

CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —

St. Irenaeus #485
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Park Forest, IL 60466

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the Pillar

St. Irenaeus Parish, Park Forest, Illinois

September 6, 2009 Twenty-third 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

The Administrators Ramblings

When September arrives it signals new beginnings, a new year of learning for the students among us, both young and old. It offers us the opportunity to return to our routines that hopefully have been slower and easier and more restful than usual during the summer just coming to an end. It is the time when the life of the parish begins to come to life. It is a blessed time, a time of great promise and a time of new growth and challenges.

In the scriptures this weekend Jesus continues to heal, cure and bring new life to the people of his day. He boldly declares to the deaf man “Ephphatha” or “Be Opened”. What a bold and confident statement. This magnificent proclamation changed the deaf man, the command and touch resonated so deeply with the deaf man that it moved him to some profound recognition of just who this man Jesus was. Jesus called out from the deaf man what was already there, a depth of faith and a way of being with God. It was not something that the deaf man “lacked” but something that needed to be called forth!

It is the same with us! Deep inside us, deep within our hearts resides the connection with the divine, with the mystery we call God that makes us who we are as people of faith, as members of the body of Christ. It is in the midst of this exhilarating way of being that we come to know Jesus. It is in the midst of this incredibly awesome experience of God’s presence in one another that we become the Body of Christ for each other. As we journey together in faith this week may we recognize the times when we have been amazed at the presence of God in each other and in our universe. May we continually be astonished by each other as we live as the Body of Christ in this place.

Tomorrow we celebrate Labor Day and we give thanks for the work we do, we pray for those who are unemployed and remember all who so generously give of their time, talent and treasure here at St. Irenaeus. September 20 will be the Taste of St Irenaeus. Let’s all plan to attend and celebrate the diversity and faith of this wonderful place.

Religious Education classes begin on September 13. Please pray for all the students and catechists as they begin another year of faith formation. If you know of any families on your block or in your neighborhood please invite them to come join us!

HOUSING OPPORTUNITY FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

During the past year, ST. IRENAEUS PARISH and CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF CHICAGO signed a cooperative agreement to assist homeless families in the Park Forest area. Recently, Catholic Charities asked for referrals of homeless families in St. Irenaeus and surrounding areas to New Hope Apartments, a two-year transitional housing program administered by Catholic Charities. To qualify, a homeless family must be living in a shelter, on the street, or residing temporarily in a hotel or motel.

Prompting Catholic Charities call for homeless applicants are upcoming vacant apartment units in New Hope Apartments. This is an opportunity for St. Irenaeus parishioners to reach out to homeless families in our community and invite them to take advantage of this unique housing opportunity. If interested, the homeless family should call the parish rectory and provide their first name, the number of persons in the family, and a means to contact the family.

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.

Peace & Justice

Confronting global poverty means improving international assistance to promote human development and help people in need. Our action to confront global poverty must flow from prayer. Stop a moment & reflect on Matthew 25:37-40.

The following is a statement from The Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1997, Part 3, Section 2, Chapter 2, Article 7, n. 2439.

"Rich nations have a grave moral responsibility toward those which are unable to ensure the means of their development by themselves or have been prevented from doing so by tragic historical events. It is a duty in solidarity and charity; it is also an obligation in justice if the prosperity of the rich nations has come from resources that have not been paid for fairly."

How is funding for international assistance an extension of our solidarity with the "face of Christ" seen in poor persons in other parts of the world?

Let your prayer move you to action. To learn more about this issue and to take action, visit

www.usccb.org/globalpoverty or www.crs.org/globalpoverty.

Reflections on Today's Readings September 6 Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7.

"Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared." Isaiah's oracle gives hope, comfort and the promise of redemption to the Israelites in captivity in Babylon. These are the messianic signs that their descendants will see fulfilled in Christ. Isaiah's poetry is "traveling music." It is reminiscent of the Exodus experiences of their ancestors when they were delivered from being "enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years" by the Pharaohs in Egypt. The Israelites of Jesus' time wait in hope for the Messiah of prophecy. Some of them hope for a Messiah of power and might who will reestablish the nation of Israel to its former glory. But many of them look for a Messiah who bring them a new Passover and a new Exodus to a new Jerusalem.

Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10.

"Praise the Lord, my soul!" The Psalmist sings in praise of the mercy and redemptive powers of the Lord: "He gives sight to the blind."

2nd Reading: James 2:1-5.

