

**Our Lady of Lourdes • January 11, 2009**

**“Jesus came from  
Nazareth of Galilee  
and was baptized in the  
Jordan by John.”**

**Mark 1:9**



**Baptism of the Lord**



## *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](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: [lkrol@ollschool.org](mailto: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](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. 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 Scorgia**

Ministry Spiritual Director

**John Sureau**

Coordinator of Worship

**Sr. Betty Toohig**

Senior Ministry-SAGE

**Anthony Trombino**

Business Manager

## *Pastoral Council*

Stacie Baltrusitis

Lisa Cantalino

Sonia DaSilva

Nilo DeLeon

Jane Desthers

Jerry Esposito

Deacon Jack Meehan

John Muldoon

Bob Natale

Eileen Rega

Vita Scorgia

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Christine Volk

## *Parish Staff*

**Barbara Catuosco**

Religious Education Office

**Mary Anne Lettieri**

Parish Office

**Debbie Meyer**

Bulletin Editor/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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*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.*

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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

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

*Something special at the 9:30!*

Children's Liturgy of the Word continues to challenge and inspire the young people of our parish - and it gives their parents some time to help, too!

During the Advent season, the children who came to CLTW each week were asked to get their hearts, families and world together for Christmas! Each week they set up the straw that was used in the manger in the Parish Center. Their good work prepared a stable place for Jesus!

Here are some of the things they did...

*helped Dad fix the Christmas lights, listen to God, be nice, helped with my brother, praying everyday, putting cookies out, do good things, setting up the nativity, celebrate Jesus' birthday, be a nice kid, light the advent wreath, give away toys, help the poor, be nice to my sister, bake cookies, we love him.*

Our work is already getting under way for Lent, and we still continue to work each Sunday at the 9:30 AM Family Mass. Want to get involved in this growing ministry? Of course you do! If you're interested, contact John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to [jsureau@Ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@Ollchurch.org) .... Or come to CLTW any Sunday at the 9:30 AM Mass!



### The Spirit of Bethlehem Lives on!

A beautiful replication of the city of Bethlehem is displayed in the Parish Center and has been for the Christmas season. This replica was created by our beloved Adam Ippolito, who passed away last year. Adam was a key to the art and environment of our Church for many years and his spirit still inspires! This beautiful image has served as a focal point for our children throughout the Christmas season. It will remain in the Parish Center until January 17. Be sure to visit this beautiful replica of the city of Bethlehem.

### “THE SIX”

#### Bringing Light to the Nations

Throughout Advent and Christmas, the members of “The Six” Committee have been working hard to bring “light” to the world by preparing military packages. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our parish community....so much so that we need to ask for some help!

The base we are working with in Calverton has asked for some postal sponsors. If you feel you can help with this, please send a donation to MILITARY PACKAGES POSTAL SPONSOR, c/o John Sureau, Our Lady of Lourdes R.C. Church, 455 Hunter Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795.

## Please mark your calendars...

### OLL School Night at the Races

“Night at the Races” will be held on **Saturday, January 17. Doors open at 7 PM.**

Admission is \$10 and no pre-registration is necessary. Bring Your Friends!

Come have a wonderful time and cheer on your favorite horse!

For more information, please contact Frank Antonawich at 587.7988.

### Our Lady of Lourdes 25th Annual Duffers Classic

**Monday, July 20, 2009**

The Our Lady of Lourdes 25th Annual Golf Outing to Support Catholic Education will be held on July 20, 2009. This year we will be honoring **Dom and Mary Anne Lettieri**, who have supported our Golf Outing and our Parish Italian Family Feast for over 25 years. Please mark your calendars and plan to be with us.

For more information about our Golf Outing, please contact the Parish Office.

