

Our Lady of Lourdes

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time • January 21, 2007



“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free.” - Lk 4:18



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

Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano

Pastor

Rev. Stanislaus Chukwube

Associate Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback

Associate Pastor

Deacon John DeGuardi

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 Scorgia

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

Jen Gallagher

Anne Kerrigan

Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)

Mary McMahan

Doreen Spiller

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Marie Yuliano (*co-chair*)

Parish Staff

Barbara Catusco

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

Lori Walsh

Parish Office

*Our Lady
of Lourdes*

455 Hunter Avenue

West Islip, New York 11795

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.*

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

fax: 661-7143

website: www.ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes School

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: rcioffi@ollschool.org

Religious Education Office

661-5440

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon

1 PM - 5 PM

7 PM - 9 PM

email: ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org

S.A.G.E.

661-3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment)

email: Sage@ollchurch.org

Adult Faith Formation

Preparing for life ending decisions...

Reasons to hope...

Tuesdays, January 23, 30, and February 6, 2007

7:30-9:30 PM

Parish Center

Presenters include *S. Diane Liona, Barbara Redmond,*

Deacon John and Anne DeGuardi... and more

As we journey through the seasons of life, we must move with them and become aware of these life ending decisions... challenges... sorrows...

How do I face walking with someone who is seriously ill?

How do I prepare for the loss of a loved one-as a spouse, an adult, daughter/son, a friend, a sibling?

Through the support of others, these evenings will guide us as we walk this journey.

Together we will discuss, reflect, share and pray. Please join us – don't miss it!

...Upcoming Courses

American Mystics: Thomas Merton and Jessica Powers

One Night Only!

Tuesday, March 6, 2007 from 7:30 PM until 9:30 PM in the Parish Center.

Our presenter is Kathleen Reid, MA, Director of Religious Education, St. Philip Neri R.C. Church.

We all need good role models! Here we will explore the life, legacy, and writings of these two 20th century Catholics and Mystics. Through presentation, discussion, and reflection... we will see what wisdom we can receive from these fascinating, creative, and gifted people.

The Eucharist: Gift and Call

One Night Only!

Tuesday, March 27, 2007 from 7:30 PM until 9:30 PM in the Parish Center.

Our presenter is S. Barbara Regan r.c. MA in Theology, Staff of Cenacle Retreat Center.

Each week, thousands come to receive the Eucharist at Our Lady of Lourdes...but are we going through the motions or do we really understand the awesome gift God gives us and how it can change our lives? As we look at the history of the Eucharist and understand it's role in our lives, let's find out!

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, between 9AM – 5 PM and 7PM – 9PM, at 661.5440 x3, or e-mail to: religiously@ollchurch.org. Fee: \$25 [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.]

Living Liturgy



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This year from January 18 through January 25, we pray for unity and respect among all of the Christian churches!

Our own parish has made some efforts by joining the Babylon Clergy Cluster so that we can more fully learn from and share with other local Churches and communities.

The theme for this year, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is, “He even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.” Let’s pray for the openness to see and to hear the powerful message of our own Church and other local Churches, too!



What is a Pilgrimage?

Come and experience a special opportunity to travel on a parish pilgrimage with family and friends from the community of Our Lady of Lourdes Church...

...a pilgrimage is a travel experience that is fueled by a desire to move closer to the sacred, to encounter Christ or Our Blessed Mother, or a particular saint. This can be found in a special place such as Saint Anne de Beaupre’ located in Quebec City and Saint Joseph’s Oratory overlooking the city of Montreal –all wrapped up in a peaceful place with rolling hills and picturesque villages in Canada.

Departure date is set for Monday, July 9 returning on Monday, July 16, 2007. Come to a brief meeting on **Thursday, January 25 in Room 16 at 7:30 PM** and meet other interested travelers. Isn’t this a great way to celebrate fifty-one years of our parish? For additional information call Deacon John in the Parish Office at 661.3224.

Support Catholic Education

Catholic Schools are an important part of the educational mission here at OLL and throughout the diocese. Here are some opportunities for you to support Catholic Education...



January 20 / 21

This weekend a collection for the support of Our Lady of Lourdes School will be taken. Your generosity in this collection goes directly to the support of our Catholic School.

