

**THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING**

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES □ NOVEMBER 22, 2009**

**A**

**"I AM  
THE  
ALPHA  
AND  
THE  
OMEGA,"  
SAYS  
THE  
LORD GOD,**



**"THE  
ONE WHO  
IS**

**Ω**

**AND WHO  
WAS  
AND  
WHO IS  
TO COME,  
THE  
ALMIGHTY."**

**REVELATION 16**

*Our Lady  
of Lourdes*

455 Hunter Avenue  
West Islip, New York 11795

## *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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### *Mission Statement*

*As stewards of all that God has given us, the Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes serves and ministers to all who come to this place. Regardless of a person's history, ethnicity, gender, orientation, age or race, we commit ourselves to open wide the doors of our Parish to provide a place of welcome and hospitality.*

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### *Vision...*

*so that all may know that they are a vital part of the Body of Christ, we further recommit and challenge ourselves to...*

***Live*** out our Baptismal call passionately by caring for all of God's people with justice.

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

***Respond*** to the Gospel in a radical way, inviting and inspiring all to form the Kingdom of God in every moment of life.

***Acknowledge*** we are not complete without the willingness to grow, discern and discover the Spirit who moves and guides us.

## *Pastoral Team*

**Rev. Michael A. Vetrano**  
Pastor

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**Rev. Patsy Amabile**  
Associate Pastor

**Rev. Robert Scheckenback**  
Associate Pastor

**Rev. Ambrose Cabildo**  
In Residence

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**Deacon John DeGuardi**

**Deacon Tom Lucie**

**Deacon Jack Meehan**

Coordinator of Stewardship

**Deacon John Teufel**

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**Sr. Margaret Bickar**

Senior Ministry-SAGE

**Sr. Nancy Campkin**

Director of Religious Education

**Allegra D'Alo**

Youth Minister/Social Action

**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

**Robin Reynolds-Brennan**

Coordinator of Worship

**Vita Scorcio**

Ministry Spiritual Director

**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 Scorcio

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Christine Volk

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## *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



### **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, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30 AM - 3 PM

### **S.A.G.E.**

661-3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth  
and Enrichment)

**email:** [Sage@ollchurch.org](mailto:Sage@ollchurch.org)

## All are Welcome

*The Seminarian sent forth...*

Please make plans to join us next weekend, November 29, the First Sunday of Advent, as we welcome our "Sent Forth" Seminarian John Sureau who will speak at the Masses.



## Adult Faith Formation

*Upcoming dates...*

### Monday Mornings in Advent

**Fr. Pat Amabile**

**Fr. Bob Scheckenback**

Come to 8 AM Mass on Mondays in Advent. You will be able to pray the rosary after Mass or just take some time for your own prayer. At 9 AM, we will gather in the Parish Center for coffee, rolls and a talk, with some time for discussion and reflection.

*(If you can't make Mass, please join us at 9 AM.)*

### Finding My Way to Bethlehem

**An Advent Evening of Reflection**

**Fr. Pat Amabile**

**Wednesday, December 16**

**7:30 PM**

**Parish Center**

During Advent, we journey as did Mary and Joseph. We bring the *joys* of preparing for Christ's coming, the *love* for one another along the way, the *peace* that waiting holds for us, and the *hope* that brings us beyond ourselves!

*There is a \$5 fee for each session. No fee is required for those who have paid the Religious Education Family Fee or Our Lady of Lourdes School tuition.*

*Registration is necessary and helpful. This will enable us to have enough reading material and refreshments for all those attending. To register, please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option 3 or email to [religioused@ollchurch.org](mailto:religioused@ollchurch.org).*



## *Thanksgiving*

*Join us on Thanksgiving Day at 9:30 AM  
to celebrate the 53rd Anniversary  
of the first Mass offered in OLL  
and to join with your brothers and sisters  
to give thanks for all God's many gifts.*

*Please remember all those assisted by our  
Parish Outreach by bringing canned goods  
or other non-perishable food for the food pantry.*

*You are also welcome to bring food  
for your Thanksgiving table to be  
blessed and we will give each family  
in attendance a gift of blessed bread  
for your family celebration.*





## **Reflections on the Mission Trip to El Salvador**

My first impression, driving from the airport to Santa Ana, is that the country is lush and exotic. Then you feel the heat. It was neither as hot nor oppressively humid as I expected. We arrived in sunshine during the “wet” season.