*Look for more information in future bulletins...*

### 2008 Christmas Theme Poster Contest

The Holy Name Society of Our Lady Of Lourdes would like to thank Ms. Louise Krol, Principal and Mr. Vincent Montella, Art Teacher and the students of OLL School for their participation in the annual 2008 Christmas Theme Poster contest - “Christmas Is Jesus’ Birthday” sponsored on behalf of the Diocesan Union Of Holy Name Societies Of Rockville Centre. One poster from each grade was selected and submitted to represent OLL School in the judging among the other parish school’s from Nassau and Suffolk Counties in the Diocesan Union contest held at Christ The King Parish, Commack, in December. Of the wonderful and talented posters submitted, *Katherine Moeller* of OLL School received a Second (2nd) Place ribbon for the eighth grade category and *Kimberly Nottingham* received Honorable Mention in the seventh grade.

### Our Lady of Lourdes School Receives

#### 2008 Best of West Islip Award

Our Lady of Lourdes School has been selected for the 2008 Best of West Islip Award in the Schools category by the U.S. Local Business Association (USLBA).

The USLBA “Best of Local Business” Award Program recognizes outstanding local businesses throughout the country. Each year, the USLBA identifies companies that they believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and community.

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. The 2008 USLBA Award Program focused on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the USLBA and data provided by third parties.

## Everything is Fine... in '09

### Look at those 7th Graders

*These kids are great!!... more in '09*

The 7th Graders in our parish family know how to love and serve... and feel that sense of belonging. As part of their Service Projects so far, they have been living out our Vision Statement, "Live out our Baptismal call passionately by caring for all of God's people with justice." Some of the "serving" includes:

- Hosting refreshments for the Mass of Remembrance with Ministry of Consolation
- Packaged and gave bread out on Thanksgiving Day with our Liturgy Committee
- Organized our Missalettes/Music Issues for our Parish Family
- Helped our 2nd graders with their Sacrament of Reconciliation nights
- Helped put Advent Tags on our Parish Giving Tree and helped organize the presents with Parish Outreach
- Hosted refreshments for our Christmas Concert and Christmas Pageant
- Helped Art and Environment Ministry decorate our Church and All-Purpose Room for Christmas

### Grade 8... in '09...They're Great!

All Grade 8 Confirmation Candidates will meet with their Sponsors for **RESCUE** - "Religious Education Sponsor Candidate United Effort" with a kick-off every Sunday afternoon in January '09. This night of prayer and reflection will provide them with an opportunity to learn about their new roles as sponsors and candidates, hear personal reflections about what it means to be a sponsor and commit to take a more active role in this process. Each evening will conclude with Sunday's 6PM Mass. Look for them Sundays, January 11, 18 and 25. Sponsors and candidates plan to meet together three times on their own, including doing some service together. Sponsors and candidates work together at a soup kitchen or cook a meal for a soup kitchen, help an elder adult, help with Parish Outreach, Stewardship, Art & Environment, etc. Let's continue to pray for our parish's Confirmation Candidates.

### Grades 6/7/8 Hang Out Nites

*Don't miss it ...*

**Fridays- January 16, February 13, April 24, May 15 and June 19**

- Guitar Hero III is here at OLL
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Dance Revolution
- ...and more
- PLUS some new additions!
- PRIZES and RAFFLES

They continue to serve those in need... they care...every month Grade 6/7/8 bring food/ paper goods/and or \$1.00 for our Parish Food Pantry... they have contributed over \$300 since October '08... wreaths decorated by our Hang Out Kids were given to our families who received "Giving Tree Gifts"... They're GREAT too!!

## Taize-Prayer Around the Cross

*Join us for this evening of prayer and blessing...*

**Tuesday, January 13**

**7:30 PM in the Church**

**Presenter: Carol Goetz, Parish Music Director**

*Looking for another way to pray?*

Taize is a form of worship that provides some time in our busy lives where we can stop and focus on the love of God.

Our own Parish Music Director, Carol Goetz, will lead us in prayer and song. Together we will share simple chants and prayers that will help guide us as we bring our concerns and hopes to the Lord.

