

***"BE IT DONE TO ME
ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD."***



LUKE 1:38

***FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
OUR LADY OF LOURDES-DECEMBER 18, 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

Business Manager

Robin Reynolds-Brennan

Coordinator of Worship

OLL Choir Director

Vita Scorcia

Ministry Spiritual Director

Sr. Betty Toohig

Senior Ministry-SAGE

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

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

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 _____ |

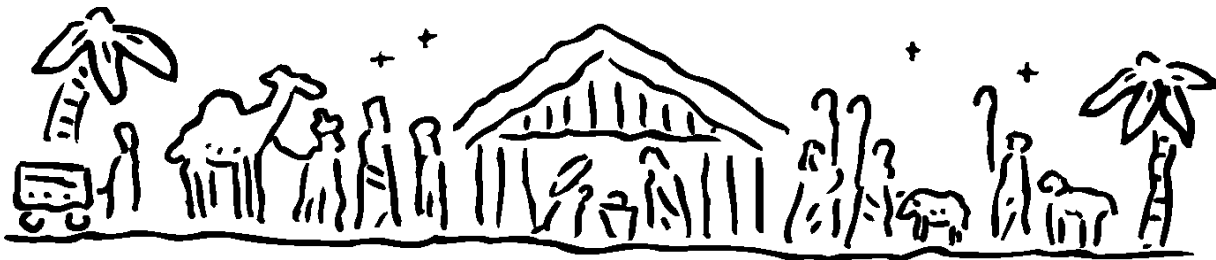
I would prefer to be contacted by:

Phone at: _____ Email at: _____

Mail at: _____

Your Name: _____

*We invite our entire parish family to come and
share this special evening this week with us.*



***Our Lady of Lourdes Tenth Annual
Family Christmas Pageant
Thursday, December 22
7 PM in the Church***

*What better way to prepare for Christmas
than to share the Christmas story with our children!*



Adult Faith Formation

Fit for the King

“Walking in Divine Health”

presented by **Dr. Rick Hess**

Tuesdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31, and February 7, 2012

7:30 PM

Parish Center

A health and wellness program that asks the question: How can you be the best steward of the healthy body God intended for you? Topics to include: Walking in Divine Health, Foods that Empower, Foods that Devour, Great Health is about Great Healing, Cancer-proof Your Life, Ruling and Reigning Over Stress.

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.

Men’s Prayer Group-evening

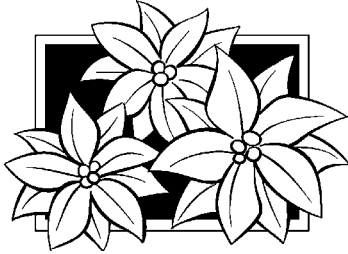
An *evening* men’s prayer group! It will be held once a month, on the third Tuesday of each month from **7:30 PM until 8:30 PM in the Spiritual Life Center**. The next meeting will be **Tuesday night, January 17**. Come with your ideas. We’ll read and discuss the Liturgy for the following Sunday Mass.

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

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 19, 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.



Christmas Flower Offerings

Christmas Flower offerings received by **Sunday, December 11** will be published in the Christmas bulletin.

Offerings received after that date, will be published in subsequent bulletins.

Thank you

The Bereavement Ministry would like to thank the Religious Education seventh grade students in Room 21, and their teachers, Lisa Cestaro and Anne Saltzman, for their assistance with hospitality at the Mass for Bereaved Parents on Saturday, December 10. Thank you to the students and their catechist!



R.C.I.A. – The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Our Family Grows

Recently, those at the 11 AM Mass, participated in the Rite of Acceptance with our candidates and catechumens of the R.C.I.A. - The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. They are gathering every Sunday for 11AM Mass and will be “dismissed” after the Homily to pray and share on the Sunday readings. Every Monday, they will meet for catechesis and reflection.

