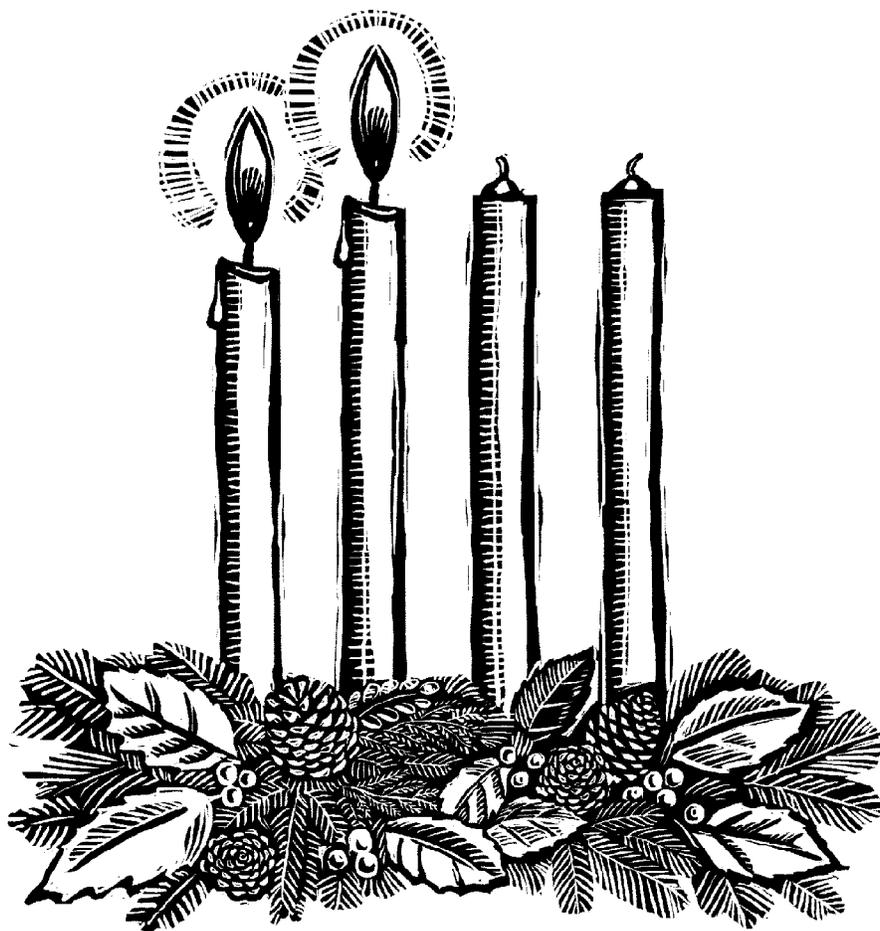




The glory of the **LORD**  
will be revealed



**Second Sunday in Advent**

Our Lady of Lourdes • December 4, 2005

# Our Lady of Lourdes

455 Hunter Avenue  
West Islip, New York 11795

## Pastoral Team

**Rev. Michael A. Vetrano**

Pastor

**Rev. Stanislaus Chukwube**

Associate Pastor

**Rev. Nestor Watin**

Associate Pastor

Welcome to our Parish Family! New Parishioners are cordially invited to register as members of our parish family. Please call or visit the Parish Office.

## Mission Statement

*As stewards of all that God has given us, the Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes serves and ministers to all who come to this place. Regardless of a person's history, ethnicity, gender, orientation, age or race, we commit ourselves to open wide the doors of our Parish to provide a place of welcome and hospitality.*

## Vision...

*so that all may know that they are a vital part of the Body of Christ, we further recommit and challenge ourselves to:*

- **Live** out our Baptismal call passionately by caring for all of God's people with justice.
- **Grow** in an understanding of God's role in each of our lives.
- **Respond** to the Gospel in a radical way, inviting and inspiring all to form the Kingdom of God in every moment of life.
- **Acknowledge** we are not complete without the willingness to grow, discern and discover the Spirit who moves and guides us.