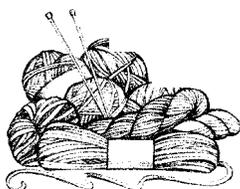


### Taize and the San Damiano Cross

Fr. Mike will bless our new San Damiano Cross for our Taize Prayer. The original San Damiano Cross, fashioned about the year 1100, hangs in Santa Chiara Church in Assisi. This was the cross through which St. Francis of Assisi received his commission from Christ: "Rebuild my Church." All Franciscans cherish the San Damiano Cross as the symbol of their mission from God to renew and rebuild the Church in the power of God.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

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



**Join us at our next meeting...**

**Wednesday, January 14, 2009 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.

*Coming soon...*

## Evolution and the Church

**Tuesdays, January 20, 27 and February 3**

**7:30 – 9:30 PM in the Parish Center**

**Presenter: James Philipps, Religious Studies Department,  
Holy Trinity High School, Instructor PFI**

Not many years ago, Pope John Paul II reaffirmed the long-standing position of the Catholic Church that there is no fundamental conflict between the theory of evolution and the creation stories of the Bible. Yet hardly a month goes by without news from somewhere in the United States about a tussle between those wanting to teach Creationism in the classroom and a local school board. Why all the fuss? Is there some fundamental conflict between Christianity and Science? Can a proper understanding of the theory of evolution actually help us in incorporating the religious truths of the scriptures into our lives? Join us as we explore these and other related questions during these presentations.

*To register, 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).*

## **R.C.I.A. – *Continuing the Journey!***

This Sunday, we celebrate the Rite of Acceptance for the R.C.I.A. At the 11 AM Mass this weekend, those in our parish to be baptized, confirmed and received into the Church, stand before the community to receive the support of their sponsor and this community.

Starting today, these women and men will be dismissed or sent forth from the Mass (usually the 11 AM Mass, after the Homily). This, at first, can seem a bit negative or uninviting when, in fact, it's exactly the opposite! We send them forth from the Church, before the Creed, so they may learn more fully about the ways of the Church and more fully discover their own faith. As we dismiss them or send them forth, we do so in a sense of pride, a sense of hope and a sense of deep prayer that they will truly be ready to join fully at the Table of the Lord this Easter!

## **Our New Men's Group**

*An Invitation to all men from OLL and beyond...*

Come join us on **Thursday, January 15, in the Parish Center after the 8 AM Mass.**

We meet once a month to read and discuss the Scriptures for the following Sunday. Come with your ideas and suggestions. We'll gather for conversation and fellowship. Join us in this pioneering experience for **MEN ONLY**. If you plan to attend, please call Jack Fitzgerald at 587.5548.

## **Youth Choir Membership Drive and Pizza Party**

Calling all students in first grade and up. If you attend the 9:30 AM Mass on Sundays and like to sing, the OLL Youth Choir needs YOU!! We will be having a pizza party for present members and those thinking about joining on Thursday, January 15, from 7 -7:45 PM in the Church. Youth Choir meets most Thursday nights for rehearsal; it's easy and LOTS of fun! Come on down for some pizza and see what it's all about!

## **Senior Circle**

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, January 26, 2009 at 12:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

*Wouldn't you like to join us...*

We are a social and spiritual organization. We are a group of men and women who are fifty-five and over. We meet on the last Monday of the month at 12:30 PM throughout the year in the Parish Center. Our activities consist of social trips, informative speakers, and special celebrations. Perhaps, more importantly, you experience the camaraderie of a compassionate group of people and form lasting friendships. We are looking forward to another year of successfully reaching our goals to enhance and stimulate the lives of our seniors.



**Well-Known Musician and Composer  
Dan Schutte  
is coming to OLL!**

Our Lady of Lourdes is happy to host an evening of music and prayer with Dan Schutte, one of the renowned “St. Louis Jesuits” and composer of liturgical favorites such as *Here I Am, Lord, Table of Plenty* and many others.

*People who have attended Dan’s concerts have often commented that it seems more like an evening of music, prayer and spirituality than a concert. Dan introduces each song with stories about their creation and with moving reflections about our common journey of faith.*

These events are a wonderful way of bringing a parish community together to be spiritually renewed around the singing of Dan’s inspiring music.

