

**Fourth Sunday in Advent  
Our Lady of Lourdes • December 23, 2007**



**“The virgin shall  
be with child.”**

**Matthew 1:23**



## *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 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.*

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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

## Youth Ministry

Come Spend Part of your Christmas Vacation with us...  
 Our Lady of Lourdes Youth Ministry Presents its  
**First Annual Holiday Celebration Thursday, December 27**  
**from 7 – 10pm in the OLL Parish Center / APR.**  
 All 7th – 12th graders are invited!



- The night will include:
- o Great Dinner
  - o Great Music
  - o Great Friends...
- and a whole lot more.

For questions or comments e-mail Dominic Armano at [darmano@ollschool.org](mailto:darmano@ollschool.org).  
 Hope to see you there!!

## Directed Retreat Week



*All Are Welcome to our Third Annual Directed Retreat Week experience...right here at OLL!*

**Sunday, February 3–Saturday, February 9, 2008**

St. Ignatius Retreat House offers the opportunity for the experience of the Directed Retreat to the people of a parish, in their parish surroundings... as they live out their daily lives.

### *Who can go?*

This “Directed Retreat” is for you! Many people cannot go away for a week or a weekend to experience a directed retreat. This is a wonderful taste of what it is like to have spiritual direction and to be on retreat without leaving your home.

### *How does it work?*

We will meet initially on Sunday afternoon at 2 PM at Our Lady of Lourdes. Our first meeting will last about one hour and you will meet your retreat director/prayer guide. The Prayer Guides are a group of spiritual directors, affiliated with St. Ignatius Retreat Center, Manhasset who have been trained in leading prayers and spiritual exercises in the tradition of St. Ignatius. After this meeting, each retreatant will meet privately with his/her prayer guide at our parish for approximately one-half hour each day, Monday through Friday. During these meetings, the retreatant and prayer guide will reflect together and will examine different ways to pray, including meditation and praying with scripture. Each retreatant commits to set aside a half hour each day for a prayer period on a scripture passage. On Saturday morning at 9:30 AM, there will be a group closing session at Our Lady of Lourdes.

## Adult Faith Formation

### “MOMS” - Ministry of Mothers Sharing

An opportunity for women to get together to share and nurture each other through the journey of motherhood.

- *Come... women who lead stressful lives.*
- *Come...women who live with many demands of their time and energy.*
- *Come... women who need a place to receive spiritual nurturing.*

Topics will include: spirituality, self-esteem, stress and so much more!

**Thursdays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, February 7 and 28, 2008**

**7:30-9:00 PM**

**Room 16**

Presenter is Lyn Quinn, Pastoral Formation Institute

Please sign up as soon as possible-seating is limited! Also, there will be a book purchase required for class.

### Old Testament

***Our History...Our Roots..***

This five week journey will bring us back to our heritage. As Christians, our faith is deepened when we take this journey which brings us to the beginnings of our faith story.

How are, as followers of Christ, rooted in the Old Testament scriptures? Come to know more about our roots and traditions through learning, prayer and sharing.

**Tuesdays, January 8, 15, 22, 29, February 5, 2008**

**7:30-9:30 PM**

**Parish Center**

Presenters are Fr. Bob Scheckenback and Deacon Kevin McCormick

*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 at 661.5440 x3, or e-mail to: [religioused@ollchurch.org](mailto:religioused@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.]*

## Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

**What's it all about?**

**IF** you are an adult AND

- ... you were never Baptized
- ... you were Baptized in another faith and would like to become a baptized Catholic
- ...you never received Holy Communion (Eucharist)
- ... you never received your Confirmation

**IF** you are an adult *and* one or all of the circumstances above apply to you

**IF** you feel you would like to become a Baptized Catholic or become more fully initiated into your Catholic faith,

please contact John Sureau, S. Nancy, Fr. Stan or Fr. Bob at the Parish Office.

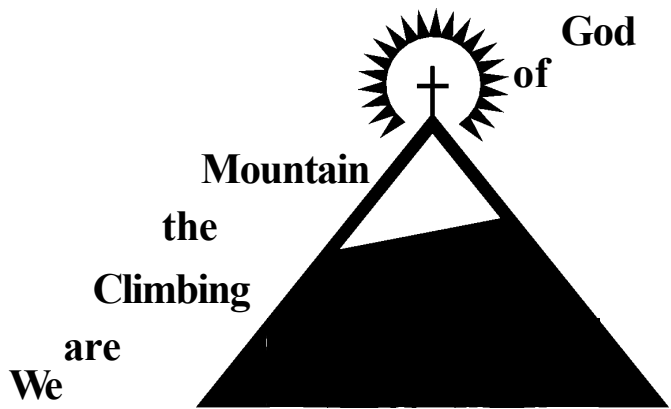
You can call 661-3224, option #1, and we would be happy to help you!

