

MASSES FOR THE WEEK**Weekend of December 26/27**

- 4:00 PM + Tony Segvich Jr. - Wife & Children
 8:00 AM + Andrew Motkowicz - Wife, Ceil
 9:45 AM + Walter Krawczyk - Wife, Leona Krawczyk
 11:30 AM + Jose Jesus Reyes - Reyes Family

Monday, December 28

- 7:15 AM + Richard C. Serafin (8th Anniv.) - Wife

Tuesday, December 29

- 7:15 AM + Bonnie J. Boy - James Wilfinger

Wednesday, December 30

- 7:15 AM + Vincent W. Brandys, Sr. -
 Sisters, Barbara, Christine and Brother, Bob

Thursday, December 31

- 7:15 AM + Art Bálano - T. Karczewski
 4:00 PM + Vincent W. Brandys, Sr. - Mr. & Mrs. Robert Burnett

Friday, Jan. 1 - Mary, the Mother of God - Holy Day of Obligation

- 9:00 AM + Edward Borowski - Wife

Saturday, January 2

- 7:30 AM + Sean Kearns - Michael McNeil & Marie Pindok
 4:00 PM + Deceased Members of the
 Mezydlo & Lenczycki Families - Rosemary Mezydlo

Sunday, January 3

- 8:00 AM + Edward Pala - Joe & Pat Stref
 9:45 AM + Vincent W. Brandys, Sr. - Wife & Children
 11:30 AM - For the Good Health of Cheryl Kaim - Olivia

Week of December 27 - January 2

The Gifts of Bread & Wine are donated this week in memory of
 Chester J. Florek - Family

The Tabernacle Candle will be lit this week in memory of
 Edward Borowski - Wife

LECTORS
January, 2010

- 4:00 PM B. Frederisy
 8:00 AM R. Kopaczewski
 9:45 AM V. Maccagnano
 11:30 AM O. Guajardo

ALTAR SERVERS**SATURDAY, January 2**

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

SUNDAY, January 3

- 8:00 AM G. Bonczek, R. Carlassare, J. O'Keefe
 9:45 AM V. Velasco, H. Walsh, C. Haro
 11:30 AM M. Ortiz, S. Zaragoza, D. Ranos

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**January, 2010**

- 4:00 PM
 A. Bonczek
 B. Frjelich
 R. Abram
 M. Cowperthwaite
 J. Gibbons
 C. Motkowicz
- 8:00 AM
 S. Jezior
 K. Gibson
 M. Piaskowy
 B. Peak
 N. Moll
 P. Gadus
- 9:45 AM
 P. Maccagnano
 C. Michalik
 C. Malone
 P. O'Rourke
 L. Morse
 D. Karczewski
- 11:30 AM
 O. Cruz
 A. Davila

USHERS
January, 2010

- 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,
 M. Gasior, M. Aducci
- 11:30 AM L. Arellano, A. Arellano,
 T. Favela, J. Gonzalez,
 S. Gonzalez

Welcome 2010! *Peace and good health*
to all our parishioners as we begin a new year!

— Fr. Jim and Priests
 and Parish Staff of St. Florian



Feast of the Holy Family

"And be thankful." — Colossians 3:15

This short phrase can be the key to a life of great peace and joy. When you take time to be thankful you realize that you have been abundantly blessed. When you take time to be thankful you are more open to enjoying and sharing the many blessings in your life. As the old year ends and a new year begins, resolve to be thankful. This is the first step to living as a good and faithful steward of all God's blessings.

Come Home to the Catholic Church



There are as many reasons as there are people who have either left the Catholic Church or may simply sit on the sidelines. Here are some of them.

Some who have left the Catholic Church have been blessed by worshiping for a while in another Christian denomination. But some came back when they realize the fullness of grace and truth the Catholic Church embodies. The Catholic Church was not founded by a single reformer or historical movement. There may be thousands of Christian denominations, but only one Catholic Church.