One notices, as you drive through the larger towns, that all the houses are “fortified” with wrought iron on all windows and doors. Razor and barbed wire runs along the perimeter of all outside walls, and even the interior courtyard walls are about 20’ high. All houses are attached to each other. There are no alleys or open backyards such as we have. We were told that this was the result of the 12 years or so of civil war.

At the Christian Foundation for the Children and Aging (CFCA) center, we were warmly greeted and well taken care of throughout our stay. The food and friendship were great!

After breakfast on the second day, we left for Mojotes, a distant community in the mountains. When the CFCA minivans could take us no further, we traveled in the back of pick-up trucks up the rocky mountain road. That was really fun!

When we arrived at Mojotes, the whole community was standing in two groups with a path between them for us to walk to the church. They applauded us all the way into the church. At first, it made me feel “unworthy”, but one could easily see how grateful and truly happy they were to see us.

Mass was beautiful, with lovely acoustic guitar music, Spanish songs and BATS! Fr. Mike and Deacon Tom said Mass. At the handshake of peace, we were swarmed as everyone tried to hug the Padrinos. As many kids as possible squeezed into the pews with us and sat on our laps.

After Mass, we divided into groups for home visits. My group went to visit the family of Don Israel Cartagena Villalobos. The family consisted of Don Israel, his wife, Rosa, Hugo (almost 6), Idalia (almost 4), and Enrique (21 days old). They all lived in a “house” about the size of my daughter’s bedroom. Some walls were made of twigs, not even boards, and other walls were black plastic sheeting, similar to our lawn bags. They cooked and ate on a roofed porch with a single light bulb. The “stove” was a broken cinderblock and a wood fire.

We were honored to be able to converse with Don Israel and his father about their lives. There was a lot to learn. When asked, “What are the hopes and dreams for your children?” Don Israel answered, “I have no hopes or dreams for them. I can’t see how they will ever rise above their conditions. We have no way to improve ourselves.” Henry, our group’s leader, answered by saying, “I don’t like what you just said. Where there is God, there is always hope. Where there is solidarity with others, we can find a way.” The plight of Don Israel and his family is heartbreaking. My family and I chose to sponsor his daughter, Idalia. Another patron is sponsoring his son, Hugo, who begins school this next school year.

One of the most pleasant days we spent, was at a CFCA sponsored picnic at a picturesque lake with our sponsored families. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know them better. I found it remarkable to see with how much dignity and grace they lived their lives despite the enormous hardships they faced every day.

This reflection covers only a fraction of our visit. We could write tons about all the impressions we had and emotions we felt. Without a doubt, all three of us know that we are forever changed, hopefully a little more enlightened, and determined to work toward helping others.

*-Elisabeth Dolan*

## Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Awareness Trip 2009

As many of you know, this past July, a team of 28 OLL parishioners traveled to El Salvador to pray and work with the communities of Mogotes and Tecuba. It is in keeping with Catholic Social teaching that we help others and share our faith with Catholics everywhere. With the help of the parishioners here at home, the El Salvador team has been raising money through our CASA project to build homes for those belonging to our sister parishes. Through the support of Our Lady of Lourdes, our young people have been able to experience another culture and help people in need. Thank you OLL!

### El Salvador Crafts Sale

On the weekend of **November 28/29**, the El Salvador Team will be having a craft sale, the proceeds of which will support the team in their travels to El Salvador.

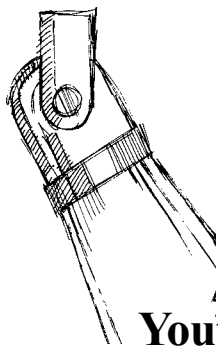
Many items from the country of El Salvador will be sold and are perfect for holiday gifts!

