

The Chimes

of Saint Athanasius Parish

www.stathanasius-evanston.org

Eucharistic Worship

Monday - Friday 6:30 and 8:15 am
Saturday 8:15 am, 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00, 9:30 and 11:30 am
LifeTeen 5:00 pm

Our Mission

*"Do this in memory of Me."
We, the members of the
Catholic Community of
St. Athanasius Parish,
are each called by baptism
to continue the work of
Jesus Christ embracing all.
We aspire to worship, love,
thank and serve God.
We are open to what
God calls us to become.*



*May a Christmas blessing be sung into your house.
Thank you, St. A's Brownie Troop 1550.*

Eucharistic Liturgies

December 21 - 28, 2008

Sunday

- 5:00 pm (Saturday) † Renee Walsh
- 8:00 am † David & Larry Van Der Bosch
- 9:30 am † Dorothy Maloney
- 11:30 am † Noel Shaw Family
- 5:00 pm † Rose Schuba

Monday

- 6:30 am Special Intentions for Jack Pinter
- 8:15 am † David Athanasius Van Der Bosch

Tuesday

- 6:30 am Special Intentions for Jack Steinberg
- 8:15 am † Edith M. Peschon

Wednesday - *Christmas Eve*

- 4:00 pm † Pat Hotchkiss
- 5:30 pm † Barry McRaith
- 10:30 pm † Dave Kaiser

Thursday - *Christmas Day*

- 8:00 am † Marie Tuthill
- 9:30 am † Mary Joan Robinson
- 11:30 am † Lillian & Lawrence Stanek

Friday

- 6:30 am † Deceased Members of the Kaminsky & Hughes Families
- 8:15 am † Angela Richards

Saturday

- 8:15 am Special Intentions for the Mullarkey Family
- 5:00 pm † Lee Ann Chisholm

Sunday

- 8:00 am † Rose Schuba
- 9:30 am † Caesar P. Tabet
- 11:30 am † Gail Wallace
- 5:00 pm **No Mass**

St. Athanasius Parish Holiday Liturgy Schedule 2008

Christmas Eve Liturgies (Wednesday)

- 8:15 AM Mass
- 4:00 PM Mass - Children's Choir
- 5:30 PM Mass
- 9:45 PM Christmas Carol Service
- 10:30 PM Evening Mass - Parish Choir

Christmas Day Liturgies (Thursday)

8:00, 9:30 and 11:30 AM Masses

New Year's Eve Liturgies (Wednesday)

8:15 AM and 5:00 PM Masses

Solemnity of Mary

New Year's Day Liturgies (Thursday)

9:30 and 11:30 AM Masses

**There will be NO 5:00 PM Mass on
Sunday, December 28.**

OFFERTORY COLLECTION REPORT

Offertory December 13/14	\$16,472
Retirement Fund Religious	\$4,207
Children's Envelopes	\$18.65
ParishPay for December	\$12,861

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



This Week: Christmas

Next Week: Solemnity of Mary

Christmas Wish Basket Delivery Day

Today is Delivery Day for Christmas Wish Baskets. Please bring all wrapped gifts and food to the gym, Sunday, December 21 between 9:00 and 11:30 am. Eight graders from the Family Program will be available to help carry items from your car. Upon arrival, please check in all food and gifts with a volunteer to ensure that they are delivered to the correct person or family. The delivery truck will leave for the Howard Area Community Center at noon. Thanks for your generosity this holiday season.



As we gather together with friends, family and loved ones to celebrate Christmas, remember the greatest gift ever given – God’s Son, our Savior. ’Tis the season for miracles and wonder, for joy and thanksgiving. No other time of year holds so much promise, anticipation or excitement as this most holy season. We know that in all areas of our lives we must “follow the star” and listen closely for God’s guidance. The celebration of Christmas always gives us pause as the Lord’s never-ending love surrounds each person who believes.

We are on the verge of a very exciting time in our faith community. We are thrilled to report that since the October 26th launch of our ***Generations Campaign***, we have successfully met the *Season of Gratitude* Challenge. As of Monday, December 15th at 4:00 pm, the good stewards of our Parish pledged over \$630,480 in this short period of time and we have secured the additional \$425,000 Challenge. This certainly is cause for celebration as we have now passed a major milestone on our way to our goal of \$3 million.

The Generations Campaign, in the early weeks, has received pledges from just **157** families and friends of St. Athanasius. And already, our grand total stands at **\$1,690,764!** With just 14% of our Parish families financially participating, we have the wonderful potential for achieving our dream. Thank you to everyone who is making a sacrifice on behalf of our plans to repair the Church, acquire Lindley Park and establish a maintenance fund. You are truly shaping the future of St. Athanasius Parish.

