

CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —

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

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SOFTWARE —

Microsoft Publisher 2002
Adobe Acrobat 5.0
Windows XP Professional

PRINTER —

HP LaserJet 1000 Series

TRANSMISSION TIME

Thursday 10:00 AM

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT —

Cover through 5

SUNDAY DATE OF BULLETIN —

October 4, 2009

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS —

The Administrators Ramblings

“When the appointed day arrived, St. Clare left her convent with great joy, taking with her one of her sisters, and followed by the companions of St. Francis. She arrived at St Mary of the Angels, and having devoutly saluted the Virgin Mary, before whose altar her hair had been cut off, and she had received the veil, they conducted her to the convent, and showed her all over it. “In the meantime St. Francis prepared the meal on the bare ground, as was his custom. The hour of dinner being arrived, St. Francis and St. Clare, with one of the brethren of St. Francis and the sister who had accompanied the saint, sat down together, all the other companions of St. Francis seated humbly round them. When the first dish was served, St. Francis began to speak of God so sweetly, so sublimely, and in a manner so wonderful, that the grace of God visited them abundantly, and all were rapt in Christ. “Whilst they were thus rapt, with eyes and hearts raised to heaven, the people of Assisi and of Bettona, and all the country round about, saw St. Mary of the Angels as it were on fire, with the convent and the woods adjoining. It seemed to them as if the church, the convent, and the woods were all enveloped in flames; and the inhabitants of Assisi hastened with great speed to put out the fire. “On arriving at the convent, they found no fire; and entering within the gates they saw St. Francis, St. Clare, with all their companions, sitting round their humble meal, absorbed in contemplation; then knew they of a certainty, that what they had seen was a celestial fire, not a material one, which God miraculously had sent to bear witness to the divine flame of love which consumed the souls of those holy brethren and nuns; and they returned home with great consolation in their hearts. “After a long lapse of time, St. Francis, St. Clare, and their companions came back to themselves; and, being fully restored by the spiritual food, cared not to eat that which had been prepared for them; so that, the holy meal being finished, St. Clare, well accompanied, returned to San Damiano.”

As we celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi this story of Eucharist with his beloved St. Clare offers us a model for our life together in community. As we gather as the Body of Christ around the table of the Lord and as we listen and proclaim the Word of God we are transformed and created anew in the energy of God’s love. In the story of Francis and Clare it is expressed as fire, in our lives it is expressed as outreach, concern, attentiveness and compassion for one another. It is expressed as a deep connectedness to Earth and all that inhabits the planet. It is an interrelatedness to our brothers and sisters around the globe as we stand in solidarity with each other in faith and justice. May St Francis be a model of peace and compassion for us all. St Francis of Assisi, pray for us!

P.S. I am with good friends and celebrating the baptism of their first child Saturday afternoon. Many thanks to Fr. Ron for helping out!

Lord’s Landscapers

Have you ever wondered who is responsible for cutting the grass, planting the flowers, pulling the weeds around our parish grounds? Well, for your information, there are only a handful...six, to be exact...of parishioners who volunteer their time to do just that. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to keep the grounds looking good. (And these same folks have their own home properties to take care of as well.)

It would be great if we could afford professional landscapers to cut the grass weekly and keep up with the garden beds, but that is not possible. And it won’t be long before the leaves will be falling and the grounds will need all those leaves picked up.

St Irenaeus is looking for men and women, boys and girls of all ages to become part of the Lord’s Landscapers at this, your parish. You don’t have to be especially talented...just willing to do yard work. In a few weeks, we will look for your help in raking leaves. We’ll post a date in the PILLAR.

In the meantime, if you’d like to be one of the Lord’s Landscapers at St. Irenaeus, please call the rectory.

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.

Peace & Justice

www.govtrack.us :

H.R. 1064 & S. 435: "Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education Act: A bill to provide for evidence-based and promising practices related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention to help build individual, family, and community strength and resiliency to ensure that youth lead productive, safe, health, gang-free, and law-abiding lives."

Roland Burris is one of the 10 co-sponsors of the Senate bill. Jesse Jackson is one of 228 co-sponsors of the House bill. Thank them for their support.

This bill was introduced in both houses on 2/13/09. "It is in the first step in the legislative process. Introduced bills first go to committees that deliberate, investigate, and revise them before they go to general debate. Most bills never make it out of committee."