## Special Mass in Advent

“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 do to climb that mountain?  
On **December 23** - a faith meditation!



**Something NEW this Christmas!**

### **Young People’s Mass**

This year, we invite all of our families and young people to a special **Christmas Eve Mass at 6 PM in the Church.**

**This Mass will feature...**

- a special Children’s Liturgy of the Word led by our parish’s fourth graders
- our wonderful Youth Choir
- some time for parents to catch some quiet time and enjoy Mass themselves
- a lighter crowd than our regular 4 PM Christmas Eve Liturgy

So...come and see...

and make our Young People’s Mass at 6 PM a new Christmas Eve Tradition at OLL!

## **Feast of the Holy Family**

### **Special Family Celebration**

**Sunday, December 30**

**9:30 AM Mass**

Come and celebrate the feast of the Holy Family by joining with your family after the 9:30 AM Mass for some great Christmas cookies and hot chocolate in the Parish Center.  
All are welcome!

## **Solemnity of Mary**

*Holy Day of Obligation*

Monday, December 31 – New Year’s Eve  
5 PM (*vigil*)

Tuesday, January 1 - New Year’s Day  
8 AM and 11 AM

## Christmas Mass Schedule

### *Christmas Eve*

**Monday, December 24**

**4 PM – Church**

Family Mass with music led by our Contemporary Music Group  
Christmas Carols to begin at 3:30 PM.

**4 PM – Cafeteria**

The Mass “Down Under” with quiet music and an intimate atmosphere.

**6 PM – Church**

Our new Young People’s Mass which includes a special Children’s Liturgy of the Word and our Youth Choir.  
(A great way to avoid the rush of the 4 PM Mass while still having a great family experience on Christmas Eve.)

**8 PM – Church**

Our most solemn liturgy...a manageable crowd...and a solemn spirit of prayer and worship.

**11 PM- Mass at Night**

This Mass, which ends around midnight, begins the actual celebration of Christmas. The liturgy includes a beautiful candle light service and music led by our Adult Choir.

### *Christmas Day*

**Tuesday, December 25**

*(all Masses in Church)*

**8 AM**

**9:30 AM**

**11 AM**

**12:30 PM**

(There is no 6 PM Mass on Christmas Day)

## **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.

## *Altar Bread and Wine*

*Richard M. Devlin, Sr.*

## *Upcoming Marriages*

*Terrienne Procita and  
Joseph Messina, both OLL*

### **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.



## *Rest In Peace*

*Anne Burgio* died on December 9 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was December 13. We extend our prayers to her son, Charles, brothers and grandsons.



## Mass Schedule

### Monday, December 24

#### Vigil of Christmas

4 PM Steven Perone

(Church) Fr. Bob Scheckenback

4 PM Salegna & Mancuso Families

(cafeteria) Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

6 PM Dec'd mbrs of Dixon & Isola Families

Fr. Mike Vetrano

8 PM All Souls of Bertolotti Family

Fr. Stan Chukwube

11 PM Michael Worysz

Fr. Mike Vetrano



### Tuesday, December 25

#### Christmas Day

8 AM Robert D. Colin

Fr. Stan Chukwube

9:30 AM John J., Sr. & Joan Goode

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

11 AM Lillian LaRocca

Fr. Mike Vetrano

12:30 PM James Peter & Lydia Ann Olsen

Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

### Wednesday, December 26

St. Stephen, first martyr

8:00 AM Frederick Bacon

### Thursday, December 27

St. John, apostle, evangelist

8:00 AM Joseph Zotto

### Friday, December 28

Holy Innocents, martyrs

8:00 AM Charles Homann

### Saturday, December 29

8:00 AM John Karniewicz, Anthony Caputo, Martin Dalton,  
Maureen McDermott, Rose Gandolfo, Adam Ippolito

5:00 PM Barbara McGarrity

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

### Sunday, December 30

8:00 AM Veronica Bornschein

Fr. Mike Vetrano

9:30 AM Dec'd mbrs of Monroe & Shaddock Families

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

11:00 AM Josephine Papa

Fr. Mike Vetrano

12:30 PM Galbo, Casertano & Assante Families

Fr. Stan Chukwube

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Anna Van Bramer, Ginny Munkwitz, Bernardo Pistone,  
Monica Williams, Joseph Doldo, Roland & Wayne Van Acker, Louis Gambardella,  
Keith Murray, Dec'd mbrs of Sandoval-Melendez Families

Fr. Stan Chukwube

## Parish Outreach

### Outreach Office Hours

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



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

*Our pantry is running low on the following items...*  
cereal, coffee, soup, and tea.

