

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 12

- 4:00 PM + Joan Yandura - Zalewski Family
6:00 PM - Our Lady of Guadalupe Liturgy

Sunday, December 13

- 8:00 AM + Robert & Irene Stevenson - Colleen & Peter Stevenson
9:45 AM + Frank & Frances Hurysz - Sister, Ceil
11:30 AM + Emilia Silva - Family

Monday, December 14

- 7:15 AM + Denice Feltman - Aunt Bernie & Uncle Jim

Tuesday, December 15

- 7:15 AM + Walter Krawczyk - Wife, Leona & Children

Wednesday, December 16

- 7:15 AM + Elaine Boganski - Betty Peak

Thursday, December 17

- 7:15 AM + Josef Pietrucha - Family

Friday, December 18

- 8:15 AM + John Prinz - Wife & Family

Saturday, December 19

- 7:30 AM + Olga Pekala - Ruth Pavich
3:30 PM - Taizé Prayer Service and Benediction
4:00 PM + John Gabrys - Family

Sunday, December 20

- 8:00 AM + Frank & Mary Hurysz - Daughter, Ceil
9:45 AM + Rina Rigoni (Anniv.) - Family
11:30 AM - For the Good Health of Amanda Montemayor - Family

Week of December 13 - December 19

The Gifts of Bread & Wine are donated this week in memory of
Peter Orzelski - Friends & Family

The Tabernacle Candle will be lit this week in memory of
John Prinz - Wife & Family

LECTORS

December, 2009

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| 4:00 PM | L. Morse |
| 8:00 AM | P. Gadus |
| 9:45 AM | A. Simmons |
| 11:30 AM | C. Ramirez |

ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, December 19

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

SUNDAY, December 20

- 8:00 AM G. Bonczek, J. O'Keefe, T. DeCook
9:45 AM D. Ranos, V. Velasco, C. Haro
11:30 AM M. Ortiz, S. Zaragoza, X. Gutierrez

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

December, 2009

4:00 PM

- A. Bonczek
B. Frjelich
B. Peak
M. Cowperthwaite
M. Piaskowy
C. Motkowicz

8:00 AM

- S. Jezior
K. Gibson
J. Gibbons
C. Jankiewicz
N. Moll
E. Podsiadlik

9:45 AM

- P. Maccagnano
C. Michalik
C. Malone
P. O'Rourke
M. Czarobski
D. Karczewski

11:30 AM

- R. Oseguera
A. Davila

USHERS

December, 2009

4:00 PM

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

8:00 AM

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

9:45 AM

- E. Lihota, G. Slusarczyk,
K. Podgorny, R. Furman,
T. Baker,

11:30 AM

- M. Gasior, M. Aducci
L. Arellano, A. Arellano,
T. Favela, J. Gonzalez,
S. Gonzalez

*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

Preparing the Way by Confessing Our Sins

Advent resounds with the theme of reconciliation and the call to repentance. That call is not about dwelling on our sins and being even more burdened by them, but the opposite: bringing them to God in sorrow and hope for forgiveness. It is a fitting time to approach Jesus in this sacrament—and to be able to approach him in the Eucharist on Christmas with a renewed heart.

Below is a schedule of times to be reconciled with the Lord and each other before Christmas.

Confessions

All Saturdays in Advent	3:00 - 3:30 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 16th	7PM Reconciliation Service
Saturday, Dec. 19th	2:30 - 3:00 & after 4PM Mass
Tuesday, Dec. 22nd	7:00 - 8:00 PM

Parish Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 19th

3:30 PM Taizé Prayer Service

4:00 PM Liturgy followed by Tree Lighting

This year we have chosen a “wooden” 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

Vigil Mass - Thursday, December 24
4:00 PM Mass

Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24
Christmas Carols and Mass at Night - 10:00PM

Christmas Day - Friday, December 25
8:00 AM - Mass at Dawn with traditional
Polish Christmas Carols
9:45 AM - Mass during the Day

Oplatki

(Christmas Wafers)

Available in Church after all Masses, at the Rectory
and School Office

\$2.00 per package or 3 for \$5.00



**Come Home
to the Catholic Church**

Take A New Look....

