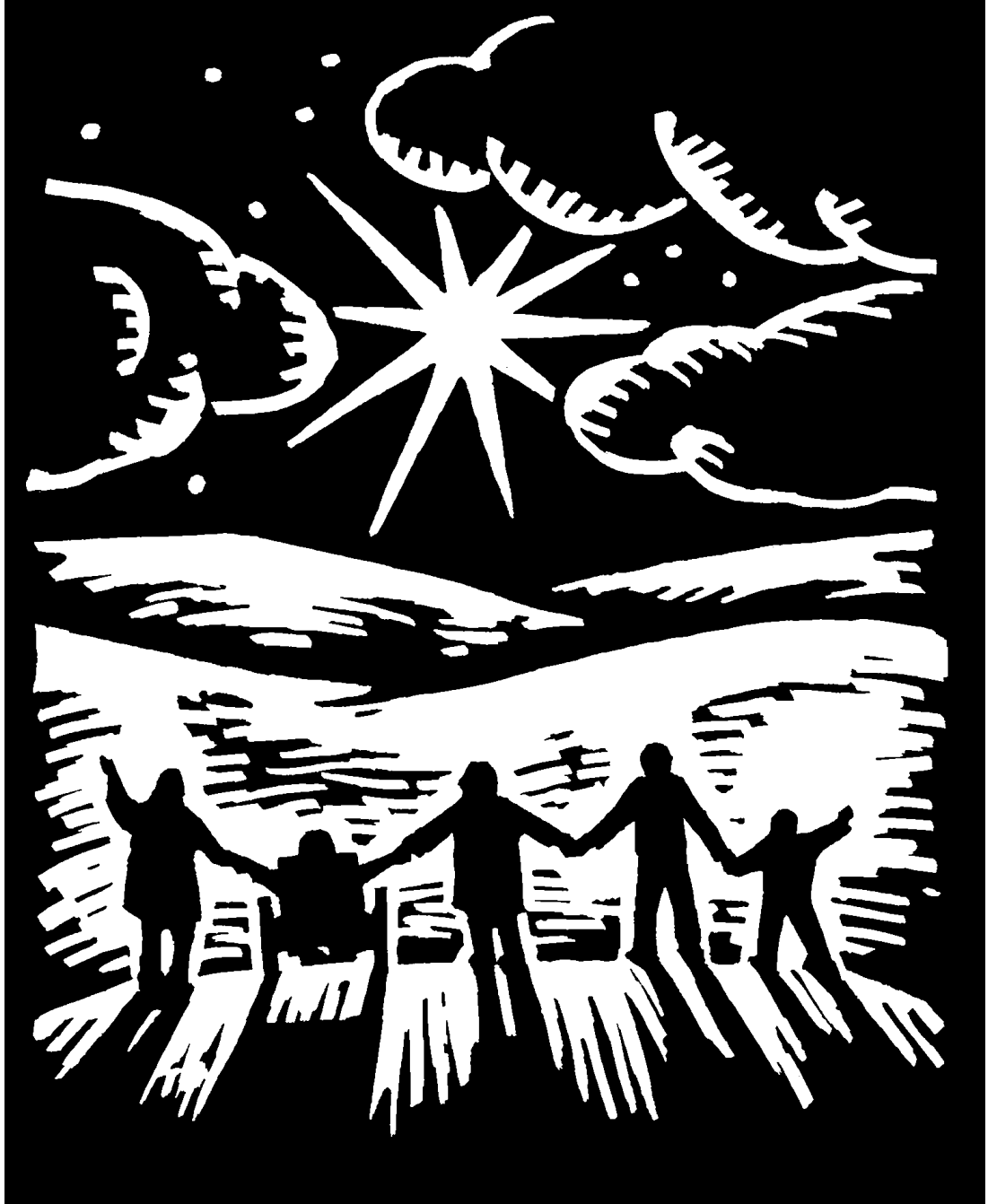


Epiphany of the Lord
Our Lady of Lourdes • January 6, 2008

“Arise and shine;
“Arise and shine;



“your light has come.”
your light has come.”

Isaiah 60:1



Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano
Pastor

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.

