

MASSES FOR THE WEEK**Weekend of December 13/14**

- 4:00 PM + Eugene A. Mezydlo - SVDP
 8:00 AM + Eugene A. Mezydlo - Liturgy Committee
 + Josephine Iwan - Lee Morse
 9:45 AM + John Gabrys - Mr. & Mrs. John Goniorowski
 11:30 AM + Jesus Reyes - Family

Monday, December 15

- 7:15 AM + Olga Gromala - Jo Premetz

Tuesday, December 16

- 7:15 AM + Joseph Cap - C. Gora

Wednesday, December 17

- 7:15 AM + Eugene A. Mezydlo - Grace Bogutyn

Thursday, December 18

- 7:15 AM + Josephine Kuc - Cynthia & Jerry Sebahar

Friday, December 19

- 8:15 AM + Sally Slavik - Mr. & Mrs. J. Young

Saturday, December 20

- 7:30 AM + Theodore F. Slusarczyk - Friends
 3:30 PM - Taizé Prayer Service and Benediction
 4:00 PM + Olga Pekala - Ann Slaga

Sunday, December 21

- 8:00 AM + Olga Pekala - Betty Peak
 + Margaret Castellarin - Family
 9:45 AM + Walter F. Rolek - Mary & Sharon Rolek
 11:30 AM + Rina Rigoni (Anniv.) - Family

Week of December 14 - December 20

The Gifts of Bread & Wine are donated this week in memory of
 Eugene A. Mezydlo - Liturgy Committee

The Tabernacle Candle will be lit this week in memory of
 Eugene A. Mezydlo - Liturgy Committee

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 20**

- 4:00 PM B. Meyer, J. Lelo, G. Bonczek

SUNDAY, December 21

- 8:00 AM J. Carlassare, E. Echevarria, B. Echevarria
 9:45 AM D. Ranos, C. Haro, T. DeCook
 11:30 AM M. Ortiz, M. Elizalde, K. Mallee

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**December, 2008**

4:00 PM

- L. Szeffc
 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 Third Sunday of Advent

By Rev. Daren J. Zehnle

Today we pause in our joyful expectation of the Lord who has come, who is present, and who is to come. The announcement of the Baptist to “make straight the way of the Lord” is one taken from the heralds of the ancient kings. It was always a cry that entailed much toil as the people made everything proper for the monarch’s visit, but one that also gave great joy, for it was not every day the king would come to town. Just as John’s announcement gave joy to the people of old, so should it do for us. Our task is not the clearing of roads, but the clearing of the body, mind, and soul with repentance. Let us then make straight his way and look joyfully for his coming.

Let us pray . . .

*King of heaven and earth,
you come among your people
to reveal to us the power of your love.
Give us the strength to prepare our
hearts for your coming,
that you might find a worthy and
fitting dwelling place in us.*

Amen.



Manger

By Paul Turner

A Christmas manger is a three-dimensional display of characters who populate the story of the birth of Christ. It is also known as a crib or a crèche. St. Francis of Assisi originated the custom in the 13th century, and it has been adopted by homes, churches, and even some public squares around the world.

A manger scene usually shows Mary and Joseph together with shepherds and magi, all in reverent pose before the newborn Jesus, who lies in an animal feeding trough. Around them gather livestock—lambs, a cow, a donkey, and the camels that transported the magi. An angel may hover above the scene, proclaiming “Glory to God in the highest.” Most of these figures can be traced to the Gospel accounts to the birth of Jesus (Mt 1:18—2:12 and Lk 2:1-20), but the cow and donkey (or ox and ass) come from a prophecy in Isaiah 1:3. Some scenes are filled with more delightfully fanciful figures. In all, the manger proclaims that Christ was born for all—the wise and the poor, angels as well as animals.

The manger foreshadows the Eucharist because Jesus would give his Body and Blood for food. It also foreshadows the cross; in art, the crib and the swaddling clothes sometimes resemble a coffin and burial cloths.

When the manger is first erected, it may be blessed with prayers from the *Book of Blessings*, which are also found in *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*.

In a church, the manger is not supposed to occupy a place in the sanctuary, lest it block one’s view of the altar. Still, it is fitting to arrange the scene in a place where the faithful can come, look, and be inspired to praise God for the miracle of Christmas.

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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, John Noworyta, Wanda Podgorny, Ida Fasciana, Debra Mokrzycki, Charlotte Frjelijch, 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, 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, Katelyn Grabowski, Irma Cardenas, Virginia Majewski, Anthony Gromek, Edward Walczak, Agnes Walczak, Noah Mooney, 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 . . .

Gladys C. Erlenborn

Decmeber 7, 2008

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
Wed., Dec. 17	7 PM Reconciliation Service
Sat., Dec. 20	2:30 - 3:30 & after 4PM Mass
Tues., Dec 23	7:00 - 8:00 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.

