

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday - Ponedjeljak, December 22, 2003**

7:30 A.M. Mile Rak family
Zvonko Banić Danica Maroš
Grgo Nikolić Obitelj Penavić

Tuesday - Utorak, December 23, 2003

7:30 A.M. Zvonko Banić Anton Hostička
Za duše u čistilištu Obitelj Bešlić
Na nakanu Ana Lovrinović

**Wednesday - Srijeda, December 24, 2003
Christmas Eve**

7:30 A.M. Rose Polaček John & Gen Botica
6:00 P.M. Peter A. Perišin wife & family
Helen & Lucky Olson family
John Mladinov family family
Rosalie & Rocco Zic daughter
Kate & John Kirinčić John & Jean Kirinčić

**Thursday - Četvrtak, December 25, 2003
Christmas Day**

7:30 A.M. Linda Humbert husband Robert
Al & Millie Mucenski family
Patrick Muldowney friends
James Gurgone wife & children
9:30 A.M. Peter & Mary Mandić family
Sam & Ann DeGregorio family
Rocco Zic daughter
Maria Gazzi Gazzi family
Mary & Tom Byrnes Gazzi family
Carlo Guttilo mother
Joseph & Mille Bogetich family
11:00 A.M. Ante Runac Ante Runac i ob.
Mate Čagalj Mate Čaljkusić
Tomislav Hostička obitelj
Šime Lončar i ostali pokojni Ante Lončar i ob.
Ivan i Ljubica Zeba Marko Zeba i ob.
Robert Jurlina obitelj
Steven Brajković Luka Zoko i ob.

Friday - Petak, December 26, 2003

7:30 A.M. Mile Rak family
Deceased of Hrvol family Mary Hrvol
Mile Kodžoman Obitelj Penavić
Vilim Lovrinović Obitelj Lovrinović

Saturday - Subota, December 27, 2003

7:30 A.M. Violet Rogulich Millie Balich

Zvonko Banić Warren & Geraldine Novak
5:30 P.M. John Roscich family
Margaret Marcello family
Special Intention Jean Zekich
Dec. members of Martinčić & Kirinčić family
Jean & John Kirinčić

Sunday - Nedjelja, December 28, 2003

7:30 A.M. Linda Humbert husband Robert
9:30 A.M. Betty Yukich husband Rudy
11:00 A.M. u spomen
Ivan, Jure, Janja Mišić Ivan Karačić i ob.
Mila Cvitković Boro i Olga Puljić
Ante Runac Obitelj Runac
Ivan Babić Valerija Babić i ob.
Ante Kraljević Duško Kraljević i ob.
Ante Kraljević Bože Kosir i ob.
Ante i Mara Pavelić Bože Guvo
Ivo Paljetak Marko Paljetak i ob.
Milka Filipčić Jadranka Hrvojević i ob.

Lectors

Christmas Eve, 6:00 P.M. Children
Midnight Mass, Mario Pehar i Gigie Cortese
Christmas, 7:30 A.M. Mary Vujić & Carl Segvich
Christmas 9:30 A.M. Mike Passarelli & Dolores Crane
Božić, 11:00 A.M. Davorka Novak i Anđela Bajić
Saturday, December 27, 5:30 P.M. Frank DiLoreto
Sunday, December 28, 7:30 A.M. Matt Pesce
Sunday, December 28, 9:30 A.M. Carl Segvich
Nedjelja, 28. prosinca 11:00 A.M. Anđela Bajić i Antonia Kraljević

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Christmas Eve, 6:00 P.M. Ciaravino, Sabbia, Segvich
Midnight Mass – Polnoćka Josip i Zrinka Jureta, Josip Kosir, Antonia Kraljević, Marko Jurković, T. Kikaš, A. Mlinarić, N. Babić i Suzy Šušnjara
Christmas, 9:30 A.M. Dengler, A.Sarkauskas, R. Sarkauskas
Saturday, December 27, 5:30 P.M. B. Kenny, V. Kenny, Sabbia
Sunday, December 28, 9:30 A.M. Dengler, Lopez, Sanchez
Nedjelja, 28. prosinca, 11:00 A.M. T. Kikaš, J. Jureta, K. Jurković, K. Pavišić

Apts. for Rent:

Vicinity 29th & Shields, 5 rooms, 1 ½ bedrooms.
\$700 per month. Interested, call 773 523 – 4494 to make apt. after December 15.
2 bdrm apt., 3411 S. Union. Call 708 636 – 8159.



