

Our Lady of Lourdes • First Sunday of Advent • November 28, 2010

So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.



Matthew 24:44



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

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

Diane Ackerly

Stacie Baltrusitis

Mary Borgs

Lisa Cantalino

Sonia DaSilva

Nilo DeLeon

Jerry Esposito

Trish Frodell

Rosalie Mangels

Maryellen McKee

Deacon Jack Meehan

John Muldoon

Bob Natale

Eileen Rega

Vita Scorcio

Fr. Mike Vetrano

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

fax: 661.7143

website: www.ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes School

587.7200 (option 2)

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: lkrol@ollschoo.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

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

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...

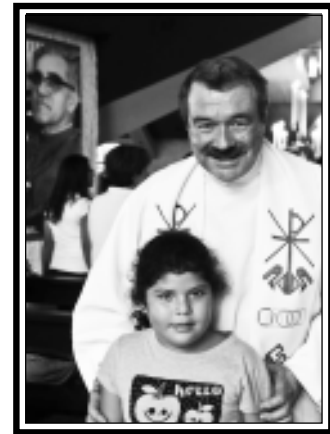
Mission Trip to El Salvador 2011!

This year, our parish will be sponsoring its annual trip to El Salvador from July 2 - July 8, 2011. Those who are interested in joining our team are invited to attend our next meeting which will take place on December 12 in the Parish Center at 7 PM. Those who have participated in previous trips are invited to attend as well and will be a source of information for trip hopefuls. Please email Allegra@ollchurch.org with questions.

El Salvador Sponsorship Appreciation 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: _____

Our Lady of Lourdes School



Breakfast with Santa

Sunday, December 12

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 254.24998

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: _____ email _____

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 \$ _____



Breakfast with Santa



Youth Group Meeting Schedule

Fall 2010

Middle School

High School

December 9 and 16

December 2 (*Lourdes Hall*) and 16

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

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. **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 of the Word

CLTW Team

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 with any questions or to sign up.

Follow the CLTW Angel throughout Advent!

The Advent Angel will be teaching our children the true meaning of Christmas during Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9:30 AM Mass, all through the Advent season.



On Sunday, November 21, our CLTW participants made an Advent Angel to take home, who would be with them through the Christmas count down. Each week in Children's Liturgy, the Advent Angel will teach a new lesson about preparing for the birth of Christ, which every family can follow on the parish website. Just go to www.ollchurch.org to read our lessons and ask the questions that help us to understand this blessed holiday.

Don't worry! If you did not get to make an Advent Angel on the November 21, we have many angels waiting for a friend. Just find a member of CLTW at the 9:30 AM Mass and you may take an Advent Angel home to make and love with your family.

Adult Faith Formation

Finding My Way to Bethlehem

An Advent Evening of Reflection

Presenters: Fr. Pat Amabile along with the
Evangelization Ministry

Tuesday, November 30

7:30 PM in the 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 share a meal with Jesus!

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



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 atnkuchler@ollschool.org. The Training Sessions will be in the Church on 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!



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 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.



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.



Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

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

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.

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.



You are invited...

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to readings (lessons) which preach the Good News. Each reading is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the message of God.

Our Lady of Lourdes Lessons & Carols will be on **Saturday, December 11, at 7 PM in the Church**. Presented by the OLL Lectors and Choirs. Refreshments will follow.

Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, November 29, at 12:30 PM in the Parish Center**.

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.

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.

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.)

Welcome

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

David and Nancy Moravec and family

William and Keriann Hespeler and family

Anthony and Jennifer Costa 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 29

8:00 AM Howard Campkin

Tuesday, November 30

Saint Andrew, apostle

8:00 AM Robert D. Colin

Wednesday, December 1

8:00 AM John Lovari

Thursday, December 2

8:00 AM Virginia Trimarchi

Friday, December 3

Saint Francis Xavier, priest

8:00 AM Ulderico Toma

Saturday, December 4

8:00 AM Vincent & David McCarthy,
Kenneth Kaese, Joan Udris,
Thomas Frascinella,
Sr. Barbara Moynahan

5:00 PM Margaret Varley
Fr. Pat Amabile

Sunday, December 5

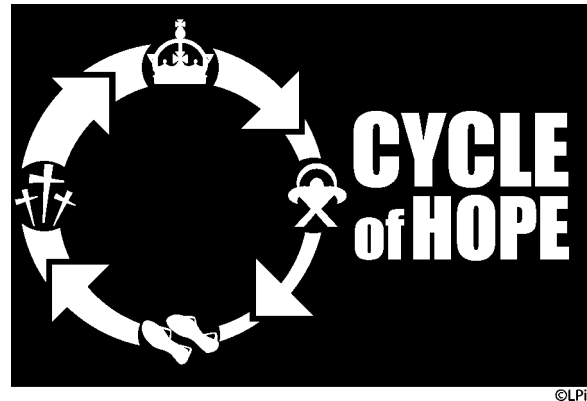
8:00 AM Jack Timmer
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