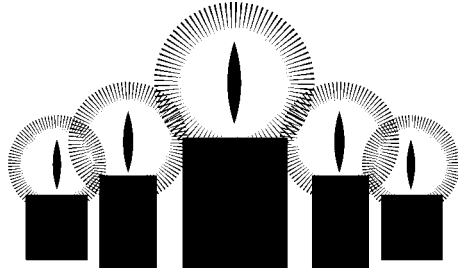
Please pray for them, by name, as they continue on this journey of new life and hope!

Our “Catechumens”(to be fully initiated into the Church) are:

Jonathan Amdur and Foong Lin Lam

and “Candidates” (those to receive Eucharist and/or Confirmation) are:

Charles Frith and Tina Hennessey



Advent Day of Reconciliation

Monday, December 19

3 PM – 9 PM

Our parish priests will be available to hear individual confessions. The Advent season brings us promises of transformation and renewal. This beautiful sacrament is one way this can happen. Be open to the healing forgiveness of Reconciliation!



Christmas Poster Contest Holy Name Society Diocesan Union *“Christmas is Jesus’ Birthday”*

Every year posters are made by students up to eighth grade, from all over the Diocese of Rockville Centre, including children from our School and Parish.

The Award Ceremony this year will be sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes, and be held here in our school cafeteria on Sunday, January 8, 2012 from 2 PM-5 PM. The former President for Our Lady of Lourdes Holy Name Society, *Ronald Koras*, will be honored posthumously, with the award for Outstanding Service-Man of the Year, by the Diocesan Union.

Please join us in honoring Ron and celebrating the faith of our young people. The posters submitted this year were beautifully made, and show that our children still know the meaning of Christmas. Mark your calendars-

Sunday, January 8, 2012 from 2 PM to 5 PM in the school cafeteria.



Advent Alive

Come join us at Children's Liturgy of the Word at 9:30 AM Sunday Mass. All children ages 4 yrs to 4th grade (or shorter than Fr. Bob) will follow the living scriptures on OLL's channel **W GOD** in the Parish Center.

A character from the readings of the day will light our Advent Wreath at the beginning of Mass and then will be interviewed during the Children's Liturgy of the Word in the Parish Center. Our special guest today is *the Angel Gabriel*.

The four week season of Advent, beginning November 27, will help the children and their families "prepare" for the true meaning of the **Christmas Celebration**.

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!

If you are interested or you have any questions, please contact Cathy Danowski at danowhouse@aol.com or call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, December 20**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

Senior Circle

The next meeting of OLL Senior Circle will be held on **Monday, December 19**, at **12:30 PM in the Spiritual Life Center**. NOTE:location

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.

Parish Outreach

Office telephone:
661-9262, option 4

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.

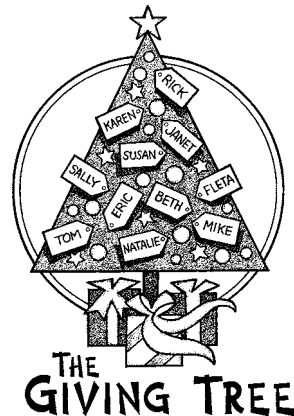
News From Outreach

In anticipation of the great event: Christmas!

The Giving Tree has been decorated and filled with tags so that you may help those in need this Christmas.

Having collected the many gifts and donations for the past several weeks, the sorting will need to be done. Volunteers will be needed to help with sorting the gifts.

If you are interested in becoming an ‘elf’-please join us on **Sunday, December 18 at 1 PM in the All-Purpose Room** to help us sort the gifts. We are very organized and work in teams of two-so bring a friend, dust off your elf hat and join us! Another way to ‘give’ during this Advent season.



Did you notice “The Giving PODS?”

Our thanks goes to Terry Lachner , manager for PODS on Long Island, for donating the use of a POD to our Outreach Office for the Christmas Season.

The POD will be used to store your generous gifts and contributions until they can be distributed at Christmas. Terry has also offered a discount on a POD rental for any OLL parishioner! Contact the Outreach Office for details.