### Movie Night

**Friday, November 28 - Movie Night!**

Come in your pajamas with a friend, munch some popcorn and watch "The Goonies."

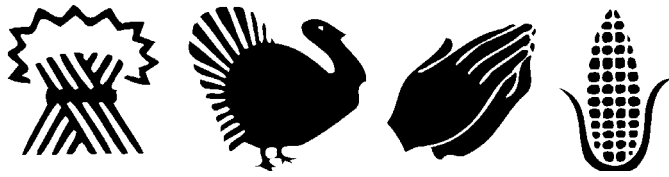
Movie starts at 7 PM in the Parish Center.



### Youth Spotlight!

Our Lady of Lourdes Youth Program now has a FACEBOOK!

Friend Bernie Soubirous and join the OLL Youth group and stay in the loop about all of the teen events that are happening at OLL. Awesome things are coming up so you don't want to miss out.



## Thanksgiving Food Drive

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This year Outreach will be providing 100 families with Thanksgiving dinners. Our needs are great. The breakdown of baskets is as follows:

- 36 Baskets for families of 4
- 22 Baskets for families of 6
- 15 Baskets for families of 8
- 15 Sets of Gift Cards for Families of 2

As you see, the total is only 88. We have already provided gift cards to individuals and the 'fixings' for dinner to four families.

We understand that the economy has had an impact on all of us. Due to the overwhelming response to our request for food, the pantry is back in business!

We do have plenty of 'fixings' for Thanksgiving dinners. We are sorely in need of turkeys, Thanksgiving themed paper goods and baskets/boxes for the baskets we will make. Of course, if you can see clear to make a basket, we will gratefully accept this, too.

Donations can be brought to the Parish Outreach Office on Monday, November 23 between 8:30 AM and 2 PM.

Thanks to all for your generous support to Outreach.

*Fondly,  
Mary and the OutreachGang*



Thanksgiving Food Distribution will be on Monday, November 23 from 10 AM until 2 PM.



## Parish Outreach

### Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

### Office hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:  
9:30 AM - 3 PM



## Pantry Needs

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

## Outreach Donations

### Donations to Outreach: November, 2009

- Margaret Cook has made a donation to Outreach in memory of her late husband, *Arthur*.
- Mr. and Mrs. John Amabile have made a donation to Outreach in *thanksgiving to St. Joseph for prayers answered*.
- A donation has been made to Outreach in memory of *Anne Dexter* from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kurse.
- Theresa Reilly has made a donation to Outreach in *thanksgiving for favors received*.
- A donation has been made to Outreach in memory of *Laura Heiden*.
- Bob and Barbara Evans have made a donation to Outreach in *memory of deceased members of their family; Mary, Ed, Phil Sr. and Christopher*.

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.

## Breakfast With Santa

### Breakfast with Santa is looking for donations

Our committee is looking for kid's games, books, dvd's, toys, gift certificates, and Christmas gift items. Please bring donations to the School Main Office marked for "Breakfast with Santa." Please have donations to the main office no later than November 30.

If you have any questions, please call Charlene at 254.4998.



## Italian Pasta Night

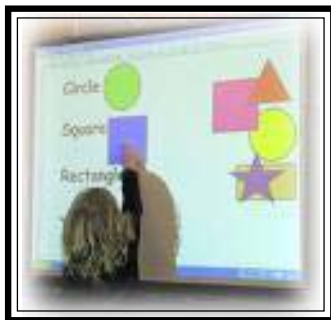
This past September, Our Lady of Lourdes School held its first Pasta Night to kick-off the start of the Italian Family Feast, which is hosted annually by Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

This wonderful fundraiser featured the teachers and staff serving a delicious pasta dinner to the parents, students, and parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Pictured are a few teachers and Fr. Bob, serving our families. A terrific time was had by all!

## Technology Galore

Students in Our Lady of Lourdes School are embracing technology far and wide. In English Language Arts, students use their laptop computers to write essays, research, and use interactive web sites.



SMART Board, which is an interactive white board, is used to help students learn through whole class interactive activities which get the students actively engaged. Soon we will be using Skype to video chat with other classrooms around the world in hopes to bridge the gap between cultures and languages.



