

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
OUR LADY OF LOURDES • DECEMBER 27, 2009

**“THEY FOUND HIM IN THE
TEMPLE, SITTING AMONG
THE TEACHERS,**



LUKE 2:46

**LISTENING TO THEM AND
ASKING THEM QUESTIONS.”**



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.

Our Lady of Lourdes

*455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, New York 11795*

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

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.

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

Rev. Patsy Amabile
Associate Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback
Associate Pastor

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

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

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

fax: 661.7143

website: www.ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes School

587.7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: lkrol@ollschool.org

Religious Education Office

661.5440

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon

1 PM - 5 PM

7 PM - 9 PM

email: ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org

Parish Outreach Office

661.9262

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30 AM - 3 PM

S.A.G.E.

661.3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth
and Enrichment)

email: Sage@ollchurch.org

Welcome...

to Our Lady of Lourdes!

We are so happy to welcome everyone who has come to worship with us today! Whether you have come a long distance or you live locally, we are glad that you have decided to spend some time with us as we worship our Lord together. Please know that your presence today is a blessing to our parish family.

Would you like to know more about our parish family?

All are welcome at Our Lady of Lourdes and we do our best to reach out to everyone.

If you would like more information about our parish or if you would like one of our team to be in touch with you, please fill this form out and place it in any collection or offering basket, mail it to us, or send an email to parishoffice@ollchurch.org

Welcome...

to Our Lady of Lourdes!



I would like information about:

Religious Education of my Children Becoming a Catholic or Adult Confirmation
 Marriage or Annulment / Remarriage Spiritual Direction or Counseling
 Our Parish Catholic School Adult Education Senior Services
 Joining the Parish Baptizing my Children Other _____

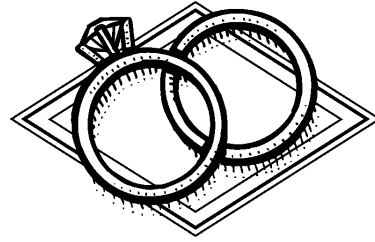
I would prefer to be contacted by:

Phone at: _____ Email at: _____

Mail at: _____

Your Name: _____

Marriage Preparation and Wedding Ministry



“Married Christians, in virtue of the sacrament of marriage, signify and share in the mystery of that unity and fruitful love which exists between Christ and his Church.”

(Rite of Marriage #1)

Our Lady of Lourdes has a well founded reputation of hospitality and welcoming. The Wedding Ministry assists the Groom, Bride, their families and guests at the wedding rehearsal and at the Marriage Liturgy itself, so that they can pray well together and experience the hallmark warmth of our Parish. The Ministry consists of volunteer parishioners; men, women and couples, who give their time to be present at the rehearsal and Liturgy.

“...They are invited to understand the meaning of the responsible and mature love of the community of life and love which their family will be, a real domestic Church which will contribute toward enriching the whole Church...”

(Preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage #2)

“FOCCUS” and “Pre-Cana” are used as our preparation program for the Sacrament of Marriage. They are also facilitated by volunteer parishioners; married couples who have been trained by the Diocese so they can share the nature of marriage as they have lived it out in their lives and in their faith. We hope you have benefited from these ministries and hope that you would consider sharing your gifts by being a part of them yourself.

Serving the Body of Christ...

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

We congratulate and welcome our Parish’s newest Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion- *Paula Dannhauser, Edna Levey, Theresa Moy, Corazon Smith, Dolores Tibbetts and Ted Turnasella*- who have been commissioned to serve as Extraordinary Ministers in our parish! Pray for them as they begin this important ministry in the life of OLL!

What does it take to be an Extraordinary Minister?

- participation in Sunday Eucharist
- commitment to serve two or three times per month
- attendance at a Diocesan training and parish training
- openness to bring Communion to the sick

If you have other questions or are interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister, please contact Mrs. Mary J. Borgs of our Parish Liturgy Committee at 665.2928 or you can email Fr. Pat at FrPat@ollchurch.org.

Religious Education

Do all that you can in 2010...

