

***"ALL OF YOU ARE CHILDREN OF THE
LIGHT AND CHILDREN OF THE DAY."***



1 THESSALONIANS 5:5

***THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OUR LADY OF LOURDES-NOVEMBER 13, 2011***



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.

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.

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

Rev. Michael Holzmann
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

Louise Jane Krol

School Principal

Sr. Diane Liona

Director of Religious Education

Mary McMahan

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Robin Reynolds-Brennan

Coordinator of Worship

OLL Choir Director

Vita Scorcia

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 Scorcia

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Parish Staff

AnnMarie Buonaspina

Director of Youth Choirs

Michael Buonaspina

Parish Organist

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-Thursday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Friday: 9 AM - 5 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@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

Parish Outreach Office

661.9262 (option 4)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30 AM - 3 PM

S.A.G.E.

661.3224, ext. 122

(Senior Advocates for Growth
and Enrichment)

email: Sage@ollchurch.org



Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes "Renewing Our Spiritual Home"

New lights are a brilliant success.

I continue to receive such wonderful comments about our new lights. Thank you so much to all for your positive and encouraging comments. This was a huge project for us and it was so good to see everyone enjoying the new view of our Church.

You will notice some continuing improvement as we install the remaining lights in our tabernacle area as well as the lighting for our sanctuary. The lighting controller which will be programmed in the coming week or two will allow us to customize the amount of light for different occasions from daily Mass, prayer services, concerts, etc.

Parish Center

Our next project will be the Parish Center. New rugs, seating, ceiling, lights, kitchenette, and storage will all be renewed in the early months of 2012. We are working now with an architect to design the new layout of our room with new storage spaces for our ministries.

Happy New Year for our Parish Center!

Is it too late to participate?

Not at all! All gifts and pledges are always welcome. Just call our Parish Office at 661.3224 or send me an email at pastor@ollchurch.org. It would be wonderful if every Our Lady of Lourdes parishioner could claim a share of the "Renewing Our Spiritual Home" Project.

Thanks for all you do to support the parish family of Our Lady of Lourdes!

Fr. Mike

Ordination to the Priesthood

Saturday, December 3 :: 11 AM at St. Agnes Cathedral

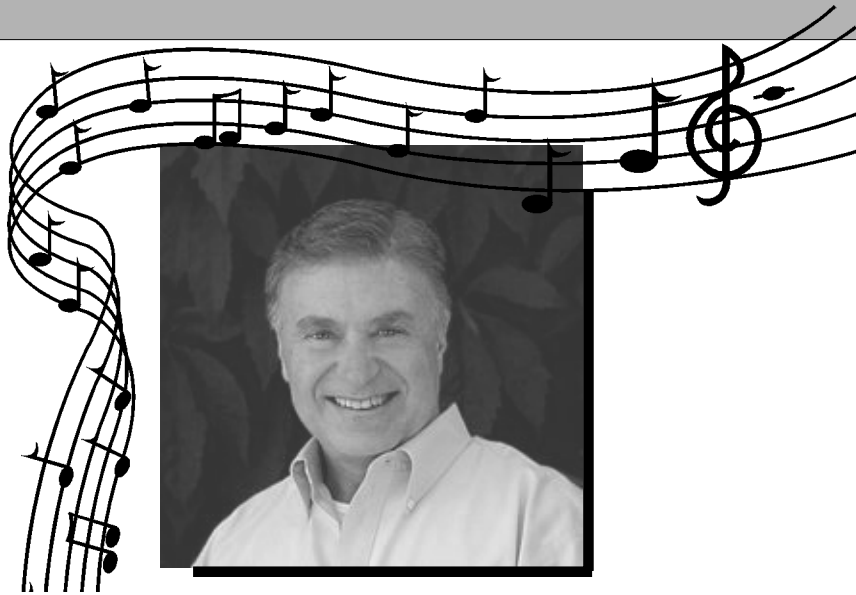
Bishop William Murphy will ordain John Sureau to the priesthood at St. Agnes Cathedral. You are welcome. In fact you are more than welcome! It would be a true sign of our gratitude to God if the Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes would FILL the cathedral of St. Agnes.

Sunday, December 4 :: 12:30 PM in our Church

John Sureau will celebrate his first Mass here at Our Lady of Lourdes! Please join us to celebrate this wonderful event. The Mass will be followed by a reception in our cafeteria and the opportunity to receive John's first blessing as a priest. All are welcome to join in this celebration!



