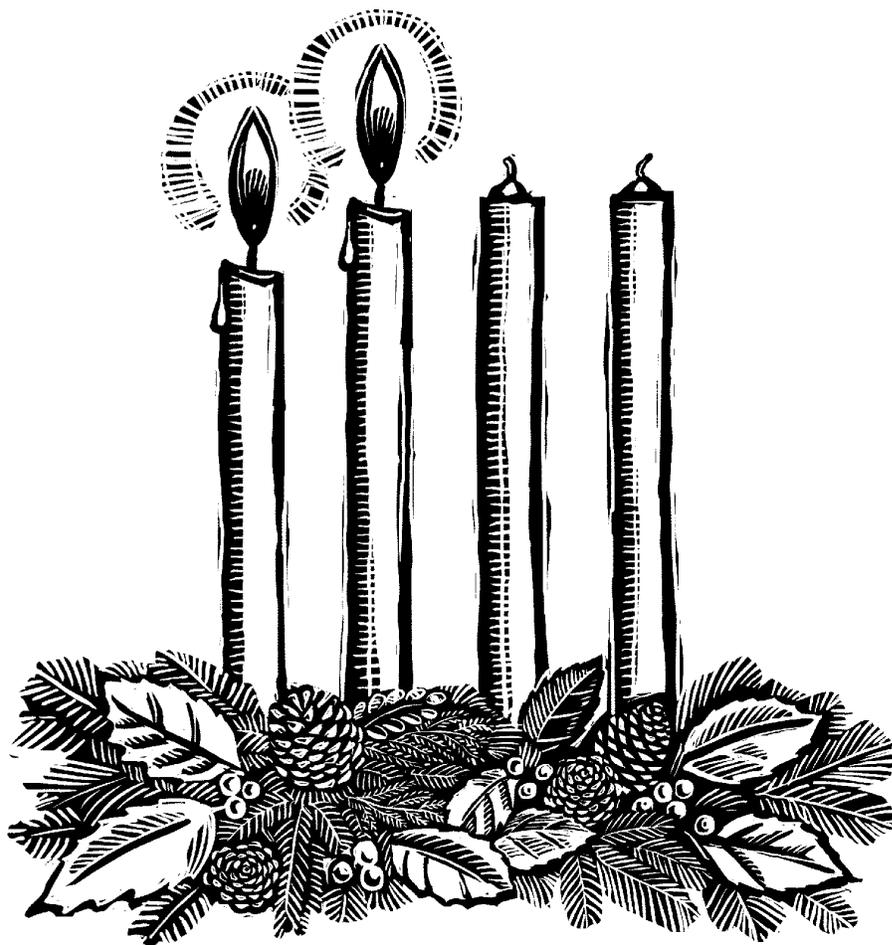


Our Lady of Lourdes • December 7, 2008

**“Behold, I am sending
my messenger
ahead of you;
he will prepare your way.”**

Mark 1:1



Second Sunday in Advent



Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano

Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback

Associate Pastor



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: lkrol@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. John Asomugha

In Residence

Rev. Ambrose Cabildo

In Residence

Deacon John DeGuardi

Deacon Tom Lucie

Deacon Jack Meehan

Coordinator of Stewardship

Deacon John Teufel

Sr. Margaret Bickar

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Sr. Nancy Campkin

Director of Religious Education

Jennifer Gallagher

Childrens' 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 McMahan

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Vita Scoria

Ministry Spiritual Director

John Sureau

Coordinator of Worship

Sr. Betty Toohig

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Anthony Trombino

Business Manager

Pastoral Council

Stacie Baltrusitis

Jane Desthers

Anne Kerrigan

Deacon Jack Meehan

Vita Scoria

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

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.

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.

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.*

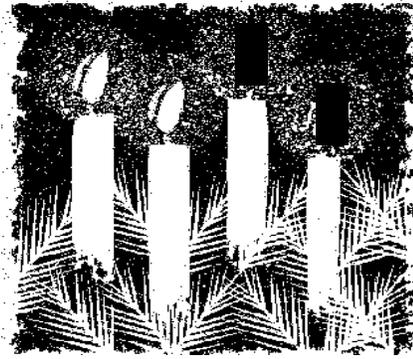
***Grow** in an understanding of God's role in each of our lives.*

***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



ADVENT

The Church gives us the beautiful season of Advent beginning on Sunday, November 30. This also marks the beginning of the new Liturgical Cycle. Get ready for a season of prayer, reflection and activity for you and your entire family!

