

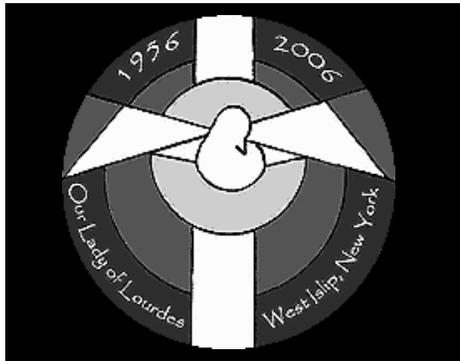
**First Sunday in Advent
Our Lady of Lourdes • December 2, 2007**

**“The night is
advanced,**



**the day is at
hand.”**

Romans 13:12



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

fax: 661-7143

website: www.ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes School

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: 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

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

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

Jennifer Gallagher

Director of Youth Services

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 Scorcio

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*)

Deacon Jack Meehan

Vita Scorcio

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.

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



Join us for a beautiful evening of music
on **Saturday, December 8**
at **7:30 PM in the Church.**

The Music Ministry of Our Lady of Lourdes invites everyone to come and enjoy the beautiful music of the Christmas season. We look forward to spending some time together during this busy time of year to enjoy the sounds of Christmas and reflect on the meaning of the season.



Mass for Bereaved Parents

Saturday, December 15
OLL Church – 11 AM

The holidays are often times of great celebration. But, for many, particularly those who have lost a child, the holidays are painfully hard. They are a reminder of our losses and a reminder of how our lives are perhaps a little less full. Whether you have lost a child in childhood or adulthood, to stillbirth or miscarriage, this Mass will be celebrated to bring you God's peace and consolation.

We invite all who have lost a child to come and gather together for this special Mass on **Saturday, December 15 at 11 AM.** Mass will be followed by a luncheon. Please feel free to invite family or friends with you. For more information, or to let us know you will be able to attend, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

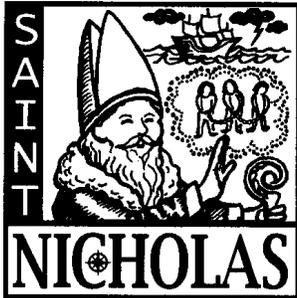
Let's pray that through prayer and coming together, the challenges of the holidays can become a little lighter and that we may be strengthened by God's love and presence. If you're interested in helping with this celebration, please contact John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.

Children's Advent Celebration

Come meet St. Nick on the Feast of St. Nicholas

This Thursday - December 6

7 PM in the Church



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

If you kept an "Advent autographs" book, you would want St. Nicholas to sign it. He's among the best known saints, especially in this month before Christmas. His feast is observed by most English, Dutch, and German cultures. On the evening before his feast day, children leave a shoe at the door or hang up a stocking for treats or coins. In some places, the coins are shared with the needy or orphans, since St. Nicholas was very devoted to helping poor, orphaned children.

This Thursday - December 6, members of our youth community will tell the story of St. Nicholas so that all may know and work to be more like St. Nicholas. We invite all our children to come in comfortable clothes to the Church so that they may hear this powerful story....and meet a very special guest!

In the spirit of St. Nicholas, we also ask each family, if possible, to bring their favorite Christmas cookies for our sharing table and a new, unused toy for our Parish Giving Tree!



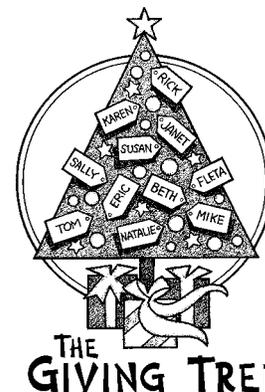
The Great Christmas Card Contest

Send our parish a homemade or family picture Christmas card. Prizes will be awarded for the most beautiful card, the most spiritual card, the funniest card, and the most unusual card. All entries will be displayed in our all purpose room bulletin board.