An Advent Festival of Faith



**Well-Known Musician and Composer
Dan Schutte
is coming to OLL!**

Our Lady of Lourdes is happy to host an evening of music and prayer with Dan Schutte, one of the renowned “St. Louis Jesuits” and composer of liturgical favorites such as *Here I Am*, *Lord*, *Table of Plenty* and many others.

People who have attended Dan’s concerts have often commented that it seems more like an evening of music, prayer and spirituality than a concert. Dan introduces each song with stories about their creation and with moving reflections about our common journey of faith.

These events are a wonderful way of bringing community together to be spiritually renewed around the singing of Dan’s inspiring music.

Concert and Evening of Prayer

Friday, December 2

7:30 PM in the Church

Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 children and young adults

Workshop for all OLL Liturgical Ministers

Thursday, December 1 at 7:30 PM in the Church

Tickets: free to all OLL Liturgical Ministers



Bee a Believer!

Our first graders began their Religious Education Program with an exciting session. They came to Church with their family and heard the story of Jesus in the Temple and learned that, they too, would be coming to learn about God. Trish Frodell took them to the parish center where they learned that the activity of bees reminds us of all the things we have to do to come to know Jesus better: *bees know where they are going*; they have a *great sense of direction*; and they have *to work together*. When they came back to church, their parents blessed them as they began this special venture – and the children blessed their parents, thanking them for nurturing their faith. It was a wonderful beginning!



PEP 2 News

Our second graders are in the midst of preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Their lessons are filled with opportunities to think about their loving choices and their unloving choices. Zaccheus is becoming a well-known character from the Bible, showing them that when *we* meet *Jesus*, we want to be better people!

PEP 4 News

Our fourth graders are continuing to learn to enlarge their hearts with God's love. Their recent lesson challenged them to be a witness for God's Kingdom by getting involved in some activities outside their own circle. They will be having a special guest speaker on November 7, who will invite them to share something in a very unique way. More to come....



Family Liturgy and Children's Liturgy of the Word

We need your help -

At the 9:30 AM Family Liturgy each Sunday, we invite all of the children in attendance to be dismissed for their own Liturgy of the Word. There is a committee of parishioners that take responsibility for the planning, and for the Scriptural presentation itself.

Of course, everyone is invited to be on the committee or to be a Scripture leader, but what we really need is: People to help escort the children to the Parish Center and to stay in the Parish Center while the Scripture Leaders offer the presentation. You would only be scheduled about once a month, maybe every six weeks. You would escort and help with the children. Please consider this an easy way to contribute to our Family Liturgy; the entire committee would be extremely grateful!

Adult Faith Formation



St. Paul: A person of faith...

A searcher with steadfast conviction in the power of Jesus...

just like us!

Presenter: Msgr. Jim McNamara

Tuesday - October 25, November 1, 8, and 15

7:30-9 PM

Parish Center

Come join us as we explore St. Paul's personal journey, spirituality, and life of faith by tracing his experience of conversion, commitment, grace and community.

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.

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.

Altar Servers

For all Altar Servers already serving and for anyone interested in being a server (4th grade and up)-There will be a series of training sessions on "how to serve the altar", including Sunday Liturgies, Weddings, and Funerals. They are:

Saturday, November 5 at 3 PM

Sunday, November 6 at 4 PM

Saturday, November 12 at 3 PM

Sunday, November 13 at 4 PM

Friday, November 18 at 4 PM

Saturday, November 19 at 3 PM

All sessions will be held in the Church. **Please make every effort to attend as many of these as possible!** For any information, please contact Mrs. Kuchler at nkuchler@ollschool.org



Welcoming the
ROMAN MISSAL THIRD EDITION
Deepen. Nurture. Celebrate

Scriptural Reflections on the New Roman Missal *by Msgr. Chris Heller*

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nov 13 - Matthew 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-20

10. In every generation, some people claim they can predict the future: “by my own calculations,” they say, “the end of the world is near.” Now, all of these people have read God’s Word very closely: they **know** Jesus told us that **no one except God the Father** knows when the end-time will arrive.

