

Clement Moms
Newsletter



A community group of
Saint Clement Church

January/February 2009
Vol. 12 No. 1

Staying Active at Saint Clement When Your Children Are Young



An Interview with Flo Merkl-Deutsch

What is your position at Saint Clement?
Coordinator of Liturgy

How long have you worked at Saint Clement? I've worked at Saint Clement for 2 ½ years, but I have been a member of the parish for 14 years. Before joining the Saint Clement staff, I volunteered for ten years in a variety of roles related to the liturgy—everything from sacristan, to Triduum, to liturgical dance.

Where are you from originally?
Worcester, MA

How many children do you have?
My husband, Greg, and I have two children, ages 4 and 6.

What is something people may not know about you? I met my husband, Greg, through three different Saint Clement parishioners who worked with him on issues related to Y2K. I actually asked him out first. We were married at Saint Clement and Greg was confirmed at Saint Clement the year after we were married.

What do you like best about working at Saint Clement? There are two things I really enjoy about my job. First, I love my work and am energized by the liturgy, the creativity, and the people. Second, is that my job offers the flexibility that a working mom needs. If necessary, I can bring my children to the office, and no one minds. It is really nice to have my children across the street at the school, as well, during the workday.

What kinds of services are available to help families enjoy Mass? Saint Clement offers many types of services to help families to enjoy

their time in church. The Liturgy of the Word is offered for children age 4 to 2nd grade during both of the Sunday 9:30am Masses. Children are dismissed from Mass to read from the children's lectionary and hear a homily geared toward children. With the children's lectionary, children hear one reading instead of two, and the language is simplified for children. The children's lectionary is also used at the Family Mass, which is offered once per month during the 9:30am church Mass.

The Jubilate Choir, consisting of 4th-6th graders, also sings at the Family Mass, as well as on the first Sunday of the month in the Chapel. Their singing is always beautiful.

If parents want to attend the liturgy without their children, babysitting is offered on most Sundays in the school gym during the 9:30am Masses for children 18mths to 4yrs.

How can children participate in Mass?

Parents can encourage their children to participate in Mass in a variety of ways. Parents should, themselves, fully participate in the liturgy by voicing the responses, and singing with a full voice—children will follow! Also, parents may want to consider spending five minutes before Mass starts to talk about the importance of church, the value of prayer, and remind children about being mindful of others. After Mass, it is helpful to talk about the readings to reinforce the message.

Another idea for teaching children about the liturgy is to consider preparing a special bag of faith-oriented books and coloring books that is used just for the time spent in church.

Aside from things parents can do to encourage participation, we invite children to be an active part of the liturgy in other ways. Children can actively participate in Mass by bringing up a donation during the collection to the basket located in front of the altar, which is popular particularly with younger children. When children are

school-aged, they can serve as greeters, ushers, and acolytes.

Many parents are fearful of bringing toddlers and babies to Mass because they make noise and it is difficult to sit still. Do you have any advice for parents? As a mom, I know that meltdowns happen. Parents can always take children to the Sacristy on the east side of church or to the breezeway in the back of church which connects the church to the parish office. In both areas, a speaker system allows parents to hear the liturgy. In the near future, we have plans to wire sound to the area downstairs in the chapel to give parents yet another space to hear Mass with children.

Do you have any suggestions for how parents can better enjoy Mass? I can offer two ideas. First, parents may want to read the Sunday readings before Sunday. While attending Mass with small children, it is sometimes difficult to devote complete attention to the readings. By reading the passages ahead of time, many parents have found they get more from the liturgy. The book, *At Home with the Word*, by Liturgy Training Publications is an excellent printed reference. Also, two websites that are helpful include: www.usccb.org to review the week's readings, or www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/daily.html which provides daily reflections on readings, written by members of the Creighton University community.

The second idea I can offer is for parents to consider making a "date night" of the Sunday 7pm Mass. Hire a babysitter, and catch dinner alone either before or after Mass! This liturgy provides an excellent way for parents to enjoy a little quiet contemplation and alone time. On the 3rd Sunday of the month, the 7pm is a Contemplative Mass. It is a beautiful Mass—the church is illuminated by many candles, the music is Taize-style which is simple music intended to reflect the meditative nature of the liturgy, and it is extremely quiet.

