

*"May the Lord direct your hearts  
to the love of God  
and to the endurance of Christ."*

*2Thessalonians 3:5*



*Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Our Lady of Lourdes • November 11, 2007*



## *Pastoral Team*

**Rev. Michael A. Vetrano**  
Pastor

*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.*

### **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: [info@ollschool.org](mailto:info@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)

### **Parish Outreach Office**

661-9262

Monday-Friday: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

### **S.A.G.E.**

661-3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth  
and Enrichment)

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

### **Rev. Stanislaus Chukwube**

Associate Pastor

### **Rev. Robert Scheckenback**

Associate Pastor

### **Deacon John DeGuardi**

### **Deacon Jack Meehan**

Coordinator of Stewardship

### **Deacon John Teufel**

### **Dominic Armano**

Youth Ministry

### **Sr. Margaret Bickar**

Senior Ministry-SAGE

### **Sr. Nancy Campkin**

Director of Religious Education

### **Jennifer Gallagher**

Children's Choir/Women's Chorale

Summer Program Director

### **Carol M. Goetz**

Parish Music Director

### **Louise Jane Krol**

School Principal

### **Sr. Diane Liona**

Director of Religious Education

### **Mary McMahon**

Director of Parish Social Ministry

### **Vita Scorgia**

Ministry Spiritual Director

### **John Sureau**

Coordinator of Worship

### **Sr. Betty Toohig**

Senior Ministry-SAGE

### **Anthony Trombino**

Business Manager

## *Pastoral Council*

Salomon Acosta

Stacie Baltrusitis

Jane Desthers

Stephen Frodell

William Hurley

Anne Kerrigan

Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)

Jack Meehan

Vita Scorgia

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

## *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.*

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## *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.*

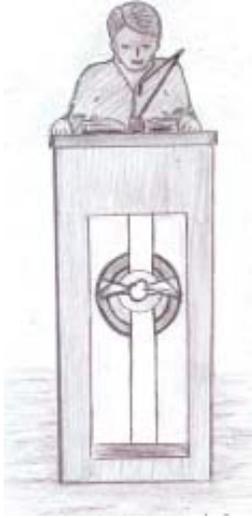
***Respond** to the Gospel in a radical way, inviting and inspiring all to form the Kingdom of God in every moment of life.*

***Acknowledge** we are not complete without the willingness to grow, discern and discover the Spirit who moves and guides us.*

*Our Lady  
of Lourdes*

455 Hunter Avenue  
West Islip, New York 11795

**When we love...**



**Renewing our Support for Our Lady of Lourdes**

*Dear Parishioners:*

*Each year, our parish uses the weeks at the end of October and beginning of November to celebrate parish stewardship.*

*Stewardship is a way of life, an attitude of generosity and faith that allows us to use our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to do the work of the gospel. Our parish community would not exist without the generosity of our members. Please pay special attention to the message of stewardship on these upcoming weekends.*

**...we serve.**

**Saturday and Sunday, November 10 and 11  
Commitment Weekend**

Parishioners will be invited to return their commitment cards if they did not do so last weekend. In addition, we will have cards available at the entrances of the Church over the next several weeks for your use. All cards can be returned in the collection baskets at Mass or they can be dropped off at or mailed to the Parish Office in the Rectory.

**Financial Summary**

**November 4, 2007**

Weekly Collection	\$ 20,354.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (646.00)

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

## How our Parish is Supported

Can you imagine what life would be like in your family household if every time you opened your paycheck the take-home amount was different? How could you plan to take care of your family's needs? That's what it is like for our parish family to operate with weekly collections as our main support. Collections at OLL vary from as little as \$14,550 for some summer weeks to as much as \$20,000 on a few others. The average contribution is \$17,400, but even if we try to count on this there are other unpredictable realities. A weekend snowstorm can set a parish budget back by \$15,000 and it can take months to recover.

Parishioners give to a parish in a variety of ways. Some people decide their weekly contribution well in advance and they never fail to give exactly the amount they plan. If there is a winter snowstorm they make it up the next week. If they take a two week summer vacation they are sure to send in their contributions for the weeks they are away. Without their support, it would be impossible for our parish to plan ahead in any dependable way. This year our parish is planning to offer two new services to our planned contributors. One is automatic payments in which an amount of your choosing can be automatically deducted from your credit card or bank. Another is friendly reminders in which we will keep track of your pledges and remind you if you are behind.