## Tai Chi

In September, Outreach started offering Tai Chi classes each Wednesday from Noon-1PM in the Parish Center. The offering for Tai Chi is a free-will donation. There has been a consistent turn-out each week, and the response from participants has been positive.

Starting in January, we will be adding a meditation period to the end of each class. If you are interested in either the Tai Chi class or the meditation time-please join us. Meditation will start Wednesday, January 9 at approximately 1 PM. Meditation sessions will be approximately twenty minutes.

We ask that if you participate only in the meditation session-to please remove your shoes before entering the Parish Center and to enter quietly.

## MICAH: A Campaign to End LI Poverty

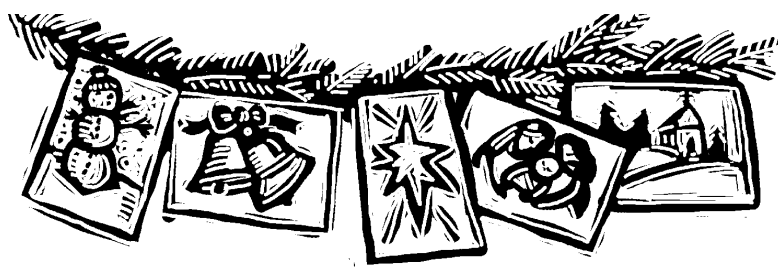
*(Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger)*

Poverty in the United States (and on Long Island) is a wound in the soul of our country (and our region).

### A Moral Call to Create Affordable Housing

As Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus in a stable, because there was no available housing for his parents in Bethlehem, Long Islanders of all faiths might reflect on the plight of their neighbors who cannot find affordable, decent housing.

To learn more about the MICAH campaign, contact Dr. Richard Koubek at Catholic Charities at [Koubek.richard@catholiccharities.cc](mailto:Koubek.richard@catholiccharities.cc)



## 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.

## 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**.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org).

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

### **Christmas Parking**

Don't forget that parishioners are able to use the Manetuck Elementary School parking lot on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This may save you some of the parking lot frustrations that the holidays can bring.

The entrance and exit to this lot is on the west side of the Rectory and a gate allows you to walk through our parking lot to the Church.



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## Fourth Sunday of Advent

Have you ever been presented with an issue in your life where it appears someone has broken your trust? Perhaps it was one of your best friends, one of your children, maybe even your spouse. How did you react - with anger, sadness or another emotion? Did you feel you had a complete understanding of the situation, or were there extenuating circumstances you failed to recognize? Did you turn to someone else for answers?

In today's Gospel reading from Matthew, Joseph is presented with a situation in which initially he probably didn't want to find himself. In those days, young couples were betrothed to each other - sort of an engagement - for at least a year. During this time of betrothal, Mary has told Joseph that she is expecting a child. How did Joseph react? He could have become angry or disappointed or even ashamed, but instead he turned to prayer, and to God.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church lists 60 different titles for Christ. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, let's remember the one title to which the angel referred in Joseph's dream - Savior. It is the promise of a savior given through the early prophets, a promise that the faithful held dear as they waited. As that most beautiful of all anniversaries approaches, celebrate this season remembering the greatest gift ever given to every person - the gift of a Savior.

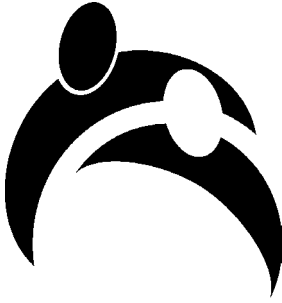
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### Readings for the Week of December 23, 2007

**Sunday:** Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24  
**Monday:** Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79  
**Tuesday:** *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 *or* 1:18-25  
*Midnight:* Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
*Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
*Day:* Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 *or* 1:1-5, 9-14  
**Wednesday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22  
**Thursday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
**Friday:** 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18  
**Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35  
**Next Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 *or* 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

## Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Carol Grillo*. 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, Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Howard Campkin, Lynn Castellano, Laura Christman, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Karen DellaVecchia, TJ Devlin, Josephine DiBenedetto, Daniel V. DiMonda, Joann Fasano, Jason Fisher, Samantha Hil, Wade Kromhout, Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch, Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento, Denise Mannino, Diego Marino, Rosemarie Marmo, Charles Matushefske, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Joseph Menite, Bryan Monahan, Jimmy Murphy, Joseph Ortiz, Maria Pereira, Mary Petersen, Arthur Petrino, Baby Conner Pietras, Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds, Felix Rivera, Dorothy Schiavone, Derek Stahl, Linda Stasio, Dorothy Sullivan, Loretta Vitale*

## OLL on the Web

Check out our parish web site at [www.ollchurch.org](http://www.ollchurch.org) and learn even more about what is happening here at Our Lady of Lourdes!

