

ST. JEROMES, HYATTSVILLE



Please remember in your prayers, the sick and the shut-ins of our parish community, especially...Muriel Adams, Sheila Armentrout, Johnnie Aquilino, Daniel Birch, Liz Burdick, Betty Cahill, Esther Carboni, Carol Colliere, Christy

*Cooper, Margaret Crandall, Frances DeStefano, Paul Emmons, Martha Farnie, Margaret Federighi, Ruth Frazier, Frances Gray, Tony Green, Eileen Harrington,, Charlotte Houston, Elinor Jackson, Larry Jackson, David Kadan, Rita Kline, Joseph Lipovsky, Larry Lorditch, Linda Lorditch, James McMahon Carol Mills,, Alice Moran, Nita Mullins, Chris Needham, Marie Needham, Wilbert Noel, Maria Olquin, Rita O'Dea, Carla O'Mara, Thomas O'Mara, Sarah Proctor, Peter Randall, Alan Richwald, Sister Germana, Brandon Joseph Romaine, Robert Schultz, Jenny Stepanek, Mary Temarantz,, Brooke Wanex, Vickie Whalen-Romaine and family, Tony Zangla, and those known to you alone, those confined to hospitals and nursing homes, those suffering with cancer or depression, that they may know the Father's love through other's care and prayer. **If you wish to be included on this prayer list, please call the Rectory (301/927-6684). To remove your name from this prayer list once you are on the mend, call the Rectory with the Good News!***

Mass  for the Intentions  Week

WEEK OF DECEMBER 17 – 23, 2007

MONDAY:

8:00 A.M. George O'Reilly
12:00 p.m. Beverly Katy Clokey

TUESDAY:

8:00 A.M. Patrick Sullivan
12:00 p.m. Betty Truszkowski

WEDNESDAY:

8:00 A.M. Kathy & Bob Connolly
12:00 p.m. Eugene Herbert

THURSDAY:

8:00 A.M. Jo Meli
12:00 p.m. Sister Helen Dych, SND

FRIDAY:

8:00 A.M. Jo Meli
12:00 p.m. Anne Conway

SATURDAY:

8:00 A.M. Mary Prangley
4:30 P.M. Sister Helen Dych, SND

SUNDAY:

7:30 A.M. Anne Conway
9:30 A.M. For the people of St. Jerome
11:30 A.M. George Svico

Readings for the Week of December 16, 2007

Sunday:	Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
Monday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday:	Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
Thursday:	Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
Friday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
Saturday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
Next Sunday:	Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

CELEBRANT'S SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2007

4:30 P.M. Music Ministry Father Mark Raphael

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2007

7:30 A.M. Father Jim Stack

9:30 A.M. Folk Group Father Mark Raphael

11:30 A.M. Choir Father Jim Stack



John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the

Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. - Mt 3:4-6

Problems? Worries? Concerns?

Bring them to Jesus and Leave them at St. Jerome's Church – open all day for Eucharistic Adoration every Friday until 4:30 p.m. Stop in for a visit to the God of Power and might and bring your children too. There is the 8:00 morning Mass followed by a Holy Hour of Prayer. The day ends with Evening Prayer and Benediction at 4:30 p.m. You can stop for a short visit or longer. Teach your children the greatest power on earth – the power of Prayer

Mass of the Anointing of the Sick

St. Jerome's Church is having a Mass of the Anointing of the Sick on Sunday, December 16th at 9:30 a.m. celebrated by Father Stack. This mass is the second of four Masses in which the Sacrament will be administered (next two will be in February and March).

The kingdom of heaven is at hand...heal the sick."

Matthew 10:7

Healing Mass

Sunday, January 6th at 4:00 p.m.

St. Jerome's Church Father Jim Stack, Celebrant Levels of Healing – Physical, Spiritual, Emotional, Psychological, Relational. In addition to the regular Sunday Liturgy, there will be laying on of hands and anointing after Communion.

"...only say the word and I shall be healed."

I have made the statement over the years that I will be available after Mass for anyone who would like to be prayed over for inner healing or prayer of any type. I have asked that you call on me if you need God's healing presence in your life. As the Mass takes place at St. Jerome's, I will need the support of your prayers so the Holy Spirit will work through my hands and bring His healing graces to us all. –Father Jim



ST. JEROME'S GIVING TREE RETURNS.

With your help we can give area families, including those from the Gabriel Project, and our weekly café patrons, a brighter Christmas. Just take an ornament from the tree at the back of the Church, buy the requested gift, and return it

by this Sunday, December 16th.

