

**“Love your enemies,  
and pray for those  
who persecute  
you.”**



Matthew 5:44

**February 20, 2011 - Our Lady of Lourdes  
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**



## *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)



*Mark the date...*

**Family Mardi Gras**

**Sunday, March 6**

**3:00 PM - 5:30 PM**

**Family fun for everyone!**

*Games galore, food and more!*

*Tickets go on sale soon...watch the bulletin for further details!*

Don't want to wait until March 6th?  
Here's how you can get involved now!

**Every family has a "LOONIE"  
Share your "LOONIE" with Outreach!**

- 1. Take an empty jar: peanut butter, spaghetti sauce or large jelly jar - make sure it is clean!**
- 2. Fill the jar with stuff: gum, marbles, dog biscuits, candy, anything at all!**
- 3. Close the jar and decorate the lid.**
- 4. Donate your Family "Loonie" to Outreach - bring to the Outreach office or leave in the food bins!**
- 5. Family "Loonies" will be swapped at the Mardi Gras!**

**( Prize will be given during the Mardi Gras to the boy or girl who can answer the question:  
What is a "LOONIE"? )**



# Walking with the Word

**Our parish Lenten Retreat will be given on  
Monday, March 14 through Thursday, March 17  
by Dominican preachers  
Fr. Ron Henerey and Fr. Bob Vaughan.**

The vision of this parish retreat is that of awakening faith and trust in God's prodigal care for human beings. The parish community is the place where people experience the visible signs of God's graciousness through Word and Sacrament.

## **Monday, March 14**

8:00 AM	Morning Eucharist	How Christians See Reality
7:30 PM	Vespers Prayer Service	People of the Book: Entering into the Story

## **Tuesday, March 15**

8:00 AM	Morning Eucharist	Encountering God in Unexpected Places: Twelve Step Spirituality
7:30 PM	Vespers Prayer Service <i>(a penance service)</i>	God's Forgiveness: Closing the Gates on the Past

## **Wednesday, March 16**

8:00 AM	Morning Eucharist	Prayer: Being Attentive to God
7:30 PM	Evening Prayer Service	Everything Belongs: Living in the Great Compassion

## **Thursday, March 17**

8:00 AM	Morning Eucharist	Eye-Opening Experiences
7:30 PM	Evening Prayer Service <i>(a healing service)</i>	If I Could Only Touch His Garment: God's Healing Love

The parish retreat is scripturally oriented, bringing the Word of God into perspective with people's lived experience. The preaching is practical and contemporary, with the use of poignant examples, humor and inspiration to call forth a response of faith and trust in the God who has promised to be with us always.

## **OLL 27th Annual Golf Classic**

*Are you tired of all the snow, ice and unbearable cold weather?*

Then why not think of warmer climate, good company and a day of golf. This year's outing will be held on Monday, July 18, 2011 at the Southward Ho Country Club.

*Who is our honoree?*

Let me give you a few hints... He is an amateur photographer, who likes to hike in the mountains. He has graced the hallowed grounds of Our Lady of Lourdes for close to eleven years. He himself is an avid golfer. He is considered by many to be the number one fan of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Do you think you know who it is? Well mark your calendars for July 18th, and look for further information (including our honoree) in upcoming bulletins.

## **“Souper Bowl” at Our Lady of Lourdes**

Our Lady of Lourdes in West Islip ended its Catholic Schools Week celebration on a great note. On Friday, February 4th, they hosted their first ever “Souper Bowl.”

As a school community, students and teachers brought in cans of soup and other non perishable food items that would benefit Parish Outreach. Thanks to the kindness and generosity of students and their families over 240 cans of soup and other edible donations were collected!

It was a great way for our students to help the local community and give to others in need.



