

Mass Intentions

01/16	9:00 am	Msgr. Sullivan (Kathy)
	4:00 pm	Michael Rozzi, Jr. (Rozzi family)
01/17	8:00 am	Anthony Miserendino (The family)
	9:15 am	Catherine Hefferan (Wendi DiCostanzo)
	11:00 am	Warren Barton (The parish)
	6:00 pm	Rich Lusniak (W. Kulis)
01/18	9:00 am	Jeannette Langelier (Sandy Lausten)
01/19	9:00 am	Nina Gambino (Her sister)
01/20	9:00 am	Paul L. Jones (Barbara & Jim Alvord)
01/21	9:00 am	Ann D'Orso (Carmella Vento)
01/22	9:00 am	Dominick Porpiglia (Vincent & Janet Genovese)
01/23	9:00 am	Florence E. Harkins & Gerry Bach (Her daughter)
	4:00 pm	Thomas Comerford (Lusniak family)
01/24	8:00 am	Phyllis Higgs (Bill & Elaine Halstead)
	9:15 am	Jodi Denmead (Emily & Gary Rogalski)
	11:00 am	Mimi Mitchell (Dennis & Dolores Mockler)
	6:00 pm	Kevin Eidt (Parents, Chris & Helen Eidt)

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

The love of the Lord is everlasting upon those who hold him in fear; His justice reaches out to children's children when they keep his covenant in truth, when they keep his will in their mind.



PLEASE NOTE: BOTH THE PARISH OFFICE AND THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, JAN. 18TH TO CELEBRATE MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY. WE WILL REOPEN ON TUESDAY, JAN. 19TH.



REACH
Today, January 17th
NO CLASS – Martin Luther King Weekend

Next Sunday, January 24th
Grades 1-6 meet in the morning
Grades 7-8 meet in the evening

Family Gospel Connection
Weddings are wonderful family celebrations. We go out of our way to make the occasion festive and extraordinary. People work hard to please one another. What better image of the Kingdom of God! Not every day is a wedding celebration, but we can anticipate the Kingdom of God each day in our attentiveness to one another's needs.

If your family has attended a wedding celebration together, talk about the experience and the planning and cooperation that made the celebration memorable. Talk about how weddings and feasts are images in scripture for the Kingdom of God. Consider how these festive occasions are images of God's tremendous love for us and examples of how we can show our love for one another. Then read together today's gospel, John 2:1-11. Talk about Mary's attentiveness to the needs of the hosts and about Jesus' response. What could your family learn from this story?

Want to become an Altar Server??
ALTAR SERVER TRAINING will be held on Monday, January 24 at 7:00PM in the church. Anyone from 3rd grade-up and who have received First Communion may become a server. Questions? Call Kathy Rohr at 203-846-2111.

MONTHLY OFFERTORY BUDGET

January 10, 2010	\$ 6,734.
January to date	14,996
January offertory budget	51,900

Faith Direct donations will be reported next week. As always, thank you for your generous donations to St. Jerome Parish.

TOTAL:

There is **NO TOTAL** tonight because of the closing ceremony of our Emmaus weekend. We will have **TOTAL** next week after the Lifeteen Mass.

We will be having try-outs for The Fourteen Steps for those who wish to have a singing part. There are also many other ways to participate in this special prayer that we present on Good Friday. Come and find out what it is all about. You do not have to be a singer or have the best voice to participate. We need people for lighting, sound, props and especially to be a part of the crowd.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS TO DECEMBER'S FOOD DRIVE AND MILK FUND COLLECTION. Even with the snow challenge, we tallied over 800 items and \$186 for the purchase of milk.

JANUARY FOOD DRIVE – Our next food drive will take place next weekend, Jan. 23-24. As you grocery shop for your family's warm, comfort foods, please remember to help feed families caught in difficult situations. CCA's food pantry is seeking to collect these staples: **rice, beans, peanut butter, grape jelly, and tuna fish**, and always welcomes beef ravioli, chicken noodle soup, spaghetti, and peaches. Thank you for making a difference.

