

CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —

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

PHONE —

(708) 748-6891

CONTACT PERSON —

Terri Cardin

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the Pillar

St. Irenaeus Parish, Park Forest, Illinois

August 23, 2009 Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

RCIA

If you or an adult you know is interested in becoming a fully initiated Catholic.

~have never been confirmed.

~have never been baptized.

~have been baptized but never received religious instruction in the Catholic faith.

~have been away from the Church but would like to return.

~want to deepen your faith through a learning and sharing experience.



We have an opportunity for you or someone you know. Starting September 14th, here at St. Irenaeus, **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)** meets at 7:30 on Monday evenings through Pentecost. Call the rectory 748-6891.

Humankind fully alive, is God truly glorified.

St. Irenaeus

BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

August is here (and soon will be gone in a flash). We are all seeing so many advertisements for school supplies, and Fall clothes in the stores.

Our Apple Tree for the Back to School Program for the children of Our Lady of the Garden is not up and in bloom and it is with sadness that it will not be, for Our Lady of the Garden School has been closed and Sister Mary Ann Wiltzius has been transferred to Tennessee. She has written to St. Irenaeus:

“Our children really miss you and the many kindnesses your Parish did for them. St. Irenaeus’ friendship has been a great blessing and we will never forget you. St. Irenaeus Parish has been outstanding in the generous loving response to Jesus’ request to love, serve and help one another.”

In place of the Apple Tree for the Back to School program the parish council is asking for your generosity in helping the children of St. Irenaeus and our neighboring parish’s children from St. Mary’s in Park Forest and St Lawrence O’Toole in Matteson.

A collection for school supplies will take place the weekends of August 22nd and 23rd and August 29th and 30th, to be placed on St. Joseph’s altar. The school supplies will then be distributed to the children of the three parishes.

To The Parishioners,

The family of Roger Cleghorn would like to thank all those that participated in his wake, funeral mass and luncheon on July 25, 2009. It was truly a send off that Roger would have loved. It’s such a comfort to know how many lives he touched and that he was loved by so many. He will be missed by one and all.

Many Thanks,
The Cleghorn Family

Peace & Justice

FairElectionsNow.org

Elections should empower voters and volunteers instead of campaign donors and wealthy special interests. Right now elected officials spend so much time phoning potential donors to their campaigns for office that it's like a second job. In 2008

campaigners for federal office raised \$5 billion with their phone calls.

Our lawmakers should be focusing on doing the job we elected them to do--working to solve our nation's problems--and the Fair Elections Now Act will make it possible for them to do just that.

Our own Senator Dick Durban originated the bipartisan bill that has that has been introduced in both chambers of Congress. It would enable congressional candidates to run for office using small donations and limited public financing, not accepting any contributions larger than \$100 from any individual. Help end the campaign money chase and make elections about voters and volunteers instead of campaign donors and wealthy special interests.

The states of Maine and Arizona already have successful fair election policies in place.

Encourage all your friends and relatives to join the campaign for fair elections.

Sign the petition at FairElectionsNow.org or write to your senators and representatives.

Reflections on Today's Readings August 23 Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Joshua 24:1-2, 15-17, 18.

Joshua is near the end of his life, and his mission to lead the Israelites across the Jordan to occupy the land promised to them by the Lord is completed. He assembles the people for his final act -- to lead them in a renewal of their covenant with the Lord. Since all of the men of military age who began the Exodus died in the desert, he speaks now to their sons and daughters. He acknowledges the presence in the land of other peoples with other gods and their (the Israelites') freedom to serve whom they will. But, he attests, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." The people, acknowledging the Lord's goodness, respond, "We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God."

Psalm 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23.

"Taste and see the goodness of the Lord." The Psalmist sings of the Lord's goodness.

2nd Reading: Ephesians: 5:21-32.

"Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ." Paul preaches that all of our actions should be modeled on Christ's love for His people, the Church. If we see in Paul's admonitions the license to take actions that oppress others or that result in our own self-aggrandizement, we miss the point. Paul asks for a covenant between husband and wife, indeed between all people, in which we see ourselves, and others, as one body in Christ, clothed in Him and in His love for us. That image, which we see in ourselves and in others is the image of Christ dwelling within us all.

Gospel: John 6:60-69.

The disciples who follow Jesus are sons of Abraham; the descendants of Isaac and Jacob; the Chosen People. Their ancestor, Joseph had brought his brothers and their father, Jacob, out of famine in Canaan down into Egypt, where food was abundant.

When a subsequent Pharaoh turned on them, oppressing them and forcing them into slavery, the Lord sent Moses to lead them in exodus, out of Egypt and through the desert, to the Promised Land. It was Moses who gave them the Law; who interceded for them with the Lord; who gave them water and fed them in the desert with bread from heaven.