Gaudete Sunday

It doesn't seem possible that we are celebrating the third Sunday in Advent already. With the wearing of the rose vestment and the beautiful rose banners hung in church, we usher in what tradition calls: "Gaudete" Sunday. Personally, I like this Sunday because of its emphasis on rejoicing. The proper Christian attitude that should be evident in all those who profess Christ Jesus as Lord is the gift of Joy. The reason why the church marks this Sunday as special is because it marks the half way point in Advent. Marking out this Sunday as different is the theological way of saying: 'take a good look at how you are preparing for Christ's coming in glory'. We make preparation for Christ's coming in glory by receiving him daily through faith and grace.

In the letter of Paul to the Philippians we read: *Rejoice in the Lord always, I say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have not anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your request known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*" The three words: Rejoice, anxiety, peace are very significant.

Rejoicing is the proper disposition of the Christian man or women living in our world today. While it is no small task to maintain the proper Christian attitude especially in our world today, it is vital to our Christian well being. One of the characteristics that goes into the discernment process to granting the validity of sainthood is Joy. If this most basic fruit of the Holy Spirit is not evident in the life of the candidate, their cause is dropped. It is important not to confuse joy, which is a gift of the Holy Spirit with the more mundane feeling of happiness. Happiness comes and goes with feelings happenstance which is fleeting. Joy is a quality of the soul and is present within the Christian whether you are happy at any given time or not. The Christians with the gift of Joy can maintain this attitude whether they are peacefully at prayer or about to be burned alive for the faith as in the case of the Holy Martyr, St. Lawrence. Pray for an increase in this most profound gift. Joy is the antiseptic which protects us from being overwhelmed by anxiety.

The Christian experience provides no magical exemption from anxiety. Anxiety comes in all types of varieties. But whatever form yours and mine take, it is never pleasant. There is an old saying: "If you pray, don't worry; If you worry, don't pray." This is very true. We are afforded by our creator so much time and when our time is up, it will be time for us to go and meet our maker. I think one question Jesus will ask is: "Why did you worry so much?" We do sin against faith when we don't trust that God will take care of us. God deliberately allows us to experience anxieties of one sort or another so that we will be provided an opportunity to strike out in faith and trust. Every time we read properly into our anxieties or fears and process that experience as a mature Christian we grow powerfully in trust and faith.

Finally to peace. The peace of Jesus is profoundly powerful; in fact, it is so powerful that it is beyond understanding. It guards like a powerful warrior so that the enemy (Satan and his arsenal of anxiety) will not overcome the heart and mind of the Christian. Don't try to figure out this peace by always looking for a sign that it is present. Rather, surrender to its power, simply accepted it as a gift from God that all Christians receive and enjoy its reign over you. When you do these things, smooth out while living life on planet earth.

Peace, Fr. Jim



May the Bright
Star of
Bethlehem
Guide You.

Christmas Schedule of Activities for St. Jerome's Church

Monday, December 17th:

"The Infancy Narratives, Part III"

7 p.m. in the Meeting Room

Tuesday, December 18th:

Eucharistic Adoration and Confession

7 – 8 p.m. in the church

Wednesday, December 19: 7:00 p.m.

St. Jerome School's

Christmas Performance

Friday, December 21: Eucharistic Holy Hour and Marian Devotions following the 8 a.m. Mass with Eucharistic Adoration until 4:30 p.m. Evening prayer and Benediction begins at 4:30 p.m.

Monday, Christmas Eve:

Confessions: 10 am to 11 am & 1– 2 p.m.

Christmas Eve Masses will be at

4:30 p.m.: Children's Liturgy;

7:30 p.m. and

12:00 Midnight

(doors open at 11:30 p.m.)

Masses on Christmas Day will be at 8 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.



Mass for Peace is celebrated each 1st Friday of the Month at Holy Redeemer Church in College Park at 7:30 p.m. This Mass will continue until our Troops are out of Iraq.

150th Jubilee Apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes

The faithful of the Archdiocese of Washington are invited to commemorate the 150th Jubilee of the Apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes, which will occur on February 11, 2008. Through the graciousness of the Holy See, parishioners who visit one of the 11 Archdiocesan pilgrimage churches before or on February 11, 2008 and fulfill certain conditions will have the opportunity to receive a plenary indulgence. For more information, go to www.adw.org.

St. Jerome's Café



The following items are needed for the Café: cans of tuna fish, spaghetti sauce, mac & cheese.

Items may be left on the Outreach Table in the vestibule of the Church or taken to the Rectory. Our sincere thanks for your generous donations to help those in need.

CHOOSE LIFE!

"In the Christian view, our treatment of children becomes a measure of our fidelity to the Lord himself."

