

Mass Intentions

11/30	9:00 am	Leopold Steiner (Tom & Lorraine Larkin)
VIGIL FOR SUNDAY		
	4:00 pm	Dominick Stramandinoli (family)
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
12/01	8:00 am	Paul Kennedy (Eileen & Brian)
	9:15 am	Francis McLean (Frank & Pat Hauptman)
	11:00 am	Vincenzo Iannone, Jr. (family)
	6:00 pm	Anne & Paul Kuczo
12/02	9:00 am	For the parish
12/03	9:00 am	Rosemarie Lepore
12/04	9:00 am	Deceased mothers & fathers
12/05	9:00 am	Joseph Corica
12/06	9:00 am	Warren Barton
12/07	9:00 am	Barbara Blanchfield
VIGIL FOR SUNDAY		
	4:00 pm	Anna Matusiewicz (1st. Anniv.) (Soja family)
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
12/08	8:00 am	Robert & Dorothy Callahan (Blair family)
	9:15 am	Tony Casabulo (family)
	11:00 am	Pat DiMeglio (Frances Belestriere)
	6:00 pm	John Dillane (Beth Olson)

On the first Wednesday of each month, immediately following the 9:00 AM Mass, there will be an anointing of the sick in the sanctuary. Anyone with an ongoing medical condition or who is seriously ill, anticipating a medical procedure or operation, is welcome to come

MISSION STATEMENT

We the people of St. Jerome Parish, a Roman Catholic community, proclaim our belief in the message and mission of Jesus Christ. As disciples of Jesus we are called to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to work for its values in the local community and beyond. We are committed to: worship, religious education, shared faith and service. We welcome all people with respect, acceptance and support

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers for next weekend, December 7&8, are in memory of Peter and Hortense Gioiella. If you would like to memorialize a family member or friend by donating altar flowers, the donation is \$50. Please call ahead at least two months to secure your date.

REACH

Today, Sunday, December 1

NO CLASS

Next week, December 8th

Grades K-6 meet at 9:15 Mass followed by class

Grades 7&8 large groups meet at 6:00 Mass followed by class

Grades 7&8 Fr. David's group meet at 6:00 Mass followed by class.

*****REACH is now on FACEBOOK (REACH st.Jerome)...Like us! And TWITTER (@REACHstJerome) !! Follow us!**

If you are a REACH volunteer....

All volunteers must take a one time class that is mandated by the Diocese. This class is offered at various parishes around the Diocese. A full list and class registration can be found at <https://www.virtus.org> under the 'registration' tab. You must pre-register on-line. Upcoming classes in our area are Our Lady of Fatima (Wilton) 12/4 Wednesday 6:30PM.

Tuition (REACH and TOTAL)

Invoices for outstanding balances for REACH and TOTAL have been mailed. Payments are currently being accepted. Please make sure your account is up to date. Any concerns or payment arrangements should be directed to Kathy Coyne for REACH or Daniela O'Callaghan for TOTAL.

Christmas Pageant—Angels & Shepherds—Save the dates.

The Christmas Pageant takes place at the 6:00PM Mass on Christmas Eve. All children age 5 and up are invited to be angels and shepherds. Rehearsals will be held on the two Sunday's prior:

- 1. Sunday, Dec. 15th at 11:30 in the Hall (just after REACH).**
- 2. Our Only Full Rehearsal will be Sunday, December 22nd at 11:45 AM beginning in the Hall (**Note—there is NO REACH this day).**

FAMILY ADVENT WREATH MAKING, CHURCH HALL, THIS SUNDAY.

On this first Sunday of Advent, families with children are invited to the church hall after the 9:15 Mass to make family Advent wreaths. Children will learn about this Advent tradition and then take home the wreaths, for free. Children of all ages are invited.