Special Gifts — Classroom Angels

For a gift of \$1000 from a person or group, you can become a classroom angel for a whole year. Your name or a memorial inscription will be placed over the door of one of our classrooms as a reminder of your generous gift.

School Scrip

Is sold throughout the year. Purchasing Scrip as gifts or for your own day to day purchases costs you nothing extra and benefits special programs in Our Lady of Lourdes School.

Please be as generous as you can. Remember that our children are our future!

Here's What's Happening...



Our Lady of Lourdes School is hosting 10 students from Korea. The students are here for the month of January. They are staying with host families here in the Parish and will be attending school at OLL. They are enrolled in grades 4 through 8. They are learning about our culture and we are learning about life in Korea.

Hillary Edwards, a first grader was the winning student in our Gift wrap Sale, selling over \$600 worth of Gift Wrap. Every student who participated in the Gift Wrap Sale was entered into a drawing for a bicycle, and the winners were 6th graders, Malik Wallace and Katherine Moeller.



Geography Bee winners were Kathleen Calves, first place and Alyssa Acompora, second place in the National Geography Bee sponsored by The National Geographic. Kathleen went on to take a one hour test which will be sent to the National Geographic to be graded and has a shot at going to the State finals in Albany. Her brother, Peter, was a school winner two times and he went to Albany on one occasion. It must be a family thing!

A Catholic Education builds character, compassion and values

Our Lady of Lourdes School

44 Toomey Road
West Islip, NY 11795
631-587-7200

**We provide excellence
in academics
and spiritual growth**

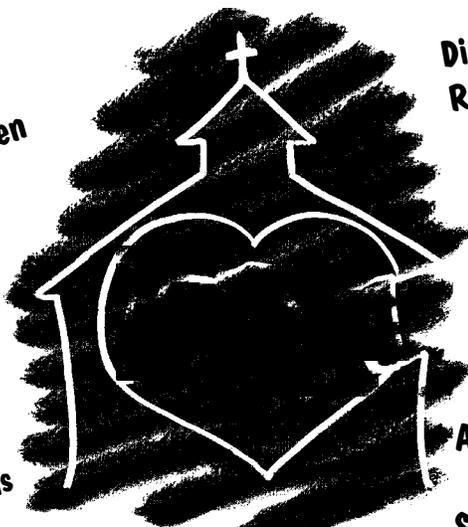
Multi-student discounts

**Diocesan Tuition
Reimbursement**

Full-day kindergarten

**Nursery
and
Pre-K programs**

Drama, Dance, Music



**Advanced research program
in partnership with
Stony Brook Medical School!**

**Middle School Sports Programs
basketball, soccer, baseball,
softball, and more!**

Open House

Sunday, January 21, 2007

10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Catholic School education affordable?

YES!

**Ask about our scholarships and
tuition assistance programs**

A school to believe in, a place to call home...

Let us show you why we are special!

*Now accepting registration for September 2007
For further information or if you have any questions,
please call Mrs. Regina Cioffi, Principal at 631.587.7200, option 2*

Daily Mass

8 AM

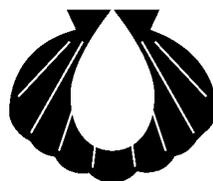
Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5 PM

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

Reconciliation

Saturday: 4 PM - 4:45 PM



Baptisms

Mandy Grace Nicolosi

John and Tania



Rest In Peace

Lindsey Sangiorgio

Kenneth Caputo

Dominic Russo

Margaret Flanagan

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.

Anointing of the Sick

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

Baptism

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

Marriage

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

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.

Remembering...

Monday, January 22

St. Vincent, deacon, martyr

8:00 AM Nancy Proctor

Tuesday, January 23

8:00 AM Joseph & Amelia Moscarelli

Wednesday, January 24

St. Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor

8:00 AM Antoinette Vogel

Thursday, January 25

8:00 AM Elinor Shaddock

Friday, January 26

Ss. Timothy and Titus, bishops

8:00 AM Charlotte & James Quinn

Saturday, January 27

8:00 AM Carmine Maiocco, Keith O'Shea, Joseph Mangiapane,
MaryAnn Sacco, Alger Kiceina, Walter Hess, James Smith,
Reza Aquino, Basilio Aquino, Paddy Gracey, Shiela Kane

5:00 PM Peter Connolly

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Sunday, January 28

8:00 AM Emma Avitable

Fr. Ed Dowling

9:30 AM George A. Wild

Fr. Mike Vetrano

11:00 AM Dolores Haggerty & Al Bianco

Fr. John Asomugha

12:30 PM James Peter Olsen

Fr. John Asomugha

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Rick Munkwitz, Maureen Hitchen,
Dolores Betsch, Fred Ruggio, John Weiss, Antoinette Moramarco,
Cecilio & Josefa Rivera, Vincent Siciliano, Robert Charles McGrath, Sr.

