



12/18	9:00 am	Joanne Galletti (Steve & Tracey Bonafide)
	5:00 pm	Anthony DeSantis (The family)
12/19	8:00 am	Timothy Cotter (1 <sup>st</sup> . Anniv.) (Parents)
	9:15 am	Vincenzo Iannone, Jr. (The family)
	11:00 am	Mary Vaughan (The family)
	6:00 pm	Farrington & Sullivan families
12/20	9:00 am	Frances Pilaro, Frank, Giuseppa & Bartolmeo Tesoriere (Margaret Tesoriere)
12/21	9:00 am	Deceased mothers & fathers
12/22	9:00 am	Ruth Parrillo (Ann & Wally Regan)
12/23	9:00 am	William Ely (Wife, Lucy)
<b>Christmas Eve</b>		
12/24	9:00 am	Angela Ferrone
	4:00 pm	for the parish
	6:00 pm	for the parish
	10:30 pm	for the parish
<b>Christmas Day</b>		
12/25	8:00 am	Joseph Sulla, Jr. & Rose & Anthony Lepore (Sue Sulla)
	11:00 am	Giacomo, Vincenza Sciarretta & John & Maddalena Albano (Lucy Albano)
	12:30 pm	Giuseppe Giglio (Wife)
12/26	8:00 am	Anthony Lepore (40 <sup>th</sup> . Anniv.) (Daughter, Rosemarie)
	9:15 am	William Ely (Wife, Lucy)
	11:00 am	Eleanor & Richard Dominici (Husband & father)
	6:00 pm	Joseph Dwyer (The family)

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.



## ADVENT WREATH PRAYER

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** Lord, Jesus, come. Aid us with your powerful assistance so that, through your merciful forgiveness, we may attain salvation, which is now hindered by our sins. You who lives now and forever. AMEN.



## THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR LAST YEAR AND THIS WAS:

December 14, 2003	\$7754.00
December 12, 2004	\$9308.00

Thank you for your continued support of our parish.

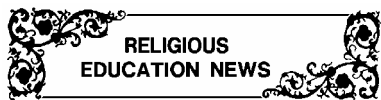


## ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers that will adorn our lovely altar this weekend are donated by Anne Marie & Edward Cotter in memory of their son, Timothy.

If you would like to memorialize a family member or friend by donating flowers for our altar, you may do so by giving a donation of \$50.00. The name of your loved one will be announced in the bulletin. There will be one donor per weekend. If you are interested, please contact Pat at the parish office at 847-5349 at least two weeks prior to the date you choose.

**ON BEHALF OF FR. JOE, FR. MIKE, DEACON DEAN FINCH, MYSELF AND THE ENTIRE PARISH STAFF WE WISH YOU A CHRISTMAS IN WHICH YOU EXPERIENCE THE PRESENCE OF JESUS IN YOUR HEART AND THE WORLD AROUND YOU. SEE YOU IN CHURCH.**

**REACH**

**Grades 1-6** meet this morning. There are NO classes this evening.

**Grades K-8** will not meet again until January, 2005. Our prayers and best wishes for a Blessed, Peaceful Christmas and New Year!

***BOTH THE REACH OFFICE AND THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> UNTIL JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>. IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT THE REACH OFFICE, PLEASE CALL 846-2111 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE. KATHY WILL BE CHECKING THE MACHINE. IF YOU NEED A PRIEST, YOU MAY CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AT 847-5349.***

Keep your eyes open for the 2005 Volunteer Schedule to arrive either by post or email (if we have your email address). If we don't have an email address for you, please email us at [reachstjerome@sbcglobal.net](mailto:reachstjerome@sbcglobal.net). One of our resolutions for the New Year is to transmit as much information as possible via the Internet. Thanks for your cooperation.

Rehearsal for the Children's Pageant that takes place at the 6:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve will be today. All who wish to take part please gather in the hall at the end of class – 11:45 am.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The next local training session for all volunteers will be at St. Thomas, East Norwalk on January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Please register online. The site is [Virtus.org](http://Virtus.org) and the password is "trust". If you have any difficulty or questions, please call the REACH office.

**TOTAL:** Our Sunday evening TOTAL programs are over until after the Emmaus weekend in January. A new calendar will be sent to all high school families after the New Year. Remember, we **always** have our 6PM Mass every week, even if there is no TOTAL program to follow.

**EMMAUS:** Remember the Emmaus story in the Scriptures? Jesus was walking along the road with two of his friends, listening, sharing stories and concerns, breaking bread together, new and deeper insights? All of these are just a part of what happens on our annual Emmaus retreat for junior and seniors, which is being held from Jan 7-9, 2005, a perfect beginning for a New Year. There are a few spaces left. Applications are on the table in the Kevin Eidt Youth Room at 11:30 am. Also, a meeting for parents of those people who have already signed up will be held on **Sunday, January 2 after the 6PM Mass (at 7PM) in the Youth Room, to answer any questions and give you complete**

**details of the weekend.** Questions about any TOTAL or Emmaus events-please call Judi at 847-3635 or email at [juditotal@aol.com](mailto:juditotal@aol.com). Thank you.

**QUILT RAFFLE UPDATE** – The winning quilt raffle ticket was sold to a parishioner of Our Lady of Fatima Church on Jan. 21. The total number of tickets sold was 1320, with one-third of that total bought at St. Jerome. Thanks to everyone who participated. CCA received \$2,300 to support its various charitable works.

**BROADWAY** – Give yourself a marvelous Christmas present-a ticket to the new musical "Little Women", starring Sutton Foster and Maureen McGovern. Lunch will be at the Waldorf Astoria. **Date: Wed., March 9.** The cost is \$172.00 and includes transportation, lunch and ticket. Payment not due until mid January. For reservations, call Jeanne Tarrant at 847-9480.

**RANDOM THOUGHTS**

I am sure you noticed the extraordinary number of gifts that were under the "giving tree" last weekend. The tree is now barren because that abundance is packed up and on its way to children either in Norwalk or Guatemala. The presence of a large number of gifts followed by their disappearance tells a story of our priorities during this Advent season. The huge number of gifts under the tree is a sign of God's grace working in the hearts of all those who felt called to give. The disappearance of those gifts is somehow tied in to the expectation that goes to the heart of Advent. In this liturgical time we remember that once upon a time the Israelites waited expectantly for the coming for the messiah. Hopefully, this Christmas, the children who will receive our gifts will also be waiting expectantly, and will understand that the human heart is basically good, and at the center of it is a God who loves them.

I am grateful to Bob DeSimeone, Dan Loch, Fred Bonilla, Bob Olson Pat Hauptman and the rest of the committee working on the parish photo directory. This is an important project that should help us grow as a community of Faith. Remember when we gather to receive the Eucharist, we gather as the Body of Christ to receive Him so that we might become more of what we already are. When you look at the pictures in the directory, you are gazing upon this part of the Body of Christ.

If you cannot make one of the photo sessions, please send us a digital photo on either a diskette or CD containing as many members of your family as you can. There is no charge for sending us a picture. The directory will be free, but if people wish to they may give a donation. Last time we had 200 pictures. This time our goal is the whole parish.

Remember the Sunday after Christmas is a regular Sunday. We will celebrate Mass at the usual times, including 6PM. (providing I still have the strength to strength to stand!).