James brings a pragmatic approach to our religion. He repeatedly asks us what good our religion is if all our worship does is make us feel good about ourselves. He brings home to us a most difficult and all too often neglected part of Christ's message: "Did not God choose those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom He promised to those who love Him?" Do we welcome the poor and disadvantaged of our community into our liturgies with the same zeal that we welcome those with "gold rings?"

Our liturgy is designed to prepare us to go into the world and do the Lord's work. We should really treat the end of our liturgical celebration as a beginning. The words of the dismissal challenge us

to "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." Do we serve the Lord as he asks us to serve him? Do we treat the least of his people with the deference and respect that we treat the "fashionably dressed?"

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37.

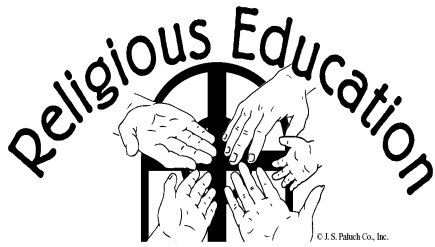
"He has done everything well! He makes the deaf hear and the blind see." Jesus has taken a circuitous route through Tyre and Sidon to the Decapolis, the District of the Ten Cities, on the east side of the Sea of Galilee. This is pagan territory! Here the people are amazed "beyond all bounds" when Jesus cures a man both deaf and mute. They recognize the miracle even though they do not understand that it is a sign of the fulfillment of Isaiah's Messianic oracle. Jesus' own people, the ones to whom He was sent, recognize the Messianic signs, but refuse to believe that they could be fulfilled in one known to them as "Joseph's son." Recall that the Scripture passage we heard today as our first reading is the one Jesus read in the Synagogue at Nazareth when He arrived there. After reading it, He announced (Luke 4:21), "Today, this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." His neighbors were initially impressed, but when He cited several instances in which prophets were sent to pagans, implying that they were more deserving people, the neighbors responded by trying to throw him over a cliff to His death. Jesus, in healing the deaf mute, reminds us that He is the fulfillment of Isaiah's oracle: "He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the broken-hearted." The site of the healing, in pagan territory, is a sign early in Jesus' ministry that He came as a "light for all nations." We who have ears to hear must also listen to His message. All His people are equal in His eyes.



Wednesday Morning Scripture Sharing

The Wednesday Morning Scripture Sharing Group begins its regular meetings (10:15 AM to 11:30 AM) on Wednesday, September 9. Brant Pitre, Phd, Professor of Sacred Scripture at Loyola University in New Orleans, will present (on compact discs) selected texts from John's Gospel and other Old and New Testament Scriptures to give us a vivid image and appreciation of Our Lord's

Presence in the Eucharist. Our discussions are very basic, requiring no prior knowledge of Scripture. Bibles and all other needed materials will be furnished. If you have questions or need more information, please call Merle Arr @ 708-748-7465 or Sylvia Lindecker @ (708) 747-8313. We welcome all our current members and anyone interested in Scripture to join us



Registration:

We are taking registration for our Religious Education program during the week-Tuesday, September 8th from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 12 noon-5 p.m. I will also take registration on Saturday, September 12th from 10 a.m.-12 noon in the religious education office. Please call ahead if you plan to register at 748-7997. If you know of any friends or neighbors who attend public school and belong to our church, please invite them to come to our religious education program.

Catechetical Sunday

Sunday, September 20th at the 10:30 a.m. Mass:

The theme of Catechetical Sunday is Catechesis and the Proclamation of the Word. At this Mass our catechists, RCIA team, Liturgy of the Word for Children, SPRED catechists and Bible Study leaders will be commissioned. We encourage families of our Religious education program to attend this liturgy.

Thank you to our catechists who came to a recent meeting with Fr. Terry. It was a very profitable meeting. I am proud that we have good catechists in our program who give their time and love for the children.

Sr. Mary Anne

Annual Fall Job Fair

Free and Open to the Public

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Prairie State College Business & Community Education Center
202 South Halsted Street
Chicago Heights, Illinois**

**Mass Intentions
For The Week**

Monday, September 7

8:00 Patricia McCartan req by
The Family

Tuesday, September 8

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 Kirk Pierce req by
The Cardin Family

Wednesday, September 9

St. Peter Claver

8:00 Deceased Members of the
Guthrie, Jordan & O'Connor
Families
Frank T. Michalak

Thursday, September 10

8:00 Communion Service

Friday, September 11

8:00 Communion Service

Saturday, September 12

Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Blessed Virgin Mary

4:00-4:45 Reconciliation

5:00 Roger Cleghorn req by
Joe & Judy McDonnell
Douglas Sims req by
Joe & Judy McDonnell