TOTAL: There is NO TOTAL tonight. TOTAL will meet again on December 8th. On Saturday, Nov. 16, 24 TOTAL teens participated in a program called NIGHT IN A BOX. Photos from the event are on the bulletin board. The TOTAL teens (and their friends) who participated are: **Christina Ronzitti, Lucie Sullivan, Miles Cooper, Amanda Doyle, James Muldowney, Sam Troetti, Adam Beran, Alli Pitasi, Erin Vallerie, Allison Hall, Johnny Bloise, Michael Pascarelli, Denise Mejia, Juliane Alfen, Amie Newsom, Kate Pace, Lauren Capone, Cara Trimboli, Riley Williams, Lilly Stumpf, Kevin Pisacrita, Kyle Pisacrita, Nate Cutting and Emma Turchick.**

We will be collecting cash donations for the Open Door Shelter a after all the masses through November.

ST. JEROME LADIES GUILD will meet at the rectory on Dec. 11th at 12:30PM to decorate the Christmas tree. All are asked to bring a lunch type dish to share and a wrapped grab bag gift.

GIVING TREE—If you would like to share your Christmas spirit with a child, please choose a gift tag hanging on the Giving Tree in the church sanctuary.

Be sure to pick up a GUIDELINE SHEET in the basket by the tree, explaining the details of the program.

Gifts purchased will be given to Norwalk children through Person 2 Person's program and to Julie's Kids from Guatemala. Gifts must be returned UNWRAPPED and TAGS attached. The tags identify the family # and/or Julie's Kids #, for sorting purposes.

ALL GIFTS MUST BE RETURNED AND PLACED BY THE TREE BY NOON, DECEMBER 14TH.

Please include wrapping paper and gifts receipts for gifts for Norwalk children. No wrapping paper is necessary for Julie's Kids gifts.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO SORT THE GIFTS at church at NOON on Sat., Dec. 14, and also to deliver gifts to the NEON Community Room on Mon., Dec. 16 between 9a.m. and 5p.m. A sign-up sheet is on the Social Concerns board in the hallway.

R.C.I.A. - Our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Program will begin on Wed., Jan. 8 and meet weekly until Easter. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, please contact Stephan Grozinger at 203-227-7813 or sbgrozinger@gmail.com. We are expanding the program to invite those who may be curious about Catholicism but are not yet ready to commit to being baptized at Easter, and lapsed Catholics who wish to engage with the issues that caused them to leave and renew their faith. The program will include Scripture passages, the Mass, prayer, and faith life in general.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

As I mentioned last week, I am writing this on Wednesday, November 13 but you will be reading it on Dec. 1, the First Sunday of Advent. Today we will be having an advent wreath workshop for families after the 9:15am Mass. Please come down to make a wreath. Also, make sure you take home one of the booklets to assist you in making Advent a time of spiritual preparation for the Coming of Christ in your heart this Christmas.

Advent is always a highlight of the liturgical year. It both begins the liturgical year and at the same time, immerses us in hope. I love the definition of Faith. In the book of Hebrews, chapter 11. There it is described as "the realization of things hoped for and evidence of things not seen." Every Advent we pay attention of our deepest hopes and desires: that the kingdom of God take root in our lives and come to fulfillment. You will hear me say time how important it is to watch for those fleeting moments when life comes together (The process of presents appearing and disappearing under the Advent Giving Tree for example. Those moments are evidence of things unseen, namely the Kingdom in its' fullness, where the world will live as God would have us do.

We have several booklets that will help you pay attention to the inner workings of the Spirit at this time of year. Advent races by, but if you use these tools maybe time will slow down for you. One is the work of the Irish Jesuits and gives you a method of praying each day. Take just ten minutes to slow down and look at your life deeply. It may help overcome the busyness of these four weeks. Also, remember that Joe O'Callaghan, Jr. is leading a contemplative prayer group on both Wednesday evening at 7PM and again on Friday Mornings at 7am. It is just a half hour long but will calm and center you.

We will also be having an evening of Lessons and Carols followed by wine and cheese on Friday night December 13th. Please take advantage of the rich Advent life in the parish.

VOLUNTEER CORNER—WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS CHRISTMAS EVE TO DIRECT PEOPLE IN THE PARKING LOT AND TO GREET PEOPLE AT THE DOOR AND HELP THEM TO BE SEATED IN THE CHURCH. PLEASE SEE FR. DAVID.

Readings for the Week of December 1, 2013

Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
 Monday: Is 4:2-6/Mt 8:5-11
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
 Friday: Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8
 Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12