Look at those 7th Graders

These kids Know when they can !!!... more in '10

The 7th Graders in our parish family know how to love and serve... and feel that sense of belonging.

As part of their Service Projects they help and learn more about our Ministries at OLL...

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

Grade 8... in '10... Here's When.....

All Grade 8 Confirmation Candidates will meet with their Sponsors for **RESCUE** –

“Religious Education Sponsor Candidate United Effort”—with a kick-off every Sunday

afternoon in January '10. This night of prayer and reflection will provide them with an opportunity to learn about their new roles as sponsors and candidates, hear personal reflections about what it means to be a sponsor and commit to take a more active role in this process. Each evening will conclude with Sunday's 6 PM Mass. Look for them Sunday, January 3, 10, 24, and 31. Sponsors and candidates plan to meet together three times on their own, including doing some service together. Sponsors and candidates work together at a soup kitchen or cook a meal for a soup kitchen, help an elder adult, help with Parish Outreach, Stewardship, Art & Environment, etc.

Let's continue to pray for our parish's Confirmation Candidates.

GRADES 6/7/8 Hang Out Nites

BE THERE ...DON'T MISS IT

Fridays in 2010

January 15, February 12, April 16, May 21, June 18

- Guitar Hero III is here at OLL
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- American Idol is here, too...

PLUS some new additions!

- PRIZES
- RAFFLES

They continue to serve those in need... they care. Every month Grade 6/7/8 bring food/ paper goods/and or \$1 for our Parish Food Pantry. They have contributed over \$200 since October '09. Wreaths, decorated by our Hang Out Kids, were given to our families who received “Giving Tree Gifts.” Over 100 kids come each month – be ONE of them.

Adult Faith Formation

Images of Mercy

*Icons of Justice**

**applicable for Advance Certificate*

Presenter: Tom Petriano, St. Joseph's College, Patchogue

Tuesdays, January 19, 26 and February 2, 9, 23, 2010

7:30 - 9:30 PM

Parish Center

The witness of the lives of prophetic figures from various cultures and traditions can be iconic for us, and studying their lives can be both illuminating and transformative. This course will look specifically at the lives of Mother Teresa, Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin, Mohandas Gandhi, Oscar Romero and the Jesuit martyrs of El Salvador, and Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks as examples of modern day prophets. Their writings, sermons, letters, speeches and the witness of their lives will be examined in order to understand the spirituality and theology that was the source of their prophetic witness.

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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

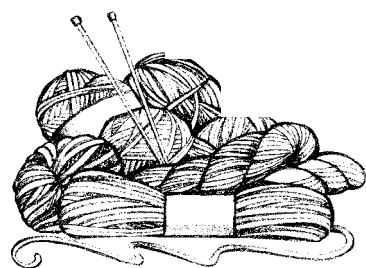
Bring your prayer and creativity together in a gift of love.

Join us...

Wednesday, January 13 from 9:30 AM until

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

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



Taize-Prayer Around the Cross

Tuesday, January 12 at 7:30 PM in the Church

Presenter: Carol Goetz, Parish Music Director

Looking for another way to pray?

Taize is a form of worship that provides some time in our busy lives where we can stop and focus on the love of God. Together we will share simple chants and prayers that will help guide us as we bring our concerns and hopes to the Lord. Please join us for a Taize Prayer Service on Tuesday, January 12 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 for further information.

Bereavement Group

Our next Bereavement Group will begin on **Wednesday, January 13, 2010**. We will be meeting , for six weeks, in the Spiritual Life Center located in the Convent, **from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM**. There is no fee to attend and the group is open to people of all faith denominations and parishes. For information and registration, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224, extension 121.

Altar Servers

Starting in fourth grade, our young people, both girls and boys, are asked to consider being trained to serve the Altar for our Saturday, Sunday, Wedding, and Funeral Liturgies. This is a great opportunity to significantly contribute to the Parish as a young member, as well as a wonderful way to be involved in and learn about the prayer and faith-life of the Parish. We are grateful to the many boys and girls, some now men and women, who have been a part of this Ministry through the years. There will be training sessions this winter, spring, and fall.