Some people return to the Catholic Church because of their children. They realize that their children need a spiritual dimension to their life as well as a structured system of belief and a firm moral foundation. People return because they want a solid foundation upon which their children can build their lives.

Many people also seek a sense of belonging. But community is more than friendly people, interesting sermons, and church activities. The Catholic Community is a group of people who come together to celebrate the Eucharist on the Lord's Day, encounter the sacraments, celebrate joys, mourn losses, serve others, and provide strength and support to those who need it the most. A Catholic parish, like St. Florian, offers all of this and much more to those who recognize the importance of walking with others toward union with God. Welcome Home!

New Year's Day Mass Schedule

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, Dec. 31 4:00 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 1 9:00 a.m.

Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, Jan. 2 4:00 PM (English)

Sunday, Jan. 3 8:00 & 9:45 AM (English)

11:30 AM (Spanish)

2010 Calendars

We will distribute calendars this weekend of Dec. 26th and 27th. 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 2010 calendars.

January 1

January 1 is New Year's Day to most of the world, but in the Catholic Church it also is the solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. This is a relatively new title for the day. Older Catholics will remember that we used to call January 1st the Feast of the Circumcision.

Circumcision may not seem like much to have a feast about. But the day commemorated an event in the life of Jesus, just as we have days for his conception, birth, presentation in the temple, baptism, transfiguration, death, and resurrection. Luke specifically mentions the circumcision of Jesus (2:21). It took place, according to the custom, on the eighth day after his birth. That is why the feast commemorating the event fell on the eighth day of Christmas. It just happened to be New Year's Day. The same passage from Luke says Jesus then received his name. That is why the old calendar celebrated the Most Holy Name of Jesus on the Sunday between the feasts of the Circumcision and the Epiphany. (If no Sunday intervened, the feast occurred on January 2.)

In present times the Gospel passage for January 1 still refers to the circumcision, but the new title for the feast seems to have another verse in mind, Luke 2:19. There we hear that Mary treasured all the things that happened and the words that were said and pondered them in her heart. On the octave day of the birth of Jesus, we celebrated Mary, who bore him.

On January 1 we are also expected to pray for world peace.

*by Paul Turner Ministry and Liturgy
 1994 Resource Publication*

We pray for . . .

Helen Golden, Wanda Podgorny, Ida Fasciana, Debra Mokrzycki, Charlotte Frjelic, 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 Trzuppek, 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.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday - Dec. 28

Reading 1 John 1:5-2:2
Gospel Matthew 2:13-18

Tuesday—Dec. 29 - St. Thomas Becket

Reading 1 John 2:3-11
Gospel Luke 2:22-35

Wed. - Dec. 30

Reading 1 John 2:12-17
Gospel Luke 2:36-40

Thursday - Dec. 31 - St. Sylvester

Reading 1 John 2:18-21
Gospel John 1:1-18

Friday - Jan. 1 - Mary Mother of God

Reading I Numbers 6:22-27
Reading II Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel Luke 2:16-21

Sat. - Jan. 2 - St. Basil & St. Gregory

Reading 1 John 2:22-28
Gospel John 1:19-28

Sunday Jan. 3 - Epiphany of the Lord

Reading I Isaiah 60:1-6
Reading II Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Christmas, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When a child is born, one has to give him or her a name. What is he to be called? Jesus had a name long before he was born of the Virgin Mary. From all eternity, he is the Word of God. Many centuries before the Word was made flesh, those waiting for him gave him other names. The Prophet Isaiah recalls several of them: Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. The names tell us who he is: a sign of hope amidst the darkest periods of human history, the fulfillment of the promise made by God to the House of David.

When a child is born, one asks again: Whom does he resemble? Does he look like his mother or perhaps like his paternal grandfather? St. Paul, in his letter to Titus says that Jesus resembles God. Jesus is the manifestation of God to us; and he himself would say just days before his death: "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." This will be most evident, St. Paul reminds us, when Jesus returns in glory: "our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."