**Rev. Robert Scheckenback**

In Residence

**Deacon Stephen M. Behar**

**Deacon John DeGuardi**

**Deacon Jules O. A. Gagnon**

Parish Outreach

**Deacon Jack Meehan**

Coordinator of Stewardship

**Deacon John Teufel**

**Sr. Margaret Bickar**

Senior Ministry-SAGE

**Sr. Nancy Campkin**

Director of Religious Education

**Regina Ann Cioffi**

School Principal

**Jennifer Gallagher**

Director of Youth Services

**Carol M. Goetz**

Parish Music Director

**Sr. Diane Liona**

Director of Religious Education

**Vita Scorcia**

Ministry Spiritual Director

**John Sureau**

Coordinator of Worship

**Sr. Betty Toohig**

Senior Ministry-SAGE

**Anthony Trombino**

Business Manager

## Pastoral Council

Michael Abbruscato

Salomon Acosta

Regina Ann Cioffi

Jane Desthers

Stephen Frodell

Anne Kerrigan

Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)

Mary McMahan

Doreen Spiller

Mary Steck

John Sureau

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Marie Yuliano (*co-chair*)

## Parish Staff

**Barbara Catuosco**

Religious Education Office

**Mary Anne Lettieri**

Parish Office

**Debbie Meyer**

Bulletin /Parish Office

**Rosemary Multer**

School Office

**Rex Muro**

Organist

**Rita Spera**

Religious Education Office

**D**uring our Jubilee Year, there will be many exciting and informative events going on.

**W**e would love for you to join us at...



## Empowering Our Minds and Spirit

### Christmas Sacred Concert

*Wednesday, December 14*

*7:30 PM*

*Church*

Join us for a fun and relaxing evening of gorgeous Christmas music that will be provided by the many talented musical groups of our parish.

There will be a Christmas carol sing-along, followed by hot cocoa and cookies for all!

Take a break from the hectic schedule of the season and bring your family for a wonderful evening with your parish family.

### Giving and Receiving the Gift of Peace

*An evening of prayer and reflection on the true meaning of Christmas*

*Monday, December 19*

*7:30 PM*

*Church*

In the book of the prophet Isaiah, we read about the kind of gift that God wants to give to our world. A gift of justice and peace to be shared by each and every person and by all the nations of the earth. Without a doubt this is the true meaning of Christmas.

On this evening, we will listen to John Bingham speak about how we can give this gift to others and how we can receive it ourselves. Mr. Bingham is a native Long Islander who now lives in France with his family and works for International Catholic Migration Commission which helps refugees worldwide. He is a former director of immigration for Catholic Charities and has traveled the world to spread the message of justice and peace.

If you are wondering how you can fit this talk into the last busy week of Christmas shopping, ask yourself how you can afford to miss the true meaning of this season.

## **Feast of St. Nicholas**

**Monday, December 5**

**7 PM in the Church**



In this beautiful season of Advent, we celebrate a good and holy saint in our Church. St. Nicholas' love of young people and the spirit of Christmas are an inspiration to us all.

Come and celebrate the **Feast of St. Nicholas on Monday, December 5 (the eve of the Feast of St. Nicholas) at 7 PM in the Church.**

Members of our Youth Community have prepared a special presentation for us and our Family Liturgy Committee is planning for some great food and fun.

*A special visitor will join us and read our final story!*

## **Daytime Eucharistic Devotion**

The afternoon adoration for the month of December will be on

**Wednesday, December 7 from 1-3 PM in the Church.**

We will be praying for the Pope, world peace and religious men and women.

All are invited and welcome-bring a friend!

## **Pro-Life Adoration**

### **16<sup>th</sup> Annual Nocturnal Night of Prayer for Life**

Throughout our nation, Catholics will be united in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for the cause of life, especially the life of the unborn. We believe in the power of prayer and gather around the Eucharist to find our support and strength.

Join us on Thursday evening, **December 8 - the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.**

We will be in the **Church from 9 PM** December 8, until 1 AM, December 9, the morning of her first apparition in Mexico.

Through our Lady's intercession, we ask for healing and justice in our nation and throughout the world. Please come and join your prayers with ours.

All are welcome and invited!



***Our Lady of Lourdes Fourth Annual  
Family Christmas Pageant  
Thursday, December 22  
7 PM in the Church***

***What better way to prepare for Christmas than to share the Christmas story with our children!***

We'd like to involve many members of our parish community, especially all parish children!  
It's easy...there are only two short practices and a dress rehearsal. There's something for all ages:

**Children**

Pre-K through Grade 3

Angels and Shepherds

Grades 4 through 6

Three Kings and the Royal Servants; and Dancers

Grades 7 through 12

We need lots of help—musicians, singers, organizers and assistant directors!