“The Six” – Bringing LIGHT to the WORLD!

-Each week at “The Six,” we’ll look at the ways we can bring the Light of Christ to the world. Our liturgies will begin in darkness as we are reminded of the struggles of the world we live in and the light will grow as our prayers do throughout the Mass.

-This Advent and Christmas seasons our Six Committee is bringing Christ’s Light to the military by collecting supplies for a military base in Calverton, NY that will be sending care packages to a base in Iraq. One of the newly confirmed from the RCIA has been serving in Iraq and his wife is helping us to organize this effort. Beginning November 30 through the end of the Christmas season, we will be collecting any of the following items at “The Six” and at all of our Masses....

Prepaid Phone Cards + Body Wipes + Feminine Products + Chap Stick + Deodorant + Moisturizer + Foot Powder and Cream + Shampoo + Conditioner + Soap + Toothpaste + Q Tips + Nail Clippers + Gum + Beef Jerky + Oatmeal Packets + Instant Coffee + Healthy Snack Bars + Spray Water Bottles + Sports Equipment (soccer balls, etc.) + Instant Cameras + Socks + Air Mattresses + Pillows + Bed Linens

These items will be collected throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons....so please remember our military service women and men as you carry out your Christmas shopping.

-Come and be a part of “The Six,” Sunday 6 PM Mass. All 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders and their families are invited to join “The Six.”

2nd Sunday of Advent... Dec. 7... Grade 7
 3rd Sunday of Advent... Dec. 14... Grade 6
 4th Sunday of Advent... Dec. 21... Grade 5

Advent is a great time to get our “spiritual” lives in order – consider making an effort to go to Mass each week. Even better, bring someone back to Church with you!

Sixth Annual Mission Trip To El Salvador June 26 to July 2, 2009 For Students grade 8 through college



**Consider spending
a week with us
this summer that
will change your
life!**



The whole trip was indescribable, but the part that really stuck out to me was the day we spent at the school in our Sister Parish in Tacuba running a vacation bible camp for the kids there. Thanks to the donations of the people of 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.

Each day we visited towns and villages with arms full of donations from the United States. We were able to interact with the villagers and get a sense of who these people really were. Warm welcomes awaited us in each town along with humble gifts of wildflowers. I was amazed to find that many had walked miles to meet with us and thank us for coming. Even more astounding was that all of these miles were walked by men, women, and children, some with no shoes! This mission to El Salvador was a life-altering experience. It hit me hard after I returned home and went straight to sleep in my own room complete with TV, Internet and stereo, with my warm bed next to my closet filled with the latest \$100 sneakers.



If you are interested in participating in this life-changing experience, come to an information meeting on Tuesday, December 9 at 8 PM in the cafeteria or email jengallagher@att.net.

The Holidays Can Be Difficult...

and a hard time for anyone who is grieving. You don't have to go through it alone.

The Bereavement Ministry of OLL will host a one night meeting, "Coping with the Holidays" on **Wednesday, December 10 from 7:30 PM until 9:30PM** in the **Parish Center**. If you are interested or if you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224, extension 121.

Christmas Ornaments

"Help we need somebody..... everybody..... for somethings....."

If you have any "old or new" ornaments, bows, ribbons, any "Christmas doo-dads"... for our **Grade 6/7/8 Hang Out Night** kids so that they will be able to beautifully decorate wreaths for the needy on this **Friday, December 12**. Please drop them off at the Religious Education Office during this week. Thank You.

What Do I Bring to the Manger?

This Christmas, journey with us as we come to the manger. Prepare with us as we focus on the Nativity. Let us put time aside as we bring our hearts and innermost selves to that special place. Come, see, listen as our own Deacon John DeGuardi shares with us St. Francis' role in our Nativity.

Sponsored by the *Ministry of Family Healing*, **Thursday, December 11 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center**. Please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440 to register. Please come and bring a friend. As always, food and fellowship to follow.

Men's Night of Reflection

Come join us on **Wednesday, December 17 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center**

Theme: The Cross in the Crib: What Christmas can teach us about the true meaning of sacrifice.