That is, men and women on earth do not know when; the angels of heaven do not know when; Jesus Himself does not know when. Only God our Creator knows. To all of us listening today, as well as those who lived in the first century and who originally heard this week’s Gospel, Jesus offers a wonderful parable lesson about how we are to spend the time God has allotted to us in our earthly lives.

Jesus says that by investing time and energy in using our talents and gifts to the best of our abilities, our gifts grow; we give glory to God who gave us the gifts, and we also cooperate with Christ Jesus in building up the faith communities in which we live.

In two weeks, we will celebrate the arrival of a new translation of the words we use at Mass. Each of us is called to make a personal investment of time and concentration as we learn these prayers and responses together. In addition to the presentations you are receiving here through Telecare, your local parish will be providing resources through the bulletin, printed handouts, and on your parish website.

Saying the people’s responses out loud will prepare you to speak these new words with faith and devotion. For example, in the Preface Dialogue, just before we sing or say the Holy, Holy, the priest says: “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,” and our new response will be: “It is right and just.” In those five simple words, the Church offers us yet another opportunity to grow in faith as we praise God together. Blessed be God, who gives us new life and new hope in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Fr. Chris can be seen delivering these reflections on the program The Word on Telecare. The episodes will run until November 14. The schedule is as follows: Wednesdays at 7 PM, Thursdays at 9:15 AM, 1 PM, and 7:15 PM, Saturdays at 9 AM, 12:45 PM, 7 PM, and Sundays at 10:45 AM.

Our Lady of Lourdes School Fundraiser

Your support is always appreciated!



Fresh Wreaths-balsam pine with beautiful evergreen accents
 "Deluxe" - bows and decorations in burgundy/gold, red/white, and Christmas plaid

"Simple" -same color choices as "Deluxe", no decorations- pinecones and bow only

Poinsettias-gorgeous Christmas favorites in red or cream - three sizes to choose from

Fresh Cemetery Blankets & Pillows-evergreens, decorations, and red velvet bow

Order Deadline Wednesday, November 16

Family Name _____ Child name/Grade _____

Address _____ Contact number _____

(pre-order purchases apply to family mandatory account)

Item	Size	Color	Quantity	\$ / Item	Total
Cemetery BLANKETS	-	-		\$55	
Cemetery PILLOWS	-	-		\$40	
Deluxe Fresh WREATHS (w/ Bow &Decorations)	18"	Burgundy/Gold		\$28	
		Red/White		\$28	
		Christmas Plaid		\$28	
Deluxe Fresh WREATHS (w/ Bow & Decorations)	22"	Burgundy/Gold		\$32	
		Red/White		\$32	
		Christmas Plaid		\$32	
Simple Fresh WREATHS (w/ Bow & Pinecones)	18"	Burgundy/Gold		\$22	
		Red/White		\$22	
		Christmas Plaid		\$22	
Simple Fresh WREATHS (w/ Bow & Pinecones)	22"	Burgundy/Gold		\$26	
		Red/White		\$26	
		Christmas Plaid		\$26	
POINSETTIAS	4.5"	Red		\$ 6 or 3/\$15	
		Cream		\$ 6 or 3/\$15	
	6"	Red		\$10 or 3/\$28	
		Cream		\$10 or 3/\$28	
	8"	Red		\$20 or 3/\$55	
		Cream		\$20 or 3/\$55	

**Order pick-up will be Saturday,
 December 3 12 noon- 3 PM**

SUBTOTAL	
Delivery (optional)	\$10
TOTAL	

(payment due at time of order-checks payable to OLL School)

If you have any questions, please contact Bronwen Sessa at bsessa@ollschool.org
 or call 631.806.6228.

Operation Gratitude

Attention all knitters and crocheters!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of OLL has been busy making 'Scarves for Our Troops'. We will be sending them to Operation Gratitude in early December. All of these handmade items are created with love, and prayers are said over them for the safety and well-being of all who will wear them.

If you would like to add to our collection, please make these scarves *according to instructions only from Operation Gratitude*. You may use your own patterns and yarn, but only certain sizes and colors are permitted. For exact instructions visit:

www.operationgratitude.com/2010/08/05/scarf-hat-cool-tie-project-details-materials-size-patterns/ Please call Vita Scorcia at 669.4717 for more information.