Mass Prayers

(Text in **bold** represents the wording)

GREETING

Priest: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And with your spirit.**

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and **on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you, we bless you, we adore you,
we glorify you, we give you thanks for your
great glory,**

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ,

Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

Son of the Father,

you take away the **sins** of the world, have
mercy on us;

**you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;**

you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all **things visible and invisible.**

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only **Begotten** Son of God,
born of the Father **before all ages.**

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,

consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit

was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and
became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day

in **accordance with** the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory

to judge the living and the dead

and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and
the Son,

who with the Father and the Son

is adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism

for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection
of the dead and the life of the world to

come. Amen.

and Responses

that has changed in the Roman Missal.)

INVITATION TO PRAYER (Response)

May the Lord accept the sacrifice
at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name, for our good
and the good of all his **holy** Church.

PREFACE DIALOGUE

Priest: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: *Let us give thanks
to the Lord our God.*

People: **It is right and just.**

HOLY, HOLY HOLY

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of **hosts**.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

MYSTERY OF FAITH (Memorial Acclamation)

Priest: ***The mystery of faith.***

People:

B – When we eat this Bread
and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your death,
O Lord,
until you come **again.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Priest: ***Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away
the sins of the world.***

***Blessed are those called
to the supper of the Lamb.***

All: Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and **my soul** shall be healed.

Having difficulty with the changes? It may help to remember the most important things. Regardless of what words we use, the miracle of Jesus making himself present to us and coming into our hearts in Holy Eucharist has not changed. The mystery of Jesus present in his Word and in our community of faith has not changed. The challenge to take Jesus to the world through our loving actions and our own transformation has not changed. These are the important things. So relax, be at peace, be kind, and keep it in perspective.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

4 PM All souls of Bruno Family
(Church) *Fr. Mike Vetrano*

Family Mass with music led by our Contemporary Music Group Christmas Carols to begin at 3:30 PM.

4 PM Salegna, Paladino & Ardolino Families
(cafeteria) *Fr. Pat Amabile*

The Mass "Down Under" with quiet music and an intimate atmosphere.

6 PM Nicholas Cibelli
(Church) *Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

Our Young People's Mass which includes Children's Liturgy of the Word and our Youth Choir.

8 PM Virginia & Joseph Beno
(Church) *Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

Our most solemn liturgy, a manageable crowd, and a solemn spirit of prayer and worship.

11 PM Angelito Cruz (*living*)
(Church) *Fr. Mike Vetrano*

This Mass, which ends around midnight, begins the actual celebration of Christmas. The liturgy includes a beautiful candlelight service and music led by our combined choirs.

Christmas Carols to begin at 10:30 PM.

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

(all Masses in Church)

8:00 AM Ethel Isola
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

9:30 AM Dec'd mbrs of Monroe & Shaddock Families
Fr. Pat Amabile

11:00 AM Lillian LaRocca
Fr. Mike Vetrano

12:30 PM Herbert Olsen
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

(There is no 6 PM Mass on Christmas Day)

Remembering . . .

Monday, December 19

8:00 AM Peter Reehil

Tuesday, December 20

8:00 AM Carmella Parasole

Wednesday, December 21

St. Peter Canisius, priest and doctor of the Church

8:00 AM Theresa Reardon

Thursday, December 22

8:00 AM Angela D'Ambrosio

Friday, December 23

St. John of Kanty, priest

8:00 AM Howard Guja

Saturday, December 24

8:00 AM Joseph Badamo, Giuseppe Ingoglia,
Louise & Bruce Davenport, Benjamin Linger, St. Jude

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass Schedule on previous page...



Rest In Peace

William McGrath died on December 4 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was December 7. We extend our prayers to his children, grandchildren, and entire family.



Baptisms

Cassie Jane Montgomery

Ryan and Gina

Sadie Jude Mulstay

Michael and Cynthia

4th Sunday of Advent



It seems that angels are everywhere at Christmas. In today's Gospel Gabriel comes to Mary to announce that she will bear the Savior. In other stories at this time of year, an angel comes to Zechariah and Elizabeth to announce the birth of John the Baptist. An angel appears to Joseph to tell him to welcome Mary into his home. Angels appear to the shepherds to proclaim the birth of Christ, and to the Magi to warn them to flee from Herod after they have presented their gifts to the newborn King.