Speaker: Jim Philipps, Theology Teacher at Holy Trinity High School, Adjunct Professor at Molloy College and author of several books exploring various themes in scripture. Light refreshments will be served. Please call Jack Fitzgerald at 587.5548 for further information.

Save the date....

Advent Reconciliation

Tuesday, December 23

5 PM – 8 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!



*Our Lady of Lourdes Seventh Annual
Family Christmas Pageant*

Monday, December 22

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

Friday, December 12 from 5 PM until 5:45PM in the Church

Saturday, December 20 Dress Rehearsal 1 PM until 2:30 PM in the Church

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

Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

ALANON:

Each Wednesday at
10 AM in Lourdes Hall-
convent lower level.
(Babysitters available)

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

Leonard Parine died on November 15 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 20 at St. Martin of Tours, Bethpage. We extend our prayers to his wife Gertrude, children, including his daughter Debbie Meyer, grandchildren, great-grandchild, dear friends and entire family.

Laurette Kallis died on November 18 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 22. We extend our prayers to her daughters, grandchildren and entire family.

Helen Votta died on November 18 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 24. We extend our prayers to her son, Ralph and entire family.

Vincenzo Cavallaro died on November 24 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 29. We extend our prayers to his wife, Crocetta, children, grandchildren and entire family.

Mary Salerno died on November 29 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was December 2. We extend our prayers to her son, Anthony and entire family.

Helen Niemczyk died on November 29 and celebration of the Mass of Christian burial was December 3. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and entire family.

Remembering . . .

Monday, December 8

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 8:00 AM Herbert Gothard Olsen
- 5:00 PM Stephen Perez
- 7:30 PM POTP

Tuesday, December 9

- 8:00 AM George Stone

Wednesday, December 10

- 8:00 AM Gene Langan

Thursday, December 11

St. Damasus I, pope

- 8:00 AM Michael Sanfilippo, Jr.

Friday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

- 8:00 AM LaRocca & Sweeney Families

Saturday, December 13

St. Lucy, virgin, martyr

- 8:00 AM John Lovari, Peter Schreiner, Blessed Virgin Mary,
Matthew Pulizzotto, Vincent Trotta, Carmen Cajigal,
Thomas Ryan, Jean Sullivan, Dorothy Blachly

- 5:00 PM John Lovari
Fr. John Asomugha

Sunday, December 14

- 8:00 AM Barbara McGarrity
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

- 9:30 AM James & Charlotte Quinn
Fr. Mike Vetrano

- 11:00 AM Joseph A. Santangelo
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

- 12:30 PM Francisco, Felizberta, Ramon, Ruperto Dimaculangan & Asuncion Castro
Fr. John Asomugha

- 6:00 PM People of the Parish, Sr. Anne Higgins, Frank Gluszak,
Virginia Guardino, Miles Restivo, Leonard J. Parine,
James L. Kilkenny, Pat Pearson, Henry Waite, Daniel P. Mooney
Fr. Mike Vetrano

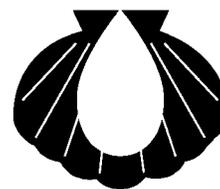
Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 8

(holy day of obligation)

Mass Schedule:

Monday, December 8
Mass at 8 AM, 5 PM and 7:30 PM



Baptisms

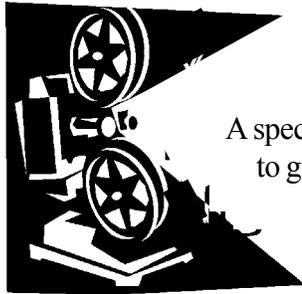
- Anthony Michael Azzariti*
Salvatore and Stephanie
- Thomas James Mango III*
Thomas and Kim
- Madison Camille Carlino*
Stephen and Megan
- Joseph Vincent Parise*
John and Nicole

OLL Family Christmas Movie Afternoon

Sunday, December 21

3:30 PM – 5:30 PM (in time for “The Six!”)

Parish Center



Take a break from the holiday rush – especially in this last week – for a leisurely afternoon with family.

A special movie, snacks, giveaways and some fun Christmas Carols all promise to give you the break you need!

Families from one to one hundred are welcome – there is something for all ages!

