



**Advent Wreath Year B**  
Paul Turner



If you are setting up an Advent wreath in your home this year, here is a prayer for the first week of Advent you could say while you light its candle. You may set these before or after a meal, when waking up, before going to bed, or whenever you and the members of your household gather for prayer. Before you say the prayer, read and talk over the Gospel reading you heard at Sunday Mass that week.

**Week 3:** O God, who sent John the Baptist as a voice crying out in the desert, open ears to hear his message as we light the pink candle. Shape our lives so that they will become a straight path to you. Make us ready to greet your Son when he comes to us. Through Christ our Lord.

Ministry & Liturgy  
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**I Can't Wait for Christmas!**

We live in a culture that celebrates early and often. Waiting until Christmas before we celebrate is hard. Giving and receiving genuine gifts is hard. Yearning for the Lord instead of settling for less is hard. Here are some suggestions:

- Forego some of the celebration before Christmas and plan a special celebration for Christmas Day or the days afterward.
- Give a gift to someone who will not give you a gift. It can be a very ordinary gift, but offer it with special love or kindness.
- Notice how you wait—in a checkout line, at a traffic light, for a phone call or a visit. Add a prayer for patience during your time of waiting.
- Ponder the words of Psalm 27: "Wait for the Lord, be stouthearted and wait."

**Oplatki**

(Christmas Wafers)  
Available in Church after all masses  
and at the Rectory and School Office  
\$2.00 per package or 3 for \$5.00

*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

**Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Our Spanish community will continue their Novena (nine days) to Our Lady of Guadalupe at 6:30 p.m. They will meet each evening in 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 Monday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m. Mass All are invited to a reception in the Gym after Mass.

**"Novena a la Virgen de Guadalupe"**

Cordialmente le invitamos a que nos acompañe  
Novena: Sábado, 3 de Diciembre a  
Domingo 11 de Diciembre, Hors: 6:30 p.m.  
Lugar: Konsowski Hall; Primer piso  
Misa: Lunes 12 de Diciembre; Hora 6:30 p.m.  
Convivio: después de la misa en el gimnasio  
de la escuela San Florian, (Houston & 131st St.)

**Advent Confessions**

All Saturdays in Advent	3:00 - 3:30 PM
Sat. Dec. 17 & 24	2:30 - 3:30 PM
Thur. Dec. 20	7:00 - 8:00 PM

**Parish Tree Lighting**

**Saturday, December 17th**  
3:30 PM Taizé Prayer Service  
4:00 PM Liturgy followed by Tree Lighting

This year we have chosen a "*snowflake*" 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.

**Mass Schedule for Christmas**

<b>Vigil Mass</b>	<b>Saturday , Dec. 24</b>	4:00 PM Mass
<b>Christmas Eve - Saturday, Dec. 24</b>		
Christmas Carols and Mass at Night		10:00PM
<b>Christmas Day - Sunday, Dec. 25</b>		
Mass at Dawn with traditional		
Polish Christmas Carols		8:00 AM
Mass during the Day		9:45 AM
Mass during the Day (Spanish)		11:30 AM

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

Saturday, Dec. 31	4:00 PM.
Sunday, Jan. 1	8:00 & 9:45 AM (English)
	11:30 AM (Spanish)

## We pray for . . .



Debra Mokrzycki, Charlotte Frjelic, Edward Kawa, Grant Joseph Bradtke, Larry Kawa, Stanley Wrona Sr., Austin Cichy, Elaine Antuna, Dale Pelekant, John Koza, Harriet Brodzik, Mary Rolek, Dorita De Cardona, Michael Boston, Steven Schwartz, Marietta Falbo, Linda Stannish, Yesenia Guajardo, Beth Lasseter, Chestine Trzuppek, Thomas Frain, Laurie Ferry, Irma Bulatovich, Alicia Davila, Leona Krawczyk, Stanley Bonczek, Kevin Chocholek, Chris Wopinski, Philip Corich, David Donahue, Ricardo Morales, Bob Konecek, Martha Kowalkowski, Paul Sherman, Michael Auld, Rosa Guadalupe Guajardo, Jim & Ann Cummings, Dennis Grzyb, Asunción Villalpondo, Thomas J. Lohr, Irma Garcia, Irma Cardenas, Karen Kil, Bertha Soto, Martin Covarrubias, Joseph B. Mistarz, Jr., Policarpo Naya, Genoveva Nateras, Peter Ladowski, Barry Piotrowski, Melissa Young, Judy Prokapeka, Rosie Dunmore, Carl Abram, Felicia Pancer, Helen & John Larson, Irene Stincic, Michelle Kendra, Shirley Ostrowski, Marlene Kubiak, Maryann Henney, Paul & Pat Pirowski, Joe Moncada, Alfonso Soto, Dianne Williams, Allysa Garcia, Helen Hennessy, 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.***

