



*Saint Gianna Catholic Church
a REAL CHURCH...in a strip mall!!*





THE STRIP MALL CHURCH

Property accommodations on Orf Road were to include an entrance foyer/meeting area, the church proper and a SMALL sacristy for vestments, linens and a place for Father and the servers to change. The sacristy was off to the right of the church sanctuary, really just a pass-thru to the offices. Only one person could be in the sacristy area at a time. Especially in later years, it got pretty tight when there were several servers and visiting personnel!

At the back of the church proper, there was to be a glassed, sound resistant cry room/confessional and an alcove for a Baptismal font. Off of the foyer, space allowed for a dual office space for the Parish Secretary and Father Elliott; the aforementioned conference room; and men and women's restrooms. The space was not huge, but after the Rectory as Church, it was quite an improvement for the burgeoning parish.

Construction within the Temporary Church was done at an amazing rate since September was fast approaching. There were a few hiccups along the way but none that caused major concern.

The only real problem was WHEN the construction was finished. The Temporary Church was still not cleared of all workmen that Friday before the first Mass. In fact, parishioners had to work around construction men while trying to set up the furniture and get things in place for Saturday's Mass. It was a definite last minute CRUNCH!!!

Finally, everything was in place. The pews and lights and air conditioning and all the necessities for conducting a service were as they should be, just in the nick of time.





*The first "Before Mass" meet and greet
Fr. Elliott, Claude Holmes, Pat Pannet and some servers*



THE BIG DAY


It was the weekend of September 23/24, 2006, and St. Gianna Catholic Church at 8676 Orf Road, Lake St. Louis, MO, was "Open For Business!" A banner had been made and proudly displayed on the outside of the building announcing in big letters, "St. Gianna Catholic Church, Holy Mass, Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., www.stgiannaparish.org." It hung between the entry doors and the side office windows. St. Gianna Church was the first commercial enterprise in the building so parking was not going to be a problem for awhile.

The premises were complete enough that Father Elliott could celebrate Mass in the new Temporary Church with places for all. Only half of the pews from St. Phillip Neri Church had been transported over to this facility. That was all that could fit in the available space. But it was sufficient for now. The offices for the parish were not in place, so those rooms were empty.

At the beginning, there was a small wooden crucifix above the altar of repose in the main "church" proper. Later that crucifix was exchanged for a larger one. That larger crucifix has a nice little story which is told a little later on.

The church proper consisted of the main altar area on a raised carpeted platform with statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph flanking either side of the sanctuary. Chairs were set up in addition on either side of the main altar with the left side (facing the altar) housing the choir chairs and the organ. Two sections of pews were in the middle of the church with twelve rows of pews each. An additional row of two seats each of folding chairs was added to the right and left of the pews that were in place. All in all, the church could seat about 200 people, and in later years, often did, plus some!

Initially, the church was fairly simple with a plain cloth backdrop behind the altar of repose holding the tabernacle. The front altar, the main altar, was only about five feet away from the back altar, the altar of repose, just enough space to genuflect in front of the tabernacle. Mary Romine, Renee O'Brien and Cherie Hoeber often brought fresh flowers to decorate the back altar and placed in front of the statues of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph. The O'Brien and Kuhn families provided for the flowers on this special day.



The pews and kneelers were old but looked very beautiful in the church. The pews rich wood color and aged patina gave the place a feeling of old time welcome and that feeling of awe that you get when you walk into a quiet, old church. The floor was painted concrete but there was a sense of warmth and peace even without carpet and lots of modern decorations. And the place only got better and better as time went on. Almost daily from this day forth, Father Elliott added new artwork to the church that made it more beautiful.

A large crowd of parishioners came to that first Mass, maybe about 100 people. Deacon Dick Moore assisted Father Elliott at the altar. It was a beautiful celebration and the beginning of many beautiful celebrations offered there!!

Father Elliott's mother, Joyce Kelly, attended. This was the first of many times that Mrs. Kelly celebrated at the church. She became a very important honorary member of St. Gianna's Parish with all the art work and help that she provided in years to come.

After the service, some of the ladies of the parish, headed by Mary Romine, provided some refreshments for all—because you can't have a "family gathering" without food and drink!!! It was a very festive occasion.