The Giving Tree

Each ornament on our Parish Giving Tree is a gift tag that represents something needed by a family in our parish. Help us to meet these needs by taking a tag from our tree and returning a gift by December 16. Your gift will help you to think about the real meaning of Christmas and will help a needy family in a very concrete way.

You may also make a financial gift to Parish Outreach and they will use it to purchase a gift or to help a family who needs financial support.



Special Masses in Advent

We are Climbing the Mountain of God

“The Six” - 6 PM in the Church

This Advent—we’re climbing the “Mountain of God” . . . getting higher and higher as Christmas approaches! What do we need to climb that mountain?

December 2 – we get some LIGHT for this journey! -Our liturgy will include the Blessing of the Advent wreath and a candle lighting ceremony. Are you at Mass already? Come back or tell someone you know to be part of it!

December 9 – we’ll look at how we can get some PEACE! -We’ll have a special video presentation as part of the Liturgy . . . that provides us with some needed reminders about peace with our families, friends, neighbors and world!

On **December 16**, we’ll have a special healing service.

On **December 23** - a faith meditation! More to come . . . and hopefully you will too!

Children’s Liturgy-Looking at the Gifts God Gives Us

Every Sunday at the 9:30 AM Mass, our young people (from age 4 to about fourth grade) continue to gather in the Parish Center to more powerfully reflect on God’s Word in their lives!



This Advent we’re looking at the gifts God has given each one of us – and how we can use them in our lives!

Today – the First Sunday of Advent – we’ll look at how we can use the LIGHT of our lives to share it with others!

Next Sunday – the Second Sunday of Advent – we’ll look at how we are all some times crippled or limited . . . and how we might be able to use this to help others!

Are you interested in helping with our Children’s Liturgy of the Word on a Sunday? We would love to have you – and can definitely use the help! For more information contact John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135/ jsureau@ollchurch.org or Joanne Maher at 661.5478. This is a great opportunity particularly for elementary school teachers, catechists, and teacher’s aides to share their talent with our parish community!

Advent 2007

Today we begin the season of Advent. This beautiful season of anticipation calls us to prepare well for the coming of Christ – not only at Christmas but in our own hearts. There is something for everyone this Advent – so please be sure to visit our parish web site, read the bulletin, listen to our announcements and make some time for you this Advent season!



The holy season of Advent call us to prepare well – not for the feast of Christmas – but for the presence of Christ in our hearts. Here are some of the beautiful traditions and changes you'll see beginning today.

The Advent Wreath

At all of our liturgies, we will bless, light and raise the Advent wreath. Listen carefully to the blessing and what it calls for from each of us. More than a symbol that is raised before us, may it be a reminder of a season of preparation, hope and transformation!

The Gospel of Matthew

We begin using the readings from Year A, with our focus on the Gospel of Matthew. The Gospel community of Matthew wrote for Jewish Christians, among others. In these readings, we'll hear of our tremendous connection and link with our Jewish sisters and brothers.

Prelude

Our Music Ministry will begin our prayer before Mass with a prelude of music. This hymn, we hope, will focus and remind us of what this season is truly about!

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.

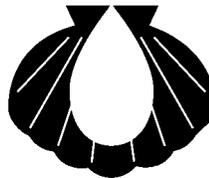
Feast of the Immaculate Conception Saturday, December 8

(holy day of obligation)

Mass Schedule

Friday: December 7 - vigil Mass at 5 PM

Saturday: December 8 - 8 AM



Baptisms

Peter Robert McCann

Peter and Christine

Riana Grace DeLaRosa

Roderick and Maria

James Robert Sinclair II

James and Jennifer

John Joseph Whalen IV

John and Rosemarie

Alex Richard Rahner

Richard and Jennifer

Evan Riley Joseph Rahner

Richard and Jennifer

Jordan Anthony Camuso

Kevin and Jennifer

Paul Anthony Defilippis, Jr.

