



**"JESUS,  
REMEMBER  
ME  
WHEN  
YOU  
COME  
INTO  
YOUR  
KINGDOM."**

**"AMEN,  
I SAY TO  
YOU,  
TODAY  
YOU WILL  
BE WITH  
ME IN  
PARADISE."**

LUKE 23:42-43



## *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

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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

**Louise Jane Krol**

School Principal

**Sr. Diane Liona**

Director of Religious Education

**Mary McMahan**

Director of Parish Social Ministry

**Robin Reynolds-Brennan**

Director of Music and Worship

**Vita Scorcio**

Ministry Spiritual Director

**Sr. Betty Toohig**

Senior Ministry-SAGE

**Anthony Trombino**

Business Manager

## *Pastoral Council*

Stacie Baltrusitis

Mary Borgs

Lisa Cantalino

Sonia DaSilva

Nilo DeLeon

Jerry Esposito

Deacon Jack Meehan

John Muldoon

Bob Natale

Eileen Rega

Vita Scorcio

Fr. Mike Vetrano

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## *Parish Staff*

**Jennifer Gallagher**

Women's Chorale Director

**Mary Anne Lettieri**

Parish Office

**Debbie Meyer**

Bulletin Editor/Parish Office

**Rosemary Multer**

School Office

**Rita Spera**

Religious Education Office

**Lori Walsh**

Parish Office



### **Parish Office**

661.3224 (option 1)

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 (option 2)

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: [lkrol@ollschool.org](mailto:lkrol@ollschool.org)

### **Religious Education Office**

661.5440 (option 3)

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 (option 4)

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)

# Renewing Our Spiritual Home



Dear Parishioners:

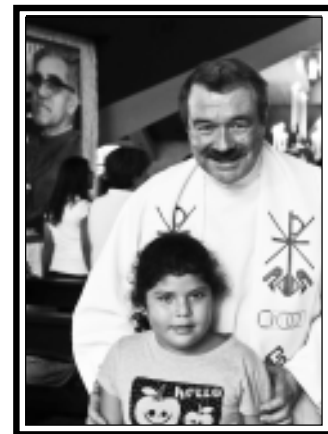
*Stewardship is a way of life, an attitude of generosity and faith that allows us to use our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to do the work of the gospel. Our parish community would not exist without the generosity of our members.*

*Each year, our parish uses the month of November to celebrate parish stewardship. Please be sure to fill out the questionnaire on page 17. Your feedback is very important—we want to hear what you think...*

## El Salvador Sponsorship and Drive at OLL

This year we are celebrating our Familias Con Corazones—“Families With Hearts”—all of the OLL families who sponsor children through CFCA. We are building a display in the narthex to celebrate all of our generous families, and the connections they have with their sponsored children.

If you (or your relatives or friends) sponsor a child through CFCA, please return the form below to the rectory or to the special box in the narthex. If you can, please include a picture of your sponsored child.” (Stay tuned for a special FCC presentation by our El Salvador Sister Parish team on the first weekend of Advent.)



*Fr. Mike and his sponsored child Nidia*



Offering hope. Honoring dignity. Working.

**We sponsor a child through CFCA!**

Family/Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsored Child or Adult: \_\_\_\_\_

# *Welcoming the Icon of the Welcoming Christ*

*You definitely don't want to miss Mass on Thanksgiving Day this year!*

In addition to our blessing and giving thanks for God's many blessings and celebrating the anniversary of our parish, we will be unveiling a work of art in our narthex — an icon of the "Welcoming Christ" which has been completed by Deacon John DeGuardi. You can read about the icon below but you will need to be here on Thanksgiving Day to see this beautiful addition to our church unveiled. Be sure to join us!

*Fr. Mike*



**Thanksgiving Day**

**Thursday, November 25**

**9:15 AM (prior to 9:30 AM Mass)**

**The unveiling of "The Welcoming Christ"**

## **The Welcoming Christ**

It was some time in September 2009 when Father Mike offered me the challenge and the opportunity to create an icon image of our Welcoming Christ to be placed in the narthex above the entrance doors of our church.