## **Science Is Amazing**

*by Christopher McDonald and Cole Amdur  
Seventh Grade Students*

The 7th grade at Our Lady of Lourdes in West Islip recently did an experiment on osmosis! Science teacher Miss Danielle Lichtenberger came up with the experiment to demonstrate how osmosis and diffusion work, using an egg! They took an egg, put it in vinegar, and then left it there over night. The next day, to students' astonishment, water had gotten into the egg! How you ask? Well, osmosis is the diffusion of water molecules across a selectively permeable membrane, or in this case, the shell. And diffusion is the balancing of molecules in the inside and outside of a cell. Through osmosis, the students discovered, the water passed through the shell and into the egg leaving just the raw vinegar in the container. Students then took the same eggs and put it in either water with food color dye (right) or corn oil (left). The corn oil sucked water out of the egg thus causing a drop in its weight. This also happened because of osmosis. With firsthand observation and hands-on control, the students learned how osmosis and diffusion work.

# **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. *For more information, our next meeting will be on*

**Wednesday, February 23, 7:30 in the Parish Center**

## **Adult Faith Formation**

### **Book Discussion:**

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

**Presenter: Tom Petriano**

**Tuesdays - February 22 and March 1**

**Spiritual Life 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).*

## 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, March 17, 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-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, March 8**. 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.



## Nocturnal Adoration

Nocturnal Adoration will follow the 5 PM Mass on **Saturday, March 5**, 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, call Charles Argento at 586.8528.



## Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of March will be on **Wednesday, March 9 from 1- 3 PM**.

All are invited and welcome!





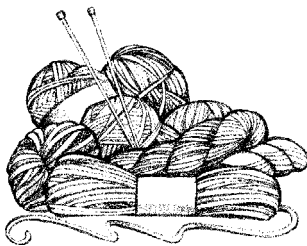
## Youth Ministry



Join us after “The Six” on **Sunday, February 27** in the **All-Purpose Room** for volleyball and snacks. All teens are invited to hang out until 8:30 PM for a game and some fun.

## Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, February 28**, at **12:30 PM** in the **Parish Center**.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

**Join us ...**

**Wednesday, March 16 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.

## Ministry of Family Healing

Your Faith is all it takes, and you can walk on water too!

Troubles may surround us, pull us down, but Jesus calls us to step out in faith. He tells us to come, He will fill us with courage, He tells us to fear not. He says He will save us from lack of faith, so that we too can walk on water. The Ministry of Family Healing is inviting you to a night of prayer and reflection on the courage it will take for us all to walk on water.

**Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.** Please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option 3, to register. Please bring a friend and as always, food and fellowship to follow.

## *Upcoming Marriages*

*Dawn Yngstrom, Sacred Heart, Merrick and  
Vincent Perniciaro, OLL*

## *Welcome*

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

*David Cohen  
Josephine O'Malley  
John Benazzi  
Josephine Caravana*

...we are truly blessed by your presence among us!

## **New Translation**

A new translation of the prayers we use at Mass will begin on the First Sunday of Advent 2011. This new translation is for English speaking countries and you can preview the new prayers by visiting the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

*[www.usccb.org/romanmissal](http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal)*

You will be receiving more information about this in *The Long Island Catholic*, our diocesan website, and on our parish website. Stay tuned.



The Parish Office will be **closed on Monday, February 21** in observance of President's Day. The Parish Office will re-open on Tuesday, February 22 at 9 AM.

## Remembering...

### Monday, February 21

*Saint Peter Damian, bishop and doctor of the Church*

8:00 AM Frances Torina

### Tuesday, February 22

*The Chair of Saint Peter, apostle*

8:00 AM Patricia Aguanno

### Wednesday, February 23

*Saint Polycarp, bishop and martyr*

8:00 AM David McCarthy

### Thursday, February 24

8:00 AM Anthony Tria

### Friday, February 25

8:00 AM Thomas J. Calogero

### Saturday, February 26

8:00 AM Kurt J. Reuter, Thomas Azzaritti,  
Mary Floyd, Laverne J. Caldwell,  
Gloria Gorski

5:00 PM Gerard Ambrosino

*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

### Sunday, February 27

8:00 AM Cornelius Guider

*Fr. Pat Amabile*

9:30 AM Paul Sasso

*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

11:00 AM Robert Beck

*Fr. Pat Amabile*

12:30 PM Madeline Hopper

*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Patricia Murphy, Henry Wolfram,  
Mark Thompson, Margaret Bartolomeo, Francesca Miceli,  
Joan Maietta, Ruthie Levine, Mick Beltranic, George Brady

*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*



## Rest In Peace

*Marilyn A. Dempsey* died on January 29 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 4. We extend our prayers to her son, and entire family.

