

St. Gianna's Parish
Founded: April 28, 2006
www.stgiannaparish.org

Dec. 21, 2008
Fourth Sunday of Advent



Monday Dec. 22 thru Sunday Dec. 28

Mass Intentions

Mon.	8:00 am	Charles Bley
Tues.	8:00 am	Fr. Michael Houser
Wed.	8:00 am	Gary Bennett
Thurs. Midnight		Mary Constance, Russell & Vito Bono
Thurs. 8:00 am		Marcella & David Post
Thurs. 11:00 am		St. Gianna Parish
Fri.	8:00 am	Dr. Michael Dixon
Sat.	8:00 am	Maria Hill
Sat.	5:00 pm	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Sun.	8:00 am	St. Gianna Parish
Sun.	11:00 am	Michelle Keller

Assignments: Thurs. Dec. 25 –Christmas

Lectors

Thurs. Midnight	Margo Miller
Thurs. 8:00 am	
Thurs. 11:00 am	Mary LaPak
Sat., Dec. 27 and Sun. Dec. 28	
Sat. 5:00 pm	William Lynch
Sun. 8:00 am	Bob Berfanger
Sun. 11:00 am	Tim McCullen

Ushers

Thurs. Midnight	Volunteers
Thurs. 8:00 am	Volunteers
Thurs. 11:00 am	Volunteers
Sat. 5:00 pm	Brian Driemeyer & Santiago Medina
Sun. 8:00 am	Randy Miller & Mike Schuette
Sun. 11:00 am	Dave Gentili & Chris Curd

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Thurs. Midnight	Please call office to volunteer—625-6012
Thurs. 11:00 am	Please call office to volunteer
Sun. 11:00 am	Debra Sronce & Jo Ann Conti

Holy Mass:

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Confession Schedule:

Friday: 7:30 –7:50 a.m.

Saturday: 4:15-4:50 p.m.

Sunday: 7:30-7:50 and 10:30-10:50 a.m.

Dec. 14, 2008	Cumulative
Sunday Offering: \$4,029	\$104,324
Loose Offering: \$1,064	\$27,295
Needed per week: \$5,500	\$132,000
Plus/Minus -\$407	-\$381
Building Fund: \$11,083	\$309,618

These final days of Advent are meant to help us open our hearts to the coming of Jesus more fully into our lives, so that what we say and do will reflect the goodness of God's love. In other words, Christmas is not just a time for parties and good food, but it is meant to change us!

Even though most of the decorations will be taken down on December 26th and the Christmas carols will cease, the Christmas season has only just begun for us. Christmas lasts from December 25 until January 11, the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord. There are a number of beautiful feast days, such as the Feast of the Holy Family (Dec. 28), the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God (Jan. 1, which is a holy day of obligation), the Solemnity of the Epiphany (Jan. 4); the Christmas season closes with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Jan. 11).

Christmas Confessions: Monday 6:30-7:30 pm and 7:45-until everyone is gone.

Have a Merry and Blessed Christmas

St. Gianna Parish Knight News

Ken Brenneke was the winner of the December 250 Club drawing. He won the \$200 monthly prize.

Knights of Columbus of St. Gianna are selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" car magnets in the lobby of the church after all Masses during Advent. Cost \$5
 For more info contact Steve Tuffner 265-0302 or Randy Miller 639-9394.

CHRISTMAS CD'S

The CD's on the table in the vestibule feature St. Louis Church Choirs. The two CD's on the table are from the past 2 years, cost \$5. The CD's in the stand feature area children's choirs, including St. Gianna Children's Choir. Cost \$10
 All proceeds benefit St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Holy Land DVD

'**Holy Land DVD**' takes you on a pilgrimage thru places where Jesus walked. The discounted price for the parishioners is only \$6.00. you may obtain the DVD at the church office. One third of the proceeds go to our Church Building Fund. This will make a great Christmas gift.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CORNER

As we celebrate the Christmas Season let us also celebrate the progress of our capital campaign! Many of the campaign leadership have been visited for their gifts and pledges. The current totals represent over \$833,000. This is over and above the current Building Fund monies that have been raised to date.

Celebrate Christmas—Celebrate the generosity of the parish family to move this project forward. The New Year looks to be bright at St. Gianna Parish!

"Gift From IRA's May Benefit You"

Everyone with an IRA is required to take minimum distribution beginning at age 70 1/2. This is considered income and is taxable. To avoid paying taxes, current legislation allows individuals to make charitable gifts from their IRA's, through December 31, 2009

What are the benefits of donating directly from my IRA?

