HEBREWS 12:22

You have approached Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

SEPTEMBER 1, 2019
NEW PARISHIONERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!
Call or come to the Parish Center to register.

BAPTISMS: Dates for Baptism will be arranged after attending the Pre-Baptismal Catechesis. Please call Annette in the Parish Office for information.

MARRIAGES: Call Annette in the Parish Office to arrange preparation 6 months in advance.

SICK CALLS: Call Annette in the Parish Office and Ministers of Care will visit the sick or shut-in.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4:20-4:40PM in the Reconciliation Room.

FOOD PANTRY: Our pantry is open Wednesdays from 9AM-12PM. Call 630.393.2400 x 112.

FUNERALS: The Pastoral Staff works with families to plan the Funeral Mass.

SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES: Call Dwight Sherman at 630.393.3221 or 630.362.1324.

CRISIS PRAYER CHAIN: Contact Deacon Joe Urso at 630.853.2070 or joe.urso@outlook.com.

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LIVING GOD’S WORD: In our Gospel today Jesus states, “Those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted!” How can you humble yourself this week for the sake of another?

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Parish Cookout
Sunday, September 22
Following 10AM Mass

Join us for a free lunch of hot dogs, chips, cookies and lemonade.
Bring blankets and chairs to enjoy lunch on the parish grounds.

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MASS SCHEDULE
- Daily: M-F 7AM
- Saturday: 5PM
- Sunday: 8AM & 10AM
“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1) We continue our focus on the virtue of ‘Faith’ during the month of September. Faith is one of the three theological virtues. God infuses these virtues into the souls of the faithful to make us capable of acting as His children on our journey to eternal life. They are the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit given to us at Baptism.

A person who has faith believes something to be true based on the testimony of God. With this theological virtue, God tells us something we could not have known on our own, and we make the decision to accept what God says as true. Faith is therefore the virtue that enables us to add heavenly information to our knowledge - we can know what God knows - and this information radically changes our lives!

This information affects our lives and every choice we make. For, if what we hold to be true does not change how we behave, it has no ultimate worth. As St. James stated, faith without works is dead. (James 2:17) This is our call as well: to believe God, to believe all that He has said and revealed to us, and then to courageously act on that information, regardless of the cost.

“To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.” —St. Thomas Aquinas

The readings today center on mindfulness, awareness of where we stand in God’s plan. The mountain of Sinai carries a message of the majesty and distance of God, while Jesus’ presence as host of the banquet speaks of intimacy and mystery. September’s shadow calls us all to mindfulness as we prepare to return to life outside of summer. The Christian life holds these two places of knowledge of God in careful balance. Even in the accounts of the Passion we see the table of the upper room in balance with the Mount of Olives.

Altar means “high place,” yet it is also a table. The former liturgy of the Latin Rite began with the priest bowing at the foot of the altar’s three steps, chanting Introibo ad altare Dei, or “I will go to the altar of God,” followed by the altar servers’ response, “The God who gives joy to my youth.” Many parishioners can recall and recite this scene by heart. As with so many things in liturgy, there are layers of meaning in our worship. The altar table evokes memories of the high places once reserved for encounter with the holy, and the intimacy of the table where hospitality draws us to share food and drink.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
What is the R.C.I.A.?
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults—it is the way the Catholic Church welcomes new members.

Who is it for?
Primarily this Rite is for unbaptized adults and children of school age; however, it has been adapted for those adults and children baptized in other Christian denominations who seek membership in the Catholic Church.

What about baptized Catholics who have not received the Sacraments of Confirmation or Eucharist?
Adults seeking these Sacraments will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Christian Initiation is the responsibility of the entire faith community.

If you are interested in becoming active in this dynamic ministry, phone Annette at 630.393.2400 x 122 for information.

Inquiry sessions: These sessions are ongoing.

Reading I: Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
♦ Conduct your affairs with humility.

Background: Today’s first reading gives us the wisdom of Ben Sira, a second-century Jerusalem sage. Because of the upper-class situation of the sage and his students, today’s lesson on humility is dramatic. The final verses introduce a favorite subject of Ben Sira, the giving of alms.

Reading II: Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a
♦ You have drawn near to the city of the living God.

Background: The image of the Israelites at Mount Sinai is colored with details from the book of Exodus and other Old Testament passages. The gloomy and fearful aspects of the old covenant experience are emphasized in contrast to the picture of Mount Zion. Christians do not have to live in fear of imitating the failures of certain figures in the history of salvation, for they have the advantage of the person of Jesus, who sealed the new covenant in His own blood.

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14
♦ Whoever exalts self shall be humbled and whoever humbles self will be exalted.

Background: Luke presents a scene with Jesus in the home of a Pharisee. Jesus addresses the guests with a parable that warns against self-exaltation. This lesson comes soon after the disciples were reprimanded by Jesus for vying for position. Jesus’ words to the host point out that the kingdom is for everyone, and our hospitality is to embrace all, especially those who are overlooked.

Theme: Give as God gives - in humility and love.

Question for Adults:
Who are the people living near you that you would find it most difficult to invite to a meal in your home?