If you can help with our pageant, please call Jennifer Gallagher at 661.3224 or email [jengallagher@ollchurch.org](mailto:jengallagher@ollchurch.org).

**Pageant Practices for All**

Friday, December 2 from 4 PM until 5 PM in the Church

Tuesday, December 6 from 5 PM until 6 PM in the Church

Saturday, December 17 Dress Rehearsal 10 AM in the Church

## **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

*“[Mary] gave to the world the Life that renews all things,  
and she was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role.”*

We celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception – a holy day of obligation – on **Thursday, December 8 at 8 AM Mass and 7:30 PM Mass.**

There will also be a *vigil mass* on **Wednesday, December 7 at 5 PM.**

Please come and pray with us!

## **Becoming Married: The Journey to Intimacy**

*future classes in the series...*

### **Communication...**

talking and listening secrets that lead to intimacy

**Wednesday, January 18, 2006**

**presented by Pat Leonard**

### **Parenting...**

how do we parent through the stages of our children's lives

**Wednesday, February 15, 2006**

**presented by Joe Tomaselli**

### **Beginning Again...**

healing and freedom through the annulment process

**Wednesday, May 17, 2006**

**presented by Fr. Mike Vetrano**

## **Our Catholic Faith Through Literature**

*future classes in the series...*

**The Prodigal Son**      **Tuesdays, March 7, 14 and 21, 2006**  
**presented by Tom Petriano**

**Vino and DaVinci**      **Wednesday, May 3, 2006**  
**presented by Margaret Mannino**

## **Healthcare Issues in the 21st Century**

*future classes in the series...*

**Catholic Thinking on Issues of Life and Death**  
**Tuesday, February 28, 2006**  
**with Father Mike**

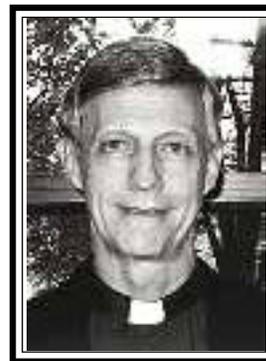
**Living Wills, Health Care Proxies, Patient Rights**  
**Tuesdays, March 28 and April 4, 2006**  
**with Marty and Anne Kerrigan**

Pre-Registration is necessary and helpful. This will enable us to have enough reading material and refreshments for all those attending. Please call the Religious Education Office, Monday-Friday, 9AM – 5PM and 7PM – 9PM, 661-5440 or e-mail to [religious@ollchurch.org](mailto:religious@ollchurch.org).

Fee: \$5 per presentation or \$15 for the series (5 presentations). No fee is required for those who have paid the Religious Education Family Fee or Our Lady of Lourdes School Tuition. Fees may vary appropriately.

## Welcome Fr. Ed Dowling

This weekend, we welcome Fr. Ed Dowling to our parish! Fr. Dowling is a Jesuit priest and teacher at Fordham University where he teaches, get ready for this, Mathematical Economics and Statistics. He has written a number of books on economics and has a published book of his homilies, *“Have You Heard the Good News.”* For all his thirty-six years of priesthood, Fr. Dowling has been active in weekend parish liturgies in various parishes on Long Island. He looks forward to being part of our parish masses on several Sundays each month.



## St. Bernard League

*Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow! OK...maybe not.*

The winter months can be a stressful and tough time for many in our parish community. Our parish’s youth community and Social Action Group have created a special group-The Saint Bernard League- to help with shoveling for our parishioners in need throughout the winter months.

### ***How does this work?***

When it snows – “your” Saint Bernard will call you to see if you are in need of help. If you need their services, you will set up a convenient time and your Saint Bernard will shovel for you and your family.

### ***Do you want to be a Saint Bernard?***

We are in need of individual parishioners and parish families to be “Saint Bernards” to those in need within our parish community. If you want to become an OLL Saint Bernard, just call the Parish Office at 661.3224 and leave your name and phone number or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org).

### ***Do you need the services of our OLL Saint Bernards?***

If you would like to be included on the list of parishioners who may need the services of our OLL Saint Bernard League volunteers, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 or email to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org).

## School News



The Prayer Service held on Monday, November 28, was a wonderful view of OLL School! There was a power point presentation on the start of the Parish and our OLL school students played the part of Bishop Molloy, Father Toomey and Sr. Ruth Francis, the first pastor and principal.