I began to prepare pencil sketches for this project on my drawing pad of the Christ image in October of 2009. This was followed by transferring these drawings to the surface of the structured form that measured fourteen feet at its widest area and seven feet at the center of the highest area. The ministry of the one who experiences preparing an icon, can be at times, that of a theologian: first- to know and love God; second-to praise God; third-to reflect on one's own experience of God from within a community of praise and present that reflection to the parishioners to deepen their faith journey.

The tradition of an icon image assumes the presence of three persons; the image depicted in the icon itself, the painter of the icon, and the viewer of the icon. There is no attempt at originality; however, if it surfaces in the process, the iconographer allows it to happen. Over the period of time from October 2009 to August of 2010, my wife and I had the opportunity to experience a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. When I returned, I continued to proceed to transfer my pencil drawings of the image of Jesus, from drawings to the surface of the panel. I realized that the image that evolved was not what I prepared to bring to the surface, but a reflection of the Christ image that evolved beyond my control, reflecting my experience in the Holy Land.

Icons are known not to reveal themselves at first sight, offering us to view it gradually, being patient, allowing our "inner sense" rather than our "outer sense" feelings to surface. The Christ image stands in front of the arches and the branches of the vines, uniting our community of faith. The grapes are a symbol of the faith filled followers. Jesus extends his longer arm and hand to all who have distanced themselves from the Church, welcoming them to return. What appears to be the shorter arm, embracing all of us who are followers of Christ the Lord.

I treasure to have had this experience,  
*Deacon John*



## Youth Group Meeting Schedule

### Fall 2010

#### Middle School

November 18

December 9 and 16

#### High School

December 2 (*Lourdes Hall*) and 16

*\*All meetings will be in Room 16 of the school*

### Hospitality Too Soup Kitchen

OLL Youth Group is making their November service trip to the **Hospitality Too Soup Kitchen on November 27. St. Anne's in Brentwood hosts the soup kitchen each Saturday beginning at 8 AM.** Two days after Thanksgiving there is not a more perfect time to show those who are ignored that some people DO care! Please give just one Saturday morning to those in need. E-mail [Allegra@ollchurch.org](mailto:Allegra@ollchurch.org) to sign up or search the Facebook profile Allegra Youth-Minister.

### Call for St. Bernard League!

Believe it or not the snow may only be a month or two away and we need volunteers to shovel the snow from the sidewalks and driveways of our elderly and disabled parishioners. This is a great service to many of our older OLL friends and a great way to earn service hours for school or just a nice thing to do with your family. To sign up, please send a message to [Allegra@ollchurch.org](mailto:Allegra@ollchurch.org). **also...**For those who are elderly or disabled, and wish to have a St. Bernard volunteer at their home, please contact Allegra by email or phone at 661.3224, ext. 135. even if you have signed up in the past you must sign up again!

### Children's Liturgy

*Are you a teacher? A catechist? Do you like kids or volunteering for your church?*

Come and join our wonderful team for Children's Liturgy of the Word at our 9:30 AM Sunday Mass. We need adults who are passionate about teaching children what it means to be a Christian.

Contact [Allegra@ollchurch.org](mailto:Allegra@ollchurch.org) with any questions or to sign up.

### Attention Young People

#### ***Boys and Girls-ages 4th grade and up...***

Do you want to be an Altar Server? What a great way to get more involved when we're praying together. It's also a service to the Parish that we really need you for. If you have not thought about it already, please give it some thought now. If you want to sign up for the training sessions contact the Parish office at 661.3224 and leave a message for Mrs. Nancy Kuchler or contact her at [nkuchler@ollschool.org](mailto:nkuchler@ollschool.org).

The Training Sessions will be in the Church on Sunday, November 21 at 4:30 PM, Saturday, November 27 at 3 PM, Sunday, November 28 at 4:30 PM, Saturday December 4 at 3 PM, and Sunday, December 5 at 4:30 PM. New servers need to attend as many of these sessions as possible, "old" servers are being asked to attend as many as they can as well (plus it's a great way to help out the new ones). Hope you say YES to this call!

## Adult Faith Formation

### Martha and Mary

#### *Action and Contemplation...Doing and Being*

Presenters : Fr. Bob and Vita Scorcia

Tuesdays-November 23

Parish Center

7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

There are many different ways of praying. Prayer not only has to fit our lifestyle, but our personality as well. Can you take two nights to look at Martha and Mary to reflect on your own spirituality and prayer life?

