

December 20, 2009  
Fourth Sunday of Advent



*Christ Our Savior Is Born!*

OUR LADY OF KNOCK  
CHURCH



**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Many miracles happen even before Christmas Day itself. The food donations taken up in church and at some organization meetings, as well as from schools have made a big difference in how much help Sr. Alban can offer through the Calumet City Resource Center.

The concern for recycling is evident from the full containers of papers and clothing in the parking lot drop boxes. Several people are also consistently dropping off ink cartridges, Campbell soup labels, and eyeglasses. All your efforts help the planet and add a few dollars to our responsibility to Christ Our Savior Catholic School.

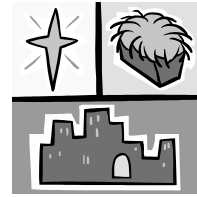
Also our Parish Organizations make us gifts. The Ushers gave \$100 toward Christmas Flowers. The Friendship Club made a gift of \$300; and the Women's Guild made a donation of \$500 to help with our ordinary expenses. Your generosity to the Retirement for Religious Fund has exceeded \$2,000.

In light of that ongoing generosity, I hesitate to make a special appeal to that giving spirit in the request for a Christmas gift to the parish of \$85. I appreciate the financial binds that many are encountering as I hear some of the same struggles regarding tuition in my role as Executive Pastor for Christ Our Savior. Please do what you can and what your heart moves you to do.

Please note some slight changes in our Christmas schedule listed in the bulletin different from the parish mailing. The service days and times are correct. There is some expanded information regarding the musical accompaniment. A special Christmas Choir has been gathered to provide a Candlelight and Crib Blessing at 10:15 PM before the 10:30 PM Christmas Eve Mass. There will be flute and brass to accent that same Mass as well as at the 8 AM and 10 AM Masses on Christmas Day. A drum will be added to the Guitar group at the 4:30 PM Christmas Eve Mass. Your prayers will be enhanced by these extra efforts.

For your confession needs, there is the Communal Reconciliation Service on Tuesday at 7 PM and individual confessions after the 8:30 AM Masses on Tuesday and Thursday.

Please pray for me, as I do you,  
*Fr. Pat*



**WELCOME TO ALL OF OUR VISITORS**

During the holidays, many visitors join us for the celebration of Christmas.

We extend a warm welcome to all who are joining us this holy season, whether you are visitors, travelers, college students or those who have been away from church for a while, you are always welcome here!

Let Our Lady of Knock Parish be your "home" for this week and for the entire year.

If you are visiting a Catholic Church for the first time, please make yourself at home.

If you would like to learn more about becoming Catholic or registering in the parish, or if you have any questions, please call the office, (708) 862-3011.

**RECTORY OFFICE CLOSED**

The Rectory Office will be closed on Friday, December 25th and will reopen on Monday, December 28th.



## MARKET DAY

Our next Market Day pick up will be Wednesday, January 6, 2010 in the parish hall from 4PM—5PM. Order forms are available at the church doors and can be returned to the box in the vestibule or to the rectory.



## FOCUS ON THE POSITIVE

Our next Focus on the Positive will take place on Thursday, January 21st in the Parish Hall from 7—8PM.. Guest speaker will be Mary Sue Kegl of St. Alexander Parish.

There is no fee. All are welcome! Delicious refreshments will be served.



## AND THEY'RE OFF!!!

Be sure to save the date: SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2010. Our Lady of Knock Parish is sponsoring a fund raiser at Balmoral Park in Crete, Illinois on that date. Doors will open at 5PM. Dinner buffet from 5:30-7:30PM. Ticket price of \$30 per person includes free admission, official race program, special race dedication and group photo in the winner's circle. Also, there will be raffles galore! No need to do any betting. Just come out and enjoy.

Tickets would make a wonderful Christmas gift and are now available at the Rectory. Watch the bulletin for more details!

## WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY

Every parish depends on a large Christmas collection to help pay the expenses of the year. Since inflation increases our costs each year and a slightly smaller congregation effects our weekly collection, many people increase their Christmas donation.

For these reasons, we are asking you to consider a donation of \$85 or more if possible. Thank you for your continued generosity to Our Lady of Knock Parish.