Please consider supporting our school’s SCRIP program. The SCRIP desk is located in the OLL School Lobby. The SCRIP desk hours are Monday and Wednesday, 12 noon - 2:45 PM, Thursday 12:30 PM - 3:15 PM, Friday, 12 noon - 3:15 PM and Sunday, after the 9:30 AM Mass.

In-stock items are available immediately and orders placed by 10AM Monday will be available for pickup on Friday or thereafter. Please consider supporting our school’s SCRIP program.

## Christmas Flower Offerings

Christmas Flower offerings received by Sunday, December 11 will be published in the Christmas bulletin. Offerings received after that date will be published in subsequent bulletins.

## Rest In Peace

Daniel J. LoCricchio  
 Marie Fettinger  
 Walter Ihne



### Rosary/Novena

#### Rosary:

Daily after 8 AM Mass

#### Miraculous Medal Novena:

Monday after 8 AM Mass

#### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults(RCIA):

A process to be embraced by the Catholic Church.

For non-Catholics and for Catholics who have never received formal religious education. If interested, please call the Parish Office.

## Financial Summary

### November 20, 2005

Weekly Collection	\$ 18,253.96
Weekly Budget	<u>-\$ 19,057.00</u>
+/- for the week	\$ (803.04)

### Campaign for Human Development

This Year	\$ 3,058.00
Last Year	<u>-\$3,296.50</u>
Difference	\$ (238.50)

### November 27, 2005

Weekly Collection	\$ 20,106.10
Weekly Budget	<u>-\$ 19,057.00</u>
+/- for the week	\$ 1,049.10

*The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs and salaries is \$19,057.*

#### Baptism

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

#### Marriage

Arranged at least six months in advance, please contact the Parish Office.

# Remembering...

**Monday, December 5**

8:00 AM Dolores O'Dea

**Tuesday, December 6**

*St. Nicholas, bishop*

8:00 AM Joseph J. Vetter, Jr.

**Wednesday, December 7**

*St. Ambrose, bishop, doctor*

8:00 AM Lodespoto Family

5:00 PM Nancy Acquista

**Thursday, December 8**

*Immaculate Conception of Mary*

8:00 AM Robert Russell

7:30 PM Gail Francavilla

**Friday, December 9**

8:00 AM George Stone

**Saturday, December 10**

8:00 AM Vincent McCarthy, Gene Langan, Richard Clark,  
Dolph Holm, Aunt Edith, In Honor of Sacred Heart, Lawrence  
Luby, Edward Luca, Lou Steinbrecher (L)

5:00 PM Paul Joseph Gartner

*Fr. Stan Chukwube*

**Sunday, December 11**

8:00 AM Homann & Dunn Family

*Fr. Stan Chukwube*

9:30 AM Joseph A. Santangelo

*Fr. Nestor Watin*

11:00 AM Edward Segreto

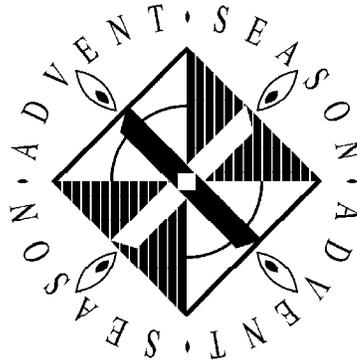
*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

12:30 PM Josephine & Charles Galbo

*Fr. Ed Dowling*

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Michael Sanfilippo, Jr.,  
Joseph Badamo, James Smith & Family, Basilio & Melchora  
Aquino & Family, Gladys Weber, Thomas Wall, Antigone Cost,  
Caitlin Boyle, Frank Teresa, Janet Graziano, Daniel LoCri cchio

*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*



**Daily Mass**

8 AM

**Weekend Masses**

**Saturday:** 5 PM

**Sunday:** 8 AM, 9:30 AM,  
11 AM, 12:30 PM and 6 PM

**Reconciliation**

**Saturday:** 4 PM - 4:45 PM



## Altar Society

Rose Grant

### Pray for Our Sick

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers ...  
*Thomas Brennan, Jo Brogan, Christian Bullock,  
Jerry Castonguay, John Finch, Jason Fisher,  
Theresa Grasso, Madeline Hopper, Benjy Margulies,  
Peter McCann, Sr., Arabella Elizabeth McCarthy,  
Margaret Miller, Nichole O'Connor, Joe Radosti,  
Rose Serragano, Mary Stone, Rosemary Van Acker,  
Loretta Vitale, Valerie Vitolo*

### Anointing of the Sick

Throughout the liturgical year. If needed sooner, please call the Parish Office.