Dick Durbin is on the Judiciary Committee that may submit it for Senate vote. If you would like, please call Senator Durbin, (202) 224-2152 to urge him to support this bill, S. 435.

1st Reading: Genesis 2:18-24.

We read today from the second creation narrative of Genesis. It is simpler and much older than the "In The Beginning" narrative from the Easter Vigil liturgy with which we are more familiar. The transcendent God of the Easter Vigil narrative creates from "on high," looks down on what He has created and calls it "Good." The immanent God of the second narrative is a "hands on" creator, involving the newly created Adam in His decision process. God realized that Adam was unfulfilled without a mate. Finding no suitable partner for Adam among the animals which He created and brought to Adam to name, "The Lord God built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the him." Being created from the same flesh, and deriving their natures from the same God, woman and man are attracted one to another in equality. "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body."

Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6.

"May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives." The Psalmist prays for the Lord's blessing and sings of the happiness of those who "fear the Lord."

2nd Reading: Hebrews 2:9-11.

"Jesus was made for a little while lower than the angels, that through God's gracious will He might taste death for the sake of all men." Beginning this Sunday and continuing for seven weeks, we will read from the letter to the Hebrews. The author of Hebrews tells us of the unequalled position Jesus occupies in relation to God. Because He is God's Son, and because He agreed to share our humanity, He is able to form with us a unique bond. In sharing our humanity and accepting the humiliation of the cross, Jesus atoned for our sins and made it possible for us to rise with Him in His divinity.

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16.

The Pharisees ask if it is lawful for a husband to divorce his wife. They couched this complicated question in such a way that they thought Jesus would be forced to answer either "yes" or "no." The Pharisees were only interested in trapping Jesus into an answer that would offend one group or another. If he answered "no, he would offend Herod and risk incurring his wrath. If he answered "yes," he would disavow John the Baptist and offend his followers.

Divorce, in this Middle Eastern culture, was exclusively a male prerogative. The woman was considered an inferior being having no rights; she was a mere chattel to be dealt with according to the man's whim of the moment. Jesus reaches back to the Creation story to remind the Pharisees that man and woman were created in to be equals in God's eyes. The were both made in the image of God: "At the beginning of creation God made them male and female; for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and the two of them shall become as one." Saint Paul urged, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her" (Ephesians 5:25). Paul means that husbands should protect their wives, putting their welfare above their own, even dying for them as Christ died for the Church.

When His disciples restrain children, Jesus leads them further into the nature of the kingdom, dealing another blow to their cultural pride. Children, in their culture were, like women, mere chattels. To be told that women and children were their social equals was a severe jolt to their male psyches. The kingdom of God, it was becoming clear, was not just for men, but for women and children too. Further, it was not just for the elite among them but for all: the poor, the downtrodden and the childlike.

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. Please patronize the businesses who advertise in our parish bulletin.

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A Recital in memory of the late pastor and late director of music ministries at St. Irenaeus church, the Reverend Daniel O'Sullivan and Dr. Mark Russakoff, respectively. Music will reflect their cultural heritages and interests. Presenters are clarinetist, Lynn Godfrey and keyboardist, Helen Silvia. Recital at 2:30 P.M., Sunday, October 18 at St. Irenaeus Church, 78 Cherry St., Park Forest, IL. 708-748-6891. There will be a free will offering.  
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Religious Education News

PARENT MEETING:

A parent meeting will be held on Sunday, October 18th at 9 a.m. in the St. Irenaeus room. The speaker will be Lois DeFelice. Lois is a very experienced Director of Religious Education. She is presently working at the Office for Catechesis and Youth Ministry and she is the liaison for catechists from our Vicariate. We strongly encourage at least one parent be present at this meeting. Refreshments will be served.

FAMILY MASS:

The Family Mass is on Sunday, October 18th at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Our Confirmation group will be greeters and will walk in procession at the beginning of Mass. We encourage families in our religious education program to attend this Mass.

FUNDRAISER:

There is an upcoming fundraiser for Religious Education starting Sunday, October 11th. Catalogues will be available the weekend of October 10th in church.

St James the Greater in Sauk Village
22400 S. Torrence, will be hosting the

Our Lady of the New Millennium

statue. Please join us.