## Attention College Students

We don't want to lose you! Keep in touch with us and we'll keep you up to date about all that is happening here at OLL. Email us your name, the school you are attending and your email address. We will send you updates and notices of what's going on at OLL. Please email to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org).

# Interruptions: Our Real Work

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Henri Nouwen once commented that he used to be resentful whenever he was interrupted in his work until he realized that, often times, interruptions were his real work.

There's a lesson here: We're often resentful when our plans are interrupted. Sometimes these interruptions are minor, an unexpected phone call while we're working or watching television. Sometimes though they're major: an unplanned pregnancy that interrupts our career, an economic hardship that derails our plan for being a writer or an artist, a family situation that prevents us from pursuing a dream, or a loss of health that puts everything on hold.

Countless things, big and small, perennially conspire against our agendas and sabotage our dreams. Often we're resentful and think to ourselves: "If only! If only this hadn't happened! Now I have to wait to go back to school, to resume my career. Now I'll never have a chance to fulfill my dream." Sometimes in middle age, or even earlier, this resentment takes a more radical form: "I've wasted my life, been a victim of circumstance, given in to the demands of others, and now I'll never get the chance to do what I really wanted."

But the opposite is also true: Sometimes instead of resentment there's gratitude because we realize that the interruptions, so unwelcome at the time, were really salvific and, far from derailing our real agenda, were our real agenda.

A couple of examples might help explain this: I'm sure all of us have known individuals or families where an unplanned pregnancy suddenly turned all plans (economic, career, travel, new house) upside down. Initially there was resentment. Later on the unwanted interruption turned into a much wanted and loved child who helped create a happiness that dwarfed anything that might have resulted had original plans not been derailed by that interruption.

The British historian, A. N. Wilson, in a biography of C.S. Lewis, describes how Lewis' life as a teacher and writer was, during virtually all of his productive years, interrupted by the demands of his adopted mother who made him do all the shopping and housework and demanded hours of his time daily for domestic tasks. Lewis' own brother, Warnie, who also lived in the household (and who generally refused to let his own agenda be so interrupted) laments this fact in his diaries and suggests that Lewis could have been much more prolific had he not had to spend countless hours doing domestic chores.

Lewis himself, however, gives a different assessment. Far from being resentful about these interruptions, he's grateful and suggests that it was precisely these domestic demands that kept him in touch with life in a way that other Oxford Dons (who never had to shop and do housework) were not. Wilson agrees and suggests that it was precisely because of these interruptions, which kept Lewis' feet squarely on the ground, that Lewis was able to have such empathic insights into the everyday human condition.

As these examples illustrate, what initially is experienced as an unwanted interruption can, in the end, be our real agenda.

Of course, this isn't always true. Our lives are not meant to be left entirely to circumstance. We're meant too to make choices, hard choices at times, to actively shape our own destiny. It can be unhealthy, fatalistic even, to simply accept whatever happens. It can also lead to considerable bitterness and disappointment with our lives. We have God-given dreams and talents and must, in the name of the God who gave them to us, fight too for our agenda.

However, we must also look for the hand of that God in our interruptions. These often appear as a conspiracy of accidents through which God guides and tutors us. If we were totally in control of our own agendas, if we could simply plan and execute our lives according to our own dreams with no unwanted demands, I fear that many of us would, slowly and subtly, become selfish and would, also slowly and imperceptibly, find our lives devoid of simple joy, enthusiasm, family life, and real community.

Baptism means derailment. Christ baptizes Peter on the rock when he tells him: "Your life is now no longer your own. Before you made a profession of love, you fastened your belt and walked wherever you liked. Now, others will put a belt around you and take you where you would rather not go." To submit to love is to be baptized, namely, to let our lives be forever interrupted. To not let our lives be interrupted is to say no to love.

C.S. Lewis once said that we'll spend most of eternity thanking God for those prayers he didn't answer. I suspect we'll also spend a good part of eternity thanking God for those interruptions that derailed our plans but baptized us into life and love in a way we could never have ourselves planned or accomplished. We do not live by accomplishment alone and sometimes what's best for us can only be learned conscriptively.

