



FIRST BAPTISMS: Oct. 21, 2006

Kylah Patricia and Ashton James Miller, twins of Justin and Christa Miller

Riley Gianna Walkenhorst, daughter of John and Leanne Walkenhorst

Anthony Robert Brown, son of Michael and Rachael Brown

Paige Elizabeth Quinn, daughter of Michael and Stacy Quinn

SOUND SYSTEM INSTALLED: Oct. 22, 2006

ORGAN INSTALLED: Oct. 22, 2006 (now we need an organist)

FIRST USHER COORDINATOR: Pat Hiatt

FIRST LECTOR COORDINATOR: Margo Miller

AND "OFFICE" MAKES IT COMPLETE

Up until the end of October, 2006, St. Gianna's Rectory held the Information Center for the parish—the Office. It was time to put everything together and move on over to the new digs. Collecting the right furniture and arranging for the necessary electric and such had put the move a little behind the "church" move. But that was corrected the week after the pot luck lunch.

Church office space was crammed with two desks and chairs, an extra folding chair or two, a table, a copier machine, a printer, a bunch of books, a file cabinet and just enough space to walk around all of the furniture.



FIRST PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING: Sat, Nov. 4, 2006. Mary Williams Coordinator

FIRST REGULARLY SCHEDULED ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Mon, Nov. 6, 2006. Rene O'Brien Coordinator

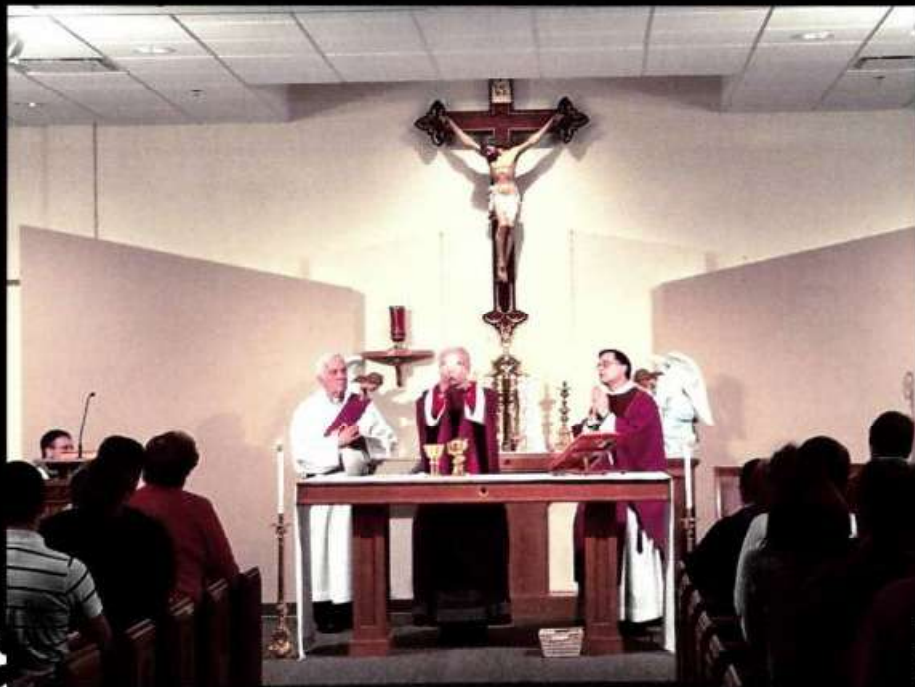
FIRST FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2006.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Don Hladky, Tom Kuhn, John Pins, Julie Riley, Mary Williams

Nov. 12, 2006: Weekly offering about \$2,300

FIRST BAPTISM CLASS: Nov. 16, 2006. Led by Deacon Dick Moore







FIRST SPECIAL VISITOR

Bishop Robert Hermann came to St. Gianna's Church on December 17, 2006, in order to officially install Father Timothy Elliott as Pastor of St. Gianna's Parish. Father Elliott concelebrated the 11:00 a.m. Mass with Bishop Hermann.

After the Mass and installation, there was a reception and pictures were taken of the bishop and various St. Gianna committee members.

Deacon Dick Moore said that one thing about the day which stands out in his mind was when Bishop Hermann first walked into St. Gianna's church and said, reverently and with some surprise and joy, "This IS a church!"

What a tribute to Father Elliott for all the work he had orchestrated and done in making "the church in the strip mall" a REAL CHURCH!





*It kind of looks
like
Christmas...
and
decorating
takes many
hands.*



The stable requires finesse to fit...



Our First Nativity Scene

FIRST
Christmas



*Oh, Christmas Tree, Oh, Christmas Tree
How lovely are your branches!*

Merry & Bright

*John Kainady and Dan Zerr
working in the thick of things...as usual.*



*Decorating the high up
places, too!*



*First St Gianna Church Christmas- December, 2006
"All Is Bright"*



Silent Night...Holy Night



file.