### Communion Calls

Communion brought to those who are homebound.  
Contact the Parish Office.

### Pastoral Care of the Sick

Please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 to leave the names of parishioners who:

- are homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist
- are in Good Samaritan Hospital and would like to be visited by a member of our Pastoral Care Ministry.

### Senior Circle

Our Senior Circle meets at 12:30 PM in the Parish Center on the last Monday of every month.

### Parish Office

661-3224

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Saturday: 9 AM - 3 PM

Sunday: 9 AM - 2 PM

email:

[ParishOffice@ollchurch.org](mailto:ParishOffice@ollchurch.org)

fax:

661-7143

website:

[www.ollchurch.org](http://www.ollchurch.org)

### Our Lady of Lourdes School

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email:

[ReginaC@ollschool.org](mailto:ReginaC@ollschool.org)

### Religious Education Office

661-5440

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon

1 PM - 5 PM

7 PM - 9 PM

email:

[ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org](mailto:ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org)

### S.A.G.E.

661-3224

(Senior Advocates for  
Growth and Enrichment)

email:

[Sage@ollchurch.org](mailto:Sage@ollchurch.org)

### Thrift & Gift Boutique

Monday & Thursday: 9 AM-11 AM

Saturday: 10 AM - 1 PM

## Parish Outreach

### Outreach Office Hours

Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM.  
For information/assistance call 661.9262.  
Scrip is sold in Parish Outreach during office hours.

### Home Care

If you need help at home—home companion or child care—  
please call Parish Outreach at 661.9262.

### Our Lady of Lourdes Bereavement

Our parish support group for those who have lost a loved one—  
If interested, please call the Parish Outreach Office at 661.9262.



### The Giving Tree

Christmas is on its way— actually for those of us at Outreach, it's here!  
In order that we may give those less fortunate a nice Christmas, Parish Outreach and other ministries at OLL have put together our annual "Giving Tree."

This year, we have increased the number of tags to help our neighboring churches and outreach programs and, hopefully, to have some gifts go to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Our "Giving Tree" has tags that ask for gifts, toys, food certificates and clothing certificates.

### You can help us by:

- taking a tag or two from the tree,
- place the requested item in a box, with the tag attached, under the tree no later than **December 18,**
- all items should be left unwrapped, but feel free to provide wrapping paper and bow,
- if you are giving a gift certificate (food or clothing), you may return them by putting them in the collection basket, dropping them to the Parish Office or Parish Outreach during business hours. (Please, do not leave certificates under the tree.)

We are sure that you will join us in making this a Merry Christmas for all, and we thank you for your continued generosity. We wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas!

## Restoring the Covenant

“We are asked to examine our lives and to reflect on how we are living the Gospel call to love and care for each other, and not to forget the least of these.”

*New York's Catholic Bishops in Restoring the Covenant*

### **Living God's Covenant with the Poor On Long Island: Stories of Hope and Support**

## ***Living God's Covenant with the Poor in the Parish of St. Margaret of Scotland, Selden: Creating Self-Esteem***

*by Donna Strong, Parish Social Ministry Coordinator*

Of all the people who walk through my door, I admire the young moms whose husbands have left them with outstanding bills not to mention broken hearts. For the most part, these women come back to me in a year or two thanking us for all we did to help and share their stories of new jobs and new self esteem.

One woman came to us in April of 2004. She had separated from her husband because of severe emotional abuse. She told me he was very controlling, would put her down whenever he could and even blamed her for their son's eating disorder. The little boy of 6 could only eat baby food. We talked for a long time. I told her as I tell all the people who come for help that we are here for them by filling a shopping cart with groceries once or twice a month and once in a while by paying a bill to get them back on their feet. I also insist that they call and make an appointment before coming in for food so that we can sit and talk. It is very important to know what is going on in their lives. I introduce them to our Divorced and Separated Group facilitated by Patty Hodge.

One young woman would come once a month for food and to tell me all that was going on in her life. She would break down and cry, reliving her court experiences, her job searches, taking her son to doctors and just trying to get through one day at a time.

Recently this woman called me to tell me she got a great job with BOCES. She was getting medical coverage and things were really turning around for her. She also told me that she took a young woman in with her for a month until the young lady could save enough money for her rent security and first month's rent. She gave the woman our phone number to call if she needed our assistance. The woman did call.