Parish Office

661-3224

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Saturday: 9 AM - 3 PM

Sunday: 9 AM - 2 PM

email: ParishOffice@ollchurch.org

fax: 661-7143

website: www.ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes School

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: info@ollschool.org

Religious Education Office

661-5440

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon

1 PM - 5 PM

7 PM - 9 PM

email: ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org

Parish Outreach Office

661-9262

Monday-Friday: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

S.A.G.E.

661-3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth
and Enrichment)

email: Sage@ollchurch.org

Rev. Stanislaus Chukwube

Associate Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback

Associate Pastor

Deacon John DeGuardi

Deacon Jack Meehan

Coordinator of Stewardship

Deacon John Teufel

Dominic Armano

Youth Ministry

Sr. Margaret Bickar

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Sr. Nancy Campkin

Director of Religious Education

Jennifer Gallagher

Children's Choir/Women's Chorale

Summer Program Director

Carol M. Goetz

Parish Music Director

Louise Jane Krol

School Principal

Sr. Diane Liona

Director of Religious Education

Mary McMahon

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Vita Scorcia

Ministry Spiritual Director

John Sureau

Coordinator of Worship

Sr. Betty Toohig

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Anthony Trombino

Business Manager

Pastoral Council

Salomon Acosta

Stacie Baltrusitis

Jane Desthers

Stephen Frodell

William Hurley

Anne Kerrigan

Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)

Deacon Jack Meehan

Vita Scorcia

Doreen Spiller

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Marie Yuliano (*co-chair*)

Parish Staff

Barbara Catusco

Religious Education Office

Mary Anne Lettieri

Parish Office

Debbie Meyer

Bulletin /Parish Office

Rosemary Multer

School Office

Rex Muro

Organist

Rita Spera

Religious Education Office

Lori Walsh

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.*

*Our Lady
of Lourdes*

455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, New York 11795

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,

please contact John Sureau, S. Nancy, Fr. Stan or Fr. Bob at the Parish Office.

You can call 661-3224, option #1, and we would be happy to help you!

**Mark your
calendar!**



Directed Retreat Week

All Are Welcome to our Third Annual Directed Retreat Week experience...right here at OLL!

Sunday, February 3–Saturday, February 9, 2008

St. Ignatius Retreat House offers the opportunity for the experience of the Directed Retreat to the people of a parish, in their parish surroundings... as they live out their daily lives.

Who can go?

This “Directed Retreat” is for you! Many people cannot go away for a week or a weekend to experience a directed retreat. This is a wonderful taste of what it is like to have spiritual direction and to be on retreat without leaving your home.

How does it work?

We will meet initially on Sunday afternoon at 2 PM at Our Lady of Lourdes. Our first meeting will last about one hour and you will meet your retreat director/prayer guide. The Prayer Guides are a group of spiritual directors, affiliated with St. Ignatius Retreat Center, Manhasset who have been trained in leading prayers and spiritual exercises in the tradition of St. Ignatius.

After this meeting, each retreatant will meet privately with his/her prayer guide at our parish for approximately one-half hour each day, Monday through Friday. During these meetings, the retreatant and prayer guide will reflect together and will examine different ways to pray, including meditation and praying with scripture. Each retreatant commits to set aside a half hour each day for a prayer period on a scripture passage. On Saturday morning at 9:30 AM, there will be a group closing session at Our Lady of Lourdes.

Adult Faith Formation

“MOMS” - Ministry of Mothers Sharing

An opportunity for women to get together to share and nurture each other through the journey of motherhood.

- *Come... women who lead stressful lives.*
- *Come...women who live with many demands of their time and energy.*
- *Come... women who need a place to receive spiritual nurturing.*

Topics will include: spirituality, self-esteem, stress and so much more!

Thursdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31, February 7 and 28, 2008

7:30-9:00 PM

Room 16

Presenter is Lyn Quinn, Pastoral Formation Institute

Please sign up as soon as possible-seating is limited! Also, there will be a book purchase required for class.

Old Testament

Our History...Our Roots..

This five week journey will bring us back to our heritage. As Christians, our faith is deepened when we take this journey which brings us to the beginnings of our faith story.

