

"The people who have  
walked in darkness  
have seen a great light."



Isaiah 9:1

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 23, 2011 - Our Lady of Lourdes



## *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

**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-Catho-  
lics and for Catholics who have  
never received formal religious  
education. If interested, please call  
the Parish Office.

## *Welcome to our Parish Family!*

*New Parishioners are cordially invited to register as  
members of our parish family.*

*Please call or visit our Parish Office.*

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### *Mission Statement*

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

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### *Vision...*

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

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

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

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

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

## *Pastoral Team*

**Rev. Michael A. Vetrano**  
Pastor

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**Rev. Patsy Amabile**  
Associate Pastor

**Rev. Robert Scheckenback**  
Associate Pastor

**Rev. Ambrose Cabildo**  
In Residence

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**Deacon John DeGuardi**

**Deacon Tom Lucie**

**Deacon Jack Meehan**  
Coordinator of Stewardship

**Deacon John Teufel**

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**Sr. Margaret Bickar**

Senior Ministry-SAGE

**Sr. Nancy Campkin**

Director of Religious Education

**Allegra D'Alo**

Youth Minister/Social Action

**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 Scorgia**

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 Scorgia

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**

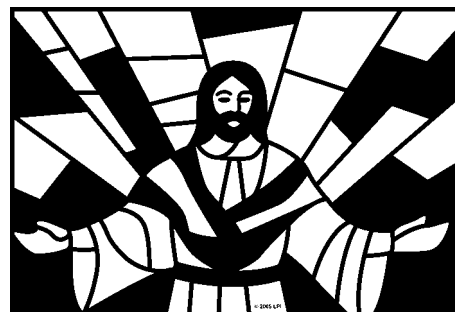
School Office

**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)

*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](mailto:parishoffice@ollchurch.org)

*Welcome...*

*to Our Lady of Lourdes!*



*I would like information about:*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joining the Parish                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Baptizing my Children                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Education of my Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Becoming a Catholic or Adult Confirmation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage or Annulment / Remarriage | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Direction or Counseling         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Our Parish Catholic School         | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Services                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                               |

I would prefer to be contacted by:

Phone at: \_\_\_\_\_ Email at: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail at: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Our Lady of Lourdes School**

# **Our Doors are Always Open**



## **OPEN HOUSE**

**Sunday, January 30 • 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

**Family Mass 9:30 AM**

### ***Come See What Makes Us Different?***

NEW Fully Stocked Science Lab & Media Center, SmartBoard used in every classroom, Piano/Guitar/Violin/Ballroom Dance Lessons, Italian and Spanish Language, After-School Enrichment Clubs, Student Government, Classroom Laptops, Championship Sports Program, Student run TV Studio, Extended Care, 8th Grade 'Academy of Inquiry' in partnership with Stony Brook Medical School, Distance Learning with NASA, and Virtual Field Trips from Nursery through 8th Grade, Early Childhood Programs beginning at 2 years old.

**Visit our classes in session-  
Have your child shadow a buddy for the day!**

**2010 -2011 Rolling Registration  
Stop in or Call to Make an Appointment**

*Our Lady of Lourdes School admits students of any and all races and affords all students, regardless of race, all rights, privileges, and opportunities to participate in all programs and activities generally afforded and made available to students at the School. The School does not discriminate on the basis of race in the administration of its education policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other School-administered programs.*

**Phone: 631.587.7200 ext.100**

**Fax: 631.587.4531**

**Please visit our Website: [www.ollschool.org](http://www.ollschool.org)**



## **March for Life**

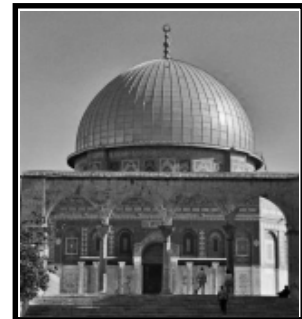
Please join Ss. Cyril and Methodius Parish and School as we  
**“March for Life” in Washington, DC on Monday, January 24.**

Mass will be at 5 AM and then we will leave on the bus and return before 11 PM. A non-refundable \$15 donation is requested.

We have water and snacks. Bring your own lunch, your rosary and your energy to our nation’s Capitol to hear our Church and political leaders speak out for life. For further information, or to sign up, please call Annette at 631.661.9109.

If you have any more questions, you can contact Fr. Bob Scheckenback, Respect Life contact person here at Our Lady of Lourdes.

