

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Christmas Masses - December 24/25

- 4:00 PM + Geraldine Zalewski - Robert & Rita Zalewski
- 10:00 PM + For the Parishioners
- 8:00 AM + Ed Borowski - Wife & Family
- 9:45 AM + Frank & Marcie Zak - Family
- 11:30 AM + Emilia Silva - Family

Monday, December 26

- 8:15 AM + Joseph & Freda Ciciora – Family

Tuesday, December 27

- 7:15 AM + Irene & Marion Sadowski - Pat & Dorothy Camden

Wednesday, December 28

- 7:15 AM + Richard C. Serafin (9th Anniv.) - Wife

Thursday, December 29

- 7:15 AM + Irene Sadowski - Par & Dorothy Camden

Friday, December 30

- 8:15 AM + Walter Rolek - Family

Saturday, December 31

- 7:30 AM + Sophia Kapera - Car & Rita Abram
- 4:00 PM + Marion Vargas - Family & Friends

Sunday January 1 - Mary, the Mother of God

- 8:00 AM + Sally Katalinic - Katalinic Family
- 9:45 AM + Ed Borowski - Wofe & Family
- 11:30 AM + Alfonso Aparicio - Leonardo & Rigberto Aparicio

Week of December 25 - December 31

The Gifts of Bread & Wine are donated this week in memory of
Emilia Silva - Family

The Tabernacle Candle will be lit this week in memory of
Emilia Silva - Family

LECTORS

January 2012

- 4:00 PM B. Frederisy
- 8:00 AM R. Kopaczewski
- 9:45 AM N. Mooney
- 11:30 AM R. Oseguera

ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, December 31

- 4:00 PM Be. Echevarria, D. Gaczowski, R. Rodriguez

SUNDAY, January 1

- 8:00 AM R. Robles, D. Robles, J. O'Keefe
- 9:45 AM K. Best, A. Shea, D. Ranos
- 11:30 AM X. Gutierrez, M. Ortiz

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

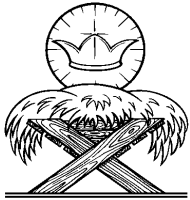
January 2012

- 4:00 PM
 - B. Peak
 - B. Frjelich
 - A. Bonczek
 - M. Cowperthwaite
 - R. Haney
 - C. Motkowicz
- 8:00 AM
 - S. Jezior
 - P. Gadus
 - N. Moll
 - K. Gibson
 - D. Ciciora
 - C. Bozovic
- 9:45 AM
 - C. Malone
 - D. Karczewski
 - J. Gibbons
 - P. O'Rourke
 - L. Morse
 - M. Czarobski
- 11:30 AM
 - P. Haro
 - O. Haro

USHERS

January 2012

- 4:00 PM C. Cowperthwaite, E. Pindara, A. Lubanowski, T. Zalewski, N. Zalewski
- 8:00 AM A. Wopinski, T. Nester, A. Jasek, M. Noworyta, J. Shanahan, J. Young
- 9:45 AM E. Lihota, G. Slusarczyk, K. Podgorny, R. Furman, T. Baker, M. Gasior, M. Aducci
- 11:30 AM R. Manriquez, J. Gonzalez M. Suarez



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

Merry Christmas!
Wesolych Swiat!
Feliz Navidad!

Christmas blessings to all!

We wish you and your families a most joyous Christmas! May you create warm memories to cherish for a lifetime. Let us welcome in Christ-child with open arms and pray for the glory of heaven to come into the hearts of humanity.

Fr. Jim, Priests & Staff
of St. Florian Parish

Mass Schedule for Christmas

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

Christmas Eve - 10:00 PM
Christmas Carols followed by
Mass at Night

Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25
8:00 AM Mass at Dawn with traditional
Polish Christmas Carols
9:45 AM Mass during the Day (English)
11:30 AM Mass during the Day (Spanish)

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Saturday, Dec. 31 4:00 PM.
Sunday, Jan. 1 8:00 & 9:45 AM
11:30 AM (Spanish)

Epiphany of the Lord
Saturday, Jan. 7 4:00 PM
Sunday, Jan. 8 8:00 & 9:45 AM
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.