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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).*

## Financial Summary

### December 16, 2007

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

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

Due to change in bulletin deadlines, the weekly collection for December 16 will be published in a future bulletin.

## 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*  
**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 Mallimo Family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty. **Michael Mallimo** -*US Army* has returned to the United States safe and sound from his second tour of duty. Thank you, Michael, for your generous service to our country! The Mallimo Family would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family for all of their prayers.

## 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.

## Christmas Presepio

Come visit the traditional Neapolitan Nativity and enjoy some quiet Advent moments. This year's display is located in the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Valley Stream and contains thousands of figures, buildings and miniatures. Fr. Jerry Cestare, pastor invites everyone to share in this wonderful depiction of the true Gift of Christmas. The Presepio is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM - 9 PM and weekends after morning Masses until 8 PM.

## HandCrafting Justice

*Can you help suport the Sisters of the Good Shepherd?*

HandCrafting Justice is a non-profit, Fair Trade project of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. We partner with women struggling with poverty and injustice in 18 developing countries. You can help support our mission by:

- visiting our website at [www.handcraftingjustice.org](http://www.handcraftingjustice.org) and shop for fair trade goods
- contact us about volunteer opportunities
- donate to the continuation of our mission.

Please feel free to call us at 718.204.0909 for more information.

## Wanted:

*Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who have been commissioned by the Diocese of Rockville Centre.*

Good Samaritan Hospital is looking for you to bring Holy Communion to patients.

The availability would be a day or any days you are available, according to your schedule.

If interested, please contact Sr. Mary Anna, director of Pastoral Care at 631.376.4103.

## Religion & Rock

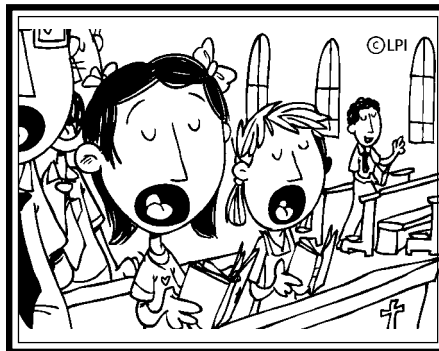
Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. Listen on Saturdays at 11 PM on *Sirius Satellite Radio, Channel 159, or the Catholic Channel*. This week's theme is: "**Christmas Special.**" You can visit us anytime to listen or download a show at [www.religionandrock.com](http://www.religionandrock.com).

For more information about our television shows go to [www.TelecareTV.org](http://www.TelecareTV.org).



# Sharing the Gospel

An angel told Joseph to marry Mary because her baby was through the Holy Spirit of God. They would name the baby Jesus because he would save his people from their sins. God called you by name, too. Before you were born, he could tell you how many hairs would be on your head. He knew how long your feet would be. He knew all the good things you would do for his people.

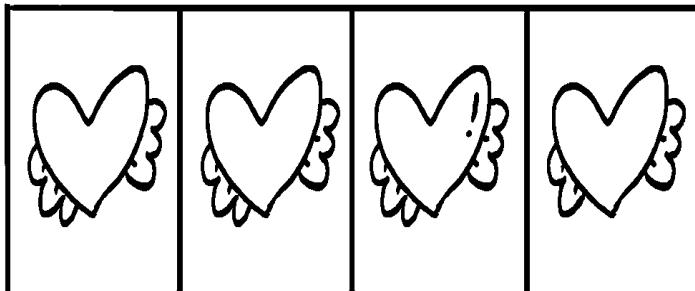
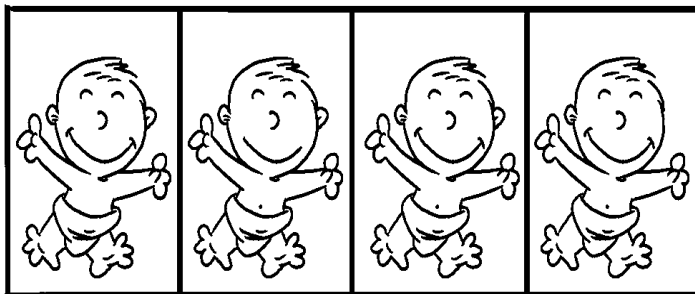


## Mission for the Week

I will thank my parents for having me and taking good care of me.

## Puzzle

In each series color the image within the box that is identical to the one outside the box. Make sure to notice all the details.



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## Prayer



I am proud that  
I am your child,  
Father God.

## Something to Draw



Draw an angel telling Joseph not to be afraid and to marry Mary.