There will be a collection box in the Narthex for the scarves. Also, if you would like to donate a dollar or two for shipping costs, please leave it at the Parish Office, c/o Vita Scorcia. Any amount donated over what is needed to ship the scarves will be donated to Operation Gratitude for their own shipping costs. Thank you!

Rosary Christian Mothers

Holiday Raffle

Next weekend, **November 19/20**, the Rosary Christian Mothers will be selling raffle tickets **after all Masses (except 6PM)** in the back of the **All-Purpose Room**. The winning numbers will be called after the 12:30 PM Mass.

Through your generous support of the fund-raisers held by the Rosary Christian Mothers, we are planning to erect a grotto in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes.

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

Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous: Monday and Tuesday at 8 PM and Saturday at 2 PM and 7 PM in Lourdes Hall-convent lower level.

ALANON: Each Wednesday at 10 AM in Lourdes Hall-convent lower level.
(Free babysitting available)

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.

Bereavment Ministry

You can learn to enjoy the holidays again.

Come spend some time with our group as we enjoy some holiday treats and share in conversation. We will meet on **Saturday, November 19 at 11 AM in the Spiritual Life Center** (in the convent).

To register please call Diane Ackerly at 631.226.9373 or email at dkkkk710@hotmail.com

“I was sick and you visited me”

On Monday evening, November 28 at 6PM, there will be a training program at Good Samaritan Hospital for those who would like to visit OLL hospitalized parishioners. This is a wonderful and very fulfilling ministry. We encourage you to consider this work which provides a very fine link between parish and parishioners in the hospital. If you have additional questions about our OLL hospital visiting program, please contact Sister Betty or Sister Margaret at the SAGE Ministry office, 661.3224, extension 122 or sage@ollchurch.org. Thank you for considering this great ministry opportunity

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, November 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

An *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, November 15**. 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.



Rest In Peace

John A. Raye died on October 4 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was October 28. We extend our prayers to his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and entire family.

Frances Killane died on October 28 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was October 31. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and entire family.

Sadie LaBrutto died on November 5 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 7. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and entire family.

Welcome

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

Barry and Mary Caputo

Greg and Laura Pancost & family

Mark and Donna Conforti & family

Chris and Lauren Filiato & family

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

Rosary/Novena

Rosary:

Daily after 8 AM Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena:

Monday after 8 AM Mass

Anointing of the Sick

Throughout the liturgical year.

If needed sooner, please call the Parish Office.

Baptism

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

Marriage

Arranged at least six months in advance, please call the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults(RCIA):

A process to be embraced by the Catholic Church. For non-Catholics and for Catholics who have never received formal religious education. If interested, please call the Parish Office.

Remembering...

Monday, November 14

8:00 AM Joseph Netska

Tuesday, November 15

Saint Albert the Great, bishop and doctor of the Church

8:00 AM Family & Friends of Jerry Fabozzi

Wednesday, November 16

Saint Margaret of Scotland; Saint Gertrude, virgin

8:00 AM Stephanie Garcia

Thursday, November 17

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, religious

8:00 AM Edward McLoughlin

Friday, November 18

Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, virgin

8:00 AM Nora O'Brien

Saturday, November 19

8:00 AM Stephen V. Perez, Raymond Brick, Edie Howard,
Helene Karle (*living*), Frances Caccavo,
Harold Guthlein, Julianna Collins

5:00 PM William T. Douglas
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

Sunday, November 20

8:00 AM Zefferino Bertolotti
Fr. Patsy Amabile

9:30 AM Mary & John Flynn and Jean Sullivan
Fr. Mike Vetrano

11:00 AM John McKeefery
Fr. Michael Holzmann

12:30 PM Umberto & Lena Fioravanti
Fr. Bob Scheckenbeck

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Lawrence D'Esposito, Linda Kelly (*1st Anniversary*),
Nick, Rose & Frank DiLeo, Grandpa Lawrence F. Kelly,
Grandma Mary Kelly, Madeline Heyne, Angela Baldinucci,
Sean Wallace, James Totans, Rubin Guassier Peña
Fr. Bob Scheckenbeck



**transform
the world**

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

We all know what money is, as long as we don't think about it too much. After all, most people get a salary that they earn by putting in time on a job. It is possible to divide those earnings by the time put in, and come up with an hourly rate. But for the most part, money is intangible. There is no concrete item (gold, diamonds, even manufactured goods) that equals the value of all the money in the world. Our IRAs, 401(k)s, and pension funds earn money without making/mining/producing anything. Money is created, and those who have it are very happy about it.