## **OLL Pilgrimage to the Holy Land Walking in Jesus’ Footsteps April 25 - May 4, 2011**



**Come and walk in the footsteps of Jesus along with our Pastor, Fr. Mike Vetrano.**

Consider being with family and friends on a trip of a lifetime! Walk the streets of Jerusalem and be in the place of our Christian heritage. Come to Bethlehem, visit the Basilica of the Nativity. Be at the Baptism site of Jesus on the Jordan River, sail on the Sea of Galilee and walk in the Garden of Gethsemane. You will visit the room of the Last Supper, walk on the Via Dolorosa “The Way of the Cross”, and drive through the wilderness of Judea and the mountains of Jerusalem. All this on your trip of a lifetime.

## Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

We will celebrate the **Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes with Healing Mass / Anointing of the Sick on Friday, February 11 at 7:30 PM.**



Join us at 7:30 PM to celebrate a Healing Mass on this evening, devoted to Mary and the great healing tradition at Lourdes. We invite all to come to celebrate the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

This sacrament may be received by anyone with a desire to receive God's healing in time of sickness, for age and infirmity, for healing of grief, anxiety, and other emotional suffering, for any healing you desire to receive from God.

## Adult Faith Formation

### Book Discussion:

***The Naked Now* by Richard Rohr**

**Presenter: Tom Petriano**

**Tuesdays January 25, February 1, 8, 15 and March 1**

**Parish Center**

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

*Book will be available for purchase in the Religious Education Office. Cost is \$18.*

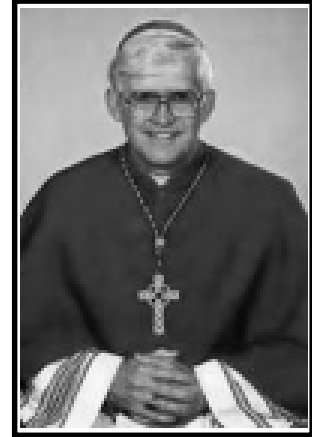
*It will be helpful to read Chapter 1 before first session.*

The description of Richard Rohr's most recent book, *The Naked Now*, suggests that it was written to:

- *Awaken* your desire for God
- *Free* yourself from the fears that can cripple you
- *Connect* to the joy already within you
- *Transform* yourself
- *Inspire* others to see as the mystics see
- *Live* in full awareness of the Naked Now

Come be a part of lively discussions and interesting presentations. Don't miss it!

*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).*



## **Pastoral Visit from Bishop Dunne**

**Bishop John Dunne will be visiting Our Lady of Lourdes during the weekend of February 12 and 13.** He will be preaching at all Masses that weekend and meeting with many of our parish groups.

Bishop Dunne visits our parish every three to four years to help us strengthen our parish life. We look forward to his visit!



The Rosary Christian Mothers are sponsoring a **St. Valentine's Day Dance to be held on Saturday, February 12 in the All-Purpose Room.**

The proceeds from the dance will go towards the "Grotto to Our Lady of Lourdes."

There will be dancing to the music of "Rick," dinner, wine, beer, soda coffee, and dessert - all for only \$35 per person. Don't forget 50/50, raffles and baskets of cheer!

We will be taking reservations for tables of two, four, six, and eight people. For reservations, please call Claire at 669-3178, Angie at 586.2084, Patty at 669.1727, or Angela at 669.7275.

*Watch future bulletins for more details...*





## Youth Group Meetings

Happy New Year to all from our active youth group! Youth Ministry has taken on a new life at OLL. Youth Group is meeting once a week with both High School and Middle School students. Each meeting is a chance for students to discuss the things that are on their minds—we begin with a prayer and something we call “the high/low check in.” Our group of about twenty explains the best and worst parts of their week. We then move on to a spiritual reflection. Sometimes we talk about faith, what God “looks” like or even sit in complete silence for ten minutes (no easy accomplishment for a teenager)! We finish off each meeting with a “Big Question.” What is a “Big Question?”

It is a question that starts an ethical discussion; a debate about what is right and what is wrong and maybe some things that are in between. Some times it is about Catholic Social teaching which the students act out in our monthly service projects. *Please check the bulletin for important El Salvador meetings and fundraisers.*

## Children for Children at CLTW

*“Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me...”*

Throughout the month of January the Children’s Liturgy of the Word Committee will be collecting the following items for Parish Outreach:

*Diapers of all sizes*

*Formula*

*Baby wipes*

*Baby Food*

Please bring donations to the Outreach pantry bin at the Parish Center on Sundays in January. There are children all over Long Island, and here in West Islip, who need our help which is why CLTW has started “Children for Children.” Christ was a child born to a modest family in a manger and we know his worth. Please help us to celebrate the value of the children in our community who are also members of families who are struggling. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

## 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 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.



### We sponsor a child through CFCA!

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

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

## Senior Circle

The next meeting will be held on **Monday, January 31, 2011 at 12:30PM in the Parish Center.**

## Men's Prayer Group-Morning

*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 20, 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.