ST. JEROME HAS TALENT-50TH ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION An exhibition of works done by parishioners of all ages will be held Feb. 14th in conjunction with the Pancake Breakfast. Here is your chance to show your creativity. What is your gift? Poetry, writer, painter, drawing, needlework (knitting, crochet, tatting, needlepoint, embroidery, beadwork, etc), origami, carving, sculpture, woodworking, etc.

Entry deadline has been moved to Jan. 24th. Entry forms are available in the hallway. The collection box for entry forms is also there. The committee hopes to see work of our young people. For further info: Anna May Jerusavage – 846-8522 and Maryann Holowinko-846-1043

VALENTINES FOR MARINES – Social Concerns is inviting parishioners to write Valentine's notes to Marines currently stationed in Afghanistan. One of our committee members has an officer contact who will distribute our notes to members of his troop to let them know we appreciate their service and are praying for their safety. We will have a drop off box for your Valentine's in the church hallway. If any parishioners know of someone from Norwalk currently in Afghanistan or Iraq and would like them to receive Valentine messages from us, please give that information to the parish office.

THANK YOU! Our Committee would like to thank those parishioners who donated shopping bags full of great books for pre-school thru elementary school children over the past month. They were scooped up by lots of delighted children and family members. We will continue to have a box available for donated books, new or "gently-used" on the bench in the church hallway.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

As I mentioned last week, I am going to use the next few columns to summarize the results of the U.S. Congregational Life Study that the parish took last spring. 397 individuals filled out the form so we have an excellent sense of what people in

pew think. Better still, since 11% of the congregations were Catholic, we have a way to compare ourselves to similar parishes. The respondents were broken down into categories based on size. We are considered a large Church because on any given weekend we have about 960 people in church. If we had attendance of 1000 or higher we would be considered a mega church.

As I told you last week, the survey identifies 10 strength areas for a congregation. If you scored above the 80% percentile in any area that was rated as a strength for you. We had two strengths: caring for youth and focusing on the community. We had five areas where we were higher than the Catholic average, one where we were the same and four where we were below the Catholic average. So let me summarize the areas where we were both higher and lower.

In the strength area of growing spiritually we were four points higher than the Catholic average. What helped us was that 90% of respondents said the parish met their spiritual needs. That response was very encouraging.

Another area, as I mentioned, was caring for youth, 75% of respondents said they were satisfied with what we do for those under the age of 19. Also highly significant was that 86% said that their children living at home, attended Church. The Catholic average was 74%.

The third area where we were above the Catholic average was in focusing on the community. 43% of the respondents said they are involved in social service or advocacy groups in the community. The Catholic average was 28%. Further 86% said they contribute to charitable organizations outside the parish compared to the Catholic average of 65%. Certainly the survey accurately identifies what we know to be strength about ourselves.

The fourth area where we are above the Catholic average is in empowering leadership. We scored 56% overall while the Catholic average was 39%.

The last area where we were above the Catholic average was looking to the future. We had an overall score of 36% to the Catholic average of 34%. Interestingly when all congregations were included, the average was 41%. So while we are ahead of the average Catholic parish in looking to the future, we are behind the national average. It pleases me that 40% think we have a clear parish direction and are strongly committed to that direction.

More to come next week. You may be surprised, as I was, to hear the areas where we are behind both the Catholic and national averages.

BOSTON MARKET FUNDRAISER NIGHT FOR CRANBURY SCHOOL

On Thursday, Jan. 21st, Cranbury School will be hosting a Fundraiser Night at Boston Market, 14 Danbury Rd., Wilton from 4PM to closing. Informational flyers and tickets are available in the church hallway by the doors. Present your ticket at the restaurant when you order, and Cranbury School will receive 15% of the sale. Take-out orders are included, too! Please come and enjoy a delicious dinner with your friends and neighbors. For further information, contact Susan Tavella at 203-849-9696.