We could read today's Gospel parable as an endorsement by Jesus of investment banking. But that's not really what the story is about. This week's Gospel is a story about what the community must do while its members await the return of the Lord. Last week's story encouraged Christians to be prepared because we don't know when the Lord will come back. This week's parable highlights the nature of that waiting. Christians don't just sit around waiting for Jesus to come back. Rather, we use the gifts and talents that are ours to transform the world.

But unlike the creation of money by those who develop complicated investment schemes and high-risk financial products, the Christian invests in the world using the gifts and talents given to him or her by the Master. This perspective is fundamentally different from that of investment banking. Rather than seeking the greatest return for oneself, a Christian understands that everything is gift from the Creator. He or she then proceeds to use what has been given to further the development of humankind. Fifty years ago, Pope John XXIII issued his great encyclical *Mater et Magistra* on Christianity and social progress. In it he insisted that our task is "to humanize and to Christianize this modern civilization of ours." That is indeed a worthy investment! 2011 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of November 13, 2011

Sunday:	Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/1 Thes 5:1-6/Mt 25:14-30 <i>or</i> 25:14-15, 19-21
Monday:	1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Lk 18:35-43
Tuesday:	2 Mc 6:18-31/Lk 19:1-10
Wednesday:	2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Lk 19:11-28
Thursday:	1 Mc 2:15-29/Lk 19:41-44
Friday:	1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/Lk 19:45-48
Saturday:	1 Mc 6:1-13/Lk 20:27-40
Next Sunday:	Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Rose Grant*.
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 ...

*James Bianco, Nicole Cerny, Maria Chiarello, Eddie Cronin,
Jeanne Marie DellaRagione, Frank Edwards, Jake Feldman,
Ann Finn, Elizabeth Fredriksen, Kenneth Garretson,
Baby Gavin Gradiska, Jennifer Horne, Baby Peter Horyczun,
George Impellizeri, Marie Impellizeri, Peter Joseph, Robyn Kerrigan,
Richard LaFountaine, Anne Losee, Christopher J. Maher,
Marge Marotta, Tony Marotta, John McNevin, Denise Michelback,
Arlene Monte, Rae Morris, Patricia Muller, Andy Nolfo, Evelyn Nonnon,
Peter Porzio, Louise Posanti, Joe Radosti, Teresa Saraceno,
Ann Marie Schiraldi, Baby Isabella Shaw, Angelo Tedesco,
Nancy Turano, Joseph Yezek*

Atheism and Belief

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

God's ways are not our ways! There is more truth to that than we normally think.

God is ineffable. What that means is that God cannot be captured in our thoughts or pictured inside our imaginations. This truth is one of the first things that the church affirms in its understanding of God, defining as a dogma at the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215 that God is so metaphysically different from anything we can know or imagine that all of our concepts and language about God are always more inadequate than adequate. God can be known, but never imagined or captured in a thought.

Why not? Why can we never form a picture of God or speak about God in adequate ways?

Because God is infinite and our minds are finite. Infinity, by definition, can never be circumscribed. That might sound abstract, but it is not. For example: Try to imagine the highest number to which it is possible to count? Instantly you realize that this is an impossible task because numbers are infinite and there is always one more. It is impossible to conceive of a highest number. This is even truer in terms of any imaginative picture we try to form of God and of how we try to imagine God's existence. God is infinite and infinity cannot be captured or imagined inside of any finite thought.

This is important to understand, not to safeguard some theoretical point, but for our understanding of faith. We tend to identify a weak faith with a weak imagination, just as we tend to identify atheism with the incapacity to imagine the existence of God.

Imagine, for example, two different scenarios in your life: In the first instance, you have just experienced a religious high. Through prayer or some other religious or human experience, you have a strong, imaginative sense of God's reality. At that particular moment, you feel sure of God's existence and have an indubitable sense that God is real. Your faith feels strong. You could walk on water! Then imagine different moment: You are lying in your bed, restless, agitated, feeling chaos around you, staring holes into the darkness, unable to imagine the existence of God, and unable to think of yourself as having faith. Try as you might, you cannot conjure up any feeling that God exists. You feel you are an atheist.

Does this mean that in one instance you have a strong faith and in the other you have a weak one? No.