Do you have a great idea for a good Christmas movie?
If yes, e-mail John Sureau at jsureau@ollchurch.org

New “Liturgical” Year Resolution

-How about committing to coming to Mass better prepared. We are happy to provide a special resource, “At Home with the Word” that provides the readings for every Sunday along with some important suggestions and ideas for how to live the Word out for the week ahead. If you’re interested, e-mail John Sureau (jsureau@ollchurch.org) or stop by the Parish Office. The suggested offering for the book is \$10.

Mass Attendance

-Beginning with this new liturgical cycle, we will publish Mass attendance figures for each of our Sunday liturgies. In the same way that we pay attention to the amount of money donated to the support of our parish, let’s now pay closer attention to the amount of people praying with us each week. May this be a good awareness raiser for our parish community and for each one of us!

November 30, 2008

5 PM	419
8 AM	208
9:30 AM	350
11 AM	388
12:30 PM	325
“The Six”	341
Total	2,031



Breakfast With Santa

Sunday, December 14, 2008



HO HO HO

Don't miss our delicious Homemade Hot Pancake Breakfast!!!

There will be crafts, prizes, a 50/50 and of course Santa!!!

Buy your tickets ASAP, as seating is limited.

\$5 per person and children 3 and under – FREE

Price includes a photo with Santa

(One picture per family – You are welcomed to bring your own camera)

School families will receive Mandatory credits for any purchases for this event

2 Seatings:

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

10:45 AM - 12:45 PM

Any questions, please call Rita Vandenburg at 667.0092

or Kate Newman at 539.8542

Thank you in advance for your support!

Please tear off this portion of the flyer, complete it in full and submit it to our School Office – **Attention: Breakfast With Santa Committee** no later than Dec. 1st. Please make checks payable to Our Lady of Lourdes School. Non-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 \$ _____

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 **Friday, December 19 at 8 PM in the Church**. All are welcome!

An evening full of Christmas Spirit! Mass will be followed by Christmas serenade and a fellowship-serving our finest Philippine delicacies. Please bring your “parol” (lantern) for parade and contest. For more details, please contact Pete and Carlita DeRoxas at 661.0232 or email to goodsamofli@gmail.com.

Mass for Bereaved Parents

Saturday, December 20

OLL Church – 10:00 AM



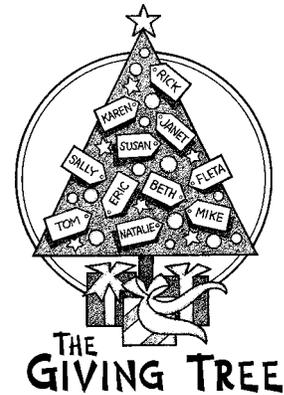
The holidays are often times of great celebration. But, for many, particularly those who have lost a child, the holidays are painfully hard. They are a reminder of our losses and a reminder of how our lives are perhaps a little less full. Whether you have lost a child in childhood or adulthood, to stillbirth 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 20 at 10 AM**. Mass will be followed by refreshments. Please feel free to invite family or friends. 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.

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. 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. Please remember to attach the tag on the gift.



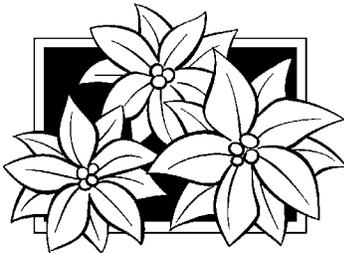
You're Invited to Join us for the Holidays!

Come and sing with us at Christmas.

Join the OLL Choir for rehearsal on 12/14, 12/17, 12/18 and sing with us at the 11 PM Mass on Christmas Eve and/or 11 AM Mass on Christmas Day.

Our Contemporary Group is inviting middle school, high school students and young adults to sing on Christmas Eve with our group. We sing at the 4 PM Christmas Eve Mass. Our Contemporary Group rehearses on Sundays from 4:30-6 PM and then sings at the 6 PM Mass throughout the year. This is the year to be part of our Holiday singers! Give yourself and your church the gift of your time and talent for the holiday season.

For further information, please contact Carol Goetz at 661.3224 or send an e-mail to music@ollchurch.org.