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**Concert and Evening of Prayer**

**Friday, February 6**

**7:30 PM in the Church**

**Tickets: \$10 each, available at OLL Parish Office**

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**Workshop for all OLL Liturgical Ministers**

**Saturday, February 7 from 9 AM -12 PM**

**Tickets: free to all OLL Liturgical Ministers**

## 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

*Alex Sipplak* died on December 21 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was December 27. We extend our prayers to his wife Albina, daughters Elsie and Christine, his grandchildren and entire family.

*Ciro Auteri* died on December 25 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was December 29. We extend our prayers to his wife Carmela, daughters Linda and Deborah, his grandchildren and entire family.

*Cecelia Zammitto* died on December 28 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was December 30. We extend our prayers to her son, Andrew and her entire family.

*Lucia Graci* died on December 28 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was December 31. We extend our prayers to her husband Larry, her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and entire family.

## Remembering . . .

### Monday, January 12

8:00 AM Donald Smith

### Tuesday, January 13

*St. Hilary, bishop and doctor*

8:00 AM Kim Ecker

### Wednesday, January 14

8:00 AM Ruth Monett

### Thursday, January 15

8:00 AM Virginia Thorne

### Friday, January 16

8:00 AM Domenica Fedele

### Saturday, January 17

8:00 AM Hedwig & Edward Marczak, Nicholas Caccavo,  
Anna & Joseph Nosarzewski, Joseph Trotta,  
Priests and Seminarians at Immaculate Conception,  
Cecelia Zammitto, Robert Kapple, Jr.

5:00 PM Kim Ecker

*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

### Sunday, January 18

8:00 AM Irma Weinzimmer

*Fr. John Asomugha*

9:30 AM Michael Memoli

*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

11:00 AM Virginia Clarke

*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

12:30 PM Angela Russo

*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Leonard Parine, Ralph Coppola,  
Virginia Evrard, Rose Anne Rooney, Clo Dickerson,  
Henry Johnson, Mrs. Carmen Cajigal,  
Fred Ball, Nino Evangelista

*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

## **Fundraiser for Local Parish Outreach Programs**

*(of which Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Outreach is one benefactor)*

Come enjoy an evening of music by “Tommy Polito and Sweetwater” at the Division 2 Hall, Babylon on Friday, February 6 from 8 PM until Midnight. Tickets for the fundraiser are \$25 per person which includes full open bar and snacks. For further information and reservations, please call Maureen at 631.412.3099.

## **March For Life**

**Thursday January 22, 2009 is the 36th Annual March on Washington, D.C.**

to protest the Supreme Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. Pro-life Americans will gather in our Nation’s capital at noon on “The Mall” to bring our important simple pro-life message to all. This year’s theme is a call for equal care for a pregnant mother and her unborn child with no exceptions. It is a powerful day for families and parishes to stand up for our beliefs and take part in one of our freedoms in the democratic process, a day of prayer and fellowship. Our Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes will team up with neighboring parishes to share bus space. If you are interested, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 to leave your name and telephone number.

## **For Women Who Are Exploring Life Choices**

If 2009 is your year to discover how to better make a difference in today’s world, don’t miss this informative series created by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood. “Claiming Your Power in a Changing World” is a compelling series that will take place on three consecutive Thursday evenings at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 455 Hunter Ave, West Islip, Room 16, from 7-9PM on the following dates:

January 22      January 29      February 5

Mark your calendar for the first session, January 22!

Please come and bring a friend for an evening filled with information, inspiration, refreshments and best of all, new friends.

To register or for more information, contact S. Mary Walsh, CSJ at [walshm@csjbrentwood.org](mailto:walshm@csjbrentwood.org) or call 516.483.6799.

