The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY in Ordinary Time
Reflecting on God’s Word

The text of this weekend’s Isaiah reading speaks of a servant whose suffering and afflictions are borne for the many. Father Daniel Berrigan once said that the call of the disciple of Jesus is to absorb evil. Not very glorious, indeed, for servants absorb the leftovers of the household’s extravagance. Those at the bottom of life’s pyramid absorb the muck; swamps and lowlands absorb the runoff of life’s fields. Just so, parents absorb our tears. And those who forgive absorb the blow. As the warrior absorbs the enemy’s hate, so the conscientious objector absorbs the need for revenge. So also the embrace absorbs our fears, justice absorbs mistrust, love absorbs the distance of hearts, and the sharing of bread absorbs the memory of pain. In such ways God makes the world new.

The fear, and perhaps the sadness as well, is that in absorbing the evil of life we do become at least to some extent that which we absorb. Then those who gaze upon us do so as if we ourselves were afflicted and diseased. Then those who minister to dying AIDS patients are themselves eyed with suspicion and fear. Then the conscientious objector is expelled by the patriot, and the selfless warrior is cast off into indifference by the righteous purist. Then the Alzheimer caregiver is forgotten; the one who forgives the abuse is revenged; and the one who combats poverty with generosity grows poorer while the hoarder is glorified. And, contradiction of contradictions, the crucified Christ becomes the Christ who reigns. And so we become like Him.

—Rev. Joseph J. Juknialis
The Prayer Shawl Ministry

This ministry makes and distributes shawls for people in need of comfort. Many blessings are prayed into each shawl before it is given. Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted, affirmed, and their days made brighter by knowing they are being remembered and prayed for. For more information about receiving a shawl or to help knit/crochet shawls, please contact Paula Peterson at 630.393.3989 or paula.lp.peterson@gmail.com.

Join us at our next meeting on Thursday, October 25th at 7PM in the Parish Center.

As election campaigns move into high gear, sometimes the phrase “the Catholic vote” is heard. It’s an interesting concept, since Catholics started out in this country as a very fragile group: fewer than forty thousand of us at the time of the first census in 1790, and only about 2 percent of the population by 1830. It was a priestless church for all intents and purposes, lay-led clusters of Catholics waiting patiently for the occasional visit of a priest, sustained by gathering when they could on Sunday for devotional prayer like litanies and the rosary. They tried to hold on to their ancestral faith as best they could. Archbishop Jean-Louis Cheverus told one family in Maine to “every day say your prayers on your knees with affection, and every Sunday gather to hear the Gospel, to pray in common, and to quiz the children on the catechism.”

Inevitably, some became Protestant, but many more stayed Catholic from generation to generation, with very little encouragement or sacramental ministry from the clergy. Archbishop John Carroll, the first American bishop, tried to make Church law flexible: shortening the length of the fast before Communion, easing the Lenten fast, and even relaxing the rule of Sabbath rest at harvest time. Catholicism in England had been quietly sustained in this way for two centuries, and the first American Catholics carried on as had their ancestors, providing a fertile soil for the unprecedented success and phenomenal growth of the Church in our country.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
Whole Parish Catechesis
Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Reading I: Isaiah 53:10-11
♦ He shall see light in due time.

Background: There are five songs in Isaiah that describe the suffering of a servant of the Lord. Today’s passage was written toward the end of the Babylonian exile. In this last song, with death approaching, the servant’s suffering is revealed as atonement for the guilt of others.

Reading II: Hebrews 4:14-16
♦ We have a great high priest!

Background: In Hebrews, the author points out the supremacy of Jesus’ priesthood. Jesus knows our weakness and has shared our suffering. Through Jesus, the great work of God’s salvation has been accomplished.

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45
♦ The first shall be last.

Background: In today’s Gospel story, James and John ask for positions of honor in the kingdom. Jesus tells them that the only position they should seek is the position He has assumed, that of a servant. The Gospel of Mark shows the substantial demands placed on Jesus’ followers.

Theme: We are called to serve as Jesus served.

Question for Adults:
What are some times in your own life when you have the chance to be last instead of first?

Question for Youth:
Jesus changed the way we think of leadership to be someone who serves others. How are you a leader in school, your family, the parish and/or your community?

Question for Children:
Name some ways that you can serve others.

