

**MASS INTENTIONS**
**Monday – Ponedjeljak, December 26, 2005**  
**Feast of St. Stephen, first martyr**

**7:30 A.M.** John Hrvol Mary Hrvol  
 Joseph & Frank Bartuca Annie  
 Nedilko Šupuk (health) Duško

**Tuesday – Utorak, December 27, 2005**  
**Feast of St. John, apostle and evangelist**

**7:30 A.M.** Luka Botica Vivian & Ed Sexton  
 John Roscich family  
 Ante Kraljević ob. Stoja i Božo Kosir

**Wednesday – Srijeda, December 28, 2005**  
**Feast of the Holy Innocents**

**7:30 A.M.** Rafael Rogić Jadre & Krystyna Rogić  
 Ante Kraljević ob. Kraljević  
 Evelyn Condich Frank & Joann Caporale

**Thursday – Četvrtak, December 29, 2005**

**7:30 A.M.** Mary Ann Roti Marion  
 Daniel Pintar family & friends  
 Ursula Hrouda Leslie & Kay

**Friday – Petak, December 30, 2005**  
**Feast of the Holy Family**

**7:30 A.M.** Mara Zovko Mary Vujić  
 Zvonko Perši Mary Vujić  
 Ralph & Sophie Bonello Louis & Mary Scalise

**Saturday – Subota, December 31, 2005**  
**New Year's Eve**

**7:30 A.M.** Ana Vrdolyak Cathy & Andrew  
 Paul Stasiak Catherine & Nick Perisin  
 Mike Blazis Catherine & Nick Perisin

**5:30 P.M. – Mass of Thanksgiving for 2005**  
 Maria Gazzi Gazzi family  
 Anne Lascola Joann & Mike Passarelli  
 Deceased of Rose & Michael Iozzo family family  
 Carmella Barbara (for God's blessings) Scalise fam.

**Sunday – Nedjelja, January 1, 2006**  
**The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

**7:30 A.M.** Mile Kodžoman ob. Penavić  
 Joseph Grubisic (10th anniv.) M/M Wm. Plisic  
 Evelyn Condich Angelo & Rose Fresso

**9:30 A.M.** Nick LoCoco wife  
 George "Bud" Hammar Theresa & George Hammar  
 Mark Sukolowsky Theresa & George Hammar  
 Deceased of Pešo family family

**11:00 A.M. u spomen**  
 Vinko Lišnić Marko & Ankica Dukić  
 Dragutin Radošević M/M Hodar  
 Tomo i Marta Bulić Josip Bajzec  
 Jago Soldo ob. Soldo  
 Marija Galić ob. Vesna Jureta  
 Mila Tomić ob. Marko Knezović  
 Dr. Ante i Mara Pavelić Bože Guvo  
 Iva Šušnjara sin Anđelko i obitelj  
 Na čast Sv. Ante Mila Solina  
 Na čast Gospi Međugorskoj Nikola Ćosić

**Lectors**

**Saturday, Dec. 31, 5:30 P.M.** Michael Passarelli  
**Sunday, Jan. 1, 7:30 A.M.** Matt Pesce  
**Sunday, Jan. 1, 9:30 A.M.** Diane Krolo  
**Sunday, Jan. 1, 11:00 A.M.** Snježana Šego,  
 Daniela Šumera

**ALTAR SERVERS**

**Saturday, Dec. 31, 5:30 P.M.** M. Ologue, S.  
 Ologue, Segvich  
**Sunday, Jan. 1, 7:30 A.M.** Passi, Rubio  
**Sunday, Jan. 1, 9:30 A.M.** Ferro, Insalaco,  
 Mitchell  
**Sunday, Jan. 1, 11:00 A.M.** I. Jurković, K. Kristić,  
 D. Jurković, S. Ivezić, K. Cikoč, T. Cuvalo

