



Mark 1:34

**“He cured many who were sick.”**

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Our Lady of Lourdes**  
**February 8, 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.

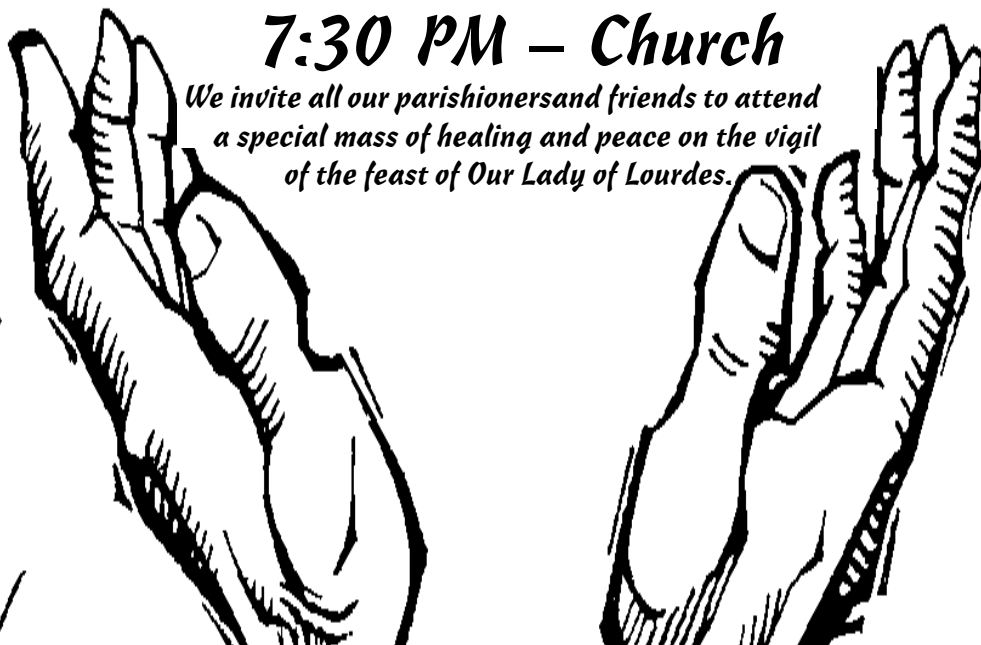
*Our parish community comes together  
to celebrate the*  
**FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES**

*With a very special*  
**HEALING MASS**

**Tuesday, February 10**

**7:30 PM – Church**

*We invite all our parishioners and friends to attend  
a special mass of healing and peace on the vigil  
of the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.*



*All who attend this celebration will have the opportunity to receive the  
sacrament of anointing and special prayers for healing.  
Come for yourself or bring a friend or family member. We all know someone  
in need of God's healing for illness, for the burden of depression or grief,  
the struggle with addiction, the desire to conceive, in short any of the  
struggles and burdens of our humanity. Lay your burdens before the Lord  
and receive God's gracious healing and peace.*

## 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.

## Thomas Merton

**On Being Myself – An Evening with Thomas Merton**

*Sixth in our series ...*

Everyone “*knows of*” Thomas Merton...

**BUT** does everyone “*really know*” Thomas Merton and who he was?

**Join us for this evening... as we discover this man of faith**

**Tuesday, February 24**

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

**Parish Center**

**Presenter: Tom Petriano**

Thomas Merton was born in 1915 and died in 1968. Merton’s life was a continual quest for God. After his conversion, he went on to become a Trappist monk, a writer, a poet, an activist for peace and justice, and a spiritual guide respected by people of many faiths and people of no faith.

For Merton, the achievement of holiness occurs in the discovery of the true self. I invite you to share my love for Thomas Merton as we explore his journey and the guideposts it offers for our own quest for God and our own true self.

*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).*

## “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. option 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.



## ***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.

# Remembering . . .

## Monday, February 9

8:00 AM Albert Ritacco

## Tuesday, February 10

*St. Scholastica, virgin*

8:00 AM Michael Reilly

7:30 PM Healing Mass (*vigil*)

## Wednesday, February 11

*Our Lady of Lourdes*

8:00 AM Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day

## Thursday, February 12

8:00 AM John Flynn

## Friday, February 13

8:00 AM Donald Bolin

## Saturday, February 14

8:00 AM Peter Reehil, Rosa Dirubba, In Thanksgiving,  
George Penzes, Mercedes Guerrero, Lillian DiRubbio,  
Slade Family, Carmine Maiocco