Fr. Bob Scheckenback



- detergent
- kleenex
- paper towels
- personal feminine products
- shampoo
- soap
- toilet tissue
- toothbrush
- toothpaste

Parish Outreach

Outreach Office Hours

Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM.
For information/assistance call 661.9262.

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:

"Struggles in Life."

Don't forget to tune in!

Visit "Religion & Rock" on the web, 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.

Financial Summary

January 14, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 17,643.50
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (3,356.50)

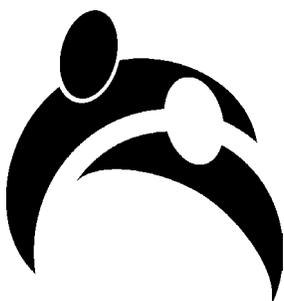
The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs and salaries is \$21,000.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Terri Ryan*.
If you would like to help care for our altar needs, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

Communion Calls

Communion brought to those who are homebound.
Contact the Parish Office at 661.3224.



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.

Pray for Our Sick

Please remember to keep in your thoughts and prayers ...

Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan, Elise Brenner, Jo Brogan, Christian Bullock, Sr. Nancy Campkin, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Irene D'Auria, Jason Fisher, Diane Garretson, Barbara Guarino, Adam Ippolito, Brian Kaehne, Peggy Keegan, Leonore Keller, Brigid Kinney, Joseph Lehmann, Anthony Lombardo, Michael Lombardo, Millie Lombardo, Mike Lorento, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Bryan Monahan, Robert Petersen, Joe Radosti, Dan Rodriguez, Rose Serragano, Dorothy Sullivan, Loretta Vitale

Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month.
The next meeting will be held on **Monday, January 29, 2007** at **12:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

Good Samaritan Prayer Group of L.I.

The Good Samaritan Prayer Group of Long Island holds their **meetings every Friday (except the first Friday of the month) at OLL School in Room 16 from 8 PM until 10 PM.**

All are welcome to experience singing, praying and fellowship each evening.

Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group

The Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group meets each **Thursday afternoon** in the **Church**. The meeting is from **3 PM until 4 PM** in **front of the Blessed Sacrament.**



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

As children, we all played the game “telephone.” At a party or a family gathering, we would sit in a circle. The first person whispers a short story to the person next to them, who in turn does their best to repeat it in a whisper to the next person, and so on. The fun was to see how much the story changed by the time it had made its way around the circle.

Today’s Gospel reading from Luke begins with a short narrative in which the author declares that he has fully and accurately gathered the events of the life of Jesus Christ. Rather than trust these events to be passed on by word of mouth, Luke has chosen to write them down accurately and “in an orderly sequence.” One such event is a simple retelling of an afternoon in the synagogue in which Jesus calmly reads of Isaiah’s promise of a savior. He is that savior, he tells the assembled.

Even in a seemingly simple story we can draw a lesson. Among our many special graces are graces of action. These are the responsibilities that we have as we lead Christian lives, just as Jesus came to know and speak out about his responsibilities (CCC 2004). Paul’s letter to the Romans says that we must recognize and use these graces within us, whether they be prophecy, service, teaching, contributing, giving of aid, or performing acts of mercy.