Men's Group

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

We invite all men of the parish to meet for prayer and reflection after 8 AM Mass on **Thursday, January 21, in the Parish Center**. We meet once a month to read and discuss the Scriptures for the following Sunday. Come with your ideas and suggestions. We'll gather for conversation and fellowship. Join us in this pioneering experience for men. Call Jack Fitzgerald at 587.5548 for more information.

'Tis the season to join our Parish Music Ministry...

(to the tune of Deck the Halls)

Love to sing? then join our choirs.....Fa,la,la,la,la,la,la,la,la

Reading notes is not required.....Fa,la,la,la,la,la,la,la,la

Full or part-time choir commitment.....Fa,la,la,la,la,la,la,la,la

Sing at Christmas, Easter, Lent.....Fa,la,la,la,la,la,la,la,la

Join one or more of our music groups: OLL Choir, Women's Chorale, Youth Choir, Contemporary Group, Taize Music Group. For further information please contact: Carol Goetz, Parish Music Director, at music@ollchurch.org (OLL Choir, Contemporary Group, Taize) or Jennifer Gallagher at jengallagher@ollchurch.org (Women's Chorale, Youth Choir)



Nocturnal Adoration

Nocturnal Adoration will follow the 5 PM Mass on **Saturday, January 2**, concluding with Benediction at 9:50 PM. Please come and pray with us. All are invited and welcome! Bring a friend.

Rosary Christian Mothers

The Rosary Christian Mothers meet on the first Monday evening of each month. The next meeting will be **Monday, January 4**. We will begin with **Rosary at 7:45 PM in the Parish Center** followed by **meeting at 8 PM, also in the Parish Center**.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, January 5**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of January will be on **Wednesday, January 6 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.



Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, January 25, 2010 at 12:30 PM in the Parish Center**.

Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, January 10**. We will begin with the **Rosary at 7:40 AM in the Church** and the **meeting will follow the 8 AM Mass at 9 AM in Room 16**.

Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group

The Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group meets each **Thursday afternoon** in the **Church**. The meeting is from **3 PM until 4 PM in front of the Blessed Sacrament**.

Good Samaritan Prayer Group of L.I.

The Good Samaritan Prayer Group of Long Island holds their **meetings every Friday (except the first Friday of the month) at OLL School in Room 16 from 8 PM until 10 PM**. All are welcome to experience singing, praying and fellowship each evening.

Shaking things up with OLL Youth Ministry!

There are now a few ways for young people to have fun and to learn at Our Lady of Lourdes...



Open Mic Night

Once a month, **Open Mic Night**, is a great way for students to come and express themselves through music or poetry. It is also a fun and safe way to hang out with your friends and spend a Friday night. We will also begin our **Movie Nights** once a month, which is another way to relax and have fun, even when school gets really crazy.

Peace and Justice Club

Peace and Justice Club is another opportunity for young people to get involved. Through Peace and Justice, parishioners are invited to learn and discuss many social justice issues that are prominent in today's world. This club also discusses ways that we might get involved with service work at Our Lady of Lourdes. This club meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM in the School Media Center.

Young Women's Prayer Group

Young Women's Prayer Group is the new way that young women and new mothers can come together to reflect on their faith, even in the midst of their busy lives. When you were a student, everyone was trying to get you involved and now it seems like you don't get a chance for anything but work! We meet on the second Thursday of each month and talk about what it is to be a Catholic Woman.



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 Tacuba. 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!

Remember...

If you bought a bank to benefit the El Salvador CASA project, we ask our parishioners to return their spare change (not the banks) to our special coin receptacles at the doors of the Church, on the first Sunday of each month-next weekend-January 2/3, 2010.

Youth Life Chats

Last but certainly not least, the **Youth Life Chats** are beginning this January for both Middle School and High School students. The Middle School group will meet the first and third Mondays of each month and the High School group will meet the first and third Thursdays of each month. These discussions are called “**Big Question Nights.**” We are talking about the important things. “Why are we here?” “Why do bad things happen to good people?” “What is faith and do I have it?” It is ok to not be sure and we have so much to learn from one another. To get involved with “**Big Question Nights**” or any other project contact Allegra@ollchurch.org. It is through these meetings that students can determine the kinds of service they would like to perform as well. Shortly, teens will be invited to participate in “**Midnight Runs**” as well as other hands-on service activities. It is just one of the many ways that our young people can learn about themselves and the world.

