

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Weekend of November 29/30

- 4:00 PM + Verona Biscan - Evelyn Twardosz
 8:00 AM + Eugene A. Mezydlo - Mr. & Mrs. Leo Novak
 + Sophie Soltys - Granddaughter
 9:45 AM + Sophie Kolarczyk - Children
 11:30 AM - For the Parishioners

Monday, December 1

- 7:15 AM + Eugene A. Mezydlo - Gibson Family

Tuesday, December 2

- 7:15 AM + John Palilunas - Sons

Wednesday, December 3

- 7:15 AM + Krystyna Abram - Mary Blonski

Thursday, December 4

- 7:15 AM + Bernard Piotrowski Sr. (6th Anniv.) - Family

Friday, December 5

- 8:15 AM + Gilbert Yager - Wife

Saturday, December 6

- 7:30 AM + John Grzyb - Friend
 1:30 PM - Michael Cassello & Tian Brock - Wedding Mass
 4:00 PM + Roman Majewski (20th Anniv.) - Wife, Virginia

Sunday, December 7

- 8:00 AM + Marie Kaleta (1st Anniv.) - Family
 + Bruno Milewski - Daughter
 9:45 AM + Angeline Rzonca - Judy Kosiba
 11:30 AM + Dionicio Garcia & Imelda Ramirez - Family

Week of November 30 - December 6

The Gifts of Bread & Wine are donated this week in memory of
 Bryan Bastie - Family

The Tabernacle Candle will be lit this week in memory of
 Bryan Bastie - Family

LECTORS December, 2008

- 4:00 PM B. Frederisy
 8:00 AM R. Kopaczewski
 9:45 AM L. Morse
 11:30 AM O. Guajardo

ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, December 6

- 4:00 PM B. Echevarria, E. Echevarria, N. Mooney

SUNDAY, December 7

- 8:00 AM J. Lelo, J. Calassare, B. Meyer
 9:45 AM G. Bonczek, D. Ranos, C. Haro
 11:30 AM M. Ortiz, M. Elizalde, K. Mallee

Wedding Bann:

Michael Cassello & Tian Brock

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

December, 2008

4:00 PM

L. Szefer
 B. Frjelich
 M. Piaskowy
 J. Gibbons
 M. Cowperthwaite
 A. Bonczek

8:00 AM

S. Jezior
 E. Podsiadlik
 B. Peak
 P. Gadus
 N. Moll
 E. Boganski

9:45 AM

C. Malone
 C. Michalik
 K. Gibson
 P. O'Rourke
 M. Czarobski
 D. Karczewski

11:30 AM

R. Oseguera
 A. Davila

USHERS

December, 2008

4:00 PM

P. Orzelski, C. Cowperthwaite,
 P. Krasinski, E. Pindara,
 A. Lubanowski, T. Zalewski,
 N. Zalewski

8:00 AM

C. Zakrzewski, A. Wopinski,
 T. Nester, A. Jasek,
 M. Noworyta, J. Shanahan,
 A. Bruder,

9:45 AM

G. Villalobos, E. Lihota,
 G. Slusarczyk, K. Podgorny,
 R. Furman, J. Turman,
 T. Baker, M. Gasior, M. Aducci



Reflection for the First Sunday of Advent

By Rev. Daren J. Zehnle

Through this holy season of Advent we look for the coming of the Lord. We await his coming among us when we open the scriptures and celebrate the sacraments. We look forward to the celebration of his birth in Bethlehem. Perhaps most importantly, though we long and yearn for his coming again in glory at the end of time. Let us ask the Lord, then, to keep us always expectant of his coming, that he might not find us unaware.

Let Us Pray

*Father in heaven,
your son told us to be watchful
and ready for his coming.
Keep us always faithful to his calling
until he comes in glory.*

Amen

ST. FLORIAN'S MISSION STATEMENT

We are Roman Catholics of prayer, service and long-standing tradition guided by the spirit to meet the direct needs of our parishioners and neighboring communities in a demanding social environment.

We strive to achieve a sense of justice, responsibility, prayerfulness, communication and unity by providing:

- All individuals the opportunity of receiving Sacraments;
- The proper educational environment—spiritually, morally, academically;
- A channel for corporal works of mercy; and
- A time and place for social gathering and fellowship.

Our goals and objectives will be accomplished through encouraging active participation in dialogue, evangelization, stewardship, prayer and love.