How are we, as followers of Christ, rooted in the Old Testament scriptures? Come to know more about our roots and traditions through learning, prayer and sharing.

Tuesdays, January 8, 15, 22, 29, February 5, 2008

7:30-9:30 PM

Parish Center

Presenters are Fr. Bob Scheckenback and Deacon Kevin McCormick

Pre-Registration is necessary and helpful. This will enable us to have enough reading material and refreshments for all those attending. Please call the Religious Education Office, Monday-Friday, between 9AM – 5 PM at 661.5440 x3, or e-mail to: religioused@ollchurch.org. Fee: \$25 [No fee is required for those who have paid the Religious Education Family Fee or Our Lady of Lourdes School Tuition. Fees may vary appropriately.]



Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of **January** will be on **Wednesday, January 9 from 1-3 PM**. All are invited and welcome! We will be praying for our children, our country, our men and women in the military and our clergy.

Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, January 13**. We will begin with the **Rosary at 7:40 AM in the Church** and the **meeting will follow the 8 AM Mass at 9 AM in Room 16**.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, January 8**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

Rosary Christian Mothers

The Rosary Christian Mothers meet on the first Monday evening of each month. The next meeting will be **Monday, January 7**. We will begin with **Rosary at 7:45 PM in the Church** followed by **meeting at 8 PM in the Parish Center**.

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.

Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group

The Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group meets each **Thursday afternoon** in the **Church**. The meeting is from **3 PM until 4 PM in front of the Blessed Sacrament**.

School News

*See what's new
in Catholic Education!*

Visit our classes in session :
Monday, January 28 -
Wednesday, January 30
9 AM - 11 AM

Open House

Sunday, January 27

following Family Liturgy at 9:30 AM
Curriculum Fair 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
in the School Cafeteria

What makes us different?

Come and see...

State of the art, new **Science Lab & Media Center**

The Lourdes Academy of Arts & Sciences-grades 6, 7, 8

Listen to our eighth graders describe their projects

with Stony Brook Medical School

Early Childhood Programs beginning at 2 years old!

Somebody Special & Me! 2 years old

Nursery 3 years old

Pre-K 4 years old

Kindergarten

(three or five days-full or half days available)

2008-09 registration applications
will be accepted beginning
Catholic Schools Week.

open house

Night at the Races

Our Lady of Lourdes School will present a **Night at the Races on Saturday, January 19, at 7PM in the school cafeteria.** Admission is \$5 per person.

We will have door prizes and raffles. Hero, soda, coffee and cake will be available with the price of admission. Each bet will cost \$2 and before the last race, we will auction the horses. Child care will be available in the All-Purpose Room.

For more information please contact Frank Antonawich at 587.7988 or Christina Macina at 647.7440

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 Satellite Radio, Channel 159, or the Catholic Channel.* This week's theme is: "**Fresh Start.**" You can visit us anytime to listen or download a show at www.religionandrock.com.

For more information about our television shows go to www.TelecareTV.org.

MEMORIALS AVAILABLE

This Christmas, our parish is pleased to begin using a new set of chalices and ciboria at Mass. Our parish has recently acquired these beautiful sacred vessels which were each hand made for us.

There are eight new ciboria and eight new chalices for the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ at our Sunday Masses. There are also two new celebrant's chalices which will be used for daily Mass, funerals, weddings and for special occasions throughout the year. Each item is brushed silver with gold interior. They are all very high quality and will be used in our parish only for many years to come.



Celebrant's chalice for daily Mass and special occasions.



One of eight new chalices for Communion.

A LASTING MEMORY

For a gift of \$800 you may request that one of these new vessels be inscribed with the name of a loved one who will be remembered each time these beautiful sacred vessels are used in the celebration of Mass.



Ciboria for the distribution of Communion.

To make a gift and request a memorial, please contact Lori Walsh at the Parish Office at 661.3224, extension 120 or email to lori@ollchurch.org.



Mass Schedule

Monday, January 7

St. Raymond of Penafort, priest

8:00 AM Angelo Caranante

Tuesday, January 8

8:00 AM Robert Knauth

Wednesday, January 9

8:00 AM Dr. Edward F. Lanigan and
Miriam Hattermer

Thursday, January 10

8:00 AM Richard Jonas, Sr.

