

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday – Ponedjeljak, December 15, 2008**

7:30 a.m. Ivan Oršanić HRZ
 Stanka Francesci Agnes Rodich
 Marion Curran Matt & Chris Pesce
 65th wedding anniversary of
 August & Bernadette Walters daughters

Tuesday – Utorak, December 16, 2008

7:30 a.m. Augustin Rodich M/M Joe Grzetich
 Ivan Oršanić HRZ
 Stanka Francesci Nevenka Badrov

Wednesday – Srijeda, December 17, 2008

7:30 a.m. Joe Bozich wife & family
 Dominick Marino family
 Nick Botica John & Gen Botica

Thursday – Četvrtak, December 18, 2008

7:30 a.m. Theresa Hill (30th anniv.) Marion
 Frances Fratto Rose Ann
 Ljubica Zeba Luca Zeba
 Stanka Francesci Agnes Rodich

Friday – Petak, December 19, 2008

7:30 a.m. Scully Scalise ob. Anton Hostička
 August Misetic Maria E. Sipich
 Stanka Francesci Agnes Rodich
 Russell Trovato Giggie
 Peggy Imbo family

Saturday – Subota, December 20, 2008

7:30 a.m. Stanka Francesci Nevenka Badrov
 Janja Grbeš N.N.
 Marion Curran JoAnn & Peter Peso

5:30 p.m. Tony Doria Bazan family
 Edward Haptas sister Jane
 Ross Cannatello family
 Carmen & Eva Butera family
 Simeone & Domenica Velcich sestre
 Roberta Bova Pete & Sandy Schurla
 Tony & Frances Fratto family
 Thompson & Iozzo family family

Sunday – Nedjelja, December 21, 2008

7:30 a.m. Slavka Buškain Ellen O'Donnell
 Roberta Bova Carmen Catizone
 Evelyn & Sr. Bernardine Čondić Duško
 Deceased of Vulich family Mary Hrvol

9:30 a.m. Carlos Iglesias Jr. Iglesias family
 Paul Stasiak (4th anniversary) family
 Marty Miloslavich Jean Zekich
 Carlos Iglesias, Jr. Iglesias family
 Carmen, Carmella & Tommy LaPapa daughter
 Stipe & Lucia Lombardic Perisin-DiCaro family
 Deceased of Čondić family Duško

11:00 a.m. u spomen

Josip Lišnić obitelj



Sat., Dec. 20, 5:30 p.m. Robert Cannatello Jr.
Sun., Dec. 21, 7:30 a.m. Rosemary Bricich
Sun., Dec. 21, 9:30 a.m. Domingo Rodriguez
Sun., Dec. 21, 11:00 a.m. Zrinka Jureta, Ana
 Ivezic, Marko Mamić



Sat., Dec. 20, 5:30 p.m. M. Meo R. Insalaco,
 Rubio
Sun., Dec. 21, 7:30 a.m. Babich, Racinowski
Sun., Dec. 21, 9:30 a.m. Balazs, Iglesias,
 Mangan
Sun., Dec. 21, 11:00 a.m. K. Cikoch, M. Kosir, A.
 Šušnjara, I. Babić, N. Brčić, M. Brajković

For Rent

- ▶ Vicinity 32nd & Wells – 3 bdrm apt., spacious, newly remodeled. Call Ross at 312-388-0357.
- ▶ 2-bdrm, 1-office apt. for rent, newly remodeled, washer & dryer included. 312-909-8434.
- ▶ 1 bdrm apt. Call John: 312-316-8366.

WEEKLY MEDITATION for the Third Sunday of Advent

St. John the Baptist had a central role to play in the first coming of the Savior. His role, as today's Gospel puts it, was to "testify to the light." The Light is Jesus.

John proved to be a courageous and effective witness, converting many hearts. And when his mission was done, he moved aside to make way for Jesus.

Jesus still needs witnesses — he needs us because for many people

today, Christ is a very dim and distant figure. Christ needs us to effectively make him present to other people; but we can't be witnesses for the Light if in our personal lives we are living in darkness. We have to be living in the Light.

A good life is powerful. It is a strong and effective witness, and in itself, a good life is a proclamation of the Gospel, because all that is truly



good comes from God. No witnessing for Jesus is as persuasive as that of those who practice what Jesus preached. Without the witness of Christians, the ever-present face of Christ — already blurred for many — will become harder to see in this world. We are called to bear witness to Jesus with our lives as truly as St. John the Baptist did. It's our turn!

WISDOM'S CORNER

Witnessing to the Light

During one of Communist China's severe political repressions, a young man was arrested and sent to a labor camp. The separation was very difficult for his young family. His wife was a Roman Catholic but theirs was a mixed marriage because the man declined to embrace the faith before they wed. By herself due to his imprisonment, his wife had to work long hours for years while also caring for their little boy at night. Moreover, she was under *relentless* pressure from the Communists to divorce her husband, and to renounce her Roman Catholic faith in order to gain materially. But she was deeply committed to the faith and thus refused to renounce her faith or her marriage. Every night, she and their son knelt in prayer and asked God for strength and help.