Our Lady of Lourdes School

# Breakfast with Santa

Sunday, December 13

OLL School Cafeteria

Don't miss our delicious  
Homemade Hot Pancake Breakfast  
There will be crafts, prizes, a 50/50 and of course  
Santa!

Buy your tickets early, seating is limited  
\$5 per person Children 3 and under - FREE

There will be two seatings:

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM and 11 AM - 1 PM

If you have any questions, call Charlene at 254.4998

Please cut out this order form, complete it in full and submit it to our School Office to the attention of: Breakfast With Santa Committee. Enclose form with your check made payable to: Our Lady of Lourdes School. Families will receive a call for ticket pick up.

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

# of people in attendance: adults \_\_\_\_\_ children \_\_\_\_\_ # of Kids 3 & under: \_\_\_\_\_

Which seating will you be attending?: 8:30 AM \_\_\_\_\_ or 11 AM \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## **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

## *Altar Bread and Wine*

*In memory of Marie Turano*



## **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.

(Free babysitting 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**

*Brynn Elizabeth Burke*

Michael and Michelle

*Emily Grace French*

Jeff and Christine

*Gavin Eric Lattuga*

Gary and Erica

*Victoria Renee Lopez*

Maurice and Janice

*Trevor Leon Prokopiak*

Leon and Tina

*Andrew John Scalesse*

Louis and Milissa

*Ethan John Schuller*

Jason and Denise

*Kayla Denise Shapiro*

Paul and Angela

*Gianna Marie Pace-Liggio*

Frank and Lisa

# Remembering . . .

## Monday, November 23

*St. Clement I, pope & martyr*

8:00 AM Richard Force

## Tuesday, November 24

*St. Andrew Dung-Lac, priest and martyr,  
& his companions, martyrs*

8:00 AM Cornelius J. Peterson

## Wednesday, November 25

*St. Catherine of Alexandria,  
virgin & martyr*

8:00 AM George Shaddock

## Thursday, November 26

8:00 AM People of the Parish

## Friday, November 27

8:00 AM Peter Herger

## Saturday, November 28

8:00 AM Louis Gambardella, Robert LoPorcaro, Lawrence F. Kelly I & Mary Kelly,  
Lou & Kathleen Peters, Robert D. Baxter, Anne T. Capparelli, Mae Cubicotti,  
Rose Hussey, Angelo Vaccariello, Josephine Sabella, Elizabeth Meditz

5:00 PM William Kuhlwilm

## Sunday, November 29

8:00 AM Mark Marciano

9:30 AM Stephen Perez

11:00 AM Donald Bolin

12:30 PM William Kuhlwilm

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Rick Munkwitz, James J. Higgins, Stella Tuliszewski,  
Colleen McNamara, Nancy Turano (Living), Gina Carifo, John Russo,  
Mildred Van Hanswyk, Grace Caroll, Joseph A. Costantino



## Rest In Peace

*Elizabeth Meditz* died on November 7 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on November 10. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and entire family.

*Adriana Di Fulvio Penza* died in Italy on November 2 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on November 3. We extend our prayers to her sister, Carmela Carvalho, and entire family.

*Eva Benigno* died on November 9 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on November 12. We extend our prayers to her daughter, Maria, brother, Salvatore DeLuca and entire family.

*Anna Crepaldi* died on November 11 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on November 14. We extend our prayers to her husband, Paul, daughter, Janice and entire family.

*James W. Smeraldi* died on November 8 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on November 14. We extend our prayers to his sister, Roseann and entire family.



## Christ the King

When we were little children, we were given many examples of kings, mostly in fairy tales. These were usually red-robed gentlemen who either ruled with an iron fist or spent most of their time trying to marry off their beautiful daughters. As we grew, we learned of kings who constantly battled neighboring kings for territorial conquests. None of those kings seems to coincide with what we are taught about the greatest one of all, Christ the King. Where others lead by authoritarian rule, our King leads us by serving, and by giving us his greatest treasure, love. How can we now define king any other way?