Friday, January 11

8:00 AM Carmela & Fortunato Maggi

Saturday, January 12

8:00 AM Joseph Ferrara, Anna Lettieri, Adam Ippolito, Frank Amann,
Leonard & Rogelio Reyes Vincencio, Isabel & Eulogio Leon,
Maria V. LaCarrubba(L)

5:00 PM John Lovari

Sunday, January 13

8:00 AM Virginia Teufel

9:30 AM Grace Lay

11:00 AM Dec'd mbrs of Sweeney & Primrose Families

12:30 PM Carmella Parasole

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Helen Tryon, Connie Bertone,
Fr. John Murray, Anna Burgio, Misir Nina, Marion Gammino,
Loreto & Benedetto Fantauzzi, Murtha Lawrence,
Edward J. Edwards, Ann Danielle Whalen

Rest In Peace

Anthony C. Delgado died on December 15 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was December 24. We extend our prayers to his mother and father, Mary Ann and Louis, his son Tyler and many brothers and sisters.

Altar Bread and Wine

Louis Castorino

Upcoming Marriages

*Catherine Mangiaracina, OLL and
George Powers, Jr.,
Ss. Philip & James, St. James*

Parish Outreach

Outreach Office Hours

Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM.
For information/assistance call 661.9262.



canned fruit
canned vegetables
jelly
peanut butter
pudding/jello

Our pantry is running low on the following items...
cereal, coffee, soup, and tea.

MICAH: A Campaign to End LI Poverty

(Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger)

“Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.”

Micah 6:8

A Covenant Requirement: Our Right to Health Care

“If we are to renew our covenant with God and create the conditions for the justice that God demands, then the first order of business must be to proclaim loudly to the nation that those who are poor and vulnerable must not be overlooked or dismissed. For we are “one nation under God,” and this nation’s welfare is threatened now and in the future if we fail to ensure that those in need are fed, cared for, and given every opportunity to succeed and prosper in a way that reflects their fundamental human dignity as creatures made in God’s image.”

“Human dignity is protected by basic human rights. Among these are the right to life and the basic necessities of life such as food, shelter, clothing, health care, education, and employment at a livable wage. . . . Catholic social teaching [as do most religious traditions] affirms the idea that every right carries with it a set of responsibilities, both on the part of the individual and the community. Thus, for example, all people have a right to health care, but they also have a duty to act responsibly in living a healthy life and caring for the physical and mental well-being of their bodies. . . . At the same time, society has a responsibility to ensure that everyone has access to decent health care, and individuals have a responsibility to contribute to the common good by helping society reach this goal.”

“Some 46.6 million Americans lack health insurance. Despite this fact, the United States spends much more on health care per capita than other developed countries that provide coverage for all of their people. Every person has a basic right to adequate health care, a right that flows from and protects the human dignity with which every human being is endowed. To make this right a reality, we support the establishment of national health coverage for all Americans. Such a program should ensure an adequate level of health care for all Americans and include parity for mental health services.”

An excerpt from Poverty in America: A Threat to the Common Good, Catholic Charities USA 2006 policy paper, Pp.6, 7, 19

To learn more about the MICAH campaign, contact Dr. Richard Koubek at Catholic Charities at Koubek.richard@catholiccharities.cc

Parish Outreach Donations

A donation has been made to Outreach in honor of *Vincent & Mary Mirabella* and *Walter & Pearl Gizewski*.

A donation has been received in Outreach in memory of *Adam Ippolito*.

Outreach has received Christmas donations in memory of *Phil Hoffken* and *Christopher Hoffken*.

The Adult Choir has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Adam Ippolito*.

Outreach has received a Christmas donation of gratitude for the friendship of *Fr. Stephen, Jack & Celeste Meehan, John & Anne DeGuardi, Jerry Esposito*.

Dinnertime and...