## Centering Prayer Group

OLL Centering Prayer Group will be meeting in the **Spiritual Life Center** on **Thursday, January 20 at 7:30 PM.** If you have any questions, please contact Diane at 587.0966.

## Men's Prayer Group-Evening

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, January 18.** Come with your ideas.

We'll read and discuss the Liturgy for the following Sunday Mass.

For more information, call Bob Natale at 893.3041, Charles Zeiss at 669.7189 or Cliff Proctor at 669.3198.

## 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, call Charles Argento at 586.8528.

# Remembering...

## Monday, January 24

*Saint Francis de Sales, bishop and doctor of the Church*

8:00 AM Joseph & Amelia Moscarelli

## Tuesday, January 25

*The Conversion of St. Paul, apostle*

8:00 AM Domenica Prudente

## Wednesday, January 26

*Saint Timothy and Saint Titus, bishops*

8:00 AM Jerry N. Esposito, Sr.

## Thursday, January 27

8:00 AM James Olsen

## Friday, January 28

*Saint Thomas Aquinas, priest and doctor of the Church*

8:00 AM Charlie Clarke

## Saturday, January 29

8:00 AM James J. Gilchriest, Linda Kelly, Carmine Maiocco,  
Ashley Frangella, Cono J. Gallo, Sofia Togher,  
Charles Maneri, Joseph Feraco

5:00 PM Anthony Cannizzaro

*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

## Sunday, January 30

8:00 AM Thomas J. Courtney

*Fr. Pat Amabile*

9:30 AM Ross Goldin

*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

11:00 AM Dolores Haggerty

*Fr. Pat Amabile*

12:30 PM Matthew Badamo

*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Anita Argento, Josephine Carrano,  
Christine Mullins, Vera Mandile, Margaret McCluskey,  
Frank & Marge Riggio, Salvatore DeMeo, Bernice Kean

*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

## Rest In Peace

*William Best* died on January 13 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 15. We extend our prayers to his wife, Marjorie, children, grandchildren, and entire family.



# OLL Week-at-a-Glance

Week of	Church	Parish Center	Spiritual Life Center
<b>Monday</b> January 24	8 AM Mass Miraculous Medal Novena after 8 AM Mass 4 PM PEP 3 Class 7 PM PEP 2 Word of God		7 PM Virtus Training SLC
<b>Tuesday</b> January 25	8 AM Mass	7:30 PM AFF- <i>The Naked Now</i>	8PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH
<b>Wednesday</b> January 26	8 AM Mass	10 AM FHC Meeting 7:30 PM FHC Meeting	10 AM AlAnon LH 7:30 PM Bereavement Support Group
<b>Thursday</b> January 27	8 AM Mass 5 PM Youth Choir 7 PM Adult Choir		6 PM RCIA SLC
<b>Friday</b> January 28	8 AM Mass 7:30 PM Parish Ministry Thank You	7:30 PM Parish Ministry Thank You	
<b>Saturday</b> January 29	8 AM Mass 4-4:45 Confessions 5 PM Mass	6 PM Single Senior Social	2 PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH 7 PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH
<b>Sunday</b> January 30	8 AM Mass 9:30 AM Mass 11 AM Mass 6 PM Mass	12:30 PM Mass Contemporary	11 AM RCIA SLC
		4:30 PM Gr 8 RESCUE	

# "Renewing Our Spiritual Home"



Stewardship 2010

## Projects that need to be addressed...

- Church lighting and electrical
- Narthex entrance
- Church pews, kneelers, chairs, and doors
- Parking lot refurbishment
- Parish Center air conditioner unit
- Parish Center repair and remodel

### Update: January 18

Last fall we applied to the Diocese of Rockville Centre for permission to conduct a campaign for our much needed renewal of our parish. Representatives from the diocese reviewed our plans, our cost estimates, and our financial health to be sure we can successfully undertake this project. Just this week we received word that our campaign and projects are approved. We have formed a committee now to begin work on raising these funds. Our fundraising goal is \$810,000 to complete all of our needed projects.