Question for Youth:
God asks us to do for others without hope of repayment. This past week, what did you do for someone else for which you won’t be repaid?

Question for Children:
Jesus tells us that we should treat everyone as a guest. Who do you tend to shun or not be nice to?

Registration is OPEN!
ST. IRENE ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2019
Bliss Creek Golf Club, Sugar Grove
12PM Registration
1PM Shotgun Start
We are currently looking for silent auction donations, sponsors, and volunteers.

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING!
For more information or to help, contact the Athletic Board at saint.irene.athleticboard@gmail.com

LunchBunch
The next gathering of the LunchBunch is Thursday, September 5th at 11:30AM in the ACL. All seniors, 55 and older are invited to attend. Bring your favorite dish to share. The Sound Investment Barbershop Quartet will be the entertainment. Come join the fun! Donation is $3 at the door.
Please join us on Wednesday, September 11 at 7PM for this special Mass of the Holy Spirit.

We call upon the Holy Spirit to rain down the gifts of wisdom, counsel, knowledge, understanding, fortitude, piety and fear of the Lord. We praise God for the presence of the Holy Spirit in our people at St. Irene; those who perform community service; ministers at Mass; fundraisers; ministry leaders and participants; every person who worships God in our community. All of the many gifts and talents freely given by God are returned to Him with the gifts our time, talent and treasure.

This is the Christian service that is at the heart of discipleship.

Every person, every gift makes St. Irene Parish and School a warm, welcoming, loving community of faith drawing others to Christ. It is fitting that we celebrate service on this date, the 18th anniversary of the September 11th attacks on our beloved nation. It is fitting that we honor those servants who selflessly gave everything in the service of others. It is fitting to reflect on the tremendous blessing given to those who serve with a servant’s heart.

The Lord said, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” Colossians 3:23-24

Come celebrate who we are as a Catholic Community!

Happenings Around Town & the Diocese

Attention Caregivers - All caregivers, relatives and friends of those who struggle with anxiety, depression, bi-polar, eating disorder or self-injury, please join us for an evening of prayer, discussion and reflection. The upcoming meetings are scheduled for the following Tuesdays: September 10th, September 24th, October 8th, October 22nd, November 12th, November 26th and December 10th, 7-8PM at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church - 2220 Lisson Rd., Naperville. For more information or to RSVP, call Joe at 630.569.1635 or email welisten2017@gmail.com.

National Day of Remembrance - On Saturday, September 14, pro-life Americans throughout the country will gather at the gravesites of aborted babies and other memorial sites dedicated in their honor for the seventh annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children. Solemn vigils will be held at these sites to commemorate the more than 60 million children who have lost their lives to legal abortion since 1973, and to remind our society of the humanity of the unborn child. Please join us for the memorial service in the Diocese of Joliet with the Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon, Bishop of Joliet:
♦ When: Saturday, September 14, 1PM
♦ Where: Resurrection Cemetery, 200 W. Romeo Rd. in Romeoville
♦ For more information, contact Christine Kania at 630.532.7813 or cmkania@bu.edu

“Walk for Life” - The Women’s Centers of Greater Chicagoland would like to invite your parish to our annual “Walk for Life.” Meet new friends, walk the beautiful 5k trail, grab a hot dog, play some competitive wiffle ball, and maybe take home the winning tournament trophy! Fun for the entire family while supporting the lifesaving mission of The Women’s Centers! Saturday, September 21st – Kickoff rally begins at 9:45AM followed by picnic and wiffle ball tournament. For information go to www.GoTWC.org.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall and Museum - September 26-30, Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside will proudly display the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall and Museum. This exhibit will be open 24 hours a day and will provide many events and ceremonies to honor the more than 58,000 who lost their lives for our freedom. All are welcome!

Joyful Again Widowed Ministry - The Joyful Again! program brings understanding and hope to help you on your new life’s journey. “I felt welcome.” “Found hope.” “Am more at peace.” Please join us on September 7 & 8, 2019 at Mary Queen of Heaven Parish in Elmhurst. For more information or to register contact us at Joyful Again! Widowed Ministry at 708.354.7211. Website: www.joyfulagain.org
This Week’s Meetings

**Sunday, September 1**

5-6:30p - Volleyball Practice (ACU)

**Monday, September 2**

5-3:5p - Volleyball Practice (ACU)
3-5p - Volleyball Practice (ACU)
6-9p - School Curriculum Night (C & S)

**Tuesday, September 3**

3-5p - Volleyball Practice (ACU)
5-7p - Volleyball Practice (ACU)
6-9p - School Curriculum Night (C & S)

**Wednesday, September 4**

3-5p - Volleyball Practice (ACU)
5-6:30p - Volleyball Practice (ACU)
6-9p - School Curriculum Night (C & S)

**Thursday, September 5**

11:30a-2p - LunchBunch (ACL)
3-4:30p - Volleyball Practice (ACU)
6-9p - School Curriculum Night (C & S)

**Friday, September 6**

**Saturday, September 7**

**Sunday, September 8**

7:30a-12:30p - Hospitality (ACL)
11a-12p - Baptism Prep 1st Session (S)

Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal 2019

**Pledge Report**

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<th>Amount Paid</th>
<th>Amount Pledged</th>
<th>2019 Goal</th>
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<td>$57,242</td>
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Monthly pledge payments for the CMMS should be made in the next few days. Thanks you for your support. Please contact the Diocesan Development Office with any questions you may have about your pledge at 815.838.8515.