What it means is that in one instance you have a strong imagination and in the other you have a weak imagination. Faith in God is not to be confused with the capacity or incapacity to imagine God's existence. Infinity cannot be circumscribed by the imagination. God can be known, but not pictured. God can be experienced, but not imagined.

Nicholas Lash, in a deeply insightful essay on God and belief, suggests that the God that atheists reject is very often precisely an idol of our imaginations: We need do no more than notice that most of our contemporaries still find it "obvious" that atheism is not only possible, but widespread and that, both intellectually and ethically, it has much to commend it. This might be plausible if being an atheist were a matter of not believing that there exists "a person without a body" who is "eternal, free, able to do anything, knows everything" and is "the proper object of human worship and obedience, the creator and sustainer of the universe." If, however, by "God" we mean the mystery, announced in Christ, breathing all things out of nothing into peace, then all things have to do with God in every move and fragment of their being, whether they notice this and suppose it to be so or not. Atheism, if it means deciding not to have anything to do with God, is thus self-contradictory and, if successful, self-destructive.

Thomas Aquinas famously wrote that God is self-evident in himself, though not self-evident to us. An Oblate confrere of mine has a less-philosophical way of expressing this. He is fond of saying: "God, as I understand Him, is not very well understood." That's true for all of us, in ways much deeper than we imagine.

When the prophet, Isaiah, glimpsed God in a vision, all he could do was stammer the words: Holy, holy, holy! Holy is the Lord God of hosts! But we misunderstand his meaning because we take "holy" in its moral sense, that is, as virtue. Isaiah however meant the word in its metaphysical sense, namely, as referring to God's transcendence, God's otherness, God's difference from us, God's ineffability. In essence, he is saying: Other, completely different, utterly ineffable, is the Lord God of hosts!

Accepting that God is ineffable and that all of our thoughts and imaginative constructs about God are inadequate helps us in two ways: We stop identifying our faith with our imagination, and, more importantly, we stop creating God in our own image and likeness.

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.

Financial Summary

November 6, 2011

Weekly Collection	\$ 19,704.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 704.00

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:



Kimberly Braun - *US Army*
Bryan R. Dempsey-*US Marines*
Christopher Florca-*US Marines*
Cari Kelly- *US Air Force*
Anthony Mannino-*US Marines*
JD Montefusco-*US Marines*

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

Safely Home

Our whole parish family rejoices with the Kerschner Family in gratitude for the safe return of Garrett from active duty.

Garrett Kerschner-*US Marines*, has returned to the United States safe and sound from his tour of duty in Iraq. Thank you, *Garrett*, for your most generous service to our country!

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

Parish Outreach Food Pantry

A picture is worth a thousand words...



Outreach needs food!

Thanksgiving

How are we going to do this?

If your budget has room to help Outreach this Thanksgiving, we suggest a donation of a “Thanksgiving Fixings Basket” for families of 2, 4 or 6.

A “Fixings Basket” would include anything that you serve at your Thanksgiving table: vegetables, instant potatoes, canned gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce and dessert. If your budget allows, Outreach would gladly accept a turkey or ham.



Donations will be accepted anytime up to Monday morning, November 21. Outreach volunteers will begin distributing baskets that afternoon.

Our parish has always been exceptionally generous. I truly believe that the scarcity in Outreach these months is a reflection of the struggle most of us are experiencing. Many are choosing to do without material items we once thought were necessities. We are finding it necessary to simplify in order to meet basic expenses, hopefully in the process we will discover a wealth not found in possessions- but found in relationship with Self-with others and with God.

-Mary McMahon

November Autumn Concert

Presented by the West Islip Symphony under the direction of conductor, Murry Kahn. Beautiful music, including soloist bassoon Brenda Balazs. **Saturday, November 19 at Udall Raod Middle School at 8 PM.** Tickets are \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, students are free. For more information call 631.661.8348 or visit *wisymphony.org*.

FILM IN A FLASH

Returns to Our Lady of Lourdes, West Islip!

Seeking Our Lady of Lourdes ALUMNI & ADULT filmmakers for an intensive workshop!

For the first time ever, former students & adults will unite to share talents, collaborate and create films!

Call 631.587.7200 to sign up!



Info@LearnFilmInAFlash.com

LearnFilmInAFlash.com

This class is intended for experienced filmmakers seeking to improve their abilities.