**FOR RENT**

- ▶ 29th Shields, large 7 rms, great condition, appl. included, \$675/mo. w/heat 773 523 1069
- ▶ Apt. 31st & Wells, 6 rms, 3 bdrms, Central air & heat, Hrdwd flrs, appliances included. 312 326 3805
- ▶ Apt. 30th Princeton, 2nd flr, newly remodeled, central air/heat. 312 225 0582
- ▶ Two apts. in 2 flat bldg, all new. 773 775 7541.
- ▶ Large apt. vicinity 29th Shields, 6 rms, very good condition, heat included, \$700. 773 523 1069
- ▶ Apt. on 25th Pl. 3 large bdrms, 2nd flr frnt, new appliances, carpeting, enclosed porch. 630-904-6774.

## WEEKLY MEDITATION for Christmas Day 2005

How dark the world would be if the light of Christ had never shone! The teaching of Christ was truly a source of light to all who accepted him, but it was through his deeds and encounters with people that his luminous goodness manifested itself. Countless people came to him in darkness and went away bathed in light. Christ's light was not lit in

Bethlehem once and then extinguished. Unlike the sun, Christ's light knows no setting. It continues to shine for all who believe in him and follow him. The light of Christ is a persistent light, and has the power to draw people to its shining. It shines in the midst of devastation, disaster and upheaval. The Gospel is a persistent and defiant light,

which no darkness can overpower. Christ's light comes as a friend. It brings healing not hurt, freedom not oppression, life not death. Those who follow him will always have the light of life. May the Lord in his goodness give us a taste of that joy that the shepherds experienced when the light of God's glory shone around them on that first Christmas.

**"Today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you. He is CHRIST the Lord."**

*"Merry CHRISTmas!" from Fr. Joe & Fr. Ivan*

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### THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

For Catholics, December 25 is only the beginning of the **Christmas season**. Our celebration continues with other feasts and solemnities shedding their own unique light on the gift of Jesus.



**January 1** is both the **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**, and a **day of prayer for world peace**. We can deepen our celebration of the New Year by our prayer that our families and our world be open to the peace Jesus offers.



The **Solemnity of the Epiphany**, traditionally observed on January 6, is transferred to a Sunday in the U.S. "Epiphany" means "manifestation," and it's the celebration of Jesus' manifesting to all the world his glory as Savior to all nations, symbolically through the Magi. Epiphany is also a day to share gifts in many cultures, as well as a day to feast. Add the Three Wise Men and their camels to your Nativity set and read their story from Matthew's Gospel.



The **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** commemorates the final "Christmas" feast, when the Father reveals the divinity of Jesus at his baptism through the Holy Spirit in the Jordan River. It is a good day to celebrate our own baptism, our "new birth" in Christ and inclusion in his body, the Church.

### WISDOM'S CORNER

#### What Gives You Life?

During the bombing raids of World War II, thousands of children were orphaned and left to starve. The fortunate ones were rescued and placed in refugee camps where they received food and good care, but many of these children who had lost so much could not sleep at night. *They feared waking up* to find themselves once again homeless and without food. Nothing seemed to reassure them. Finally, someone hit upon the idea of giving each child a piece of bread to hold at bedtime. Holding their bread, these children could finally sleep in peace. All through the night the bread reminded them, "Today I ate and I will live to eat again tomorrow."

*It is not merely a coincidence that the Christ Child was born in Bethlehem. Bethlehem is Hebrew for "house of bread." Christ, the giver of life, was born to become the Bread of Life.....our spiritual sustenance...*

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#### THE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

**"The first gift of Christmas is a child."**



## Is Christmas Season starting or ending?

**The secular Christmas Shopping Season overlapped with our Advent Season. The Christmas Shopping Season is now over, but the true Christmas Season is NOT ending this weekend! Indeed, the Church's Christmas Season is just beginning this weekend. It will last two weeks, until the day after Epiphany Sunday. Before Epiphany was transferred to Sundays a couple of decades ago, Epiphany was always January 6, which is the 12th Day of Christmastime, as in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Let's look at that song that reminds us that Christmas Joy will not end this weekend.**

In England during the years 1528 to 1829, Catholics were not allowed to practice their faith openly. Thus *The Twelve Days of Christmas* was written as a secret Catholic catechism for teaching children, and it served as a reminder for adults. The symbolism of the song represents the basic truths of the Catholic faith.

