

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday – Ponedjeljak, December 26, 2011****St. Stephen, first martyr – sv. Stjepan prvomučenik**

7:30 a.m. John Hrvol	children
Paul Krstulovich	Ralph Ferro family
Petar & Grace Borovina	N.N.
Intention of Giggie	Louzon family

Tuesday – Utorak, December 27, 2011**St. John, apostle / sv. Ivan, apostol**

7:30 a.m. Margaret Marcello	Pace family
Dave Ruzich	Jim & Maryann Saracco
Sharon Reynolds	Larry Haptas
John Catezone	Patrick Botica
Ante Kraljević	ob. Duško Kraljević
Rafo Rogić	ob. Spahija

Wednesday – Srijeda, December 28, 2011

7:30 a.m. Fr. Bruno Raspudić	George Rozman
Fr. Vincent Cvitković	George Rozman
Fr. Theodore Benković	George Rozman
Barbara Willis	Laura Vinci

Thursday – Četvrtak, December 29, 2011

7:30 a.m. Ann Kotarac	St. Lucy Senior Club
Mile, Helen & John Rak	Nevenka Badrov
John Catezone	Tom & Julie O'Connor
Catherine Munizzi	Frank & Luanne
Na čast presv. Srcu Isusovu	Luca Grgić

Friday – Petak, December 30, 2011

7:30 a.m. Catherine Munizzi	Frank & Luanne
Mara Jajčević	Josip i Vikica Bilić i ob.
Gloria & Larry Caine	Catherine & Nick Perisin
Chuckie Cortese	wife & family

New Year's Eve, Sat. – Subota, Dec. 31, 2011

7:30 a.m. Ana & Ivan Vrdoljak	Cathy and Andrew
Intention of Giggie	Louzon family

6:00 p.m. – Mass of Thanksgiving for 2011

Art Pinotti	Sam & Terri Babich
Maria Ann Gazzi	Gazzi family
Della Neeson	Pete & Sandy Schurla
Michael Brcich	family
Dominick Bruno	wife & sons
Jakov Šipić	ob. Petar Žaper
Dragica Mišura	ob. Petar Žaper
Angelique Rubio	Linda
Frank Bologna	Linda

New Year's Day, Sun. – Nedjelja, Jan. 1, 2012

7:30 a.m. Mary Ann Romano	Rich & Jan Ferro
Evelyn, Sr. Bernardine & Jozo Čondić	Duško
Dorothy Lasker	Catherine LoCoco
Joe Levato	Judie Gurgone
John "Ish" Botica	Gen & family

9:30 a.m. Ann Kotarac
Jay Rogosich
Jennie Catizone
Dec. of Gruica family
Dec. of Botica/Hanson fam.

Rose Marie Senese
Nick Bilandic
Rose Marie Sestito
Giggie
Michelle & Brian

11:00 a.m. – u spomen

Marija Uremović	ob. Šulentić
Josip i Ana Bajzec	Josip i Kata Bajzec
Ranko Markotić	sin Ante i ob.
Ivan Zeba	ob. Marko Zeba
Jela Rogić	Kata Žignić
Tomislav Vlaičević	ob. Martinić i Vlaičević
Josipa Lovrinović	ob. Martinić
Zvonimir Gović	ob. Jerko Šumera
Rozalija Galić	Louis & Mary Scalise
Thomas Hostička	ob. Hostička
Pok. ob. Čondić	Duško
Pok. ob. Buškain i Alfirević	Nevenka Badrov

LECTORS / EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat., Dec. 31, 6:00 p.m. Mary Fratto / Jan Ferro
Sun., Jan. 1, 7:30 a.m. Emmett Turney / Matt Pesce
Sun., Jan. 1, 9:30 a.m. Luann Munizzi / Ellen Ryan
Sun., Jan. 1, 11:00 a.m. Perica Dušević, Ivanka Paraga

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat., Dec. 31, 6:00 p.m. Mangan, Mossman, Nowacki
Sun., Jan. 1, 7:30 a.m. Balazs, Meo
Sun., Jan. 1, 9:30 a.m. Sandoval, Valenti, Wroblewski
Sun., Jan. 1, 11:00 a.m. Deni Grgić, Darko Grgić, Dominik Grgić, L. Kutleša, I. Paraga

For Rent

► **Apt. 30th Emerald**, 2 bdrms, newly remodeled, washer & dryer on location, call 312 375 5323
► **Apt. 36th Lowe**, 6 rms, 2nd floor, hardwood fl., central heat & a/c, washer & dryer. 312- 603- 5931.
► **Apt. 2-Bdrm**, Dining Rm, front rm, kitchen. 312-282-0097
► **Apt. 29th Shields**, 5 rms, 2 bdrm, just painted, new carpeting, central heat & a/c, ceiling fans, blinds. 312-593-2864.
► **Apt. 33rd Lowe**, 5-Rm, 3 Bdrm., h/w flrs, Appliances, \$975 plus utilities & sec. 773-852-4244

HOUSE FOR SALE: 544 W. 32nd St. (was Martha Depeder's) Single fam. residence, 2-3 bdrms, 2 car garage, call Jean or Jerry 312-326-0027

We wish you a blessed and joyful Christmas!

There is a connection between the power of a silent night, and the quiet entrance of God into our lives.

The power of silence at the first Christmas carries a message that tells us something important about our relationship with God and about relationships among

people. The silence of the first Christmas was a significant part of an encounter that changed the world. Silence helps to make deep connections — with God, with others, with ourselves.

May this holy day and silent night bring us peace. May this Christmas help us to bring peace

through our personal encounters with others.

Christmas marks a new beginning in the history of God and human beings. May this Christmas be for us the occasion of a renewed start on our journey on the path toward people and toward God!