Paul and Patricia

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.

Mass Schedule

Monday, December 3

St. Francis Xavier, priest

8:00 AM William Brodtman

Tuesday, December 4

St. John of Damascus, bishop, doctor

8:00 AM Margaret Varley

Wednesday, December 5

8:00 AM LaRocca & Sweeney Family

Thursday, December 6

St. Nicholas, bishop

8:00 AM Lydia Ann Olsen

Friday, December 7

St. Ambrose, bishop, doctor

8:00 AM Lodespoto Family

5:00 PM Salvatore Testa
(vigil)

Saturday, December 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

8:00 AM Lily Turano, Peter Schreiner, Alice Vreeland, In Honor of Blessed Virgin, Charles Allison, Leonardo Reyes Vicencio, Alexander Joseph Delaney, Nancy McGrath, Brendan Caselli, Ronald Korowicki

5:00 PM People of the Parish

Sunday, December 9

8:00 AM Joseph Lynch

9:30 AM Tony Squeo

11:00 AM George Stone

12:30 PM Nicola & Anna Santa Andriola

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Geroge Stone, William Thomas Maher, Anna Buongiorno, Rita Donnelly, Eugene DeClue, John Telesca, Robert Dean Knipper, Anna Lettieri, Joseph Goetz



Rest In Peace

Dennis P. Morrow died on November 13 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 19 at St. Rosalie, Hampton Bays. We extend our prayers to his wife Joanne and their children.

Jane F. Aspromanti died on November 16 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 21. We extend our prayers to her daughter Gina and family.

Anna Lettieri died on November 22 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 26.

We extend our prayers to her sons Dominick and Bernard, daughters-in-law Mary Anne and Terry and her entire family.

Celebrating Sacraments

Happy New Year?

It may sound crazy, but the First Sunday of Advent-December 2 is the beginning of the new Liturgical Year. So if you see liturgical ministers wearing Happy New Year hats, you know why!

A new year is often a time of new beginnings and resolutions. Our Liturgy Committee has committed to working on the spiritual and pastoral lives of our nearly 500 liturgical ministers. This means that everyone will notice some changes.

Gathering Prayer

Beginning this week, our liturgical ministers will gather in the Narthex approximately five minutes before Mass for a brief prayer. This prayer will help to center the ministers so that they may be even more present to each of us. Hopefully, it will call each of us to settle down and focus ourselves for the liturgy we are about to enter.

Ministry of Welcome

Do you love to say hello to people? Love making people feel welcome and accepted? Then we need you! Our Liturgy committee is also working hard to establish a Ministry of Welcome. This is perfect for someone who does not want to be “up in front” but is much better on a more individual level. If you’re interested in being a part of this, contact John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.

Liturgy Committee

Our Liturgy Committee meets approximately 6 to 8 times a year. We are always looking for new members. If you’re interested in helping our entire parish to pray and support one another more powerfully please considering joining us. Our next meeting is on Monday, December 3 at 7:30 PM in the Faculty Room. For more information, contact John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.

Saint Bernard League

(Saint Bernards are known for bringing people to safety in hazardous weather conditions!)

If you’re in need of help when it snows, members of our parish community will come to your home and shovel you out! If you think you can use this help, call the Parish Office at 661.3224 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org today so we can begin to match people up now. PLEASE: Sign up again this year even if you signed up last year.

We also need Saint Bernards...

Can you and/or your family shovel, snow blow or clear out another family or two in need within our parish community? We’d love to have all families matched up before the first snow of the season (assuming it hasn’t happened yet!) If you can help with this call the Parish Office at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.

This is a great way to help those in need (do some tremendous community service!)

Adult Faith Formation

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 religiously@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.