## Parish Outreach

**Office telephone:**

661-9262, option 4

**Office hours:**

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

## Pantry Needs

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

## Outreach Memorial Donations

*Parish Outreach has received many donations in memory of loved ones.*

- Outreach has received a donation from Katherine Stevenson in memory of *Walter Stevenson*.
- The Davis Family has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Kevin Kelly*.
- The Bencivinni Family has made a Christmas Donation to Outreach in memory of *Nancy Bencivinni*.
- Clare Hopkins has made a donation to Outreach in loving memory of *Richard Hopkins*.
- Outreach would like to acknowledge the donation from Mrs. Lucie's 4th grade class at Bayview Elementary School. The class collected \$75 which was used to purchase meat for *Outreach clients*.
- Outreach would like to acknowledge the donation of "Winter Warmth" clothing items and canned food from the West Islip Public Library.

If you would like to make a donation to Parish Outreach in memory of a loved one, please call Mary McMahan, Director of Parish Social Ministry at 661.3224, option 4.



## Baptism of the Lord

Throughout my life, I've been fortunate enough to live in several homes. Nothing fancy, mind you, just enough for a family of four. But each home had one thing in common—a basement. I've always been one of those people who needed someplace to store my "stuff," that junk that accumulates over the years but you can't seem to bring yourself to dispose of. And each of my basements has had something in common as well—they've flooded at least once. Usually, a sump pump decided to quit in the middle of a three-day rainstorm. At some point, I'll wade through the floating "stuff" and announce to my wife that our house has been baptized. Again.

John the Baptist, as he preached of the coming of the Son of God, welcomed every type of sinner to the Jordan River to have their sins washed away, to begin a new life. Why then did Jesus—himself incapable of sin—ask to be baptized by John as well? Just as our baptism welcomes us into the arms of the Church, Jesus' baptism signifies the beginning of his ministerial mission on earth. It is here he is manifested as the Son of God and in possession of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' immersion in the waters of the Jordan expresses his willingness to self-cleanse everything up to that moment and begin his life as God's suffering servant (CCC 536). Just as Jesus appeared in the crowd of sinners waiting for the saving waters, he is with us today. In this seemingly simple act, he accepted his fate of death on the cross in exchange for the remission of our sins. As you bless yourselves today with holy water, linger a bit on the feel of the water and remember the beloved Son, in whom God is well pleased.

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### Readings for the Week of January 11, 2009

<b>Sunday:</b>	Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11/Acts 10:34-38 <i>or</i> 1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11
<b>Monday:</b>	Heb 1:1-6/Mk 1:14-20
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Heb 2:5-12/Mk 1:21-28
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Heb 2:14-18/Mk 1:29-39
<b>Thursday:</b>	Heb 3:7-14/Mk 1:40-45
<b>Friday:</b>	Heb 4:1-5, 11/Mk 2:1-12
<b>Saturday:</b>	Heb 4:12-16/Mk 2:13-17
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

## **Altar Society**

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Elizabeth Netska*.

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, Ben Bellotti, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Howard Campkin,  
Michael Ciotkosz, Regina Cranor, Karen DellaVecchia,  
James, Jr. & Julia Florio (infants), Elizabeth Fredriksen, Susan Gigante,  
Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Kathleen Kerrigan, Kara Lobasso,  
Baby Josephine Mahan, Robert Mariani, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann,  
Peter McCann, Sr., David McCarthy, Eleanor McGee, Josphine Mele,  
Dorothy Meloni, Brenden Muldoon, Frances Parine, Arthur Petrino,  
Joanne Popper, Joe Radosti, Patricia Salimbene, Patricia Santangelo,  
Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Derek Stahl, Mary Clair Stephen,  
Dorothy Sullivan, Joseph Sullivan, Diana Marie Taveras, Charlie Tibbetts,  
Baby John Tramazzo, Jean Virgilio, Pat Wallace*

## 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!

<b>Weekly</b>	<b>12/14/08</b>	<b>12/21/08</b>	<b>12/28/08</b>	<b>1/1/09</b>	<b>1/4/09</b>
5 PM	423	502	466	200	437
8 AM	237	183	182	152	205
9:30 AM	427	337	402		288
11 AM	374	327	356	375	454
12:30 PM	271	271	327		328
"The Six"	287	355	170		281
Total (2008)	2019	1975	1903	727	1993
<i>Total (2007)</i>	<i>1819</i>	<i>2149</i>	<i>1939</i>	<i>775</i>	<i>2002</i>