Years later she learned that her husband was to be released from prison! When the day came, she and their son went to the railway station. They were the only family members waiting to greet the returning political prisoners. Unable to endure the long separation and relentless pressure, all of the wives of the other imprisoned men had divorced them — and gained materially.

Deeply moved by her faith and deeds, her husband took instructions and was baptized.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"Selfishness can make even Christmas a burden; sharing God's love with others lets Christmas be a joy!"



PASTOR'S DESK

To be or not to be....happy

For some years now, on a variety of occasions, especially in public forums, people have been discussing the value and importance of inner happiness. Happy people are always an inspiration. They are provocative. Happiness is a reality that comes from within a person. I believe in this reality! And while I have often pondered it, last week I read an article in the Chicago Sun-Times that carried this title: "Smile: Happiness is contagious, researchers find". A paper being published in a British medical journal concludes that happiness is contagious: "Whether you're happy depends not just on your own actions and behaviors and thoughts, but on those of people you don't even know."

According to researchers, happy people tended to be at the center of social networks and had many friends who were also happy. Having friends or siblings nearby increased people's chances of being upbeat. And happiness spread outward by three degrees, to the friends of friends of friends. Each happy friend boosts your own chances of being happy by 9%. Having grumpy friends decreases it by about 7%.

Interestingly, the researchers claim that extra money increases your odds of being happy, too, but only marginally — notably less than the odds of being happier if you have a happy friend. The choice is clear.

Fraternally yours, Fr. Joe

Your feedback to JGrbes@gmail.com is appreciated

Church envelopes for 2009 are now available. Please take your box from the tables in the rear of church. We thank you, dear parishioners, for your support and donations during 2008. In case we have made any technical errors, we apologize for them. If you have changed your address or telephone, please let us know. *Don't forget: it is not an obligation to belong to St. Jerome Parish, it is an honor!*

The Christmas Mailing has been sent to all our parishioners. It contains the schedule for the Christmas season Masses and events. Please consult it.

Enjoy or give as a gift a beautiful Christmas DVD of a performance in our church by the singer **Tatiana!** Copies of **The Christmas Concert Special** are available in the rectory for \$20.

A Time to Speak, a special book for our women friends and family healing from the tragedy of abortion, is available in the rear of church. There is no charge.

Cross International Catholic Outreach, represented by Fr. Jack O'Malley who spoke at all the masses a few weeks ago, sends its appreciation for our hospitality and generosity in a letter to Fr. Joe: *"Father, your openness to our ministry has helped us reach many of our Catholic brothers and sisters with our message. Thank you again for your efforts on our behalf."*

Our Advent Giving Tree

Gifts for poor kids and for ill children will be accepted until Dec 14th. Please read the instructions on the ornaments that you pick from the tree and attach the ornament to your gift when dropping it off so that it is easier to sort. The St. Jerome Youth Service Corps is organizing this charity drive, and they invite your help. We hope to have A LOT of gifts this year, and volunteer for sorting and delivering would be great! Thank you for your generosity.

Our St. Jerome Church Christmas Cards are here!

Send your friends and family Christmas greetings adorned with the beautiful interior of our church in all its Christmas finery! Cards now available in our office for a dollar each, \$10 a dozen.

Donations for Christmas Flowers

Please contact Louis & Mary Scalise, Kenny & Jan Zekich or Ivan & Vesna Jureta if you wish to donate flowers to decorate our church for Christmas. Thank you for your loving generosity!

Calendar of December Events:

Sunday, Dec. 14

Croatian School Christmas program performance at Museum of Science and Industry's "Christmas Around the World" event at 2:45 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 18

St. Jerome Schoolchildren's Christmas program at 7 p.m. in our church

Saturday, Dec. 20

Croatian School 'Cardinal Stepinac' Christmas program at 6:30 p.m. in our school hall

Sunday, Dec. 21

Evening of Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas holy days. Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) at 6:00 p.m. in our church.



This Weekend's Second Collection:

Retired Religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests
The vow of poverty was a sacrifice of love that helped them serve us when we needed their unselfish love — now we can offer them our help in their old age. Please help through the 2nd collection.

Cleanup of St. Jerome's interior

Every year before Christmas, we invite the women and men who are willing and able to come and help clean our church for the Christmas holy days. This year we will clean at **6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16.** *The more who come, the quicker we finish!*

Wall Calendars for 2009 in back of church

We thank Michael Coletta Sons Funeral Home for sponsoring our parish's free calendars!

St. Jerome HSA would like to thank all the parishioners who baked and otherwise supported last Saturday's "Dinner with St. Nick." It was a huge success! May your Christmas be a blessed one!

Children's Christmas Eve Mass: If you would like your child or children to participate in our 8th Annual Christmas Eve Children's Mass, please fill out a form on the flyers in the back of the church.

For Rent: Apt at 2701 Princeton. Spacious, 2nd floor, w/ hardwood floors & appliances. 5 rms, 2 bdrms. \$750/mo. Call 708-567-1591. References & security deposit required.