Simbang Gabi



Good Samaritan Prayer Group of Long Island in coordination with Our Lady of Lourdes Church presents **Simbang Gabi (a Philippine Christmas Tradition)** on **Saturday, December 22 at 7 PM in the Church.**

An evening full of Christmas Spirit! Mass will be followed by Christmas serenade and a fellowship-serving our finest Philippine delicacies. For more details, please contact Pete and Carlita DeRoxas at 661.0232 or email to goodsamofli@gmail.com.

Save the date....

Advent Day of Reconciliation

Monday, December 17
3 PM – 9 PM

Our parish priests will be available to hear individual confessions. The Advent season brings us promises of transformation and renewal. This beautiful sacrament is one way this can happen. Be open to the healing forgiveness of Reconciliation!

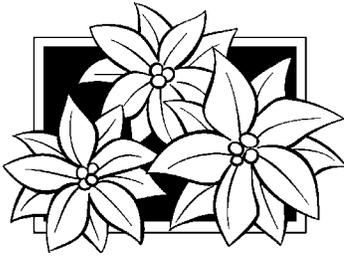
Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of December will be on **Wednesday, December 5 from 1- 3 PM**. All are invited and welcome! We will be praying for the Pope, world peace and religious women and men. All are invited and welcome-bring a friend!



SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, December 4**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.



Christmas Flower Offerings

Christmas Flower offerings received by Sunday, December 9 will be published in the Christmas bulletin. Offerings received after that date, will be published in subsequent bulletins.

School News

Breakfast with Santa Sunday, December 9

Don't miss our delicious homemade hot pancake breakfast. There will be crafts, prizes, a 50/50 raffle and of course Santa! Seating is limited-there are a few openings still available. Cost is \$5 per person and children 3 and under – FREE. Price includes a photo with Santa. There will be two seatings: 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM or 10:45 AM – 12:45 PM. If you have any questions, please call Rita Vandenburg at 940-5695 or Trisha Miranda at 586-1143.

save the date...

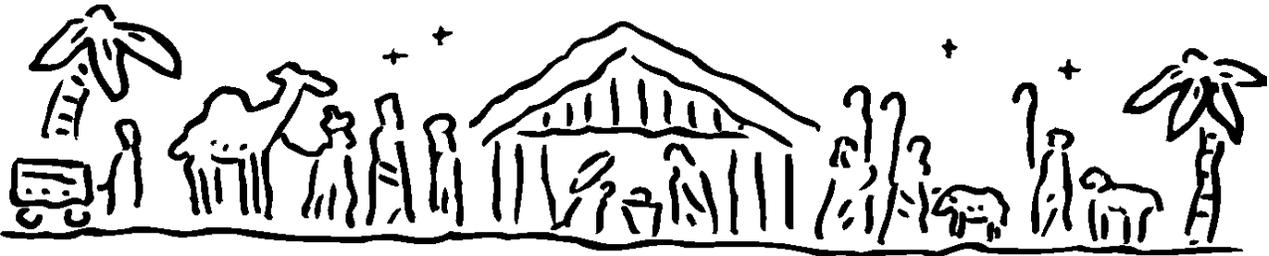
Night at the Races

Our Lady of Lourdes School will present a Night at the Races on Saturday, January 19, 2008 at 7PM – 10PM. Races will be held in the Cafeteria, Child Care will be available in the All-Purpose Room.

“ALL ARE WELCOME”

NOTE: OLL School Families-this is a Mandatory Fundraising Event.

details to follow...



Our Lady of Lourdes Sixth Annual Family Christmas Pageant

Friday, December 21

7 PM in the Church

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

*We invite our entire parish family to come and
share this special evening with us.*

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.

Adults

We need help with costumes and supervision of the “angels and shepherds.” If you can help with any of these areas, please call Jennifer at 661.3224, or email JenGallagher@ollchurch.org.

Pageant Practices for All

Thursday, December 6 from 6:30 PM until 7 PM in the Church

Thursday, December 13 from 6:30 PM until 7:15 PM in the Church

Thursday, December 20 Dress Rehearsal 6:30 PM until 7:30 PM in the Church

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:



Lorenzo Bacchi-*US Marines*
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.