<b>Christmas</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
4 PM(Church)	1066	1118
4 PM (Café)	529	307
6 PM	680	443
8 PM	220	227
11 PM	586	493
8 AM	271	298
9:30 AM	281	306
11 AM	406	479
12:30 PM	586	672
Total	4625	4343

## Christmas Flower Offerings 2008

*Walter P. Sokol*

*Robert D. Colin*

*Virginia Petrino*

*Stephen Petrino*

*Patricia Loretz*

*Farkas & Balcar Family*

*The Castonguays*

*The Mauls*

*Patrick McCarthy*

*Elizabeth J. Golden*

*Jerry DiCanio*

*Peter, Martha, Ben & Arthur Addeo*

*M/M Eugene Calabria*

*Charron & Sibetta Family*

*Concetta & Millie Arrigo*

*M/M Nicholas Papocchia*

## 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*

**John Finn**-*US Army*

**Christopher Florca**-*US Marines*

**Donnie Frank**-*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.

Our whole parish family rejoices with the Ferrara Family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty. **Thomas W. Ferrara** -*US Air Force* has returned to the United States safe and sound from his tour of duty. Thank you, Thomas, for your generous service to our country! The Ferrara Family would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family for all of their prayers.

Our whole parish family rejoices with the LeComte Family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty. **Armand J. LeComte**-*US Marines* has returned to the United States safe and sound from his tour of duty. Thank you, Armand, for your generous service to our country! The LeComte Family would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family for all of their prayers.

### *Save the Dates....*

There is much happening in the liturgical and prayer life of our parish community in the days and weeks ahead. Mark you calendars today!

**Friday, February 6**

– Dan Schutte Concert

**Saturday, February 7**

– Workshop with Dan Schutte for Liturgical Ministers

**Tuesday, February 10**

– Vigil of Our Lady of Lourdes Healing Mass

We gather together and ask for God's healing at a beautiful Mass at 7:30 PM in the Church. *More details to follow...*

**Sunday, February 22**

– Parish Mardi Gras Celebration

**Wednesday, February 25**

– Ash Wednesday

**Monday March 9 through**

– Parish Lenten Retreat

**Thursday, March 12**

## What If?

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

What if we all were more consistent? What if we all had wider loyalties? What if we were slower to dismiss others' ideas? What if we took seriously the biblical idea that God's revelation comes mostly in what is strange and foreign to us? What if we all took to heart the idea that a little learning is a dangerous thing, that a little ideology is more dangerous still, and that other peoples' passion for truth might be just as real as our own? What if we all remembered that a heresy is a truth nine-tenth spoken?

What if?

What if the pious were to become more liberal and the liberals were to become more pious? What if those who are involved in prayer groups were to become equally as involved within social action? What if those with a passion for social action were to become equally as obsessed with private prayer and private morality? What if the pious and the liberal were to become more understanding of each other?

What if liberals were to become as known for their humility, respect of others, and personal prudence as they are known for their social concern? What if conservatives were to define family values widely enough to include the welfare of the poor and of all races? What if Evangelicals were to get serious about justice and justice groups were to get serious about Jesus?

What if liberals were to draw more prudent boundaries even as they challenge others beyond rigidity? What if conservatives were suddenly to push for a greater risk and openness even as they defend the hard-won wisdom of tradition? What if both liberals and conservatives were able to do as Jesus did and bring out from their store the old as well as the new?

What if Pro-Life groups were also to become as known for their defense of the poor, ethnic minorities, the ecology, and the imprisoned? What if Pro-Choice groups were to champion, in the name of women, the most defenceless of all groups in the world, the unborn? What if both groups were to become renowned for the gentleness, their respect of others, and their willingness to sit down and calmly discuss anything? What if these two groups began to pray together?

