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|-------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12/22 | 9:00 am | Patrick Mattera (2 nd Anniv.) (Mother & father) |
| | 4:00 pm | Anthony DeSantis (The family) |
| 12/23 | 8:00 am | Joseph Sulla & Anthony & Rose Lepore (Sue Sulla) |
| | 9:15 am | Christopher J. Groener (Helen & Chris Eidt) |
| | 11:00 am | Giuseppe Giglio (Wife & family) |
| | 6:00 pm | Mary Armishaw (Bob & Judi Dennehy) |

CHRISTMAS EVE

| | | |
|-------|----------|-----------------------------------------|
| 12/24 | 9:00 am | Alice Aiello (Friends of St. Jerome) |
| | 4:00 pm | Angela Ferrone |
| | 6:00 pm | Chris Groener (1 st Anniv.) |
| | 10:30 pm | Wally Regan (The family) |

CHRISTMAS DAY

| | | |
|-------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12/25 | 8:00 am | William Ainsworth (The family) |
| | 11:00 am | Robert Pelletier (The family) |
| | 12:30 pm | Karl Schaefer (Wife & family) |
| 12/26 | 9:00 am | Mary Metzger (James Gorridon & family) |
| 12/27 | 9:00 am | Grossarth & Maxwell families (M/M Roman) |
| 12/28 | 9:00 am | Mary Bagnato (2 nd Anniv.) Barbara & Ed Bagnato) |
| 12/29 | 9:00 am | Germaine Panastasia (Donna King) |
| | 4:00 pm | Angelo Palermo (The family) |
| 12/30 | 8:00 am | Anthony & Rose Lepore (Daughter, Rosemarie) |
| | 9:15 am | For the parish |
| | 11:00 am | Stephen Chocas (The family) |
| | 6:00 pm | Mary Alice Armishaw (Madeleine & Nanette) |

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.

Blessed may you be, O Lord,
God of Israel our father,
From eternity to eternity.

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 this weekend are in memory of Patrick Mattera, given by his parents, Angelo and Angie.

If you would like to honor a family member or friend in a special way, an arrangement of flowers is a lovely gesture. The offering is \$50. Your intention will be announced in our bulletin one week prior to the date you choose and also on the scheduled date. There is one donor per weekend. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact Pat at the parish office at 847-5349.

**TOTAL:**

To our juniors and seniors: if you are planning on attending the Emmaus Retreat, please let me know. To our college freshmen who were not able to attend the Retreat last year, you are also welcome to participate. Many of our college alumni, as well as some of our TOTAL teens, along with Jess Bruno our Rector, and the Emmaus team, have been working hard on this year's Emmaus weekend. It would be a shame if you do not come. Call me, if you plan to attend.

Due to a conflict with the holiday dances we have revised our Emmaus Retreat schedule. We will meet on Saturday morning, January 5th instead of Friday night, January 4th. It is our hope that this will allow some of our teens to attend the Emmaus weekend.

When we come back to TOTAL, we will be planning for THE FOURTEEN STEPS. There are many jobs in preparing for this wonderful endeavor so please sign up and plan on making this another beautiful prayer service for our parishioners on Good Friday.

I know that the Lord will avenge the poor,
That he will do justice for the needy.

SOCIAL CONCERNS NEWS

We have received a donation of doll clothes to fit American Girl dolls. If you are interested in purchasing items for presents, money will be donated to Christian Community Action in Norwalk. Please contact Sheila Rietano at 846-0413 for details.

MASS OF HEALING AND HOPE

Mass of Healing and Hope sponsored by the St. Philip Prayer Group will be held at St. Philip Church, Fr. Conlon Dr., Norwalk on Thursday, January 3rd, 2008 at 8:00pm, celebrated by Fr. Mark Scalse, Jesuit at Fairfield University.



CONSIDER THE MERCY VOLUNTEER CORPS!

In partnership with the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, lay women and men of the Mercy Volunteer Corps offer direct compassionate service to economically poor or marginalized persons for one or two years at sites in the United States or in Guyana. Volunteers live together in community characterized by spirituality and a simple life style. Volunteers receive a small stipend, housing, medical insurance and an inspiration that last for a lifetime. Some AmeriCorps education awards are possible.

Please visit the MVC website www.mercyvolunteers.org or email: Contact Us @ MercyVolunteers.org, or phone the Sisters of Mercy at 860-594-8619 for more information.



WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER CONNECTICUT

Give your spouse or someone you know (married friends, family, co-workers, neighbors) the gift of love by inviting them to a worldwide marriage Encounter Weekend. Upcoming dates are: January 25-27, 2008 and April 25-27, 2008. For more information about Worldwide Marriage Encounter or to register for an upcoming weekend, please contact Joe and Jane Staszowski at (860) 644-7260 or meweekend@gmail.com or visit www.wvme.org.



DECEMBER OFFERTORY SUMMARY

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------|
| December 2007 Income budget | \$43,000 |
| December 16, 2007 Offertory | 4,856 |
| Faith Direct Offertory | 9,233 |
| Total December 2007 Offertory to date | 30,187 |

As always, thank you for your generous support of our parish.

**We give thanks to you, O God,
we give thanks and call upon your name.
We recount your wonderful deeds.**



REACH

This Week, December 23rd

NO REACH, Merry Christmas

Next K-6 meeting, January 6, 2008

Volunteers are still needed for spring R

REACH Sundays. Please come to the office or call 846-2111 to sign up to help as office assistant, hall monitors or to donate baked goods.

Christmas Pageant

Calling all angels and shepherds...

This year's pageant takes place on Christmas Eve at the 6pm Mass. Any child age 5 and older that wishes to participate should come to the practice today at 10:15 (immediately following 9:15 Mass). We will meet in the hall to line up for a full run through. Any questions, please call Kathy Rohr at 846-2111.

Keep Jesus Warm

The annual 'Keep Jesus Warm' collection was snowed out last weekend. Please hang on to your donations of hats, mittens, socks and underwear until January 6th at 9:15 and 10:30 Mass.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

Fr. Joe and I are still recovering from the celebration of our 25th anniversary of ordination. Despite the weather, it was a perfect day. What made the day so spectacular was the outpouring of love from so many in the parish. Despite the bad weather, the reception hall was filled with well wishers and the food kept coming. It reminded me of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. A particular joy for both of us was that our families got to see our parish family in action. Fr. Joe and I often tell our relatives what a unique and loving parish this is. On that Sunday afternoon our families could see for themselves.

The Mass at 4:30 was attended by priest friends, and at the end, Msgr. Scheyd said wonderful things about Fr. Joe, and I paid Fr. Tom Thorne to give me equal time, (just kidding). After the Mass, the parish put on a dinner for thirty family members, and priests, at the rectory. It was festive and the food was spectacular.

I am also pleased to tell you that the gifts to the parish, in honor of Fr. Joe and me, totaled a little over \$10,000. Some of it will go for a new piano in church, and other liturgical needs. Our deepest thanks to all of you for your care and love.