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### CHRISTMAS EVE - THURSDAY

**4:30 PM MASS**

(Guitar Group)

**10:15 PM**

Candlelight Carol Service & Blessing of the Crib  
(Choir, Flute and Brass)

**10:30 PM MASS**

**NO MIDNIGHT MASS**

### CHRISTMAS DAY - FRIDAY

**8:00 AM MASS**

(Organ, Brass and Flute)

**10:00 AM MASS**

(Organ, Brass and Flute)

### NEW YEAR'S EVE - THURSDAY

**5:30PM**

### NEW YEAR'S DAY - FRIDAY

**8:00 AM**

**10:00 AM**

## SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

### COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

**Tuesday, December 22—7:00 PM**

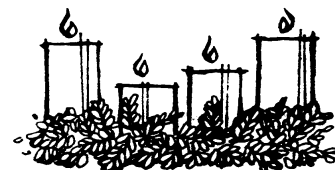
### INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS

**December 22 and 24 after 8:30 AM Mass**

**December 24—2:00 PM to 2:45 PM**



The Choir will perform their Christmas Music  
before the 10 AM Mass  
on Sunday, December 27



## FOOTSTEPS IN FAITH

Our Gospel Reading for this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent speaks of the joy and expectation of the season. Elizabeth recognizes in Mary the great gift that God has sent us. And we are reminded of the amazing faith of the Blessed Mother which enables her to embrace the path that God has asked her to travel.

What path is God asking you to travel? Ask Mary for the faith to do God's will, especially when it is difficult.

This Sunday at 9:00 AM the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders will view the 2 minute video from the Catholics Come Home Program, *Epic*. All are welcome to join us in the Parish Hall to watch the film and join in the discussion that will follow.

The students and catechists will celebrate the Christmas season with food and fun when we return to class on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Please keep all of us in your prayers.

**BLESSED CHRISTMAS!**

Peace,  
Cathy

## FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

The Blessed Mother has a special place in our Gospel Reading. Her faith and her acceptance of God's plan is an example for all of us.

Our gift to you on this on this last week of Advent is an ornament of the Holy Family. God sent His Son to live among us as part of a family because He knows that we need the support and guidance of a community.

And we are all a part of a very special family; a family of faith with Jesus Christ as our foundation. So as you place your ornament on your tree please keep all of the members of our family in your prayers.



WITHOUT CHRISTMAS  
THERE WOULD BE NO EASTER

## SHEDSOMELIGHT

The fourth purple candle on our Advent wreath is now lit. We rejoice at the nearness of the birth of the new born baby Jesus. The students gathered for our last Advent prayer service on Friday, December 18. Deacon Art Nysten of St. Jude the Apostle Parish led us in prayer. The students reflected on how they could be light for one another during the final week of the Advent season.

The students in fourth grade at the West Campus had the opportunity this first semester to have a student teacher. Miss Mallory Platt, Holy Ghost School and Valparaiso University graduate, recently completed her training with us. Mallory left us with some parting words: "After this experience of student teaching, I am even more confident in wanting to pursue the teaching profession, and giving it my all, because at the end of the day there is nothing better than the many rewards the teaching profession has to offer. It is all because of the many students I have had the opportunity to teach both now and those I will have in the future. Watching the students grow and learn daily is not something that can be explained but truly seen and felt by a teacher who believes in all of her students and wants them to succeed."

"I would like to say thank you to Mrs. Nancy Gifford and Ms. Sandy Radecki for taking me under their wings and guiding me each step of the way. Thank you to Ms. Cindy Rogers and Mrs. Karen Brodzik for allowing me to teach at Christ Our Savior and welcoming me as a student teacher. Your passion, excellence, and dedication is exuded in your words, actions, and loving spirit. Thank you to the rest of the faculty and staff for your support, laughter, and your shoulder to lean on. Each of you left an imprint in my heart that I will treasure forever." God bless you, Mallory, and may your enthusiasm and love of teaching be embedded in your soul as you begin your ministry of teaching.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of Christ Our Savior Catholic School, Miss Rogers and I want to wish you and your family a blessed, peaceful, and joyful Christmas. May you experience the love surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

*Cindy Rogers*, Principal

*Karen Brodzik*, Assistant Principal



## ON CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, AND CHRISTMAS

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It strikes me now as I write this column for the final Sunday of Advent that in each of my last three columns, I made reference to the secular aspects of Christmas, and usually with some degree of negativity. Like, “Unfortunately, the holidays are the holidays, and we’ve all got things to do” and “Think about that the next time you’re five customers deep at your local Target or Kohls during the holiday rush” and “We *get*, of course that Jesus is our light. But there are a lot of other lights out there, too, and they can be plenty distracting.” Yes, yes, yes. Still, I’m not the sanctimonious Joe Humbug you might make me out to be. Not, at least, if loving the gifts under the tree plays into the picture.