*Confirmation of
Vince Joseph Michael Gilbert
John O'Brien Sponsor*



*Vince Gilbert's
First Holy Communion*





*April 7, 2007 Mr. Vince Gilbert
First Adult Convert - Easter Vigil Service*



FAMILIES IN THE PARISH: Jan 2007. About 280 families

FIRST BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING: Jan. 25, 2007

FIRST CATHOLIC ANNUAL APPEAL: Chairman Kevin Harrell

FIRST CHURCH CLEANING CREW:

Kathleen Boswell, Teresa Citrowski and daughters, Bertha Dischino, Sara Jasper, Carolyn, Johnston, Marcia Lambert, Cassie McCullough and daughters, Rachel Nave, Patricia Pans, Vickie Sepulveda, Dorothy Shurtleff, Diane Strutman, Treacy Williams, and always, Rita Schulte.

PICTURE OF OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP: Donated by the Baer Family

PICTURE OF THE DIVINE MERCY: Donated by Richard and Peggy Smith

FEBRUARY 4, 2007

ARCHBISHOP BURKE sent a First Class relic of St. Gianna--a few STRANDS of ST. GIANNA's HAIR-- and a Second class relic-- a PIECE of her CLOTHING.

Plans were to enthrone those relics with the picture of St. Gianna.



BUILDING COMMITTEE

During the month of February, 2007, Building Committee members tour various churches in the area to study the churches' architecture and layouts in order to get ideas for the future St. Gianna's Foundational Church.

FIRST PERMANENT ORGANIST: Ann Therese Mettner.

Selma Boschert, an ICD parishioner, had been playing the organ for St. Gianna's 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturdays. Ann Therese Mettner had been playing for the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays. Beginning the week of February 11, 2007, Ann Therese Mettner became our permanent full time organist.

FIRST FUNERAL: February 15, 2007. Edward T. McKeon.

Note: At this time, Father Elliott realized that he had never acquired a funeral pall. Father had to ask St. Joseph's in Josephville if he could borrow one of theirs until he purchased one. Not something you ask to borrow just every day!!!

FIRST PLAY AND PRAY GROUP:

Joanne Mercer and Amanda Venema put together a mother and children group to meet in St. Gianna's cry room for the first time on Feb. 22, 2007.

MARCH 2, 2007

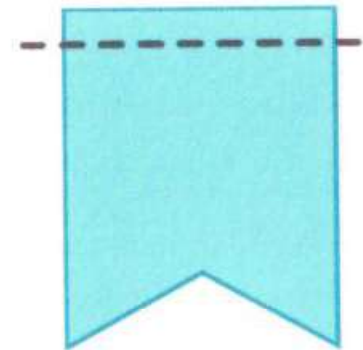
Father Elliott met with the Director of the Office of Stewardship and Development for the Archdiocese. The he spoke with the Finance Committee of the Archdiocese. These meetings resulted in the \$100,000 grant given to St. Gianna from the Annual Catholic Appeal.

SIGNS were mounted on the future St. Gianna Parish ground site on the south side of Highway N, just west and across from the Wentzville Daniel Boone Elementary School. Don Williams bought the lumber and concrete for mounting the signs.

On a snowy, **March 25, 2007**, Don along with Larry Slattery and Larry Wiater put "**Future Home of St. Gianna Catholic Church**" up for all to see.

FIRST TIME ADVERTISING SPACE ON THE BACK OF THE WEEKLY BULLETIN—FILLED March 11, 2007

FIRST ADULT CONVERT: April 4, 2007, at Easter Vigil Service, Mr. Vince Gilbert





ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS
Office of the Archbishop

4001 Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63116-2497
314.533.3222
314.533.2922 (fax)

April 8, 2007 – Solemnity of the Resurrection of Our Lord

TO CHRIST'S FAITHFUL OF SAINT GIANNA PARISH AT LAKE ST. LOUIS:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

My warmest greetings of joy and peace as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! May the Easter Season be rich in grace for you and your homes.

The celebration of the abiding presence of our Risen Lord with us in the Church has led me to consider especially your situation as the newest parish in the Archdiocese of Saint Louis. Since I first announced the establishment of your parish approximately one year ago, your efforts, under the pastoral care and direction of Father Timothy Elliott, your pastor, have been an important witness to Christ alive in the Church. As the faithful of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis experience the continued growth and vitality of the Church, symbolized by the establishment of Saint Gianna Parish, all are renewed and strengthened in hope. As you celebrate your first Easter together, I thank you for the gift which you are to the Archdiocese.

