envelopes \$3,969.00

Loose Money \$518.00

Budget Year to Date \$158,100.00

Actual Income Year to Date \$145,982.15

11/12 Budget Shortage (\$12,117.85)

Maintenance Fund Jan. 29 \$73.00

Maintenance Fund YTD \$18,442.00

Collections Prior Fiscal Yrs. \$389,280.00

Total Collections \$407,722.00

Total Expenditures \$321,232.33

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.

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
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.

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.