OCTOBER 12th

FATIMA ROSARY PRAYER RALLY

St. Irene is partnering with St. Thomas for this year's Fatima Rosary Prayer Rally, Saturday, October 12th at 12PM. On that day, it's anticipated 23,000 Prayer Chains will be created across the country. 225 people signed up last year, and we're hoping to top that number! All who participated the past two years will agree that the 40-minute Prayer Event was a most blessed experience. This year we will be praying the Sorrowful Mysteries. There are 11 Prayer Stations to choose from, set up along a route connecting both parishes. We're excited to continue the tradition of praying the Rosary en español at Station #8. Please join us in responding to the pleas of Our Lord and Blessed Mother, as we pray for the Conversion of sinners and World Peace. Check the Bulletin and Parish Website for more details. Sign up in the Narthex or via email at fatimarosaryrally@gmail.com.

Pro-Life Apologitics Workshop

Illinois Right to Life will present a pro-life apologitics workshop on September 24th at 7PM in the ACL. All parish adults are invited to attend this very important event. Through education on pro-life values, the science and the facts behind the movement, and refutations to common pro-abortion arguments you will have the tools you need to share the pro-life message and help change the culture in Illinois to one that loves and protects human life. There is no cost for this workshop. Please RSVP to the parish office by September 20th or sign up at the table located in the narthex, so that we can have enough materials for everyone.

The parish office will be closed on Monday, September 2nd for Labor Day. We will reopen on Tuesday, September 3rd and resume regular office hours:

- **Monday - Thursday** 8:30AM - 4PM
- **Friday** 8:30AM - 3PM
St. Irene Vocation Prayer

In every age Lord, You raise up women and men who are strong in their faith and bold in their actions to give witness to the Gospel. Fill St. Irene Parish Community with Your Spirit and give us a burning desire to make a difference in our world. Because of our love for You, Bless our Church with holy and courageous priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, devoted married couples, dedicated single men and women, and enthusiastic youth. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Monday, September 2
Weekday
9:00AM - Corky Frederick/ Theresa Frederick

Tuesday, September 3
St. Gregory the Great
7:00AM - Clara Kolodziejski/ Friends

Wednesday, September 4
Weekday
7:00AM - Sr. Rosie Eck/ St. Irene Community

Thursday, September 5
Weekday
7:00AM - For St. Irene Seniors
7:30AM - Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, September 6
Weekday; First Friday
7:00AM - Allan Harris/ Jean Harris
8:15AM - Battaglia Family/ Sue

Saturday, September 7
Vigil: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00PM - Molly Black/ Mary Mickel

Sunday, September 8
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00AM - Brad Standifer/ Friends
10:00AM - Birthday/Anniversary Mass
Blue Mass
Gregory True/ Friends
Laura Drassler/ Bill & Mary Hughes
11:30AM - Baptism Ceremony

John Mares
Salvatore Alleruzzo
Mary George
Tim Rasplicka
Jules Emet Lohman
Rev. Scott Lohman
Monica Wojtowicz
Fr. Jim
Jim Lytle
Pat Wehner
Rachel Jaraisus
Paulette Porter
Lynette Meany
Javier Tecuatl
Mary Vander Meulen
Valder Morales
Max Malesh
Colette Malovany

Protective Service Personnel (Blue) Mass

There will be a special Mass honoring Police, Fire Fighters, and First Responders on Sunday, Sept. 8th at the 10AM Mass. Hospitality with beverages and snacks will follow in the ACL.

Flu Shots will be offered after Masses in the ACL on Sunday, September 8th. The event is hosted by the Knights of Columbus and sponsored by Walgreens.

Lance CPL Jeff Sommer - 29 Palms, CA
Chief Petty Officer Michael Spans
Capt. Weston J. Umano USAF - Deployed
E3 Jacob VanderMeulen, USNavy, San Diego
1st Class Patrick Reid - Lackland AFB, TX
1st Lt. Keegan Lohreny USMC - Camp Pendleton
Master Sgt. Dan Peterson - Anchorage, AK
TSGt. Daniel Geinosky - serving in England
Sgt. Christian Wilkins - stationed in Iraq
Sgt. Levi Dieter - Virginia Marine Base
Cmdr. Eric G. Peterson - Serving in San Diego
Sgt. Peter Folz - Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Major Patrick Looby - Kunsan AB, S.K.
Sgt. Thomas Rasplikca - Fort Bliss, Texas

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 11-13; Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday: Col 1:1-8; Ps 52:10-11; Lk 4:38-44
Thursday: Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-6; Lk 5:1-11
Friday: Col 1:15-20; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 5:33-39
Saturday: Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6, 8; Lk 6:1-5
Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b; Ps 90:3-6, 12-17; Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33