

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*

*September 13, 2009 Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

## **RCIA**

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

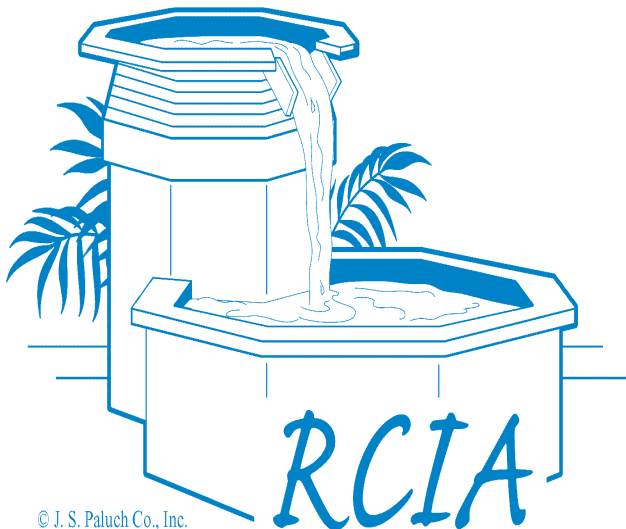
~have never been confirmed.

~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**

This is an extremely important day in the life of St Irenaeus Parish! Today the Religious Education Program begins with its first class! The gospel this weekend asks the question "Who do people say I am"? It is the task of the faith community to journey with each other as we seek to answer the question for ourselves! It is through our walking with each other that we come to know who Jesus is for us. It is through praying and worshipping together as a community of faith that we come to know how Jesus reaches into our hearts and brings us God's love and compassion. It is our shared baptismal call to that inspires us to minister at the Lord's table, to bring the body of Christ to the sick and homebound, to open our Religious Education center to shelter and feed the homeless, to hold each other in prayer as the people of God!

This is the task of Religious Education. This is the task of catechesis. This is the task of the whole body of Christ who come to share in One Lord, One Faith and One Baptism. May we all work together at building up the body of Christ now and always!

Next Sunday is the Taste of St Irenaeus. The gala begins at Noon and continues until 2:00 pm...ALL ARE WELCOME! Come and share in the diversity that unites us in faith and some good food will be served too! There is plenty good room!

Keep watch for further details about the Religious Education fundraiser. There will be brochures at the back of church if you would like to assist in the efforts. It would be a great way to begin your Christmas shopping early!

The annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held October 25 from 2:00 P M to 6:00 P M

This past week the drains in the parking lot were repaired. There were two lines that were collapsed which caused the water to not drain properly.

Also the rectory roof was replaced. There were several spots where it was leaking. Thank you for your patience as these projects were completed.

## **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)
Italian	Victoria Merlo (704-7759)
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)
Irish	Susan Brown-Barber (481-4415)
Chinese	Biyng Huang (363-4082)

If you would like to provide a dish for any of these tables, please contact the chairperson directly. However, if you have a dish that doesn't fall into any one of aforementioned ethnicities, we will have an INTERNATIONAL table to accommodate all other dishes (Mexican, Filipino, Asian, etc.) You get the idea. We only ask that you bring your dish to the TASTE on Sunday by no later than 11:30 a.m.

## Peace & Justice

### From Friends Committee on National Legislation:

For 30 years, the United States has been trying to coerce Iran through sanctions. It hasn't worked to resolve any of the outstanding conflicts between the U.S. and Iran -- so why does Congress think it will work now?

Hundreds of U.S. representatives have cosponsored a bill that would block gasoline exports to Iran. Rep. Howard Berman (CA), the bill's sponsor, argues that the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act (H.R. 2194) will pressure Iran to comply with U.S. demands.

In reality, the legislation would reduce the chances that Iran will continue to allow international inspections of its nuclear program and could endanger U.S. efforts to stabilize Iraq and Afghanistan, where Iran has substantial influence. New sanctions would undermine efforts to develop a good relationship between the United States and Iran.