Now, this Jesus asks them to accept a new covenant. True, He has performed miracles and fed their multitudes. They had been ready to make Him king. But now He has put himself above Moses, claiming, "I myself am the living bread come down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread he shall live forever."

Many of Jesus' disciples leave, unable to accept these words, this covenant. Even the Twelve murmur among themselves in protest. Jesus addresses them: "Do you want to leave me too?" Peter answers, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe; we are convinced that you are God's holy one."

Following Jesus is not always easy. Some of the precepts He asks us to embrace as paradigms for living our lives are difficult for us to accept. At times, the "This is a hard saying" reaction of Jesus' disciples to His claims that "I am the Bread of Life," and "My flesh is true food and my blood is true drink," well up within us. The leap of faith that Peter and the Twelve made is still a challenge to us today as we are witness to the fact that many of those who followed Him have left. But, from the ages, Peter's response, his words of witness that anchored the Twelve to Jesus, echo down to us, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God's."

FIFTH TASTE OF ST. IRENAEUS UPDATE

The following folks have agreed to chair an ethnic table for our event on Sunday, September 20:

Ethnic Table	Chair (Phone)
Jamaican	Rita & Rudolph Thompson (754-8827)
Greek	Helen Funk (747-3536)
American	Mary Jane Riopelle (748-6205), Barb Ostroski (748-7511)
Portuguese	Helen & Jim Silvia (747-0795)
German	Karen Ertl (747-5632)
Eastern European	Diane Cash (363-4082), Tony Melcarz (748-2848)
African American	Doris Foster (481-0930), Sevena Merchant (748-2408)

If you would like to provide a dish for any of these tables, please contact the chairperson directly.

We are still looking for someone to chair these ethnic tables: Mexican, Irish, Italian, Nigerian, Asian and Filipino. If you are interested and can help, please contact Cathy Williams (674-7614), Dolly Mikolajczyk (747-7343) or Terri Cardin (748-6891) ASAP.

All chairpersons are asked to attend one final meeting on Wednesday, September 9, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8 in the R. E. Building. Please have your completed worksheets with you which identify the supplies you will need and the dishes your group will prepare.

Religious Education News

Religious Education classes for 4 yr olds-grade 9 starts Sunday, Sept. 13th at 9:00 a.m. We will begin with an all family prayer service in the gym. You are cordially invited to join us in praying to the Holy Spirit to guide us as we begin the catechetical year.

Parents are the primary educators in the faith. I know I learned about my faith through my parents. We went to Mass together on Sunday. Parents show good examples by their weekly attendance at Mass and by their kindness to family and others. Faith must be taught daily in the family. In a recent article "Parents and Catechists: A Privileged Partnership," Lynanne Lasota said "Catechists are not substitutes for the parents' responsibility of leading their children in the Catholic faith. Rather, catechists support the parents' constant efforts." Parents and catechists work together in the faith development of their children.

Registration for St. Irenaeus Religious Education Program:

Saturday, August 29th after the 5:00 Mass & Sunday, August 30th after the 8:30 & 10:30 Mass.

All above registration will be taken in the family room in the back of church.

You also may register during the day Monday-Wednesday from 8:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M. Call ahead if you plan to register during the day. 748-7997 The day registrations take place in the Religious Education Office.

Sr. Mary Anne

A special thanks to all who participated in the planning and setting up the Parish retreat on Saturday August 15, 2009.

A special thanks goes out to the Hospitality Ministry for providing breakfast and lunch which was enjoyed by all, and to the presider of the Parish Council, Marianne Newton, for all her hard work in making the Parish retreat a success.

Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday, August 24

St. Bartholomew

8:00 The Smith Family req by
Monica Cox

Tuesday, August 25

St. Louis of France; St. Joseph Calasanz

8:00 The Cox Family req by
Monica Cox

Wednesday, August 26

8:00 Steve Cardin req by
Terri & Ben Cardin
Frank & Martha Michalak

Thursday, August 27

St. Monica

8:00 Communion Service

Friday, August 28

St. Augustine

8:00 Communion Service

Saturday, August 29

The Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist

4:00-4:45 Reconciliation

5:00 Roger Cleghorn req by
Bill & Winnie Maune
Special Intention Lujean
Bowens req by Robert M. Neal

Sunday, August 30

8:30 Fr. Dan O'Sullivan req by
Pat McCartan
Virginia L. Hart req by
Don & Judy Korte
10:30 Special Intention Joe
McDonnell req by
The Willford Family

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. When necessary, arrangements can be made for the celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, August 22 5:00 pm

Lectors

Mike Gonzalez, Merle Arr
Jack Osmolski

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Sally Fortune, Richard Mervin
Barbara Principali, Beverly Helm
Virginia Piechocki, Bob Steiert