During our Advent season, please be sure to join together as a parish family on the following days:

Advent Taizé Prayer Service **Saturdays at 3:30 PM**

As we patiently wait to welcome the Christ-Child we offer an Advent Taizé Prayer Service at 3:30 p.m. before the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass. We invite all of you to begin each week of Advent with our Taizé Prayer Service in which we sing psalms, hear scripture, reflect, all in the context of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Each Taizé Prayer Service ends with a special blessing. Please join us and pray in the quiet stillness of Advent.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Spanish community will begin their Novena (nine days) to Our Lady of Guadalupe on Wednesday, Dec. 3rd, at 6:30 p.m. They will meet each evening in the Parish Meeting Room (2nd floor above Konsowski Hall) and say the rosary and special prayers to Our Lady. All are invited to join them for as many days as you are able. A Mass in celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be held on Friday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation

Monday, December 8th

Masses at 8:15 AM & 7:00 PM

Parish Reconciliation Service **Wednesday, December 17th**

7:00 PM

Parish Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 20th

3:30 PM Taizé Prayer Service

4:00 PM Liturgy

This year we have chosen your "Favorite Ornament" as our theme. All families are asked to help decorate the tree with ornaments (either purchased or homemade). Refreshments will be available in Konsowski Hall following the tree lighting.

Oplatki

(Christmas Wafers)

Available at the Rectory and School Office and also sold after weekend Masses in Church \$2.00 per package or 3 for \$5.00

We pray for . . .

Helen Golden, John Noworyta, Wanda Podgorny, Ida Fasciana, Debra Mokrzycki, Charlotte Frjelic, Edward Kawa, Grant Joseph Bradtke, Larry Kawa, Stanley Wrona Sr., Austin Cichy, Elaine Antuna, Dale Pelekant, Helen Kasper, John Koza, Harriet Brodzik, Mary Rolek, Eugene Kupiec, Dorita De Cardona, Ed Kosmala, Michael Boston, Steven Schwartz, Marietta Falbo, Linda Stannish, Pam Skowronski, Josephine Opiola, Dolores & Gilbert Diaz, Yesenia Guajardo, Beth Lasseter, Chestine Trzupiek, Patricia Manley, Thomas Frain, Laurie Ferry, Irma Bulatovich, Alicia Davila, Sophie Borowiec, Mark Biel, Leona Krawczyk, Stanley Bonczek, Jesus Manriquez, Kevin Chocholek, Chris Wopinski, Helen Zurawski, Philip Corich, David Donahue, Frank & Yvonne Graczyk, Raquelina Chavez, Ricardo Morales, Helen Slusarczyk, Irene Marszalek, Bob Konecek, Ace Gargas, Martha Kowalkowski, Paul Sherman, Michael Auld, Virginia Bovino, Salvador Gonzalez, Jr., Rosa Guadalupe Guajardo, Jim Cummings, Dennis Grzyb, Florence Arendt, Lynette Kozlowski, Socorro Elizalde, Asunción Villalpondo, Thomas J. Lohr, Ruben Montemayor, Irma Garcia, Barbara Burnette, Helen Krupinski, Christen White, Norbert Klekowski, Elizabeth Klekowski, Katelyn Grabowski, Irma Cardenas, Virginia Majewski, Anthony Gromek, Edward Walczak, Agnes Walczak, Residents of Hammond-Whiting Care Center, and Residents of Dolton Health Care Center and Residents of Burnham Terrace.

We pray for the homebound, sick and hospitalized. If your name appears in the above list and you no longer wish to be included due to recovery, please contact the Rectory at 773/646-4877.



In remembrance . . .

Anthony Cudak

November 19, 2008

The Christmas Custom of Oplatki

Oplatki "The Bread of Love"

Before sitting down at the table, everyone receives a piece of wafer, called oplatki (Oh-pwa-ki). It is similar to the communion wafer but rectangular with religious nativity scenes stamped into it. Each person breaks off a small piece of the other person's wafer and eats it, while hugging and exchanging good wishes for the coming year. All transgressions are forgiven and family members start over with a clean slate in their relationships with one another. It is still strongly believed that whatever happens on Christmas Eve will impact the upcoming year. Oplatki, called the "bread of love" is mailed to family members who can't attend Christmas in person.