9:30 AM Tony Squeo
Fr. Pat Amabile

11:00 AM James J. Werner
Fr. Mike Vetrano

12:30 PM Joseph DiGangi
Fr. Mike Vetrano

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Dorothy Monteleone,
Richard F. Fauvell, Joan Cervini,
Marge Cassiano (*living*), Brendan Clarke,
Cestaro-Reuter Family (*living*)
Fr. Bob Scheckenback



1st Sunday of Advent

Wheel of Fortune is more than a TV game show with Pat Sajak and Vanna White. While they have been at it for almost thirty years, having contestants spin the wheel and puzzle out the hidden phrase-"I'd like to buy a vowel, Pat!"-Fortune's Wheel has a much longer history.

Going back to Roman times, and then made famous in the Middle Ages, the true "Wheel of Fortune" is an allegory on life. Fortuna (Fortune) is shown as a woman who spins the wheel with a person at the top, one on either side, and a fourth crushed at the bottom. The person on his way up will reign, the one on top is reigning, the person on his way down has reigned, and the final person on the bottom has lost everything. This is fortune's never ending cycle in human existence.

At first glance, the return of the Son of Man in Sunday's Gospel may seem to be no more than the vagaries of fortune. For men in the field and for women grinding grain, the fate is the same: "one will be taken, and one will be left." It is as though Jesus were describing the employment situation in the current economy.

Rather than adhering to the wheel of falling and rising fortunes, with the beginning of the church year today we enter into our annual cycle of celebrations of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. As Christians, we are on a greater journey than a wheel of fortune. The life of Christ is our life, too. As Paul reminds us in his Letter to the Romans, we have put on the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not fortune that guides us, but hope: hope in Christ, who is our salvation. We will follow him in this new year of grace, and through faith and love we will be ready to welcome him when he comes again.

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Readings for the Week of November 28, 2010

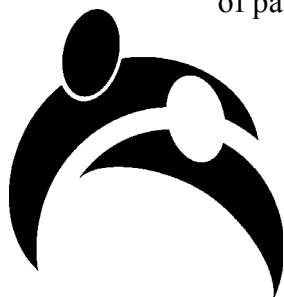
Sunday:	Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
Monday:	Is 4:2-6/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35---10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday:	Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

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 ...

*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, Joe 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 21, 2010

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

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

Due to the change in the bulletin deadline, the collection amount for November 21 will be published next week.

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

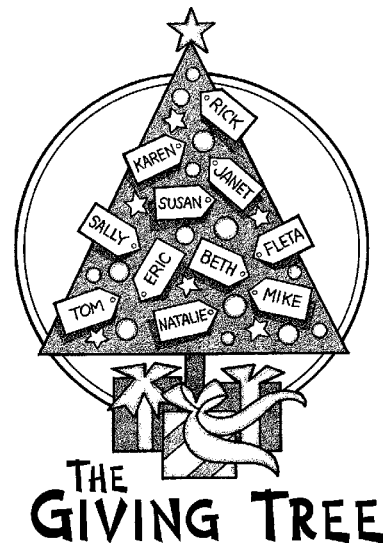
Anthony Mannino-US Marines

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

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 in 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 McMahon
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 McMahon, 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.

A Nun's Story

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

When we think of a saint we tend to think only of someone who has been officially canonized by the church, but I have a few patron saints who have not been formally canonized.

One of these is a former teacher of mine who died five years ago. Her name was Sister Shirley Christopher, an Ursuline nun. I was fortunate enough to have had her as my homeroom teacher for three years of high school. She taught History, English, French, and Religion and was an extraordinary teacher, both in talent and in dedication, and she influenced me more deeply than any other teacher whom I have ever met inside a classroom.

She taught the content of her courses with wonderful clarity, but that was only part of her giftedness. She taught us how to learn, how to study, how to outline materials, how to memorize the parts of a French verb, how to teach, how to inspire a student, how to give yourself over as a teacher in both a personal and professional way, and, most important, how to fix your life on what is important.

Her influence in my life is incalculable. After leaving high school, I went on to seminary and college, then to graduate school, to post-graduate school, and then became a teacher myself. In all the classrooms I have been in since, I haven't met anyone who taught as clearly as Sr. Shirley. Moreover, the methods she taught me, way back in 9th grade, served me well right through my PhD studies and my doctoral dissertation. I did my research for and outlined my doctoral thesis using her method. Today I teach using her pedagogy. She knew PowerPoint long before it was invented.

