



ALTAR FLOWERS



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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.

MONTHLY OFFERTORY SUMMARY

December 14, 2009	\$7,085
December 21, 2009	3,479
December 28, 2009	7,363
Christmas & Holy Days 2009	21,970
Total December 2009	63,913
December budget 2009	75,600

And for the new year...	
January 3, 2010	\$7,566
January offertory budget	51,900

As always, thank you for your very generous holiday donations to our parish.

The Social Concerns Committee wish to thank all the generous, caring parishioners who have donated to the Giving Tree project which provided gifts for 77 children from CCA families and to 110 children thru Julie's Kids of Education & Hope. We also appreciate your year long support of our Monthly Food Drives providing items for the CCA Food Pantry, Mid Fairfield Aids and the Norwalk Emergency Shelter. Your thoughtfulness and caring generously is a real blessing to lives on all the others you help.

REACH

Today, Sunday ~ January 10th

Grades K-6 meet this morning
Grades 7-8 – no class

Next Sunday ~ January 17th

No Class – Martin Luther King Weekend

Sunday ~ January 24th

Grades 1-6 meet in the morning
Grades 7-8 – no class

Grades 7 & 8 please check your emails soon for further information.

Keep Jesus Warm

The December snow has once again delayed our Keep Jesus Warm collection. We will accept donations of NEW hats and gloves/mittens until January 24th. These will be distributed to needy Norwalk children.

01/09	9:00 am	Loretta Sepe M/M Stephen Romano
	4:00 pm	Alfred F. Celetano M/M Gerald Moran
01/10	8:00 am	Vincenzo Iannone, Jr. The Family
	9:15 am	Michael Chuba The Rohr Family
	11:00 am	James Dunn Michael and Madeline Rozzi
	6:00 pm	Mimi Mitchel The Bruno Family
01/11	9:00 am	John & Ernestine Smith Daughter
01/12	9:00 am	Katherine Young The Sapia Family
01/13	9:00 am	Msgr Sullivan Kathy Coyne
01/14	9:00 am	Angelo Palermo (14 th Anniv) Wife, Connie
01/15	9:00 am	Brian Blanchfield & Barbara Maillar Ebie & A.J. Milton
01/16	9:00 am	Msgr. Sullivan Kathy Coyne
	4:00 pm	Michael Rozzi, Jr. (5 th Anniv) The Rozzi Family
01/17	8:00 am	Anthony Miserendino The Family
	9:15 am	Catherine Hefferan Wendi DiCostanzo
	11:00 am	Warren Barton
	6:00 pm	Rick Lusniak W. Kulis

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

BIG THANK YOU TO OUR CHILDREN

Thank you to all of the shepherds and angels that made this year's 6:00 Christmas Eve Mass so special. Extra thanks to this year's Mary – Lily Stumpf, Joseph – Miles Cooper, and Drummer Boy – Jack Rohr. Thank you to our living nativity for the 9:15 Mass on the Epiphany. Our three kings were Mary Mottolose, Jack Rohr, and Kristen Beaumonte. Joseph was played by David Chuba, and Mary by Jillian Howe. The star was played by Kevin Chuba.

Family Gospel Connection

Every family has a unique identity that is defined by the behaviors, attitudes, and expectations that govern a family's daily life. This identity is influenced by the family history of the parents, but each family's expression of this history is unique. In today's Gospel, we learn that Jesus' behavior, attitudes, and expectations were governed by his identity as God's beloved Son. In our Baptism, we were made children of this same heavenly Father. This identity as members of the family of God, and as brothers and sisters of Jesus, also shapes our family's daily life.