Some parishioners do not plan ahead. They contribute when they are at Mass and they decide at that moment what they will give for the week. If they are not at Mass, even for a good reason like storm, illness, or vacation, there is simply no contribution made that week. While we are grateful for any gift given to the Church, it is a fact that people expect the Church to be reliable and we are reliable. We never close our doors to anyone and we help those who come for education, outreach, weddings, funerals, etc. without fail. But you can probably understand that it is hard to be a reliable friend without reliable supporters.

Some give only occasionally, perhaps only at holidays or special times. And then there are others who do not contribute at all. It is a fact of life that 90% of our parish's support comes from only 1200 of our 6000 families. While some may simply not be able to give because of circumstances in their own lives, it is probably true that most simply do not appreciate how much OLL has to offer and how much we are in need of their support. We hope this year to reach out to these parishioners through mail, school, religious education, and other groups to help spread the word about our parish.

I am sure you can see that having each of our parishioners become a planned giver is the key to success in supporting all of our parish's programs. Please take a step by making a commitment to planned giving.

*We are called by God to be one, a family whose love for His Son is evident in all that we do. As members of the Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes, I / we realize that our parish is our Spiritual Home.*

*We affirm the good that is accomplished here by our gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure. I / Our family has prayerfully decided to make a regular weekly offering to further the work of our parish.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

I / we pledge an offering of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly \_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_

- Please check here if you would like us to send periodic reminders for your pledge.
- Please check here if you would like information on options for direct debit or credit card contributions.

Introducing our new ...

## “Someone Special & Me!”

**Children from 16 months old and their caregiver.**

**Tuesday and Thursday from 9 AM until 11 AM.**

Our new program immerses children in a learning environment that emphasizes a natural process of emotional and academic enrichment. They are exposed to a wide variety of activities and have opportunities for social interaction with other children that will enrich their ability to learn. These classes will culminate with a natural separation program before nursery school. Exciting new teacher: Ms. Pat Harty. It’s not day care, it’s Catholic education! Please call the School Office at 587.7200 for further information and registration.



Our Lady of Lourdes School is growing and improving its academics. OLL needs your help in making an improvement in the way our children learn. In particular, your immediate help is needed in financing our Science Lab. We are very close to our goal, and it will easily be reached if every family contributes. Please keep in mind that many companies will match your donation.

Please join our school families and friends in accepting this invitation to make our school 21st century cutting edge! Our hope is that all contributions can be made as soon as possible so that we can meet our installation date by the end of November.

*Louise Jane Krol, Principal*



Our Lady of Lourdes School eighth grade will be hosting a Poinsettia Plant Fundraiser.

Preorders of Poinsettia Plants will be taken now through November 27. Please return the order form below along with your check, made out to OLL School, to the School Office ATTN: Poinsettia Sale.

All plants that are pre-ordered will be available for pick-up on Saturday, December 1 in the school lobby from 3 PM until 5 PM.

Plants will be for sale after Masses on the weekend of December 1/2 in the All-Purpose Room.

### Poinsettia Plant Fundraiser

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# of plants	size	color	price	Total
	4 1/2"	red	\$ 6	
	6 1/2"	red	\$13	
	7 1/2" (circle color)	red, white, pink or marble	\$20	
			<b>Total Price</b>	

HO! HO! HO!  
It's that time again!

**Our Lady of Lourdes School  
Breakfast With Santa  
Sunday, December 9**



Don't miss our delicious Homemade Hot Pancake Breakfast  
There will be crafts, prizes, a 50/50 and of course Santa!

Buy your tickets early, seating is limited.  
\$5 per person and children 3 and under – FREE  
Price includes a photo with Santa

**2 Seatings:**

**8:30 AM – 10:30 AM**

**10:45 AM – 12:45 PM**

Any questions please call Rita Vandenburg at 940-5695 or  
Trisha Miranda at 586-1143.

Please tear off this portion of the flyer, complete it in full and submit it to our School Office –  
Attention: **Breakfast With Santa Committee** with your check made payable to Our Lady  
of Lourdes School. Families will receive a call for ticket pick up arrangements.