Advent

It can be difficult to prepare our lives for Christ amidst the busy preparations of a material Christmas. The four weeks before Christmas are a time to prepare our families to celebrate Christ's birth: To prepare our minds to accept that God's Son became a baby and lived and died for us; to prepare our hearts to accept God's forgiveness, and to change our ways; to prepare our souls to receive God's healing grace through the celebration of Mass; to take part in not only the work of preparation but also the hope and joy in the midst of our work.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday - Dec. 1

Reading Isaiah 2:1-5
Gospel Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday—Dec. 2

Reading Isaiah 11:1-10
Gospel Luke 10:21-24

Wed. - Dec. 3 - St. Francis Xavier

Reading Isaiah 25:6-10a
Gospel Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday - Dec. 4 - St. John of Damascus

Reading Isaiah 26:1-6
Gospel Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Friday - Dec. 5

Reading Isaiah 29:17-24
Gospel Matthew 9:27-31

Sat. - Dec. 6 - St. Nicholas

Reading Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26
Gospel Matthew 9:35 - 10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday Dec. 7— 2nd Sunday of Advent

Reading I Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Reading II 2 Peter 3:8-14
Gospel Mark 1:1-8

Vocation Thoughts - Today Christ warns us to be alert and watchful. Priests and religious are alert and watchful in a unique way. Have you been called to be alert and watchful for Christ as a priest or religious? For more information about the priesthood contact Fr. Joe Noonan, Vocation Director, at (312) 751-8298 or inoonan@archchicago.org. For more information about the religious life the Office for Religious at 312-751-5245.

St. Florian School Happenings . . .

visit us at our website!
<http://florian.hegewisch.net>

INSERT

LOGO

Congratulations Students! 1st Quarter Honor Roll

- Grade 8** - "B" Honor Roll: Nick, Cerda, Brianna Echevarria, Brittany Maloney. Megan McDonald, Aidan Montejano, Harry Nazimek. Eric Reyes, Natalia Szyller
- Grade 7** - "B" Honor Roll: Leonard Chocholek, Mark Del Real, Marilyn Echevarria, Hector Macias, Bryan McDonald, Bertha Meyer, Alex Morales
- Grade 6** - "B" Honor Roll: Christina Drosos, Hally Hunter, Noah Mooney, Joseph Noworyta
- Grade 5** - "B" Honor Roll: Jessica Andrade, Mariah Cabrales, Aliya Jankowski, Angela Martinez, Raven Robles
- Grade 4** - "B" Honor Roll: Lewis Bensett, Katie Blanco, Lillian Hunter, Chrisovalanti Katsaros, Renata Meyer, Justin Powell
- Grade 3** - "A" Honor Roll: Emily Adduci, Nicole Cervera, Janina Laskowiecki
"B" Honor Roll: Nirvana Alcantar, Emily Kreger, Jaime Martinez, Nicole Michelin, Kyle Nazimek, Aidan Varela, Alfonso Villanueva



Christmas Cards for our Armed Forces Members

St. Florian School is collecting Christmas cards for members of our Armed Services. The cost to you for this simple act of ministry is that of a Christmas card. The benefit to the service member could be priceless!

To participate, drop off a signed Christmas card to the School office by December 9, 2008. Use the salutation: Dear Service Member. All cards must be signed, but should not include personal information. Do not include any letters, photos or other items with the Christmas card. Simply write a short message in the card and sign it. If you don't know what to write try these phrases:

I (we) just wanted to let you know that you are always in our prayers.

Thank you for your service to our country.

Thank you for keeping us free. Your sacrifice is not forgotten.

Our prayers are with you and your loved ones at this time of year.

All Christmas cards delivered by December 9 will be gathered together and mailed to the American Red Cross. Cards delivered to the school require no postage.

If you would like to mail your own card send it to the address below before December 10, 2008.

Holiday Mail for Heroes
PO Box 5456
Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456

Please note:

There will be NO BINGO
today Sunday, Nov. 30th.
Bingo will resume on
Sunday, Dec. 7th.

Market Day -

Orders due Friday, Dec. 7 and pick up is on Friday, Dec. 12 from 2PM to 3PM in the gym. Special of the month - COOKIE CREATIONS! Thank you for your support!

Aluminum Can Recycling - Please bring your aluminum cans to the school parking lot before 8AM on Wednesday, December 3rd.

Mission Statement of St. Florian School

Our mission is to provide each student with a Catholic education in all areas. The faculty and school families join the parish staff and fellow parishioners to form a living Catholic faith community. Our school population is multicultural and fosters sensitivity to the needs of all. We promote the students' burning desire for learning. Through education, service, support, formation and challenge, the students are called to realize their potential spiritually, socially, and intellectually. For one hundred years our school has been committed to carry out the Gospel values of Jesus Christ on a daily basis.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS
November 22/23, 2008

Sunday Envelopes	\$3,420.00
Loose	\$ 462.64
Energy Assistance	\$ 35.00
Actual Received	\$3,917.64
(vs. Budgeted Goal)	\$5,250.00)
Bldg. Improvement	\$ 76.00
Maintenance	\$ 50.00
Votives	\$ 122.00
Children's Offering	\$ 70.90

St Vincent de Paul Poor Box - \$77.81

Do Your Christmas Sharing Early - Let your heart and means dictate what to share. Your contributions will enable our St. Vincent de Paul Society to deliver you Christmas message of good cheer to our needy neighbors. "The Poor Boxes are the Bread Boxes of the Poor."