--Pope John Paul II, Message to the World Summit on Children
September 29, 1990

ST. JEROME'S SCHOOL NEWS

REMINDER: School accounts must be kept current in order for us to maintain our budget! Tuition accounts are due on the first of each month and payable in the Rectory office (across the street from the school)

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2007

December 17,18: Confessions, Grades 3-8
December 19: Christmas Performance 7 p.m. in the gym
5th & 6th Grade Christmas Breakfast.
December 20th: Café Lunch Grade 5
December 21: Beginning of Christmas Vacation
12:30 Dismissal – No Aftercare
5/6 Grade Trip “A Christmas Carol”
December 24: Christmas Eve Children’s Liturgy, 4:30 p.m.
December 24-31, Christmas Vacation.
Classes resume after Christmas on January 3, 2008

“Let us go to Bethlehem to enter with the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, to study there the lessons of humility and poverty which they preach to us.” – St. Julie Billiart

As “morning stars together, proclaim the Holy Birth” may all the blessing of this wondrous season shine on you and your loved ones, and may our whole world know peace.

Dear Father Stack, We know there is an “empty space” in your life and that of your parishioners this year, as we all grieve the loss of Sister Helen Dych. Please be assured of our prayers for you and for all the people of St. Jerome’s parish. - Sisters Mary Donohue, SND & Edithann Kane, SND
Chesapeake Province Team

Child Protection in the Archdiocese of Washington

Child protection is a priority of the Archdiocese of Washington, which has the most comprehensive child protection policies in the nation. This policy calls for prevention, quick response, and pastoral care. **All employees and volunteers who have substantial contact with children must attend child protection workshops and undergo a criminal background check, and those who suspect child abuse must report it to the authorities.** The policy (in English and Spanish), workshop schedules and reporting, fingerprinting and other information are available online at www.adw.org. (click on “Protecting Our Children”), and from your parish office and parish school principal. Anyone who has experienced harm from a person working or volunteering for a Church entity is encouraged to report this to the authorities and to contact the Archdiocesan Director of Child Protection Services, Ms. Marcia Zvara, 301-853-5328, so we may provide assistance.

DID YOU KNOW

Grocery certificates are available after Mass each Sunday and weekdays at the Rectory Office during regular business hours. These Certificates earn money for our church and school at no cost to you! The parish earns 5% profit for each one you buy! If 400 families bought \$20.00 each week at a 5% profit this would equal \$400.00 total profit per week or \$20,800 total profit per year! Fifty dollars per week would earn \$52,000. for one year! Buying certificates is an easy habit to start, and a great way to help generate needed funds for the parish! Thanks!



God has called another one of our young people home to Him this past week. We extend our prayers of sympathy to the family and friends of Brian *Gray*, beloved son of Mary Gray and brother of Kevin and Lauren. Brian was an alumnus of St. Jerome’s School. We pray that those who are burdened by his loss may be blessed with courage and strength, and surrounded by the love of this parish family. May Brian rest in eternal peace in the company of his dad Rick and all of the Saints.

St. Ann’s Infant & Maternity Home (Right in our own back yard!) **THE DIFFERENCE IS YOU!**

Did you know that St. Ann’s Infant and Maternity Home is located very near our front door? The Ladies of Charity of our parish has diligently helped St. Ann’s by collecting needed articles for them in their annual Baby Shower. Due to the volume of holiday donations, NO USED ITEMS will be accepted between November 1st and February 1st. Their WISH LIST includes the following items: Similac Advance powdered formula, coats for boys and girls sizes 10-18 husky, sweaters for boys and girls, sizes 10-18, cribs and new rocking chairs (no gliders) Car seats and booster seats, twin sheets and comforters for teens, PG 13 DVDs, Large individual continent maps, standing art easels and paper, math manipulatives – high school level, Gift cards: WalMart, Kmart, Target, Giant, Safeway, Michael’s, Barnes and Nobel, McDonald’s, Sears. Even more than diapers and clothing, our children and teen mothers need loving and competent caregivers. Your cash contributions are needed to help us hire and retain quality staff. Donations can be taken or mailed to: St. Ann’s Infant & Maternity Home, 4901 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. 20782, 301/559-5500. Ask how you can be a volunteer!

ALL IRISH NEED APPLY!

The Ancient Order of Hibernians, the largest and oldest Irish-Catholic Organization in the USA has Divisions meeting in the Archdiocese of Washington. If you are interested in your Irish-Catholic heritage, music, culture and are 16 or older, please consider joining us! For more information call George Rogers (301) 805-1775 for information on the Ladies AOH call Mary Corkery (301) 229-1451.

GOD BLESS YOU!

On behalf of the students from the University of Maryland, we would like to thank you for your generous response to help us send students to our FOCUS National Leadership Conference. This Conference will change lives and build future leaders of tomorrow.

Know that there is so much hope in our young people today! Amidst all the difficulties and darkness there are many whose lights shine brighter each day as they dedicate their lives to Christ and strive to win souls for Him. Thank you for helping us change the culture for the glory of His Kingdom.

If you would still like to contribute to our conference costs, you can contact the FOCUS team at Maryland@focusonline.org, or to learn more about FOCUS, please visit our website at: www.focusonline.org. Thank you again for your prayers and support! Know that you are also in our prayers.

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