Update!

Walter Reed Army Medical Center officials want to remind those individuals who want to show their appreciation through mail to include packages, letters, and holiday cards addressed to ‘Any Wounded Soldier’ or ‘A Recovering American Soldier’ that Walter Reed cannot accept these packages.

In addition, the U.S. Postal Service is no longer accepting “Any Service Member” or “A Recovering American Soldier” letters or packages. Mail to “Any Service Member” that is deposited into a collection box will not be delivered.

Instead of sending an “Any Wounded Soldier” letter or package to Walter Reed, please consider making a donation to one of the more than 300 nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping our troops and their families listed on the “America Supports You” website, www.americasupportsyou.mil Other organizations that offer means of showing your support for our troops or assist wounded service members and their families include: <http://www.usocares.org/> <http://www4.army.mil/ocpa/tooursoldiers/> or <http://www.redcross.org>

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**.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Angela MacDermott*.

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 ...

Stacie Baltrusitis, Deacon Dick Barry, Benedict Bellotti, Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Howard Campkin, Lynn Castellano, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Karen DellaVecchia, Anita Denis, TJ Devlin, Josephine DiBenedetto, Joseph Doldo, Joann Fasano, Jason Fisher, Samantha Hil, John Hodgins, Adam Ippolito, Wade Kromhout, Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch, Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Theresa McPhail, Bryan Monahan, Jimmy Murphy, Joseph Ortiz, Arthur Petrino, Baby Conner Pietras, Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds, Dorothy Schiavone, Joan Sephton, Derek Stahl, Dorothy Sullivan, Loretta Vitale

Financial Summary

November 18, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 17,807.50
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (3,192.50)

November 25, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 16,651.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (4,349.00)

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

Senior Hang-Out Night

Membership has reached the 100 mark!

Our next meeting will be **Friday, December 7 from 6-10PM in the Parish Center.**

This meeting will be a Christmas Celebration-with dinner and Christmas Festivities.

Please remember to bring your stamped, self-addressed envelope and a non-perishable food item for Outreach. If you have any questions, please call Outreach at 661.9262, option 4.

Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of each month.

The next meeting will be on **Sunday, December 9.** We will begin with the

Rosary at 7:40 AM in the Church and the meeting will follow the 8 AM Mass at 9 AM in Room 16.

Rosary Christian Mothers

The Rosary Christian Mothers meet on the first Monday evening of each month. The next meeting will be **Monday, December 3.**

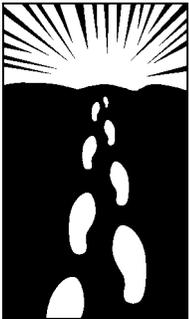
We will begin with **Rosary at 7:45 PM in the Church** followed by **meeting at 8 PM in the Parish Center.**



OLL Pilgrimage to Italy

Take this opportunity to plan to journey to Italy with our pastor, Fr. Mike and our parish family of Our Lady Lourdes. We will be visiting the cities of Rome, Florence, Assisi and Milan. Imagine yourself in Rome at the Vatican in St. Peter's Basilica, walking through the streets of Florence, the center of the Renaissance and the heart of Tuscany and walking in the footsteps of St. Francis in Assisi and being in the presence of Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper. This wonderful ten day trip is planned for October 2008. Our departure date, a direct flight from NY to Milan is scheduled for October 16, 2008 and return direct flight from Rome to NY on October 25, 2008.

For additional information, please plan on attending the meeting with Deacon John DeGuardi on Tuesday, December 11 at 7:30 PM in Room 16 of OLL School. (It is important that you express your interest at this first meeting. The next meeting will be during the last week of January 2008.)



Spiritual Direction

...for those who want the companionship of a director to journey with them in finding God's desire for them in their daily life.

What is Spiritual Direction?

