

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday – Ponedjeljak, December 24, 2007**

7:30 a.m. Rose Polacek John & Gen Botica
Jocko Becich sisters
Deceased of Marasovich family family

Christmas Eve 6:00 p.m. (Children's Mass)

Lucky & Helen Olson family
Mary Jean & Donald Gillespie family
Peter Perisin wife & family
Andrew Parachinni family
Frank Bologna Linda
Angelique Rubio Linda

Midnight Mass

Michael Roscich family
Deceased of Zaninovich & Vulich fam. Antoinette

**Tuesday – Utorak, December 25, 2007
Christmas Day - Bozic**

7:30 a.m. Mary Pesce Adam & Wisia Kokot
Sam & Ann DeGregorio Senerchia family
Augustine & Agnes Salamone daughter Frannie
Mike Iozzo Iozzo family
Frank Szatkowski mother Angeline Szatkowski
James Gurgone wife & children
Visko & Clara Cecich family
Peter & Mary Mandic Mandic family
William & Mary Catizone children & grandchildren
Dec. of John Mladinov family family

9:30 a.m. Barry Babich Mom, Dad, Lisa, Christine
Mary & Louis Basso family
Joseph & Millie Bogetich family
Fr. Marko Kozina Carol & Frano Marasovich
Maria Gazzi & Gazzi & Byrnes fam. Gazzi fam.
Marty Miloslavich Mark Gusich & family
John & Mary Harzich family
Dec. of Albert Caponigro family daughter

11:00 a.m. u spomen

Robert Jurlina ob. Jurlina
Ivan Babić Valerie Babić
Rafo Rogić Željka i ob.
Petar i Joza Zelić ob. Ilija Zelić
Fra Marko Kozina ob. Ilija Zelić
Josip Lišnić obitelj
Tomislav Hostička ob. Hostička
Pava Lišnić ob. Hostička
Pok. iz ob. Lončar i Jurilj Ante i Anica Lončar

**Wednesday – Srijeda, December 26, 2007
St. Stephen, first martyr – Sv. Stjepan**

7:30 a.m. Mark Bozich Vera & family
Donna Byers Ann Brcich
Ivan 'Stipelic' Lončar Ivica Penavić
Stipe Zebić ob. Šime Zebić
All holy souls in purgatory John Bogovic

**Thursday – Četvrtak, December 27, 2007
St. John, apostle, evangelist – Sv. Ivan, evanđelist**

7:30 a.m. Ante Kraljević ob. Vlado Kraljević
John Roscich family
Margaret Marcello Pace family
Grgo Nikolić Ivica Penavić
Milka Grašić Louis & Mary Scalise

**Friday – Petak, December 28, 2007
Holy Innocents – Nevina djeca**

7:30 a.m. Anton Rozman Joseph Rozman
Gabriela LaMonica Louis & Mary Scalise
Mile Markić Ivica Penavić
Sr. M. Bernardine Čondić N.N.
Dec. of Balestri family cousins

Saturday – Subota, December 29, 2007

7:30 a.m. Mary Ann Roti Marion
Mary Peso Perkovich Mary Vujic
Tom Walenty Sr. Jeanne
Stipe Šego Ivica Penavić
5:30 p.m. Frank Szatkowski Horvath family
Mary Harzich Perisin grandchildren
Na čast Velike Gospi Ivan Maroš i ob.

**Sunday – Nedjelja, December 30, 2007
Feast of the Holy Family – Sveta Obitelj**

7:30 a.m. Evelyn Čondić Duško
Bill Lattyak John & Marge Piegari
9:30 a.m. Marty Miloslavich M/M Bob Cannatello
Mary Harzich Giggie
Williamae Versetto George Ferro family

11:00 a.m. u spomen

Josip Lišnić ob. Jakov Bilonić
Ante i Mara Pavelić Bože Guvo
Marija Škalić Josip i Kata Bajzec
Milka Grašić ob. Snježana Šego
Ante Kraljević Božo i Stoja Kosir
Žarko Ostojić Anica Ostojić
Mate Pudar ob. Pudar
Miško i Maša Kristić ob. Pudar
Marica Grahovac Kathy & Andrew Chrucky
Don Nikica Dušević Perica i Marija Dušević
James Dušević Perica i Marija Dušević
Pok. iz ob. Primorac ob. Ivan i Ivica Karačić
Pok. iz ob. Zarko Ostojić Anica Ostojić
Pok. iz ob. M & T Čondić sin
Pok. iz ob. Maroš i Tokić Ivan Maroš i ob.
Augustin Rodić (health & healing) Theresa Nagy