Cantor

Helen Silvia

Altar Servers

Stephanie Sagun, Elizabeth Hurd

Sunday, August 23 8:30 am

Lectors

Brenda Harris, Gerry Berish
Chrys Rudnik

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Dolly Mikolajczyk, Deanna Martin
Joe Augustyn, Kathy Murphy
Carol McCullough, Dennis Condon

Cantor

Melva Le Blanc

Altar Servers

Myles Greska

Sunday, August 23 10:30 am

Lectors

Adaugo Ugonna, Therese Goodrich
Vanessa White

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Lyn Schober, Jan Pattyn
Rita Oganwu, Valeria Wolff
Connie Rice, David Ostroski

Cantor

Cathy Williams

Altar Servers

Linda & Gary Marron

The Sacrament of Baptism

We celebrate the sacrament of baptism on the fourth Sunday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Parents must attend a baptism preparation session. These sessions are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory. Please call the rectory to make arrangements.

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.

ATTENTION ALL REGISTERED PARISH ADULTS!

If you are interested in becoming a Minister of Care at St. Irenaeus, The Ministry Commission of Vicariate V serving Deaneries C, D, A and E, is offering two separate four-class seminars on Ministry of Care: Theology and Practice (Certification) which meets the Archdiocesan requirements to minister to the sick and homebound members of the parish. Preparation includes such topics as spirituality of ministry, ministry to the aged, the experience of suffering, dying and death, pastoral listening skills, prayer and Eucharist and the theological and practical dimensions of ministry. This seminar provides fresh theology and insights into the practice of the Ministry of Care. Participants must be approved by the Pastor to serve in this ministry.

Ministers of Care bring Communion to the homebound in our parish and to local hospitals. The fee for taking the course is paid for by the parish.

The following classes are being held Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 8, 10, 15 & 17, 2009 from 7:00-9:30 p.m. at St. Patricia Parish. If you are interested in the 2010 classes they are being held Mondays and Wednesdays, February 1, 3, 8, and 10 from 7:00-9:30 p.m. at St. Barnabas Church.

If you would like more information on this ministry and/or are interested in registering for either workshop, please call Deanna Martin, Coordinator of St. Irenaeus' Ministry of Care, at 708-799-4567.

We know that you will find this beautiful ministry very spiritually rewarding.

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

See Pamphlet Rack in front entrance of Church for more references

"PEACE: How Do We Get There?"

Make plans now to attend the conference, "PEACE: How Do We Get There?" in recognition of International Day of Peace on Saturday, September 26th, in Flossmoor. The event will consist of 5 hour-long presentations and activities for adults and young people focused on peace-building and conflict resolution. Come for the whole day or just one session. Sessions begin at 10:30. The second session will be a brown-bag lunch discussion at 11:30, and the fifth session will end at 3:30. From 3:30 to 4pm, get acquainted with other Chicago-area peace groups. Generations for Peace will host the conference at the Flossmoor Public Library, 1000 Sterling Ave., Flossmoor, IL 60422. Call 708-798-2868 for more information.

September 11, 2001

Everyone remembers where and what they were doing on September 11, 2001. Let us remember this date by attending the 8th Annual Peace Rosary at St. Irenaeus on Friday, September 11, at 7:00 p.m. If anyone is interested in reciting one of the mysteries, please contact Barbara Jo Ostroski at 748-7511.

Church Stewardship

Budget Information - 7

Budget Information	\$4,650.00
August 16 Collection	\$4,446.00

Thank you to the 140 families who used their stewardship envelopes last weekend.

Money collected/envelopes	\$3,924.00
Loose Money	\$522.00

Budget Year to Date	\$32,550.00
Actual Income Year to Date	\$31,119.94

09/10 Budget Shortage (\$1,430.06)

Maintenance Fund Aug 16 \$375.00

Maintenance Fund YTD \$4,266.00

Collections Prior Fiscal Yrs.\$325,363.00

Total Collections \$329,629.00

Total Expenditures \$269,616.83

Mission Co-op \$2,547.00

Welcome to St. Irenaeus Church

78 Cherry St.
Park Forest, IL 60466
Rectory Phone, 748-6891

We are pleased to have you celebrate God's Eucharist with us. Place this completed form in the offering basket.

- () I am new to this area and interested in joining the parish.
- () I would like more information about the parish's _____ ministry.

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

"Humankind fully alive is God truly glorified." St. Irenaeus

St. Irenaeus Ministerial Staff
Rectory Phone: 748-6891
Religious Education Center
Phone: 748-7997

Rev. Terry Johnson, Administrator
Joe & Judy McDonnell, Deacon Couple
Deanna Martin, Lay Minister
Robert Neal,
Director of Music Ministry
Terri Cardin, Parish Secretary
Sr. Mary Anne Yanz, O.P.
Director of Religious Education
Web-site www.stirenaeuschurch.com
E-Mail stirenaeus@archchicago.org

Need prayers?

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