

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Weekend of December 27/28

- 4:00 PM + Walter Krawczyk - Mrs. Ann Kunka
 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

Monday, December 29

- 7:15 AM + Sally Slavik - Mosser Family

Tuesday, December 30

- 7:15 AM + Olga Pekala - Elaine Boganski

Wednesday, December 31

- 7:15 AM + Eugene A. Mezydlo - Mr. & Mrs. Vince Ginalski
 4:00 PM + For the Parishioners

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

- 9:00 AM + Edward Borowski (3rd Anniv.) - Wife

Friday, January 2

- 8:15 AM + Olga Pekala - Peg Gadus

Saturday, January 3

- 7:30 AM + Robert Stevenson - Colleen & Peter Stevenson
 4:00 PM + Charles Anderson - Wife

Sunday, January 4 - Epiphany of the Lord

- 8:00 AM + Joseph Iwan - Greg & Carol Neushafer
 9:45 AM + William Voss - Jim & Pat O'Rourke
 11:30 AM + For the Parishioners

Week of December 28 - January 3

The Gifts of Bread & Wine are donated this week in memory of
 Alex Rzonca - Family

The Tabernacle Candle will be lit this week in memory of
 Tony Segvich & Nellie Segvich - Family

LECTORS January, 2009

- 4:00 PM V. Maccagnano/ A. Simmons
 8:00 AM L. Wopinski
 9:45 AM K. Gibson
 11:30 AM C. Ramirez

ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, January 3

- 4:00 PM N. Mooney, G. Bonczek, J. Carlassare

SUNDAY, January 4

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

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

January, 2009

4:00 PM

- R. Abram
 B. Frjelich
 E. Boganski
 B. Peak
 M. Cowperthwaite
 A. Bonczek

8:00 AM

- S. Jezior
 J. Gibbons
 M. Piaskowy
 P. Gadus
 N. Moll
 C. Motkowicz

9:45 AM

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

11:30 AM

- R. Oseguera
 O. Cruz

USHERS

January, 2009

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

Welcome 2009! *Peace and good health*
to all our parishioners as we begin a new year!

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



January 1

By Paul Turner

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.

Ministry and Liturgy
 1994 Resource Publication

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.

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,

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, 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.



New Year's Day Mass Schedule **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** **(Holy Day of Obligation)**

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

2009 Calendars

We will distribute calendars this 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 2008 calendars.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday - Dec. 29

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

Tuesday—Dec. 30

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

Wed. - Dec. 31

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

Thursday - Jan. 1 - Mary Mother of God

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

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

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

Sat. - Jan. 3 - The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Reading 1 John 2:29—3:6
Gospel John 1:29-34

Sunday Jan. 4 - Epiphany of the Lord

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

The Simplest Things....

As we begin the new year let us be mindful of the things most important in our lives—things we generally take for granted that some times our children are more conscious of than we are ourselves.

Our students are given special Children's Offering Envelopes each year. Before they return their offering at Church, they are asked to write down their response on the envelopes to the following: *"As a cheerful steward with God's gifts I happily return my time, talent and treasures. This is how I used my talent this week:"*

We thought you might enjoy reading some of the responses - they may seem rather simple, yet they speak volumes!

This is how I used my time and talents this week:

I was caring for others.
I made by neighbor feel nice.
I helped my mom clean.
I visited the seniors.
I helped my Grandma.
I prayed before bed every night.
I shared my toys.
I listened to my Mom.
I put others before me.
I fed the animals daily.
I comforted by crying friend.
I mopped the floor.
I watched my cousin
I did my homework.
I changed by attitude.
I paid attention.
I fed the dog and went to "confession".
My behavior was very good at my house.

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. 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
Water labels and Pepperidge 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.

Thank You!

A very grateful thank you to all of the generous parishioners who stepped up and helped out the "Mom in Need" this summer. For all of your prayers, phone calls, hot meals and everything in between, it was beautiful to see the generosity and kindness of the parish. May God Bless each one of you!

Sincerely,
Friends of the Mom in Need

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

December, 2008

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christmas is remembered and celebrated in many ways. As a child, it's the surprise and the gifts that mark the day. As a young person, it's the planning that goes into each gift as, for the first time, you can spend your own money to buy gifts for others. As a parent, it's the delight and happiness of children that leave the strongest impression. All of these are good, but each is only a part of something bigger. The more basic question is: what does Christmas mean to God?

St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews tells us that "in times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being." At the beginning of the Gospel according to St. John, we hear that God's eternal word took flesh and became light for the world, so that all could come to comprehend who God is and what is our destiny in God's plan.

Christmas, therefore, means we are to fit the bits and pieces of our lives and our experiences — the surprises, the generosity, the happiness, the unity — and the sin as well — to take all of these and fit them into God's plan for us, revealed in Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God and son of Mary.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we live by his light in the midst of the darkness of our own sins and the sins of the World. The world doesn't like to be exposed, as either partial or sinful, and resists the light now as when Jesus was born. But nothing the world can offer is eternal, nothing last for ever, except the Word of God made flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Today, Christmas celebrations will be more modest in many homes and memories will be different from other years. But what is done in and with and through Christ, the eternal Word of God, will be done well and will last forever.

I hope that some time in the future, we will recall that this was the Christmas we came to understand how God is always with us, in good times and in bad, in darkness and in light, so long as we remain one in him. This will then have been a truly blessed Christmas.

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.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

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.

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS
December 21/22, 2008**

Sunday Envelopes	\$2,763.00
Loose	\$ 354.51
Energy Assistance	<u>\$ 173.00</u>
Actual Received	\$3,290.51
(vs. Budgeted Goal)	\$5,250.00)
Bldg. Improvement	\$ 149.00
Maintenance	\$ 103.00
Children's Offering	\$ 41.19
Votives	\$ 82.00

St Vincent de Paul Poor Box - \$79.67

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 2008 church contributions by Jan. 23.

2008 Charitable Contributions - Statements for the 2007 tax year will be processed by request only. Please fill out the form below and return it to the rectory by January 23. We will mail requested statements by the end of the month.

Please send a 2008 contribution statement to me:

Name: _____

Address: _____

*(return request via collection basket
or at the rectory)*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 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
- RCIA (Rectory) 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
- Jan. 16 Sponsor/Candidate Mtg. (KH) 7:00

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.

**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. Comdr. 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.