Lectors

Christmas Eve 6:00 p.m. Schoolchildren, Rosemary Brcich
Midnight Mass Matthew Pesce
Christmas Day 7:30 a.m. Luanne Munizzi, Rosemary Brcich
9:30 A.M. Diane Krolo, Domingo Rodriguez, Bernadette Serio
Sat., Dec. 29, 5:30 p.m. Jan Ferro
Sun., Dec. 30, 7:30 a.m. Luanne Munizzi
Sun., Dec. 30, 9:30 a.m. Giggie Cortese
Sun., Dec. 30, 11:00 a.m. Davorka Toromanović, Mario Ivančić, Mario Pehar

Altar Servers

Christmas Eve 6:00 p.m. Mangan, R. Rubio, Wroblewski
Midnight Mass D. Jureta, M. Kikaš, I. Jureta, D. Jurković, I. Jurković, M. Golub

CHRISTMAS DAY 7:30 a.m. Racinowski, Rudmin
9:30 a.m. Meo, Nowacki, Olague
11 a.m. D. Paraga, M. Kosir, A. Barun, M. Šego, A. Rogić, K. Cikoč

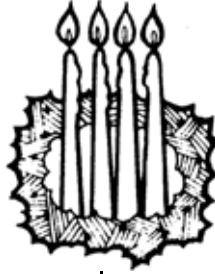
Sat., Dec. 29, 5:30 p.m. L. Rubio, M. Rubio, Wilkie
Sun., Dec. 30, 7:30 a.m. Nowacki, Wroblewski
Sun., Dec. 30, 9:30 a.m. LoCoco, Meo, Rudmin

Sun., Dec. 30, 11:00 a.m. O. Paraga, A. Barun, M. Brajković, E. Ljevar, S. Adjaip, I. Babić

WEEKLY MEDITATION for the Fourth Sunday of Advent—Christmas

Christmas is a wonderful time. It recalls the greatest event in history, the Incarnation, when God's Son came down on earth to confer on us the dignity of children of God. We may consider ourselves very ordinary, but nobody is ordinary any longer, not since Christ — truly God and truly human — came on earth.

The world today is in danger of drowning in bad news. It is crying out



for good news. The best news of all is the news brought by the angels to the shepherds: "Behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today, in the city of David, a Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord."

It is up to us to open our hearts to receive him and enter into an intimate relationship with God, trusting that we

will receive love, and always more love.

With Christmas, people's hopes soar; however, the substance of these hopes is often dictated by commercial interest. Then, when the sun goes down on Christmas Day, many feel disappointed. Those who pin their hopes on what merchants promise will always be disappointed, not because merchants promise too little, but too much — of the wrong thing. Let us not deprive ourselves of the real hope of Christmas, Christ himself!

WISDOM'S CORNER

A child's prayer to Our Lady



Lovely Lady dressed in blue,
Teach me how to pray.
God was just your little Boy,
Tell me what to say.

Did you lift Him up sometimes,
Gently on your knee?
Did you sing to Him the way
Mother does to me?

Did you hold His hand at night?
Did you ever try
Telling stories of the world?
O! And did He cry?

Do you really think He cares
If I tell Him things—
Little things that happen?
Do the angels' wings

Make a noise? And can He hear
me if I speak low?
Does He understand me now?
Tell me—for you know.

Lovely Lady dressed in blue,
Teach me how to pray!
God was just your little Boy.
And you know the way!

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"In every heart there is an empty chamber waiting for a guest. That guest is God."

Franciscan Friars: 1209-2009, and beyond...

Continuing our gradual look at the Franciscan Friars as they approach their 800th birthday as a Religious Order, we focus our attention on how Saint Francis changed forever the way that we celebrate Christmas, which he called "the feast of feasts."

St. Francis re-enacts the Nativity for the first time

Francis was fascinated by two things about Jesus: One, the utter humility of the manner through which He came to dwell among us in the manger, and, two, the immense love and charity shown toward us by Christ in His suffering and dying for us on the cross.