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

# of people in attendance: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of kids 3 & under: \_\_\_\_\_

Which seating will you be attending?: 8:30 AM \_\_\_\_\_ or 10:45 AM \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**Breakfast With Santa  
Christmas Shopping Spree Raffle**

Who couldn't use some extra cash this Christmas?  
Take a chance on our Christmas Shopping Spree Raffle

*\$25 a ticket – only 200 tickets will be sold*

**First Prize - \$1,500 cash**

**Second Prize - \$750 cash**

**Third Prize - \$250 cash**

Winning tickets will be announced at the second seating of this year's Breakfast With Santa.

Winner does not need to be present to win.

200 tickets must be sold to receive prizes listed above. If 200 tickets are not sold, prizes will be pro-rated.

Any questions please call Rita Vandenburg at 940-5695 or Trisha Miranda at 586-1143.

**Breakfast with Santa**

## Support Groups

### **Alcoholics Anonymous:**

Monday and Tuesday at  
8 PM and Saturday at 2PM  
and 7 PM in Lourdes Hall-  
convent lower level.

### **ALANON:**

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

### **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

### **Rosary/Novena**

#### **Rosary:**

Daily after 8 AM Mass

#### **Miraculous Medal Novena:**

Monday after 8 AM Mass

#### **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**

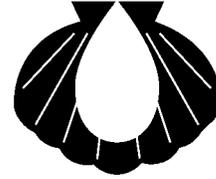
Arranged at least six months in advance, please call the Parish Office.

#### **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.

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday,  
November 12 in observance of Veteran's Day.

## *Baptisms*



*Seth Thomas Agoglia*

David and Candice

*Carleigh Shannon Engel*

Kevin and Danielle

*Daniel Charles Heaton*

James and Judith

*Ryan Niall Morrissey*

Niall and Kimberly

*Jacklyn Molly Muldoon*

Sean and Dawn

*Morgan Rose Rogers*

Timothy and Jennifer

*Lucas James Scourtos*

James and Eileen

## *Upcoming Marriages*

*Janine DeRosa, and*

*Kenneth Violetto, both OLL*

*Shayna Winters, St. Joseph's Babylon and*

*Richard Meyer; OLL*

*Lauren McDevitt and*

*Carlo Pace, both OLL*

## Mass Schedule

### Monday, November 12

*St. Josaphat, bishop, martyr*

8:00 AM Fortunato & Carmela Maggi

### Tuesday, November 13

*St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, virgin*

8:00 AM LaRocca & Sweeney Family

### Wednesday, November 14

8:00 AM Lawrence Francis Kelly  
and Vita Jean Kelly

### Thursday, November 15

*St. Albert the Great, bishop, doctor*

8:00 AM John Lovari

### Friday, November 16

*St. Gertrude, virgin*

8:00 AM George Bukowski

### Saturday, November 17

8:00 AM Peter Schreiner, Everett McGarry, Florence R. Denig,  
Peter Cioffi, Jennifer Maldonado, Cyril Cunningham, Joan Casey,  
Michael Heidt, John Hodgkins, Michaelina Scerbo, Eleanor Woods,  
Lucy Dalberti

5:00 PM John Lovari  
*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

### Sunday, November 18

8:00 AM Carmela DePrisco  
*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

9:30 AM In Thanksgiving to Holy Family  
*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

11:00 AM Joseph Buccola  
*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

12:30 PM Anna, John & Joseph Terito  
*Fr. Stan Chukwube*

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Antonio Cantone, Joseph Sullivan,  
Salvatore Dellaria, William Thomas Maher, John Campo,  
Donald Homan, Fernando Mascetti, Michael Garopolo  
*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

## Altar Bread & Wine

*Johanna Pawlikowsky*



## Rest In Peace

*John R. Hodgkins* died on October 31 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 5. We extend our prayers to his wife, Frances, son, John and his entire family.

*Mary Ellen Suydam* died on October 23 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was October 29. We extend our prayers to her family and friends.

*Dear Parish Family of OLL,*

Our Lady of Lourdes has had a long tradition of ministering to and with the young people of our parish. Our Religious Education Program, Our Lady of Lourdes School, our Sister Parish program, Vacation Bible Camp, and CYO are just some of the many opportunities for young people to be involved in the life of our parish.