In the six years I have worked here many women have come to us feeling like it was the end of the world, but in a relatively short time they come back to us with a new outlook on life, a decent job and most importantly a new and more positive self image. That is one of the main reasons I love my job so much.

## Social Action Group

Our Social Action Group works on issues related to peace and justice. The group coordinates service activities, political action campaigns, assists at local soup kitchens and shelters and helps to direct the justice movement in our parish community.

Our next meeting is **Monday, December 12, at 7:15 PM in the Faculty Room.** For more information contact Dorothy Perdue or John Sureau at the Parish Office or e-mail to [Dorothy.perdue@worldnet.att.net](mailto:Dorothy.perdue@worldnet.att.net).



## “The Six”

### Cleaning Up This Advent

This Advent, the “Six Committee” and the Social Action Group are working hard to help those most in need. We will be putting together “Wash Up Kits.” In order to be able to do this, we will need new, unused wash cloths, bars of soap, small “sample” style shampoos, toothpastes and toothbrushes. We will be collecting these toiletries throughout the Advent season, so please bring them with your food donation to Church each weekend.

On **Sunday, December 18**, we will be putting together these “Wash Up Kits.” This is a great opportunity for community service during this holiday season. Please **come to the Parish Center after “The Six”** and help put these “Wash Up Kits” together. These “small items” will be a “big help” to those in need.

## Support Groups

### Alcoholics Anonymous

Monday and Tuesday at 8 PM and Saturday at 7 PM in Lourdes Hall-convent lower level.

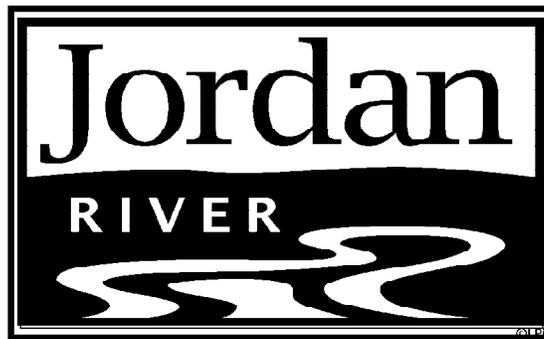
### ALANON

Each Wednesday at 10 AM in Lourdes Hall-convent lower level.

## Altar Servers

Training for new altar servers will now take place in January.

If you’re interested in becoming an altar server and have not already signed up, you can contact the Parish Office at 661.3224 or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org)



## Second Sunday of Advent

Many of us begin and end our days by watching the weather forecast. When we do, we learn if we will need sunglasses or an umbrella. We must be ready for any circumstance. A prediction of rain brings mixed reactions; we are glad for the refreshment it will bring to the grass and flowers, but we grimace at the thought of dashing between the drops to stay dry. If the forecast is good, we greet the day with a bit more joy and anticipation.

“Make a straight path!” The prophet Isaiah foretold of a messenger that would announce the coming of the Lord. John the Baptist was that messenger. To all who would listen, he preached of confession of sins, and baptized with water those who asked for forgiveness. And still he promised that all who would continue to ask for forgiveness and believe in Jesus Christ would be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that our baptism is but the beginning of our journey of faith. “Preparation for baptism leads only to the threshold of new life. Baptism is the source of that new life in Christ from which the entire Christian life springs forth.” (CCC, 1254) As John the Baptist forecast the coming of Jesus Christ, this Advent season let us renew our baptismal promise. Let us ask for forgiveness of our sins, and seek the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

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### Readings for the Week of December 4, 2005

**Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11/ 2 Pt 3:8-14/ Mk 1:1-8  
**Monday:** Is 35:1-10/ Lk 5:17-26  
**Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11/ Mt 18:12-14  
**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31/ Mt 11:28-30  
**Thursday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/ Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/ Lk 1:26-38  
**Friday:** Is 48:17-19/ Mt 11:16-19  
**Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/ Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
**Next Sunday:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/ 1 Thes 5:16-24/ Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

## Longest Night Prayer Service

Prayer service for those suffering a loss through separation, divorce, health, job or loved one. No fee. St. Mary's Lower Church, Roslyn. Wednesday, December 21 at 7:30 PM. Please call to register at 516.621.2222.