- ♦ Rediscover Jesus
- ♦ Find a new hope in this confusing world
- ♦ Give your family the opportunity to learn about faith in a loving community
- ♦ Come to understand the ways of forgiveness and acceptance
- ♦ Through the Bible, hear the Word of God speaking to us today
- ♦ Reconnect with our Lord through our Church's Sacraments

A series of TV commercials will be aired to invite Catholics to return to the practice of the faith starting December 16, 2009 through January 24, 2010 on all major networks. The commercials will air in English, Spanish and Polish.

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.

We pray for . . .

Helen Golden, Wanda Podgorny, Ida Fasciana, Debra Mokrzycki, Charlotte Frijelich, Edward Kawa, Grant Joseph Bradtke, Larry Kawa, Stanley Wrona Sr., Austin Cichy, Elaine Antuna, Dale Pelekant, Helen Kasper, John Koza, Harriet Brodzik, Mary Rolek, Dorita De Cardona, Michael Boston, Steven Schwartz, Marietta Falbo, Linda Stannish, Pam Skowronski, Josephine Opiola, Yesenia Guajardo, Beth Lasseter, Chestine Trzupke, Patricia Manley, Thomas Frain, Laurie Ferry, Irma Bulatovich, Alicia Davila, Sophie Borowiec, 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, 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, Christen White, Irma Cardenas, Anthony Gromek, Karen Kil, Bertha Soto, Irene Stincic, Marion Vargas, Martin Covarubias, Joseph B. Mistarz, Jr., Amanda Montemayor, Ed Ronczy, 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 . . .

Margaret Colbert
Charles A. Miceli

November 26, 2009
December 8, 2009

Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal **Dec. 12-13 2009** Share in the Care

Religious face rising costs.

Data submitted to the National Religious Retirement Office reveals that the average annual cost of care for women and men religious age 70 and over has more than doubled since 1989. Current statistics put this figure at \$35,077 per person annually, with skilled care reaching nearly \$55,000. Your donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides critical support to the religious institutes in meeting the escalating costs of elder care. Please pray for all religious and give generously to today's second collection. www.retirereligious.org

Christmas Confession

By Paul Turner

Many Catholics go to confession as part of their preparation for Christmas. A lot of people who shop, bake, mail, and party throughout December know there is a deeper reason for all this activity. They want to do more than decorate the house and set the table. They want to prepare their hearts so that the Kings of Kings will find in there a home.

Your parish probably sets aside extra time for confessions in December. Priests usually hear individual confessions on Saturday afternoon. But they gather people for a communal penance service on some other evening of the week at this time of year. During the week or 10 days before Christmas, you should be able to find confession scheduled at your parish or in another one nearby.

As an alternative, you may ask a priest for a special appointment to hear your confession. Some people do this if they are not free when the parish confessions are scheduled or if they would like to spend a little more time to confess their sins and discuss their spiritual life with a priest. Priests are busy, especially during the week before Christmas, but they want to help you if they can.

If Christmas comes and you still haven't gone to confession, it is never too late. The good news is you can always go. If your experience of Christmas this year touches your heart; if you are moved by the spirit of gift-giving by family, friends, and strangers; if you realize more deeply that God loved you enough to send you Jesus—then open your heart. See God's glory. Acknowledge your weakness. Confess your sins. And rejoice in the grace of forgiveness.

Ministry & Liturgy
2006 Resource Publications

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday - Dec. 14 - St. John of the Cross

Reading Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a
Gospel Matthew 21:23-27

Tues. Dec. 15

Reading Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13
Gospel Matthew 21:28-32

Wed. - Dec. 16

Reading Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25
Gospel Luke 7:18b-23

Thursday - Dec. 17

Reading Genesis 49:2, 8-10
Gospel Matthew 1:1-17

Friday - Dec. 18

Reading Jeremiah 23:5-8
Gospel Matthew 1:18-25

Sat. - Dec. 19

Reading Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a
Gospel Luke 1:5-25

Sunday - Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reading I Micah 5:1-4a
Reading II Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel Luke 1:39-45

St. Florian School Happenings . . .

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

INSERT
LOGO

PLEASE NOTE:

During the holiday season, there will be no BINGO on Sunday, Dec. 27th and Sunday, Jan. 3rd.

Bingo will resume on Sunday, Jan. 10th.

Save General Mills, Tyson, & Campbell Soup Labels !