However, back in high school when I sat in her classroom, I was too young to have much sense of what all this must have been costing her. She was just my teacher; I didn't give much thought to her life, never for a moment thinking of what this might be asking of her. She was a gifted educator, but was spending the prime years of her life teaching in one of the most isolated, rural areas of Saskatchewan's prairies. Our high school, long since disappeared, wasn't exactly the place where academic careers were launched, nurtured, or discovered. We had access to her exceptional talent only because she was a nun, vowed to serving the poor, to teaching in areas like ours.

Moreover, as a high-school student, I had virtually no sense of what this might have been costing her in terms of her personal life, as a nun and as a woman. What's it like to sacrifice husband, children, and family in order to do this? What's it like to live within the strict community enclosures of pre-Vatican II religious life? What's it like to live with five or six other women inside of a convent in a very isolated rural community where everyone treats you with a respect that also includes a radical distancing from you? What's it like to approach menopause and not have children?

As her student, I was only beginning to have a sense of the complexity of life and of how even the deepest faith doesn't necessarily take away your humanity with all its fiery needs and how inside of even the most dedicated nun there remains a woman who, every day, would want to take back from God what the nun gave over.

Whatever the cost, she paid it, and did so without ever losing her graciousness, her intelligence, her faith, and her sense that personal ambition is secondary to serving others.

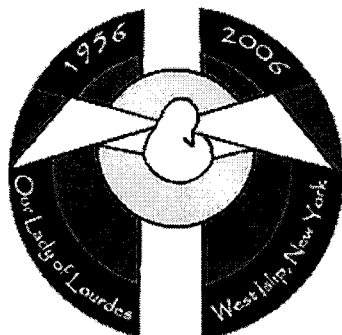
I left high school at graduation and never saw her again until many years later. She was semi-retired by then, had grown grey, and had put aside her religious habit for simple lay clothing, but she was wonderfully happy, much happier than when I had known her as a teacher. She looked like an elder now, a magus, a wisdom figure, Sophia in an aging body. But she radiated the kind of peace that comes when we are enviably beyond the painful neediness of youth. She was a celibate, a nun, old enough now to have her own grandchildren, but, even without them, a fulfilled woman, happy, without the need to make some assertion with her life.

I visited her several months before her death, when she was already in palliative care. I told her what she meant to me and thanked her for her dedication. And she was ever the teacher I'd studied under 40 years before: gracious, professional, dedicated, self-effacing: "I just did my best."

When the military in El Salvador threatened Archbishop Romero with death, he responded by saying: "If you kill me, I will rise within the Salvadorian people." Sister Shirley Christopher OSU died on November 19, 2004, but she is alive still in many of us, her former students, who were blessed to have had so talented and selfless a teacher. Her life goes on.

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.

"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.

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. 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 Montfort 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 your 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*, Caryl 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.

Long Island Catholic Sunday

Just a reminder that the collection for The Long Island Catholic is to be taken up the weekend of December 4/5. As our parishes all face increasing financial challenges, we need to ask ALL our readers to contribute to the TLIC Sunday collection, to relieve our parish of that expense. The \$20 annual donation amounts to less than 45 cents per issue, for what we hope you agree is an essential part of our faith life here in the Church of Long Island.

The Long Island Catholic is a vital tool for teaching and evangelizing the faith, important to have in your home and in the homes of Catholics throughout our diocese. And we implore you to help us keep that happening, by making your \$20 donation when you attend Mass on the weekend of December 4/5.

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.

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 "**Responsibility.**" 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!

Sharing the Gospel

Remember that when God told Noah to build an ark, his neighbors laughed at him. Then "one day God sent the flood. Only Noah's family was saved because they listened to God, and they were ready. Jesus has already told you that one day he will come back. He wants "you to be saved. He wants you to be ready. When you read Bible stories, listen carefully. Love God like Noah did, and learn to do what God asks.



Mission for the Week



Make sure the movies, games, and music you choose help you grow closer to Jesus.

Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

NOAH
EATING
DRINKING

MARRIED
FLOOD
TOGETHER

TAKEN
LEFT
READY

S T B F L O O D E O
N O A H N Y U R M G
 U G R D O D T K A N
 O E A T I N G W R H
 N T Y A U R L O R L
 W H I K L C M H I M
 O E N E R S E V E L
 D R I N K I N G D E
 N O W H N T H I E F
 I S R E A D Y C O T

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Prayer



Dear God,
 help me to love
 you and to be ready
 for Jesus.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of
 Noah and his family
 on the ark with all
 the animals.