I am happy to announce to you that we are expanding our youth program. Mr. Dominic Armano, who also teaches in Our Lady of Lourdes School, will be joining our parish staff as a Youth Minister, and will create monthly opportunities for middle school and high school students to be together at social events, service projects, retreats and sports. Dominic is a welcome addition to our staff, and will inspire our young people with his energy and enthusiasm!

Dominic joins the other people on our staff who serve our children: Sr. Diane and Sr. Nancy, Mrs. Krol and the school faculty, John Sureau, and Jen Gallagher (who will continue to run our Children's Choir, El Salvador Project, and Vacation Bible Camp). We are so grateful to all of these ministers who help to make our young people a welcome and vital part of OLL.

We look forward to the new opportunities that Dominic will provide for our youth!

*Fr. Mike*



Our Lady of Lourdes Youth Ministry presents...

### **Youth Night**

**Tuesday, November 20 at 7 PM in the All Purpose Room**

If you want to make new friends...

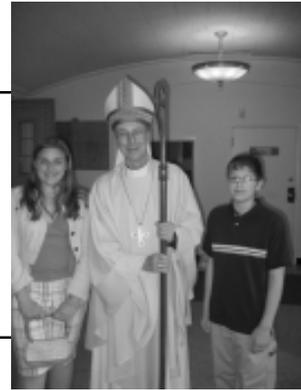
If you are interested in being a part of something great...

**THEN COME JOIN US!!**

We invite all 9th - 12th graders...some of the planned activities include - basketball tournament, volleyball tournaments. Trips to an Islander game, Long Island Ducks game... Youth Nights...a possible trip to see the Christmas show and various retreats throughout the year.

# Religious Education

Something's always here...  
Something's awesome...  
Something's great...



LET'S CELEBRATE...

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WEEK

with our OLL Parish Family and the Diocese of Rockville Centre



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11 -  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

- Catechists have a “Special Appreciation Day” THIS Sunday, November 11 at 9:30AM Mass  
ALSO... Come and Celebrate Religious Education Week with a Pancake Breakfast  
thanks to Family Liturgy
- Kids in our Parish Family celebrate each day with prayer, games, food and fun
- Grade 6/7/8 Hang Out Night... Friday, November 16... the BEST ever...
- Adult Faith Formation celebrates Religious Education Week...  
come and join Fr. Bob with “Gospel of Matthew”...  
All Are Welcome
- Religious Education says Thanks to our Parish Family...  
be sure to take home your prayer card





## **You're Invited to Join us for the Holidays!**

Just join our Adult Choir for rehearsals on Thursdays - November 29, December 6, 13, and 20 and sing with us at Christmas.

The Adult Choir rehearses from 8 PM until 10PM in the Church.

This is the year to give the choir a try! Give yourself and your church the gift of music for the holiday season.

If you have any questions, please contact Carol Goetz at 661.3224 or send an e-mail to [music@ollchurch.org](mailto:music@ollchurch.org).

## **Adult Faith Formation**

*...coming in December*

### **Apparitions of Mary- Visits of the Mother of God**

**Tuesday - December 4  
with Deacon Jack Meehan  
7:30 PM until 9:30 PM  
Parish Center**



*What are the implications of her messages for all of us?*

Together we will explore many of the well known apparitions of the Blessed Mother, including Lourdes, Fatima, Garabandal, and Medjugorje. Emphasis will be given to the time, context, and content of the messages.

*Gentle Reminder: Preregistration 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 from 9 AM until 5 PM at 661.5440, option 3 or email to [religioused@ollchurch.org](mailto:religioused@ollchurch.org). Fee is \$25 and may vary with each class. No fee is required for those who have paid Religious Education Family Fee or Our Lady of Lourdes School tuition.*



- baked beans
- boxed potatoes
- boxed rice
- canned meat
- cookies
- crackers
- hot chocolate
- mayonnaise

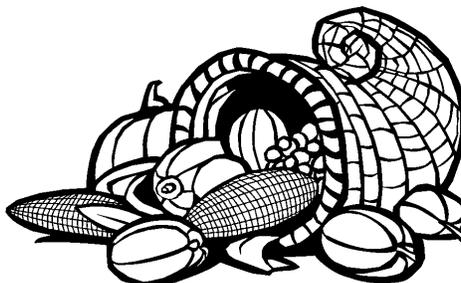
### Help Needed

A freezer has been offered to Outreach. We need 4 strong men to help with the pick-up and delivery of this freezer. If you can help, please phone Outreach at 661.9262, option 4.

