

WEEKLY MEDITATION for the Third Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist had a central role to play in the coming of the Savior. His role was to be "a witness to speak for the light." The Light in question was Jesus. John proved to be a courageous and effective witness. Jesus still needs witnesses. Now it's our turn. For many people in the world today, Christ has become a very dim and distant figure, and

the words of today's Gospel are literally true: "There is one among you whom you not recognize." Christ needs people who can effectively make him present to other people.

We can't be a witness for the Light if we ourselves are living in darkness. We have to be living in the Light. A good life is a strong and effective witness in and of

itself because it is a proclamation of the Gospel. Without the witness of Christians, the face of Christ will continue to fade from our world and the Good News will not be preached.

No witness reaches others as persuasively as the witness of those who do what Jesus commanded. We must be his light in the world.

BAPTISM

Today we welcome into our faith community through the sacrament of baptism:

Maria Isabel Romero

daughter of Deborah (nee Kudulis) & Peter Romero.
Her Godparents are Stewart Munoz and Leslie Kish.

*Congratulations to the families,
and God bless little Maria!*

CONFESSIONS DURING ADVENT

The sacrament that reconciles each one of us with God needs to be an important part of every Catholic's life. We will celebrate this sacrament in a special way on **Sunday, Dec. 18, at 6 p.m., with 8 priests** available for private confession after a communal penance prayer service. Please plan to come to this significant spiritual event.

As always, of course, confessions will be heard before every weekend Mass in the confessional.

Continue to love and support the retired religious sisters and friars who gave so much of themselves and asked for so little. Give generously to the nationwide "Retirement Fund for Religious" collection today after Communion.

**This week's
second
collection**

RELEVANT RADIO 820 AM & 930 AM SPECIAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMING

Listen to "Homemade Holiness" on *Morning Air* weekdays from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. during the Advent and Christmas seasons for messages of **inspiration and practical advice** on preparing for and celebrating these Holy Seasons! Listen to Catholic radio.

FM 93.9 IS PLAYING CONTINUOUS CHRISTMAS MUSIC.

WISDOM'S CORNER

A WITNESS TO THE LIGHT

A priest tells how a few years ago he made a visit to China. While there, he met an elderly couple who were both doctors. They had studied together at medical school, fallen in love and married. She was a Catholic; he was not. She wanted to convince him that he should join the Church, but he did not wish to be baptized. A short time later she had a child. During one of China's political movements, the husband and many other intellectuals were arrested and sent to a labor camp. The separation was very difficult for the wife. In addition to her loneliness, she was under pressure from the government to divorce her husband and renounce her religion so that she could gain political advantages. She refused. Every night she and her son knelt to pray and ask God for strength to endure the hardships. At the end of the 1970s her husband was allowed to come home. When she and her son went to meet him at the railway station, they were the only family members on the platform to welcome the returnees. Unable to endure the long separation and hardships, all the other women had divorced and remarried. Deeply moved, her husband took instruction and was later baptized.

That woman bore witness to the Light just as truly as John the Baptist did.

THE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"Will I bring Christ into the world?"

Christmas Flowers for Church

The cost of the **poinsettia flowers** for Christmas to decorate the church are: \$25.00, \$35.00 and \$50.00. If you are interested in donating flowers for the church, please see: **Lou or Mary Scalise, Ken or Jan Zekich, or Ivan or Vesna Jureta.**

The 2006 Parish Calendars, donated by Ruzich Funeral Directors, are available in the back of the church. We are grateful to Judy & David Ruzich for their generosity.

PLEASE LET US KNOW if your address on your envelope box is not correct.

Toy Drive Reminder: All gifts need to be brought to church by this weekend's Masses, Dec. 10 & 11, unwrapped.

CHILDREN'S 6 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

WE WILL NEED MANY CHILDREN to make this "Live Nativity" a success. **NEW PRACTICE DATE:** Wednesday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m. in the church. *If you have any questions, please call Laura at 773-254-0010.*

Football Mania Winners – Here are the winning numbers for Winners Week 13: \$500 - 3882, \$200 - 4201, \$41.67 - 396, 407 & 1893, \$25 - 2926, 862 & 350.

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.

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

St. Jerome Property Fund

Mortgage Debt from New Parking Lot:	\$ 400,000
Donated to Date:	\$ 164,256
December Donations Thus Far:	\$ 1,550
Needed for monthly Mortgage Payment:	\$ 11,900



at 4 p.m. SHARP. Limited Seating. Drinks & food included. Donation \$100 per ticket.

Please come and help ready our church for Christmas by giving it a thorough cleaning. The cleaning starts **Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m.**



COMING EVENTS:

TODAY, 8 A.M. TILL SUNDAY NOON

Breakfast with Santa—

sponsored by the HSA—cost for adults is \$6 and for children \$3. Pictures with Santa will be taken from 9 till noon. There will be a raffle table, a table with baked goods for sale, and tables where you can start or finish your Christmas shopping.



THIS COMING THURSDAY, 7 P.M.

St. Jerome Parish School will hold its annual Christmas program in the church.

THIS COMING SATURDAY, 6:30 P.M.

St. Jerome's "Cardinal Stepinac" Croatian School will hold its annual Christmas program in the school hall.

Have a Ball helping the School

Please mark your calendars for a Venetian Masquerade Ball in the school hall on **Saturday, Feb. 18.** Dinner,



live entertainment, dancing, a live auction, silent auction and raffle will benefit the school. Buy your tickets at the school.

Nomination forms for the **Postovani "Heart of the School" Award** are in the back of the church and at the school office. Nominate someone who goes above and beyond in serving the school by Jan. 6, and learn who won at the dinner.

Get the Kids Ready for Christmas

December 18 after the 9:30 and 11:00 Masses, **EuroSole** will be displaying their winter children's shoe collection for sale in the small hall. EuroSole offers boutique shoes from the Italian children's shoe designer Primigi. A portion of the proceeds will go to benefit St. Jerome School. *Please join us for coffee, cookies, and a little Christmas cheer!*