

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday - Ponedjeljak, December 15, 2003**

7:30 A.M. Zvonko Banić Stipe Tokić
Mary & Rocco Iacullo M/M Anthony Sabbia
Peter Frankovich brother Tony, sister Dorothy

Tuesday - Utorak, December 16, 2003

7:30 A.M. Josip Petrović Ana Braskić
La Verone & Margarita Vulich Mary Hrvol
Za zatvorenike Obitelj Bešlić
Nick Botica John & Gen Botica

Wednesday - Srijeda, December 17, 2003

7:30 A.M. Nick Botica Vi Botica
Marko & Elsie Čerina daughter Vera
Dom Marino family

Thursday - Četvrtak, December 18, 2003

7:30 A.M. Theresa Hill Marion
Za duše u čistilištu Obitelj Bešlić

Friday - Petak, December 19, 2003

7:30 A.M. Jerina Lišnić Obitelj Bešlić
Natale Ruggiero family
Frances Fratto family
Elizabeth Lamb Gerard Fratto

Saturday - Subota, December 20, 2003

7:30 A.M. Zvonko Banić Bože Guvo
Steven Gusich Novicki family
dec. mem. of Vladovich & Sutura families
Sutura family

5:30 P.M. Frank Fratto daughter Mary
Ross Cannatello family
Millie Trovato family
Nancy Caruso Debbie Kodzoman
Joseph Zekich wife & children

Sunday - Nedjelja, December 21, 2003

7:30 A.M. Linda Humbert husband Robert
dec. mem. of Botica family Vi Botica

9:30 A.M. Budich / Siani families Kay Siani
Carmen, Carmella & Tommy LaPapa daughter
Caponigro Family Carmella

11:00 A.M. u spomen

Drago Lončar Šime Hrvojević i ob.
Stipe Šušnjara Neda Dragušica i ob.
Agnez Ratković Peter Komar i ob.
Mile Rak obitelj
Frane Brajković Ob. Neve Zelić
Stjepan, Franjo, Katarina Žignić Obitelj Žignić
Josipa Lovrinović Obitelj Lovrinović

Lectors

Saturday, December 20, 5:30 P.M. Dolores Crane

Sunday, December 21, 7:30 A.M. Matt Pesce

Sunday, December 21, 9:30 A.M. Domingo Rodriguez

Nedjelja, 21. prosinca 11:00 A.M. Perica Dušević i Danny Hrvojević

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Saturday, December 20, 5:30 P.M. Babich, Guzman, Segvich

Sunday, December 21, 9:30 A.M. Atteo, Marlene O., Maria O.

Nedjelja, 21. prosinca, 11:00 A.M. A. Mlinarić, J. Kosir, A. Bušljeta, D. Obranović

Apts. for Rent:

Vicinity 29th & Shields, 5 rooms, 1 ½ bedrooms.
\$700 per month. Interested, call 773 523 – 4494 to
make appt. after December 15.

2 bdrm apt., 3411 S. Union. Call 708 636 – 8159.



WEEKLY MEDITATION

ON GIVING You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give. For what are your possessions but things you keep and guard for fear that you may need them tomorrow. And tomorrow? What shall tomorrow bring to the over prudent dog burying bones in the trackless sand as he follows the pilgrims to the holy city? And what is fear of need but need itself? Is not dread of thirst when your well is full, the thirst that is unquenchable? There are those who give little of the much that they have, and if they give it for recognition, then their hidden desire makes their gifts unwholesome. Yet, there are those who have little and give it all. There are the believers in life and the bounty of life, and their coffers are never empty.

There are those who give with joy and that joy is their reward. There are those who give with pain and that pain is their baptism. There are those who give and know not pain in giving, nor do they seek joy, nor give with mindfulness of virtue. Through the hands of such as these God speaks, and from behind their eyes He smiles upon the earth. It is well to give when asked, but it is better to give unasked, through understanding. To the open-handed, the search for one who shall receive is joy greater than giving. All you have shall some day be taken; therefore, give now that the season of giving may be yours and not your inheritors. **Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet***



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA sponsored by H.S.A. will be held today, Sunday, from 8a.m.-Noon. Come join us for some Christmas cheer!

ART EXHIBIT Today is the last day to view the paintings of Croatian-American artist Ivan Mikan, which are on display in the second floor small hall. All are welcome to visit this exhibit.

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. They offer Christmas music all day every day.