*Michael J. Sepe* died on February 7 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 9. We extend our prayers to his daughter, Lillia, and entire family.

*Carol A. Ferrigno* died on February 7 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 11. We extend our prayers to her daughter Donna, and entire family.

*Joseph M. Bott* died on February 10 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 14. We extend our prayers to his wife, Joan, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and entire family.

Celebrating Sacraments



# "Renewing Our Spiritual Home"

## 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 February 19

Our campaign to Renew our Spiritual Home is well underway now and you will be hearing more information soon.

We are now in the process of putting together our fund raising booklet and materials. On the project side, now that we know what our fixtures should be like we are meeting with lighting engineers to design lighting for our sanctuary, tabernacle, ambo, baptism font, and narthex!

We are also gathering information on the proper controls and new wiring to support these improvements.

*Please stay tuned for more information!*

*Fr. Mike*

# OLL Week-at-a-Glance

Week of	Church	Parish Center	Spiritual Life Center
<b>Monday</b> February 21 <i>President's Day</i> <i>Admin Office Closed</i>	8 AM Mass after 8AM Mass Miraculous Medal Novena		8PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH
<b>Tuesday</b> February 22	8 AM Mass		7:30 PM AFF- <i>The Naked Now</i> SLC 8PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH
<b>Wednesday</b> February 23	8 AM Mass	7:30 PM Holy Land meeting	10 AM AIAnon LH 7 PM AIAnon District Mtg. LH 7:30 PM Bereavement Support Group
<b>Thursday</b> February 24	8 AM Mass 1:30 PM Prayer for Divine Mercy 5 PM Youth Choir 7 PM Adult Choir		6 PM RCIA SLC
<b>Friday</b> February 25	8 AM Mass		
<b>Saturday</b> February 26	8 AM Mass 4-4:45 PM Confessions 5 PM Mass	6 PM Senior Single Social	2 PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH 7 PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH
<b>Sunday</b> February 27	8 AM Mass 9:30 AM Mass-CLTW 11 AM Mass, 12:30 PM Mass 6 PM Mass	7 PM Six Stage Crew Volleyball APR Contemporary	11 AM RCIA



## 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

It's not a question you ask in polite company. Actually, it probably not a question you ask at all, except possibly in counseling or psychotherapy. The question is, "Who do you hate?" The quick response is, "Well, I don't hate anybody. There are some people I dislike, and some folks I don't get along with, but I don't really hate anyone." So maybe a better way of asking the question is, "Who is it that you don't love?" If we truly look into our hearts and start cataloging, that list just might start to add up.

Of all the commands of Jesus, it is likely that the one in today's Gospel is the most difficult. "Love your enemies," he says to his followers. That may be possible in the theoretical; it is really, really difficult in actual life. While day-to-day slights that take place don't rise to the level of making someone an enemy, there are in fact folks that raise one's ire. And there are people whose conduct truly makes them an enemy, either to a particular individual, or to a whole group of people. And that is hard to accept. If there is a situation that requires thorough conversion of heart, then it comes for the Christian when he or she tries to fulfill Jesus' command to love one's enemies.

So now that the challenge is out there, what's to be done about it? Well for starters, the beginning of Lent is only two-and-a-half weeks away. Maybe you'd like to start now by making an enemies' list-not like Richard Nixon did in an attempt to neutralize people-but for your own prayer, as a way to begin to love. It won't be easy, and some past angers may return, but it could be a very productive Lent if you begin to take the people on that list and pray for them one by one as Jesus commands.