Big Question Night

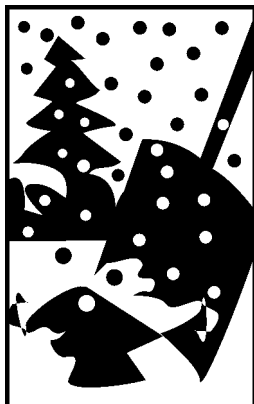
The first Youth “Big Question Nights” will begin in January! For grades 6-8 the first meeting will be on Monday, January 4th beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Room 16 of the school. High School students will meet for the first time on Thursday, January 7th at 6:30 p.m. in Room 16 of the school. All students are welcome to come and share what’s on their minds! As always, food will be served and fun will be had.



The Six Committee

The Six Committee is inviting the parish youth to get involved with our liturgy and music. The Six is a great mass for so many reasons. You can relax all day and still come to Mass in the evening. The music is performed by our Contemporary Choir, and in general, it is just a more casual liturgy. For any student who would like to be a part of making their Mass fresh and inviting, the Six Committee is the place for you! The Six Committee is also responsible for arranging certain service activities. This month we are finishing up a clothing drive which is to be donated to a local organization. If you want service hours for school, or you just like to make a difference, come to our meetings! We meet once a month after The Six Mass.

Saint Bernard League



If you’re in need of help when it snows, members of our parish community will come to your home and shovel you out! If you think you can use our help, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224, ext. 135 or e-mail to Allegra@ollchurch.org and you will be added to our list. PLEASE SIGN UP AGAIN- even if you signed up last year. We also need Saint Bernards...*(those who help people in bad weather)*. Can you and/or your family shovel, snow blow or clear out another family in need within our parish community? If you can help with this call the Parish Office at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to Allegra@ollchurch.org. This is a great way to help those in need and do some tremendous community service!

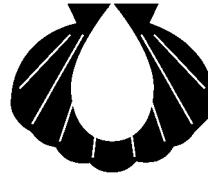
Support Groups

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)



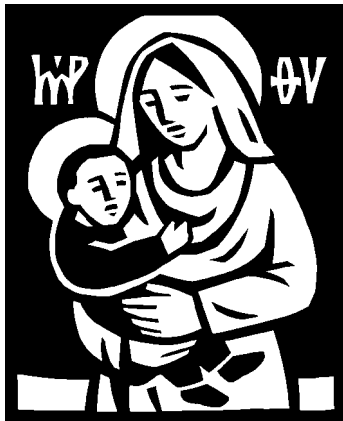
Baptisms

Liya Remmy Angelino

Justin and Kathleen

Victoria Krystyna Swicord

Robert and Elzbieta



Celebrating New Year's Solemnity of Mary

The Church gathers on Thursday, December 31 and
Friday, January 1 to ring in the New Year and to celebrate
the Solemnity of Mary (*a holy day of obligation*).

We'll celebrate the Solemnity of Mary on...

Thursday, December 31 at 5 PM (vigil)

Friday, January 1 at 8 AM and 11 AM

Please come and pray with us!

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.

Remembering . . .

Monday, December 28

Holy Innocents, martyrs

8:00 AM Juliana Davis

Tuesday, December 29

St. Thomas Becket, bishop & martyr

8:00 AM Walter Colgan

Wednesday, December 30

8:00 AM Thomas Hyde

Thursday, December 31

St. Sylvester I, pope

8:00 AM Angelito Cruz (*living*) & Family

5:00 PM Louis Montanino

Friday, January 1

The Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

8:00 AM Chris Hansen

11:00 AM People of the Parish

Saturday, January 2

8:00 AM Catherine Gurlides

5:00 PM Gene Langan

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Sunday, January 3

8:00 AM Ann Reinhold

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

9:30 AM Jean Cilluffo

Fr. Pat Amabile

11:00 AM Joseph A. Santangelo

Fr. Mike Vetrano

12:30 PM Donald & Patrick Manning and Grandparents

Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Nunzio Battaglia, Dick Ryan,
Moe Moschetti, John McGrory, Shawn Hardy,
Roland & Wayne Van Acker

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Rest In Peace

Vera Accardo died on October 16 and a Memorial Mass was celebrated on December 12. We extend our prayers to her daughter, Donna, and son, Mario and entire family.