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

### Monday - Dec. 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

Reading Zechariah 2:14-17

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

### Tuesday - Dec. 13 - St. Lucy

Reading Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13

Gospel Matthew 21:28-32

### Wednesday - Dec. 14 St. John of the Cross

Reading Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25

Gospel Luke 7:18b-23

### Thurs.- Dec. 15

Reading Isaiah 54:1-10

Gospel Luke 7:24-30

### Friday - Dec. 16

Reading Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8

Gospel John 5:33-36

### Saturday - Dec. 17

Reading Genesis 49:2, 8-10

Gospel Matthew 1:1-17

### Sunday Dec. 18 Fourth` Sunday of Advent

Reading I 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Reading II Romans 16:25-27

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

## In Remembrance

Joseph S. Salomon December 2, 2011

### Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal Dec. 10-11 2011

**Retired religious need your support.** By 2019, it is projected that retired religious will outnumber wage-earning religious by nearly four to one. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps ensure that elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests receive the care they so richly deserve, now and in the future. Please give generously to today's second collection.

## USING MEDIA TO EVANGELIZE

Evangelization has always been the mission of the Catholic Church. The call to evangelize first given to us by Christ requires that we proclaim the word of God using every means of communication. In the Church today using the media has become indispensable in bringing the Gospel message into the world through the internet, radio, and television.



Beginning December 16th and running through January 8, there will be an evangelization initiative reaching people across the nation, using advertisement that invite Catholics to come home. The Archdiocese of Chicago is not funding this initiative; it is funded by **Catholics Come Home, INC** of Atlanta, GA. All parishioners are encouraged to take advantage of this part in this evangelization effort in three simple ways:

- When you see someone new or unfamiliar at Mass, introduce yourself and welcome them to the parish.
- The ads on TV may result in unexpected conversations about the Catholic faith. When someone talks about the ads listen carefully to their interests in the Catholic faith. You might invite them to join you for Mass if they don't have a home parish.
- If you know someone who is Catholic and no longer attends Mass, invite them to come home for the 'holidays'.
- If you are at work or on the bus and you hear people talking about something even remotely related to faith, tell them about Catholics Come Home and invite them to your parish.

In these four simple ways you continue the mission that Jesus gave to all his followers, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

If you need more information, please call 312-534-3855

## St. Florian School Happenings . . .

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



### **BINGO**

Doors open at 1:30

Games begin at 2:30

**(Please Note:** There will no bingo on  
Dec. 18th, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1st)



**Market Day** - Orders due Friday, Jan. 13. Pick up on Friday, Jan. 20 from 2-3PM. Profits earned last month: \$161.30. Thank you for your support!

**Aluminum Can Recycling** - Please bring your aluminum cans to the school parking lot on Wed., Jan. 11, by 8 AM.

### **St. Florian Parent Teacher Club Entertainment Card**

Cardholder benefits include a variety of discounts with local retailers listed on the Entertainment Card. Cards cost \$10 and you receive continuous savings until November 1, 2012. Retailers include: Chicago Pita, Los Cantaritos Restaurant, Don Pedro's, Subway ( 118<sup>th</sup> St. ), Olympia Lanes Bowling, Papalano's, Pudgy's Pizza, Doreen's Pizza, Steve's Lounge, Club 81 II, and Jason's Bar and Grill. Patronize these business and save money every time you shop. All funds support the school music program. For more information contact Kathy Fox at 773.608.2813 or [kfox@uchicago.edu](mailto:kfox@uchicago.edu)

### **Reading and Praying**

By Paul Turner

We Catholics are sometimes criticized for our poor abilities at spontaneous prayer. We can read prayers from a book, but we do not always sound as though we mean what we say. In truth, even spontaneous prayer can fall into patterns of insincerity. Any time we give voice to prayer, we could always do better.

As English-speaking Catholics switch from one translation to another at mass, the change will cause some difficulties. Many of the texts people knew well have been altered. Although the revised translation brings a fresh meaning to the words on the page, it comes at the cost of familiarity. When we repeat words and phrases, we feel comfortable in our prayer. When we have new words to say, when the responses no longer fall naturally off the tongue, and when everyone seems somewhat confused, it is hard to pray.

Getting used to new words – both those we speak and those we hear – has brought the church into a gray area of prayer. When words are unfamiliar, we think about them a lot. We analyze the structure of the prayer. We compare the words with the ones we used to know. We go through mental exercises that take us away from the spiritual exercise we should be doing: praying the mass.