## Reflections on Today's Readings September 13 Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### **1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9.**

"The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced." This is the third of the four Servant Songs that appear in Second Isaiah, Chapters 40 to 55 of Isaiah's prophecy. Second Isaiah, which is also called "The Book of Consolation, comes near the end of the Babylonian Exile. The oracles in Second Isaiah begin to prepare Israel for their reconciliation with God and their return to the homeland. Isaiah's Suffering Servant, by patiently and humbly enduring suffering, carries out God's will, not only saving Jews but justifying all of sinful humankind. After Christ's death and resurrection, His followers returned to Isaiah's prophecy and reinterpreted the Servant Songs. They came to realize that these were part of the Messianic prophecy of the Messiah which was fulfilled in the coming of Christ among them.

### **Psalm 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9.**

"Gracious is the Lord and just.....I was brought low and he saved me." The Psalmist sings of God's raising up Christ to glory after he met an ignominious death at the hands of men.

### **2nd Reading: James 2:14-18.**

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?" James gets to the essence of the question whether salvation comes through faith or good works. He teaches essentially what Paul later taught, that salvation comes as a gift from God, freely given. But the "proof of the pudding" is whether, in calling on the name of the Lord for salvation, our lives are transformed so that we act in emulation of Christ, become more Christ-like. If our lives have not changed, if we are not reborn in Christ and serve Him in the least of His people, then we have not really become an active member of the Body of Christ.

The joint Catholic-Lutheran declaration on justification, closely paraphrasing Paul's teaching to

the Christian Community at Ephesus (Ephesians 2:8-11), states "By grace alone, in faith in Christ's saving work and not because of any merit on our part, we are accepted by God and receive the Holy Spirit, who renews our hearts while equipping and calling us to good works." It takes both faith and works! But the works do not earn justification; they come as a consequence of faith, as a manifestation of faith, in the actions we take to be more Christ-like.

### **Gospel: Mark 8:27-35.**

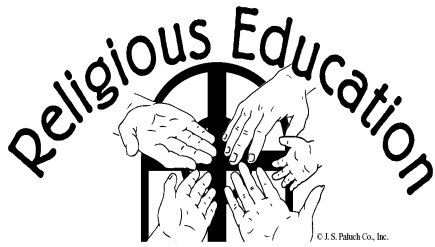
"Who do people say that I am?" Christ asks this question of His disciples. They answer with the opinions they have heard from the people in the crowds following Jesus. Their conjectures include that He may be Elijah, John the Baptist, or one of the prophets. Then Christ asks them the critical question, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter, acting as usual in the leadership roll, answers for himself and the Eleven: "You are the Christ." When Jesus tells them what He will suffer, though, Peter is unable to accept a suffering servant as his Messiah. Jesus rebukes Peter, telling him that he is thinking not as God thinks but as a human thinks.

We need to ponder carefully the question, "Who is Christ?" The question is not, "Who does your priest say Christ is." Nor is the question, "Who do the religious writers say Christ is." We know all the right answers to those questions: He is our salvation. He came among us as true man to suffer and die that we might have a share in His divinity. Through His sacrifice, He restored the bonds of trust and love between humankind and God that were ruptured by the disobedience of Adam and Eve. It is through Him that we come to the Father. He freely gives us the grace, the love, in which we are accepted by God. Yes, we know all that, but the real question is to look deep into your heart and bring up the answer to, "Who do YOU say Christ is. -- Where does He fit in your life?"

## **That We May Have Priests...**

Mundelein Seminary, as Cardinal George so proudly proclaims, is one of the finest major seminaries in the world. This year 79 men are preparing to be priests for the Archdiocese of Chicago. Your support enables us to provide these young men with the educational and spiritual formation necessary to face the challenges of priesthood. Because of you, the healing touch of Jesus will live through the work of these future priests for you, your children and your grandchildren, well into this century.

The Collection for the Seminary System for the Archdiocese of Chicago  
September 26-27, 2009



**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.

Our religious education classes start this Sunday, September 13th with a prayer service in the gym. Our catechists for 2009-2010 are: 4 yr. olds –Alexis Celani, Kdg.-Dolores Cave, Grade 1-Matt Grzeskowiak, Grade 2-Victoria Merlo, Grade 3-Renee Rossi, Grade 4-Dawn Hurd, Grade 5-Diane Gonzalez, Grade 6-Jan Pattyn, Grade 7/8-Stephanie Holm and the Confirmation group-Ed Carriel and Kim Safran. We are proud of our catechists and their willingness to teach the students at St. Irenaeus.