Christmas Flower Offerings

Christmas Flower offerings received by **Sunday, December 7** will be published in the Christmas bulletin. Offerings received after that date, will be published in subsequent bulletins.

Did you notice The Giving PODS?

Our thanks goes to Terry Lacher, manager for PODS on Long Island, for donating the use of a POD to our Outreach Office for the Christmas Season.

The POD will be used to store your generous gifts and contributions until they can be distributed at Christmas.

Terry has also offered a discount on a POD rental for any OLL parishioner! Contact the Outreach Office for details.





2nd Sunday of Advent

Admit it-you are already making yourselves crazy, what with decorations and gifts and special meals and travel plans, not to mention sending out the cards and annual letters. Some of you may even be thinking, "I'll be glad when all of this is over!" though I certainly hope not! Think back to those days over 2,000 years ago; under the quiet cover of night's darkness, a young couple set out on a journey. There was nothing of what we've added to this season, only quiet anticipation and prayer as they slowly made their way to an as yet unknown destination.

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four, but is often described as the most striking and descriptive. Today's reading, from the beginning of the book, introduces us to John the Baptist. He is described as a voice of one, crying out in the desert, announcing to everyone who will hear him that the Messiah is coming. Imagine the excitement of those who listened to John; after centuries of waiting, the Christ was coming to baptize with the promised Holy Spirit.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes St. John the Baptist as "the Lord's immediate precursor or forerunner, sent to prepare his way" (CCC 523). Indeed, he was the last of the prophets to proclaim the coming of Jesus Christ. Appearing with the characteristics of an Old Testament prophet, this holiest of men had waited all of his life for the moment when he could announce the coming of the Savior. He was patient; he was faithful. During this Advent season, as we remember the promise of a Savior who would save us from our sins, let us pray for patience and faith through the Holy Spirit. Now is the time for peace in our lives and in our hearts.

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Readings for the Week of December 7, 2008

Sunday:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Zec 2:14-17 <i>or</i> Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 <i>or</i> 1:39-47
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday:	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Nocturnal Adoration

Nocturnal Adoration for the month of December will be the **National Night of Prayer for Life on Monday, December 8 from 8:30 PM until 1 AM**. Please come and pray with us. All are invited and welcome! Bring a friend.



Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of December will be on **Wednesday, December 10 from 1- 3 PM**. All are invited and welcome! We will be praying for the Pope, world peace and religious women and men.

Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, December 14**. 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**.

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**.

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.

**“When you give food to the poor, they call you a saint.
When you ask why the poor have no food, they call you a communist.”
– Dom Helder Camara, Brazilian Archbishop**

Hunger In My Backyard

**MICAH*: An Interfaith Campaign to End Poverty on Long Island
(*Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger)**

“Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.” Micah, 6:8

Many people may think of hunger as a problem that only affects other parts of the country or other nations like Africa, India or South America. But, everyday 100,000 children here on Long Island are at risk of going hungry.

The current economic downturn has pushed the number of local hungry children even higher. The Long Island Council of Churches' food pantry in Riverhead and the Gerald J. Ryan Outreach Center in Wyandanch are both currently reporting a 50% increase in the number of people seeking food assistance. Many local pantries, overwhelmed with the high demand, have no choice but to stop taking new clients, thus having to turn people away.

In a Newsday article, *Hungry for a Way to Feed Needy*, columnist Joye Brown reports that even the pre-economic meltdown numbers are troubling. According to 2006 statistics from several local agencies that deal with poverty, each year almost 260,000 Long Island residents, including 93,000 children, seek help at soup kitchens or food pantries. But that help is not enough. More than a third of those who got aid said there were times when they were hungry, but could not eat. Forty-five percent said they ate less than they should. One third said they skipped a meal, or cut down on the size of, a meal. Forty-two percent of adults also reported that their children didn't eat enough, with 12 percent reporting that their kids skipped some meals. More than 80 percent of those children lived in families where at least one parent worked.

As the ranks of the needy have increased, the demographics of hunger have also changed. More middle-class people, who once used to donate, are seeking help today. Many people have full-time jobs but don't earn enough to keep up with the rising prices of health care, energy and food. The working poor increasingly compete with seniors on fixed incomes.

As we clear out our own cupboards of food for donations, what if we were to also approach our local school districts with a policy that cafeteria food not go to waste in dumpsters and landfills, but instead go to feed our hungry neighbors?

