

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Weekend of December 20/21

- 4:00 PM + Olga Pekala - Ann Slaga
 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

Monday, December 22

- 7:15 AM + Fr. Joe Pachorek (12th Anniv.) - Drosos Family

Tuesday, December 23

- 7:15 AM + Frank Pekala - Family

Wednesday, December 24

- 7:15 AM + Mary J. (Tina) Dubiel - Children

Christmas Masses - December 24/25

- 4:00 PM + Anastasia Kowalski - Grandchildren
 10:00 PM - For the Parishioners
 8:00 AM + Bertha Sowa - John & Sharon Glazbrook
 9:45 AM + Paul & Stella Jasek and Catherine Maccagnano - Family

Friday, December 26

- 8:15 AM + Freda Ciciora - Family

Saturday, December 27

- 7:30 AM + John & Angeline Palilunas - Sons
 4:00 PM + Walter Krawczyk - Mrs. Ann Kunka

Sunday, December 28 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

- 8:00 AM + Richard C. Serafin (7th Anniv.) -Wife
 + Elizabeth Wyrwa (Anniv.) - Jean & Joe
 9:45 AM + Tony Segvich Jr. - Family
 11:30 AM + For the Parishioners

Week of December 21 - December 27

The Gifts of Bread & Wine are donated this week in memory of
 Joseph & Julia Kotulski & Sons - Family

The Tabernacle Candle will be lit this week in memory of
 Catherine Harte - Lenckos 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 27

- 4:00 PM G. Bonczek, T. DeCook, D. Ranos

SUNDAY, December 28

- 8:00 AM B. Meyer, E. Dejanovich, J. Lelo
 9:45 AM B. Echevarria, E. Echevarria, C. Haro
 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

By Rev. Daren J. Zehnle

The time is close at hand; our four weeks waiting in joyful hope are nearly fulfilled. As the days have passed, how well have we truly looked expectantly for the Lord? Have we allowed the joy of his love to well up within us? There still is time; it is not too late. The Light of the Nations is coming. Let us look to the east and watch him come to us.

Let us pray . . .

*Lord Jesus Christ,
hasten to come to us.
We sit in darkness,
awaiting the radiance of your light.
Cast your light upon us now,
that we may recognize you when you
come 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.

Merry Christmas

Wesolych Swiat

Feliz Navidad



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 and at the Rectory
\$2.00 per package or 3 for \$5.00

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Wednesday, Dec. 31 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 1 9:00 a.m.

Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, Jan. 3
4:00 PM English
Sunday, Jan. 4
8:00 & 9:45 AM English
11:30 AM Spanish

Christmas Offerings:



We encourage everyone to use their special Christmas envelope for their family's Christmas gift to the Parish. As you have given so generously in the past, we hope you are able to continue to do so this Christmas.

Also, please remember to use your Christmas Flower envelope to help with the cost of our flowers and decorations used in Church throughout the Christmas season.

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 Trzupek, 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, 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. 22

Reading 1 Samuel 1:24-28
Gospel Luke 1:46-56

Tuesday—Dec. 23 St. John of Kanty

Reading Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24
Gospel Luke 1:57-66

Wed. - Dec. 24

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

Thursday - Dec. 25 Nativity of the Lord

Reading I Isaiah 52: 7-10
Reading II Hebrews 1:1-6
Gospel John 1:1-18

Friday - Dec. 26 St. Stephen

Reading Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
Gospel Matthew 10:17-22

Sat. - Dec. 27 St. John (Apostle & Evangelist)

Reading 1 John 1:1-4
Gospel John 20:1a, 2-8

Sunday Dec. 28 - Feast of the Holy Family

Reading I Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14
Reading II Colossians 3:12-21
Gospel Luke 2:22-40

Dear Lord,
Bless all families
this Christmas.
Help us all to remember
this season



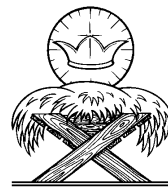
that you chose to come to us
as a humble baby.

You chose to be part of a family yourself
and came, not to be served,
but to serve and one day die for love of those
who hated, deserted, and killed you.

On this Christmas day, may we always
remember amid the joys, family and presents,
the reason we have this season:

That you, the Eternal Son of God
came to live among us as one of us
and as a member of our human family.

Amen.