Committee News

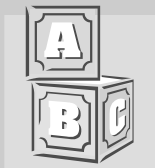
The **Social Committee** hosts events for Saint Clement children aged 0-5 including a Halloween Party, Christmas Party (with a special visit from Santa), and an Easter Egg Hunt. In addition, the committee hosts fun social events for Clement Moms including Wine Tastings, Movie Nights, and Spa Evenings. Please watch for events planned in early 2009 to enjoy an evening socializing with Clement Moms. Last we host two Pastor Dinners annually for both Clement Moms and Dads, the next one will be in the Spring.

The **Elizabeth Ministry** is looking for volunteers to help prepare meals for families who have just had a baby. If you're interested in helping, please contact Tracy Winslow at tcmullen@sbcglobal.net.

Clement Moms **Book Club**: Attention all avid readers or moms who are just looking for a night out once a month, please join us at the Clement Moms Book Club meetings the second Thursday of the month. Please join us at the next book club meeting on **Thursday, January 8**. Watch your email for further details. Contact Maureen Rogero (maureenrogero@gmail.com) or Rebecca Kempton (rebecca_haines@yahoo.com) with any questions.

The Clement Moms **Playgroup** is a fun way to meet other moms, build friendships, share ideas and form a support network. Not to mention an opportunity for our children to burn off some energy and interact with other children. In the past couple of months, playgroup has really grown. It's been fun to meet so many new moms!

During the winter, playgroup meets in the Chapel. We meet on the third Thursday of the month from 10:30-12:00. Upcoming dates include **January 15th, February 19th and March 19th**. For more information contact Rebecca (rebeccarichards1@gmail.com) or Eve (eveheidenry@yahoo.com).



Welcome to the World

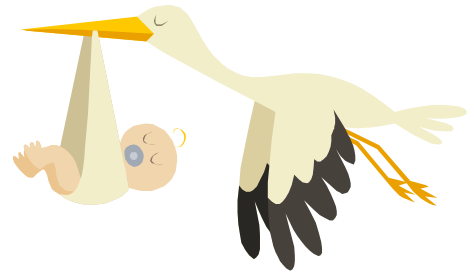
Lexi Hannah Zoha
April 19, 2008
 Proud parents:
 Todd & Tricia Zoha

Alexander Gambera
Born July 29, 2008
 Proud parents:
 Michele & Kelley Gambera

Andrew Hubbard
September 16, 2008
 Proud parents: Tom & Cheri Hubbard
 Happy siblings: Catherine & Claire

Audrey Joanne Olejnik
October 26, 2008
 Proud parents: Michelle & Andrew
 Happy big brother: Jacob

Jack Ryan Needham
November 13, 2008
 Proud parents: Meggan & Joe Needham
 Big sisters: Maggie & Adeline



Welcome to the Church

Olivia Jacqueline Kremenak
 Baptized **June 15, 2008**
 Proud parents: Elizabeth & Michael Kremenak

Lila Elizabeth Seger
 Baptized **November 9, 2008**
 Proud parents: Audrey & Andy Seger
 Big brother: Thomas

Lexi Hannah Zoha
 Baptized **November 9, 2008**
 Proud parents: Todd & Tricia Zoha

Alexander Gambera
 To be baptized on **February 15, 2009**
 Proud parents: Michele & Kelley Gambera

January & February 2009 Events around Chicago

After the holidays, it's always difficult to face the dark days of January and February—especially when the kids have cabin fever! Here are some events to get you out of the house and enjoying the city.