We are nearly to Advent, the time in which we all pause and celebrate the period of waiting for a coming Savior, a king for all the people. Today is the last Sunday of the liturgical calendar, and is the feast of Christ the King. In today's reading, Pilate repeatedly asks Jesus if he is king of the Jews. His answer? "You say I am a king." In the footnotes to the New American Bible, it says that this is a "reluctant affirmative" at best. In other words, Jesus probably felt Pilate would never understand the type of king Jesus was; it was best to answer with a non-answer.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that we, the people of God, share in the royal office of Christ. In his kingship, he draws all of us to him, asking us to reign as he did, in service to others (CCC 786). The people of the time of Jesus' earthly life had heard of a coming king and savior for many generations; their own experience with kings led them to believe their king would be a mighty ruler as well. But this King of Kings, the greatest of all, spoke softly, served others, showed compassion for all, and asked only for love in return.

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### Readings for the Week of November 22, 2009

<b>Sunday:</b>	Dn 7:13-14/Rv 1:5-8/Jn 18:33b-37
<b>Monday:</b>	Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Lk 21:1-4
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Dn 2:31-45/Lk 21:5-11
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Lk 21:12-19
<b>Thursday:</b>	Dn 6:12-28/Lk 21:20-28
<b>Friday:</b>	Dn 7:2-14/Lk 21:29-33
<b>Saturday:</b>	Dn 7:15-27/Lk 21:34-36
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12---4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36



## **The Eucharist as a Meal**

**Presenter: Fr. Bob Scheckenback**

**Tuesday, November 24**

**Parish Center**

**7:30 PM**

*Can a meal be Sacred?*

A brief look at some Eucharistic history to see how the “breaking of the bread” is rooted in a thanksgiving (eucharistia) meal. You are what and how you eat.

## **Folk Group Gathering**

All members of the past OLL Folk Groups are invited to our “Folk Group Gathering.” We will come together on **Sunday, November 29 from 2 PM until 5:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

Bring your families, singing voices, instruments, pictures and memories.

Please contact Dorothy at [Kuchdot@optonline.net](mailto:Kuchdot@optonline.net) or

Cathy at [danowhouse@aol.com](mailto:danowhouse@aol.com) for details.



## **Taize-Prayer Around the Cross**

Please join us for a Taize Prayer Service on **Tuesday December 1 at 7:30PM in the Church.** If you're interested in singing/playing with our Taize Group, please contact Carol Goetz at [music@ollchurch.org](mailto:music@ollchurch.org) for further information.

## **Bereavement Ministry - Coping with the Holidays**

*“How Can I Celebrate When My Heart is Broken?”*

All who have experienced a loss are invited to a Presentation and Brunch to help in facing and embracing the holidays while mourning. The Presentation and Brunch will be on **Saturday, December 12 at 11:30 AM in the Parish Center.**

Please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 to register.

## Financial Summary

### November 15, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 17,064.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (1,936.00)

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

## Members in the Military

We ask that you pray especially for those in our parish that are on active duty in the Middle East conflict.

They are:



**Lorenzo Bacchi**-*US Marines*  
**Bryan R. Dempsey**-*US Marines*  
**Christopher Florca**-*US Marines*  
**Michael Mallimo**- *US Army*  
**Anthony Mannino**-*US Marines*  
**Peter Provenzano**-*US Army*  
**Frank Sliva**-*US Army*

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



## **Altar Society**

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Dottie Collins*.  
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 ...

*Mansour AbouZeid, Roy Anderson, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Ben Bellotti,  
Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Howard Campkin, Nicholas Cibelli, Michael Ciotkosz,  
Regina Cranor, Jeanne DellaRagione, Ann Donlon, Marge Flem, Edward Herger,  
Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Mary Kaval, Veronica Kenny, Kathleen Kerrigan,  
Joseph Lehmann, Kara Lobasso, Amy Maher, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann,  
Peter McCann, Sr., Dorothy Meloni, Rick Mirabella, Brenden Muldoon, Evelyn Nonnon,  
John O'Brien, David Petite, Mark Petite, Arthur Petrino, Helen Pitkowitz, Joanne Popper,  
Laura Prichard, Santa Quevedo, Joe Radosti, Frank Raimo, Carol Randazzo-Hopkins,  
Michael Savino, Jayna Schmidt, Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Albina Sipplak,  
Derek Stahl, Mary Clair Stephen, Stephen Straub, Sr., Baby John Tramazzo,  
Vera Vieni, Pat Wallace, Flo Worysz*

# Longing, Desire, and the Face of God

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

At the center of our experience lies an incurable dis-ease, a disquiet, a restlessness, a loneliness, a longing, a yearning, a desire, an ache for something we can never quite name. For what are we longing? What would satisfy our restless energy?

