

WEEKLY MEDITATION

As we go on in life we become increasingly aware of how fleeting life is and how precarious is our hold over it. In spite of ourselves we become familiar with the thought of death, but this need not be a negative or morbid thing. In fact, it can be a very positive thing. Thinking about death can result in a true love of life. The thing that best helps us to confront the reality of death is our Christian faith. When we are familiar with death, we accept each day as a gift, and when we accept life bit by bit like this, it becomes very precious. Death is not the enemy who puts an end to everything, but the friend who takes us by the hand and leads us into the Kingdom of eternal love.

NOVEMBER, Month of All Saints and All Souls

OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED We welcome into our faith community the following new members:



Cada Rose Stegmiller, daughter of David and Carrie n. Grill Stegmiller, whose godparents are Robert Pantera and Kim Lazo;

Marco Mate Signoretto, son of Ronald and Jadranka n. Karacic Signoretto, whose godparents are Marko Karacic and Maria Rukavina;

Joseph Philip Russo, son of Joseph and Michele n. Mancari Russo, whose godparents are Peter Russo and Tina Dulaney; and

Adrian Jake Zavala, son of Jesus and Helena n. Obradovic Zavala, whose godparents are Sergio Zavala and Daniela Sumera. Congratulations to all and God bless our newest little Catholics.

YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

“The Eucharist is the ‘source and summit of the Christian life.’ The other sacraments and all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate are bound up with the Eucharist and oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ Himself. The Eucharist is the efficacious sign and sublime cause of that communion in the divine life, and that unity of the People of God by which the Church is kept in being. It is the culmination both of God’s action sanctifying the world in Christ and of the worship men offer to Christ and through Him to the Father in the Holy Spirit. Finally, by the Eucharistic celebration we already unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy and anticipate eternal life, when God will be all in all. The Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith.”

ST. JEROME SCHOOL PARENT WORKSHOP on keeping your child motivated in school will be held on Monday, November 15, at 7 p.m. in the school hall. Dr. Meg Carroll, professor at St. Xavier University School of Education, is the presenter. Light refreshments will be served. Please join us.

WISDOM’S CORNER Nothing to live for?

An old and infirm man was living in a shack on the edge of the forest. One morning he got up to find only one meal of porridge left, the fireplace empty, and snow on the ground. He felt like asking God to take him to heaven then and there; however, he managed to summon a little spirit and went into the forest to collect firewood. He collected a large bundle of sticks, but when he tried to lift it onto his shoulders, he found that he couldn’t even move it. With that, a wave of depression swept over him. He looked up to heaven and said, “Lord, take me now. I’ve nothing to live for.” In an instant a young man appeared at his side and introduced himself as the Angel of Death saying, “You sent for me. What can I do for you? Quick as a flash the old man replied, “Son, would you please give me a hand with this bundle of sticks?”

ADVENT SPIRITUAL EVENT

Advent is a time of gentleness and preparation for Christmas. This year our parish will have an excellent opportunity to ready ourselves for Christmas when TATIANA, whom many already know well, visits us to present an extraordinary evening of original compositions and traditional music wrapped around a moving and highly personal portrayal of the story of Christmas, the true meaning of the season. She has already given nearly 300 concerts in America featuring spiritual music, and filled many halls and churches. Please reserve Thursday, December 16 on your calendar. On that evening in our church we will have the opportunity to enjoy a Christmas program with Tatiana and relive Christmas in a most beautiful way. Plan to join us. Further information will be forthcoming.

MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE During this month we especially remember our deceased. Please think of them in your prayers and at mass, when you are alone in your car, when you reflect on eternity, when you contemplate the fragility and brevity of life, when you are looking for direction at a crossroads in your life, and when you recollect beautiful experiences.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Attention St. Jerome Children and Families!

Before we know it, Christmas, the birth of Jesus, will be upon us. On Christmas Eve it is our parish tradition to have a "live Nativity" at a mass that is beautiful and full of life! The Children's Choir will also sing for this special mass. So, please, don't put away your Halloween costumes yet, because we will need shepherds, angels, cows, sheep, kings, 1 star of Bethlehem, and, of course, Joseph and Mary. Everyone can be involved. More information will follow. Anyone wishing to assist in planning this event, should please contact Eva Mossman @ 312.842.5485 or Laura Perseghin @ 773.254.0010. As always, your help and participation is greatly appreciated.

INVITATION The Croatian Woman organization invites you to a gala celebration of the 75th anniversary of the humanitarian and charitable work

75th

of its society, which has helped the needy here and in Croatia. This special event will take place in St. Jerome hall on Saturday, November 27, at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased from organization members. For further information contact Ruza Sumera 708 352 3354, Iva Jakelja 708 839 1950, Nevenka Jurkovic 773 525 8571."

PARKING LOT PROGRESS is being made. The city of Chicago is installing a new sidewalk and parking lot entrance on 28th Street, and the final phase of work on the lot—preparation for the installation of the fence and electricity, etc.—has begun. We hope that this work will be completed within the next 2 weeks.

ATTENTION PLEASE! We are asking everyone, especially parents and children, to be careful not to leave "garbage" in church. After our gatherings there is often gum, paper, and other items for the trash bin left behind on the floor and in the pews. Please take care to see that our sacred space is kept clean and neat. Thank you for your help.

St. Jerome Property Fund

Mortgage Debt: \$400,000
Donated to Date: \$ 65,140
Monthly Mortgage Payment: \$ 11,900

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

COMMUNITY DAY SALE On Saturday, November 20, 2004, **Carson Pirie Scott** will host a Community Day sale. This year St. Jerome is participating. We will be selling a coupon book for \$5 that entitles you to a \$5 discount on one item valued at \$5 or more, and 6 coupons each worth 20% off any one item. The item can be a regular, sale, or clearance priced item. There are also 2 coupons for bonus items. The stores will open at 6 a.m. and the coupon booklet is good at Carson's, Boston's, Bergner's, Herberger's or Younkers stores. So if you know someone who lives near these other stores, you can send them booklets, too. St. Jerome gets 100% of the purchase price, so every booklet we sell gives \$5 to St. Jerome School! This is a great opportunity to start holiday shopping, save some money, and support St. Jerome all at the same time. If you would like to purchase booklets, please call Jan Ferro at 312-225-9751. Coupon books will also be available after all the Masses On November 13 and 14.



P A R I S H COUNCIL MEETING will be held on Tuesday, November 16, at 7 p.m. We ask all members to be sure to attend this important session.

ART EXHIBIT

The young artist, **Ivan Mikan**, will exhibit his paintings today, November 7, in the second floor small hall. All are welcome to view his fine works (AFTER ALL MASSES), which are available for purchase.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK
"Sometimes the more courageous act is not to die but to live."