### Thanksgiving at OLL

It's November...

and Thanksgiving is fast approaching. Once again, we ask our generous parish family and friends to help those less fortunate of our parish by making a donation to OLL Parish Outreach-Adopt-A-Family.



We would like to suggest that when you are shopping for your Thanksgiving dinner, simply buy a duplicate dinner for one of our needy families and bring it to Parish Outreach for distribution.

If shopping is not in your schedule, we will gladly accept food certificates or financial donations. We ask that you bring your **donations to the Parish Center on Monday, November 19 between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM.**



### Thanksgiving at OLL

I will be happy to donate a Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixins' for a family of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Adopt-a-Family

## 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:

**Bryan R. Dempsey**-*US Marines*

**Jeremy deRoxas**-*US Air Force*

**Frederick Wm. Ellis**-*US Army*

**James J. Ferrara**-*US Marines*

**John Finn**-*US Army*

**Christopher Florca**-*US Marines*

**Donnie Frank**-*US Marines*

**Armand J. LeComte**-*US Marines*

**Michael Mallimo**-*US Army*

**Anthony Mannino**-*US Marines*

**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 Barthel Family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty. **Brian Barthel** -*US Air Force* has returned to the United States safe and sound. Thank you, Brian, for your generous service to our country!

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



### An early Christmas Gift...

When making out your Christmas card list this year, why not include one to:

A Recovering American Soldier  
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20307-5001

If you think this is a great idea, pass it on!

## **Altar Society**

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



## **Pastoral Care of Our 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.
- would like to receive the sacred anointing.

## **Pray for Our Sick**

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

*Rocco Altieri, Cathy Badalmenti, Stacie Baltrusitis, Deacon Dick Barry,  
Carol Booth, Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Howard Campkin,  
Lynn Castellano, Joseph Chirichella, Erin Corcoran, Regina Cranor,  
Joseph Cristallo, Karen DellaVecchia, Anita Denis, TJ Devlin,  
Josephine DiBenedetto, Jason Fisher, Frank Freudenberg, Samantha Hil,  
Adam Ippolito, Wade Kromhout, Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch,  
Anthony Lombardo, Mike Loreto, Robert Lubeck, Diego Marino, Michele McCann,  
Peter McCann, Sr., Theresa McPhail, Bryan Monahan, Jimmy Murphy,  
Joseph Ortiz, Eleanor Pavia, Arthur Petrino, Baby Conner Pietras, Joe Radosti,  
Delphine Reynolds, Dorothy Schiavone, Joan Sephton, Derek Stahl, Dorothy  
Sullivan, Sam Viola, Loretta Vitale*



## 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Once on a trip to visit family, we passed through Chattanooga, Tenn., and drove up the famous Lookout Mountain. On the road coming down the mountain, I remember a sign warning drivers about a "blind curve" up ahead. What was around the other side of the curve? What were we supposed to do as drivers? Come to a complete stop in fear of what was on the other side, or faithfully make the turn, knowing everything would be all right?

In today's reading from Luke, Jesus is questioned by the Sadducees. They are convinced resurrection is impossible because they could only conceive of heaven in earthly terms. But Jesus is able to show that those who have gone before us in faith are resurrected in the love and friendship of God, such as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. How much better it is to live in the anticipation of the Kingdom of Heaven!

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains faith as the free assent to the whole truth that God has revealed. (CCC 150) Pure faith in God differs from the trust and belief we give to other people. Our faith, a gift of grace, is facilitated by the Holy Spirit who moves us continually forward, enabling us to always know that what may seem like a blind curve ahead to others is truly our awaiting salvation.