For over fifty years, the Annual Catholic Appeal has helped the Archbishop of Saint Louis to further the mission of the Church in our local communities. Many of you will remember that the Appeal was called the "Expansion Fund," at a time, when its primary mission was to provide for the growth and vitality of the Church by assisting with the establishment of new parishes and schools. While the primary mission of the Appeal has developed with the call of the New Evangelization and the needs of the Archdiocese, we must not lose sight of the strong roots of the Appeal in assisting new parishes.

With this in mind, and in gratitude for your efforts, I am making an Easter gift to the parishioners of Saint Gianna Parish in the amount of \$100,000. The gift comes from the Annual Catholic Appeal and is made on behalf of the faithful across the Archdiocese. Through the gift, Catholics from all 11 counties of our Archdiocese are supporting you. The gift is only made possible by their generosity to the Annual Catholic Appeal.

Again, I thank Father Elliott and you for all of your efforts to lay for your new parish the strongest possible foundations. Be assured of my daily prayers, through the intercession of Saint Gianna, Wife, Mother and Physician, that God will bless you and your families.

Please pray for the 2007 Annual Catholic Appeal, on which we are embarking.

Invoking God's blessing upon you and your homes, and asking a continued remembrance in your prayers, I remain

Yours devotedly in Christ

(Most Rev.) Raymond L. Burke
Archbishop of St. Louis



Archdiocese gives \$100,000 to new parish's building plan

By Shane Anthony
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

The St. Louis Archdiocese's first all-new parish in 25 years received a \$100,000 Easter gift that its pastor said will help plans for a permanent site move forward.

Archbishop Raymond L. Burke announced in a letter to parishioners on Easter Sunday that the Annual Catholic Appeal will make an immediate grant of \$100,000 to St. Gianna Parish.

The new church already is serving families in western St. Charles County, but the Rev. Timothy Elliott, its pastor, said the grant will help planning move forward for a permanent building,

something members want immediately.

Elliott said the parish serves more than 300 families. The church celebrates daily and Sunday Mass in a converted warehouse, complete with pews, on Orf Road. The church has a couple of offices and a house in a nearby subdivision serves as its rectory.

Parish School of Religion is offered, but a grade school is something Elliott said the church hopes to start in the next two years.

Growth in the western part of St. Charles County is bringing in new parishioners, Elliott said.

PLEASE SEE PARISH | C4

PARISH | FROM C1

New parish gets \$100,000

“There are people moving in every day in this area,” he said. “There are a couple of registrations every week.”

The archdiocese owns 25 acres across Highway N from Wentzville South Middle School, land that eventually will have a church, grade school, rectory and parish offices for St. Gianna. But Elliott said more planning is needed before those buildings take shape. The money from the archdiocese will help with that, he said.

St. Gianna is the first all-new parish for the archdiocese since 1981, when Sts. Joachim and Ann was established in St. Peters. The parish was formed to help Immaculate Conception Parish and St. Patrick Parish with rapid growth within their boundaries.

The Annual Catholic Appeal will be held in Catholic parishes from April 21 through May 6. Officials have said the goal for this year's appeal is \$11.75 million. Last year, Catholics in the St. Charles Deanery contributed about \$1.5 million.

Burke said: “As the faithful of the Archdiocese of St. Louis experience the continued growth and vitality of the church, symbolized by the establishment of St. Gianna Parish, all are renewed and strengthened in hope.”

santhony@post-dispatch.com | 636-255-7209



\$100,000 Easter Gift from Archdiocese

ONE YEAR, AND WAITING

By Jessica Bock
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

FUTURE • Founded a year ago, the Roman Catholic parish of St. Gianna is planning for its school.

PRESENT • Other Catholic schools in the county have full classes; one has a waiting list for 2011.

ST. CHARLES COUNTY • Veronica Grimes has known since before her two children were born that she wanted them to attend Catholic grade school.

That's why Grimes' daughter Camille, 3½, and her son David, 22 months old, have been on the waiting list for kindergarten at Immaculate Conception Catholic School of Dardenne since the first few months of their lives.

Immaculate Conception school has room for 90 kindergartners, forcing officials to turn away 37 families who applied last fall. Like Grimes, parents are moving quickly to sign letters of intention at Immaculate Conception. A waiting list already exists for the fall 2011 kindergarten class.

"It's a huge parish and growing, and I think that the school just provides that building of the Catholic faith," said Grimes, 39, of O'Fallon.

The explosive population growth, particularly of young families, in western St. Charles County during the last decade has created a demand for Catholic grade schools.

Filling that need was one of the main reasons the archdiocese created St. Gianna Catholic Church near Wentzville, where the population has more than tripled since 2000 and the median age of its residents is 34.

What about the school?

Founded a year ago Saturday, St. Gianna was the first new parish in the St. Louis archdiocese in 25 years.

