

**“Jesus taught as one  
having authority.”**



**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Our Lady of Lourdes**  
**February 1, 2009**



## *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

## LENT 2009

### *Burning of the Palms*

We have been and are actively preparing for the season of Lent at OLL and we need your help!

Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten season and the signing of ashes is a powerful reminder to us of this time of reflection, reconciliation and renewal. The ashes come from burned palm – preferably the palm distributed last Palm Sunday.



PLEASE BRING BACK ANY PALM YOU HAVE AT HOME THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY and place it in the baskets at the doors of the Church. This palm will be burned during the weekend of February 21/22.

The purpose of this action is twofold. First, it actively involves each of us in the celebration of Ash Wednesday and Lent. Second, it demonstrates the continuous work of our liturgical cycle/year. By connecting last Palm Sunday with this year's Ash Wednesday, we are reminded of the dying and rising of Christ – the Paschal Mystery - which the liturgy invites us to experience.



### *The Journey Continues!*

Our candidates and catechumens of the RCIA are such an inspiration to our parish community! Since November, they have gathered on Sunday morning to break open the word at Sunday liturgy and again on Monday nights to learn more about the tenets of our faith.

They are actively preparing for the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion this Lent.

Please pray for *Janette D'Angelo + Hung Lu + Michael Pulver + Christine M. Smith* and for their beautiful families who are supporting and loving them every step of the way.

Already – our parish is looking forward to welcoming them fully into the Church at the Great Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 11, at 7:30 PM.



**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**

## Living Liturgy



### **New Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

Extraordinary Ministers distribute communion at Sunday liturgy, weekday Masses and during holy days of obligation. Some ministers also choose to bring Communion to the Sick in our parish community.

#### *What's the commitment?*

There is a training offered by the Diocese of Rockville Centre in the Spring and a follow up training here at OLL. We try to schedule you based on the Mass you most frequently attend. Ministers sign up to serve on holidays, holy days and special occasions. We also offer opportunities for reflection and prayer that all are invited to and requested to be a part of throughout the year.

#### *I want more information...*

Ask one of our Extraordinary Ministers you might see at Mass, call 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org)

### **Lectors**



Who better to proclaim God's Word than you? You might notice some new voices at OLL! Some of our newest lectors include: *Diane Bronkhurst, Alex Carlin, Sean Gordon, Nicole Madden and Joan O'Grady*. We welcome them and thank them for their wonderful service.

Our lectors prepare and proclaim the Scripture readings at our liturgies and services throughout the year. This is a wonderful ministry because you bring the power of God's Word to all who gather in our parish community!

#### *What's the commitment?*

If you are interested, we will assign you to work with a "veteran" lector. We will try to schedule you based on the Mass you most frequently attend. Lectors sign up to serve on holidays, holy days and special occasions. We also offer opportunities for reflection and prayer that all are invited to and requested to be a part of throughout the year.

If you're interested, contact John Sureau at [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org) or call 631.661.3224 x. 135.



# FAMILY MARDI GRAS



SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 22<sup>nd</sup>

3:00 PM

ending with Mass at 6 PM

Our Lady of Lourdes All Purpose Room



DJ ~ GAMES ~ PRIZES

CASTLE BOUNCE

FACE PAINTING

CHINESE AUCTION

HOT DOGS ~ ICE CREAM

Tickets on sale in Outreach Office

\$7.00 per person includes all

(plus 5 raffle tickets!)

Proceeds to benefit Outreach.

## Evolution and the Church

Tuesday, February 3

7:30 – 9:30 PM

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 9 AM – 5 PM at 661.5440 x3, or e-mail to: [religioused@ollchurch.org](mailto:religioused@ollchurch.org).*

## “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.*

**Thursdays, February 12, 19, 26, March 12, 19, 26, April 2**

**7:30 – 9:00 PM**

**Presenter: Lyn Quinn, Pastoral Formation Institute/Diocese of Rockville Centre**

Please sign up as soon as possible. Also, there will be a book purchase required.