The first St. Gianna Catholic Church bulletin was produced for this Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 24, 2006. It contained words of welcome and great joy from Father Elliott as well as Mass, Confession and Server schedules, the start of PSR announcements, choir practices, Parish Council meeting date information, community events, and, of course, notice of a Fund Raiser to support the parish! What more could you ask for?!!

A SHOCKING DISCOVERY

After 8:00 a.m. Mass was finished and everyone was out of the church, suddenly a large crackle was heard. Men from the parish went into the church and discovered a large bulb from one of the overhead lights had blown. Cracked glass was all over the floor under some of the pews.

St. Gianna was already watching over her congregation since no one was in the church at the time the light bulb blew. For a bunch of people had been under the light just minutes before. Thank you, St. Gianna!

FIRST SERVERS: Matt O'Brien --- Seminarians Brian Hector and Jason Signalnes





*The New St. Gianna Church Altar and Sanctuary
With Our Lady and St. Joseph guarding the sides*



September 24, 2006

*The First
Celebration of
the Holy Sacrifice
of the Mass
in our
New Home
at 8676 Orf Road
Lake St Louis,
MO*



*Father Elliott
with
Deacon Moore
assisting
at the
Eucharistic
Celebration*





*Jesus Our Lord and Savior
with the CHURCH of St. Gianna*

*People praising God and thanking Him for
our beautiful accomodations and the
chance to worship together as one in
Christ!*



*Gene and Doris Milner, Ruth Bosse -top
New Parishioners in a new church
with a whole new history to write.*

*People leave spiritually fed
but not quite connected yet to the place.
Dan and Vickie Zerr- bottom*



By Grace, Allen, Malorie, Dear, Judy, Top
Lee, Ann, Jugo, and Nana Kalina, N. Cotton

Enott, Wilson, Jhon, top

Togetherness



After Mass, Mary Romine put together a snack in the new Gathering Space for celebrating the new church with its new members.

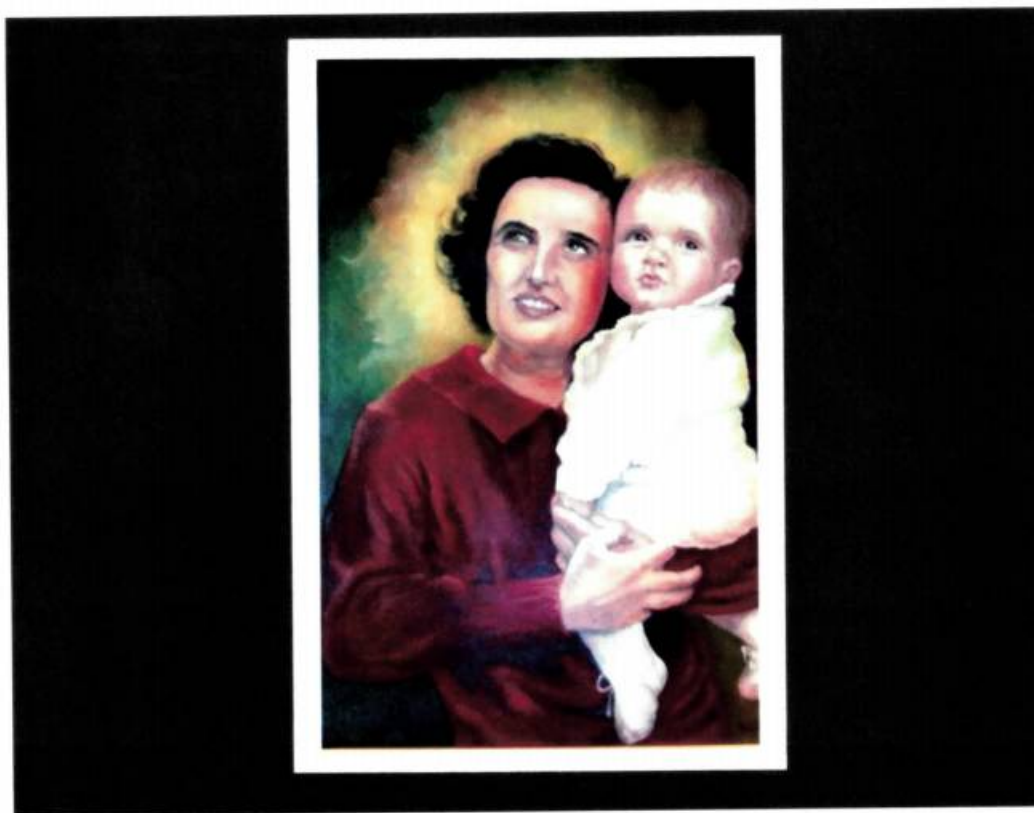


Meet and greet and EAT!