- *How can we pray in the midst of such busyness?*
- *Is "sitting at the feet of Jesus" the only way?*

### Finding My Way to Bethlehem

#### *An Advent Evening of Reflection*

Presenter: Fr. Pat Amabile

Tuesday, November 30

7:30 PM

Church

During Advent, we journey as did Mary and Joseph. Through readings and songs, 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! If we were with Jesus at the Nativity, what would we be served? Wouldn't it be wonderful to "break bread" with Jesus!

*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).*



### Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

*What's it all about?*

*IF* you are an adult AND

- ... you were never Baptized
- ... you were Baptized in another faith and would like to become a baptized Catholic
- ... you never received Holy Communion (Eucharist)
- ... you never received your Confirmation

*IF* you are an adult AND one or all of the circumstances above apply to you...

*IF* you feel you would like to become a baptized Catholic or become more fully initiated into your Catholic faith

Our email address is [RCIA@ollchurch.org](mailto:RCIA@ollchurch.org) or call the Parish Office at 661.3224, option #1, and we would be happy to help you.



## **Nocturnal Adoration**

Nocturnal Adoration will follow the 5 PM Mass on **Saturday, December 4**, concluding with Benediction at 9:50 PM. Please come and pray with us. All are invited and welcome! Bring a friend.

## **Rosary Christian Mothers**

### **Holiday Raffle**

This weekend, November 20/21, the Rosary Christian Mothers will be selling raffle tickets after all Masses (except 6 PM) in the back of the All-Purpose Room. Raffle tickets are 3 for \$5.

Through your generous support of the fund-raisers held by the Rosary Christian Mothers, we are planning to erect a grotto in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes. Our Lady would be on a boulder with water flowing from it into a pool and children kneeling around her.

We thank you in advance for your generous support in helping to make our project a success!

P.S. We are also planning a "Valentine's Dance" scheduled for February 12, 2011. Please mark your calendars and keep the date...

## **Praise and Worship Adoration**

Please come and join us on **Friday, December 3 at 7:30 PM in the Church** for Eucharistic Adoration. All are invited, *especially the youth of our parish*, to come and adore our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

## **Prayer for Divine Mercy**

*An invitation to all men and women to be part of God's plan.*

We invite you to meet in prayer for the world and our nation to put their trust in God. Our hope is that the nations will have a new spirit of morality. Please come with your love and hope for humanity as well as your prayer requests. We gather together every **Thursday at 1:30 PM before the Blessed Sacrament** for about one half hour. For more information, please call Charles Argento at 586.8528.

## **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.



## Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of July will be on **Wednesday, December 8 from 1- 3 PM**. All are invited and welcome!



## Questions/Answers

Here's your chance to find out all the things you've always wanted to know about *Hospice* but were afraid to ask!

Come on Tuesday morning, November 30, to the Parish Center from 9 AM - 10 AM for an information session by Roger Sullivan from Good Shepherd Hospice. Come and find out what hospice care really is and whom it's for.

### SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) The regular SAGE meeting will follow at 10 AM.

## 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. Please join us on **Saturday, December 11 at 11:30 AM in the Spiritual Life Center**. To register please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

## Men's Prayer Group-AM

*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, December 16, 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.

## Men's Prayer Group-PM

A new *evening* men's prayer group! It will be held once a month, on the third Tuesday of each month from **7:30 PM until 8:30 PM in the Spiritual Life Center**. The next meeting will be **Tuesday night, December 21**. Come with your ideas. We'll read and discuss the Liturgy for the following Sunday Mass.

For more information, call Jack Fitzgerald at 587.5548 or Tim Keegan at 926.4900.

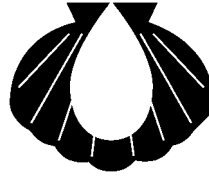
## **Support Groups**

### **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-  
9:30 AM beginners meeting  
convent lower level.  
(Free babysitting available.)



## ***Baptisms***

*Brooke Yvette Hespeler*

William and Keriann

*Patrick James O'Regan*

James and Patricia

*David James Moravec, Jr.*

David and Nancy

## ***Welcome***

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all  
newly registered members of our parish family...