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### Readings for the Week of November 11, 2007

<b>Sunday:</b>	2 Mc 7:1-2, 9-14/2 Thes 2:16-3:5/Lk 20:27-38 <i>or</i> 20:27, 34-38
<b>Monday:</b>	Wis 1:1-7/Lk 17:1-6
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Wis 2:23-3:9/Lk 17:7-10
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Wis 6:1-11/Lk 17:11-19
<b>Thursday:</b>	Wis 7:22b-8:1/Lk 17:20-25
<b>Friday:</b>	Wis 13:1-9/Lk 17:26-37
<b>Saturday:</b>	Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9/Lk 18:1-8
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Mal 3:19-20a/2 Thes 3:7-12/Lk 21:5-19

## **SAGE**

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, November 13**, in the **Parish Center** at **9 AM**.



*50th Year Anniversary of the*  
**Rosary Christian Mothers**

Past and present members of the Rosary Christian Mothers are celebrating our **50th Anniversary November 18!** We will begin with the celebration of **Mass at 9:30 AM** and **brunch to follow** at the Marconi Manor, Islip.

## **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**.

## Dark Memory

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Inside each of us, beyond what we can express in words, picture clearly, or even feel distinctly, we have a dark memory of having once been touched and caressed by hands far gentler than our own. That caress has left a permanent mark, the imprint of a love so tender and good that its memory becomes a prism through which we see everything else. This imprint lies beyond conscious memory but forms the centre of the heart and soul.

This is not an easy concept to explain. Bernard Lonergan, one of the great intellectuals of the past century, tried to explain it philosophically. He said that we bear inside of our souls “the brand of the first principles.” That’s accurate, but perhaps too abstract to grasp. Maybe the old myths and legends capture it best when they say that, before birth, each soul is kissed by God and then goes through life always in some dark way remembering that kiss and measuring everything it experiences in relation to that original sweetness. To be in touch with your heart is to be in touch with this primordial kiss, with both its preciousness and its meaning.

What exactly is being said here?

Within each of us, at that place where all that is most precious within us resides, there is an inchoate sense of having once been touched, caressed, loved, and valued in a way that is beyond anything we have ever consciously experienced. In fact, all the goodness, love, value, and tenderness we experience in life fall short precisely because we already know something deeper. When we feel frustrated, angry, betrayed, violated, or enraged it is in fact because our outside experience is so different from what we already hold dear inside.

We all have this place, a place in the heart, where we hold all that is most precious and sacred to us. From that place our own kisses issue forth, as do our tears. It is the place that we most guard from others, but the place where we would most want others to come into; the place where we are the most deeply alone and the place of intimacy; the place of innocence and the place where we are violated; the place of our compassion and the place of our rage. In that place we are holy. There we are temples of God, sacred churches of truth and love. It is there that we bear God’s image.

But this must be understood: The image of God inside of us is not some beautiful icon stamped inside of the

soul. No. The image and likeness of God inside of us is energy, fire, memory; especially the memory of a touch so tender and loving that its goodness and truth become the prism through which we see everything. Thus we recognize goodness and truth outside of us precisely because they resonate with something that is already inside of us. Things touch our hearts when they touch us here and it is because we have already been touched and caressed that we seek passionately for a soul mate, for someone to join us in this tender space.

And we measure everything in life by how it touches this place: Why do certain experiences touch us so deeply? Do not our hearts burn within us in the presence of any truth, love, goodness, or tenderness that is genuine and deep? Is not all deep knowledge simply a waking up to something we already know? Is not all love simply a question of being respected for something we already are? Are not the touch and tenderness that bring ecstasy nothing other than the stirring of deep memory? Are not the ideals that inspire hope only the reminder of words somebody has already spoken to us? Does not our desire for innocence (and innocent means “not wounded”) mirror some primal unwounded place deep within us? And when we feel violated, is it not because someone has irreverently entered the sacred inside us?

When we are in touch with this memory and respect its sensitivities we are feeling our souls. At those times, faith, hope, and love will be spring up in us and joy and tears will both flow through us freely. We will be constantly stabbed by the innocence and beauty of children and pain and gratitude will, alternately, bring us to our knees. That is what it means to be recollected, centred. To be truly ourselves is to remember, to inchoately touch and feel the memory of God in us. That memory is what both fires our energy and provides us with a prism through which to see and understand.

Today, too often, a wounded, calloused, cynical, over-sophisticated, and overly adult world invites us to forget, to move beyond this childishness (which is really child-likeness). It invites us to forget God’s kiss in the soul. But, unless we lie to ourselves and harden ourselves against ourselves, the most dangerous of all activities, we will always remember, dimly, darkly, the caress of God.