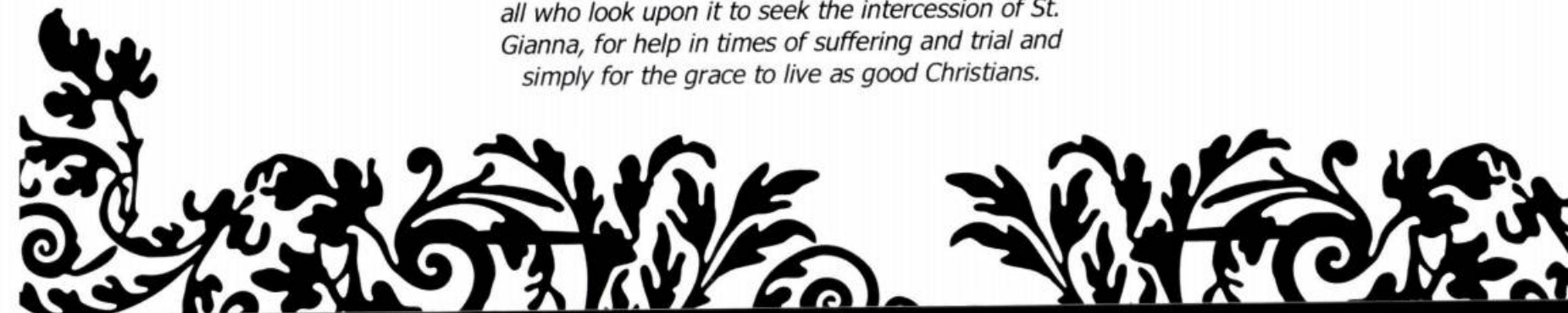


*A great sampling of St. Gianna church members...
from the young ones to the young at heart!*

Joy



Linda Wilmes, a local artist, painted and donated this oil painting of St. Gianna holding one of her children. It was proudly displayed at the church and will always inspire all who look upon it to seek the intercession of St. Gianna, for help in times of suffering and trial and simply for the grace to live as good Christians.





Father Elliott, Deacon Moore and the two seminarians stand proudly next to the new picture of our patron saint, St. Gianna Molla.



Father Elliott and Mrs. Joyce Kelly, son and mother, mirror the opposing picture of our favorite mother, St. Gianna, with her child.



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

September 24, 2006
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 25 through October 1



Mass Intentions
Mon. 8:00 a.m. St. Gianna Parish
Tues. 8:00 a.m. Vocations
Wed. 8:00 a.m. Fr. Elliott's Intention
Thurs. 8:00 a.m. John O'Brien
Fri. 8:00 a.m. Special Intention
Sat. 5:00 p.m. Vocations
Sun. 8:00 a.m. Parish
Sun. 11:00 a.m. Elroy Hoeber

Feast Days
Tues. Sts. Cosmas and Damian
Wed. St. Vincent de Paul
Thurs. St. Wenceslaus & St. Lawrence Ruiz
Fri. Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael
Sat. St. Jerome

Lectors
Sat. 5:00 Michelle Buck
Sun. 8:00 Gigi Krumlinde
Sun. 11:00 Les Allen

Ushers
Sat. 5:00 Jeff Huetenmeyer & Dean Juge
Sun. 8:00 Ed Zmuda & Rick Appelbaum
Sun. 11:00 John Pins & Michael Hawk

Gifts
Sat. 5:00 Jeff Huetenmeyer & Dean Juge
Sun. 8:00 Mary Henze & Allene Wernle
Sun. 11:00 Don Hladky Family

If it is not convenient for you to fulfill your assignment,
please call Rita Schulte 332-5684.