*Gloria Casciola*

*Jason and Nicole Roffi and family*

*Danielle Rosati and family*

## ***Upcoming Marriages***

*Christina Lubrano, OLL and*

*Stephen Muccigrosso, St. Mary's, East Islip*

*Lisa Wagner and*

*Steven Durante, both OLL*

### **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, November 22**

*Saint Cecilia, virgin and martyr*

**8:00 AM** Joan O'Brien

**Tuesday, November 23**

*Saint Clement I, pope and martyr*

**8:00 AM** Charlotte & James Quinn

**Wednesday, November 24**

*Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, priest and martyr  
and his companions, martyrs*

**8:00 AM** Howard Campkin

**Thursday, November 25**

**Thanksgiving Day**

**9:30 AM** People of the Parish

**Friday, November 26**

**8:00 AM** Cornelius J. Peterson

**Saturday, November 27**

**8:00 AM** George Byrnes, Cleo O'Hanlon,  
Vincent & David McCarthy,  
Isabel Dantona, Joan Udris,  
Henry Sorrese

**5:00 PM** George Shaddock (*anniversary*)  
*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

**Sunday, November 28**

**8:00 AM** Edward Keegan  
*Fr. Pat Amabile*

**9:30 AM** Louis Gambardella & Robert LoPorcaro  
*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

**11:00 AM** George Prygocki  
*Fr. Pat Amabile*

**12:30 PM** Richard Vella  
*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

**6:00 PM** People of the Parish, Domenica Carone,  
Douglas Gerek, Sr., Judith Ann Hamel,  
Sheila Timmer, John Bovasso,  
Anthony Garzaniti, Gregory Scanlon  
*Fr. Mike Vetrano*



## Rest In Peace

*Geraldine Theresa Doyle* died on November 6 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 11. We extend our prayers to her children and entire family.

*Rose Lutrario* died on November 8 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 12. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, and entire family.

*Sophia Togher* died on November 8 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 13. We extend our prayers to her husband, John, children and entire family.

*James A. Gillen* died on November 3 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 13. We extend our prayers to her children and entire family.

*William McGuire* died on November 11 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 15. We extend our prayers to his children, grandchildren, and entire family.



## Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

When I was growing up there was an interesting crucifix at the end of the hallway in our school. Unlike the traditional ones that showed Jesus in agony on the cross, this one stood about six feet high and had a stately body of Jesus on it. He looked straight ahead, and he was clothed in priestly robes. He wore a crown not of thorns, but a royal crown of gold. As young children, we would all run past that crucifix on our way out the door to the playground. I imagine that the images sticks in my mind because of the daily viewing for so many years, and for the fact that it was so different from the smaller ones that graced each classroom.“

Like every Passion story in the four Gospels, Luke's includes the description of Jesus' purported crime: that he was the King of the Jews. While the Romans may have considered him an insurrectionist and the chief priests railed against him as a blasphemer, Jesus truly is a king—just not the kind that we, or his earliest followers, expected.

As universal king, Jesus exercises the same mandate held by the ancient kings of Israel: to care for the least ones and to protect those who have no power in this world. While Israel's kings were judged on how well they cared for the poor, this King is both judge and ruler par excellence. Like that crucifix in the school hallway, his throne is the cross, and from it he dispenses life, not condemnation.“ Like the thief in today's Gospel, we are supplicants before that throne. We kneel before the cross from which the eternal King reigns, and we plead like the thief, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he replies to us, as he does to all who seek him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

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### Readings for the Week of November 21, 2010

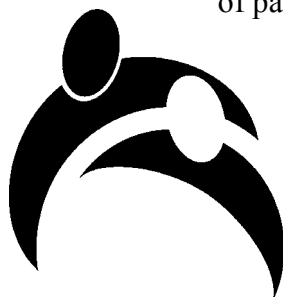
<b>Sunday:</b>	2 Sm 5:1-3/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43
<b>Monday:</b>	Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5/Lk 21:1-4
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Rv 14:14-19/Lk 21:5-11
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Rv 15:1-4/Lk 21:12-19
<b>Thursday:</b>	Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a/Lk 21:20-28
<b>Friday:</b>	Rv 20:1-4, 11-21:2/Lk 21:29-33
<b>Saturday:</b>	Rv 22:1-7/Lk 21:34-36
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

## Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Joyce Petersen*.  
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 ...