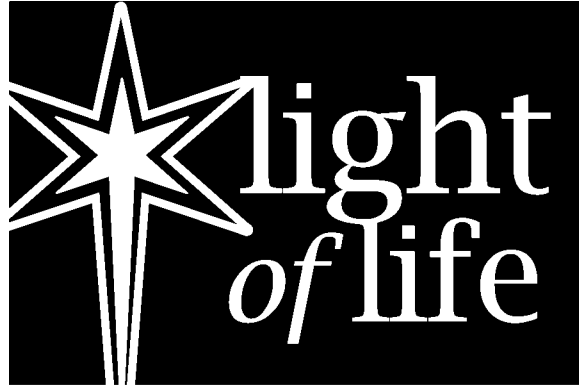
Dinner is an important meal in our family. It is the only meal we have together each day. So, some evenings, it is later so we can all be together for that time. Usually, as we eat, we each talk about our days. So, on Monday, December 17, I was attempting to describe the ‘mountain of gifts’ in the Outreach Office explaining that these would be for people who needed gifts for Christmas. As only Edward could, he offered his opinion on the situation of need! “Mom, it doesn’t matter if you are poor in Asia or Italy. You could be poor in the desert sitting on a cactus- you should still get gifts! Even if you are poor- you still want gifts!”

our “Giving Tree”

When I arrived at the Outreach Office on Monday, December 17 it was impossible to get to my desk. The “mountain” of gifts collected from under the “Giving Tree” during the weekend was at least six feet high. Gift bags, boxes, and shopping bags filled the Outreach Office and continued through to the back where my desk is located. There was only one thing to do- start sorting the pile! The women who volunteer in Outreach worked tirelessly until 5 PM Monday- Flo Worysz, Jane Desthers, Ann Nardone, Pat Wallace, Pat Falco, Pat McKeefery, Anne Basso, Pat Heithaus, Marie Ricigliano, Ruth Hiller, Grace LaPenna- only to start again when we returned on Tuesday morning. By Wednesday the initial sorting was completed- and it was time to sort the gifts into bags for the individual families. Joe and Vera Vieni took over this task with a crew of devoted and loyal volunteers -the Cunninghams, Camerons and Petitos, Terry Lodespoto- who worked throughout the day on Wednesday making sure that each child in every family received not only toys but some articles of clothing. Imagine how time consuming it is to fill each bag as equally as possible! Thursday, Distribution Day, proved to be as busy as the previous three days. Many tears of gratitude were shed. And so, on behalf of all those who received gifts I extend again, gratitude to all in Our Lady of Lourdes who helped to make this a bright Christmas for so many children and families. Thank you for the food cards and clothing store cards. Thank you to the families who ‘adopted’ other families. Thank you for the financial donations earmarked to specific clients. Thank you for the donated turkey dinners. Thank you for the bicycles- seven children will be surprised and seven sets of parents will have the joy of watching their children’s gleeful response! Thank you for the skateboards, and games and clothes. Thank you.

-Mary McMahon

Director Parish Social Ministry



©LPI

Epiphany of the Lord

How many times have you heard young people say, "I just want to find myself"? Perhaps you were one of those young people! Are you still searching? It is entirely possible that the search goes on because one isn't looking for the right person. Many of us will spend our lives in frustration looking for whatever it is that might make us happy, when we need look no further than a promise fulfilled beneath a star, shining brightly over Bethlehem 2,000 years ago.

Three wise men set out to find a child who was said to be the Messiah, the new King foretold throughout the ages by the prophets. They believed; their faith allowed them to follow that shining star to their journey's end. But instead of a regal palace, they found a tiny town; instead of a throne room, they found a humble home. And still they fell to their knees, worshiping him and offering him their humble, earthly gifts. Their faith led them.

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East. They represented the Gentiles, and their visit begins the discovery of Jesus by those who have been seeking the promised king of all nations (CCC 528). If you are searching, look for the light of life that is Jesus Christ. And if you have found that light, hold it high as a shining star so that others, too, may find it.

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Readings for the Week of January 6, 2008

Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday:	1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday:	1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday:	1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday:	1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday:	1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30
Next Sunday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Elizabeth Netska*.
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 sacred anointing.

Pray for Our Sick

Please remember to keep in your thoughts and prayers ...

