

WEEKLY MEDITATION

Jesus Christ began his work of redemption by being born into a simple family. His presence there sanctified the home. The Holy Family shows us that any Christian home, in order to be happy, within the happiness that one can find on this earth, should be founded in mutual love, giving, prudence and, above all, love of God. Only if we follow the example of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, will we gain the strength and wisdom we need to maintain our home afloat.

We are living the Christmas holiday season and in a few days we will begin a New Year. These days can be an ideal time to ask ourselves: how is my home doing? Is there peace in it? Understanding? Love? Do we place God above all? Or do we live as if God did not exist? Many of us know that a home, without love and fear of God, will never work out as it should? The days between these two great feasts, Christmas and Epiphany, are perfect for meditating on the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mother of Our Lord and the faithful spouse who raised her family with love and knew how to overcome many problems. We also have our problems. That is why, in order for us to be able to overcome them with dignity, as she did, we should read about her life and follow her example. Knowing that she intercedes for us before her Son, Jesus, we should ask her to help us to learn how to live a selfless family life.



WITH GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION

Many Thanks

Dear Parishioners,

We offer our most sincere and heartfelt gratitude to everyone who was involved in making this holy season of Christmas so special for our parish community. For everything that you did, giving of your precious time, talent, and treasure, we are deeply appreciative. The wonderful fruits of your labors can be seen in the beautiful results of our church, thoroughly cleaned and joyously decorated, in our special masses and programs, in the music and singing, and in the many unseen, yet loving ways that you have shown your care and shared your gifts.

In a larger sense we are especially thankful to you for all that you have done throughout the entire year for our parish (particularly for our feasts and special events), for us priests, and for one another in Christian love and sacrifice. Your help, your gifts, and your many kindnesses have enabled the ministry of St. Jerome Parish to thrive and flourish. Your love and concern for the parish is a blessing for all of our parishioners and friends. God will surely bless you in return! THANK YOU



THE END OF A YEAR In a particular way the final days of the calendar year carry mystery and fascination. During these days we already refer to the "old year", yet they are actually the remaining days of the year behind us. The old year resembles the peak of a mountain from which can be viewed all the preceding days. If they were good, we can relish in them and, with a sigh of relief, enter the future. If they were not, we might, with heavy hearts, complain and regret that so many days were empty, or that we didn't extend forgiveness to others. The old year is the last chance for us to do good so that we can bring blessings into our future. Therefore, we must use these final days to examine our consciences, forgive one another, and reconcile ourselves with our God who is the only one who can make our new year truly "new". New Year's Day is, in the true sense, a day of thanksgiving and preparation — thanksgiving to the One from whom all good comes to us, and preparation in collaboration with the only One who can give us another day...a future...eternity! May your entrance into the new year be happy and blessed!



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!!!

NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE December 31 (New Year's Eve) , Mass of Thanksgiving at 6 p.m.; New Year's Day masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

BLESSING OF HOMES will begin in the new year. If you would like one of our priests to come to bless your home, please call the rectory and make an appointment.



HELP FOR THE CUVALO FAMILY We sincerely thank everyone for the donations made to help the Cuvalo family in Croatia. In the rear of the church you can find a list of donors to this needy cause.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"Will you bring Christ into the world?"

BAPTISM  **BAPTIZED AT ST. JEROME CROATIAN CHURCH IN 2003**


Marija Ana Kraljevic - January 1
 Victoria Lisnic - January 19
 Iva Galic - January 26
 Stefen James Ruiz - February 2
 Joseph Gary Segó - February 2
 Ariana Pascente - February 2
 Kristijan Alojzije Kosic - Feb. 16
 Emilijan Leopold Kosic - Feb. 16
 Nicholas Michael Kish - February 16
 Mirko Bruce Miodic - February 23
 Emma Rebecca Monroy - March 2
 Nicholas Angel Pintar - March 23
 Jonathan Alvarez - March 29
 Damian Dalic - March 30
 Lucas Benjamin Utterback - April 6
 Antonia Katherine Dusevic - April 27
 Darko Grgic - May 4
 Luka Sonntag - May 24
 Lucas Leo Mizera - June 1
 Maja Toni Ljevar - June 29
 Sophia Margaret Grassano - July 6
 Luka Anthony DiFilippo - July 27
 Ivo Maro Pasa - August 10
 Carlie Catrina Ceska - August 10
 Frank Michael Galvan - September 7
 Matthew Joseph Peso - September 21
 Isabella Maria Gutierrez - Sep. 28
 Daniela Ivana Susnjara - Sep. 28
 Jamie Marie Suppa - October 19
 Tomislav Jerkovic - October 19
 Aeden Joseph Domingo - October 19
 Tomas Roberto Herrera - October 26
 Emma Rafaela Garcia - November 2
 Lidija Catherine Fletcher - Nov. 16
 Dominick Joseph LoCoco - Nov. 30