What if both women and men were to adopt an attitude of sympathy towards each other, recognizing as Virginia Woolf says, that "life, for both of us, is arduous, difficult, and a perpetual struggle"? What if both men and women were more gentle, less cynical?

What if the church began to challenge people to enjoy sex even as it teaches non-negotiably the value of chastity? What if secular culture were to preach the value of chastity even as it challenges towards liberation from sexual repression? What if both, the church and the world, recognized the importance of what the other is saying regarding sexuality?

What if all the Christian churches would begin to focus on the things we share in common (a common God, a common Christ, a common scripture, a common creed, many fundamental dogmas, 2000 years of mostly-shared history) instead of upon the things that separate us? What if all churches would focus as much on who is living in charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, long-suffering, fidelity, gentleness, and chastity, as on who is dogmatically right?

What if all the people on spiritual quests who are agnostic about their churches were able to understand the importance of involvement in a concrete historical community? What if we all understood more clearly that only obedience and genuflection can save us from being slaves to the pride and wounds of our own egos? What if the churches were to become as known for their challenge to be free-thinking as they are for their challenge to obedience? What if both, the churches and the emerging non-ecclesial spiritualities, were to be more self-effacing, less righteous, less judgmental?

What if theologians were to become as renowned for their children's stories as they are for their attention to hermeneutics? What if scriptural fundamentalists were to read the scriptural commentaries of Raymond Brown? What if liturgists were appreciated as much for their practical judgment as they are for their sense of the tradition and aesthetics? What if those who planned the liturgies in your parish understood basic human boredom and tiredness?

What if religious writers were genuinely as interested in bringing God's consolation and challenge to the world as they are in their own reputations? What if all columnists and editorial writers simply forgot about the labels of liberal and conservative for awhile and wrote up things as they appear on a given day?

What if we were all able to stretch our hearts in new ways to be open to a God and a truth that is forever beyond us? What if we all took more seriously the fact that God is ineffable and all of our language about God is, in se, inadequate?

Certainly we would all be more compassionate - and considerably easier to live with!

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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 21, 2008

Weekly Collection	\$ 16,823.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (2,177.00)

### December 25, 2008-Christmas

Christmas Collection	\$ 48,092.00
Outreach Collecton	\$ 8,641.00
Total Christmas Budget	-\$ 55,000.00
	\$ 1,733.00

### December 28, 2008

Weekly Collection	\$ 17,480.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (1,520.00)

### January 1, 2009-Solemnity of Mary

Collected Amount	\$ 5,181.00
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### January 4, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 21,264.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 2,264.00

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

## 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.

## Membership Sunday

Sister Margaret Rogers, SHCJ will be visiting our parish on the weekend of **January 10/11, 2009**.

Sister Margaret spent twenty-two years as a missionary in Nigeria, West Africa before beginning ten years of development work all across Africa with an ecumenical organization.

Sister looks forward to sharing her mission experience with the people of our parish. A collection for Membership Sunday for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith will be taken up at the Masses on January 10/11. It is your opportunity to share in the mission work of The Diocese of Rockville Centre.

## Dominican Village

**Please join us for an Open House on Sunday, January 25, 2009 from 1 PM until 3 PM.** Dominican Village is an independent retirement community that offers assisted living and respite care, outstanding programs, all-inclusive services and bountiful amenities. For more information, or to schedule a tour at your convenience, call 631.842.6091.

## Contemplative Outreach of Long Island/Queens

Contemplative Outreach of Long Island/Queens presents "A Day with Father Carl Arico." Fr. Carl will enrich us with his workshop on "**The Forgiveness Prayer**" on **Saturday, January 24 from 9:30 AM until 3 PM in the Parish Center at Our Lady of Lourdes, West Islip.**

For further information, please call Diane at 631.587.0966.

## Holy Innocents Parish

Attention former parishioners of Holy Innocents Parish, Brooklyn!