October 10th-24

Divine Mercy Chapel (Guest Churches)

Daily at 3:00 pm

Tuesday, October 13th Our Lady of Fatima 7:00 Holy Mass w/Luminous

Mysteries Candlelit Procession

Sunday, October 18th World Day of Prayer 11:00 am Mass w/Knights of

Columbus, Procession w/World Flags,

Scapular Enrollment

Friday, October 23rd Closing Holy Mass

& Procession 7:00 pm

Saturday, October 24th Our Lady

Departs about 6:00 pm

Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday, October 5

8:00 Charlotte B. Callahan req by
The Family

Tuesday, October 6

St. Bruno; Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher

8:00 Jim Burns req by
Doug & Dorothy Worthan

Wednesday, October 7

Our Lady of the Rosary

8:00 Edna M. Korte req by
Don & Judy Korte

Thursday, October 8

St. Denis and his companions; St. John Leonardi

8:00 Communion Service

Friday, October 9

The Guardian Angels; First Friday

8:00 Communion Service

Saturday, October 10

Blessed Virgin Mary; Simhat Torah (Jewish observance) begins at sunset

4:00-4:45 **Reconciliation**

5:00 Roger Cleghorn req by
Dave, Adele & Maureen
Perkins
Harriet Mikolajczyk

Sunday, October 11

Respect Life Sunday

8:30 The Fratto Family req by
Connie Menza
Mary V. Predny req by
Bob & Faye Predny
10:30 Dino J. Pieri req by
His Loving Family

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, October 3 5:00 pm

Lectors

Mike Gonzalez, Therese Goodrich
Tim Blumenthal

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Beverly Helm, Sally Fortune
Richard Marvin, Judy McDonnell
Bob Steiert, Joe Augustyn

Cantor

Helen Silvia

Altar Servers

Moira & Virginia Differding

Sunday, October 4 8:30 am

Lectors

Mary Schmittgens, Gene Schmittgens
Sara Veldhuizen

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Carol McCullough, Dolly Mikolajczyk
Dennis Condon, Kathy Murphy
Jack Osmolski, Deanna Martin

Cantor

Melva LeBlanc

Altar Servers

Karen Ertl, Kevin Headley

Sunday, October 4 10:30 am

Lectors

Del Sagun, Stephanie Sagun
Terry Townsend

Extraordinary Ministers/Eucharist

Jan Pattyn, Barbara Principali
Raye Warkenthein, Sandy Winder
Doris Foster, Sevena Merchant

Cantor

Marianne Velut

Altar Servers

Linda & Gary Marron

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.

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.

Health Ministry News

Hot Tips for Hot Flashes

Many women experience hot flashes at some point before or after menopause when their estrogen levels are declining. A hot flash is not a medical problem; it's a normal response to natural hormonal changes in your body.

Smoking, obesity, and having had tubal ligation or surgical menopause increase the odds of getting hot flashes. African American women are impacted by menopausal symptoms at higher rates, as well.

If hot flashes become especially bothersome, there are several options your doctor may want you to consider. There are also simple adjustments you can make in your life which can help:

- ~Wear natural fibers, and dress in layers.
- ~Sip a cold drink.
- ~Avoid spicy foods, caffeine, and alcohol.
- ~Eat healthy, and enjoy smaller, more frequent meals to avoid the heat generated by digesting a large amount of food.
- ~Don't smoke.
- ~Take long, deep breaths (paced respiration).
- ~Exercise 30 minutes a day-- but not within three hours of bedtime.
- ~Wash your hands in cold water as soon as you feel a hot flash coming.
- ~Use fewer blankets, or lower the temperature of your bedroom.
- ~Avoid stressful situations.

The Health Ministry is taking Blood Pressures after all Liturgies.



WEDDING BANNES III STEVEN M. FRENCH & TARA GREGORY

New Parishioners
A warm welcome to our new parishioners from the St. Irenaeus Parish community.
The Milan Family

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

St. Irenaeus Parish Coffee and.....

A gathering of families and friends in an atmosphere of community and fellowship. Please join us in the back of the church

DATE: *October 18, 2009*

TIME: *After 8:30 and 10:30*

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

Church Stewardship

Budget Information - 13

Budget Information \$4,650.00

September 27 Collection \$3,689.00

Thank you to the 118 families who used their stewardship envelopes last weekend.

Money collected/envelopes \$3,195.00
Loose Money \$494.00

Budget Year to Date \$60,450.00

Actual Income Year to Date \$55,158.94

09/10 Budget Shortage (\$5,291.06)

Maintenance Fund Sept. 27 \$158.00

Maintenance Fund YTD \$6,688.00

Collections Prior Fiscal Yrs.\$325,363.00

Total Collections \$332,051.00

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