The Taste of St. Irenaeus is September 20th and each family in our religious education program is being asked to bring one dessert for this event. The dessert can be dropped off by 11:30 a.m. and put on the dessert table.

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 14**  
**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**  
8:00 Anna May Fischer req by  
Ed & Mary Anne Fischer

**Tuesday, September 15**  
**Our Lady of Sorrows**  
8:00 Eugene F. Korte req by  
Don & Judy Korte

**Wednesday, September 16**  
**St. Cornelius and St. Cyprian**  
8:00 Charlotte B. Callahan req by  
The Family

**Thursday, September 17**  
**St. Robert Bellarmine**  
8:00 Communion Service

**Friday, September 18**  
**Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New  
Year 5770) begins at sunset**  
8:00 Communion Service

**Saturday, September 19**  
**St. Januarius; Blessed Virgin Mary**  
4:00-4:45 **Reconciliation**  
5:00 Mary V. Predny req by  
The Joseph Smith Family

**Sunday, September 20**  
8:30 John Munighan  
10:30 Mark Russakoff req by  
The Choir  
Special Intention Linda &  
Gary Marron 10th Wedding  
Anniversary

**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 12 5:00 pm**  
**Lectors**  
Tim Blumenthal, Sally Fortune  
Judy McDonnell

**Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist**  
Marilyn Carroll, Merle Arr  
Virginia Piechocki, Brenda Harris  
Jim Silvia, Barbara Principali  
**Cantor**  
Cathy Williams

**Altar Servers**  
Jackie Rivas, Jack Osmolski

**Sunday, September 13 8:30 am**  
**Lectors**  
Harlan Smith, Chris Blue  
Beverly Helm

**Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist**  
Patrick McCartan, Richard Thomas  
Laura Hennessy, Gerry Berish  
Pat O'Connor, Chrys Rudnik  
**Cantor**  
Faye Predny

**Altar Servers**  
Karen Ertl, Kevin Headley

**Sunday, September 13 10:30 am**  
**Lectors**  
Del Sagun, Stephanie Sagun  
Bill Carreras

**Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist**  
Doris Foster, Valeria Wolff  
Barbara Ostroski, Jan Pattyn  
Connie Rice, David Ostroski  
**Cantor**  
Helen Silvia

**Altar Servers**  
Myles Greska

**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.

## Remember the Homeless



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### 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) and inexpensive hand towels and wash cloth. 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.

Should you have questions please contact the rectory and someone will call you back.

Last year we provided shelter and meals to over one thousand guests and we are expecting more this season. Please help your fellow human beings who are in need. 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

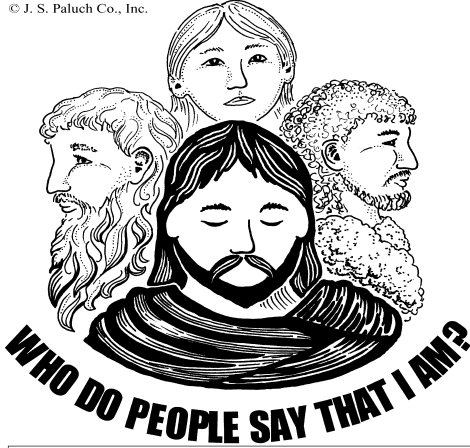
Shelter Domestic  
Violence  
708-335-3028

#### So. Sub. Council on

Alcoholism and  
Substance Abuse  
708-647-3333

See Pamphlet Rack in  
front entrance of  
Church for more  
references

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**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](http://www.stirenaeuschurch.com)  
E-Mail [stirenaeus@archchicago.org](mailto:stirenaeus@archchicago.org)

### Church Stewardship

#### Budget Information - 10

**Budget Information \$4,650.00**

September 6 Collection \$4,748.00

Thank you to the 143 families who used  
their stewardship envelopes last weekend.

Money collected/envelopes \$4,276.00

Loose Money \$472.00

Budget Year to Date \$46,500.00

Actual Income Year to Date \$43,845.94

**09/10 Budget Shortage (\$2,638.06)**

**Maintenance Fund Sept. 6 \$1,000.00**

**Maintenance Fund YTD \$5,697.00**

**Collections Prior Fiscal Yrs. \$325,363.00**

**Total Collections \$331,060.00**

**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**