In our popular culture, angels adorn the Christmas cards we send, are put up on our front lawns, and festoon the house in various decorations. In an argument that reflects the different perspectives of the two Gospel stories of the birth of Jesus, families debate what will sit atop the Christmas tree: a star-which reveals the birth of Christ in Matthew's Gospel-or an angel-which heralds the birth of the Savior to the shepherds in the story written down in Luke.

Mary was hardly the first to be visited by an angel. They have a solid history in the Bible. But Mary's quick assent to the will of God is an example for all of us who follow Christ. She was willing to accept what God wanted of her, that is, to become the mother of his Son. And it was the angel that conveyed the message.

So with all of the images of angels that surround us at this time of year, it might be good to ask ourselves who are the real angels in our lives. As with Mary, there may be people around us who give insight into the will of God for us. As with the Magi, there may be people who give us warnings about the paths to follow in life. As with Joseph, there may be those who give specific direction about what is right. They are all our angels.

2011 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of December 18, 2011

Sunday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Monday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday:	Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
Thursday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
Friday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
Saturday:	<i>Morning:</i> 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
Next Sunday:	<i>Vigil:</i> Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
	<i>Midnight:</i> Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
	<i>Dawn:</i> Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
	<i>Day:</i> Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Angela MacDermott*.
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 ...

*Joseph Badala, Jr., Nicole Cerny, Eddie Cronin, Jeanne Marie DellaRagione,
Frank Edwards, Jake Feldman, Elizabeth Fredriksen, Kenneth Garretson,
Baby Gavin Gradiska, James Grillo, Sr., Baby Peter Horyczun, Marie Impellizeri,
Peter Joseph, Robyn Kerrigan, Baby Jonathan J. Lavin, Anne Losee,
Christopher J. Maher, Marge Marotta, Tony Marotta, Vicky Massaro,
John McNevin, Margaret Meringolo, Denise Michelback, Arlene Monte,
Rae Morris, Patricia Muller, Andy Nolfo, Evelyn Nonnon, Frances Parine,
Peter Porzio, Joe Radosti, Teresa Saraceno, Ann Marie Schiraldi,
Baby Isabella Shaw, Angelo Tedesco, Nancy Turano, Joseph Yezek, Louie Zaino*

The Rich Meaning of Christmas

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

What does Christmas mean? Christmas is like a perfectly-cut diamond twirling in the sun, giving off an array of sparkles. Here are just some of its meanings:

- A four-year-old child woke up one night frightened, convinced that there were all kinds of spooks and monsters in her room. In terror she fled to her parents' bedroom. Her mother took her back to her room and, after soothing her fears, assured her that it was safe there: "You don't need to be afraid. After I leave, you won't be alone in the room. God will be here with you!" "I know that God will be here," the child protested, "but I need someone in this room who has some skin." The word was made flesh and dwelt among us. *John 1, 14*

- God is not found in monasteries, but in our homes. Wherever you find husband and wife, that's where you find God; wherever children and petty cares and cooking and arguments and reconciliation are, that's where God is too. The God I'm telling about, the domestic one, not the monastic one, that's the real God. *Nikos Kazantzakis*

- Every year of life waxes and wanes. Every stage of life comes and goes. Every facet of life is born and then dies. Every good moment is doomed to become only a memory. Every perfect period of living slips through our fingers and disappears. Every hope dims and every possibility turns eventually to dry clay. Until Christmas comes again. Then we are called at the deepest, most subconscious, least cognizant level to begin to live again. Christmas brings us all back to the crib of life to start over again: aware of what has gone before, conscious that nothing can last, but full of hope that this time, finally, we can learn what it takes to live well, grow to full stature of soul and spirit, and get it right. *Joan Chittister*

- After a mother has smiled for a long time at her child, the child will begin to smile back; she has awakened love in its heart, and in awakening love in its heart, she awakes also recognition. In the same way, God awakes Himself before us as love. Love radiates from God and instills the light of love in our hearts. *Hans Urs Von Balthasar*

