



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	Stephan Chocas (The family)
	6:00 pm	Mary Alice Armishaw (Madeleine & Nanette)
12/31	9:00 am	for the parish
Vigil	7:00 pm	For deceased mothers & fathers
<u>NEW YEAR 2008</u>		
01/01	9:00 am	Deceased members of the Furey and Gardner families (Mary Furey)
01/02	9:00 am	John Barnes (Andy & Ann Marie Carney)
01/03	9:00 am	Patricia Nolan (Adele Calbick)
01/04	9:00 am	Deceased members of the Buono and Mattera families (Angelo & Angie Mattera)
01/05	9:00 am	Michael Nagurney (Andy & Ann Marie Carney)
	4:00 pm	Wally Regan (The family)
01/06	8:00 am	Irene & Walter Surowiecki (Lisa Rich)
	9:15 am	Mary Jane Paradis (The family)
	11:00 am	Vincenzo Iannone, Jr. (The family)
	6:00 pm	Barbara Blanchfield
01/07	9:00 am	Anne D. Moran (M/M Gerald Moran)
01/08	9:00 am	Clorinda Florio
01/09	9:00 am	Frank Esposito (Palinkos family)
01/10	9:00 am	Mary Cowin (Mike & Madeline Rozzi)
01/11	9:00 am	Patty Nolan (M/M Richard Trudel)
01/12	9:00 am	Michael V. Virgilio, Sr. (Donna King)
	4:00 pm	Americo Crestio (John & Paula Cornacchio)
01/13	8:00 am	Giacomo, Vincenzo & Louie Sciarretta (Lucy Albano)
	9:15 am	Patricia Wiesen (Pat & Frank Hauptman)
	11:00 am	Alfred F. Celentano (M/M Gerald Moran)
	6:00 pm	Frank Morabito (Angelo & Lucy Allocca)

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 flowers for January 6th are in memory of Cosmo and Irene Tavella, given by Diane and Ralph Cocchia. The flowers for January 13th are in memory of Anne D. Moran and Alfred F. Celentano, given by Gerry and Joyce Moran.

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 will be one donor per weekend. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact Pat, at the parish office at 847-5349.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT FOR HEALING AFTER

ABORTION If you are suffering from an abortion, whether it happened recently or forty years ago, experience the healing love of Jesus on a **Rachel's Vineyard Retreat** weekend from **January 25-27, 2008**. The retreat will combine spiritual meditations, discussions, Confession, a Memorial Service and Mass. Retreats are small. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love and forgiveness. Participants have their own private room. For more information, please call the retreat director at 203-218-0291 or email her at jeremiah31V17@aol.com or visit our website at www.rachelsvineyardbpt.com all inquiries are kept in the strictest confidence. This ministry is sponsored by the Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

**The wolf shall be a guest of the lamb,
And the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
The calf and the young lion shall browse together, with
a little child to guide them.
The cow and the bear shall be neighbors,
Together their young shall rest;
The lion shall eat hay like the ox.**

**The baby shall play by the cobra's den,
and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair.
There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord
as water covers the sea.**

**On that day,
the root of Jesse,
set up as a signal for the nations,
the Gentiles shall seek out,
for his dwelling shall be glorious.**

From the book of the prophet Isaiah



**Religious Education
helps to build a
strong foundation**

REACH

December 30th NO CLASS "HAPPY NEW YEAR"

Sunday, Jan. 6th

Grades K-6 meet

"Looking Ahead" Sunday, Jan. 13th

Grades 1-6 meet in the morning

2ND GRADE PARENTS

An email will be sent shortly with information regarding the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED for spring 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.

KEEP JESUS WARM – We need donations of hats, mittens, socks and underwear that will be collected on January 6th at 9:15 and 10:30 am Masses.

YOUNG adults



TOTAL – As we leave this year and head into a brand new one, it is my wish that everyone will have a wonderful and peace filled Christmas and a blessed New Year. We have had a wonderful start to our year at TOTAL and I am looking forward to next year when we resume after Christmas vacation. Please spread the gifts of joy, peace, love and friendship this Christmas season and always keep the love of the Christ Child in your heart. Share what you have and give from your heart and it will come back to you when you least expect it. I have seen this happen so many times. A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us on the TOTAL team, and our TOTAL teens.

LOOKING TO 2008

TOTAL: On the weekend of January 5 & 6 we will have our Emmaus Weekend at the Seaton-Neumann Center in

Danbury. Jess Bruno, this year's Rector, along with the Emmaus team has worked very hard to make this weekend special for our candidates. We have a wonderful group of parishioners lined up to give talks from our teen parishioners and our senior parishioners. It promises to be a wonderful experience for all who come.

When we are finished with the Emmaus weekend, we will start our planning for "The Fourteen Steps", since Easter is early this year. This is also an amazing time for our teens at St. Jerome, since they always do an outstanding job on Good Friday. Think about signing up to be a part of "The Fourteen Steps."

RANDOM THOUGHTS

Last week I had the occasion to tell my 7th grade class this true story. When I was a child I loved to listen to the radio. On Christmas night I would stay awake listening to carols until midnight Eastern Time and then I would look for radio stations further west where midnight had not yet come. In those days, I also listened for Christmas stories on the radio.

My favorite story was from the old radio program, "I remember Mama." Each year I listened to that story of how at midnight the animals in the barn would talk, telling the story handed on to them about the first Christmas. As a child, I thought Christmas was so wondrous, that it made sense that once a year animals could talk. It also helped that I had just seen the movie about Francis the talking mule. I would love to hear that story again.

Now we fast forward to December of 1994. It is my first Christmas at St. Jerome parish. Imagine my delight and wonder when I learned that the present rectory was once the home of the writer for the radio program "I Remember Mama." The Lord works in mysterious ways. Our lives are marked by surprises even as they form a basic story that has God as its co-author.

May your Christmas season be a blessed one. May the Lord surprise you with joy and a deepened faith. May the Lord Jesus, who once found a home in a stable, find a better home in your heart.

Readings for the Week of December 30, 2007

Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12- 17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Monday:	1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18
Tuesday:	Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Jn 1:29-34
Friday:	1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42
Saturday:	1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43-51
Next Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12