We will begin celebrating our **100th Anniversary in 2009**. We are seeking former parishioners and graduates of the parish/school. We'd love your assistance as a volunteer or donor. To be on the contact list or for further information, please call Louise Perrotta, class '66 at 631.412.3831 or Holy Innocents at 279 E 17th Street, Brooklyn

## Religion & Rock

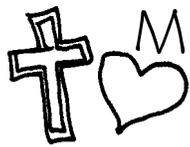
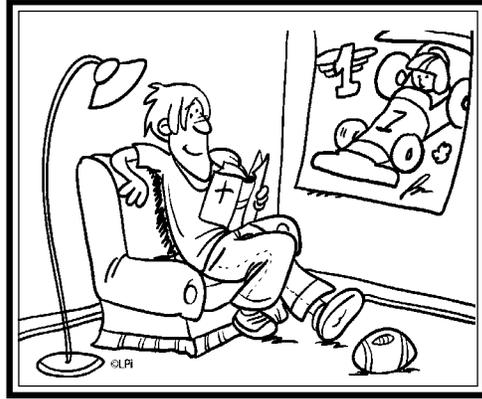
Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. The show is also available on Sirius Radio, Channel 159 at 11 PM on Saturday.

Next Sunday's theme is "**Life's Struggles.**" Don't miss it!

To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go to [www.religionandrock.com](http://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

"Keep trying. You're doing great. I'm so proud of you." Every child should hear words like that. Every child wants to feel God's love. As Jesus grew from a boy to a man, he showed he was ready to live for God. At Jesus' baptism, God told Jesus, "You are my own dear Son, and I am pleased with you." God loves you as his child, too.

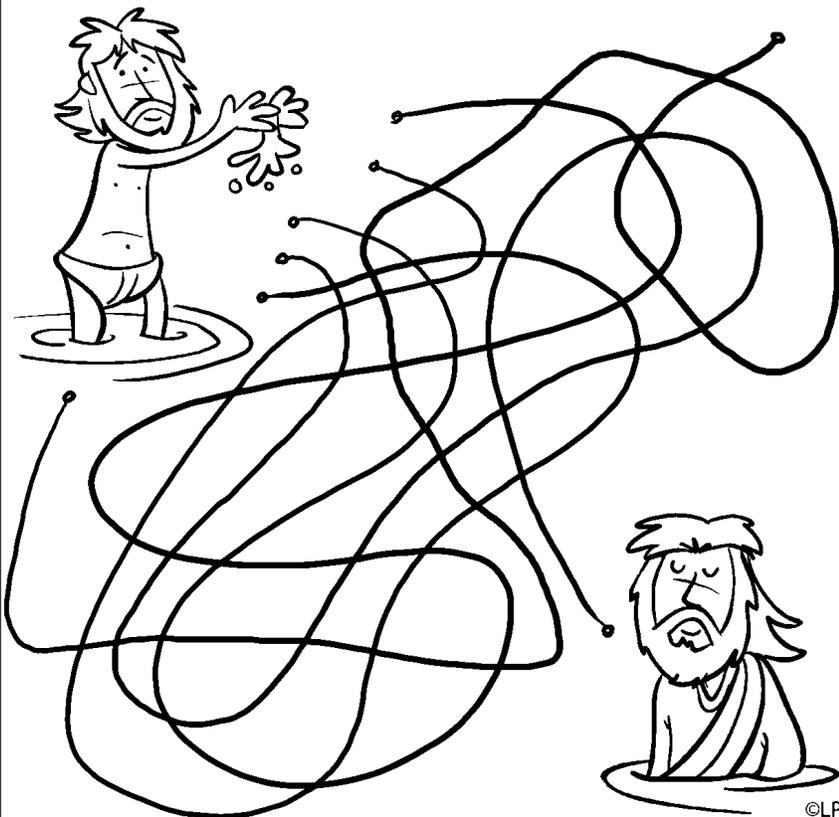


## Mission for the Week

Be careful to use kind words with your family and friends.

### Puzzle

Show John the path to Baptize Jesus.



### Prayer



God,  
I am so glad  
you love me.

### Something to Draw



Draw a picture of  
yourself telling  
someone special,  
"I love you."