There is still much work to do in order to realize our goal of raising \$3 million. Please pray that we “follow the star” in this effort—that we remember that it is God’s work that we do and His plans that we are invited to follow. With the grace and guidance of our Lord, the people of St. Athanasius are on a triumphant path and the rewards of our labors will be great! With our hearts filled with the love of Christmas and our eyes always watching for the star, we can achieve our dream and continue sharing the Good News. For all we celebrate today, lift your voices in song and rejoice as Heaven and Angels sing!

Merry Christmas, St. Athanasius!

I’m ready to support ***The Generations Campaign*** – please contact me.

Name _____

Telephone (Day) _____ Telephone (Evening) _____

***For more information or to schedule a personal visit with an Ambassador,
please call Jean in the campaign office at (847) 332-1615.***

Parents in Prayer

The Rosary is a powerful way to meditate on Jesus' life and to grow closer to God. The Divine Mercy Chaplet is a prayer said on the Rosary beads and is Jesus' promise to Saint Faustina of His unending mercy He has for us. Through these two prayers, Catholics can grow in a deep understanding of God's love for us and the peace He wants us to have.

If you are looking for peace and direction in your life, come join our new group each Wednesday morning in the Fitzgerald Chapel, after school drop-off at 8:45 am, to say the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet. Do not worry if you have never said these prayers before. Supplies will be provided! Children are welcome. Just come to see the healing power of these powerful prayers. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Galloway at (847) 905-0552 or at armydog@me.com.

Interfaith Action Meeting

Interfaith Action's January delegate meeting will feature presentations on the health concerns of our homeless people by Dr. Norman Ryan, who practices at Rush and a West Side free clinic, and Connections for the Homeless Coordinator Henry Colquitt. The meeting will be held on Sunday, January 11, at 3:00 pm, in the **Hartke Room at St. Athanasius**. The meeting will begin with refreshments and fellowship, followed by a brief business meeting. Dr. Ryan and Mr. Colquitt will begin their presentation at 4:00 pm. All delegates should attend this meeting, but the general public is also most welcome. Feel free to come only to the program, which promises to be of great interest to everyone.

Today's Thought

Parishioner Tim Patton posts almost daily real life happenings seen with the eyes of faith in the Lord. Tim welcomes sharing his thoughts with you. Just e-mail him at tsp2519@aol.com to be included.

The Gift

This past week our Parish in Evanston, St. Athanasius, held an Advent Mission on God's Gifts. I was able to attend one night, and the Augustinian Priest who presided over the event was full of wisdom. He shared a story from his personal life. As his mother was dying at the age of 99, he was able to ask her what she wanted done with certain possessions. She indicated to her son that there was nothing left to do, all her gifts were given away.

As we are midway through the advent season, I know we are busy buying gifts. The greatest gifts come from your heart. Use the gifts that God has blessed you with, to light up the season of Christmas.

Give yourself.

Grace & Peace,

Tim



Please Remember In Your Prayers...

The sick and their caregivers, especially **Jack Pinter, James Wazorick, Tom Leoni, Charmayne Swanson**, former parishioner **John Lally, Elizabeth Adamson, Joanne Steenveld, Kathleen O'Toole, Bill O'Connor, Paul Mooney**, nephew of Bob & Nancy Doyle, **Isabella Makalska, Helene Joelo, Ursula Peghini, Mary Ficek, Norman Seligman** and **Frederick Maximus Oneuoha**, brother of Ruphina Pettis;

Those in the military, especially **Catie Staub**, daughter of David and Mary Therese Staub, **Ensign Anthony Grusich, USN**, son of Lois and Bill Grusich, **Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan Olsen** and **PFC Kyle Olsen**, grandsons of Jane and Emmitt Ingram, and **Matthew Chrobak**, nephew of Eric Harkna and Tonise Paul;

Those who have died, especially **Maria Friedrich**, cousin of Jean Lauri., **Margaret Kenny Weber** and **Lottie Kaminski**.

PLEASE NOTE: Names of the Sick recommended to our prayers will remain in the bulletin for **one month**. If you wish their names to remain beyond that time, please call the parish office.

Pastor's Notes

Contagious Happiness

A recent headline announced ***"Happiness loves company, scientists say."*** This study suggests that happiness comes not only from being surrounded with loving family and good close friends, but also the people they are connected with are making you happy too. Social networks spread happiness. Even when circumstances fluctuate, the article goes on to say, "people tend to return to a personal happiness 'set point' over time."