CHRISTMAS MAILING Dear Parishioners, during the past few days we mailed our parish Christmas letter to you. We hope you received it. If you have changed your address please let us know.

In Appreciation **ST. JEROME LION'S ROAR SUCCESS STORY** On November 8th, 2003, St. Jerome School began a new tradition - an annual school auction benefit - and what a success it was! The evening included an elegant sit-down dinner, live dinner music performed by our 6th grade student, Marissa Ruiz, and DJ entertainment throughout the evening. Over 200 people attended and enjoyed this fun-filled event. The live auction "MC'd" by Brian Luce was exciting and very well received. Brian had everyone bidding and "roaring"! The silent auction included 98 fabulous items and at times the bidding was highly competitive. The grand profits from this benefit tallied just over \$22,000! All proceeds go directly to St. Jerome School. We applaud the dedication and hard work of husband and wife team, Deb and Ken Rudman, as well as their committee. Without them this benefit would not have taken place. We would also like to graciously thank all who donated prizes, gave of their time, bought ads or raffle tickets, and attended. You are the reason this benefit was a huge success. See you next year!

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. We are sincerely grateful for all you have given throughout this year and for all you do for your parish community. May God bless and protect you. Thank you!

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 We are grateful to the family of the late George Mikicich for the most generous gift to our church of \$5000.00. George was a parishioner of St. Jerome all of his life and a member of our Holy Name Society. We thank God for the kindness and generosity he expressed during his life, and for remembering the parish after his death.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: A story of stewardship

*Scripture abounds with references of Christian stewardship, but the popular holiday classic, Charles Dickens' **A Christmas Carol**, also offers a homily appropriate stewardship Advent.*

*"Scrooge is not a good steward. He hoards what he has been given (time, talent and treasure), and he buries his gifts deep within himself. He cannot give or share, and the result is a twisted, self-absorbed misery. Along with his gifts and talents, Scrooge accumulated and hides all the hurts, resentments and disappointments of a lonely lifetime. In the end, nothing makes him happy. Nothing gives him peace. There is only one thing that can save this miserable old man from the hell he has made for himself. Giving, open, generous, unrestricted giving is the only cure for the likes of Ebenezer Scrooge. As long as he holds back asking: "What's in it for me? Scrooge is condemned to live the life that he has fashioned for himself through many years of self-centeredness... Fortunately, Mr. Dickens believed in a God who is generous and forgiving. Old Scrooge is given, one last chance to experience life as it was truly meant to be lived. In a **Christmas Carol**, Dickens wants each of us to discover what Old Scrooge had to learn the hard way: The only way to hold onto something is to give it away. This is the paradox of giving: the one who gives a gift (from substance and without counting the cost) is the one who is most grateful. Besides being a donor, the generous person is also a beneficiary." The above was taken from The Good Steward by Dan Conway.*

WISDOM'S CORNER An old Cherokee is telling his grandson about a fight that is going on inside himself. He says it is between two wolves. One is evil: anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other is good: joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith. The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his godfather, "Which wolf wins?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one I feed."

RECOMMENDED READING This week we recommend the book [The Return of the Prodigal Son, A Story of Homecoming](#), written by Fr. Henri Nouwen, one of the most well known spiritual writers. Inspired by the famous Rembrandt painting, this author has written a beautiful story of life that is both practical in instruction and uplifting in content. This book can be obtained on Amazon.com for only \$11.20 (160 pages).

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"The ruin of a nation begins in the homes of its families."

CARDINAL STEPINAC CROATIAN SCHOOL will present its Christmas program next Saturday, December 20, in the school hall. The doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and the program will begin at 6:30. Dinner will be served after the program. The group "Becari" will perform to complete the celebration with music and dancing. Tickets (\$25) can be obtained from the members of the School Board or at the rectory.



ST. JEROME SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM Our school children will present a beautiful Christmas program on **Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m.** in the church. We ask all our parishioners to join our students in celebrating the message of Christmas to the world

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 on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 1:30 p.m. We invite everyone to attend this wonderful event.

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. You can find out more about this sacrament on our web site: www.stjeromecroatian.org

SECOND COLLECTION will be taken this weekend for the ill and disabled members of the various religious orders of men and women. In our country today there are thousands of priests, brothers, and sisters who are infirm. Each year the American bishops appeal to the faithful for help with their needs. We thank you for your generous help and concern for our elderly religious!