For unto us a child is born,
to us a son is given ...
Isaiah 9:6

Blessing of the Crèche

God our Father,
bless all who gaze upon this scene
of your Son's birth.
Fill our hearts with the songs of angels,
the humility of the creatures,
The eagerness of the shepherds,
the longing of the Magi,
and the love of your Holy Family.
This Advent, grant us the virtue of hope,
and bless us throughout the Christmas season
with the joy of your presence.

Help us to discern the signs of your Spirit,
and grant us the courage to follow
wherever you lead.

Make of our home a new Bethlehem
where you are ever welcome.

And all are welcome in your name.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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 lo-
cated on back of label. Other Campbell products
include Franco American, Prego, Nestle Pure Wa-
ter labels and Peppercorn Farm.

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.

Rejoice in your new life!

Today our Savior was born; let us rejoice! This is no season for sadness — it is the birthday of life! It is a life that annihilates the fear of death; a life that brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness.

Nobody is an outsider to this happiness; we all have common cause for rejoicing. Our Lord, the victor over sin and death, finding no one free from guilt, has come to free us all.

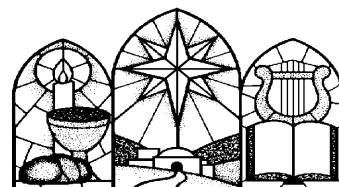
In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God's wisdom, the Son of God took on himself our human nature in order to reconcile us with our Creator.

In this conflict undertaken for us, a war has been waged on the mighty and highest principles of justice. The almighty Lord has gone into battle against evil clothed not in his own majesty, but in our weakness. In Christ, majesty has taken on humility, strength has taken on weakness, eternity has taken on mortality, and all for us.

Let us, then, give thanks to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in his great love for us God has had mercy on us and, when we were dead in our sins, brought us to life with Christ, so that in him we might be a new creation, a new work of his hands. Let us throw off our old ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh.

Remember that "you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom."

*A Christmas homily from
Pope St. Leo the Great*



WEEKLY OFFERINGS
December 13/14, 2008

Sunday Envelopes	\$3,301.00
Loose	\$ 427.62
Energy Assistance	\$ 140.00
Actual Received	\$3,868.62
(vs. Budgeted Goal)	\$5,250.00)
Bldg. Improvement	\$ 103.00
Maintenance	\$ 129.00
Children's Offering	\$ 46.20
Votives	\$ 97.00

St Vincent de Paul Poor Box - \$70.55

St. Vincent de Paul Society - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to our membership, their families and friends. We wish to thank the people of the parish for making it possible to meet some of the needs of our neighbors during 2008. Our plans for the New Year include continuing the outreach to parishioners who need spiritual and material assistance.

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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FORM WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER!! Christ is the reason for the Season. Is Christ in your marriage? Worldwide Marriage Encounter can help your marriage Christ-centered. 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.wmmechicago-gary.org or call Kris and Jim at 1-800-442.3554.

Vocation Thoughts - Mary reminds us today that it is all about saying "yes" and trusting in God. 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 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 at (312) 751-8298 or jnoonan@archchicago.org. Please visit www.ChicagoPriest.com. for more details.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Dec. 22	Young at Heart (KH) 1:00
Dec. 25/26	Rectory Closed
Jan. 1/2	Happy New Year! (Rectory Closed)
Jan. 5	School resumes
	Parish Council mtg. (KH) 7:00
Jan. 6	Faith Sharing (Rectory) 7:00
Jan. 7	Holy Name Officers (PMR) 7:00
Jan. 8	Scouts (KH) 6:00
	Faith Sharing (PMR) 6:00
Jan. 9	Holy Name (PMR) 7:30
Jan. 11	Bingo (Gym) Doors open at 1:30
Jan. 12	Music Mtg. (Rectory) 9:00
	Faith Sharing (Rectory) 7:00
Jan. 13	Parents Club (PMR) 8AM & 5:30PM
	Golden Agers (KH) 1:00
	Evangelization (KH) 6:30
Jan. 14	Athletic Mtg. (School) 9:00
	Brownies/Daisies (KH) 2:30
	Liturgy Mtg. (Rectory) 6:00

2009 Calendars

We will distribute calendars the weekend of December 27th and 28th. There will be a special blessing as we welcome the new calendar year. Our special thanks to Elmwood Chapel for their generosity in sponsoring our 2009 calendars.

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.