©LPI

The Holy Family

Adolescents are often characterized in American culture as moody, rebellious, unresponsive to adults, secretive, addicted to text messaging, and generally disconnected from their families. The caricature carries over into films, television shows, and comic strips like "Zits." Television sitcoms often garner great laughs by pitting younger, wittier children against adolescents to the delight of onlooking parents. Such views only serve to separate the members of a family rather than unite them as one household.

While we may laugh at the humor, letting culture define family life is not the direction offered by Christian experience. For starters, Christians begin with baptism, recognizing that each member of the family shares in the gift of the Holy Spirit that dwells in our hearts. As the writer of the First Letter of John says, "We are God's children now." In the family, each member is a precious gift with talents given by God.

The adolescent Jesus slipped away from Mary and Joseph in Sunday's Gospel. (Has it ever happened to you where one of your older kids slipped away because they wanted to stay out a little longer?) In the end, his actions were seen as part of God's larger plan. It remains a delicate balance in helping children to discern their gifts as they grow older, while at the same time providing the discipline and structure that will protect and guide them. This feast that we celebrate today reminds us that the balance comes from seeing ourselves as a family with God in our midst. With that as the starting point, rather than the culture of the day, we can all learn how to be about our heavenly Father's business.

2009 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of December 27, 2009

Sunday:	Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 <i>or</i> 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Col 3:12-21 <i>or</i> 3:12-17 <i>or</i> 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
Monday:	1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Mt 2:13-18
Tuesday:	1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18
Friday:	Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Saturday:	1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
Next Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Parish Outreach

Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30 AM - 3 PM



Pantry Needs

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

Outreach 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 McMahan, Director of Parish Social Ministry at 661.3224, option 4.

Catholic Ministries Appeal Update

Our Lady of Lourdes would like to thank all those who have made a sacrifice by making a gift to the *2009 Catholic Ministries Appeal*. We appreciate your generosity and thank you very much for your contribution.

One of our goals is to have every family participate in this Appeal by responding with a YES. We are hopeful that every family in our parish and diocese has responded to this call for sacrifice. Our goal has been based on every family making an equal sacrifice, not an equal gift. Look at what God has given to you and your family and consider the gift you can give to help those in need here on Long Island. Only you can decide what that gift will be.

If you have not yet responded, please consider what you can do to the best of your ability to help our parish reach those in need. If you have not had an opportunity to make a gift to the Appeal or have been waiting to make a pledge, please do so.

Financial Summary

December 13, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 20,240.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 1,240.00

Immaculate Conception

This Year	\$ 3,352.00
Last Year	\$ 3,141.00
	\$ 211.00

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:

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.

Our whole parish family rejoices with the Bacchi Family in gratitude for the safe return of their son Lorenzo active duty. **Lorenzo Bacchi**-*US Marines*, has returned to the United States safe and sound from his second tour of duty in Iraq. Thank you, *Lorenzo*, for your most generous service to our country!

The Bacchi Family would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family for all of their prayers.

Poinsettia-Christmas Flower

Looking around our beautiful church today, you can't help but notice the red poinsettias adorning our worship space. Our Parish's Art & Environment Ministry thought you might like to know a little bit of history about this popular Christmas flower. Poinsettias are native to Mexico where they grow wild like weeds. They were first introduced to the United States in 1825 by amateur botanist, and first ambassador to Mexico, Joel Robert Poinsett, when he brought some cuttings to his plantation in Greenwood, South Carolina.