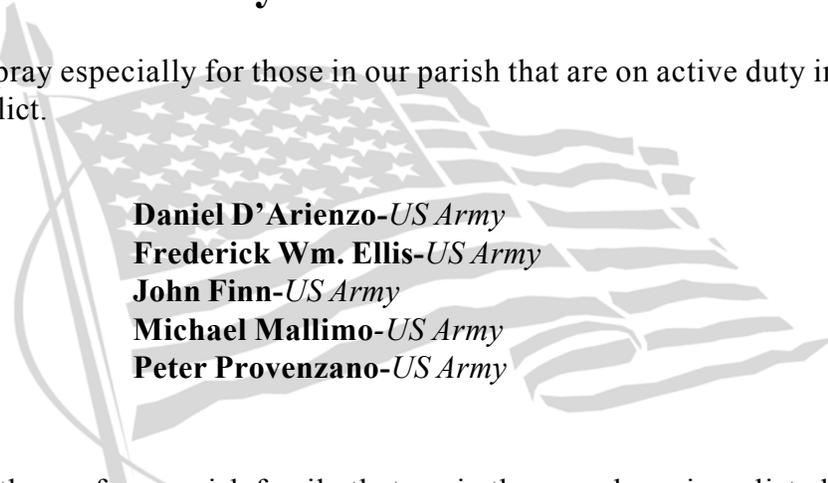
Readings for the Week of January 21, 2007

Sunday:	Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/1 Cor 12:12-30 <i>or</i> 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21
Monday:	Heb 9:15, 24-28/Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday:	Heb 10:1-10/Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday:	Heb 10:11-18/Mk 4:1-20
Thursday:	Acts 22:3-16 <i>or</i> Acts 9:1-22/Mk 16:15-18
Friday:	2 Tm 1:1-8 <i>or</i> Ti 1:1-5/Mk 4:26-34
Saturday:	Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Mk 4:35-41
Next Sunday:	Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/1 Cor 12:31—13:13 <i>or</i> 13:4-13/Lk 4:21-30

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:



Daniel D'Arienzo-US Army
Frederick Wm. Ellis-US Army
John Finn-US Army
Michael Mallimo-US Army
Peter Provenzano-US Army

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

Our whole parish family rejoices with the McEvoy family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty.

Paul McEvoy-US Army has returned to the United States safe and sound. Thank you, Paul, for your generous service to our country!

The McEvoy family would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family for all of their prayers.

more good news...

Our whole parish family rejoices with the Stultz family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty.

James Stultz-US Army has returned to the United States safe and sound. Thank you, James, for your generous service to our country!

The Stultz family would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family for all of their prayers.



Members
Serving
Our
Country



The parish family of Our Lady of Lourdes would like to list those in the armed forces on active duty so that we can include them in our prayers. If you would like to include a family member on active duty to our prayer list, please fill out the following:

Name: _____

Branch of Service: _____

or email information to bulletin@ollchurch.org

Social Action Alert

March for Life

Our Lady of Lourdes' Social Action Group invites anyone interested in going to the March for Life to join with the Peace and Justice Group of St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School!

The March for Life will take place tomorrow, Monday, January 22. The bus will leave at approximately 4:30 AM from St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School and return at approximately 9 PM. To reserve a space, please contact John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.

Life After Abortion

This time of the year, particularly with the March for Life, calls us to focus on the morality and legality and damage of abortion. Our faith also calls us to compassion and reconciliation not condemnation. There are a number of prayer opportunities and retreats being offered in our area for those who have had abortions and are seeking ways to work through this. For more information, look at the Rachel's Vineyard website – www.rachelsvineyard.org. In our own diocese, you can contact the Respect Life Office at 516.379.8292, x. 215 for more information.

Our Diocese offers a number of residences for young people who are pregnant and seeking shelter and resources to being life as a parent.

For more information about these services contact:

Regina Maternity Services – 516.223.7888

Mother of Good Counsel Home – 516.223.1013

Momma's House – 516.781.8637

Bethany House – 516.868.6866

Living God's Call for Charity and Justice in Political Life

An excerpt from *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love), the first Encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI
...to the Bishops, priests, and deacons, men and women, religious and
all the lay faithful on Christian love.

Our Charity: Creating a "Heart that Sees"

Christian charitable activity must be independent of parties and ideologies. It is not a means of changing the world ideologically, but it is a way of making present here and now the love which man always needs.

We contribute to a better world only by personally doing good now, with full commitment and wherever we have the opportunity, independently of partisan strategies and programs. The Christian's program—the program of the Good Samaritan, the program of Jesus—is “a heart which sees”. This heart sees where love is needed and acts accordingly. Charity, furthermore, cannot be used as a means of engaging in what is nowadays considered proselytism [converting others to the faith.] Love is free; it is not practiced as a way of achieving other ends. ...