HOW TO HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Our modern observance of the Christmas season seems to begin in the fall, as stores are filled with holiday displays, and end on Dec. 26th, when Christmas trees start peeking out from the trash. However, celebrating Christmas as a Catholic means that, as much as we can, we follow a radically different calendar—one given to us through the ancient wisdom and tradition of the Church—before, during, and even after Dec. 25th.

2012 Calendars

We will distribute calendars the weekend of Dec. 31 and Jan. 1st. 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 2012 calendars.



For Catholics, December 25 is only the beginning of the Christmas season.

- ◇ **The Feast of the Holy Family.** This feast is celebrated within Christmas "octave". It is a fitting day to thank God for our own families and pray for a deepening of mutual love, in imitation of the Holy Family.
- ◇ **The Feast of the Holy Innocents, December 28.** On this day, we remember the children killed by Herod in his determination to end the life of the Messiah. This can be a day of prayer for the innocents of today who are exploited and abused—many people now pray on this day for the victims of abortion— and an opportunity to think about bringing the compassion of Christ to those in need.
- ◇ **The Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, January 1.** The octave day of Christmas is both a feast honoring Mary, the Mother of God, and a day of Prayer for World Peace. Our celebration of the New Year can be deepened by prayer that our world will be open to the peace Jesus offers.

God is our Creator and in him all living things have their existence. He enlightens our minds, so that we may come to know and worship him. He has sent his faithful witness, Jesus Christ, to announce to us what he has seen and heard, the mysteries of heaven and earth.

Since you acknowledge with joy that Christ has come, now is the time to hear his word, so that you might possess eternal life.

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. 26 - St. Stephen

Reading Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59

Gospel Matthew 10:17-22

Tuesday - Dec. 27 - St. John

Reading 1 John 1:1-4

Gospel John 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday - 28 - The Holy Innocents

Reading 1 John 1:5 - 2:2

Gospel Matthew 2:13-18

Thurs.- Dec. 29 St. Thomas Becket

Reading 1 John 2:2-3-11

Gospel Luke 2:22-35

Friday - Dec. 30 - The Holy Family

Reading Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14

Gospel Luke 2:22-40

Saturday - Dec. 31 - St. Sylvester

Reading 1 John 2:18-21

Gospel John 1:1-18

Sunday Jan. 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Reading I Numbers 6:22-27

Reading II Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel Luke 2:16-21

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Christmas, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“God is closer to us than we are to ourselves,” said St. Augustine, and that closeness, through the power of the Holy Spirit in the wondrous mystery of the Incarnation, becomes visible in Jesus Christ. It also becomes visible in how we treat each other and how we radiate the hope Christ brings to the world. The Word made flesh reconciles God and his human family and all creation; that is God’s interpretation of the Christmas crib.

The giving of oneself to others constitutes the nature of God; therefore, Jesus never comes alone. To genuinely celebrate his birth, we cannot put individuals or entire peoples in boxes in order to dismiss them from our lives. Likewise, if we climb into a box to separate ourselves from others by our attitudes or actions, the Word made flesh cannot speak to us, transform us or save us. Moreover, if we allow our faith to be boxed in by our secular age, it becomes a personal hobby without any public presence, witness or role.

By her response, “My soul magnifies the Lord” (Luke 1:46), Mary shows complete trust and faith in God; her active cooperation with God is a model for all. As Pope Benedict emphasizes in *God Is Love*, “In these words she expresses her whole program of life: not setting herself at the center, but leaving space for God, who is encountered both in prayer and in service of neighbor—only then does goodness enter the world.”