For further info, please call Religious Ed at 661-5440 x 3 or email to

*[religioused@ollchurch.org](mailto:religioused@ollchurch.org).*

*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 Ed Office at 661.5440 (option 3), Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 5 PM and 7 PM – 9 PM or e-mail to: [religioused@ollchurch.org](mailto:religioused@ollchurch.org).*

## Heroes & Heroines of Our Faith... *continues*

*These friends of God challenge, inspire and deepen our faith. Come join us as we journey with these living witnesses of God's unchanging love.*



### **St. Bernadette**

*Fifth in our series on the saints...*

Come and bring a friend to celebrate 150 years of St. Bernadette's life, spirituality and "friendship" with Our Lady of Lourdes at the Grotto in Lourdes, France and in our church .

**Monday, February 9**

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

**Parish Center**

**Presenter: Deacon John DeGuardi**

Remove yourself from your comfortable routines and experience your connection with St. Bernadette and Our Lady of Lourdes.

*After 151 years why do people come here?  
Why do they drink the water and bathe in it?  
Why do they touch the rock of the Grotto?  
Why do they light a candle?*

The symbols of Lourdes speak to us today and are alive because they remind us of the things in our human condition and can be seen with our eyes. I have been honored to have organized two pilgrimages to Lourdes with our former pastor, Father Joe in 1999 and with Father Mike in 2006.

Even before traveling to Lourdes, I knew that Bernadette's life was much more than a lovely story. Somehow, after visiting Lourdes, I have become even more convinced of the truth of her story, thanks to the place itself and the people I have met there and here at Our Lady of Lourdes in West Islip.

Indeed, the whole of human life can be seen as pilgrimage!

Take this opportunity to hear the story of Bernadette and her family that led them to the Grotto and beyond. God speaks to us in as many ways as there are believers. The key is being aware and attentive to recognize this.

***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 Ed Office at 661.5440 (option 3), Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 5 PM and 7 PM – 9 PM or e-mail to: [religioused@ollchurch.org](mailto:religioused@ollchurch.org).***

## **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**

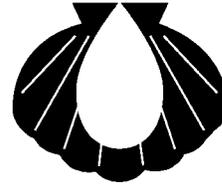
Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

### **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.



## ***Baptisms***

*Ryan Andrew Acevedo*

Jovanny and Donna

*Christopher Peter D'Angelo*

Joseph and Janette

*Lilith Serenity Gundersen*

Leif and Jennifer

## ***Upcoming Marriages***

*Tonia Graziano* and

*William Perdue*, both OLL

# Remembering . . .

## Monday, February 2

*The Presentation of the Lord*

8:00 AM LaRocca & Sweeney Families

## Tuesday, February 3

*St. Blaise, bishop, martyr*

8:00 AM John Doherty

## Wednesday, February 4

8:00 AM John Weiss

## Thursday, February 5

*St. Agatha, virgin, martyr*

8:00 AM Robin Muller

## Friday, February 6

*St. Paul Miki, martyr & his companions, martyrs*

8:00 AM Elinor Shaddock

## Saturday, February 7

8:00 AM Hugh O'Brien, Rosa Dirubba,  
Anthony Nappa, William Ball, Sarah Burke

5:00 PM Michael Worysz

## Sunday, February 8

8:00 AM Mary Laino

9:30 AM Zucco Family

11:00 AM Leonard J. Parine

12:30 PM Dinah & Ernest Robinson

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Joseph Lennon, Gloria Lewis,  
Christopher Romanello, Donald Doherty,  
Frank Anderson, Mary Ward

## Rest In Peace

*John Carbone* died on January 20 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 23. We extend our prayers to his children Pasqualina, John, Donna and the entire family.



## **Mardi Gras**

This year, Outreach invites all to an “Almost Mardi Gras” celebration. As Mardi Gras, “Fat Tuesday” is a school day, Outreach is hosting a Family Mardi Gras Celebration on Sunday, February 22 starting at 3PM and ending with the 6PM Mass. What better way to prepare your children for Lent? *(and have fun at the same time!)*

Tickets~\$7 per person~ are on sale in the Outreach Office.