As you gather as a family, identify some of the expectations and behaviors that govern your family life by answering the question, "What are some of the things that make our family life unique?" Celebrate these things about your family life. Read today's Gospel, Luke 3:15-16, 21-22. Observe that Jesus' identity as the Beloved Son of the Father governed his behaviors, attitudes, and expectations. Recall that at our Baptism we were made children of this same heavenly Father. How does this identity as a member of the family of God govern and shape our family life? Conclude in prayer together that we will remain faithful to our baptismal identity as children of God and as brothers or sisters of Jesus. Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

TOTAL

There is TOTAL tonight! It was not originally on the schedule because this was going to be our Emmaus Weekend which has been changed. We will be starting try-outs for "The Fourteen Steps" in the coming weeks. This is a wonderful gift the teens give to our parish on Good Friday night. It is my hope that many of our current TOTAL teen members will participate this year. There are many ways to be a part of "The Fourteen Steps" such as singing, being part of the crowd, behind the scenes with lighting and props as well as reading parts.

Small group classes for Confirmation will begin in February. There will be a meeting before the classes start to go over the requirements.

The 30 hour famine will also be coming up in February. This event is held at St. Philips and we have been a part of the Famine for the past several years with the teens from St. Philip. It is a great way to raise awareness for world hunger and to also help people in our town.

JAN. 13, PARISH 50TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING

Wednesday, Jan. 13, is the next meeting of the St. Jerome 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee at 7:00PM in the Kevin Eidt Youth Room in the church hall. All parishioners are welcome – Seniors, young adults, teens. We will discuss upcoming celebratory events such as the Art Show, parish lecture, and parish concert,

and continue planning activities for 2010. Questions? Call Florence Loch at 846-3980

PHOTOS, RECOLLECTIONS FOR PARISH HISTORY

If anyone, especially long-time parishioners, can contribute recollections and photographs about St. Jerome's for a parish 50th Anniversary history book, please contact Florence Loch at 846-3980 or florence_loch@hotmail.com

RANDOM THOUGHTS

One of my New Year's resolutions is to do this column on a more regular basis. The bulletin has to be done by Tuesday mornings and since Mondays are so busy I often don't get a column done on time. So, I am going to try and do one the week before it is due. See how long my good intention lasts!

As we start the New Year let me fill you in on some lighting and sound work that will be done in the Church. First, Energy Solutions, a company that is a sub contractor for CL&P is going to be doing extensive work on both the Church and the school hall between January 11th and Friday January 22nd. In the Church they will be replacing all the florescent lights, which are ancient, with energy efficient lights. They will be doing the same in the school hall. The good news is that not only will they be putting in new lights and energy saving controls, but CL&P will pay \$6609 towards the total price of \$ 16,546. We do not have to put up any money upfront and can pay the rest to CL&P over a three year period which comes out to \$ 276 a month for three years with no interest charges. While the work is going on, daily mass will be downstairs, probably in the adult learning center. Any funeral will be done at St. Philip Church. At the same time we are going to be doing major electrical work in Church replacing the fuse box in the sacristy with an automated lighting control board. This will not only allow us to properly control lighting but it will mean we don't have to rent expensive lighting equipment for the 14 Steps. During those two weeks we will also be making significant changes to our sound system that has been an ongoing problem. John Davis has been especially helpful in putting this project together and it builds on all the important work that John Levkosky and Don Parks have done over the years. The project has the blessing of the REACH singers and should give them more control over their sound while at the same time improving the chair, altar and pulpit sound. The downside is there will be controlled chaos in Church for two weeks but it will be worth the inconvenience.

In the weeks ahead I plan to share with you the results of the U S Congregational Life Survey that week took last spring. St. Jerome parish and one other parish in the diocese participated in this national study of what the people in the pew think about their parish experience. Our own results were compared to those of all the congregational participants as well as to other Catholic parishes. I have already shared the results with the Pastoral Council and we are in the early stages of putting together a committee to build on the results. I will tell you ahead of time that of the report identified as having two strength areas out of the following possibilities: growing spiritually; meaningful worship; participating in the parish; having a sense of belonging; caring for young people; focusing on the community; sharing faith; welcoming new worshippers; empowering leadership; looking to the future. To qualify as a strength, a parish had to be in the top 20% of all congregations. See if you can guess our two strength areas. I will tell you about them in the next column.