



12/26	9:00 am	Tom St. John (The family)
	4:00 pm	Jeanne Makovich (Husband, Joe)
12/27	8:00 am	Lorraine Moscinski (Shara Moscinski)
	9:15 am	Giuseppi Giglio (Wife & family)
	11:00 am	Rudy Napoletano (JoAnn & Tony DiPanni)
	6:00 pm	Marie White (TOTAL team)
12/28	9:00 am	Joseph Lovallo (Ninfa & Michael Trehubenko)
12/29	9:00 am	Angelo Palermo (The family)
12/30	9:00 am	John Avellani (Patrick Dillane)
12/31	9:00 am	Robert Pelletier (The family)
	7:00 pm	For the Parish
		BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
01/01	9:00 am	Rosemarie Lepore (From the parish)
	11:00 am	For the parish
01/02	9:00 am	Catherine Mc Nerney (Judi & Bob Dennehy)
	4:00 pm	Warren Barton
		<u>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</u>
01/03	8:00 am	Thomas Uvenio (JoAnn Piacentini)
	9:15 am	Sergio Cipriano (Bill Kimbell & Karen & Bob LeBrun)
	11:00 am	Anthony T. Calabrese (Jennie & John DiBerardino)
	6:00 pm	Rich Lusniak (Bruno family)
01/04	9:00 am	Beverly Caprio (Phil & Pat Florio)
01/05	9:00 am	Brian Blanchfield (Ray & Margaret Borders)
01/06	9:00 am	Barbara Blanchfield
01/07	9:00 am	Anne D. Moran (M/M Gerald J. Moran)
01/08	9:00 am	Clorinda Florio (The family)
01/09	9:00 am	Loretta Sepe (M/M Stephen Romano)
	4:00 pm	Alfred F. Celentano (M/M Gerald J. Moran)
01/10	8:00 am	Vincenzo Iannone, Jr. (The family)
	9:15 am	Michael Chuba (Rohr family)
	11:00 am	James Dunn (Michael & Madeline Rozzi)
	6:00 pm	Mimi Mitchell (The Bruno 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

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers for January 10th are in memory of Anne D. Moran and Alfred F. Celentano, given by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald J. Moran.

If you would like to memorialize a family member or friend, in a special manner, altar flowers are a lovely gesture. The donation is \$50. Your intention will be announced, in our bulletin, the week before and on the date you choose. If you would like to participate, please call the parish office at 203-847-5349, to schedule.



REACH

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our REACH families!

Our next REACH class for Grades K-6 will be January 10th. Grades 7&8 will receive an email with a return date.

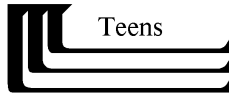
Second grade parents will receive an email regarding a parent meeting the first week of January.

Family Connection for December 27th – Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Today's Gospel describes a time of anxiety in the life of Jesus' family. We can imagine their panic and worry as they discovered that Jesus was not with the caravan returning to Nazareth. The Holy Family journeyed with family members and friends because traveling alone was dangerous. When they found Jesus at the Temple, Jesus spoke like a typical adolescent, unsympathetic to his parents' concern. Yet his words teach an important lesson about reducing anxiety in our family life. In essence, Jesus says, "If you had remembered who I am, you would have known where to find me." In their panic, Mary and Joseph had forgotten what had been told to them before Jesus' birth, that their son was the Son of God. Knowing a person well helps reduce our anxieties for them because we can better predict how

they will behave, and we know their capacity to handle the challenges life might present to them.

Family Connection January 3rd Epiphany of the Lord
The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is thought by some to be rooted in the gift giving of the Magi. In many cultures, gifts are not exchanged at Christmas, but rather on the feast of the Epiphany. Whenever you exchange your Christmas gifts, take some time to reflect on this tradition of gift giving at Christmas. Think of the best gift you have received. What was it? What made it special? Was it the gift itself, the thought that went into it, or the person who gave it to you?



TOTAL – Happy New Year to everyone from all of us on the TOTAL Team, may it be a year filled with peace and happiness.

Our Emmaus weekend will be held on Martin Luther King weekend. We leave for Danbury on Friday, January 15 and return to St. Jerome on Sunday, January 17 and end the weekend with the Lifeteen Mass. If your teen is planning to come on the amazing weekend, registration forms are due. Please send them to me at Pat Olson, 24 Brookhill La. There will be a meeting for parents of the teens attending Emmaus in January. A letter will be mailed home.

Fr. David, Fr. Joe, Fr. Mike and the staff of St. Jerome would like to wish all our parishioners and their families a very holy and joy filled Christmas and a healthy New Year.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

As has been our custom, this is a combined bulletin for the two Sundays after Christmas, which, this year are: the Feast of the Holy Family and that of the Epiphany. The Christmas season will then end next Sunday, the Baptism of the Lord.

You will notice that we keep the lights on our two Christmas trees right up until after the 6:00PM Mass on the fest of the Baptism, and then they are turned off. The tree outside Church is magnificent, but I think my favorite is the tree behind the rectory that you can see from the main parking lot. Each year, John Kuczo makes sure the lights are on both trees and sets up the timers. That alone makes them special. But the one by the rectory has an extra place in my heart. It is a splash of color surrounded by darkness. As such, it is a perfect metaphor for Christmas. That first Christmas light came into the world in a definitive and irrevocable way. Initially the light was surrounded by darkness. Gradually it grew into the body of Christ as we know it today: a worldwide community of over one billion people that both does countless works of charity and praises the Lord in worship day and night.

Every day I give the Lord thanks for the bright light that is our parish. Let me hit some of the highlights in the past weeks. First Advent was quick but full of life. The center each year has become the Advent giving tree and Confirmation. The Advent tree was surrounded by more presents than could be counted for children here in Norwalk and in Guatemala. The response was indeed miraculous, and then on the Saturday before Confirmation, people appeared in great numbers to do all the sorting and bagging. All this was led by our Social Concerns committee under the leadership of two unsung heroines: Barbara Bagnato and Becky Sweeney.

The next day Bishop Lori came to Confirm 42 of our teenagers. Although the day was rainy with a bit of ice, the Confirmation itself was wonderful. The sophomore class that was confirmed is filled with delightful, good hearted young men and women. They were well prepared and the congregation, with a little prodding, sang and responded to all the music and prayers. The REACH singers did the music and for some of them it was the third Mass of the day at which they volunteered. Pat Olson, our youth minister, had the day so well organized that everything was flawless. Best of all, our teens got to meet Bishop Lori, and through him see their connection to the wider Church that he represents.

The, on the day after Confirmation, Fr. Joe and I went to Candlelight at Norwalk High. That event is especially dear to my heart since so many of our talented teens are involved. Every year I go out into the hallway before the main concert and listen to the freshmen and sophomore wind ensemble or orchestra perform. I am always amazed at how well they play and it reminds me that the future has such promise. This year is the last year that the wind ensemble will be led by Jeff Smith, a parishioner for the past 16 years. Jeff will be retiring after this year, and in my note to him I thanked him for all he has done for the teenagers of Norwalk for the past thirty years. Jeff is another unsung hero who does so much good that people never hear about. He teaches the teens about excellence, dedication and commitment. They are better for having gone through the Norwalk High band program.

Finally, Advent would not be complete at St. Jerome without the Women's Guild Christmas party in the rectory. Each year on a cold night in December, the women of the guild come to share food, company and decorate our tree. It is an evening of laughter and kindness that looks to what the kingdom of God is all about.

So everywhere I look at St. Jerome, I see light shining and am so very grateful.

Have a blessed and joyous Christmas season.