Anne Frank, in her famous diary, asks exactly this question: Today the sun is shining, the sky is a deep blue, there is a lovely breeze and I am longing - so longing - for everything. To talk, for freedom, for friends, to be alone. And I do so long ... to cry! I feel as if I am going to burst, and I know it would get better with crying; but I can't. I'm restless, I go from room to room, breathe through the crack of a closed window, feel my heart beating, as if it was saying, 'can't you satisfy my longing at last?' I believe that it is spring within me; I feel that spring is awakening. I feel it in my whole body and soul. It is an effort to behave normally, I feel utterly confused. I don't know what to read, what to write, what to do, I only know that I am longing.

That same question is asked everywhere. What would satisfy us? Why this relentless restlessness? In her Children of Violence series of novels, Nobel-prize winning novelist, Doris Lessing, has her heroine, Martha Quest, pose that question as life's central question: Towards what is all of our energy directed? Devoid of a religious perspective, Martha can only understand human desire as blind, erotic energy, a kind of voltage, ten thousand volts of energy inside us. For what? For whatever we choose - creativity, love, sex, hate, martyrdom, boredom.

What are we longing for ultimately? What would satisfy our restless hearts?

Classically, Christian spirituality has answered the question with a single image, all of our restlessness and disquiet is ultimately a longing to see the face of God. Most famously, Augustine put it this way: You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until the rest in you! In writing that, Augustine drew upon personal experience, but also upon a motif that had long expressed itself within religious men and women.

The idea begins early in the Jewish scriptures: Already at the time of Moses, people are asking the question: Who can see the face of God? We see this in Moses himself when he goes up the mountain to meet

God. He asks to see God's face. God replies: No one can see the face of God and live! (Exodus 33,20) However, when Moses asks this question his desire is still quite literal, his desire is to physically see God.

But as their faith matures, the people of the Israel begin to understand this motif differently. Longing to see the face of God eventually is understood not so much as the physical curiosity to see what God looks like, but rather as an image, a symbol, an end-point for all human desire. To see the face of God is to have all desire quenched, all restlessness stilled, all aching quieted. To see the face of God is to attain complete peace. This is what the Psalmist means by the words: As a deer yearns for flowing streams, so I yearn to see the face of God. I thirst for the living God; when shall I see the face of God? (Psalm 42,1-2)

By the time of Jesus, the idea is everywhere present in Jewish spirituality that the only answer to human longing is to see the face of God. To see God's face is to come to peace. But we are still left with the question: Who can see the face of God? How is this to be achieved?

Jesus gives an answer: Who can see the face of God? He answers simply: Blessed are the pure of heart, they shall see the face of God. (Matthew 5, 8) That simple phrase then became a one-line mandate to encompass the entire spiritual quest. The Desert Fathers, the classical mystics, and subsequent Christian spirituality in general have focused on one thing in their praxis - attaining purity of heart so as to see the face of God. To work at attaining purity of heart is the ultimate spiritual task.

It is also life's ultimate task. We long for many things and like Doris Lessing's heroine, Martha, are both buoyed up and fatigued by our own insatiable energies. These energies push us in every direction, towards creativity, love, sex, hate, martyrdom, boredom. Sometimes we know what we want, a particular relationship, achievement, acceptance, status, job, or home, and we believe that we will find peace by attaining it, but experience has taught us that full peace of heart will not be found, even there. Where will it be found? In purity of heart, in removing those things inside of us that block our connection to the author of all the persons, places, beauty, love, color, and energies for which we ache.