* Tuesdays 7-9pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, West Islip

* November 15 - December 6, 2011

* \$200 (cash or check - made payable to Film in a Flash)

* Access to Film in a Flash's production templates, instructors & online forums

Acting

Casting

Directing

Photography

Cinematography

Props

Lighting

Locations

Wardrobe

Set Design

Sound

Editing

Screenwriting

Pre-Production

Post Production

Hand-made Christmas Cards

For information about Christmas cards, designed by a prisoner to help needy children, please e-mail Sister Camille D'Arienzo, RSM at Cherilife@aol.com.

The Treasures of Christmas at Sagtikos Manor

Get in the holiday spirit and take a guided tour of the Manor all decked out for this year's theme, "The Treasures of Christmas". The tours will be on Saturday, December 10 and Sunday, December 11, from 11 AM – 3 PM (tours begin every 15 minutes). Sponsored by the Sagtikos Manor Historical Society and Suffolk County Parks Department. For more info please call 631.661.5169 or www.sagtikosmanor.com.

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.

Good Shepherd Hospice: Volunteers Needed

*Have you always wanted to make a difference in someone else's life?
Are you that special person who is willing to walk along with our patients and families during their final journey?*

FIND OUT!

Please call the Volunteer Department at Good Shepherd Hospice at 631.465.6355 to learn more about our volunteer opportunities. Training and education are provided.

Dominican Village

Please join us for an Open House on Thursday, November 17, 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.

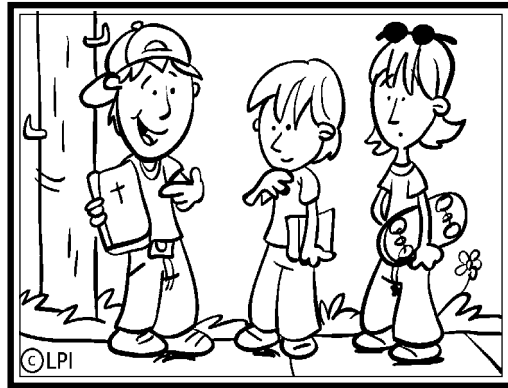
Religion & Rock

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 "Family Life." 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 Channel 29/137 or Verizon FIOS 296 for the Best in Catholic Television!

Sharing the Gospel

You can choose to waste your time, your money and your special talents. You can be selfish with them, too. Or, you can use those gifts from God to spread good news about Jesus. When you choose to use your gifts for God, and he will fill your heart with joy.



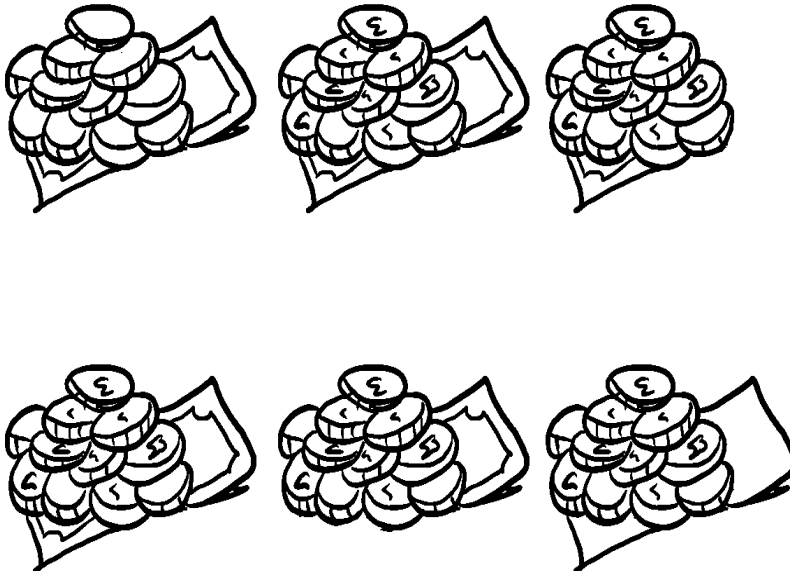
Mission for the Week



God has given your family money. Use some of it to buy food for a needy family.

Puzzle

Find the two that are the same.



©LPI

Prayer



God, help me to use my time, my money and my special talents for you."

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of yourself helping a younger child learn how to tie their shoes.