Believers and disciples of the Lord are preparing to gather this Christmas to celebrate our ultimate source, our "set point" of happiness: The announcement that Jesus Christ is coming changes our world.

This is the Church's in-built happiness which shapes us all. By gathering together in that social grouping we call St. Athanasius Parish, holiday time or not, for worship and in all the other expressions of parish life, this happiness rubs off on each other. **This Christmas may your best gift be the happiness of knowing Jesus Christ in your life.**

Living Your Strengths Book and On-line Profile

I received a spiritual boost from last week's **"Celebrating God's Gifts" Parish Mission**. My gratitude goes out to **Fr. Jim Friedel** who guided us, parishioners **Denise Galloway, Jay Foley, Tim Patton, and Joe Nedoss** who gave stirring testimonies, and to all those who helped with the details and hospitality.

God gifts us all with an array of strengths and talents. The Gallup Organization has found that by identifying and affirming these natural inclinations we get deeper insight both into our personal growth and into the ways we are inclined to best serve the wider community. ***Living Your Strengths: Discover Your God-Given Talents and Inspire Your Community*** is their stimulating book and on-line survey that names your five "signature" talents and explores their potential uses. My hope is that eventually all St. Athanasius parishioners will experience the benefits of ***Living Your Strengths***.

As a follow-up to our Parish Mission, whether you were able to attend or not, **I invite you to take and use a copy of *Living Your Strengths***. I also invite you deepen the understanding of your "Strengths Finder" results by attending one of the **reflection sessions** I will hold in the **Parish House at 7:00 pm on Monday, December 29, or Tuesday, January 6**. Additional sessions will be scheduled as needed.

Copies of ***Living Your Strengths*** are available in the Church vestibule.

On behalf of all the parish volunteers and staff who make St. A's a believing community contaminated by the happiness of living in Jesus Christ, a blessed Christmas to you and all who love you.

In the Lord's Blessings,

Fr. Tom Libera



See for yourself all that our school has to offer!



St. A's

Kindergarten
to 8th Grade

(847) 864-2650

2510 Ashland Ave.

Evanston, IL 60201

www.saintas.net



Open House & Presentation

10:30 a.m. to noon

9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 25

Wednesday, January 28

- Talk with parents, students, teachers and our principal
- View our outstanding facilities
- Learn how St. A's unique curriculum and programs help children flourish
- Full-day and half-day kindergarten options
- Students of all faiths are welcome
- Financial aid available

St. Athanasius



Angel Ball – Truly “One Shining Moment”

One final “thank you” to all our donors, guests, auction winners, and volunteers – thanks to everyone’s generous participation, Angel Ball 2008 raised a **net total of \$155,000 for the educational needs of the parish and an additional \$44,000 in memory of our dear friend, Rachel Harrigan, for our tuition assistance programs.** In a year when the economy continues to be such an issue for many, these results are truly outstanding! They speak volumes about the generosity of our parish, our school, our community, the festivity of the evening, and the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make it all happen. Thank you!

An Invitation to Join Our ParishPay Offertory Program

St. Athanasius Parish is participating in an online program called **ParishPay**. This program, through the Archdiocese of Chicago, allows us to process donations via automatic withdrawals from bank accounts or credit cards. There are two ways to sign up:

- 1) You may fill out the form below and return it to **Barbara Bonier** in the parish office, or
- 2) You may sign up online at www.paritypay.com.

Sign up once and the donations are taken care of for you once a month. What could be easier?
We are very grateful for all of your continuing support and hope that this program will provide another option for handling your contributions.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

DONATION INFORMATION (\$10.00 minimum for each category)

I wish to lovingly give the following amount MONTHLY: \$ _____
I also wish to include a MONTHLY amount for **Generations Campaign**: \$ _____
I also wish to include a MONTHLY amount for **St. Agnes, Our Sharing Parish**: \$ _____
I also wish to include a MONTHLY amount for **St. Vincent dePaul**: \$ _____
I also wish to include a MONTHLY amount for **Soup Kitchen**: \$ _____
For **Easter** collection in the month of Easter, please additionally deduct: \$ _____
For **Christmas** collection in the month of December, please additionally deduct: \$ _____

BANK ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Routing #: _____
(9 digit bank identifier along bottom of check)
Account #: _____
Name of Bank: _____

- OR -

CREDIT CARD ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Please keep in mind that when you use your credit card, approximately 3% of your donation will be deducted as processing fees.