The enchanting legend of the poinsettia dates back several centuries, to a Christmas Eve in Mexico, when a little girl named Pepita had no gift to present to the Christ child. Her cousin, Pedro, urged her to give a humble gift so, on her way to Church, she gathered some weeds she found along the roadside. As she approached the altar, a miracle happened – the weeds blossomed into brilliant flowers. At that time, these flowers were called Flores de Noche Buena – Flowers of the Holy Night. Today they are called Poinsettias and come in many colors other than the traditional red.

All of the members of Our Lady of Lourdes' Art & Environment Ministry would like to wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year filled with all of God's blessings! If you would like to find out more information about the Art & Environment Ministry please e-mail Jerry Esposito at art@ollchurch.org.



Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Carol Grillo*.

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 ...

Roy Anderson, Susan Aviza, Matthew Badamo, Deacon Dick Barry, Ben Bellotti, Theresa Buffa, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Veronica Byrne, Howard Campkin, Nicholas Cibelli, Michael Ciotkosz, Regina Cranor, Jeanne DellaRagione, Pat DeRosa, Ann Donlon, Ed Hawkins, Edward Herger, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Inez Hunter, Mary Kaval, Veronica Kenny, Kathleen Kerrigan, Joseph Lehmann, Kara Lobasso, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Dorothy Meloni, Rick Mirabella, Brenden Muldoon, Evelyn Nonnon, John O'Brien, Aiden Pinto-Hawkins, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Laura Prichard, Joe Radosti, Frank Raimo, Carol Randazzo-Hopkins, Michael Savino, Ann Marie Schiraldi, Jayna Schmidt, Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Albina Sipplak, Derek Stahl, Mary Clair Stephen, Stephen Straub, Sr., Baby John Tramazzo, Nancy Turano, Vera Vieni, Pat Wallace, Kyle Williams, Flo Worysz

What have you read lately that's interesting?

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

"What have you read lately that's interesting?" Since readers of this column sometimes ask me this question, I want to highlight some of the more interesting novels I have read this past year. I will focus on novels (with one exception, a book of essays by a novelist) because most of us look for guidance in the area of contemporary literature which, like contemporary music, is a rich mine-field, full of golden nuggets, but mixed too with a lot of dirt.

Since my undergraduate years, I have always had a good novel within reach and this has been an important complement to my reading in theology and spirituality. There are certain insights into the soul that you only get from good literature. When I was doing my doctoral studies, I was lucky enough to sit in on some classes by Antoine Vergote, the renowned psychologist. Not infrequently, especially when we were examining particularly complex issues to do with obsessions, jealousy, and emotional depression, he would refer us to various novelists and their insights into these issues.

Through the years, I've developed a list of contemporary novelists whose books I buy on sight. I try to read a select number of classic and modern-classic writers too, but, as you know, the classics require a bit more concentration, sometimes more than one can muster on an airplane.

My list of favorites is heavily weighted by British women: Iris Murdoch, Anne Byatt, Doris Lessing, Anita Brookner, Susan Howatch, to name a few. American and Canadian women feature highly too: Toni Morrison, Alice Munro, Joyce Carol Oates, Annie Dillard, Jane Urquhart, Marilynne Robinson, Barbara Kingsolver, Mary Gordon, Margaret Atwood. The men? Michael Ondaatje, Milan Kundera, John Irving, John Updike, Khaled Hosseini, John MaGahem, Guy Vanderhaeghe, James Carroll, Don DeLillo, Philip Roth, Chaim Potok, and (yes) Andrew Greeley for his ability to tell a story.

What were my favorite novels this past year? Whether great literature or not, these are the novels that touched me:

- Khaled Hosseini, *Kite Runner*, touches you deeply with sadness and hope and tells a painful story sensitively, without undue sentimentality. It also gives you some insight into the various factions within the Islamic world.
- Michael Ondaatje, *Divisadero*, stands out by its writing. The story doesn't stand out, the writing does. This is art, the best writing I've read this year. I was sorry to see last page.
- Mary Doria Russell, *The Sparrow*, is a stunning read, if not

always an easy one. A futuristic novel, Russell posits the discovery of a new planet containing self-reflective life and she has the Jesuits send a mission team there. I'm not sure her vision of future space ships will check out, but her insights into love and ecclesiology are extraordinary.