ATTENTION NEW PARISHIONERS!
Welcome to St. Irene! Please plan to attend the Hospitality event following the 10AM Mass on Sunday, November 11. We would like to recognize you and your family and afford you an opportunity to meet available parish staff and your fellow parishioners. We are happy that you chose St. Irene as your Faith Community and look forward to meeting and being with you! Please RSVP to Dave at dna69@comcast.net or 630.857.0972.

Religious Education classes meet on Tuesday, October 23 (Gr 1-6 and First Reconciliation Preparation in the classroom) 5:30-7PM and Wednesday, October 24 (Gr 7-8 in the ACL) 6:30-8PM. Parents meet their children on Tuesdays at 6:45PM and on Wednesdays at 7:45PM in the ACL.

We hope you enjoyed the Living Rosary on Tuesday evening. Praying the rosary together as a family brings peace, unity, protection and grace to each family member.

Gospel Weekly Family Discussion:
♦ Gospel of Mark 10:35-45 - It is easy to think about Jesus as a king. He is above all, but, in today’s Gospel, He reminds us that He came to serve, not to be served. He gave His life as a sacrifice to save us. We should also serve if we intend to imitate Jesus.

Gospel Questions:
♦ In what ways can you serve Jesus by serving others?
♦ How does Jesus want His followers to become great?
♦ Why are people who serve most important to Jesus?

Life Questions:
♦ Whose lives challenge you to live Gospel values rather than work for social status?
♦ In what ways do you serve others?
♦ How can kids help others?

Family Prayer:
♦ Open our eyes, Lord, to see the needs of others and grow in our desire to serve them.

Catholic Charismatic Healing Mass
This Mass will take place at St. Margaret Mary Church in Naperville on Friday, October 26th. Father Paul Hottinger will preside. Sacrament of Reconciliation will begin at 6:30PM followed by Mass at 7:30PM. For more information, please call Joey Rose at 630.926.6576.
Our Parish Financial Need

The Sunday Collection: The parish fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2018 finished with a deficit of $50,000. At the present time, collections are on track for a similar shortfall this year. The parish offertory or Sunday collection is the sole source of funds to operate the parish on a daily basis. Please review the “Ways to Give to St. Irene” and help the parish realize a sustained increase in the weekly collection.

Caring for Our Parish, Caring for One Another Capital Campaign: In 2016, the Caring for Our Parish, Caring for One Another capital campaign was rolled out to parishioners. There has been a wonderful response in support of Fr. Jim and attending to the many needs of the aging campus facilities. Progress to date includes:

Projects completed with campaign dollars that were included in the original list:
- Replacement of HVAC in Activity Center
- Repair of Church columns
- Repainting of the Church
- Installation of upgrades to school fire/security system
- Repairs and updates to the baptismal font
- Repairs and resurfacing of the North parking lot, including the landscaping on the island
- Installation of a new phone system

Additional projects that have been accomplished that were not on the original campaign list:
- Replacement of the Parish Center roof
- Replacement of the windows in the lower level of the School
- Repair of the ceiling in the lower level of the School

Projects from the original campaign list that still need to be completed:
- Replacement of the garage
- Repairs and repaving of the South parking lot
- Replacement of the carpet in the Church
- Address flooding in lower level of the Church

Other projects not in the original campaign plan that are in need of attention:
- Replacement of rectory windows
- Replacement of upper level windows in the School
- Replacement of the Church roof
- Replacement of the Parish Center windows
- Repair/Replacement of the kitchen floor in the Activity Center

Financial support of the capital campaign to continue to address the needs listed above is critical. The costs associated with the project list will only increase over time. If you have not yet supported the campaign with a gift, please consider making a pledge or a one-time gift today. If you have completed a pledge and can help further, please consider doing so. Thank you for your continued kindness and generosity!

St. Irene – A Very Special Community: There is no other parish in the Diocese of Joliet that embraces the sense of unity and family the way that the people of St. Irene parish share daily. In an effort to nurture and grow this wonderful community, Fr. Jim will be hosting a monthly “Coffee with the Pastor” in order to provide time for open communication. Each meeting will last one hour. There is no agenda – just time to visit with Fr. Jim to talk about life and our Catholic faith. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the following:
- Saturday, November 17 – 9AM
- Saturday, December 1 – 9AM

All meetings will be held in the ACL.
Bring friends and neighbors and enjoy this special time with Fr. Jim.
This Week’s Meetings