God has spoken and the eternal Word is made flesh. With the courage born of our faith, we proclaim in word and action, in our very flesh and bone, that Jesus Christ our Savior is born. It is our turn to speak, to one another and to the world. A blessed Christmas to all of you and to all those whom God has given you to love—Merry Christmas!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

*A day hemmed in prayer is
less likely to unravel.*

St. Florian School Happenings . . .

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



State of the School - Meeting on Tues., Jan. 10, 2012

All school parents are asked to attend a special meeting with members of our Board of Specified Jurisdiction and Action Committees in Konsowski Hall on Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 6:30 PM

BINGO

Doors open at 1:30 Games at 2:30
(Note: No bingo on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1st)



Market Day - Orders due Friday, Jan. 13. Pick up on Friday, Jan. 20 from 2-3PM.

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 (118th St .), Olympia Lanes Bowling, Pappalano'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

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.



Continuing through January 8th, 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.

Welcome!

A warm welcome to all who have come to worship with us this Christmas season. We hope that it is a time for all to renew friendships, to celebrate with family and to give thanks to our God who has blessed us so richly.

If you are visiting our parish with friends or family or perhaps reacquainting yourself with our parish family after some time has passed, please know that we are honored by your presence.


May the new year bless you abundantly with the richness of friends, good health to sustain you, and an open heart to feel the presence of God.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS	
December 17/18, 2011	
Sunday Envelopes	\$3,671.00
Loose	\$ 422.41
Energy	\$ 146.00
Children's Offering	\$ 97.25
Maintenance	\$ 117.00
Bldg. Improvement	\$ 204.00
Votives	\$ 137.57

St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box - \$376.00
 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 2011. Our plans for the New Year include continuing the outreach to parishioners who need spiritual and material assistance.

Thank you!
 Special thanks to the officers and members of the V.F.W. Stanley J. Sukta Post for their generous donation to St. Florian Parish. We are grateful for their kindness and support.

Let us ask for special blessings upon those in the military during this Christmas season — please pray for all who are far from home and let us welcome and give thanks for those who have safely returned to be with family and friends.



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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Dec. 26 Rectory Office Closed
- Jan. 2 Rectory Office Closed
- Jan. 4 School Resumes
- Jan. 8 Bingo (Gym) Doors open 1:30
- Jan. 9 Parish Council (KH) 7:00
Faith Sharing (Rectory) 7:00
- Jan. 10 Daisies (KH) 4:30
State of the School Mtg. (KH) 6:30
Faith Sharing (Rectory) 7:00
- Jan. 11 Evangelization Mtg. (KH) 6:00
- Jan. 12 Faith Sharing (KH) 6:00
Scouts (PMR) 6:00
- Jan. 13 Confirmation Sponsor Night (KH) 7PM
Holy Name Meeting (PMR)
Officers 7PM Members 8PM
- Jan. 14 Zumba/Health & Fitness (Gym)
(more details to follow)
- Jan. 15 Bingo (Gym) Doors open 1:30
- Jan. 16 Young at Heart (KH) 1:00

Join the Holy Name Society! - Men of the parish, ages 21 years and older, are cordially invited to join the St. Florian Holy Name Society. We meet on the second Friday of every month in Konsowski Hall at 8pm. Dues are \$5 per year. We are a parish organization that raises funds to assist St. Florian, St. Columba and various community organizations in honor of Jesus' name.

2010-2011 Annual Report - Copies of our fiscal year 2010-2011 Annual Report are available at the church entrances. Please take a moment to review the financial status of our parish and school.

Vocation Thoughts

DECEMBER 25 – NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

“Oh Come let us Adore Him!” How is God calling you to love, adore, and serve Him?

Exploring Priesthood Weekend is 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 13-15, 2012**. For more information and to register, please contact: Fr. Brian Welter at bwelter@archchicago.org or at 312-534-8298. Go to www.ChicagoPriest.com for more details.

May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace,
 The gladness of Christmas give you hope,
 The warmth of Christmas grant you love.

~Author Unknown