*Susan Aviza, James (Jay) Bowers, Viola Callanan, Josephine Carrano,  
Grace Ciccarello, Beverly DeCanio, Mike DeJong, Jeanne DellaRagione,  
Tony DeVivo, Tony Drexler, Debbie Eichen, Jake Feldman, Leif Gunderson,  
Berdine Ivory, Kathleen Kerrigan, Robyn Kerrigan, Ann Losee, Rachel Mackey,  
Louise Malcuit, John McNevin, Vincent Meade, Ann Mongeau, Michael Montesanto,  
John Mordente, Ruth Murray, Evelyn Nonnon, Karen Parpounas, Joe Radosti,  
Dorothy Schiavone, AnnMarie Schiraldi, Baby Isabella Shaw, Roy Sorrese,  
Lindsay Stahl, Linda Starr, Stephen Straub, Sr., Patrick Tardo, Nancy Turano,  
Dotty Valerga, Al Van Pelt, Bunny Vilim, Irv Weiss, Joe Yezek, Peggy Yezek*

**Please note:** Any name that has been added to the "Pray for Our Sick" list prior to March 2010 has been removed. However, if the person continues to need our prayers, please call the Parish Office to have the name included. All names shall remain on the list for a "short term" of five weeks or "long term" for five months.

## Financial Summary

### November 14, 2010

Weekly Collection	\$ 19,157.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 157.00

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



The Parish Office will be closed on Thursday, November 25 in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

The Parish Office will reopen on Friday, November 26 at 9 AM.

## 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

**JD Montefusco**-US Marines

**Peter Provenzano**-US Army

**Joshua Tyrrell**-US Army

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

## News From Outreach

- On Sunday, November 21, the Babylon Rotary Club is conducting a Food Drive at the Stop and Shop on Union Blvd. in West Islip from 9 AM until 3 PM. Our Lady of Lourdes Outreach will be the recipient of this event.
- When did the summer end? Can you believe Outreach is busy preparing for the rapidly approaching Advent season! As of this afternoon, Outreach hopes to provide Thanksgiving dinners for 73 families. Any donations of Thanksgiving food or, of course, a complete dinner for a family of 2 to 6 people will be gratefully accepted. Outreach is serving a family with nine children and 2 adults-both parents work but money is always very tight. Would two families from the parish consider sharing the cost of adopting this family for Thanksgiving? If so, please phone Outreach. Thanksgiving baskets will be distributed on Monday, November 22 between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM. Outreach volunteers will be sorting food and setting up the PC on Sunday, November 21 from 1 PM to 6 PM. You can leave your donations on Sunday or Monday morning, November 22.
- Finally, in anticipation of the great event: Christmas! The Giving Tree will be decorated and filled with tags for the first Sunday of Advent, November 28. Once again, PODS will be donating a POD for storage of the gifts you donate. Each Sunday of Advent, starting December 5, volunteers will be sorting your gifts. If you are interested becoming an 'elf'-we will meet in the APR at 1 PM and are usually finished by 2:30 PM. We are very organized and work in teams of two-so bring a friend, dust off your elf hat and join us! Another way to 'give' during this Advent season.

-Mary McMahan  
 Director of Parish Outreach

## Donations to Outreach

*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.*

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

**Join us ...**

**Wednesday, December 15 at 9:30 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.

# Respect for Each Other in a Polarized Community

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

We live today in a highly polarized world and within highly polarized churches. In this, we are not unique. A certain degree of polarization exists within every community and is normal and healthy. However the bitterness, mean-spirit, and lack of respect that characterizes much of our political, ecclesial, and moral discourse today is not normal and is far from healthy. And we shouldn't delude ourselves in thinking that it is healthy or, worse yet, in the name of truth or justice or God, try to rationalize our lack of respect for those who think differently than we do. We aren't holy warriors, just angry people with a highly selective compassion.

Perhaps labels like liberal and conservative don't accurately name the various tribes we invariably divide into today, but, as an over-generalization, these names still work. We are bitterly divided, liberal from conservative, conservative from liberal, and instead of seeing ourselves as one community caught in a common struggle, we talk rather in terms of "we" and "them", like warring tribes. There's no longer a common plural.