- Annie Dillard, *The Maytrees*, has little action except that which takes place inside the human heart wherein she highlights the anatomy of forgiveness and redemption. A tough, worthwhile read.
- Kent Haruf, *Plainsong and Evensong*, two novels with one story. These are wonderfully crafted, warm-hearted, but with enough of a dark side to avoid sentimentality, Haruf reminds me of the Irish novelist, John MaGahem. His characters have the same warmth, become real inside of you in the same way, and become people you would like to meet, not just read about.
- William Young, *The Shack*, is novel about loss, bitterness, forgiveness, and God. Young may not always and everywhere please people with what he says about religion and the churches, but the concept of God that emerges from this book is both wonderfully healthy and biblical.
- Marilynne Robinson, *Home*. Robinson won wide acclaim for her previous novels, most recently for *Gilead*. Critics were less complimentary about this book, but I disagree. This is a story that works at several levels. Among other things, it is the biblical story of prodigal son and the compassionate father, except Robinson's version is messier and emotionally more complex than the Gospel story. She treats the complexities of faith, love, loneliness, loss, forgiveness, not to mention happiness, with some of the nuances they deserve (and seldom get). It is because of books like this that my psychologist-professor told us to read more novels.
- Barbara Kingsolver, *Small Wonder*. Essays rather than a novel, this book helps you to get know Kingsolver, the woman behind the novels. The essays are mostly autobiographical, but they are also sensitive commentaries on terrorism, global warming, living simply, raising kids, handling adulation and hatred, science and religion, family life, and gardening. And Kingsolver's exceptional writing skills are ever present. This is art rather than journalism. There is of course always a subjective element in assessing literature and your tastes might not agree with mine. Moreover, and I say this upfront, I tend to read more for essence than for detail so sometimes I don't pick up on certain details the rub sensitive nerves in other people. So I can't guarantee you'll like these books, I can only say that I did.

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.

Holy Innocents Liturgy

On Monday, December 28 at 7:30 PM, Monsignor Joseph K. Curley, Pastor will celebrate a Mass of the Holy Innocents at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Centereach for the Pro-Life community. All are invited to the Mass and to the refreshments and fellowship that will follow in the Parish Center Hall. For more information, please call 631.585.8760.



Coat and Blanket Drive

The West Islip Fire Department is collecting gently used (or new) coats and blankets for children and adults in need of warmth this winter. OLL Parish Outreach will be able to send people to the Fire Department for these coats and blankets after January 1.

If you have coats and blankets you would like to donate, please bring these to the West Islip Fire Department on Union Blvd.

For more information, please call Lt. Dan O'Neill at 559.7951.

Men's Winter Retreat

"Your Spiritual Self" presented by Fr. Joe Costantino, SJ, former director of St. Ignatius Retreat house and currently pastor at St. Francis Xavier Church, NYC and Marie Bannister, spiritual director and staff associate at St. Ignatius Retreat House. The retreat is January 7-10, 2010 at St. Ignatius Jesuit Retreat House, Manhasset and costs from \$250 - \$360, based upon accommodations. Please call 516.621.8300, extension 15 for information and reservations.

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 **"New Beginnings."** Don't miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go to www.religionandrock.com or at "Religion & Rock" on ITUNES. Don't forget to tune into TELECARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 296 for the Best in Catholic Television!

Blended Families

An upcoming program at the St. Joseph Renewal Center, Brentwood on Sunday, January 3, 2010 from 6 PM until 8 PM. Presented by Michael & Valerie Dunne, Greg & Grace Dugre and Mary & Bob Freudenburg.

The offering is \$30 per couple and includes supper.

Please call for reservations at 631.273.1187, extension 23.