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

 **Banns of Matrimony** **MARRIED AT ST. JEROME 2003**

Susan M. Brkic & Mark N. Han-
 son - February 15
 Carmellina Carollo & Christo-
 pher Zvonko Grlica - February
 15 Lidija Tomic & Gilberto
 Gutierrez - March 1
 Mara Pervan & Kresimir Passero
 - March 1
 Davorka Novak & Jurica Toro-
 manovic - May 31
 Cherie L. Rogosich & Patrick M.
 Vari - May 31
 Julie A. Grzetich & Thomas P.
 O'Conner - June 7
 Jennifer L. Krstulovich & Rich-
 ard G. Schallmo - June 21
 Helen Grdic & Josip Jumic - July
 26
 Cara Sanders & Tomislav Mise-
 tic - August 2
 Nicolette Pulciani & Frank V.
 Santoro - August 10
 Marija Garic & Branimir Mamic
 - September 1
 Yvette Lucente & Stephen
 Walski - September 6
 Dorica J. Miodic & Jeffrey J.
 Eriks - September 27
 Kimberly Krstulovich & Vincent
 Fortunato - October 3
 Jeannie Hobar & David Magura -
 October 4
 Ankica Sivric & Mario Pehar -
 October 25 Mary Cuvalo & Ste-
 ven Tokic - November 15

**MAY GOD BLESS AND
 KEEP YOU IN HIS LOVE**

 **From Death to New Life** **BURIED AT ST. JEROME IN 2003**

Viktor Public (62)	January 10
Grgo Nikolic (69)	January 10
Lorenza Dalio (70)	January 19
Rosalio Ban (72)	Febr. 26
Ann DeGregorio (79)	March 9
James Worth, Jr. (67)	March 22
Michael Iozzo (41)	March 29
Slavica Blazevic (56)	April 8
fra Marko Kozina (70)	April 21
Ana Jakovac (88)	April 27
Mildred Trovato (97)	May 5
Josephine Roti (82)	May 20
Mile Rak (88)	May 28
Felicita Molina (75)	June 16
Daniel Sabbia, Sr. (88)	June 26
Nediljka Lisnic (51)	June 28
Zvonko Banic (77)	June 29
Anna May Valeo (69)	July 12
Vito Doria (84)	July 16
Mate Bajic (77)	July 18
Ronald DiFini (69)	July 25
Frank Iozzo (62)	August 8
Stipe Susnjara (66)	August 14
Elizabeth Moroko (45)	Sep. 26
John Sablich (80)	Sep. 30
George Mikicich (70)	October 2
Steven Brajkovic (30)	October 7
Rudolph Cabo (87)	October 10
Mary Bertucci (79)	October 11
Mary R. O'Shea (76)	October 14
Michael Pavletic (75)	October 21
Katica Hobar (78)	Nov. 18
John Kokan (66)	Nov. 21
Stana Delich (90)	Nov. 30
Ivan Batinic (61)	Dec. 19

**MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN
 PEACE**



WISDOM'S CORNER "APPLES"

A poor elderly lady whose little fruit stand was near the house of Rabbi Chaim came to him in sadness and said, "My Rabbi, I have no money to buy what I need for the Sabbath." "What about your apples?" asked the rabbi. The old woman replied, "People think that my apples aren't any good and won't buy them." The rabbi immediately went out into the street and called out, "Who wants to buy these good apples?" In an instant many people gathered around him. They opened their wallets and paid him without even considering the price. Soon all of the apples were sold at two and even three times the regular price. As he was leaving, the rabbi said to the old woman, "See, your apples were good. The people just didn't know it."