Those who practice charity in the Church's name will never seek to impose the Church's faith upon others. They realize that a pure and generous love is the best witness to the God in whom we believe and by whom we are driven to love. A Christian knows when it is time to speak of God and when it is better to say nothing and to let love alone speak. He knows that God is love and that God's presence is felt at the very time when the only thing we do is to love...

Diocese of Rockville Centre Turns 50!

Our parish has just celebrated its Jubilee and now it's our turn to join with our Diocese as it turns 50 this year!

Bishop Murphy, who prayed with us at the Closing of our Jubilee Year in November, will open the Diocesan Jubilee Year with a special Mass at 11 AM at St. Agnes Cathedral. On this weekend, all parishes in the Diocese will celebrate the Feast of St. Agnes the patroness of our Diocese.

Look for more information in the pages of *The Long Island Catholic*.



God's love is everlasting
Ps. 118

Maria Regina Residence

Maria Regina Residence is a skilled long term care facility located on the property of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Brentwood. It provides Adult Day Health Services offering a wonderful day program including transportation and meals, as well as a loving atmosphere provided by an inclusive staff. If interested, or for further information, please contact Veronica Anderson, Director at 631.299.3045.

Being and Building the Body of Christ

St. Patrick's, Bay Shore, invites you to attend the series of adult faith formation talks presented by Jim Philipps during the month of January. Jim Philipps has been a catechist and professor of theology on the secondary and collegiate levels for twenty-five years. Jim has written three books and numerous articles exploring the nature of the Bible and the Church. He is actively involved in adult faith formation on the parish level and through the Diocesan Pastoral Formation Institute. For further information or to register, please call Susan at 631.661.4157 or email to susan@delucamaisto.com.

Annual Service and Goods Auction

St. John the Baptist D.H.S. is proud to announce the Eighth Annual Service & Goods Auction which will be held on Friday, February 9 at 7 PM in the Cougar Café. Many items to bid on, door prizes and raffles including one month's tuition, vacations, camps, and dinners to name a few. Please join us for a fun evening where the proceeds will benefit the students of SJB. We thank you for your continued support.

Reading and Math Tutoring Program

Our parish, along with many other parishes in the Diocese, will host the Children's Learning Services Spring Reading and Math Tutoring Program for 12 Saturdays from February 4 through May 19. There will be five or fewer children in a group with one NY State Certified Teacher. There are two programs-one for children with learning disabilities and one for children without. To register or for further information please call 631.243.2503.

Faith, Church and Commitment in an Imperfect World *Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI*

Michael Buckley, the American Jesuit, once said that the main cause of atheism is bad theism. That truth has a hundred faces. Ideals are always compromised by those who try to give them concrete flesh and, just as bad theism helps cause atheism, arrogant artists turn you off art, over-simplistic social justice advocates turn you away from good causes, bad theologians give theology a sour taste, unbalanced liberalism quickly turns you into a fundamentalist, and unhealthy conservatism seduces you towards irresponsible freedom. The bad practice of a truth often takes that truth away from you. We see that clearly in terms of people being turned away from the church.

Lisa St. Aubin de Teran gives us such an illustration in her book, *The Marble Mountain and Other Stories*. Her main character accuses her mother of destroying the church for her: "Sometimes I think the whispering in the ward at night sounds very Catholic. Perhaps that's why I think so much about you [Mother]. You were my religion for so many years. I asked Fr. O'Hare once how I could find favour in the eyes of God, and he told me, 'First you must find favour in your mother's eyes.' It would have pleased you, Mother, Mary, to know how much you denied me. Not many women can take away a Church."

Does that sound familiar? More and more people, in one way or other, make this complaint: "Someone - the clergy, the hierarchy, my mother, my father, a nun who taught me in school, someone who abused me, corruption within the church itself - has made it impossible for me to go to church. The church has been stolen from me!"

Can somebody do that to you? Take your church away? I've mixed emotions about that.