WEEKLY MEDITATION

Shortly after Mary received the good news, actually very scary news, from the angel that she was to bear a son, she gave that gift of presence to Elizabeth, her cousin. She set out on a long and dangerous journey to visit her cousin whose pregnancy was already far along. Mary could have, through a messenger, sent greetings conveying her wishes about the coming birth of John the Baptist. Rather, she went in person and gave to Elizabeth something no messenger could possibly give. She gave the grace of her presence.

When the Holy Father came to this country a few years ago people traveled hundreds of miles just to be in his presence. They could have seen him more clearly on TV but his physical presence was like electricity. His presence exerted a compelling force upon them. As we approach the day when Jesus became present to us, I suggest that we ask ourselves: Is there someone in my family or among my acquaintances who is lonely, who is sick, who is estranged from me or possibly alienated from everyone, for whom my presence might make a difference? If so, pay that visit, give that gift, offer the grace of your presence. Even if it is turned down you have still offered the gift, and He who came to be present among us will know it.



Dear Parishioners, As we retell the Bethlehem story each year, its familiarity can obscure one of its most important lessons. We do not celebrate at Christmas some immutable dogma, but a particular moment. Christians believe that this particular moment, when Luke tells us that a child was born in a manger, punctuated in a decisive way the march of human history. The Christmas story speaks to both the fragility and the resilience of human life, manifested in the miracle of birth and the possibilities of people. The story of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, taken in a particular place and in a particular moment of time, reminds us each year that our personal lives and the communal lives of nations are also journeys, moving always into an uncertain future, remembering the past and renewing its wisdom, never allowed or condemned simply to repeat the past, but a journey made in faith that is confident that the final word of the story will be one of light shining in darkness. Let us keep the spirit and message of Christmas alive in this more liberal, secular, and often times anti-Christmas world.

Merry Christmas! Your Franciscan Fathers

EVENING OF RECONCILIATION for our parish will take place next Sunday, December 21, at 6 p.m. in our church. Please avail yourself of this important sacrament of peace and forgiveness. It is important for each one of us to renew ourselves and prepare our souls to celebrate with our God the beautiful holy day of Christmas with clean hearts. Several priests will be available to hear confessions.



CHRISTMAS MUSIC If you would like to listen to some music of the season, you might enjoy tuning in to the radio stations 93.9 FM or 100.3 FM.

CHRISTMAS MAILING Dear Parishioners, last week we mailed our parish Christmas letter to you. We hope you received it. If you have changed your address please let us know.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE: 6 P.M. Children's Mass on Christmas Eve; 12 A.M. Midnight Mass; Christmas Day Masses at 7:30 A.M., 9:30 A.M., 11 A.M.

PARISH ENVELOPES FOR 2004 Dear Parishioners, the envelopes for next year can be found in the back of church, organized in alphabetical order. Please take yours. We apologize for any errors and ask you to let us know if your envelopes are not there. Those who wish to become parishioners should call the parish office.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS For the last 2 years we have celebrated a special children's mass on Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. that has been very well attended. This year we will continue this endearing tradition. We ask that families with young children come to this mass to welcome the newborn Savior together.

RECONCILIATION FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND Our priests will visit these parishioners on Monday, December 22, beginning at 9 a.m. Please let us know if there is anyone among your family members or neighbors who is unable to come to church and would like to receive the sacraments before Christmas.



THANK YOU The young artist, Ivan Mikan, sincerely thanks all those who visited his exhibit last weekend. He is also grateful to those who purchased his paintings. We take this opportunity to thank Ivan for displaying his artwork, and also recommend that our young people share with the community the talents and treasures they possess in whatever area that may be.