To start off, there are a few holiday holdovers continuing into the new year:

- **Ice skating** in Millennium Park (10:00am – 10:00pm through March 15)
- Inaugural **Snow Days Chicago**. Snow Days is a snow sculpting competition and festival including a snowboarding competition and demonstration as well as dog sled racing and weight pulling with Siberian Huskies (February 12-16, 11:00am – 8:00pm, Spirit of Music Garden in Grant Park, 601 S. Michigan Ave.).
- The Chicago Park District offers free **Polar Adventure Days** at Northerly Island, where activities include ice sculpture demonstrations, displays of live polar huskies and birds of prey, winter crafts, and snowshoeing (January 17 and February 21, 12:00-4:00pm, 1400 S. Lynn White Dr. near the Museum Campus, www.chicagoparkdistrict.com).

Winter also brings lots of **free days** at Chicago's many museums:

- The **Field Museum** (www.fieldmuseum.org) has the following free days: January 12, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, and 29; February 1-6, 9, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26.
- The **Museum of Science and Industry** (www.msichicago.org) is free every day from January 5-31.
- The **Shedd Aquarium** (www.sheddaquarium.org) has free general admission January 10-16, 19, 20, 26, and 27.
- The **Notebaert Nature Museum** (www.naturemuseum.org) near the Lincoln Park Zoo is free every Thursday.
- At the **Chicago Children's Museum** (www.chicagochildrensmuseum.org), admission is free for children 15 and under on Monday, January 6 and Monday, February 2 and admission is free for everyone every Thursday evening between 5:00 and 8:00pm.

Of course, you'll also want to look ahead to mark your calendar for Saint Clement's big March event:

Anchor Ball on **Saturday, March 14th** starting at 6:00pm at the McCormick Place Hyatt.

Visit www.stclementchurch.org/anchorball for more information.

Have a great winter!

*Our Night
to Shine*
THE SKY'S THE LIMIT



Happy Birthday

Happy 1st Birthday,
Jameson Alexander Johansen
December 1st
Proud parents: Sidney & Tiffany
Happy sibling: Mckenna

Happy 2nd Birthday,
Nicholas Newburn!
December 7th
Love, Mom & Dad
Proud Parents: Mary and Jade

Happy 2nd Birthday, **Caroline!**
February 23rd
Love, Mom & Dad &
your siblings Evelyn, Charlie &
Elizabeth

Happy 1st Birthday,
Olivia Jacqueline Kremenak!
February 27th
Proud Parents: Elizabeth &
Michael

Happy 6th Birthday, **Charlie!**
February 28th
Love, Mom & Dad and
your sisters Evelyn, Elizabeth &
Caroline

Parish Events

Sign-up for a Faith-Sharing Group!

Following in the tradition of *Sharing the Journey* faith groups, **Clement Faith Communities** will begin to meet *every other week* starting the **week of January 11**. Come share your faith experiences and meet twice a month in small groups with fellow parishioners, reflecting on the Sunday Gospels and strengthening your relationship with God.

Sign-up online at www.stclementchurch.org/faithsharing or fill out a sign-up sheet available in the church and parish office by Wednesday, January 7. Drop signups in the collection basket at any Mass, in the reception area at 642 W. Deming Place or fax to 773.281.2509.

Additional questions? Contact Maggie Byrnes at the parish office (maggiieb@stclementchurch.org or 773-281-0371 x 49).

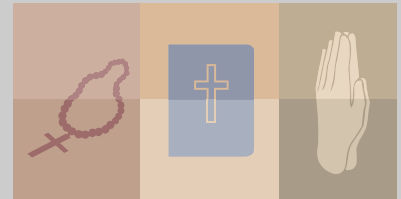
Clement Couples Marriage Retreat

Please save the date for the annual Marriage Retreat that will be held **Saturday, February 7** in Centennial Hall. The retreat will begin at 1pm and conclude with a special marriage blessing at the 5pm Mass. This retreat offers plenty of time for personal reflection and dialogue between spouses, and time to socialize with other Saint Clement couples. More information will follow in the bulletin.

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda & Griffin Lothrop at alothrop@deloitte.com.

Prayer for the New Year

The new year,
like a new born child,
is placed in our hands
as the old year passes away.
The days and weeks to come are
God's gift; they carry God's blessing.
As a blessing we welcome them.
Our hope for the year ending
is that all that was good in it
remain with us and
all that was harmful be left behind.



642 W. Deming Place
Chicago, IL 60614