- At Christmas, through his grace-filled birth, God says to the world: "I am there. I am with you. I am your life. ... Do not be afraid to be happy. For ever since I

wept, joy is the standard of living that is really more suitable than the anxiety and grief of those who think they have no hope. ... This reality, this incomparable wonder of my almighty love, I have sheltered safely in the cold stable of your world. I am there. I no longer go away from this world. Even if you do not see me. I am there. It is Christmas. Light the candles! They have more right to exist than all the darkness. It is Christmas. Christmas lasts forever." *Karl Rahner*

- Even at Christmas, when halos are pre-tested by focus groups for inclusion in mass market campaigns, they are hard to see. ... This is how halos are seen, by looking up into largeness, by tucking smallness into folds of infinity. I do not know this by contemplating shimmering trees. Rather there was a woman, busy at the Christmas table, and I looked up to catch a rim of radiance etching her face, to notice curves of light sliding along her shape. She out-glowed the candles. All the noise of the room left my ears and silence sharpened my sight. When this happens, I do not get overly excited. I merely allow love to be renewed, for that is the mission of haloes, the reason they are given to us. ... But when haloes fade, they do not abruptly vanish, abandoning us to the lesser light. They recede, as Gabriel departed from Mary, leaving us pregnant. *John Shea*

- Some of the Church Fathers compared Jesus to a singer with a strong voice and a perfect pitch who joins a discordant choir and completely transforms it. It is not that Jesus gave us a different set of songs to sing, but helped us instead to perform our standard repertoire in an entirely new and more beautiful way. *Richard McBrien*

- The incarnation does not mean that God saves us from the pains of this life. It means that God-is-with-us. For the Christian, just as for everyone else, there will be cold, lonely seasons, seasons of sickness, seasons of frustration, and a season within which we will die. Christmas does not give us a ladder to climb out of the human condition. It gives us a drill that lets us burrow into the heart of everything that is and, there, find it shimmering with divinity. *Avery Dulles*

- Looking for God these days requires the willingness to investigate the small. *Aztec Poem*.

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

December 11, 2011

Weekly Collection	\$ 14,668.00
Weekly Budget	<u>-\$ 19,000.00</u>
+/- for the week	\$ (4,332.00)

Immacualte Conception \$ 1,968.00

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*

...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 Montefusco Family in gratitude for the safe return of JD from active duty.

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

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

Women of Hope

You are Invited to Attend our Champagne Luncheon

St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School will be celebrating the Sixth Annual Women of Hope Champagne Luncheon on **Sunday, February 5, 2012 at 11 AM** at the Timber Point Country Club in Great River. Tickets are \$75.00 per person and there are journal opportunities as well. Please contact the Development Office at 587.8000 x 177 to receive a formal invitation. RSVP by February 1 as seating is limited and by reservation only.

Congratulations to the 2012 Women of Hope Honorees

Lisa Dicarlo Yancigay '81, Alumna and Parent, **Kathy Lehmann Holland**, Alumna and Parent, **Loyda Goodbody**, World Language Faculty Member, and **Ann Munkwitz**, Parent.

Contemplative Outreach of Long Island/Queens

Presents An Enrichment Day With Darlene Eason

A unique biblical presentation of the Parable of the Potter & the Clay. As the message unfolds, God's Love for us comes into focus.

When: January 21, 2012

Where: Parish Center - 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Donation: \$25

Please bring a bag lunch. For further information, please call: Diane Garretson 587.0966

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.

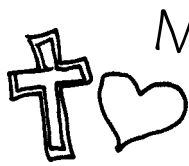
Religion & Rock

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 "**The Best Presents.**" 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

Think of the people you trust. These are people you can count on, no matter what happens. Both Mary and Elizabeth were amazed to learn that they were pregnant. God had surprised each of them with a special miracle - a baby. God trusted them both to take care of their babies. Mary and Elizabeth trusted God to help them. You can trust God, too.



Mission for the Week

Name three reasons you can always trust God.



Puzzle

Complete the picture.



©LPi

Prayer



God,
help me to
trust you like Mary
and Elizabeth did.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of
three people you
trust.