SHARE HAPPINESS WITH OTHERS

December...the month of darkness, coldness, loneliness...the month when we draw near to the end of something—the end of the year. People usually don't like to face the end of something. It often makes them apprehensive and uneasy. For those who have no one, or have recently lost a loved one, or who are barely surviving, this time of year is "salt on the wound". Those who take refuge in depression withdraw into themselves and wait for everything to end. All of this reminds them even more intensely that they are alone or poor.

Television, movies, richly decorated cities, store displays, elegantly dressed people in the company of family and friends, and abundantly laid tables represent a world to which they do not belong. If a person is alone, he is still alone even in a crowd. The throngs of people around him mean nothing because he is still alone with his thoughts, which no one hears. He has no one with whom to share them. For those for whom this is not the case, it is easy enough to preach contrived optimism and convince them that all is not as bleak as it seems, and that things will get better.

Therefore, try to share at least a little of your happiness and good fortune with others, but don't do it as an obligation to earn merit in heaven. Do it from the heart. Invite your friends from work and your neighbors to a holiday meal. Set aside a some money for some small gifts or Christmas cards. Let those who are less fortunate than you feel that they have a connection to someone, at least during this holy season, and that someone cares about them. You will see that the real meaning of the season is in giving and not just in waiting to receive. The gift that gladdens your heart leaves an impression on you and the ones to whom you offer your good will and kindness.

RECOMMENDED READING This week we suggest *The Transformation of American Religion* by American author Alana Wolfe (Free Press, 320 pages, \$26 ISBN 074322891). In an interesting way Wolfe offers an interpretation and understanding of the uniquely American religious and cultural diversity.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"The gift of kindness is always a perfect fit."

CHRISTMAS FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT The Parish Council of St. Jerome invites you to a special movie night.

We ask that you and your families join us on Monday, December 29, 2003, at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor small hall. Our featured presentation will be "A Christmas Story." Admission is free. Refreshments will be served.

All are welcome to come and keep the Christmas spirit alive well into the new year!!!

CHRISTMAS IN CROATIA Our Cardinal Stepinac kolo group, along with the kolo group "Hrvatska Loza," will perform for the "Christmas Around the World" program at the Museum of Science and Industry **today** at 1:30 p.m. We invite everyone to attend this wonderful event.

EPIPHANY CONCERT The Bridgeport Choral Society invites you to enjoy their beautiful classical Christmas music in our church on January 4, 2004 at 4 p.m. This is a lovely program that we are proud to host. Reserve the date and join us!

EXTRA PARKING for Christmas masses is available through the kindness of the Italian American Club located on 30th & Shields. We ask you to please use their lot when there is no room in the immediate area of the church so as to avoid congestion and problems during the holy day masses. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



SAY "MERRY CHRISTMAS" Some years ago when the holy season of Christmas began to be overtaken by commercialism, two slogans reminding people of the real meaning of the holy day came into use: 'Jesus is the reason for the season.' and 'Keep Christ in Christmas.' Both are more acutely needed now than ever before. Even the word 'Christmas' is being increasingly frequently replaced by the bland and ubiquitous phrase "happy holidays". There are many holidays throughout the year, but only one marks the birth of Our Lord—Christmas! At Christmas time let us as Christians make a point of identifying the day as what it is and not feel awkward or indifferent about calling it by its proper name. **Merry Christmas!**

WISDOM'S CORNER **It's the system...**

" When the football team was convicted of cheating and slapped with a stiff penalty by the athletic association, my friend, a longtime supporter of the team said, 'Everybody else is doing it. It's the system. We just got caught.' When his son was arrested for stealing an automobile after he wrecked the car in a high-speed chase with police, this father was in too much grief for me to say this, but I thought of saying it. 'What's the big deal? Everybody else is doing it. It's the system. He just got caught.' Everything is allowed to us! How about others?" Advent is the season of change...