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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).*

## Rosary Christian Mothers

The Rosary Christian Mothers will be sponsoring a Holiday Raffle on the weekend of **November 21/22**. Raffle tickets will be sold after the 5 PM Mass on November 21 and after the 9:30, 11 AM and 12:30 PM Masses on November 22. Please help support this wonderful ministry.

## 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.

## Upcoming Craft Fair

Christmas Craft Fair at **Westminister United Presbyterian Church, Udall Rd., West Islip on Sunday, December 5 from 9 AM until 4 PM**.

Vendors are welcome-\$25 table fee.

Please call the church office at 631.661.6740 for more information.

## Goin' Green!

Each week we work hard to recycle and to save our planet. Our Sacristans with the help of many volunteers work hard to clear of our Church of all worship aids, bulletins and the like! We are always in need of help with this effort!

*How can you help?*

- *Clean up after yourself!* When you leave the Church, take home any extra worship aids, bulletins, or whatever else you see around.
- *Help us recycle!* Each week our Sacristans keep all the paper collected. Whenever you come to Mass check in the Sign In Room. (It's located in the front of the All Purpose Room with a big banner by its entrance) Check with the sacristans or take a box from the room and drop it in your recycle can!

## **Wanted: Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist who have been commissioned by the Diocese are needed to bring the Eucharist to patients at Good Samaritan Hospital.

You may schedule whatever mornings are convenient for you. Even one day per month will help a great deal. If interested, please call 631.376.4103.

## **Rebuilding Together**

Volunteers are needed any time, Mondays to Fridays. Rebuilding Together Long Island is a volunteer group that performs free repairs to low-income seniors and handicapped homeowners in both Nassau and Suffolk.

Volunteers with minor skills are needed. Come join us and feel the joy of helping others in an atmosphere of fun. Call 516.541.7322.

## **World March for Peace and Nonviolence**

The World March is a global initiative with one million participants committed to ending wars and occupations, nuclear proliferation and violence of all kinds. On November 30, the world will march in New York City. Information on events, transportation from Long Island, please call 631.875.7647 or check the website at [www.worldmarchusa.net](http://www.worldmarchusa.net) for national news and events.

## **Good Shepherd Hospice**

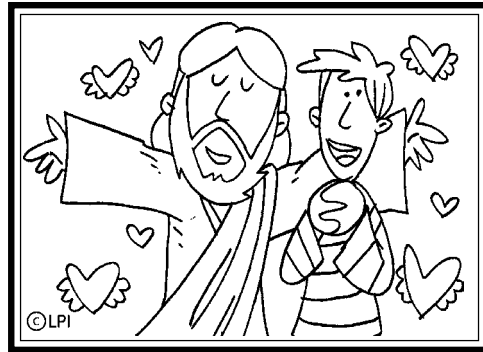
Volunteers needed! Do you have a few hours a week to spare? Are you that special person who is willing to walk along with our patients and families during their final journey? Find out! Please call the Good Shepherd Hospice Volunteer Department at 631.465.6355 for more information on volunteer opportunities.

## **Religion & Rock**

Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. Listen on Saturdays at 11 PM on Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and at 11 PM on XM Satellite, channel 117. Next Sunday's theme is "**Thanksgiving.**" Don't miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go to [www.religionandrock.com](http://www.religionandrock.com) or at "Religion & Rock" on ITUNES. Don't forget to tune into TELE CARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 271 for the Best in Catholic Television!

# Sharing the Gospel

Today is Christ the King Sunday. Instead of using his power selfishly to get whatever he wanted, Jesus used his power to free people from sickness, from death, and from evil. Jesus came to tell us the truth about God. Now we need to listen to the voice of Jesus and follow his example.



## Prayer



Dear God,

thank you for sending Jesus to be our loving king.

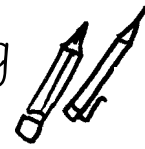


## Puzzle

Find the path that leads to Jesus.



## Something to Draw



Draw a picture of Jesus wearing a crown of thorns.

## Mission for the Week



We "listen to Jesus" when we follow his example. This week, let others go first when you play a game.