Please try to join us.....(there will be beads!!!)

*(See complete information on page 7 of the bulletin)*

## **Did You Know...**

~ The traditional colors of Mardi Gras are:

Purple representing Justice

Green representing Faith

Gold representing Power

~ Each year the Mardi Gras Season starts on January 6th with a Masked Ball.

~ Mardi Gras- “Fat Tuesday” can fall on any Tuesday between February 3 and March 9.

~ Mardi Gras ends at the stroke of midnight, as it is now Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent.

For most people, Lent is a time of giving up certain things they enjoy like chocolate, cookies, ice cream. The day of parties and eating ‘Fat Tuesday’ is over as we enter a period of reflection beginning on Ash Wednesday.

## **Useful Information from Social Services**

### **HEAP Benefits**

Eligibility guidelines for HEAP have changed. People who were denied assistance should re-apply. If eligible, you may qualify for 3 HEAP benefits. Helpful heating information can be obtained at [www.HeatSmart.NY.org](http://www.HeatSmart.NY.org)

### **Foreclosure Intervention**

Are you in danger of losing your home? Here are some local agencies which may be able to help if you are having trouble paying your mortgage:

The Community Development Corporation of LI

2100 Middle Country Road, Suite 300

Centereach, NY 11720

Ph: 631-471-1215

The CDC provides free foreclosure intervention counseling with a HUD certified housing counselor and maintains a list of attorneys that will provide a free initial consultation regarding your options.

Long Island Housing Services, Inc.

640 Johnson Ave , Suite 8

Bohemia, NY 11716

Ph: 467-5111

Provides foreclosure counseling and housing advocacy free of charge.

## Parish Outreach

**Office telephone:**

661-9262, option 4

**Office hours:**

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

## Pantry Needs

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

## Outreach Memorial Donations

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

- Peter and Regina Mirabella have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Gloria Lewis*.
- Helen and Joseph Lehmann have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Mary Pazus*.
- Rosemary VanAcker has made a donation in loving memory of her son, *Wayne*.
- Kate and Joe Shields have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Nick Curcaro*.

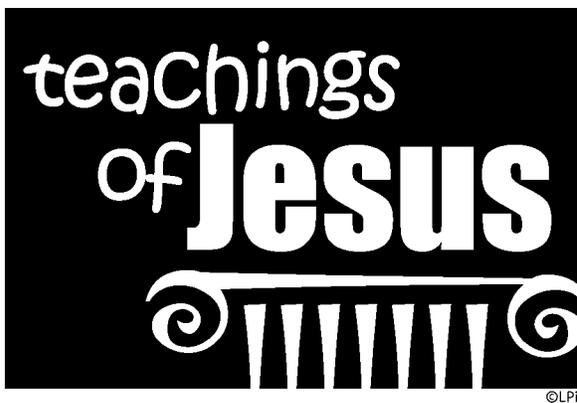
If you would like to make a donation to Parish Outreach in memory of a loved one, please call Mary McMahan, Director of Parish Social Ministry at 661.3224, option 4.

## Outreach Update

Outreach has been working with this family for more than a year- Mom, Dad and four children. Dad works full time, mom was working part-time because the youngest two are twins, toddlers. Right before Christmas Dad's hours were reduced which meant no over-time and Mom's position was eliminated. At the beginning of January, mom came into the office for food and we learned that the entire family was rushed to the hospital by ambulance due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

The liner of their chimney had collapsed. The repair was temporary, long enough just to get estimates-there remained the danger of another poisoning until the liner was replaced.

Thank you to all who donate financially-your contributions to Outreach were used to help repair the chimney.



