

MASSES FOR THE WEEK**Weekend of December 17/18**

- 4:00 PM + Louise Maciejciak & Son, Joseph - Irene & Ron Nawracaj
 8:00 AM + Larry Moll - Phyllis Lembas
 9:45 AM + Tony Segvich, Jr. - Family
 11:30 AM + Jose Jesus Reyes - Family

Monday, December 19

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

Tuesday, December 20

- 7:15 AM + Maryann Piaskowy - Religious Education Teachers

Wednesday, December 21

- 7:15 AM + John Prinz - Wife & Family

Thursday, December 22

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

Friday, December 23

- 8:15 AM + Chester Debski - Carl & Rita Abram

Saturday, December 24

- 7:30 AM + Walter & Sophie Brandys, Vincent W. Brandys, Sr. &
 Robert Brandys - Loving Children & Siblings

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

Week of December 18 - December 24

The Gifts of Bread & Wine are donated this week in memory of
 Stephanie Duszynski - Braver Family

The Tabernacle Candle will be lit this week in memory of
 Stephanie Duszynski - Braver Family

LECTORS**December 2011**

- 4:00 PM A. Bonczek
 8:00 AM L. Wopinski
 9:45 AM J. Struzik
 11:30 AM M. Megallanes

ALTAR SERVERS**SATURDAY, December 24**

- 4:00 PM R. Rodriguez, A. Villanueva, M. Bensett
 10:30 PM N. Mooney, J. O'Keefe, B. Echevarria, D. Ranos

SUNDAY, December 25

- 8:00 AM N. Meduga, R. Robles, D. Robles
 9:45 AM K. Best, A. Shea, D. Gaczowski
 11:30 AM X. Gutierrez, M. Ortiz

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**December 2011**

4:00 PM

- K. Gibson
 B. Frjelich
 L. Morse
 M. Cowperthwaite
 R. Haney
 D. Karczewski

8:00 AM

- S. Jezior
 P. Gadus
 N. Moll
 J. Gibbons
 D. Ciciora
 C. Bozovic

9:45 AM

- C. Malone
 P. Haro
 O. Haro
 P. O'Rourke
 P. Maccagnano
 M. Czarobski

11:30 AM

- A. Davila
 O. Cruz

USHERS**December 2011**

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,

11:30 AM

- T. Baker, M. Gasior, M. Aducci
 R. Manriquez, J. Gonzalez
 M. Suarez

Advent Wreath Year B

Paul Turner



If you are setting up an Advent wreath in your home this year, here is a prayer for the first week of Advent you could say while you light its candle. You may set these before or after a meal, when waking up, before going to bed, or whenever you and the members of your household gather for prayer. Before you say the prayer, read and talk over the Gospel reading you heard at Sunday Mass that week.

Week 4: O God, who sent your angel Gabriel to announce good news to Mary, make us happy with your word of life. Let our hearts be so filled with love for you that they glow with the lights of these four candles. May we live in a way that will please you. Through Christ our Lord.

Ministry & Liturgy
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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.

During our Advent season, please be sure to join together as a parish family on the following days:

Advent Confessions

Thur. Dec. 20 7:00 - 8:00 PM
Sat. Dec. 24 2:30 - 3:30 PM

Mass Schedule for Christmas

Vigil Mass Saturday, Dec. 24 4:00 PM Mass

Christmas Eve - Saturday, Dec. 24
Christmas Carols and Mass at Night 10:00PM

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

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, Dec. 31 4:00 PM.
Sunday, Jan. 1 8:00 & 9:45 AM (English)
11:30 AM (Spanish)

Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, Jan. 7 4:00 PM (English)
Sunday, Jan. 8 8:00 & 9:45 AM (English)
11:30 AM (Spanish)

Oplatki

(Christmas Wafers)

Available in Church after all masses
and at the Rectory and School Office
\$2.00 per package or 3 for \$5.00

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. 19

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

Tuesday - Dec. 20

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

Wednesday - 21 - St. Peter Canisius

Reading Songs of Songs 2:8-14
Gospel Luke 1:39-45

Thurs.- Dec. 22

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

Friday - Dec. 23 - St. John of Kanty

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

Saturday - Dec. 24

Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Gospel Luke 1:67-69

Saturday Dec. 24 Vigil of Christmas

Reading I Isaiah 62:1-5
Reading II Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
Gospel Matthew 1:1-25

Sunday Dec. 25 - Nativity of the Lord

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

In Remembrance

Norberta Ratajczyk December 6, 2011

DID YOU KNOW?

The birthplace of Jesus, "Bethlehem," means "house of bread." Many ancient commentators interpret this as prefiguring the Eucharist. Jesus came to earth in the "house of bread," and comes to us in the form of Living Bread, every time we receive him under the forms of bread and wine in the Blessed Sacrament.

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.

St. Florian School Happenings . . .

