

Mass Intentions

01/30	9:00 am	Sylvia Griffith (Barbara & Jim Alvord)
	4:00 pm	Ed Chappa (Pat Chocas)
01/31	8:00 am	Giacomo, Vincenza & Teresa Sciarretta
	9:15 am	Grace Boccuzzi (Boccuzzi family)
	11:00 am	Humbert J. Canal, Sr. (Angela Custardo)
	6:00 pm	Elaine Emmanuelle
02/01	9:00 am	Jane Dillane (The family)
02/02	9:00 am	Brian Blanchfield (St. Jerome Scripture Group)
02/03	9:00 am	Zita Cerasi (Angela & Michael Custardo)
02/04	9:00 am	Mary Joanne Mellott (Thomas & Sheila Rietano)
02/05	9:00 am	Margaret Spadefino (Sandy Lausten)
02/06	9:00 am	Mimi Mitchell (Barbara & Jim Alvord)
	4:00 pm	Wally Regan (The family)
02/07	8:00 am	Eva D'Amico (Clorinda Pisco)
	9:15 am	Gerry Capriulo (Carey family)
	11:00 am	Vincenzo Iannone, Jr. (The family)
	6:00 pm	Fran Panagiotopoulos (10 th Anniv) (Her friends)

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

MONTHLY OFFERTORY SUMMARY

January 24, 2010	\$ 5,494
Total January to date	44,797
January offertory budget	51,900

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

ALTAR-FLOWERS


ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers for next weekend are in memory of Fran Panagiotopoulos, given by her friends.

If you would like to memorialize a family member or friend, in a special way, altar flowers are a lovely gesture. The donation is \$50. Your intention will be announced in our bulletin the week before and also on the date you have chosen. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, call the parish office at 203-847-5349 to schedule



REACH

Today, Sunday, January 31st.
Grades 1-6 meet in the morning
Grades 7&8 meet in the evening

Next Week, February 7th

Grades K-6 meet in the morning
Grades 7&8 NO CLASS

Looking Ahead...

February 14th – NO REACH classes

Family Gospel Connection

Jesus' statement that no prophet is accepted in his home town reminds us that it is often difficult to hear a challenging message from those who know us best, even if it is true. Perhaps we remember and even regret this aspect of our childhood and adolescence. We may have overlooked the wisdom and guidance of our parents, while allowing the voices of others-teachers, friends, and counselors-to carry more weight, even when these people were telling us the same thing. Perhaps this developmental stage is unavoidable. Perhaps as we have matured, we have come to a new appreciation for our parents and others whose perspective and experience we once rejected. Today's Gospel provides an opportunity to talk about and to learn from such experiences.

As you gather as a family, consider proverbs or the wise sayings that are familiar to your family ("Blood is thicker than water," "All that glitters is not gold.") Consider what these proverbs mean and whether you believe them to be true. Why or why not? Jesus challenges the people of Nazareth by reminding them of old sayings that seem to have a lot of truth in them. Let's listen to this Gospel and consider what these proverbs mean. Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 4:21-30. Ask: **What were the proverbs that Jesus quoted?** (Physician, cure yourself; No prophet is accepted in his native place). Consider the meaning of these proverbs and look for examples in your family life.

TOTAL:

There is TOTAL tonight. We will be continuing try-outs for "The Fourteen Steps" for the teens interested in solos and small groups. 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 a 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 mandatory meeting for parents and candidates on February 2 at 7:00PM in the Kevin Edit Youth Room. A parent and Confirmation candidate must attend to pick the night of their small group class.

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

Both "The Fourteen Steps" and the 30 Hour Famine can be put towards Confirmation service hours for this year's Confirmation candidates.

ST. JEROME WOMEN'S GUILD

The next meeting of the Women's Guild will be on Monday, February 1st promptly, at 10PM in the church hall. After a brief business meeting, we will have a guest speaker on "Nutrition." We look forward to seeing you there!

TREAT YOUR VALENTINE TO A PARISH PANCAKE BREAKFAST, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH.

Tickets go on sale next weekend for our parish Valentine's Day Pancake Breakfast on February 14th. Please buy your tickets in advance so we know how much food to purchase. Breakfast will be served from 8:45 to 11:00AM in the church hall. Come as a family and enjoy delicious pancakes with berry and chocolate chip toppings, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, orange and apple juice, milk, Chocolate milk, and tea and coffee. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children (age 12 and younger), and under age 3, free.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR FOOD DRIVE

– Our January food drive was a huge success, due to the great response of our parish. We collected 1,445 food items, which were delivered to Christian Community action's food pantry and The Norwalk Emergency Shelter. The Milk Fund Collection totaled \$201.50. Special thanks to our crew of volunteers who sorted and packed up the food in the Hall, including the enthusiastic 6th grade REACH students.

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.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

As I mentioned in the last column, the U.S. Congregational Life Survey told us much about the parish. Last time, I listed our strengths. This week let me identify the ways we were below the national or Catholic average. Some of them may surprise you.

The second strength area that the survey identified and that was problematic for us was meaningful worship. The national average was 62% and the Catholic average 58%. We were exactly at the Catholic average. There were 8 questions under this heading. We were off the mean on five of them. For the question, do you experience joy in worship came in at 68%. For the question, do you experience awe during worship usually or always, the national average was 33%, the Catholic average 34% and we came in at 23%. On the other hand, for the question, do you experience frustration during worship RARELY, the national average was 72% the Catholic average was 67% and we came in at 77%. For the question do you experience boredom during worship RARELY, the national was 66% and the Catholic average 59%. We came in at the national average and thus 7 points higher than the Catholic average.

The question is: what to make of all this? First, the national average includes Churches with more freedom of worship than does a Catholic parish. On the other hand, we are ahead on lack of both boredom and frustration, but below on joy and a sense of awe. The Pastoral Council has put together an ad hoc committee to look at these questions. More next week!

HOLY FAMILY RETREAT CENTER

VALENTINE'S EVENING-EUCHARISTIC & GOURMET WINE TASTING PARTY

Saturday, February 13 6:00 Mass – 7:00PM Dinner
Celebrate Valentine's Day with mass, a festive gourmet dinner, fine wine, and a live jazz trio. Program offering: \$130 per couple (\$65 per person)

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 17

Day of Reflection 10:00am-2:00pm

Evening of Reflection 6:00-9:00PM

"Finding God Again: A Lenten Exploration"

Presenter: Fr. David Cinquegrani, C.P.

Both the day and the evening will include the presentation, a meal and conclude with Mass and the distribution of ashes. Program offering: \$30.

Send name, address and offering to:

**Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center
303 Tunxis Rd., West Hartford, CT. 06107
860-521-0440**

Or register online at www.holyfamilyretreat.org