Man, I’ve gotten some cool presents over the years. A basketball that I really really really wanted when I was a kid. Baseball cards. A BB gun. A pocket knife. A fishing knife. A Malaysian hunting knife (that’s what I called it anyway). Running shoes. Sweaters. Books. Some Christmas ties. A long wool coat that still thrills me every time I put it on. A hotel get-away for my wife and me. Forever stamps. Socks and underwear (sort of like meatloaf: not very exciting, but always appreciated when put before me...). No one’s gotten me a new Lexus yet with a red bow on top like in those goofy TV commercials--and I’m not expecting one anytime soon--but that’s fine. I mean, my Saturn is still running great, and it only has 178,000 miles on it.

New cars aside, though, I find myself being taken less and less by stuff. Ask my family members. They say I’m tough to buy for. They’re right, but only because these days, I’m into homemade consumables. Freshly baked cookies? Give me a dozen and I’m happy. Homemade bread. Mmmmmm. My son made me some chocolate candy once to die for. Hand-decorated note cards? Nice, and guaranteed to not last long once they find their way to my writing desk. The good thing about homemade consumables is that they always remind us of the person who lovingly gave something of himself or herself in the gift. The bad thing about consumables is that with time, we use them up.

The Child is a gift of self, and when we look beyond the commercial trappings (there I go again) we know that this gift has no equal. Elizabeth asks Mary in today’s Gospel, “how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” Paraphrasing the question, we can ask it of ourselves: how does it happen that our Lord should come to any of us? Love, of course, has everything to do with it. Jesus sustains us--we feed on him--and he tells us that he is always there for us. Christ, then, is without question the greatest consumable gift of self ever, and how cool is that? Today’s Gospel concludes with Elizabeth’s endearing words to Mary: *Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.* Similarly firm in faith, let’s look for each other at the crèche on Friday morning, claiming there Elizabeth’s endearing blessing as our very own. Merry Christmas.

### WOMEN’S CENTER FAMILY RESOURCE ROOM

On behalf of everyone involved with the Women’s Center I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and thank you for the wonderful support you have given us

Please continue to keep us in your hearts and in your prayers.

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Monday:	St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins
Wednesday:	St. John of Kanty
Thursday:	The Vigil of Christmas
Friday:	Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Saturday:	St. Stephen; First day of Kwanzaa



## Liturgy Intentions

### SUNDAY (FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT)

8:00 AM—Joe & Anne Phillips  
(Tony & Sylvia) (Fr. Fenske)  
10:00 AM—Sandra L. & Mark A. Bergeron  
(Parents) (Fr. Lyons)

### MONDAY (LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY)

7:00 AM Mass—Joseph Foris  
(Friend)  
8:30 AM Service—Carol Wartman  
(Family)

### TUESDAY (LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY)

7:00 AM Service—Intentions of All Parishioners of  
Our Lady of Knock Parish  
8:30 AM Mass—Henrietta Czerniak  
(Claudine)

### WEDNESDAY - NO LITURGIES

### THURSDAY (LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY)

7:00 AM Service—Pauline Lacko  
(Rob & Susan Braasch)  
8:30 AM Mass—Joseph H. Iskrzyski  
(Iskrzyski Family)

### THURSDAY (CHRISTMAS EVE)

4:30 PM Mass—Adelene Zajakowski  
(Cheryl Marz-Perl) (Fr. Fenske)  
10:30 PM Mass—Elsie & Joe Surcek  
(Len & Jan) (Fr. Lyons)

### FRIDAY (CHRISTMAS DAY)

8:00 AM Mass—Anne Novak  
(Mom, Dad & Ben) (Fr. Fenske)  
10:00AM Mass—Tony & Kay Zaversnik  
(Michelle) (Fr. Lyons)

### SATURDAY (VIGIL: HOLY FAMILY)

5:30 PM—Joe Chelbana  
(Wife Irene) (Fr. Lyons)

### SUNDAY (FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY)

8:00 AM—Katie Yatsko  
(Carol Lembas) (Fr. Fenske)  
10:00 AM—Blaine & Dorothy Marz  
(Cheryl) (Fr. Lyons)



### DUSTBUSTERS

Group 5 CATHY KNETL, Captain, please be at the church on Thursday December 24th at 9AM.



### REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested for the souls of Rev. Martin J Neary (our founding pastor), Rev. John Ahern, Rev. Thomas Kelly, Rev. James O'Donnell, Rev. Edward Barron, Rev. Michael McPartlan, **GENEVIEVE KLEKOT, ALLAN JOZA** and all of our beloved dead of past years.



### Our Lady of Knock Parish Stewardship Report

#### SUNDAY COLLECTION December 13, 2009

REQUIRED BUDGET	TOTAL ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
\$6500	\$6359	-\$141

#### Fiscal-Year-To-Date

REQUIRED BUDGET	TOTAL ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
\$156,000	\$ 143,631	-\$12,369

CHILDREN'S ENVELOPES	NUMBER	TOTAL
	22	\$22.00

No. Of Envelopes Used:	236
Average Donation Per Envelope	\$26.03
Retirement for Religious:	\$2,151.00

Building and Maintenance YTD:	\$13,929.55
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## A MESSAGE FROM DEACON TOM

This past week the Catholics Come Home evangelization initiative began. By now you have probably seen some of the TV ads. Please give me your feedback regarding the ads. Over 2,000 ads will air on the major networks. These ads encourage those who have drifted away to come back.

There are 20 million Catholics in the USA who no longer practice the faith or do so sporadically. This is in addition to the 70 million who are more active. In fact, if one takes the number of those who have drifted away, it adds to the second largest religion in the USA, practicing Catholics being first. Amazing, isn't it, that so many have drifted away. We need to invite our brothers and sisters to join us.

While ads might help, nothing is more effective than a personal invitation. Invite someone you know to come back to the Catholic Church. And to anyone reading this bulletin article that is returning to the Church this Christmas season, **WELCOME!**

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to all!

Please keep us in your prayers

Your brother in Christ

*Deacon Tom*

## OUR LADY OF KNOCK PARISH

501—163rd Street, Calumet City, Illinois 60409

Rectory Office: (708) 862-3011

Visit our website at: [ourladyofknock.org](http://ourladyofknock.org)

**Pastor:** Rev. Patrick M. Lyons  
**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Donald J. Fenske  
**Deacon Couples:** Edward & Carmella Ryan  
 Tom & Cathy Knetl  
**Pastoral Associate:** Sr. Alban Hermes, O.P.  
 868-1723  
**DRE:** Mrs. Catherine Knetl  
 868-1711  
**Music Director:** Lori Moreland  
**Spred Chairperson:** Cheryl Marz-Perl  
**Bulletin Editor:** Cheryl Marz-Perl  
 862-3011  
**Bookkeeper:** Kathy Becker  
 862-3011  
**Secretary:** Pat Turner  
**Weekend Masses:** Saturday, 5:30 PM  
**Sunday:** 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM  
**Weekday Services:** (M, T, TH, F) 7:00 AM & 8:30 AM  
**Holy Day Vigil:** 6:00 PM  
**Holy Day:** 7:00 AM & 8:30 AM, 7:00 PM  
**Confessions:** Saturday, 4:30-5:15 PM

**Baptisms:** Second & Fourth Sundays of the month at 1:00 PM. Preparation Class (required if 1st Child), 1st Tuesday of Month, 7:30 PM.  
**Marriages:** Call Rectory for arrangements at least 4 months prior to planned date.  
**Change of Address or New Registration:** Call Rectory during business hours Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

### Christ Our Savior Catholic School:

**Executive Pastor:** Rev. Patrick M. Lyons  
**Principal:** Miss Cindy Rogers  
 East Campus 708-862-4143  
 West Campus 708-333-8173

[www.christoursaviorcatholicsschool.org](http://www.christoursaviorcatholicsschool.org)