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



BINGO

Doors open at 1:30

Games begin at 2:30

(Please Note: There will no bingo on
Dec. 18th, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1st)



Market Day - Orders due Friday, Jan. 13. Pick up on Friday, Jan. 20 from 2-3PM. Profits earned last month: \$161.30. Thank you for your support!

Aluminum Can Recycling - Please bring your aluminum cans to the school parking lot on Wed., Jan. 11, by 8 AM.

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, Papalano'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

O Antiphons

Each evening in the Church's Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, we sing the Magnificat, the canticle of Mary (Luke 1:46-55). In this great song of praise, Mary sings of God's blessings and his great, saving presence and action in her life.

An antiphon is sung before the canticle. This is a short verse which, unique to each day, is meant to provide focus for this sung prayer. During the last week of Advent, these verses are taken from a collection of prayers that date back to the seventh century. They are known as the O Antiphons because each one begins with that most simple of exclamations, "O!"

Most of us know these antiphons because they comprise the verses of the well-known song, "O Come O Come Emmanuel." Each verse—or antiphon—is a prayer unto itself. Each one first addresses Christ, using an ancient title from scripture. The prayer continues with the request that Christ will come and save us. In each of these prayers, the Church expresses the very heart of our Advent prayer; Lord Jesus, come! Save us! Redeem us, again!

The O Antiphons begin on December 17. Perhaps families might pray them together as they gather for their evening supper. Parish groups can use them as a gathering prayer if they have reason to meet this week. Anyone can use them throughout the week to help prepare themselves in this final week before celebrating Christmas. Find a copy of "O Come O Come Emmanuel" and each night pray a different verse. In these last days of Advent, call upon the one for whom we wait and pray in faith and in hope, to come!

Written by Todd Williamson
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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.

Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal Religious give thanks.

A Benedictine nun writes: "We ask God to bless the faithful who made contributions in order to help us in our retirement." Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests offer their heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS
December 10/11, 2011

Sunday Envelopes	\$3,336.52
Loose	\$ 308.84
Energy	\$ 110.00
Children's Offering	\$ 67.50
Maintenance	\$ 134.00
Bldg. Improvement	\$ 127.00
Votives	\$ 111.00
Aunt Martha's Rent	\$4,541.92

St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box - \$155.00

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 Poor Boxes are the Bread Boxes of the Needy."

Hegewisch Chamber of Commerce - The 3rd Annual Food and Coat Drive at the Hegewisch Chamber of Commerce Office is accepting donations of non-perishable items. Anything you can donate, even one can of food will be greatly appreciated. Donations can be dropped off at the Chamber of Commerce at 13330 S. Baltimore Ave. or at Standard Bank, located at 13336 S. Baltimore Ave. on Monday, December 19th. BMT Printing will match all donations on this day. Let us make sure that no one in our community goes without food or a warm coat this holiday season.

Please pray for our
Service Members:

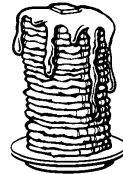


Sgt. Ryan Keene, U.S. Marine Corps - Chief Dennis Zmija, U.S. Navy - Eugene Zmija, U.S. Air Force - SSgt David Burks, U.S. Army - SSgt Eric L. Abram, U.S. Air Force - Cpl Christopher Abram, U.S. Marine Corps - Lt. Commdr. Nicholas Garcia, U.S. Navy Pilot - SPC Waylon Bader, U.S. Army - SPC Mark J. Dancer, 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. 19 Young at Heart (KH) 1:00
- Dec. 20 School Dismissal at 11:30
(School resumes Jan. 4)
- Dec. 21 SVDP Pantry 3:30
Choir Practice (Church) 6:30
- Dec. 23 & 26 Rectory Office Closed
- Jan. 2 Rectory Office Closed



Pancake Breakfast with Santa - The General Pulaski Council #3323 Knights of Columbus will host a Pancake Breakfast with Santa Claus on Sunday, December 18th at the St. Columba Social Center, 13323 S. Greenbay. Free gift and photo with Santa Claus for all the kids. The

Breakfast is an "All You Can Eat" Pancakes, Eggs cooked to order, French Toast, Sausage, Milk, Coffee and Orange Juice. Breakfast will be served from 8AM until 12 Noon. Adults \$7.00 Children 10 and under \$3.00. Plenty of parking and handicap accessible. Need more information? Call John Rydzewski at 708-841-1904.

Vocation Thoughts

DECEMBER 18 – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In today's Gospel the angel Gabriel said to Mary "Do not be afraid..." Without understanding all that will flow from it, Mary speaks her yes. Are you called to say yes to God? Do not be afraid! Men of college-age and older are invited to an *Exploring Priesthood Weekend* retreat at Mundelein Seminary to learn about, pray, and reflect on the possibilities of diocesan priesthood in Chicago. The next EPW is **January 13-15, 2012**. To register contact Fr. Brian Welter at 312-534-8298 or bwelter@archchicago.org See www.ChicagoPriest.com for more details.

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.



*Good words are worth much
and cost little.*