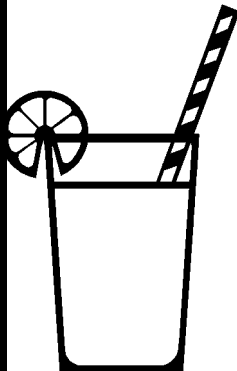
Dream Workshop

Dreams offer an opportunity to explore the deep hidden truth of who we are as God's beloved and precious creation. This day of prayer and reflection will focus on exploring how the language of symbol opens up the hidden messages found in our dreams and offers us new experiences in working with dreams. The workshop will be Saturday, January 23, 2010 from 9:30 AM until 4:30 PM presented by Jean Lynch, at the Cenacle Retreat Office in Ronkonkoma. Registration begins at 9 AM. The offering is \$50 for the day and includes a light lunch. A deposit of \$15 (non-refundable) will hold your registration. For more information, please call 631.588.8366.

Families Anonymous

Are you concerned about a family member who appears to have an alcohol, drug, or behavioral problem? We can help. Meetings are held every Saturday at 9:30 AM, Room 115 and every Wednesday at 8 PM, Room 116 at Our Lady of Grace School, West Babylon. For information, contact Donna at 631.589.3790 or Julia at 631.587.5921.

How to Make Lemonade from Lemons in Your Life



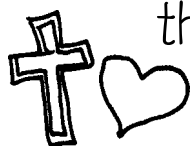
This program focuses on: What to do when your experience moves you toward God. What to do when your experience moves you away from God. The afternoon will include presentations and time for personal quiet reflection and will end with a prayer service. The program will be on Sunday, January 24, 2010 from 1:30 PM until 5:30 PM presented by Judy Osterburg, r.c. and Valerie Dunne, Staff Associate at the Cenacle Retreat Office in Ronkonkoma. Registration begins at 1 PM. The offering is \$30 for the day and includes light refreshments. A deposit of \$10 (non-refundable) will hold your registration. For more information, please call 631.588.8366.

Sharing the Gospel

When Jesus traveled to Jerusalem as a 12-year-old young man, he felt completely at home in the Temple. He enjoyed talking to the teachers about his Father in heaven. His questions and his answers showed how much he loved God.



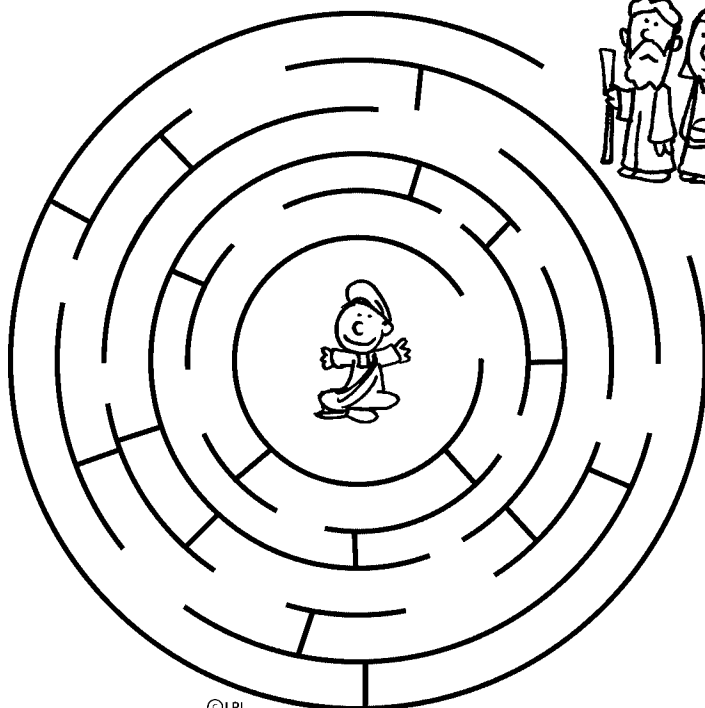
Mission for the Week



Help visitors to your church feel welcomed. As a family or as a class, make cards "for visitors, asking them to come back.

Puzzle

Help Mary and Joseph find Jesus.



© LPI

Prayer



Dear God,
help me to feel
at home in my church
like Jesus did.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of
yourself learning about
God with your
teacher.