## 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Michael Kearney was homeschooled by his parents. At one point, he was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder, though his parents declined to prescribe any medication for it. Michael simply went on to graduate from high school at age six, from junior college at age eight, and he received his Bachelor's degree from the University of South Alabama at age ten. By the time Michael Kearney was seventeen, he had completed two separate masters' degrees and was teaching classes at Vanderbilt University. Imagine that, such a young person as a teacher!

Jesus has just begun his ministry. So far as we can tell, he only has four of the disciples, James, John, Andrew and Simon Peter. On the Sabbath, Jesus calmly walks into the temple, sits down and begins teaching. Immediately, you can sense the elders' anger and ridicule over this "youngster" teaching among them. Impossible, they say. What could he know about the laws? Only when Jesus removes an unclean spirit from another man do the others begin to take serious note of him, and "his fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee."

It is said that our lives should be spent in continuous pursuit of knowledge, that we never stop learning. Jesus Christ's mission on earth was one of a teacher, and those who follow him will always be learning. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that Jesus is like a wise teacher, who leads us progressively towards an intimate relationship with God through prayer (CCC 2607). Likewise, just as we are disciples of Christ, our mission is to teach others to grow in faith, hope and charity along with us. Today, pray for an open mind and heart to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

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### Readings for the Week of February 1, 2009

<b>Sunday:</b>	Dt 18:15-20/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28
<b>Monday:</b>	Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Heb 12:1-4/Mk 5:21-43
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Mk 6:1-6
<b>Thursday:</b>	Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Mk 6:7-13
<b>Friday:</b>	Heb 13:1-8/Mk 6:14-29
<b>Saturday:</b>	Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Mk 6:30-34
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39

## Mass Book of Intentions

The 2010 Mass Book of Intentions will be opening on **Tuesday, February 24** at **9 AM in the Parish Office**. As always, we will do our best to accommodate your Mass Intention requests.

## Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Marie Cirone*. 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 ...

*Lucas Anderson, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Deacon Steve Behar, Ben Bellotti, Roy Berthold, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Howard Campkin, Jean Cilluffo, Michael Ciotkosz, Regina Cranor, Angelito Cruz, Karen DellaVecchia, Marge Flem, James, Jr. & Julia Florio (infants), Elizabeth Fredriksen, Susan Gigante, William Heartt, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Kathleen Kerrigan, Kara Lobasso, Baby Josephine Mahan, Robert Mariani, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., David McCarthy, Eleanor McGee, Josephine Mele, Dorothy Meloni, Brenden Muldoon, Ann Nardone, Frances Parine, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Armand Porzio, Joe Radosti, Patricia Salimbene, Patricia Santangelo, Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Roy Sorrese, Derek Stahl, Mary Clair Stephen, Dorothy Sullivan, Diana Marie Taveras, Charlie Tibbetts, Baby John Tramazzo, Jean Virgilio, Pat Wallace, Flo Worysz, Angela Zagarino*

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

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

**Friday, February 6**

– Dan Schutte Concert (*see page 7 for more info*)

**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

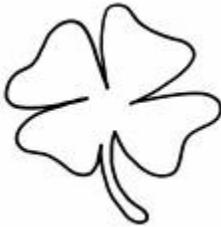
**Monday, March 9 through**

– Parish Lenten Retreat

**Thursday, March 12**

## ***Mark Your Calendar....***

### **Our Lady of Lourdes 1st Annual St. Patrick's/St. Joseph's Day Celebration**



March 21 from 8 PM until midnight  
in the All-Purpose Room



The evening will include music, dancing, Italian and Irish buffet, beer, wine and soda.

The event is hosted by OLL Holy Name Society, OLL Rosary Christian Mothers and Parish Outreach.  
Proceeds to benefit OLL Parish Outreach.