If you would like to help our committee, please send an email to [pastor@ollchurch.org](mailto:pastor@ollchurch.org).

*Fr. Mike*



## 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

After reading today's Gospel, I found myself wondering what would be the kind of call for which I would leave at once what I was doing as Simon Peter and Andrew did. I know if my next-door neighbor with a disabled daughter would call for help I would run over right away. The same goes if I got a phone call for help from my ninety-three-year-old mother. If there were an accident in front of my house I would run out right away. And if someone important called—the president, the mayor, the bishop (all unlikely probabilities), my boss—I would respond. I tried to think for whom I would get up from my work and leave immediately, and I was hard-pressed to come up with an answer.

All this leads me to wonder about the Gospel. Did Peter and Andrew already know Jesus? Were James and John familiar with his teaching? Matthew doesn't give us much to go on other than the fact that Jesus had started preaching a message of repentance and the advent of the kingdom of heaven. So what made them get up at once and go?

Certainly the spontaneous response of these four fishermen to Jesus involved the action of God's grace. Maybe they had already considered getting out of the business. Or possibly they were mesmerized by this charismatic preacher. For whatever reason, Peter and Andrew, James and John chose to cooperate with God's grace by responding to the call that Jesus gave to them. Their response changed their lives forever. We know they still did fishing, even after the Resurrection (see Jn 21), but they became apostles and spread the good news of Jesus throughout the world. God's call to each of us may not be as dramatic as someone walking up to us in the workplace and saying, "Follow me." But the call comes just the same. Are we ready to cooperate with God's grace? 2010 Liturgical Publications Inc

### Readings for the Week of January 23, 2011

<b>Sunday:</b>	Is 8:23---9:3/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17
<b>Monday:</b>	Heb 9:15, 24-28/Mk 3:22-30
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22/Mk 16:15-18
<b>Wednesday:</b>	2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Mk 4:1-20
<b>Thursday:</b>	Heb 10:19-25/Mk 4:21-25
<b>Friday:</b>	Heb 10:32-39/Mk 4:26-34
<b>Saturday:</b>	Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Mk 4:35-41
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

## Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Janet Loehr*.  
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 ...

*Giovanni Andriola, Susan Aviza, Viola Callanan, Grace Ciccarello,  
Virginia Crescini, Lucilia DaTorre, Beverly DeCanio, Jeanne DellaRagione,  
Tony Drexler, Debbie Eichen, Jerry Fabozzi, Ann Farrell, Jake Feldman,  
Patricia Ferrara, Zana Gashi, Kathleen Kerrigan, Robyn Kerrigan, Eric Lee,  
Ann Losee, Louise Malcuit, John McNevin, Vincent Meade, Frances Miranda,  
Julio Miranda, Michael Montesanto, John Mordente, Ruth Murray, Evelyn Nonnon,  
Philomena Owens, Karen Parpounas, Mary Phelan, Fran Pizzani, Joe Radosti,  
Dorothy Schiavone, AnnMarie Schiraldi, Baby Isabella Shaw, Derek Stahl,  
Lindsay Stahl, Linda Starr, Kay Stevesnon, Patrick Tardo, Nancy Turano,  
Bunny Vilim, Patricia Wallace, Joe Yezek*

## Financial Summary

### January 16, 2011

Weekly Collection	\$ 16,239.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (2,761.00)

*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:



**Stephen Cochrane**-*US Marines*  
**Bryan R. Dempsey**-*US Marines*  
**Christopher Florca**-*US Marines*  
**Anthony Mannino**-*US Marines*  
**JD Montefusco**-*US Marines*  
**Joshua Tyrrell**-*US Army*

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



## Parish Outreach

**Office telephone:**

661-9262, option 4

**Office hours:**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30 AM - 3 PM

## Outreach Donations

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.

## “Reach Out” Program

***“Some people live their entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world...”***

*Ronald Regan*

Please contact the Outreach office if someone you love is serving on active duty overseas. Outreach will be starting a “Reach Out” Program offering support to men and women on active duty in any branch of the Military.

## Haiti and the Theodicy Question

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Where is God in the countless tragedies that happen in our world? Where is God when bad things happen to good people? Where was God during the Holocaust?

These are timeless questions and, taken together, constitute what is often called the theodicy question, the question of God and human suffering.