To learn more about the MICAH campaign, contact Rev. Thomas Goodhue at the LI Council of Churches (licchemp@aol.com) or LICC Advocacy Director Neelofer Chaudry (liccmicah@aol.com)

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 Sacrament of the Sick.



Pray for Our Sick

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

*Connie Altadonna, Lucas Anderson, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry,
Deacon Steve Behar, Claire Beierle, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Howard Campkin,
Regina Cranor, Karen DellaVecchia, Josephine DiBenedetto, Janet Eifler,
James, Jr. & Julia Florio (infants), Susan Gigante, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman,
Kathleen Kerrigan, Evelyn Lang, Nancy Letsch, Kara Lobasso,
Baby Josephine Mahan, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr.,
David McCarthy, Eleanor McGee, Dorothy Meloni, Brenden Muldoon, Frances Parine,
Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Joe Radosti, James Reilly, Patricia Salimbene,
Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Gloria Shukal, Derek Stahl, Diana Marie Taveras,
Charlie Tibbetts, Baby John Tramazzo, Jean Virgilio, Pat Wallace*

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Bring your prayer and creativity together in a gift of love.



Join us...

**Wednesday, December 10 from 9 AM until 11:30 AM
in the Parish Center.** All you need to bring is scrap yarn,
knitting needles or crochet hooks (patterns and instructions
will be given to you) and your gifts of love and prayer.

To register or for more information, please call the Religious
Education Office at 661.5440, option #3 during office hours
(9 AM - 12 Noon and 1 PM - 5 PM.)

Advent -A Time to Learn How to Wait

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Carlo Carretto, the renowned spiritual writer, spent many years living alone as a hermit in the Sahara desert. He wrote a number of books from that place of solitude, including one entitled, *Letters from the Desert*. In that book, he has a message for those of us who live busy lives in the world. "What is God trying to say to us in our busy lives?" He suggests this: "Be patient! Learn to wait - for each other, for love, for happiness, for God!"

Learn to wait! That's not something we do easily and many of our problems flow from that. We often don't wait properly for things.

Annie Dillard shares this story about proper waiting: She had been watching a butterfly emerge from its cocoon and was fascinated by the process until she grew impatient with how long it was taking and, to speed things up, took a candle and heated the cocoon, albeit very gently.

The experiment worked, but it was a mistake in the long run. The butterfly emerged more quickly; however, because adding heat violated something within the natural process, the butterfly was born with wings too weak to fly. Haste and prematurity had stunted and deformed a natural process. Some things can't be rushed.

Dillard understood immediately what had gone wrong. A certain chastity had been violated. Impatience had triggered an irreverence that had interfered with and damaged the natural order of things. In essence, the Christmas gift had been opened too early; the bride had been slept with before the wedding; a process that needed an allotted period of time had been short-circuited. There hadn't been enough advent.

Advent means waiting. Among other things, it celebrates the idea that the messiah must be born from a virgin. Why? Is sex something unworthy of God? If Jesus had been born in a natural way, would that somehow have given him less dignity? This is a dark underside in some spiritualities, but Jesus' birth from a virgin has nothing to do with that.

Scripture and Christian tradition emphasize that Jesus was born of a virgin to underscore the fact that he had no human father and also to teach an important truth, namely, that in order for something sublime to be born there must, first, be a proper chastity, a proper time of waiting, a season of advent. Why?

The answer lies in properly understanding chastity. Chastity is not, first of all, something to do with sex. Chastity has to do with how we experience reality in general,

all experience. To be chaste is to have proper reverence - towards God, towards each other, towards nature, towards ourselves, towards reality in general, and towards sex.

Lack of chastity is irreverence, in any area of life, sex included. And reverence is a lot about proper waiting. We can see this by looking at its opposite: To lack chastity, to be irreverent, is to be impatient, selfish, callous, immature, undisciplined, or boorish in any way so that our actions deprive someone else of his or her full uniqueness, dignity, and preciousness. And we do this every time we short-circuit waiting.