*watch future bulletins for more details...*

***and don't forget...***

### **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.

## 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*

**Edward A. Kelly, IV**-*US Air Force*

**Michael Mallimo**- *US Army*

**Anthony Mannino**-*US Marines*

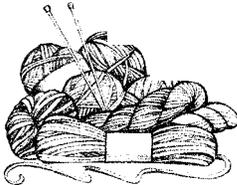
**Trent Narra**-*US Marines*

**Peter Provenzano**-*US Army*

...and remember those of our parish family that are in the armed services, listed in our Parish Book of Intentions.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

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



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

**Wednesday, February 11, 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.

## 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.

## Carrying Our Solitude at a High Level *by Ron Rolheiser, OMI*

In an autobiographical novel, *My First Loves*, Czech writer, Ivan Klima, shares how as a young man he struggled with a particular ambivalence. At one level, he wanted to be as free as his friends to act out sexually, but another part of him made him reticent to do that. This left him with the question: Was his hesitancy rooted in an unhealthy timidity or in a noble desire, a desire to carry his solitude at a high level. In the end, he decided it was the latter.

To carry one's solitude at a high level is not easy to do, especially inside a culture where most everything invites us to take a path of less resistance. Our society, like the one within which Klima was raised, mostly invites us in the opposite direction, to take the road more travelled. Even among people with faith, the idea is prevalent that it is not worth the cost, if the cost is high, to hold out, to retain a high ideal. Rather our culture suggests: Sooner lower your standards than live in pain. Sooner let your soul endure an indignity than end up being alone. Sooner sell yourself short than be lonely.

I recently received a letter from a woman who expressed frustration in finding support, even among her church friends, for living out a high ideal. Here is how she expresses this: "It's been seven years now that I have lived widowhood, bringing me to lots of desolation and loneliness. I recall comments that were made to me shortly after my husband died, by good Christian friends: 'You'll marry again.' 'Why get married, just live with someone.' 'Why live with someone, just have the occasional Saturday night sleep over.' This attitude is very prevalent in my age group. And yet I never hear spiritual writers comment on this. You have a large audience. Could you?"

Her letter goes on to help spell out what that ideal is: "There is something amazing and wonderful that widows, male and female, can bring to the world that is not happening at the moment. Everyone is promoting performance and good looks, from medical intervention for sexual dysfunction, to glamorous lifestyles traveling, to being in beautiful homes (always young, good-looking, always in pairs), to anti-aging interventions of all kinds from face-lifts, cellulite reduction, etc. We need another voice! Where do we hear of the joys of surrendering to a life larger than ours, to entering the barren landscape of breaking bodies and minds, where the spirit can finally fly free, unencumbered, through cracks and wrinkles?"

Perhaps it's not as much that we have lost the ideal as that we have personally despaired that it can be there for us. In the end, we all still want to guard the dignity of our souls and we all still seek someone to meet and honor us there, with full respect for who we are. But, as one journalist reviewing a book on chastity recently put it, that ideal makes more sense when you're young and still have dreams of what you're waiting for than it does when you're in midlife and have long given up hope that what's best will ever happen for you. She speaks for our culture which believes, as the popular song puts it, that even a bad love is better than (what seems to be) no love at all. But, as Doris Lessing once put it: There is only one real sin and that is calling second-best by anything other than what it really is, second-best!

A lot of people struggle with this. Here's how another woman, also a widow, writes: "And with deepest respect and honor we may have to call upon our courage to walk away from anything and everything that does not resonate with our soul's truth as we struggle to know ourselves in the deepest ways. And if in the end we stand alone with the presence of God perhaps that is the way it was always meant to be. In other words, I'm setting my limits and it's mighty lonely!"

That's a pretty accurate description of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. The gospels, in describing his passion, never dwell on the physical pain (the scourging and the nails) but focus instead on his moral loneliness, his radical aloneness, on what it felt like being "unanimity-minus-one". And this, his refusal to compromise, was his great gift to us. He paid the price, in blood and loneliness, of entering that barren landscape of broken bodies and minds so as to carry solitude at a high level. Despite every kind of pain, humiliation, and loneliness he refused to compromise his ideals. And it left him mighty lonely.

Inside of everything that's best in us, we hear an invitation to join him there: To live in pain rather than lower our standards, to risk being alone rather than compromise who we really are, and to be lonely, mighty lonely even, rather than to sell ourselves short.