Prayer is something deeper than the words we say. It is setting our hearts in the presence of God. Sometimes unfamiliar words can inhibit that practice. For a while, we may be reading words more than praying words. But as we become more familiar with them, the words become a part of us, and they will lead us into deep prayer.

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### **December 2011 Book Rack Selections**

(Our book rack is located in the back of church. Please take a moment and browse. Prices are indicated on each book.)

**Word and Worship Calendar 2012**

**St. Joseph Sunday Missal 2012**

**A Good News Spirituality**

by John Burke, OP.

**Desert Graces**

by Rev. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR.

**Thérèse: The Saint Who Loved Us**

by Arthur Cavanaugh

**Walking with Gerard Manly Hopkins**

by Robert Waldron

**Contemplatives In Action**

By William A. Barry, SJ, &  
Robert G. Doherty, SJ.



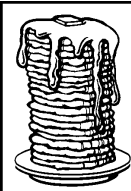
WEEKLY OFFERINGS December 3/4, 2011	
Sunday Envelopes	\$3103.02
Loose	\$ 331.97
Energy	\$ 454.00
Children's Offering	\$ 94.09
Maintenance	\$ 447.00
Bldg. Improvement	\$ 142.00
Votives	\$ 143.00

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- Dec. 10/11 Religious Retirement Collection
- Dec. 11 Bingo (Gym) Doors open 1:30
- Dec. 12 Faith Sharing (KH) 1:00  
Faith Sharing (Rectory) 7:00  
Guadalupe Mass 6:30 followed by reception in gymnasium  
School Board (School Lobby) 6:30
- Dec. 13 Daisies (PMR) 4:30  
VFW (KH) 5:00  
Faith Sharing (Rectory) 7:00
- Dec. 14 Evangelization Mtg. (KH) 6:00  
School Christmas Program (Gym) 7:00
- Dec. 15 Choir Practice (Church) 6:30
- Dec. 17 Tree Lighting - 4PM Mass and reception in Konsowski Hall


**St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box - \$265.00**  
**St. Vincent de Paul** - During the past year, you have brought comfort and peace to many of our parishioners by your support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. May the peace and joy of this Holy Season be yours. "The Poor Boxes are the bread boxes of the poor."

**The Archdiocese of Chicago needs your opinion!**  
 We are engaged in a process to understand how the needs of parishes and educational priorities within the Archdiocese may be addressed. You are invited to take a brief and anonymous online survey which will be available until Dec. 18. Just follow this link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HSP8GN7>



**Pancake Breakfast with Santa** - The General Pulaski Council #3323 Knights of Columbus will host a Pancake Breakfast with Santa Claus on Sunday, December 18th at the St. Columba Social Center, 13323 S. Greenbay. Free gift and photo with Santa Claus for all the kids. The Breakfast is an "All You Can Eat" Pancakes, Eggs cooked to order, French Toast, Sausage, Milk, Coffee and Orange Juice. Breakfast will be served from 8AM until 12 Noon. Adults \$7.00 Children 10 and under \$3.00. Plenty of parking and handicap accessible. Need more information? Call John Rydzewski at 708-841-1904.

Please pray for our  
**Service Members:**




Sgt. 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 -  
 Cpl Christopher Abram, U.S. Marine Corps - Lt. Commdr. Nicholas Garcia, U.S. Navy Pilot - SPC Waylon Bader, U.S. Army - 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. 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 - Cpl Kristin Pala, U.S. Marine Corps - Capt. 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 - A1C Kelly Shanahan - U.S. Air Force, - Master Sgt. Christopher Saberniak, U.S. Air Force - A1C Nicolaos Hofbauer, U.S. Air Force

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

**St. Andrew the Apostle Parish** will host Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 11th at 5PM. During the season of Advent, a form of worship known as "The Festival of Lessons and Carols" finds its way into the liturgies of our churches in preparations for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. Hospitality and fellowship follow the service.

**Christmas Offerings:**  
 Please remember to use your Christmas Flower envelope to assist in defraying the cost of our Christmas decorations in Church.



**Vocation Thoughts**  
**DECEMBER 11 – 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
 "Make straight the way of the Lord." In today's Gospel John urges us to recognize the God that walks with us and calls us to serve him. How are you called to serve the Lord? Men of college-age and older are invited to an **Exploring Priesthood Weekend** retreat to learn about, reflect on, and discuss with seminarians and priests the possibilities of diocesan priesthood in Chicago. The next **EPW** is **January 13-15, 2012**. To register contact Fr. Brian Welter at 312-534-8298 or [bwelter@archchicago.org](mailto:bwelter@archchicago.org) See [www.ChicagoPriest.com](http://www.ChicagoPriest.com) for more details.