Every so often this question hits us with a particular poignancy, as it did last week with the earthquake in Haiti. Somewhere between a quarter of a million and half a million people are dead, thousands are injured, hundreds of thousands are homeless, thousands more now face the possibility of disease from lack of proper water, food, housing, and hygiene, its capital city has been almost completely destroyed, and virtually everyone in the country has lost loved ones. And all of this happened to one of the poorest nations in the world - and to a people who have a deep faith in God.

Where is God in all this? How does one find a faith perspective within which to understand this? Not easily.

When we search scripture for answers, we find that neither the Jewish scriptures nor Jesus try to tackle the question philosophically, namely, in the type of way that Christian and Jewish apologetic writers have tried to answer it. Scripture and Jesus, instead, do two things: First, they place suffering and tragedy into a larger perspective within which God is understood more as redeeming suffering rather than as rescuing us from it. Second, they assure us that God is with us, a fellow-sufferer, in any tragedy.

For example, anyone who follows the daily readings for the church's liturgy, cannot not have noticed, that on the very day after the earthquake, there was a haunting parallel between what happened in Haiti and what was described in that day's Epistle taken from the Book of Samuel. Here is an excerpt from the Epistle for the liturgy the day after the earthquake:

So the people went to Shiloh, and brought with them the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the Ark of the Covenant. When the ark of the covenant of the Lord was brought into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the whole earth resounded. ... [And with that faith and confidence, Israel marched into battle, but] ... Israel was defeated, and everyone fled, each to his own house. There was a great

slaughter and thirty thousand of her foot-soldiers fell. The ark of the covenant was captured; and the two sons of Eli died.

One doesn't have to strain the imagination to write a haunting parallel:

So the people Haiti practiced their Christian faith with piety and confidence. They went to their churches, received the Eucharist, and lit vigil candles to their God. And they trusted that their God would protect them. But there came a great earthquake. Hundreds of thousands of its people died, its great buildings were all leveled, all its churches were destroyed, its beloved cathedral fell to the ground, and the Archbishop was killed.

So where was God in all of this?

The Book of Samuel doesn't try to write an apologetics to explain what happened that day when a people who had just celebrated its faith and confidence in God were utterly crushed in battle. It doesn't try to explain where God was when this happened. It simply continues to tell its story and, eventually, we see how God redeems a tragedy from which he didn't rescue its victims. It also makes clear that God was with the people of Israel, even as they were being routed.

Jesus gives us essentially the same perspective: When his friend, Lazarus, lay dying, he didn't rush to his side to rescue him. He waited until Lazarus was dead and only then went to his home. He was met there by the sisters of Lazarus, Martha and Mary, who each asked him the painful question: Where were you when our brother was dying? Why didn't you come and cure him?

Jesus, for his part, doesn't meet their question head-on. Instead he simply asks: "Where have you put him?" They answer: "Come, we'll show you!" They take him to the grave and when Jesus sees the tomb and drinks in their grief, he sits down and begins to cry. He enters and shares their grief. Only afterwards does he raise up the body of his dead friend.

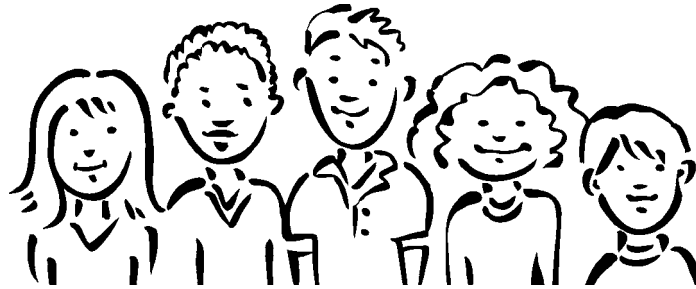
Where was God when the earthquake hit Haiti?

He was weeping with its people, grieving outside its mass graves, sitting in sadness beside its collapsed buildings. He was there, though he provided no Hollywood or Superman-type rescue. Moreover we can be sure he will redeem what was lost. In God's time, eventually, not a single life or single dream that died in Haiti will remain unredeemed. In the end, all will be well and all will be well and every manner of being will be well.

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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).*

## We Can End Childhood Hunger...



*"If a child smiles, if an adult smiles, this is very important. In our daily life, if we can smile, if we can be peaceful and happy, not only we, but everyone will profit from it. This is the most basic kind of peace work."*

*Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hahn*

### **We Have the Resources. Do We Have the Will?**

"Hungry children incur ... impairments that limit their physical, intellectual and emotional development.... [They] do more poorly in school ... because they are not well prepared for school and cannot concentrate. [They] have more social and behavioral problems because they feel bad, have less energy... and cannot adapt as well...."