Spiritual Direction is a specialized ministry in the Church. It is a graced way of serving another believer, helping the other to grow in intimacy with God and to live out the consequences of this intimacy.

Why would I want a Spiritual Director?

The desire for a Spiritual Director comes when one wants to develop a deeper relationship with God, when one's search for God seems to be at a crossroad, or when one wants to explore new methods of prayer, or prayer becomes difficult.

What happens in Spiritual Direction?

The person coming for Spiritual Direction should try to describe to the director one's experiences in their life of faith, hope and love.

What can I expect?

The director helps you to be more aware of who God is for you, to notice God's movement in the events of your life, and in your prayer, to be able to talk about what you are experiencing, to be attentive to God's invitations, urgings, and confirmations and to recognize resistances and road-blocks. The director is not judgmental, but assists the directee to objectify his/her experience.

If you have any questions, or you would like to make arrangements to meet with a Spiritual Director, please call Deacon John DeGuardi at the Parish Office at 661.3224.

(It is recommended that you make a three month commitment of one meeting per month.)



First Sunday of Advent

A friend recently returned from a visit to Times Square in New York City. He hadn't been there since the early 1980s, and couldn't believe the transformation. What was once a dirty, seedy area of a large city had been transformed into a clean, welcoming environment. "It was almost as if someone had completely flooded the place, washing away the filth," he told me.

On this first Sunday of Advent, Jesus relates his second coming to the flooding of Noah's time. No one knew the flood was coming; likewise, Jesus' second coming will be without warning. But as we prepare for Christmas, let's remember that no one knew when Christ would come for the first time, either. As they waited patiently, they prayed that this Savior would deliver them from the sins of the world around them and offer them hope of life in God's grace.

Each year as the season of Advent begins, we are reminded that this long celebration is but a small representation of the time spent awaiting the first coming of the Messiah. And in doing so, we unite that covenant of hope with our covenant, that Jesus Christ will one day return in glory to judge the living and the dead (CCC 524). Advent is a time of renewal, a time of celebration, but also, in many ways, a time to cleanse ourselves of the world and give thanks for the promise that is the coming of Jesus Christ.

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Readings for the Week of December 2, 2007

Sunday:	Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
Monday:	Is 4:2-6/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Next Sunday:	Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

El Salvador Mission News



Sister Parish Report: Camp Day **By: Maggie Frodell**

The whole trip was incredible, but the part that really stuck out to me was the day we spent at the school in our Sister Parish of Tacuba running a vacation bible camp for the kids there. What was so great about this day was that the group could really interact with the children.

Our group did many things with the children that day. Thanks to the donations of people from OLL parish, every child got to choose their own book to take home to keep. Just seeing the look on a little girl's face as she picked up her "Dora the Explorer" book made me so grateful for everything I had back home.

Some of the boys in the group played soccer against the boys from the school. Not only were our boys CRUSHED by their opponents, the boys from Tacuba didn't even break a sweat! I think Dylan, Dan, Chris, Pat and Jack learned a valuable lesson that day about soccer players in El Salvador: they're unbeatable.

Finally, the rest of the group was working craft stations with the kids. I was making bracelets out of beads and lanyard with some little girls. There were a lot of kids, and eventually I ran out of beads for bracelets. I had to think of something else to do with them, so I ran to get some more supplies. I ended up making crowns out of pipe cleaners for everyone. So many people wanted them; I could hardly make them fast enough! It made me laugh because I really wasn't making them that well, but they didn't care. They wanted them anyway. I couldn't believe how many kids came over just to say hi, and how important it seemed I was to them. It was a great day for us all!