Named for an Italian doctor who died in 1962 and had strong convictions against abortion, the parish now has more than 300 families. The church has a temporary home in Lake Saint Louis where it celebrates daily and Sunday Mass in a converted warehouse. A house in a nearby subdivision serves as its rectory.

Since St. Gianna's founding, the Rev. Timothy Elliott has fielded countless calls from prospective parishioners.

And one of their first questions almost always is about the plans for a grade school.

Starting next month, the parish will begin a series of meetings with planners and architects for its permanent site on 25 acres on the south side of Highway N in an unincorporated area of St. Charles County.

The project will include the church, school, rectory and offices and could cost around \$10 million to \$12 million. Members will decide what kind and size of school it will be. It is Elliott's hope that the parish will have a school a year from this fall.

5-2-07

Rep. Joe Smith



State Representative

JOE SMITH

Miss. Chairman, Local Government

PLEASE SEE CATHOLIC | C2

*Sunday April 29, 2007 Post-Dispatch
Official First Year Anniversary St. Gianna Parish*



Families eagerly await new Catholic school

St. Gianna was derived from portions of the territory of Immaculate Conception and St. Patrick in Wentzville. Even with the loss of territory, officials estimate that Immaculate Conception and St. Patrick will continue to experience healthy growth, said Deacon Dan Henroid, director of pastoral planning for the archdiocese.

They estimate that there will be more than 1,000 Catholic households in St. Gianna territory in 2010, up nearly 50 percent since 2005. Meanwhile, parishes at Immaculate Conception and St. Patrick will grow during that time by about 14 and 18 percent, respectively. Catholics make up approximately 28 percent of the county's population.

In contrast, the archdiocese has closed and consolidated parishes in other parts of the St. Louis area due to declining membership.

Parents await opening

One parent anxiously awaiting the opening of the school is Joanne Mercer, a St. Charles native who moved to Wentzville two years ago after living in Tucson, Ariz. Her family joined St. Gianna shortly after it was established.

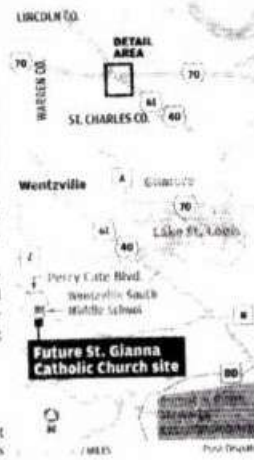
"It's really become our home. The whole environment is very family-friendly and welcoming," she said. "We felt immediately that this was where we were supposed to be."

Her oldest daughter, 4-year-old Liliana, should start kindergarten in fall 2008, and Mercer isn't sure where she'll be educated if the school at St. Gianna is not open then.

"The most important thing is to have our Catholic faith communicated to our children," said

ON THE WEB

For more information about the growing parish of St. Gianna, go to www.stgiannaparish.org.



Mercer, 30, who is considering home schooling.

Elliott said the new school should help somewhat with the overflow at Immaculate Conception school.

In kindergarten through eighth grade, Immaculate Conception boasts 710 students, a number that has nearly tripled in the last eight years. The 127 applicants for kindergarten last fall has been a trend for the last three years, Principal Janet Eaton said.

In her eight years at the school, there has been a waiting list for kindergarten all but one year: the year they expanded to

two classes. Immaculate Conception now has three classes of kindergarten.

Turning away kindergarten applicants is difficult, but the school has tried to develop reasonable and fair ways to fill the slots, Eaton said. The school has given priority to families with a sibling already in the school and those deeply involved in the parish.

Grimes became a member after she married a St. Louisan and moved to O'Fallon from Connecticut. She went to public school; her husband went to Rosary High School.

As a newcomer, she made friends and connections in the parish by volunteering in the campaign for the school's addition.

"When you attend Mass with 3,000-plus families, it's nice to see some familiar faces," she said. That sense of community also is appealing when it comes to her children's education.

Other area Catholic grade schools may not have waiting lists, but their classes are nowhere near empty.

At St. Patrick in Wentzville, this is the first year there hasn't been a waiting list for kindergarten, Principal Kim Matsko said. Classes are full, but not overflowing, she said.

In Cottleville, St. Joseph doesn't have a waiting list right now. But some classes do fill up quickly, so a list might not be far off in the future, said Jennifer McCormick, the school's registrar.

Said Elliott, "They have no trouble filling their schools. And I don't think we'll have any trouble filling ours."


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Meghan Troughton (left) and Lexi Trower, both 8, catch up on some reading after their second-grade class returned from the playground Friday at Immaculate Conception School in Dardenne Prairie. *Photo by Brian Engeman for The Dispatch*



Families Await New Catholic School



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Continued
To be