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### Readings for the Week of February 20, 2011

<b>Sunday:</b>	Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48
<b>Monday:</b>	Sir 1:1-10/Mk 9:14-29
<b>Tuesday:</b>	1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Sir 4:11-19/Mk 9:38-40
<b>Thursday:</b>	Sir 5:1-8/Mk 9:41-50
<b>Friday:</b>	Sir 6:5-17/Mk 10:1-12
<b>Saturday:</b>	Sir 17:1-15/Mk 10:13-16
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Is 49:14-15/1 Cor 4:1-5/Mt 6:24-34

## **Altar Society**

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Pat Wissing*.  
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, Antoinette Baier, Deacon Dick Barry, Viola Callanan, Edith Caputo, Nicole Cerny, Grace Ciccarello, Katherine Colleran, Virginia Crescini, Edward Cronin, Lucilia DaTorre, Beverly DeCanio, Jeanne DellaRagione, Tony Drexler, Debbie Eichen, Jerry Fabozzi, Jake Feldman, Patricia Ferrara, Winifred Hanrahan, Kathleen Kerrigan, Robyn Kerrigan, Frank Larkin, Eric Lee, Ann Losee, Louise Malcuit, Jerome Marino, John McNevin, Vincent Meade, Jerry Mirabella, Frances Miranda, Julio Miranda, John Mordente, Ruth Murray, Evelyn Nonnon, Philomena Owens, Karen Parpounas, Gertrude Parine, Dorothy Proctor, Joe Radosti, Dennis Ryan, Dorothy Schiavone, AnnMarie Schiraldi, Brian Schweibert, Baby Isabella Shaw, Derek Stahl, Lindsay Stahl, Patrick Tardo, Nancy Turano, Joe Yezek*

## Financial Summary

### February 6, 2011

Weekly Collection	\$ 21,298.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 2,298.00

### February 13, 2011

Weekly Collection	\$ 17,982.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (1,018.00)

*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 Cochran**-US Marines  
**Bryan R. Dempsey**-US Marines  
**Christopher Florea**-US Marines  
**Cari Kelly**- US Air Force  
**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.



## Outreach Donations

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.



**THE ANSWER:**

### **The St. Patrick/St. Joseph Dance**

**THE QUESTION:**

*What is the most celebrated event at OLL  
(with the exception of The Feast, of course!)*

**Saturday, March 19**

**7:30 PM– 11:30 PM**

Tickets go on sale Monday, February 28

*Details to follow...*

*Never too early to prepare for Spring!*

## **Victorian Tea**

**Sunday, May 22**

### **“The English Parlour Room”**

Do polish your silver and air your linens. There will be no excuse deemed acceptable for those attending in less than their finest of Victorian fashion and lac (Advance tickets are not yet on sale-but do mark your calendars as we have no tolerance for weeping if your request for tickets is denied!)



## **“Reach Out” Program**

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

*Ronald Reagan*

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.

## Turning Inner Chaos into a Peaceful Garden

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Almost all spiritualities have a special place for deserts, wilderness, and other such places where we are unprotected and in danger from untamed nature, wild beasts, and threatening spirits. This concept has deep roots inside both ancient religions and the human psyche itself.

In ancient Babylon, for example, wild, uncultivated terrain was seen as something that was unfinished by God and which still participated in the formless chaos and godlessness of pre-creation. It was seen both as unfinished and as a place where dangerous forces lurked, beasts and devils. Thus when people took possession of wild, uncultivated land, it was understood that certain religious rites had to be performed which, in essence, claimed the land for God, for civilization, and for safety. For ancient Babylon, a cultivated garden was a safe and sacred place whereas an uncultivated desert was dangerous and in some dark way in opposition to God.

Similar ideas were present too in other cultures which saw wilderness as a place inhibited by satyrs, centaurs, trolls, and evil spirits. Myths and folklore abound with these images. Medieval Europe, as seen in our fairytales, added the idea of “deep and dark forests” to this concept. These too were seen as uncultivated, dangerous places, places where bad spirits or evil persons might capture you or as places within which you might hopelessly lose your way. Deep, dark forests were not places you were to venture into without proper guidance.