Someone to Be Thankful For **By: Dana Baltrusitis**

My sponsor child's name is Patricia Noemi Quijada Galicia. For short, her family and I call her Patty. Patty lives in a small village called Esquipulas, located in the mountains of El Salvador. She is five years old. She lives in a shack made of corrugated aluminum sheets with her 23 year old mother and younger brother who is about a year old. Patty suffers from chronic bronchitis along with many other respiratory problems. Her living conditions are not ideal to say the least. Her family does not have electricity and sleeps on a worn out mattress. They cook on a wood burning stove made of mud located inside the house; this is the cause of many of Patty's respiratory problems. One thing they do have available to them is water, something to which many other families do not have access.

When you first see her, you don't think of any of these things. She is the sweetest little girl I have ever met. Although she is very shy, Patty eventually warmed up to me. When I visit her on my trips to El Salvador, I am always greeted with a huge hug. Even though there is a difficult language barrier, we always seem to communicate through our love for each other.

Through my sponsorship of Patty, she is given many benefits; she is able to attend school (she is now in kindergarten), her family is given necessary food, health care and clothing and Patty is able to participate in recreational activities and Christian formation classes. Although it was originally my plan to change Patty's life, she ultimately changed mine.



If you would like to contribute to our newsletter by sharing your trip or sponsorship experience, please email Michelle at mbudion@optonline.net.

Protecting our Children

The Office for Protection of Children and Young People has published its latest newsletter, *Protecting our Children*. Copies are available in Our Lady of Lourdes School and at the doors of the Church and through the diocesan web site at www.drvc.org.

The Diocese has made great efforts at putting in safeguards and boundaries for our local Church. Learn about them and how you can be part of protecting God's children here at OLL!

Charismatic Renewal Center

Charismatic Prayer Groups will sponsor an evening of Prayer and Praise on **Monday evening, December 10 at 8 PM in the St. Barnabas Holy Family Chapel, Bellmore**. After a period of Prayer and Praise there will be a presentation on Advent. Giving this presentation will be Fr. Patrick Bonner, M. Div, J.C.L. Father is from Ireland and is currently teaching at Molloy College where he is also the Chaplin. For further information, call Charismatic Prayer Groups at 516.785.0054.

Harvest Houses

Harvest Houses, Residences for Well-Elders are affordable, gracious living alternatives offering seniors both privacy and companionship, security and quality of life.

Every Harvest House is home for eight independent elders who want the fullness of living in a family atmosphere, the continuity of "a home away from home."

An opening is now available in the Syosset and Floral Park residences. If you are interested in finding our more information or visiting one of our Harvest Houses please contact Sister Jeanne A. Brendel, O.P., CSW, Executive Director at 516.496.9796.

Religion & Rock

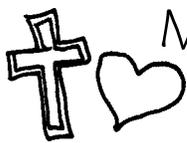
Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island.

Next Sunday's theme is: **"Waiting and Patience."** Don't forget to tune in! Visit "Religion & Rock" on the web, www.religionandrock.com.

Also watch "Good News with Father Jim" on TELE CARE, channel 29, on Mondays and Fridays at 9:45 AM; Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 7:45 PM; Sundays at 8 PM.

Sharing the Gospel

Remember that when God told Noah to build an ark, his neighbors laughed at him. Then one day God sent the flood. Only Noah's family was saved because they listened to God, and they were ready. Jesus has already told you that one day he will come back. He wants you to be saved. He wants you to be ready. When you read Bible stories, listen carefully. Love God like Noah did, and learn to do what God asks.



Mission for the Week

Make sure the movies, games, and music you choose help you grow closer to Jesus.



Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

NOAH
EATING
DRINKING

MARRIED
FLOOD
TOGETHER

TAKEN
LEFT
READY

S T B F L O O D E O
N O A H N Y U R M G
 U G R D O D T K A N
 O E A T I N G W R H
 N T Y A U R L O R L
 W H I K L C M H I M
 O E N E R S E V E L
 D R I N K I N G D E
 N O W H N T H I E F
 I S R E A D Y C O T

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Prayer



Dear God,
 help me
 to love you and
 to be ready for
 Jesus.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of Noah and his family on the ark with all the animals.