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: THE BEST GIFT EVER Over 2 million couples and thousands of priests invite you to experience what they have. The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a gift you can enjoy together, and one that lasts a lifetime! The next weekend dates are December 5-7 in 2008, and February 27 - March 1 in 2009. For information or reservations, please consult our website at www.wmchicago-gary.org or call Kris and Jim at 1-800-442.3554.

Gabriel's Corner Christmas Open House — Find the perfect Christmas gifts for those special family and friends on your list! Just come to Annunciata Church vestibule and gift shop, 3747 E. 111th St on Saturdays, Dec. 6 & 13, from 4-7PM or Sunday, Dec. 7 & 14, 8AM-2PM. Religious articles, gift baskets, candy, children's gifts and free gift wrapping. All are invited.

St. Casimir's Cookie & Novelty Sale - St. Casimir's Fatima Sodality invites everyone to their annual Cookie and Novelty Sale on the weekend of December 6th and 7th in the Blue Room of the school, located at 4329 Cameron Ave. in Hammond. Saturday hours are from 2PM to 6PM and Sunday hours are from 8:30AM to 3PM. Come and support us!

Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago, Inc. is hosting a FREE foreclosure prevention workshop every Monday from 6PM to 8PM at Villa Guadalupe Senior Center, 3201 E. 91st St. Call 773-329-4185 to register.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Dec. 1	Music Mtg. (Rectory) 9:00 Faith Sharing (Rectory) 7:00
Dec. 2	Faith Sharing (Rectory) 7:00
Dec. 3	Brownies/Daises (KH) 2:30 Choir Practice (Church) 6:30
Dec. 7	Ladies Rosary Sodality (KH) 1:30 Bingo (Gym) Doors open at 1:30
Dec. 9	Golden Agers (KH) 1:00 School Advisory (Faculty Rm) 6:30 Faith Sharing (Rectory) 7:00
Dec. 10	Athletic Mtg. (School) 9:00AM Holy Name Officers (PMR) 6:00
Dec. 11	Scouts (KH) 6:00 Choir Practice (Church) 6:30
Dec. 12	Market Day (Gym) 2:00 Holy Name (PMR) 7:30

Ladies Rosary Sodality - Ladies Rosary Sodality meeting will take place on Sunday, December 7th in Konsowski Hall at 1:30PM. New members are welcome!

Daughters of Isabella - The Daughters of Isabella, Circle 859 will host their Christmas Party on Dec. 2nd at 1PM at St. Columba Social Center, on 133rd & Green Bay Ave. Reservations are required and may be made by November 28th by calling Shirlee at 646-4690 or Bernice at 646-6444 no later than Please remember to bring a gift for the raffle!

Please pray for our

Service Members:



Cpl Ryan Keene, U.S. Marine Corps -
Chief Dennis Zmija, U.S. Navy - Eugene Zmija, U.S. Air Force -
SSgt David Burks, U.S. Army - SSgt Eric L. Abram, U.S. Air Force -
LCpl Christopher Abram, U.S. Marine Corps - Lt. Commdr. Nicholas Garcia, U.S. Navy Pilot -
SPC Waylon Bader, U.S. Army - Chief Jim Pope, U.S. Navy -
SPC Mark J. Dancer, U.S. Army - PVT Joshua Garza, U.S. Army -
PVT Adam Garza, U.S. Army - Aaron Alvarez, U.S. Navy - MSgt James Ritchie, U.S. Air Force -
Capt. Kathryn Diaz, U.S. Marine Corps - Capt. Christopher Conner, U.S. Marine Corps -
Sgt. Michael Marszalek, U.S. Army - Robert A. Islas, Jr., U.S. Navy -
Sgt. Matthew R. McGivney, U.S. Army - PFC Kristin Pala, U.S. Marine Corps,
2nd Lt. Lisa Klekowski, U.S. Army - PFC Patrick Paskiewicz - U.S. Army,
PVT David Cook, U.S. Army - Seaman Laura A. Tomaczak, U.S. Navy,
LTC Peter Allen Kubas - U.S. Army, PVT David Cook - U.S. Army,
PFC Kelly Shanahan - U.S. Air Force

If you wish to have a family member added to this prayer list, please contact the Rectory at 646-4877.