But it was also understood that these wild places were not meant to lie forever untouched by us and God. The idea was present inside of Christian spirituality that we, men and women of faith, were meant to help God finish creation by taming these wilds, exorcizing the bad spirits there, and turning the wilderness into a garden. And so Christianity developed the idea that men and women armed in a special way with divine light and protection, monks and nuns, could and should go into these uncultivated places and turn the unsafe wilderness into a safe garden. Among other reasons, this was why medieval monks and nuns often chose uncultivated places to start up their monasteries and convents.

This fear of wild, uncultivated regions was also partly behind the church’s fear of inquiry into and exploration of outer space. Galileo knew this first-hand. The church had been warning: Stay away from certain dark places.

In subtle ways both this concept and its concomitant fears are still with us. What frightens us today is not untamed geography (which we now see as inviting peace and quiet). Rather for many of us, the untamed, the wilderness, is now visualized more as a gang-infested area within a city, crack houses, singles’ bars. Strip-clubs, red-light areas. These are understood as lying outside our cultivated lives, split off from the safety of home and religion, godless places, dangerous, a wilderness.

But what frightens us still more, are the untamed and uncultivated deserts within our own hearts, the unexplored and dark areas inside of us. Like the ancients, we are frightened of what might lie in hiding there, how vulnerable we might be if we entered there, what wild beasts and demons might prey on us there, and whether a chaotic vortex might not swallow us up should we ever venture there. We too fear unexplored places; except our fear is not for our physical safety, but for our sanity and our sanctity.

And this fear is not without its wisdom. It is wise to not be naïve. For centuries parents told their children frightening fairytales about evil things lurking in dark forests, looking to devour little children or bake them in ovens. These stories were not told to children to give them nightmares but rather warn them not to be naïve about whom or what they met. Not everyone can be trusted and it is wise, particularly when you are young, vulnerable, and unarmed, to stay together, to stay away from dark places, and to be safe.

Nonetheless our Christian faith invites us to go into those areas, face the wild beasts that dwell there, and turn those dangerous regions into cultivated land, into safe gardens. After all that is what Jesus did: He went into every dark place, from the singles’ bars of his time into death and hell itself, and took God’s light and grace there. But he wasn’t naïve. He heeded the advice of the old fairytales and didn’t venture there alone. He entered those underworlds with his hand safely inside his Father’s, not walking alone.

Faith is meant rid us of fear, including fear of the wild beasts and demons that lurk inside the deserts of own minds, hearts, and energies. We are meant to turn those wild, dark areas into safe gardens. But we should heed both our own instincts and the instinct behind the old fairytales: Never venture into the dark woods naively and alone! Make sure you are armed with a sturdy creed and that you are walking hand-in-hand with your Father.

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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).*

## Good Samaritan Hospital Needs You!

Good Samaritan invites Eucharistic Ministers to bring Communion to patients in our hospital. The days of greatest need are Wednesdays and Sundays. The gift of your presence once a week or once a month would mean a great deal to our Catholic patients. If interested, please call 631.376.4103.

## Peer Support Group

St Mary's Parish Social Ministry offers an 8 week peer support group for children (ages K – through 8th grade) and their parents who are coping with the effects of separation and divorce in their families.

This program begins on **Tuesdays, March 1st from 6:30 – 7:30 PM** and registration is required for all new participants. No walk-ins will be accepted! For additional information and/or registration, please contact the Parish Social Ministry Office @ (631) 581-7070, x-129 *as soon as possible*.

## The Beginning Experience

Help for the heartache of divorce, separation, and widowhood.

A weekend away for a lifetime of change. **The next weekend is March 4-6, at the Montfort Spiritual Center in Bay Shore.**

For information and reservations, call John at 516.822.0635, Jim at 718.474.3779, or Karen at 201.736.8200.

## Healing Life's Losses

Support group for those living with loss, on **Thursday, February 24 at 10 AM.**

The presenter is Mary Anne Dejewski, LCSW and the offering is \$15.