Thus, it is understandable why the prime analogate for chastity is proper reverence in the area of sex. Sex, because it so deeply affects the soul, speaks most loudly about chastity or lack of it. Sex is only chaste when it is not short-circuited by impatience, selfishness, or lack of respect. Sadly, because sex is so powerful, these things are often short-circuited. We violate chastity in sex whenever there is prematurity, unfair pressure, subtle manipulation, crass force, taking without giving, posturing an intimacy we don't mean, lack of respect for previous commitments, disregard for the wider relationships of family and community, or failure to respect long-range happiness and health. Annie Dillard's metaphor basically captures it: There is a fault in our chastity when we put a candle to the cocoon so as to unnaturally rush the process.

Chastity is about proper waiting and waiting is about patience in carrying the tensions and frustrations we suffer as we live the unfinished symphony that constitutes our lives.

There are some wonderful refrains in apocalyptic literature around the importance of waiting. Before the messiah can be conceived, gestated, and given birth to, there must always be a proper time of waiting, a necessary advent, a certain quota of suffering, which alone can create the proper virginal space within which the messiah can be born: "God is never in a hurry!" "Every tear brings the messiah closer!" "It is with much groaning of the flesh that the life of the spirit is brought forth!"

All of these phrases say the same thing: What's sublime depends upon there first having been some sublimation; a feast can only happen after there has first been some fasting; love can only be a gift if the gift is fully respected; and (as Carretto so poignantly puts it) we must learn to wait - for God, for love, for the bride, and for Christmas.

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.

Financial Summary

November 30, 2008

Weekly Collection	\$ 17,022.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (1,978.00)

The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs and salaries is \$19,000.

Did you notice our new budget amount- \$19,000 vs. \$21,000 (*last year*)?
This reflects the difficult economic times and our attempt to adjust our budget to meet that.

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

Danielle DiLapi-US Army

James J. Ferrara-US Marines

Thomas W. Ferrara -US Air Force

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

Trent Narra-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.

To the good people at the 8 AM Mass...

Thanks for your extremely generous support. Your contributions will help several kids who are in need. I enjoyed being with you and I hope you were able to take something with you from my homily. Please pray for me, your priests and sisters, and for one another.

YOU ARE THE GOOD GUYS!

Sincerely yours, in the Spirit of Saint Francis

Brother Edward

ps .. if you invite me back I'll come!

Holiday Bus Trip to Calverton

This is a free trip sponsored by the local Dignity Memorial Funeral Homes. The trip will be on Tuesday, December 16 and you will be picked up (and dropped off) at our area funeral homes. Pick-up will be at 9:15 AM at Boyd-Spencer Funeral Home, Babylon, at 9:30 AM at Lang-Tobia-DiPalma Funeral Home, Deer Park and at 9:45 AM at Boyd-Caratozzolo Funeral Home, Deer Park. Seating is limited. Please plan to arrive at the funeral home at least 15 minutes prior to departure. Coffee, cookies and cold drinks will be served, along with pizza lunch on return trip. The bus has a lavatory. For further information please call Boyd-Spencer Funeral Home at 669.2400.

Charismatic Renewal Center

Charismatic Prayer groups in Nassau County will sponsor an evening of Prayer and Praise on Monday, December 8 beginning at 8 PM in the St. Barnabas Holy Family Chapel (lower church), Bellmore. After a period of Prayer and Praise, we will have a music fest. John Finelli, who has written many spiritual songs, will share them with us. John is a retired music teacher in the NYC school system. It will be a great way to kick off the Christmas season. Everyone is welcome! For further information, call Charismatic Prayer Groups in Nassau County 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 out 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. The show is also available on Sirius Radio, Channel 159 at 11 PM on Saturday. Next Sunday's theme is "Giving and Helping Others," don't miss it!

To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go to www.religionandrock.com. Don't forget to tune into TELE CARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 271 for the Best in Catholic Television!

Sharing the Gospel

John the Baptist had an important message. When you make sinful mistakes, and when you turn away from God, stop. Learn from your mistakes, and do things God's way. Were you bossy or rude? Be thoughtful and kind. Did you tell a lie? Be honest instead. God wants you to share his love with other people.



Mission for the Week

Ask your family if you have hurt their feelings.
Ask them to forgive you.



Help John the Baptist find his way to the Jordan River.



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Prayer



Jesus,
help me to learn
from my mistakes.
Thank you for
forgiving me.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of
yourself being kind
to a friend.