As Christ's birthday approached in December 1223, a couple of years before Francis's own death, Francis asked a trusted friend to diligently prepare in the Italian town of Greccio an unheard of idea: a Nativity Scene re-enactment. Francis told his friend that he wanted to "set before our bodily eyes in some way the inconveniences of [Jesus'] infant needs, how He lay in a manger, how — with an ox and an ass standing by — He lay upon the hay where He had been placed." Two weeks later it was Christmas Eve and the crowds were filled with joy to see their town turned into a new Bethlehem, complete with manger, hay, ox and ass. Over the manger, Mass was celebrated. Francis, who was a deacon, sang the Gospel and preached with affection about Jesus, the poor King, the Child of Bethlehem, giving the people a fervent, treasured memory of the humble birth of Jesus, truly God but also truly human.



One virtuous man there saw a vision
of a child in the manger,
but the child was lifeless.
Then St. Francis went up
to the manger and
roused the child,
as if from a
deep sleep.
This was a
very fitting
vision, given

how Francis brought
to life a love for the Child Jesus
in the hearts of many who had grown cold.

Schedule for Christmas at St. Jerome's

We prepared all Advent, spiritually and physically, for Jesus' birthday. The moment we have been preparing to celebrate is upon us — let's not miss appreciating this key moment amid all the busy-ness of Christmas. At the following Masses, may our spiritual preparation lead us to an intense experience of how our Savior came to us out of God's love for each of us:

Christmas Eve Children's Mass, Monday, Dec. 24, at 6:00 p.m. Come see our schoolchildren re-enact the events of the first Christmas.

Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, Monday night at 12 midnight, the Mass begins. As part of your preparation for this most solemn high Mass, you are invited to come early to pray and to listen to Croatian Christmas songs — the music and singing starts at 11 p.m.

Christmas Day Masses, Tuesday, the Masses are as on Sundays: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Next Sunday the 12 Days of Christmas are still very much going on, as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary & Joseph.

BRIDGEPORT CHORAL SOCIETY: On the 12th Day of Christmas, Sunday, Jan. 6, 2008, make a date at St. Jerome's Church for beautiful music with the Bridgeport Choral Society. The Epiphany Concert starts at 4 p.m.



Welcome 2008

in the friendly atmosphere of St. Jerome's New Year's Eve Celebration, organized by the parents of the Croatian

School. Tickets are on sale: \$50.00 for adults, \$10.00 / \$25.00 for children. Mario & the band "Bravo" will provide the music.



Looking for a good carpenter?

If your family or business is in need of a good carpenter, please call the rectory for more information.

WE WANT TO EXPRESS OUR DEEP APPRECIATION:

- ◆ **Thank you** to the ladies and gentlemen who spent Tuesday evening cleaning our church from top to bottom. That was an important act of Advent preparation for Christmas!
- ◆ **Thank you to our church decorators**, Kenny Zekich and Louis Scalise, who gave many evenings beautifying St. Jerome's inside and out. Kenny even changed all of the hanging light bulbs.
- ◆ **A big thank you to all who donated gifts** through our Advent Giving Tree. **Over 350 presents** went to truly needy children served by LaRabida hospital, Franciscan Port Ministries and St. James Parish.

By now our Christmas card for you should have arrived. If your address has recently changed, and you did not receive this mail, please call the Rectory. We are thankful for your donations remembering St. Jerome's.

Flowers for Christmas: If you are interested in donating flowers for the church, please contact one of our coordinators: Lou & Mary Scalise, Ken & Jan Zekich, and Ivan & Vesna Jureta.



The DVD filmed at St. Jerome's by Tatiana is now available

In Advent 2006, the internationally acclaimed singer Tatiana, also known as Tajči, came to her much beloved St. Jerome's parish and recorded her Christmas Story DVD, amidst a lot of sophisticated lights and cameras. Her Christmas DVD is now available (with a bonus CD for your CD players) for \$29.95 on her website's store:

www.idobelieve.com/music_store_specials.shtml

A limited supply of these copies of her St. Jerome performance are now available after the Masses. This DVD is superbly professional, and, as we who were there know, she sang her heart out at St. Jerome's that night.

HAPPY 50TH, FATHER IVAN! Amid all the attention rightly given to Jesus' birthday, we wish to remember our "Christmas babies" — those folks whose birthdays come very close to Dec. 25.

One such "Christmas baby" is our Fr. Ivan, who on Dec. 21, reached the milestone age of 50. If you remember Fr. Ivan and his mother Maria with a couple of Hail Mary's these busy days, he would be very appreciative!

May he live to be 50 x 2 = 100!