Mass Schedule:
Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Weekday (Monday-Saturday): 8:00 a.m.

Confession Schedule:
Saturday: 4:15-4:50 p.m.
Sunday: 7:30-7:50 a.m. and 10:30-10:50 a.m.
Friday: 7:30-7:50 a.m.

What a great joy it is to begin celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass this Sunday! In many ways this is really the beginning of St. Gianna Parish since it is the Holy Mass that makes us one in Christ. With the grace of God we will be able to form a parish family that will give glory to God and allow us to express our faith in charity.

This date has special significance in the life of our patron, St. Gianna. It was on September 24, 1955 that Gianna married Pietro Molla. At her engagement she wrote to her future husband: "How can I thank you for the magnificent ring? Pietro dear, in exchange I give you my heart and I will always love you as I love you now. . . . I can't wait for the moment when I can be yours forever. Pietro dearest, you know that I want to see you and to know that you are happy; tell me what I should be and what I should do to make you so. I have great trust in the Lord, and I am certain the He will help me to become your worthy spouse." Today, too many people have a negative view of marriage. St. Gianna, however, gives married couples an example of how to live the vocation of marriage and to see it as a great gift—a true calling—from God.

You couldn't help but notice the very striking oil painting of St. Gianna holding one of her little children. It was painted by a local artist named Linda Wilmes and donated to our Church. I know that it will inspire all who look upon it to seek the intercession of St. Gianna for help in times of suffering and trial and simply for the grace to live as good Christians.

We have a web site that has been put together by parishioner Larry Slattery. He has donated his time and skill with the hope of using the internet to communicate with as many people as possible about our parish. It is www.stgiannaparish.org.

From September 30-October 13, I am going to be away on a long planned trip to Rome. It is for the diaconate Ordination of seminarian John O'Brien. I would have preferred to be home at this time, but construction delays pushed us back to this weekend. One providential consequence is that I am now going to be able to go to the home of St. Gianna in Magenta, Italy! Father Dennis Doyle from Kenrick-Glennon Seminary will celebrate the Sunday Masses on Sept. 30 and on October 7-8 and Msgr. Pat Hambrough will do so on October 1. There will be no weekday Masses while I am gone.

We are blessed to have two Seminarians who are assigned to help on Sunday mornings. It is part of their formation to be sent out to parishes in order to increase their practical experience of parish life. They are Brian Hector and Jason Signalness. God Bless us as we begin our parish, Father Elliott

PSR

Welcome to all as we prepare to begin our first 2006-2007 PSR catechetical year for grades 1 through 8! Our first evening is Monday, October 16th beginning with a family Mass at 6:00 pm and an open house at South Middle School immediately following. If you have not enrolled your children as of yet, please do so quickly. To request a PSR registration form or, if you have any questions, please call me, Nancy Burian the PSR Director, at 636-441-4217. I look forward to meeting you!

St. Gianna 11:00 Choir



We are currently forming an adult and children's choir for St. Gianna parish. Singing in the choir is an excellent way to contribute your time and talent as part of your stewardship to the Parish. Beautiful music enhances the mass and helps lift our minds and hearts to God. It is indeed prayer, and as St. Augustine said, "Singing is praying twice." The adult choir will practice this Thurs., Sept. 28th at 7:30 pm. The children's choir will be open to children in grades 3 through 8, and will provide music for the 11:00 am mass on the first Sunday of the month. The children's choir will begin practicing, Oct. 19th, to provide music for mass on Nov. 3rd. They will meet before the adult choir rehearsal from 6:15-7:15 pm. Those interested in lending their talents to either of these ministries should contact Paula Brown 561-4669.

FUND RAISER

There is a new way to participate in the eScript program. Instead of purchasing the gift cards for Schnucks beforehand and then debiting the cards as you use them, **NOW** you receive a card without cost and each time you make a purchase you swipe the card and a percentage of the money you spend on groceries goes to the parish automatically. Bobbie Appelbaum has volunteered to be in charge of this program. She and other volunteers will be at all the Masses on Saturday/Sunday.

Deacons of St. Louis Ordained to Serve

On the weekend of October 7th and 8th there will be a special collection to support the training of deacons to service to our parishes and our community. The members of the Diaconate Community thank you for your generous support.