**Sunday, October 21**
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-12:30p - RCIA (ACL)

**Monday, October 22**
- 5:30-7p - Elementary RE (S,C,HF, ACL)

**Tuesday, October 23**
- 5:30-7p - Band (ACL)
- 6:30-8p - Jr. High RE (S, AC)
- 7:30:30p - Adult Choir (C)

**Wednesday, October 24**
- 12:30-3:30p - Band (ACL)
- 5:30-6:30p - Kid’s Choir (C)
- 6:30-8p - Jr. High RE (S, AC)
- 7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)

**Thursday, October 25**
- 7-8:30p - Prayer Shawl Ministry (Parish Center)

**Friday, October 26**
- 12:30-3:30p - Band (ACU)
- 6:30-8p - Healing Horizons (ACL)

**Saturday, October 27**
- 7-9p - Halloween Dance (ACU)

**Sunday, October 28**
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-2p - Priesthood Sunday Luncheon (ACL)

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### K of C “Share Your Soles” 2018 Fall Shoe Drive

Please donate your gently worn shoes to the Share Your Soles® charity from Saturday, October 20th until Sunday, November 11th (the period encompassing All Souls Day) during the Knight’s annual fall shoe drive. We will accept shoes of any type and size, for any type of weather. This includes athletic shoes, sandals, school shoes, boots, dress shoes, work shoes, slippers, etc. Collection bins will be located at the entryways to the church.

Share Your Soles® is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization dedicated to sharing gently worn/new shoes to those in greatest need. They provide shoes both worldwide, as well as right here in the United States. Be sure that the shoes you donate are gently worn or new, are clean, and can withstand heavy wear. Please no holes or worn off bottoms.

The ongoing drive is being conducted in memory of the late Robert Geary, founder of the Knight’s annual shoe drive. For information, contact Joseph D. Kubal at 630.983.6159 or email: jdrk4715@aol.com.

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### Join us for Mass at Mercy Home

**Sunday, November 4, 2018**

You may be familiar with Sunday Mass at Mercy Home for Boys and Girls which airs on WGN-TV, Channel 9 on Sundays at 9:30AM. We have been invited to participate in a taping of the show and to join in the televised Masses for the 2nd and 4th Sundays of Advent to be celebrated with Father Carl Morello (brother of fellow Knight of Columbus, Vince Morello). These Masses will be aired in December.

The date is Sunday, November 4th. We will meet at 1:30PM at Mercy Home, 1140 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. The taping will occur from 2:30-4PM and there will be a complimentary luncheon beforehand. We hope to have a good showing, but can accommodate no more than twenty people for the television audience. **RSVP deadline is Monday, October 22nd!**

There is free parking at Mercy Home and plenty of street-parking available. If anyone has need for a chairlift I will need to know in advance. The chairlift has a 300 lb. limit. Free-will donations would be appreciated by the Home which is a Catholic Charity and child welfare agency. This event will be first come, first served. Seasonal clothing is de rigueur.

This is a fun experience and I encourage families to bring their children (over 5 years old). For more information or to make your reservation, contact Joe Kubal at 630.983.6159 or SMKubal0712@aol.com.

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**Priesthood Sunday, the last Sunday of October.** It is a special day set aside to honor the priesthood in the United States. This year the day falls on **October 28, 2018**. It is a day to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priesthood in the life of the Church as a central one. We will honor our Father Jim and the MSC priests on Sunday, October 28th at the 10AM Mass with a reception following in the ACL. Come join in spending some time together with our dedicated priests.
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.

Barb Olson
John Martin
Sharon Booth
Lynette Meany
Don Clevenger, Jr.
Phelan Welch
Joe Gattone
Jean Roe

Robertta Neameyer
Javier Tecuatl
Bernie Malovany
Paige C. Robertson
Mary Vander Meulen
Valer Morales
Max Malesh
Colette Malovany

Readings for the Week

Monday: Eph 2:1-10; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 12:13-21
Tuesday: Eph 2:12-22; Ps 85:9ab-14; Lk 12:35-38
Wednesday: Eph 3:2-12; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Lk 12:39-48
Thursday: Eph 3:14-21; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19, 12:49-53
Friday: Eph 4:1-6; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 12:54-59
Saturday: 4:7-16; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 13:1-9
Sunday: Jer 31:7-9; Ps 126:1-6; Heb 5:1-6; Mk 10:46-52

Today is World Mission Sunday. We celebrate this day by remembering the revitalizing mission at the heart of our Christian faith - to bring the Gospel to all! The collection today for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith ensures the work and service of the Mission Church, as it supports priest, religious and lay leaders who offer the Lord’s mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope’s missions. Thank you for your generosity.