The presentation will be held at the St. Joseph Renewal Center, 1725 Brentwood Rd, Brentwood. For reservations or information, please call 631.273.1178, extension 23.

## Volunteers needed for Annual HEC #27 Weekend

Handicapped Encounter Christ (HEC) is in need of volunteers for its annual retreat which will be held **Thursday, April 28 through Sunday, May 1 at Camp Alvernia in Centerport, NY.**

HEC is a retreat weekend for persons 18 years and older with special needs. Each candidate has a team member with them throughout the weekend. It is a prayerful experience of song, talks, sharing, Eucharist and many other joyful moments.

There are many roles to be filled. We are in need of team members, kitchen help, setting up and taking down the camp, as well as drivers or our candidates.

If interested, or you have any questions, please call Deacon Frank & Michele Barone at 516.420.1207 or email at [Mrbarone@verizon.net](mailto:Mrbarone@verizon.net).

## 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.

## Golden Wedding Anniversary

**On Sunday, April 3, 2011**, couples married 50 years or more are invited to a special Mass to be celebrated by Bishop William Murphy at **St. Lawrence the Martyr in Sayville at 2:30 PM.** Please pick up your registration card at the Parish Office, fill it out and return it to the Parish Office no later than March 17. Approximately one week before the ceremony, information regarding the day will be mailed to you. If you have any questions, you may call 516.678.5800, extension 583.

## Writings of St. Paul

This four week course develops four themes Fr. James McNamara identified while on sabbatical, studying the writings of St. Paul. -Paul's Personal Journey -Justification through Faith -Eschatology (The end times and eternal Life) -Church. Each evening will consist of a presentation followed by a question and answer segment. The course will be held, **Tuesdays, March 29, April 5, 12 and 19 at St. Joseph's Church, Babylon from 8 PM until 9:30 PM.** The course is offered free of charge, but you must RSVP to reserve your seat. Please contact Jane at 669.0068, extension 159 or email [stewardship@stjosephsbabylon.org](mailto:stewardship@stjosephsbabylon.org).

## 65th Annual Communion Breakfast

Catholic Daughters of the Americas-Court Bishop McDonnell #1403 invites you to attend the **65th Annual Communion Breakfast on Saturday, February 26. 9 AM Mass at Church of St. Joseph, Babylon.** Breakfast to follow. \$18 per person.

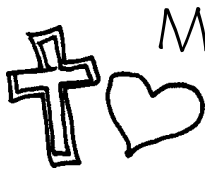
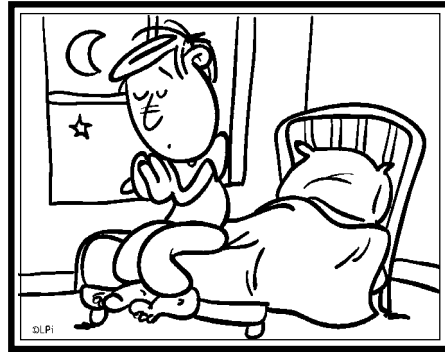
The guest speaker will be Sister Theresa Rickard, O.P.. President and Executive Director. -"Finding God in the Ordinary." For reservations, please call Mary Lou at 422.9544 or Debbie at 321.9853.

## 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 "**Leadership.**" Don't miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go to [www.religionandrock.com](http://www.religionandrock.com) or at "Religion & Rock" on ITUNES. Don't forget to tune into TELE CARE, Cablevision Channel 29/137 or Verizon FIOS 296 for the Best in Catholic Television!

# Sharing the Gospel

After you let God's love fill your heart you will act different. If someone at school is mean to you, you won't get even. You will pray for her instead, with love in your heart. If your parents ask you to make your bed, you will do it cheerfully. With God's help you can do a lot of good.



## Mission for the Week

Pick up your toys and help with the dishes, without waiting to be asked.



## Puzzle

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

**Pray for anyone who mistreats you.**

			F		
A					

©LPi

## Prayer



God,  
help me to love  
other people the  
way you do.

## Something to Draw



Draw a picture of  
yourself praying for  
someone who hurt  
you.