

WEEKLY MEDITATION — Ascension of the Lord

Today's Gospel describes the Ascension of Jesus. Jesus, now in the glorious presence of his Father, continues to act through the Holy Spirit and through his followers. Jesus went back to the source, the Alpha and the Omega. This is the meaning of his Ascension. It is not a journey into outer space, but a journey home. His Ascension does not represent his removal from the earth, but his *constant*

presence *everywhere* on earth. During his earthly ministry, he could only be in one place at one time. Now that he is united with God, he is present wherever God is present; and that is everywhere.

We live in the hope that the words of Jesus will come true for us: "Where I am, you too shall be."

Meanwhile, we have a task to do.

Today the task of preaching the

Gospel depends on us. It's a great privilege but a daunting task. However, we also can rely on the help of the Holy Spirit. The best way to preach the Gospel is by living a truly Christian life.

A question each of us might ask ourselves is this: *If it were a crime to be a Christian, and I were put on trial, would enough evidence be found in my life to convict me?*

Congratulations to the Class of 2006!

David Castillo
Dana Dengler
Tressa Fasula
Paul Guttillo
Brian Kenny
Maria Olague
Marissa Ruiz
Samantha Sanchez
Amanda Sarkauskas
Emma Sheehy

Michael Chin
Pam Falkowski
Gabriella Gallo
Caroline Ibarra
Amber Mangione
Alexandra Rinella
Anthony Sabbia

Joe Segvich
Kyle Vukelic

Dear Graduate, every completion is also a beginning ... of the next phase of life. We, the Parish community of St. Jerome, are grateful for your participation in our faith community, and we look forward to your continued growth within our parish's life. Continue to mature intellectually, emotionally, physically and — especially at weekly Mass — spiritually! *You will never regret any time spent coming closer to Jesus.*

Fr. Ivan is finishing his "rookie year"

This Wednesday will mark the first anniversary of Fr. Ivan's ordination to the Priesthood. He was ordained May 31, 2005, on the Feast of the Visitation of St. Mary to St. Elizabeth, at Sacred Heart Church in South Chicago.

We wish him a happy and blessed anniversary day. May God continue to guide his ministry, and may our Blessed Mother protect him always.

WISDOM'S CORNER

What does *my* life say?

Christopher was a practicing Christian who was concerned about his next-door neighbor, a self-declared atheist. As a Christian, Christopher felt it was his responsibility to try to convert him. Although he had brought up the subject of religion with him, he had gotten nowhere. One day an idea struck him. He decided to mail his neighbor a copy of *The Life of Christ*.

Days went by without any indication that the man had received it. Two weeks later Christopher noticed the book in the man's refuse bin. He picked up the book and went to his neighbor's door. He said to his neighbor, "You know, if only you'd read it, you might find God."

The man replied, "But I do read it, every day."

"What do you mean?" said Christopher.

His neighbor asked him, "You are a *follower* of Christ, aren't you?"

"Yes, I am," he replied.

"Well," said the neighbor, "I've been reading *your* life every day for the past ten years!"

THE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"It is impossible for that man to despair who remembers that his Helper is omnipotent."

St. Anthony novena at St. Jerome's will begin next Sunday

Novena Masses will be held in our church on the nine evenings from Sunday, June 4 until Tuesday, June 12. On June 13, the Feast of St. Anthony, the friars at St. Anthony Friary at 4848 S. Ellis will have their patron's Mass, which we are all invited to participate in.



The 25th Anniversary Medjugorje Mass will be celebrated on **Sunday, June 25, 2006**, at 5 p.m. The 6 visionary children of Medjugorje began seeing and hearing Our Lady on a daily basis on June 25, 1981. Come join us at St. Jerome's for a special Mass in honor of Our Lady with **Monsignor Kenneth Velo** giving the homily. Msgr. Velo was the late Cardinal Bernardin's personal secretary, as well as his funeral homilist.

20 TICKETS REMAIN of the final batch of White Sox tickets we obtained for "St. Jerome Croatian" Night at the 7 p.m. June 8 Chicago White Sox game against their toughest competition this year, the Detroit Tigers. Call the rectory at 312-842-1871 for these \$28 tickets.

The Croatian Almanac for 2006 has arrived. It is a very interesting 220 pages available at the Parish Office for \$20. (It is also available in the Small Hall after the Croatian Mass.)

News on Mass intentions: The months of **June and July** are full. Please take this into account when seeking Masses. Intentions for Masses in 2007 are being taken.

ST. JEROME PROPERTY FUND

Mortgage Debt from New Parking Lot: \$ 400,000
Donated to Date: \$ 183,671

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

Countdown continues: 11 weeks & 2 days till 100th Velika Gospa celebration

Velika Gospa Time Machine ...

... 100 to 94 years ago: With the establishment of the **Dalmatian Family Society of Our Lady of Sinj** in 1906, Bridgeport's Croatians from the region of Dalmatia had begun to honor Our Lady of Sinj in an organized fashion. They especially celebrated Our Lady of Sinj on August 15, Assumption Day ("Velika Gospa" in Croatian), a day on which there has long been a great procession and Mass in Sinj, Croatia, where the original icon of Our Lady of Sinj is located.

In 1906, the Croatians of Bridgeport were going to Mass at the **Bohemian/Czech Parish of St. John Nepomucene**, whose church at that time was located at the Northwest corner of 25th and Princeton. (Founded in the year of the Great Fire, 1871, St. John's later moved to Lowe Street and was closed by the Archdiocese in 1990.) On special occasions such as the Velika Gospa Mass, the Bohemians allowed the Croatians to celebrate at their church. From 1906 to 1912, the Mass was celebrated at St. John's. The procession was in the vicinity of the present-day procession route.

In 1907, **the first Gospa Sinjska/Our Lady of Sinj banner** was purchased for use at the Croatians' Mass. It cost a tremendous amount back then: \$75.00.

By 1910, **543 Dalmatian families** had joined the Dalmatian Family Society of Our Lady of Sinj, making it one of the largest Croatian organizations in the Midwest. Given the strong religious orientation of its members and the organized voice of the Society, the need for a Croatian Parish in Bridgeport was becoming impossible to ignore. St. Jerome's would be founded in 1912 — to the east of St. John Nepomucene Bohemian on 25th Street.

Please volunteer for SPRED program: We have 2 disabled young adults waiting to come to **SPRED** (**S**pecial **R**eligious **D**evelopment program). We need a volunteer catechist or a friend for them. No experience is necessary, just a commitment to form a friendship. We meet on Thursdays from 7:30-10:00 p.m. during the school year at 2956 S. Lowe Ave. If you can help us out, please call Joyce Mendez at 312-225-7842.

"OPUS DEI AND THE DA VINCI CODE — Their Secrets revealed." The **Hallmark Cable Channel** tries to take an objective look at both controversial topics **Sunday, June 4 at 9 p.m.** Central Time.

Holy Trinity Croatian Parish Picnic: After their 10:15 Mass on **Sunday, June 11** there will be a parish picnic on the church grounds at 1850 S. Throop St. with music, prizes, lamb, pig, cevapi, Mexican food, hot dogs and a raffle with a \$500.00 First Prize.