## FOCCUS Training

The marriage preparation ministry for active people with busy lives. FOCCUS is a self-assessment instrument designed to help couples learn more about themselves and determine their readiness for marriage. To be held at **Church of the Immaculate Conception, West Hampton Beach on Saturday, December 10 from 9:30 AM until 12 noon**. The cost is \$45 with FOCCUS manual. Pre-registration required no later than December 5. For registration, please call 516.678.5800, ext. 233.

## Religion & Rock

Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Fr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. Next Sunday's theme is:

### "Waiting & Patience"

Don't forget to tune in! Visit "Religion & Rock" on the web, [www.religionandrock.com](http://www.religionandrock.com). Also watch "Good News with Father Jim" on TELECARE, channel 29, on Mondays and Fridays at 9:45 AM; Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 7:45 PM; Sundays at 8 PM.

## "Good News" Christmas Spectacular

*(with Fr. Jim)*

Be a part of a live studio taping!  
 Tuesday, December 13 at 5:15 PM at Hayes Theatre, Molloy College.  
 For more information, call the Good News hotline at 516.538.8704, ext. 157 or email [GoodNews@telecaretv.org](mailto:GoodNews@telecaretv.org)

## Members in the Military

We ask that you pray especially for those in our parish that are on active duty in the Middle East conflict.

They are:



**Jerry Clark, Jr.-US Army**  
**Justin Estelle-US Army**  
**John Finn-US Army**  
**Kenneth Gein-US Army**  
**Ed Kelly III-US Air Force**  
**Paul McEvoy-US Army**  
**William Morrow-US Marines**  
**Peter Provenzano-US Army**  
**Jonathan Rothwell- US Army**  
**John Thompson-US Marines**

...and remember those of our parish family that are in the armed services, listed in our Parish Book of Intentions.

## Reunion Planned

The Bishop McDonnell Memorial High School Alumnae are planning a 50 year reunion for the classes of January and June 1956. For information, please contact Patricia Donovan Guerin at 631.474.3819 or Mary Louise Monroe Schuck at 631.331.5085.

## Thank you for being there for me...

When we talk about reaching women facing unplanned pregnancies, it's easy to get nervous and ask, "What would I say to her? How would I connect with her?"

The answer is not in what we say, but in simply being available. If we will listen, if we can empathize and share the love of Jesus Christ, the other answers fall into place. If you have a heart to "be there" for a young woman in this situation, call us. Together we can make a difference in her life.

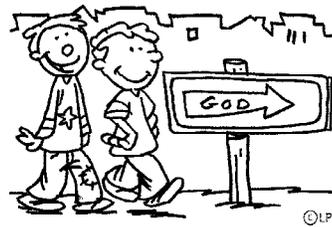
Life Center of Long Island at 631.243.2373.

## The "Nutcracker"

by the New York City Ballet at Lincoln Center on December 11. Join St. Joseph's in Babylon for the New York City Ballet presentation of The "Nutcracker." Transportation will be provided by Classic Coach Company. The cost is \$110 per person. Please call Valerie Stone for information and booking at 631.236.2222.

# Sharing the Gospel

Have you ever played the game "Simon Says?" It is a fun game, but it also teaches us an important lesson. We need to listen carefully, before we follow anybody's directions. In today's Gospel reading, John the Baptist was giving some important directions. Listen to God, love him, and follow him. Stop ignoring God. Stop hurting each other. When we love God, and when we love the people around us, everybody wins.



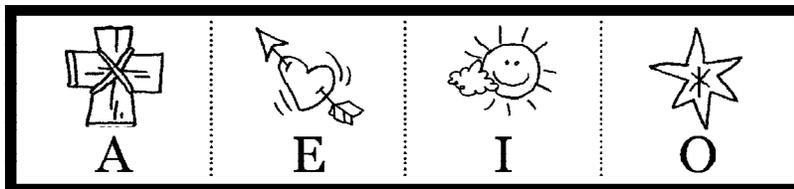
## Prayer



Dear God,  
 I know I need to listen to you carefully. I want to follow you with my whole heart. Please help me to love other people the way you want me to. In Jesus' name, Amen.



### Coded Message



TURN B  CK T  G  D  
 ND B  B  PT  Z  D!

T

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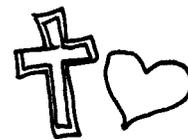


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*Turn back to God and be baptized!*



### Mission

for the  
 Week

Play "Simon Says" with your family. After you are done, talk about how important it is for us to follow God's directions.