More seriously, we are no longer capable of even having a respectful conversation with each other. It is rare today to have a discussion on any sensitive political, moral, or ecclesial issue that does not degenerate into name-calling and disrespect. Empathy, understanding, and compassion have become highly selective, ideological, and one-sided. We listen to and respect only our own kind. Moreover, neither side has a monopoly on this, liberal or conservative. What is sadly manifest too, on both sides, is a certain hypersensitivity, an over-seriousness, a paranoia about the other, an anger, a joylessness, and the lack of a sense of humor.

Conservatives tend to justify this by pointing to the gravity of the issues they are defending: abortion, family life, traditional marriage. These, they point out with all the proper gravity, are serious issues and liberals are so compromised that there really is no room for meaningful talk. The truth being defended is eternal and allows for no compromise, so what's the purpose of dialogue?

Liberals return the favor. Why discuss something that is rationally self-evident, simply a question of human right, and has long since been enshrined in democratic principle? These issues need not even be discussed. Moreover, in liberal circles, there is all too frequently an intellectual disdain for what is judged to be narrow intolerance stemming from religious fundamentalism. Liberals, despite considerable rhetoric to the

contrary, have little genuine desire to have a real conversation about issues like abortion, gay marriage, and family values. For them, just as for the conservatives, these issues already have a clear moral conclusion. Why talk?

Strong convictions are not a fault, but what is distressing is that this unwillingness to be open to respectful dialogue on sensitive issues is generally as prevalent within church circles as it is in political ones.

In church circles we are meant to hold ourselves to a higher standard: to meet viciousness with graciousness, anger with compassion, opposition with understanding, slander with no retaliation, intolerance with patience, and everything and everybody with charity. For the most part, this isn't happening. Sadly, inside of church circles, our conversation about sensitive issues basically mirrors the harsh and one-sided rhetoric we hear on the more strident talk shows. The results are the same: the converted preach to the converted, hearts harden rather than soften, positions become even more bitter and entrenched, and we drift further apart from each other in our churches and in our politics.

At a time when misunderstanding, anger, intolerance, impatience, lack of respect, and lack of charity are paralyzing our communities and dividing the sincere from the sincere, it is time for us, followers of Jesus called to imitate his wide compassion, to reground ourselves in some fundamentals: respect, charity, understanding, patience, and gentleness towards those who oppose us. It's time to accept too that we are all in this together, one family within which everyone needs everyone else.

There is no "we" and "them", there's only "us".

Biblical scholar, Ernst Kaseman, once suggested that what's wrong in both the world and the church is that the liberals aren't pious and the pious aren't liberal. How true. It's rare to see the same person leading both the peace-march and the rosary. Liberals are better at one, conservatives at the other. Each has its own models, its Mel Gibsons and Michael Moores, patron saints of piety or justice. What's needed is a patron saint for both.

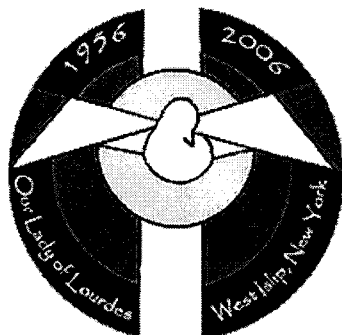
Perhaps we might look for that in Dorothy Day, someone whom both sides, liberal and conservative, respect and recognize as a saint and who is soon to be canonized by the church. She was both pious and liberal, a woman equally comfortable leading a peace-march or leading the rosary. She was also able to stand up strongly for truth, for life, and for justice, without bracketing what has to be forever fundamental within all relationships and discourse - charity, respect, wide compassion, and a sense of humor!

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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).*



# "Renewing Our Spiritual Home"



## We need to hear from YOU!!!!

Please give us your feedback on what we have presented to you. It will be very helpful to hear what you think as we can't do this without your support.

- Do you see the need for these projects? Yes or No  
Comment: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Would you be willing to help support these projects? Yes or No  
Comment: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- If you were to offer a pledge to these projects what length of time would be best for you – 1 year - 2 years - 3 years ?  
Comment: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Does the priority list proposed accurately address the needs of the parish?  
Is there something we missed? Yes or No  
Comment: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your name: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

## **Merry Christmas New York**

Father Charles and Laurie Mangano, along with the Love Movement Choir from Trinidad and Tobago present a Christmas Concert, "Merry Christmas New York" on **Saturday, December 11 at 2 PM at Alice Tully Hall Starr Theater at Lincoln Center**. Tickets are \$50 and \$75 per person, with group rates available. For ticket information, email to [www.lincolncenter.org](http://www.lincolncenter.org).