1. The amount distributed from an IRA is excluded from the donor's income for federal tax purpose.
2. The donor can count the amount of the charitable gift or distribution (also know as an IRA Charitable Rollover) towards the Required Minimum Distribution for the IRA In that year.
3. The donor may exclude up to \$100,000 for his/her gross Income for each tax year for qualified charitable Distributions from IRA's

PRO-LIFE

"For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you, who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Luke 2: 11-12 God became a baby so that we might learn humility and tenderness to the weak. May we welcome the Christ child into our hearts throughout the year and bring His message of love and life to all God's children. May you and your families have a Blessed Christmas.

Please prayerfully consider joining the Pro-Life Committee Please join us for the prolife rosary each Sat. @ 7:30 am. Interested in joining the pro-life committee or for further info contact Mary Williams @ 828-5610 or email prolife@stgiannaparish.org

Pro-Life Rosary Dec. 27: Mary Williams

Test that can Help Save Your Life

At Living Lord Lutheran Church on Saturday, Jan. 31. Pre-registration is required. Call 1-800-324-1851.

4 Tests in Less Than 1 hour.

1. Stroke Screening/Carotid Artery
2. Atrial Fibrillation Screening
3. Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
4. Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening

All 4 Vascular Tests for only \$139

FOOD FOR THE POOR

Don't forget about those less fortunate. Pick up a few extra items at the grocery store, put them in a bag and bring to church. Place by the statue of the Sacred Heart.

All the food brought in goes to ICD's St. Vincent de Paul Society. All food pantries are seeing an increase in the number of people they serve. The need is up 50% at ICD.

Thanks you.



The Young Catholic Musicians' **31st Annual Christmas Concert** presented at Seven Holy Founders Parish on **Sunday, Dec. 28 from 3-4:30 pm**

Tickets for the concerts are \$5 and \$10. All seats are reserved. And no tickets are sold at the door. Checks made payable to The Young Catholic Musicians should be sent to "Concert Tickets / 1919 S. 7th St / St. Louis, MO 63104. Tickets will be mailed Dec. 15.

INVITATION

The Department of Special Education of the Archdiocese of St. Louis cordially invites you to attend the first annual "**All Star Trivia Night**" Saturday, Jan. 17 at the Champions Club at Busch Stadium. Trivia begins at 7:00 pm.

Emcee: Randy Karraker, of 101.1 ESPM

Live auction/raffles/50/50 drawings/door prizes

Cash prize of \$400 for the winning table, Tables of eight \$240. Beer/wine/soft drinks/ delicious selection of appetizers included (Cash bar also available) Special parking rate available. For more information contact Michelle Wright at 636-530-9129 or imcvwright@earthlink.net Register on line at archstl.org/education/

Silence for Your Busy Life

St. Patrick's in Wentzville is sponsoring an Introductory Workshop on Centering Prayer, Sat., Jan. 17 from 9 am—2 pm in the Rectory Meeting Room. This presentation by Contemplative Outreach of St. Louis will offer opportunities to experience this form of ancient Christian prayer as well as time for questions and discussion. Registration fee \$25 per person. Please bring lunch. Beverages provided. For registration and info go to www.centeringprayerstl.com or call 314-918-8288 or 636-332-9225. Register by January 12.

The Catholic Singles Alumni Club is looking for single or married players over 18 to join their volleyball league. All skill levels are welcome. Play near Maryland Heights on Sunday evenings starting in January. Interested? Contact Steve at 314-966-0724 or go to <http://csacstlouis.org/activities.html>

St. Louis Marian Conference to

Be held at Hyatt Riverfront Hotel on Jan. 16-17-18, 2009; Presenting Msgr. John Hickel; Fr. Oscar Lukafahr; Fr. Thomas Loya; Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ; Msgr. Michael Schmitz; Keven O'Brien, David Moss; Sr. Rosaling Moss; Fr. Tom Sullivan, CPM; Wayne Weible; Fr. Emmerich Vogt, OP
Call for info/registration 314-423-1075
Website: STLmarianconference.com

Give the gift that keeps on giving—for the rest of your life! Register for a **Marriage Encounter Weekend** in 2009 and receive the gift of a happier marriage. Upcoming Weekends will be held February 6-8 and April 24-26. Register for one at www.stl-wwme.org or by calling 314-469-7317

Find help for your troubled marriage through the next **RETROUVAILLE** program that starts **Feb. 6-8, 2009** with a Weekend (Friday night thru Sunday).