Parish Council

There will be a Parish Council meeting Tuesday, October 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Community Calendar

St. Joseph's, Josephville Fall Festival today Sept. 24th. Family style turkey & sausage dinners served from 11-6 pm. More info 636-332-6676
St. James Church in Potosi Fall Festival this Sun. Sept. 24th. Fried chicken & roast beef dinners. More info 573-438-4686
Evening of Recollection for Women, Wed. Sept. 27th from 7:30-9:30 pm at St. Joseph's Josephville. Includes Benediction, confessions available. More info 636-926-9290.
Trivia Night, St. Joseph's, Josephville Sat. Oct. 7th. Doors open at 6pm. \$120 per table of 8. Includes beer, soda, snacks. Call Barry or Ann 636-639-8830. Benefits 8th gr. D.C. trip.
Immaculate Heart of Mary, New Melle Fall Sausage Dinner Sun. Oct. 8th. From 11-6 pm. Dinners served family style. Beer & Wine Garden, Country Store, Craft Fair, Bingo, Quilt Raffle, Games & Entertainment.
6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Trivia Night—Friday, Oct. 20 at St. Theodore (Flint Hill) Parish Center from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Cost is \$6 per student, up to 6 students per table. Call Denise 639-8883 for reservations.
Opus Dei Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary in St. Louis
 The principal event, a banquet at St. Charles Convention Center Fri. Oct. 13. The theme, "Begin Again". The main speakers, Kimberly and Scott Hahn, will address couples of all ages. For details see, www.BeginAgainStL.org or call 314-831-0495.

S.O.S. (Support Our Seminarians)

On Saturday, Nov. 4, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary will host its Annual **Convivium**, a dinner auction supporting Kenrick-Glennon Seminary's priestly educational programs and to aid its young men in paying their seminary expenses. To donate items, purchase raffle tickets, receive an invitation or more info call John Cleary 314-792-6113.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

September 24 through October 1, 2006

Sunday:	Wis 2:12,17-20 Ps 54:3-4,5,6-8 Jas 3:16-4:3 Mk 9:30-37
Monday:	Prv 3:27-34 Ps 152:5 Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday:	Prv 21:1-6,10-13 Ps 119:1,27,30,34-35,44 Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday:	Prv 30:5-9 Ps 119:29,72,89,101,104,161 Lk 9:1-6
Thursday:	Ecll 1:2-11 Ps 90:3-6,12-14,17 Lk 9:7-9
Friday:	Dn 7:9-10,13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a Ps 138:1-5 Jn 1:47-51
Saturday:	Ecll 11:9-12:8 Ps 90:3-6,12-14,17 Lk 9:43b-45
Sunday:	Nm 11:25-29 Ps 19:8,10,12-14 Jas 5:1-6 Mk 9:39-43,45,47-48

The **FIRST**
 St. Gianna
 Catholic Church
 Bulletin

25th Sunday of
 Ordinary Time

September 24,
 2006

LET'S RAISE THE ROOF



Father Elliott finally obtained a larger wooden crucifix for the church. When Father went to put the crucifix up on the wall above the back altar, there was a problem... it didn't fit!!! The space was not tall enough between the top of the tabernacle and the already installed ceiling for the size of the crucifix!

Thankfully, a parishioner, Don Williams, who knew something about construction, was able to "raise the roof" in that particular area only, so that Dear Jesus could be placed on the wall without being squished. In the end, it was not too obvious that there had been a problem. Jesus on the Cross was comfortably positioned above the altar.

While he was hanging stuff, Don also was kind enough to hang the Stations of the Cross on the walls. Jesus finally got "placed" all over the church.



POT LUCK

The church building was mostly set up and things were settling down a little. The one bigger problem at this time was just getting to know one another. So the Parish Council decided St. Gianna Church needed its first Pot Luck!! It was arranged for a Saturday in Quail Ridge Park at 11:00 a.m. for an old fashioned lunch in the park!! The day was bright, the air crisp and attendance was so-so. And everyone had a great day eating and talking!



*The First St Gianna Parish Potluck Picnic
Quail Ridge Park
Lake St. Louis, MO*







FALL IS
HERE!

*Lots of eating and talking and getting to
know one another while
A little play for the big and little kids!*