On the one hand, I've been lucky personally: My own experience was (and remains) essentially good. God, Christ, religion, and the church were given to me by a mother, a father, a clergy, some nuns, and certain parishes and schools that made them believable. The church that I met when I was little did not abuse me, misunderstand me, belittle me, riddle me with false guilt, or make it difficult for me to believe in Christ. To the contrary, whatever their flaws, for me, they made Christ credible. But that was my experience.

I know sincere people who have had a different experience. For them, someone or something did, at least in some major way, take their church away. Instances of massive betrayal, hypocrisy, narrow bigotry, or the refusal to

bless life among the significant others who should have mediated the church to them have left them with a distrust so deep that it's almost impossible for them to give themselves over in trusting self-surrender. Someone did take their church away.

Despite my own experience to the contrary, I have some sense of how that happens, both in terms of church and in other areas of life. Simply put: Many is the man who fights the truth of social justice because of the social justice groups he's met; many is the woman who fights the truth of feminism because of the feminists she knows; many is the well-meaning man who fights against the value of theology because of the particular theologians he's read; many is the woman who falsely asserts her moral freedom because of the moralists (professional or arm-chair) she's had to endure; and many are the victims who fight the (ideally positive) value of authority and power because the very power that should have protected them abused them.

No doubt, we all struggle with this in one area or another. It's often impossible, existentially, to make allowances for the fact that, despite the goodness and sincerity in most everyone inside these groups, believers aren't the faith, churches aren't Christ, moralists aren't morality, social justice groups aren't social justice, feminists aren't feminism, conservatives aren't conservatism, liberals aren't liberalism, artists aren't art, theologians aren't theology, pro-life groups have no monopoly on life, just as pro-choice groups aren't always about choice.

This side of eternity, all truth incarnates itself with inadequate expression, self-interest, personal wound, historical conditioning, ideology, and invincible ignorance. It's not easy not to be put off truth by the very persons seeking to bring it about - and the churches have no monopoly on compromise and double standards here.

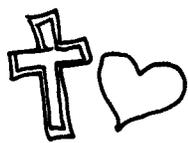
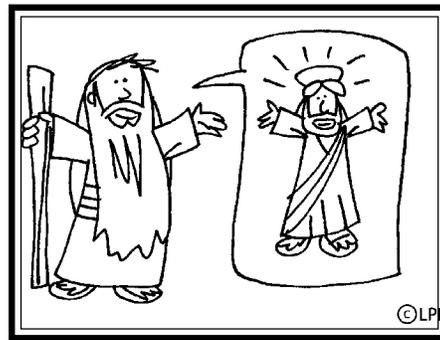
What's the answer? If every concrete, enfleshment of church, morality, truth, justice, politics, family, and aesthetics is flawed by inadequacy, dysfunction, infidelity, self-interest, ignorance, and abuse, does this give us the right to absent ourselves from commitment?

We have a choice. However that choice is not between what's perfect (a pure church, social justice that's completely non-compromised, art without ego or arrogance, family life without dysfunction, politics without bias, morality without narrowness, feminism without imbalance, religion without flaw or bad history) and what's bad. The choice is rather between involvement with the limping, stained, and compromised or no involvement at all.

Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Father Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author and is currently the President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com.

Sharing the Gospel

The prophet Isaiah wrote about Jesus a long time before he was even born. When Jesus read Isaiah's words, they described Jesus perfectly. Jesus did come to free people from sin, to help those in pain, and even to help blind people see.



Mission for the Week

Look up Isaiah chapter 61 and read it with your family.

Then read Luke 4:14-21. Jesus kept all of those promises!



Puzzle

Circle these words from today's Gospel:

SPIRIT
CHOSEN
POOR

FREEDOM
SIGHT
SUFFERS

LORD
JESUS
TRUE

I	A	M	J	L	U	I	T	L	A
S	B	C	H	O	S	E	N	V	E
U	P	A	T	R	H	A	R	T	I
F	R	E	E	D	O	M	A	W	H
F	N	H	C	A	L	E	I	W	S
E	F	O	J	E	S	U	S	H	P
R	B	D	S	M	I	W	L	G	I
S	I	G	H	T	L	P	O	O	R
T	Q	E	W	A	S	F	L	W	I
I	A	T	R	U	E	M	J	E	T

©LPi

Prayer



Dear God,

thank you for
sending Jesus to
help us.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of
Isaiah, the
prophet, writing
about Jesus.