## **International Christmas**

**Saturday, December 11 and**

**Sunday, December 12**

**11 AM - 3:30 PM**

### **Sagtikos Manor**

Celebrate an International Christmas at the Sagtikos Manor. Join us for a guided tour, where each decorated room interprets the traditions and customs of different countries. Afterwards stop by our holiday themed gift shop and greenery table (hand-made wreaths, etc.) and enjoy some holiday refreshments. Tours leave on the quarter hour. Reservations are highly recommended. For more information call: 631.661.5169 or 631.249.8023 for reservations or download a reservation form from their website [www.sagtikosmanor.com](http://www.sagtikosmanor.com). Ticket prices are \$5 for children ages 5 - 12, \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors over 60 and students if tickets are purchased before December 4. Tickets are \$20 at the door.

## **Andy Cooney's**

### **"Classic Irish Christmas Show"**

**On Sunday, December 5 at 2 PM Andy Cooney's "Classic Irish Christmas Show" to benefit Hope House Ministries will be held at St. Joseph's College, Patchogue.** Andy and his band will be joined by "Ireland's New King of Blarney," George Casey and others. Reserved seat admission tickets are \$30 per person, and may be purchased by calling 631.928.2377, extension 22.

## **Indoor Christmas Craft Fair**

**Westminster United Presbyterian Church**

**Udall Road, West Islip**

**Saturday, December 4**

**9 AM - 4 PM**

Come One – Come All! Offering free gift-wrapping while supplies last! Vendors are wanted. Donation fee: \$40 Please call as soon as possible to secure your table. Call the church office for more information: Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday from 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM at 631.661.6740

## **Retrouvaille**

*Do you feel alone? Are You frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue or have you just stopped talking to each other?*

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, or to register for the upcoming weekend that begins **Friday, December 3 at the Monfort Retreat House in Bay Shore**, please call 1.800.470.2230 and you will be connected directly and confidentially to a couple from Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille who can help.

## **The Dream of God for Us and for Our World:**

### **“A Time Has Come for Singing”**

**Saturday, December 4 from 10 AM until 3:30 PM. Registration begins at 9:30 AM at the Cenacle in Ronkonkoma.** Advent is a time of letting ourselves dream of great possibilities to live God’s Dream to bring us back from where we have been exiled to a place of peace, security, safety and freedom. As we listen to our hearts’ longings, let us allow God to fill us with the hope and promise of God’s coming. Offering: \$50 for the day includes light lunch. Presenters are Mary Spratt, r.c and Elenore Woronick, r.c. For more information, please call 631.588.8366.

## **Plaster Statues or Real People?**

**Sunday, December 5 from 1:30 PM until 5 PM. Registration begins at 1 PM at the Cenacle in Ronkonkoma.** In the Christmas story, we encounter Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Zechariah and Simeon who had the same experiences we have, and some of the same questions, too. Come and learn from their faith and deepen you own. Offering is \$30 for the afternoon and includes light refreshments. Presenters are Bob Freudenberg, Cenacle Staff Associate and Barbara Regan, r.c. For more information, please call 631.588.8366.

## **The Reed of God:A Silent Day of Prayer**

**Saturday, December 11 from 10 AM until 4 PM. Registration begins at 9:30 AM at the Cenacle in Ronkonkoma.** In her spiritual classic *The Reed of God*, Caryll Houselander ponders the virginal quality of emptiness. With her, let us look to the Blessed Virgin to discover how we might become hollow reeds, empty chalices or warm nests ready to receive the growth of the hidden Christ. Offering is \$50 for this silent day and includes a light lunch. Presenters are Kathy Madden, CND and Pat O’Connor, Cenacle Staff Associate.

## Thirty-eighth Annual Spaghetti Dinner

*Boy Scout Troop 194*

**Sunday, December 5 at the Babylon High School cafeteria from 2 PM until 6:30 PM.**

Dinner includes spaghetti, meatballs, bread/butter, salad, beverage and dessert. The cost is \$5 per person children under five years of age are free. tickets will be available at the door. All proceeds support the activities of the troop.