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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

### January 25, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 19,257.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 257.00

### Catholic School

Collected Amount	\$ 3,618.00
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*The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs and salaries is \$19,000.*

## Mass Attendance

	January 18	January 25
5 PM	406	531
8 AM	161	187
9:30 AM	354	514
11 AM	240	326
12:30 PM	278	283
"The Six"	283	306
TOTAL	1722	2147
2008	1974	2141

## "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.

## Holy Family DHS

Class of '79 is holding its 30th year reunion at the Smithtown Sheraton, July 18, 2009. Please send your contact info, and any other classmate's info you might have, to [info@reunionsofamerica.com](mailto:info@reunionsofamerica.com) or call (631) 266-1836. Feel free to chat with your former classmates on [facebook.com](http://facebook.com); *Holy Family High School Class of 1979*.

## The Beginning Experience

The "Beginning Experience" is help for the heartache of divorce, separation and widowhood. Come experience a weekend away for a lifetime of change. The next weekend is February 20 through 22, 2009. For information and reservations, please call Carmen at 516.739.0973.

## St. Ignatius Loyola Parish 150th Anniversary Celebration

As part of our year-long celebration marking the 150th Anniversary of St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, Hicksville, former parishioners and friends are invited to attend a Cocktail Party on Saturday, February 7 from 7– 10 PM in Msgr. Tarrant Hall, E. Nicholai St., Hicksville. Cost is \$25 per person. Come and reminisce about the parish, see old friends and make new ones! Please mail your checks (made payable to St. Ignatius Loyola Parish) to St Ignatius Loyola Rectory, 129 Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801 Attn: 150th Anniversary Cocktail Party. All guests must be age 21 and over. Sorry, no walk-ins allowed. Please reserve no later than February 3. We look forward to seeing you!

## Dominican Village

Please join us for an Open House on Saturday, February 7 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.

## Religion & Rock

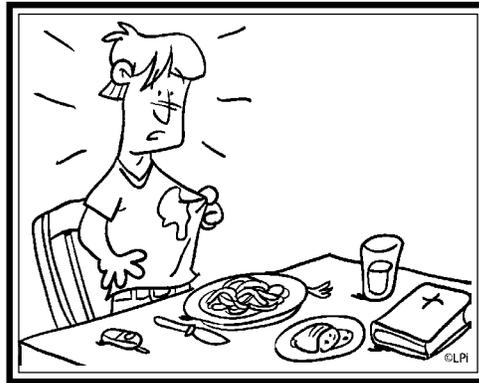
Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. The show is also available on Sirius Radio, Channel 159 at 11 PM on Saturday.

Next Sunday's theme is "**Renewal.**" 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

Grass stains. Tomato sauce. Brightly colored fruit drinks. When these nasty stains stick to your clothes, it is tough to get them out. Regular soap won't work. You need something stronger. Jesus is really strong, too. In today's Gospel, a nasty evil spirit screamed when it saw Jesus. Jesus was so powerful, he cleaned that evil spirit right out.



## Mission for the Week



Make a new label for your family's stain pre-treatment bottle. Trace around the bottle, write Mark 1:21-28 in big letters, and decorate your label with a picture of Jesus. Tape your new label to the bottle so you and your parents remember how strong Jesus is.

### Puzzle

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

- |          |          |       |
|----------|----------|-------|
| quiet    | spirit   | shook |
| teaching | Jesus    | shout |
| amazed   | Holy One | obey  |

quiet	<u>q</u> <u>u</u> <u>i</u> <u>e</u> <u>t</u>
Jsuse	_____
amzeda	_____
oybe	_____
Hylo nOe	_____
shuto	_____
sipirt	_____
soohk	_____
tachenig	_____

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### Prayer



God,  
 you are  
 much stronger  
 than evil. Nothing  
 is too hard for  
 you to clean.

### Something to Draw



Draw a picture  
 of Jesus on a  
 super-powerful  
 stain-fighting  
 laundry soap.