5:00 PM Jo Brogan

*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

## Sunday, February 15

8:00 AM Fred & Consuelo Ball

*Fr. John Asomugha*

9:30 AM Zoila Ramirez

*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

11:00 AM Theresa Reardon & Carmine Bucherelli

*Fr. John Asomugha*

12:30 PM Mary D. Walsh

*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

6:00 PM People of the Parish, John L. Filosa, John Carbone,  
Joseph Jordan, Frank Anderson, Arthur Salvatore

*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

## Tuesday, February 10



## Outreach Updates



On the third Sunday of Advent, I spoke at all the Masses. My purpose was to thank the community for your ongoing support and generosity to Outreach. I shared stories of two families Outreach has been working with and how, through your support, Outreach had been able to assist each family. Once again, the outpouring of love and support has been overwhelming and so, this update...

I received a letter from a woman named Kerry who heard the stories. She wrote:

*"I was so touched by the stories of Lois and Taryn. I am truly blessed in my life-in all aspects of it. I would like you to give these cards to them in memory of my loving and sooooo missed mom and dad. Thank you for helping me "Pay It Forward" during this wonderful Holiday Season."*

To Kerry-

Your cards were given to Lois and Taryn-who both took the cards and left Outreach. Shortly after Taryn left with your card, she phoned Outreach and was crying-it was the anniversary of her father's death and she was so worried about how she was going to get through the day and the holidays. Kerry, thanks!



This Christmas, you helped 140 families. Thank you! That number represents a ton of gifts-toys, clothing, household items and gift cards! It also represents many hours of sorting, sorting and yet more sorting. Thank you to all the faithful Outreach volunteers who work in Outreach during the week and came back on the weekends to help. Thank you, too, MaryEllen McKee and her group of 'strong women' who gave up time during those precious weekends before Christmas to help with the task!

Finally, people ask how we use the money donated to Outreach. Always, always, always-people requesting assistance are screened and sent to apply for Social Services. If a person returns with a written denial stating that they are ineligible for Social Services, we will partner with the family and prioritize outstanding bills. Certainly, a utility bill has priority over a past due for a credit card. As you entrust us with your generous donations and support, I want to assure you that we, in Outreach, take the responsibility of stewardship very seriously. Given the very serious economic climate, I want to underscore how much I value the trust you have put in all of us who work in Outreach. Thank you.

-Mary McMahon  
Director of Parish Social Ministry

## 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.*

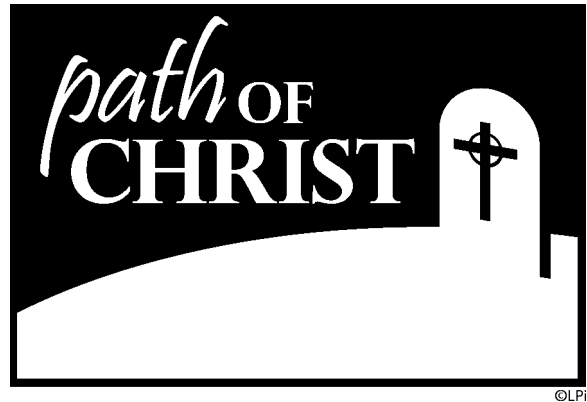
If you would like to make a donation to Parish Outreach in memory of a loved one, please call Mary McMahon, Director of Parish Social Ministry at 661.3224, option 4.

## Mardi Gras



### 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 6 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.



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## 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

It was in May of 1873 that a young Belgian priest scaled through a rocky mountainous ridge and first set eyes on the village to which he was called to bring the Word of God. There, 816 people lived isolated from society; the priest not only ministered to their spiritual needs but to their physical needs as well. He did his best to provide medical assistance, he built houses, and he even dug graves, a task too frequently needed because this little village was named Kalaupapa on the Hawaiian Island of Molokai, where those afflicted with leprosy were banished to live. Father Damien contracted the disease as well, but continued his missionary work until his death in 1889 at the age of forty-nine.

Today's reading from the Gospel of Mark tells of Jesus accompanying James, John, Andrew and Simon to see Simon's mother-in-law, who was sick with fever. Jesus relieved her suffering, and then left to pray in solitude. When his disciples found him, he instructed them that they would now begin traveling to other villages in towns in the area, as it was his mission to spread his great news as far and wide as he could, especially to those who would need the saving grace of God the most.

We are taught in the Catechism of the Catholic Church that the Holy Spirit is the leader of the principal mission of the Church, to reach out to the spiritually and physically poor, thus unfolding the path of Christ, a way of service and self-sacrifice even unto death (CCC 852). In our lives, we are presented with opportunities to walk this path with Christ every day. By accepting our mission to reach out to others who need us, we are assured that we will never walk that path alone.