The school continues to save:
General Mills "Box Tops for Education" coupons
Tyson Project A+ "Support Your School" labels
Campbell's soup labels - Submit the UPC code with the Campbell Kid Logo next to the UPC located on back of label. Other Campbell products include Franco American, V8, Swanson, Prego and Pepperidge Farm.

* **SAVE THE DATE FOR FUTURE EVENTS!** *
* Sun., Jan. 17 6:30 PM Family Fun Night at *
* Lynwood Bowl *
* Sun., Jan 31 Pancake Breakfast / Catholic Schools Week *
* Wed., Feb. 3 Grandparents/Special Persons Day *
* Luncheon *
* Fri., Feb. 5 Teacher Appreciation Day! *

Market Day - Orders due Friday, Jan. 15th and pick up is on Friday, Jan. 22nd from 2-3PM. Profits earned last month: \$143.07. Thank you for your support!

Aluminum Can Recycling - Please bring your aluminum cans to the school parking lot on Wednesday, January 6th, by 8 AM.

Sponsors Needed for our Monthly Tuition Raffle!!!

Each month school families are offered an opportunity to win a free month's tuition by purchasing raffle tickets for \$10 each.

If you would like to sponsor a monthly raffle, or know of someone that would like to sponsor a month, please notify the school office at 773/646-2868.

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.

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.



WEEKLY OFFERINGS	
Dec. 5/6 2009	
Sunday Envelopes	\$3,361.75
Loose	\$ 386.90
Energy Assistance	\$ 338.00
Actual Received vs.	\$4,086.65
Budgeted Goal	\$5,250.00
Bldg. Improvement	\$ 158.00
Maintenance	\$ 288.00
Children's Offering	\$ 40.35
Votives	\$ 111.00

St Vincent de Paul Poor Box - \$208.51

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."

SENIOR SUITES OPEN HOUSE! - On Sunday, December 27th there will be an open house at the Senior Suites from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm located at 13550 S. Avenue O, Chicago. Senior suites offers affordable, high quality apartment homes with specially-designed amenities to meet the needs of Chicago's older adults. For more information, please call 773-646-1333.

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. 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, 1st 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, A1C Kelly Shanahan - U.S. Air Force, - PFC Anthony Baracco, U.S. Army
If you wish to have a family member added to this prayer list, please contact the Rectory at 646-4877.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR


- Dec. 12/13 Religious Retirement Collection
- Dec. 13 Bingo (Gym) Doors open at 1:30
- Dec. 14 Young at Heart (KH) 1:00
Faith Sharing (Rectory) 1:00
Faith Sharing (Rectory) 7:00
- Dec. 15 Faith Sharing (Rectory) 7:00
School Christmas Concert (Gym) 6:30
- Dec. 16 SVDP Pantry (3:30)
Reconciliation Service (Church) 7PM
- Dec. 17 Scouts (KH) 6:00
Choir Practice (Church) 6:30
- Dec. 18 School Dismissal at Noon
- Dec. 19 Tree Lighting - 4PM Mass and reception in Konsowski Hall
- Dec. 20 Bingo (Gym) Doors open at 1:30
- Dec. 24/25 Rectory Closed
- Jan. 1 Happy New Year! (Rectory Closed)
- Jan. 4 School resumes
Parish Council Mtg (KH) 7:00

Knights of Columbus

Pancake Breakfast - The General Pulaski Council #3353 of the Knights of Columbus will host a Pancake Breakfast with Santa Claus on Sunday, December 20th at the St. Columba Social Center 13323 S. Greenbay in the Hegewisch neighborhood. 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 8:00 am until 12:30 pm. Adults \$7.00 Children 10 and under \$3.00. Plenty of parking and handicap accessible. Need more information? Call John Ryzdewski at 708-841-1904.



Vocation Thoughts - John the Baptist fills the people with "expectations." They sense in him the possibilities of following God. And God will give peace to those who see Christ. Are you called to serve the Lord? For more information about the priesthood contact Fr. Joe Noonan, Vocation Director, at 312/ 751-8298 or jnoonan@archchicago.org. For more information about religious life contact Sr. Elyse Ramirez at 312-534-5240 or at eramirez@archchicago.org.



Christmas Offerings:

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