Circle One: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Account #: _____

EXPIRATION: _____ / _____

Name on Card: _____

Parish Calendar

Sunday, December 21

Family Program, 9 am-Noon, School

Monday, December 22

Individual Reconciliation, 6-8 pm, Church
St. Vincent DePaul, 7:30 pm, Rosemeyer Room

Tuesday, December 23

Prayer and Reflection, 6:30 am, Rosemeyer Room

Wednesday, December 24

Thursday, December 25

Friday, December 26

Saturday, December 27

Sunday, December 28

4th Sunday of Advent

"Don't be afraid, Mary." Colossians 3:15

It can be a little scary to do as God asks - to give Him the first fruits of our time, talent and treasure. But the comforting words the angel spoke to Mary can comfort us, too, when we dedicate ourselves to being good Christian stewards - "Do not be afraid."

Staff Extension List 847-328-1430

100 Parish Office	116 Jean Lauri
100 Janice Moore-Rivas	120 Jim Potthast
101 School Office	123 Mary Lietz
103 Fr. Sztorc	124 Lori Goszczyński
105 Marion Amling	125 Steve Carson
107 Judy Berg	129 Bridget Hotchkiss
111 Fr. Libera	142 Barbara Bonier
114 José Moreno	143 Karen Sellers
115 Susan Castagna	

Liturgical Ministers

Next Weekend December 27/28

5:00 pm Saturday

Presider Fr. Sztorc

Lector Larry Wojcik

Servers Emma & Noah Regnier, Ryan Hartigan

Eucharistic Ministers

Bob Costello, Mary Anne King,
Stan & Lori Goszczyński,
Richard Byrne

8:00 am

Presider Fr. Libera

Lector Angela Grannon

Servers Christian & Evan Swenson,
Patrick Walsh

Eucharistic Ministers

Judy Berg, Walter Farrell,
Walter Farrell, Bruno Jaselskis,
Chris Talbot, Mary Pat Schmidt

9:30 am

Presider Fr. Sztorc

Lector Jude Quinn

Servers Samantha Maltezos,
Christopher & Mia Polinski

Eucharistic Ministers

Bridget Hotchkiss, Kevin Leonard,
Bob Curley, Lisa Weber,
Michael Sultan

11:30 am

Presider Fr. Libera

Lector Mary Rooney

Servers Thomas & James Zampa,
Rebecca Suennen

Eucharistic Ministers

Bill & Sue Harmon,
Jim & Eunie Nondorf, Carol Ekman

5:00 pm Sunday

No Mass



Readings for the Week of December 21, 2008

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
Wednesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
Thursday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25
or 1:18-25
Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Col 3:12-21 or
3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Working with the Scriptures

December 21, 2008 (Luke 1:26-38)

If the angel Gabriel appeared to you, how would you respond? How would you feel if you were asked to give birth to Jesus? Speaking for myself, if an angel of the Lord ever appeared to me, I'd probably be too frightened to reply! Maybe that's why, whenever we hear about an angel appearing to someone, one of the first things they say is "do not be afraid." Mary was frightened, too.

When we picture the Annunciation, the event Luke describes in this Sunday's Gospel, we usually picture Mary kneeling at prayer. But, Luke doesn't say that. Luke only says "the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee...to a virgin...and the virgin's name was Mary." Since we aren't told exactly what Mary was doing at the time, many artists have chosen to depict her praying. But, what if the angel had come in the middle of the morning and found Mary sweeping the kitchen floor? Or if he had come later in the day and found her helping Ann prepare the evening meal? Would the angel have sped back to heaven, certain that the time was unworthy of so profound an invitation? Would the holy cards seem less 'holy' if the pictures of the Annunciation showed Mary going about the duties of her parents' household? Or, on the other hand, would the everyday duties necessary to taking care of a household seem more holy if we pictured Gabriel greeting Mary in the kitchen?

The truth is that we are all, to use Dorothy Day's words, *entertaining angels* at every moment and in every encounter, whether at home or at work, at school or at play, at rest or at prayer. The question is, how do we respond to the heavenly visitors God sends into our lives? Do we send them away, frightened and convinced that we are unworthy of the visit? Or, whether we're kneeling in prayer or on our knees scrubbing the kitchen floor, do we, like Mary, invite them in, trusting that the Holy Spirit will come upon us right where we are?