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### Readings for the Week of February 8, 2009

<b>Sunday:</b>	Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39
<b>Monday:</b>	Gn 1:1-19/Mk 6:53-56
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Gn 1:20---2:4a/Mk 7:1-13
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Mk 7:14-23
<b>Thursday:</b>	Gn 2:18-25/Mk 7:24-30
<b>Friday:</b>	Gn 3:1-8/Mk 7:31-37
<b>Saturday:</b>	Gn 3:9-24/Mk 8:1-10
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/1 Cor 10:31---11:1/Mk 1:40-45

## 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 *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 ...

*Lucas Anderson, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Deacon Steve Behar, Ben Bellotti, Ray Berthold, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Howard Campkin, Jean Cilluffo, Michael Ciotkosz, Regina Cranor, Angelito Cruz, Karen DellaVecchia, Marge Flem, James, Jr. & Julia Florio (infants), Susan Gigante, Alice Hallahan, William Heartt, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Kathleen Kerrigan, Kara Lobasso, Baby Josephine Mahan, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., David McCarthy, Eleanor McGee, 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, Diana Marie Taveras, Charlie Tibbetts, Baby John Tramazzo, Jean Virgilio, Pat Wallace, Flo Worysz, Rosemarie Wurmser, 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!

- 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.
- Sunday, February 22** – Parish Mardi Gras Celebration
- Wednesday, February 25** – Ash Wednesday
- Monday, March 9 through Thursday, March 12** – Parish Lenten Retreat

## ***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.

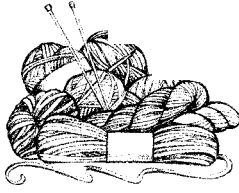
Please mark your calendars and plan to be with us.

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



## 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.

## Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of February will be on **Wednesday, February 11 from 1- 3 PM.** All are invited and welcome! We will be praying for our children, our country, our men and women in the military and our clergy.



## 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.

## The Problem of Suffering and Evil

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

How can there be an all-loving and an all-powerful God if there is so much suffering and evil in our world?

Perhaps that is the most difficult religious question of all time. Why does God not act in the face of suffering? Why do bad things happen with seemingly no response from God? In a famous book, *After Auschwitz*, Richard Rubenstein asks how it is even possible for a Jew to believe in God after the holocaust. How can we believe in God in the face of God's seeming inaction in the face of suffering and evil?

There have been countless attempts to answer this question, not least inside the tortured experience of those who are suffering. There have also been many attempts at offering some kind of acceptable theoretical explanation.

For example, Harold Kushner (*When Bad Things Happen to Good People*), writing as a Jewish rabbi, tries to answer the question by defending God's love and goodness at the expense of his power. Essentially, God would help us if He could, Kushner believes, but God isn't all-powerful. Innocent suffering exists not because God cannot stop it.

Inside of Christian theology, Peter Kreeft, C.S. Lewis, and Teilhard de Chardin, among others, have written insightful books on this question. Christians believe that what is ultimately at stake is human freedom and God's respect for it. God gives us freedom and (unlike most everyone else) refuses to violate it, even when it would seem beneficial to do so. That leaves us in a lot of pain at times, but, as Jesus reveals, God is not so much a rescuing God as a redeeming one. God does not protect us from pain, but instead enters it and ultimately redeems it. That might sound simplistic in the face of real death and evil, but it is not. We see a powerful illustration of this in Jesus' reaction to the death of Lazarus. In essence, this is how the Gospels tell that story:

The sisters of Lazarus, Martha and Mary, send a message to Jesus telling him that "the man you love" is gravely ill. Curiously though Jesus does not immediately rush off to see Lazarus. Instead he stays where he is for two more days, until Lazarus is dead, and then sets off to see him. When he arrives near the house, he is met by Martha who says to him: "If you had been here, my brother would not have died!" Basically her question is: "Where were you? Why didn't you come and heal him?"

Jesus does not answer her question but instead assures her that Lazarus will live in some deeper way.

Martha then goes and calls her sister, Mary. When Mary arrives she repeats the identical words to Jesus that Martha had spoken: "If you had been here my brother would not have died!" However, coming out of Mary's mouth, these words mean something else, something deeper. Mary is asking the universal, timeless question about suffering and God's seeming absence. Her query ("Where were you when my brother died?") asks that question for everyone: Where is God when innocent people suffer? Where was God during the holocaust? Where is God when anyone's brother dies?