Mass Schedule for Christmas

Vigil Mass - Wednesday, December 24

4:00 PM Mass

Christmas Eve

Christmas Carols and Mass at Night - 10:00PM

Christmas Day - Thursday, 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, at the Rectory and School Office
\$2.00 per package or 3 for \$5.00

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday - Dec. 15

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

Tuesday—Dec. 16

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

Wed. - Dec. 17

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

Thursday - Dec. 18

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

Friday - Dec. 19

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

Sat. - Dec. 20

Reading Isaiah 7:10-14
Gospel Luke 1:26-38

Sunday Dec. 21— 4th 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

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. 21st,
- Sunday, Dec. 28th and
- Sunday, Jan. 4th.

Bingo will resume on Sunday, Jan. 11th.

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, Prego, Nestle Pure Water labels and Peppercide Farm.

Congratulations Alumni!

Honor roll has been achieved by the following students at Bishop Noll Institute:

Trevor DeCook, Damon DeGrane,
Joseph Ritchie, Joseph Sanchez

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 First Ever Concert of Polish Carols at Holy Name Cathedral on Sunday, January 4, 2009 at 3 p.m.

Performed by the Lira Singers
and Lira Symphony
at 735 N. State Street in Chicago

This concert presents beautiful Polish carols the traditional way — after Christmas, on the Feast of the Epiphany. A concert narration, in English, will give insight into the history of carols in Poland and other Polish holiday traditions. Tickets are \$50 and \$45 - half-price for youth to age 16. Call 773/508-7040 for tickets.

Annual Piano Recital

Sunday, Dec. 21st, at 2:00 p.m.

by various children and young people
at the Pilgrim Center
of the Carmelite Monastery
1628 Ridge Road in Munster, Ind.

The program is sponsored by Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cultural Committee. Free admission. Come and enjoy the music of our talented youth.

Annual Christmas Concert

Sunday, Dec. 28th, at 3:00 p.m.

celebrating Christ's birth with two choirs
at the Carmelite Monastery Church
1628 Ridge Road in Munster, Ind.

The Lady of Mount Carmel Pueri Cantores and the Millennium Chorale under the direction of Monsignor Joseph Mroczkowski along with organ accompanist Virginia Hawrysz and commentator Michael Gibson will present the concert. Free admission. All are welcome! Come and enjoy the music of the Christmas season! Call 219/838-7111 for more information.

Christmas Flower Offerings:

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



Missing Envelopes:

We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we try to resolve the problem with our church envelopes not being delivered to a number of parishioners. Our printing company in Ohio, who sends out the packets, is trying to track things through the U.S. Postal Service. We have reported all names of parishioners who have informed us about their missing envelopes in the hopes of resolving this matter. In the meantime, please use a plain envelope with your name and account number (if known) and identify whether your donation is for a Sunday offering, Building Imp., Maintenance, Flowers, etc. Thank you for your understanding and assistance.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

December 7/8, 2008

Sunday Envelopes	\$2,687.00
Loose	\$ 387.30
Energy Assistance	\$ 256.00
Actual Received	\$3,330.30
(vs. Budgeted Goal)	\$5,250.00)
Bldg. Improvement	\$ 83.00
Maintenance	\$ 206.00
Children's Offering	\$ 28.00

St Vincent de Paul Poor Box - \$227.92

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."

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: THAT PERFECT GIFT

Are you looking for a Christmas gift for your spouse? A gift you can enjoy the will last for years? For a \$35 registration fee and a donation made on the Weekend, you can give him or her a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend for Christmas. The next dates are February 27 - March 1 or May 1-3, or June 5-7 2009. For information or reservations, please consult our website at www.wmchicago-gary.org or call Kris and Jim at 1-800-442.3554.

Vocation Thoughts - *"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord'" (Jn 1:23)* If you would like to explore the possibility of discerning the priesthood in the seminary, join us for an **Exploring Priesthood Weekend**, a retreat experience designed to help men discover if God may be calling them to the priesthood. College-age and older men are invited to join us the weekend of January 16-18, 2009. For more information about the priesthood contact Fr. Joe Noonan, Vocation Director, at (312) 751-8298 or jnoonan@archchicago.org. Please visit www.ChicagoPriest.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Dec. 13/14 Religious Retirement Collection
- Dec. 14 Bingo (Gym) Doors open at 1:30
- Dec. 15 Faith Sharing (KH) 1:00
Ministry of Care (Rectory) 7:00
Faith Sharing (Rectory) 7:00
- Dec. 16 Parent Club Mtg(PMR) 8AM & 5:30PM
Faith Sharing (Rectory) 7:00
- Dec. 17 Brownies/Daises (PMR) 2:30
SVDP Pantry (KH) 3:30
Parish Reconciliation 7:00 PM
- Dec. 18 Scouts (KH) 6:00
- Dec. 19 School Dismissal at Noon
Choir Practice (Church) 6:30
- Dec. 20 Tree Lighting - 4PM Mass and
reception in Konsowski Hall
- Dec. 22 Young at Heart (KH) 1:00
- Dec. 25/26 Rectory Closed
- Jan. 1 Happy New Year! (Rectory Closed)
- Jan. 5 School resumes
Parish Council mtg (KH) 7:00

Knights of Columbus

Pancake Breakfast with Santa

Dec. 14 from 8AM—1PM

St. Columba Social Center

Come to the "All You Can Eat" Pancake Breakfast with Santa and have the kids get a free gift and picture with Santa. Adults \$7 and kids 12 and under \$3.

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, 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, 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.