When a child is born, parents often contemplate his or her future: What might this child do? Will he or she be a doctor, or lawyer or a teacher or perhaps answer God's call to religious life? St. Luke's Gospel, tells us that Jesus acts like God because he comes to save us from our sins. "Today, in the city of David, a Savior has been born for you!"

When a child is born, everything in a family changes. Not just the family routine and the priorities of the child's parents: the world is forever changed because a new creation of God now lives among us, is now part of us. This Christmas, as we look at the baby in the manger and hear angels singing and see shepherds adoring, we know that God has come among us; the Eternal Word is made flesh. A child has been born. It is Christ, our Savior. And our world is changed forever.

You and your intentions will be remembered in my Christmas Masses and prayers; please keep me and the needs of the Archdiocese of Chicago in yours. God bless you and Merry Christmas!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

Good words are worth much and cost little.

St. Florian School Happenings . . .

INSERT

LOGO

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

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.



Market Day - Orders due Friday, Jan. 15th and pick up is on Friday, Jan. 22nd from 2-3PM. Profits earned last month: \$106.70. Free PB & J Grahamwiches with \$40 purchase. 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.

December's Winner -
The Dejanovich Family

January's Raffle Sponsor -
Patricia K. Mosser - Alumna

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.

LET'S CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS . . .

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

- ◇ **The Feast of the Holy Family.** This feast is celebrated on the Sunday in the Christmas "octave" - an eight-day period after Christmas. 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.

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.

During the inclement weather this winter we ask all parishioners to be mindful when turning in their church offerings. If you miss Mass due to the weather, please be sure to "catch up" with your offerings as soon as possible. We greatly rely on all donations to meet our monthly expenses.

Also, please be as generous as you are able with your Energy envelopes to assist with the fuel heating costs this winter. Thank you to all.



**WEEKLY OFFERINGS
Dec. 19/20 2009**

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Sunday Envelopes | \$3,121.00 |
| Loose | \$ 382.39 |
| Energy Assistance | \$ 82.00 |
| Actual Received vs. | \$3,585.39 |
| Budgeted Goal | \$5,250.00 |
| Bldg. Improvement | \$ 111.80 |
| Maintenance | \$ 67.00 |
| Children's Offering | \$ 50.50 |
| Votives | \$ 107.00 |

St Vincent de Paul Poor Box - \$243.96

Thanks - Because you are concerned... This is a note of appreciation. Our thank you is a simple but sincere statement. You are being thanked by the poor and the needy for food, clothing, medicine, and other needs you are supplying. The St. Vincent de Paul Society thanks you for allowing us to be a channel of your almsgiving. "The Poor Boxes are the Bread Boxes of the Needy."

Your St. Vincent de Paul Society

PLEASE NOTE: In order to receive proper credit, please be sure to complete all 2009 church contributions by Jan. 23.

2009 Charitable Contributions - Statements for the 2009 tax year will be processed by request only. Please fill out the form below and return it to the rectory by January 22nd. We will mail requested statements by the end of the month.

Please send a 2009 contribution statement to me:

Name: _____

Address: _____

(return request via collection basket or at the rectory)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Dec. 28 Rectory Closed
- Jan. 1 Happy New Year! (Rectory Closed)
- Jan. 4 School resumes
Parish Council Mtg (KH) 7:00
- Jan. 6 Scouts (KH) 5:30
- Jan. 8 Holy Name (PMR) Officers 6:30
Members 8:00
- Jan. 9/10 Latin America Collection
- Jan. 10 Bingo (Gym) Doors open at 1:30
- Jan. 11 Ministers of Care (Rectory) 7:00
- Jan. 12 Parent/Teacher Club (KH) 6:30
Faith Sharing (Rectory) 7:00
- Jan. 13 Athletic Mtg. (School) 3:00
Evangelization Mtg. (KH) 6:00
- Jan. 14 Faith Sharing (PMR) 6:00
Scouts (KH) 6:00

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.

**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 - Master Sgt. Christopher Saberniak, U.S. Air Force

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