But, curiously, Jesus does not engage the question in theory; instead he becomes distressed and asks: "Where have you put him?" And when they offer to show him, he begins to weep. His answer to suffering: He enters into peoples' helplessness and pain. Afterwards, he raises Lazarus from the dead.

And what we see here will occur in the same way between Jesus and his Father. The Father does not save Jesus from death on the cross even when he is jeered and mocked there. Instead the Father allows him to die on the cross and then raises him up afterwards.

The lesson in both these deaths and raisings might be put this way: The God we believe in doesn't necessarily intervene and rescue us from suffering and death (although we are invited to pray for that). Instead he redeems our suffering afterwards.

God's seeming indifference to suffering is not so much a mystery that leaves the mind befuddled as a mystery that makes sense only if you give yourself over in a certain level of trust. Forgiveness and faith work the same. You have to roll the dice in trust. Nothing else can give you an answer.

And I do not say this glibly. I know too many people who have been hurt, brutally and unfairly, in ways that make it difficult for them to accept that there is an all-powerful God who cares.

But sometimes the only answer to the question of suffering and evil is the one Jesus gave to Mary and Martha - shared helplessness, shared distress, and shared tears, with no attempt to try to explain God's seeming absence, but rather a trusting that, because God is all-loving and all-powerful, in the end all will be well and our pain will someday be redeemed in God's embrace.

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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

### February 1, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 19,128.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 128.00

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

## Mass Attendance

	February 1
5 PM	441
8 AM	211
9:30 AM	329
11 AM	375
12:30 PM	295
“The Six”	132
TOTAL	1783
2008	2014

## 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.

## 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.

## "Fill My Heart with Peace" Bereavement Conference

For the bereaved and those ministering to them – all faiths welcome.

Sponsored by Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Rockville Centre on Saturday, March 21 from 8:30 AM until 5:30 PM at Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale.

For registration and further information, please call 516.334.7990, extension 120 or 122.

## Dominican Village

**Please join us for an Open House on Thursday, February 12 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

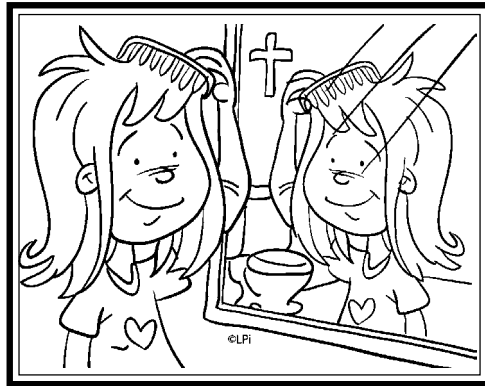
Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. The show is also available on Sirius Radio, Channel 159 at 11 PM on Saturday.

Next Sunday's theme is "**Relationships.**" 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 TELECARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 271 for the Best in Catholic Television!

## Sharing the Gospel

Think about how you get ready for a busy day. You eat a healthy breakfast. You wash up and brush your teeth. Then you get dressed and comb your hair. There's one more thing you could do to start your day off right. Pray. Find a quiet spot where you can be alone to talk to God. That's what Jesus did.



## Mission for the Week



When you get home, choose a special quiet place where you can talk to God every morning. Tell your family about your special place. They may want to join you in spending quiet time to pray.

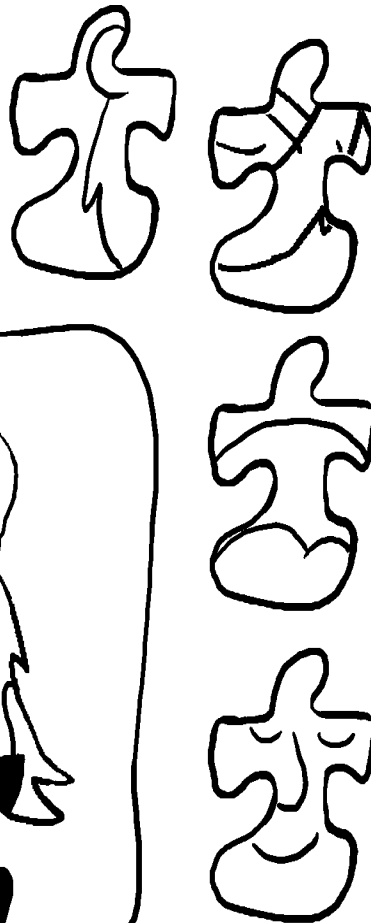


Puzzle

Which piece of the puzzle is missing?



©LPI



## Prayer



God,  
help me to  
start every day  
with you in prayer.

## Something to Draw



Draw a picture of  
yourself praying to  
God in a quiet  
place.