(Source: Child Food Insecurity: The Economic Impact on Our Nation, John Cook, Ph.D., Karen Jeng, AB, 2009)

Have you volunteered as a mentor or tutor to help end the effects of childhood hunger?

For more information [www.islandharvest.org](http://www.islandharvest.org)

### **Child Nutrition Authorization Signed into Law**

The Child Nutrition Reauthorization is now law! This means that crucial funding for Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), the Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and other programs will continue. Thank you to everyone who contacted their Representatives!

Going forward, we must make sure that the SNAP Program (formerly known as food stamps) is fully funded. We will keep you informed.

## 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.

## American Sign Language Class

Cleary School for the Deaf is offering evening Adult Education classes in American Sign Language, levels 1, 2, 3, and Intermediate/Advanced. The Spring session is February 2 - May 4. For more information, please call Carolyn Kelly at 631.588.0530 or email [ClearyASL@hotmail.com](mailto:ClearyASL@hotmail.com).

## Dominican Village

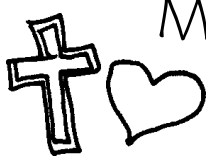
Please join us for an **Open House on Thursday, January 27 from 1 PM until 3 PM**. Dominican Village is an independent retirement community that offers assisted living and respite care, outstanding programs, all-inclusive services and bountiful amenities. For more information, or to schedule a tour at 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 "**Searching for a Meaning.**" 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 Channel 29/137 or Verizon FIOS 296 for the Best in Catholic Television!

# Sharing the Gospel

Today's Gospel talks about people living in darkness. When you think about darkness, "you may also think about stumbling, falling, or even being afraid. That's what your life could be like without God. You could stumble around trying to find love or happiness, but without God you will only fall. Jesus brings light into a dark, unhappy world. With Jesus, you no longer need to fall, and you don't need to be afraid. God loves you.



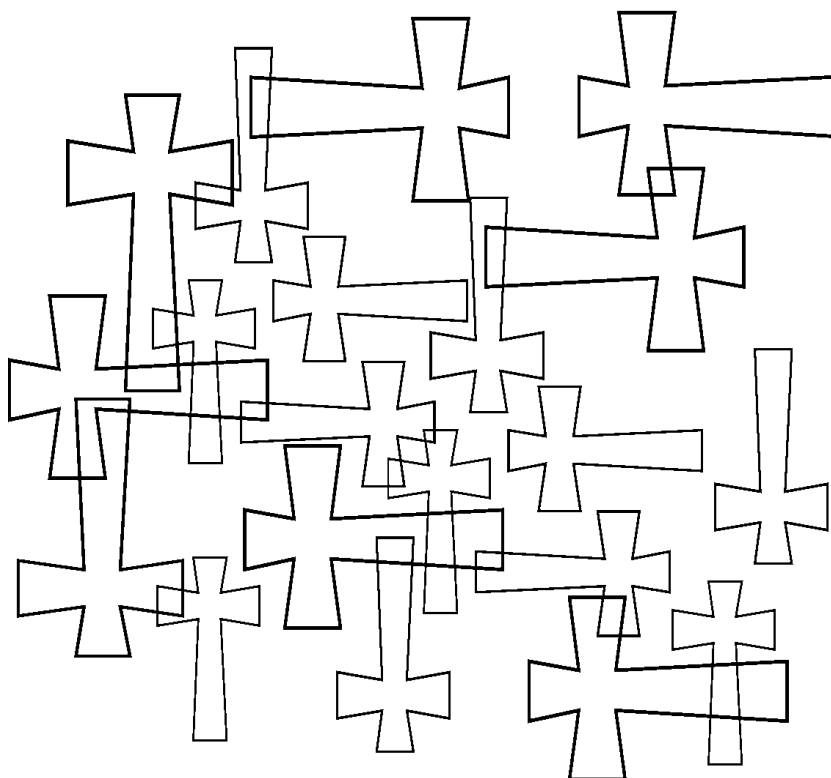
## Mission for the Week

Sing the song, "This Little Light of Mine."



## Puzzle

How many crosses can you count?



©LPi

THE ANSWER IS TWENTY CROSSES

## Prayer



Dear God,  
thank you that  
with Jesus I don't  
need to be afraid.

## Something to Draw



Draw a picture of  
Jesus bringing light  
and love into a dark  
world.