Sunday, September 13

8:30 David Newhuis req by
Rosemary & Children
Jeanne Goehler req by
The Family
10:30 Peter Rubinas req by
The 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, September 5 5:00 pm

Lectors

Jan Pattyn, Merle Arr
Mike Gonzalez

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Dolly Mikolajczyk, Judy McDonnell
Sally Fortune, Beverly Helm
Richard Marvin, Bob Steiert

Cantor

Melva LeBlanc

Altar Servers

Vincent Oganwu, Stephanie Sagun

Sunday, September 6 8:30 am

Lectors

Helen Silvia, Eleanore Burns
Mary Jane Riopelle

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Chris Rudnik, Joe Augustyn
Dennis Condon, Kathy Murphy
Carol McCullough, Deanna Martin

Cantor

Faye Predny/Marianne Velut

Altar Servers

Karen Ertl, Kevin Headley

Sunday, September 6 10:30 am

Lectors

Courtney Saenz, Phil Schwartz
Agnes Caruso

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Sandy Winder, Kathy Anderson
Sevena Merchant, Linda Marron
Gary Marron, Raye Warkenthein

Cantor

Altar Servers

Ale Rivas, Joey Saenz

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.

PADS SEASON AT ST. I's WILL BEGIN THURS. OCT. 1st. 2009

St. I's Needs your assistance for the 2009-2010 season.

We need volunteers to help staff the site and for back-up.

As in past seasons we are in need of white tube or crew socks (no low ankle type please). The blue bins are in the church to accept your donations. We also need personal products. For more information see the PADS ministry pamphlets in the back of the church, along with volunteer forms. We will need a person or persons to take linens to South Suburban hospital on Friday mornings and someone to pick up clean linens. Pay us a visit if you are not sure that you want to volunteer or not.

The St. I's food meal donations will be done differently this season along with Friday morning clean up. We are asking for monetary donations to purchase the food for a meal and aid in clean up expenses. More on this later.

Questions please contact the rectory and they will have someone call you back.

Last year we provided shelter and meals to over one thousand guests and we are expecting more this season. Please help those less fortunate and consider volunteering! We have all heard can you spare a dime, now we are adding spare some time!

Thank you, The guests that will use PADS

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

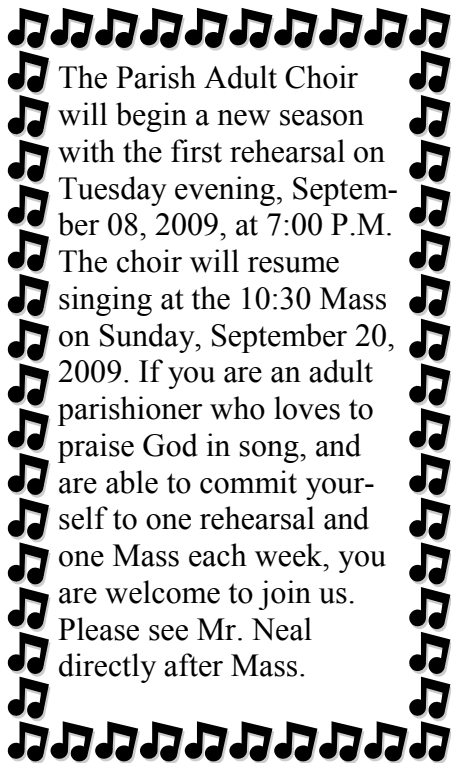
So. Sub. Family

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



The Parish Adult Choir will begin a new season with the first rehearsal on Tuesday evening, September 08, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. The choir will resume singing at the 10:30 Mass on Sunday, September 20, 2009. If you are an adult parishioner who loves to praise God in song, and are able to commit yourself to one rehearsal and one Mass each week, you are welcome to join us. Please see Mr. Neal directly after Mass.

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

Remember 9/11

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 - 9

Budget Information	\$4,650.00
August 30 Collection	\$3,772.00
Thank you to the 117 families who used their stewardship envelopes last weekend.	
Money collected/envelopes	\$2,981.00
Loose Money	\$791.00
Budget Year to Date	\$41,850.00
Actual Income Year to Date	\$39,113.94
09/10 Budget Shortage	(\$2,736.06)
Maintenance Fund Aug 30	\$198.00
Maintenance Fund YTD	\$4,697.00
Collections Prior Fiscal Yrs.	\$325,363.00
Total Collections	\$330,060.00
Total Expenditures	\$269,616.83

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

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