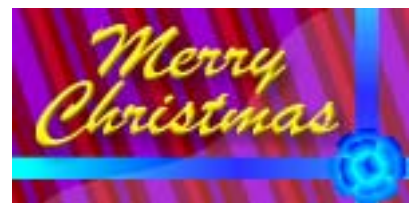
Vinal Van Benthem

Confirmation for Adults

The Archdiocese of Chicago sponsors adult Confirmation preparation for adults 18 years of age and older who are active Catholics and have received the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist. A program will meet 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm on all the Mondays and Tuesdays in January 2009 at Meyer Center, 3525 S. Lake Park Avenue, Chicago. For information and registration, interested candidates may email Patrick Redington at the Office of Catechesis & Youth Ministry at (312) 243-3700.

OLPH Phoenix Group

The OLPH Phoenix Group is a group of Catholic singles age 50+, who share a social life by attending events of common interest together. Each first Friday they get together for snacks and planning. Members bring activity ideas, and those interested work out the details. They plan movie nights and day trips in the Chicago area. These events supplement our monthly bridge group, restaurant group, and book group. If you would like to meet new people and make new friends, why not join us at **7:30 pm on January 2**. They meet in the Francis Room of the Lafayette Building of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Glenview. For more information call Mary Jane at 847-398-3528.



St. Athanasius Parish

1615 LINCOLN STREET • EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201-2340 • 847-328-1430

www.stathanasius-evanston.org

Pastors

Rev. Thomas Libera, *Pastor* (tlibera‡)

Rev. Richard Sztorc, *Associate Pastor* (rsztorc‡)

Parish Office

847-328-1430 (fax) 847-328-1809

Admin. Assistant Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Reception Hours: Monday/Tuesday 4:30-8:30 pm

Wednesday - Friday 4:30-6:30 pm

Saturday 10 am-4 pm; Sunday 9 am-1 pm

Parish Office Staff

Karen Sonnicksen Sellers, *Parish Administrator* (ksellers‡)

Barbara Bonier, *Office Manager* (bbonier‡)

Marion Amling, *Business Manager* (mamling‡)

Janice Moore-Rivas, *Administrative Assistant* (jmoore-rivas‡)

Jean Lauri, *Campaign Administrative Assistant* (jlauri‡)

Pastoral Staff

Buildings and Grounds

Jose Moreno, *Facilities Manager* (jmoreno@saintas.net)

Catholic Chaplain

Evanston Hospital 570-2330

Sr. Ann Weiler, O.S.F.

Deacon

Richard S. Jay

Music Ministry

Steve Carson, *Director* (scarson‡)

Pastoral Associates

Lori Goszczynski, *Bereavement, Ministers of Care* (Lgoszczynski‡)

Religious Education

Bridget Hotchkiss, *Coordinator* (bhotchkiss‡)

Youth Ministry

Jim Potthast, *Director* (jpotthast‡)

Parish School

2510 Ashland Avenue

Evanston, IL 60201-2319

School Office 847-864-2650 (fax) 847-475-7385

Parish School Staff

Susan Castagna, *Principal* (scastagna@saintas.net)

Mary Lietz, *Assistant Principal* (mlietz@saintas.net)

Mary Quish, *Assistant Principal* (mquish@saintas.net)

Judy Berg, *Communications Coordinator* (jberg@saintas.net)

Anne Marie McMichael, *Secretary* (amcmichael@saintas.net)

Chimes Articles

The deadline for submitting information to the parish office is Friday at Noon, 10 days prior to publication date.

Best method is to email the document as an attachment to chimes@stathanasius-evanston.org.

‡ - @stathanasius-evanston.org

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

is a several-month process for an adult wishing to become a Catholic through the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) or through a Profession of Faith. These rites are celebrated at the Easter Vigil. Please contact Fr. Rich Sztorc.

Infant Baptism

is generally celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month at 1:00 pm in the Church. The Baptism Preparation Program for parents and godparents, if possible, is held each month. Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements.

Confirmation

preparation begins in the middle of 7th grade and is celebrated during the winter of 8th grade. For adult/high school confirmation, call the Religious Education Office.

The Eucharist

is brought to the homebound by Care Ministers. Arrangements are made by calling Lori Goszczynski. First Eucharist preparation for children begins in 1st grade and is celebrated in the spring of 2nd grade.

Matrimony

arrangements are made by contacting one of the priests at the Parish Office. Arrangements a year in advance allow for adequate reservation time, participation in marriage preparation programs and liturgical planning.

Anointing of the Sick

is celebrated in the Fall during a communal celebration. Special requests for this sacrament can be arranged by calling the Parish Office.

Reconciliation

is celebrated on Saturdays, after the 8:15 am Eucharist until 9:30 am, in the sacristy near the front doors of the Church during the Holy Hour. Communal Reconciliation Services are held during Advent and Lent.



An appreciation luncheon for our Parish House volunteers