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*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](http://www.ronrolheiser.com).*

## Catholic Daughters of America

The Golden Age Club meets every Wednesday from 12:30 PM until 2 PM in the O'Connell Room at St. Joseph's Church, Babylon. Seniors are invited to play cards or bingo and enjoy desserts and friendship with us.

## Holiday Help Program

"Dealing with the Holiday Spirit and Grief" presented by Elaine Stillwell, M.A., M.S. on Thursday, November 15 from 7 PM until 9 PM at St. Mary's Parish Sacred Heart Hall, East Islip. This Holiday Help Program is an evening of HOPE for those who are grieving the death of a loved one. Whether the death was years ago or weeks ago, you are welcome and encouraged to attend. Registration is required. Please call the Rectory at 631.581.4268, extension 100 to register.

## Christmas Fair

Blessed Sacrament Church, Valley Stream will be hosting their annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, November 17 from 10 AM until 4 PM in McKeon Hall. There will be vendors galore, stocking stuffers, make and take crafts for the kids and pictures with Santa. There will also be food, refreshments, raffles and door prizes. Don't miss the fun!

## St. Vincent's Model Train and Toy Show

This year the famous Model Train and Toy Show will be held on Sunday, December 2 between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Elmont. Featured are Lionel, LGB and American Flyer trains. Admission is \$5 at the door for adults and children under 12 free when accompanied by an adult. Seniors are \$4. For more information, please call 516.352.2127.

## Religion & Rock

Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Msgr. 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: **"Family Life."** 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.

## Religious Fundamentalism

James Carroll, op-ed columnist for the Boston Globe, will speak at the **Unitarian Universalist Congregation at 48 Shelter Rock Road in Manhasset on Thursday, November 15, at 7:30 PM.** His topic will be Religious Fundamentalism: War and Terrorism.

## MICAH

Catholic Charities and the LI Council of Churches, along with several other faith organizations, are spearheading MICAH ... A Campaign to End LI Poverty. MICAH – *Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger* - is a call to serve people in need and to advocate for public policies that relieve the causes of their suffering.

This is incredibly difficult work that can wear us down. And so, MICAH invites you to a unique retreat, Nurturing Your Soul in Service to Others on Monday, November 12 from 10 AM until 4 PM at the Church of St. Elizabeth in Melville. The retreat director is Jean Kelly, Executive Director of the Interfaith Nutrition Network (The INN.) Jean is renowned for her retreats that are designed to renew and refresh people in service to others.

Please call 516.733.7077 by November 6 to register.

## Spiritual Care Companion Program

Are you looking for an avenue to volunteer your time with others? Come and learn more about sharing your gift of time and presence as a Spiritual Care Companion with those that are hospitalized or living in a nursing home.

Spiritual Care Companions will attend a free six-week training program from early October through mid November covering such topics as: -goals of ministry to the sick, -how to be a good listener and serve as a spiritual companion, -how to respond to crisis and grief. For more information, please call Mary T. O'Neill at 631.474.5663 or Peg Nixdorf at 631.587.1600.

## Alumni Party

St. Ignatius Loyola School, Hicksville is celebrating 100 years of Catholic Education. As part of its celebration, an Alumni Cocktail Party will be held on Friday, November 23 from 7 PM until 10 PM at Msgr. Tarrant Hall. The cost is \$25 per person. Please RSVP by November 20 by mail to St. Ignatius Rectory, 129 Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801 ATTN: Cocktail Party.

# Sharing the Gospel

In today's Gospel Jesus talked about what you will be like one day in heaven. God made you to be his special child. There is no one else like you. If you truly love God with all of your heart, you will never be apart from him. Even when your body dies, you will still be alive with God. In heaven, God will give you a new body, like an angel. You will live forever. Even in your new body, you will still be God's own special child.



## Mission for the Week

Write on a piece of colored paper, "One day I will be like an angel in heaven." Decorate your picture with angels, and hang it up in your room.

## Puzzle

Find 7 differences between the pictures.



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## Prayer



Dear God,  
thank you for  
promising that I  
can live with you  
forever.

## Something to Draw



Draw a picture of  
yourself like an  
angel in heaven.