"My true love gave to me" = God's Love gave to me.

"A partridge in a pear tree" = God's only Son, Jesus.

"Two turtle doves" = the old and new Testaments

"Three French hens" = the revelation that God is a Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

"Four calling birds" = the evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

"Five golden rings" = the Bible's first five books, the Pentateuch

"Six geese a-laying" = the six days of creation

"Seven swans a-swimming" = the seven Sacraments

"Eight maids a-milking" = the eight Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount

"Nine ladies dancing" = the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (in Galatians 5:22)

"Ten lords a-leaping" = the Ten Commandments

"Eleven pipers piping" = the Eleven faithful Apostles

"Twelve drummers drumming" = the 12 points of belief in the Apostles' Creed



**EPIPHANY CONCERT IN ST. JEROME'S CHURCH BY THE BRIDGEPORT CHORALE SOCIETY:** Music will tell the entire Christmas story in songs composed by Bach, Handel and other greats, on Sunday, January 8, from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m., followed by refreshments in the small hall. Tickets are \$10 — in advance or at the door. For more, call Rosalie at 312-326-1321.



**HOUSE BLESSINGS:** Please contact the Parish Office to arrange for the Christmastime blessing of homes.

**TAX BREAK ABOUT TO EXPIRE:** On Dec. 31, a provision of the "Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005" will expire. From August 28, 2005 (when Hurricane Katrina hit) until the end of this year, charitable gifts can be used to offset up to 100% of adjusted gross income, instead of the normal 50% limit.

## Toy Drive helps kids at La Rabida hospital and other needy kids have Merry Christmas

Those who generously gave gifts



in our parish's toy-and-clothing drive know already that it is more blessed to give than to receive, especially when the person being helped is a young child going through difficult times suffering from illness or poverty or both. A grand total of 241 gifts went to children served by La Rabida children's hospital and to kids (in the Back-of-the-Yards neighborhood) served by Franciscan Port Ministries. *Thanks go out to the St. Jerome Youth Service Corps, which organized the gift drive, to Principal Peter Trumblay and the students at St. Jerome's, who made the ornaments for the Gift Christmas Tree, and, finally, to all of the parishioners who in a busy, busy season carved out time to show their love to an unknown child in need of their caring gift.*

**TEXAS HOLD'EM:** St. Jerome School is sponsoring a Texas Hold'em Tournament Raffle **Saturday, January 14, 2006** Please arrive at 3 p.m. for seat assignments Raffle begins at 4 p.m. SHARP. Limited Seating. Wine, beer, food included. Donation \$200 per ticket. For tickets, call John Perseghin at 312 780 6739 or Brian Luce, 312 735 7219.

**LADIES-ONLY TEXAS HOLD'EM:** St. Jerome School is sponsoring a **LADIES ONLY "Desperate Housewives Poker Night"** Texas Hold'em Tournament Raffle **Friday, January 13, 2006** Please arrive at 3 p.m. for seat assignments. Raffle begins at 4 p.m. SHARP. Limited Seating. Drinks & food included. Donation \$100 per ticket. For tickets, call John Perseghin at 312 780 6739 or Brian Luce, 312 735 7219.

## Football Mania Winners:

Here are the winning numbers for Week 15:  
\$500 - 1127, \$200 - 4732, \$41.67 - 3095, 445 & 1435, \$25 - 1893, 2757 & 396.

## St. Jerome Property Fund

Mortgage Debt from New Parking Lot:	\$ 400,000
Donated to Date:	\$ 164,456
December Donations Thus Far:	\$ 1,750
Needed for monthly Mortgage Payment:	\$ 11,900

*Thank you to all who have contributed and to all who are considering a contribution!*