Our Holy Land pilgrims walking in His footsteps

Sixth in a series

Day 5: Saturday, Nov. 5, Bethlehem

At 8:00 a.m. we board our bus to make our way from Jerusalem to **Bethlehem**. Bethlehem means “house of bread” (*beth* means “house”, *lehem* means “of bread”). Isn’t that interesting that Jesus, who calls himself our “Bread of Life” (John 6) and gives himself to us under the appearance of bread in the Eucharist, is born in a town which means “house of bread”?

Bethlehem is only about 5 miles away, located in the West Bank, but it takes about 40 minutes to get there due to the checkpoints. We cross into the West Bank, passing through the separation wall built by Israel (which is 25 feet high). Immediately we notice that it is a different environment, very dry. We go straight to the **Basilica of the Nativity**. This church, built by St. Helen, is the oldest, still functioning church in the world. You can enter it only through a very short door (about 3 feet high),

which was built to stop Muslim invaders from riding into the church on horseback and desecrating the church. We proceed immediately down to the **Grotto of St. Jerome**. This is a very important place for us. This is the place where St. Jerome lived as a hermit, translating the Bible into Latin, and where he died. He was buried here in 420 A.D., and his body would lie here until it was moved to Rome in the 12th century. Our parish, which is celebrating its 100-year anniversary,

is named for him. I preside at Mass in this small, intimate crypt chapel. It is a powerful and moving place. The Croatian ambassador to Israel, Zorica Matkovic, joins us this day. Many of St. Jerome’s parishioners know her well because she was Counsel General in Chicago for five years. At the end of Mass, I bless everyone with a statue of the baby Jesus, the “bambino Jesu.” This is the only place in the world where this is done.

After Mass, we go up to the main level of the



In the St. Jerome Chapel, which is in a cave below the Basilica of the Nativity, it is permitted to bless the people at the end of Mass with a statue of the baby Jesus

church where we stand in line for an hour and forty-five minutes to visit the **Grotto of the Nativity**. No one complains. Everyone is excited to see and venerate the place where Jesus was born. One by one, we touch and kiss the place of his birth, which is marked by a silver star on the ground. Then we visit the **Manger Grotto**, immediately adjacent to it, where Jesus was laid in the manger. Everybody is deeply moved. After venerating the place of his birth, and where he was laid in the

manger, we move to the back of the Nativity Grotto chapel, and sing “**Silent Night/Tiha Noc**” while facing the place of his birth. Goosebumps. Tears. Smiles. Joy. Happiness. Peace. Gratitude. I wish you all could come here one day. Then we go outside to the courtyard. Fr. David explains the history of the entire complex. We take a group picture by the statue of St. Jerome, and then we enter the church of St. Catherine, run by the Franciscan friars, from where Midnight Mass is

televised every year throughout the world. What a beautiful church! On the right side of the altar is the statue of the “bambino Jesu”, the baby Jesus, which is used for Christmas every year. We meet Fr. Jago Soce, a Croatian Franciscan who serves in Bethlehem. He teaches piano and is in charge of the choir. We observe a procession of Franciscan friars, who process daily from St. Catherine’s church to the Grotto of the Nativity.

Your Father Joe —
jgrbes@gmail.com

COMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH IN THE NEW YEAR

January: The beginning of a Catholic Bible study series that help many people grasp the big picture and the flow of events in the Bible.

Weekend of February 11 & 12: Cardinal Stepinac Days

Weekend of March 24 & 25: A spiritual retreat for the entire parish

Sunday, April 29:

The climax of our parish's centennial year celebrations:

- ♦ Holy Mass celebrated by Cardinal Francis George
- ♦ Gala banquet at the Chicago Hilton & Towers

May: A book presentation by the author of "My Mother's Side: A Journey to Dalmatia," in which

a noted travel writer comes to know his roots on his mother's side of the family.

June: Young people and the Church: Our parish, the future, technology, plans for our faith community.

June-July: St. Jerome's Centennial year tour of Croatia. The tour will take us to Zagreb, Opatija, the Plitvice lakes, Split, Trogir, Medjugorje, historic Dubrovnik, etc.: June 27 to July 9. If interested, please contact Louis Scalise at 312-287-3454 ASAP. (26 people have already signed up.)

August: The celebration of Velika Gospa in the context of our parish's celebrating its 100th year.

September: A pilgrimage of thanksgiving.

September: Founded in 1922, our school is marking 90 years of teaching academics and goodness to our young people.

ST. JEROME NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS SCHEDULE

New Year's Eve — Saturday, December 31, 2011

Mass of Thanksgiving for the blessings of the Year 2011

6:00 P.M.

New Year's Day — Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012 7:30 A.M., 9:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M.

Offertory envelope boxes

The 2012 collection envelopes are located in the back of church. We ask you to pick them up as soon as possible. If there are any errors, please let us know by calling or stopping in the rectory.

New issue of the *Herald* magazine

The Croatian Franciscans of the U.S. and Canada publish the *Herald* magazine, which is in both English and Croatian. This Christmas issue includes 6 colorful pages of recent events at St. Jerome's.

Announcing parish Bible study

Last month we had first parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land. In January 2012 we will begin a Great Adventure with the Bible: our parish will offer the famous Great Adventure Catholic Bible

Study, covering the whole Bible. This Bible study series is well-known for its quality, its faithfulness and its lively, engaging style. Let us know if you are interested! *Watch for the announcement of our organizational meeting.*

Calendars

Our parish's 2012 wall calendars are in the back of church, courtesy of Michael Coletta Sons.

Check out

St. Jerome's

Facebook page

for interesting articles, videos and updates.

If you're not on Facebook, you can now easily reach our Facebook page by going to our main web site: www.stjeromecroatian.org