## Gathering and Book Discussion

*for Spiritual Directors*

*The Dynamism of Desire* by Bernard J.F. Lonergan, SJ. (Monthly from October to May) **Next discussion to be held on Monday, November 22 from 1 PM until 4 PM at the St. Ignatius Retreat House, Manhasset.** Facilitators are Karen Doyle, SSJ and Evelyn Sheehan. Offering \$20 per session; \$125 for all sessions. Book for sale in St. Ignatius book store.

## Dominican Village

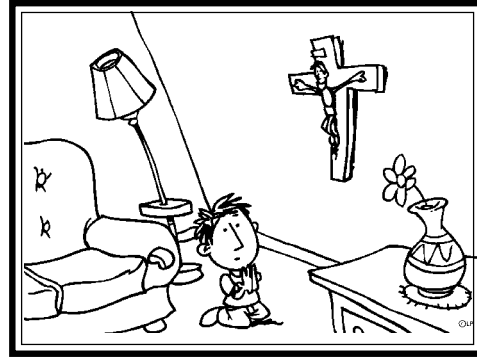
**Please join us for an Open House on Saturday, December 4 from 1 PM until 3 PM.** Dominican Village is an independent retirement community that offers assisted living and respite care, outstanding programs, all-inclusive services and bountiful amenities. For more information, or to schedule a tour at your convenience, call 631.842.6091 or [info@dominicanvillage.org](mailto:info@dominicanvillage.org).

## 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 TELECARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 296 for the Best in Catholic Television!

# Sharing the Gospel

When the soldiers hurt Jesus, they were only doing their job. They did not understand that they were killing God's Son. Jesus saw into the hearts of those soldiers, and he forgave them. A man next to Jesus on the cross had done terrible things. He knew he deserved to die on a cross, and he was truly sorry. This criminal believed that



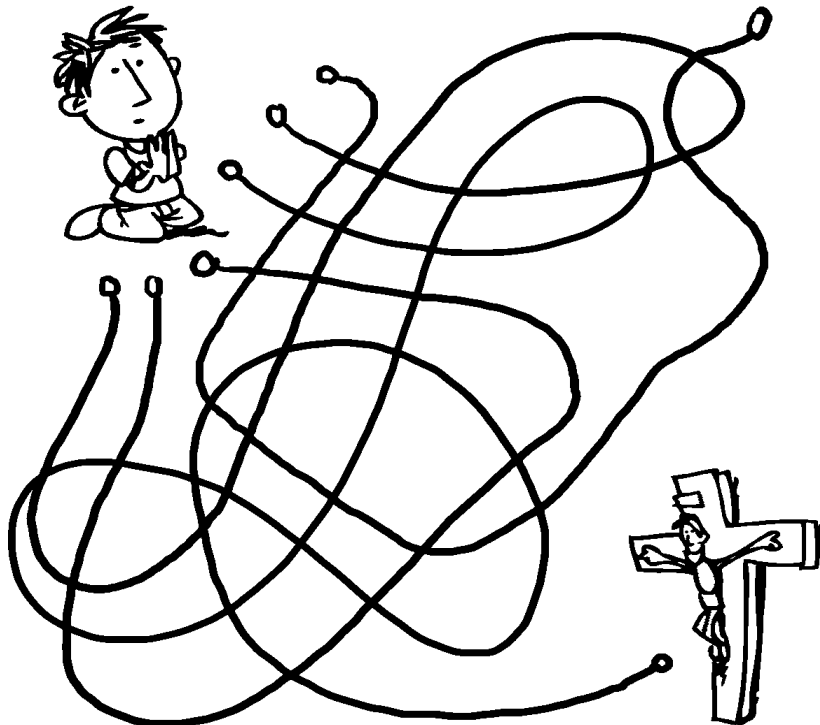
Jesus was God's Son. Jesus saw into that criminal's heart, and Jesus forgave him, too.

## Mission for the Week

Jesus forgave the people who killed him. He expects you to forgive people who hurt "you, too. Think of one person with whom you have been angry. Ask God to help you forgive that person, because Jesus forgives you.

## Puzzle

Find the path that leads to Jesus.



©LPI

## Prayer



Dear God,  
 thank you for  
 sending Jesus to  
 forgive my sins, too.

## Something to Draw



Draw a picture of  
 Jesus on the cross.