*Stacie Baltrusitis, Deacon Dick Barry, Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan,
Baby Drew Brust, Howard Campkin, Lynn Castellano, Laura Christman,
Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Karen DellaVecchia, TJ Devlin,
Josephine DiBenedetto, Daniel V. DiMonda, Jean Dobson, Jason Fisher,
Samantha Hil, Kathleen Kerrigan, Wade Kromhout, Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang,
Nancy Letsch, Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento, Peter Lynch, Denise Mannino,
Diego Marino, Rosemarie Marmo, Charles Matushefske, Michele McCann,
Peter McCann, Sr., Joseph Menite, Bryan Monahan, Jimmy Murphy, Joseph Ortiz,
Maria Pereira, Mary Petersen, Arthur Petrino, Baby Conner Pietras, Louise Posanti,
Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds, Felix Rivera, Dorothy Schiavone, Derek Stahl,
Linda Stasio, Dorothy Sullivan, Loretta Vitale*

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Start the new year out right-spend some quality time renewing your
marriage. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is
January 19/20, 2008. Please visit the website at www.wwme.org.

Faith, Church and Commitment in an Imperfect World

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Michael Buckley, the American Jesuit, once said that the main cause of atheism is bad theism. That truth has a hundred faces. Ideals are always compromised by those who try to give them concrete flesh and, just as bad theism helps cause atheism, arrogant artists turn you off art, oversimplistic social justice advocates turn you away from good causes, bad theologians give theology a sour taste, unbalanced liberalism quickly turns you into a fundamentalist, and unhealthy conservatism seduces you towards irresponsible freedom. The bad practice of a truth often takes that truth away from you. We see that clearly in terms of people being turned away from the church.

Lisa St. Aubin de Teran gives us such an illustration in her book, *The Marble Mountain and Other Stories*. Her main character accuses her mother of destroying the church for her: "Sometimes I think the whispering in the ward at night sounds very Catholic. Perhaps that's why I think so much about you [Mother]. You were my religion for so many years. I asked Fr. O'Hare once how I could find favour in the eyes of God, and he told me, 'First you must find favour in your mother's eyes.' It would have pleased you, Mother, Mary, to know how much you denied me. Not many women can take away a Church."

Does that sound familiar? More and more people, in one way or other, make this complaint: "Someone - the clergy, the hierarchy, my mother, my father, a nun who taught me in school, someone who abused me, corruption within the church itself - has made it impossible for me to go to church. The church has been stolen from me!"

Can somebody do that to you? Take your church away? I've mixed emotions about that.

On the one hand, I've been lucky personally: My own experience was (and remains) essentially good. God, Christ, religion, and the church were given to me by a mother, a father, a clergy, some nuns, and certain parishes and schools that made them believable. The church that I met when I was little did not abuse me, misunderstand me, belittle me, riddle me with false guilt, or make it difficult for me to believe in Christ. To the contrary, whatever their flaws, for me, they made Christ credible. But that was my experience.

I know sincere people who have had a different experience. For them, someone or something did, at least in some major way, take their church away. Instances of massive betrayal, hypocrisy, narrow bigotry, or the refusal to bless life among the significant others who should have mediated the

church to them have left them with a distrust so deep that it's almost impossible for them to give themselves over in trusting self-surrender. Someone did take their church away.

Despite my own experience to the contrary, I have some sense of how that happens, both in terms of church and in other areas of life. Simply put: Many is the man who fights the truth of social justice because of the social justice groups he's met; many is the woman who fights the truth of feminism because of the feminists she knows; many is the well-meaning man who fights against the value of theology because of the particular theologians he's read; many is the woman who falsely asserts her moral freedom because of the moralists (professional or arm-chair) she's had to endure; and many are the victims who fight the (ideally positive) value of authority and power because the very power that should have protected them abused them.

No doubt, we all struggle with this in one area or another. It's often impossible, existentially, to make allowances for the fact that, despite the goodness and sincerity in most everyone inside these groups, believers aren't the faith, churches aren't Christ, moralists aren't morality, social justice groups aren't social justice, feminists aren't feminism, conservatives aren't conservatism, liberals aren't liberalism, artists aren't art, theologians aren't theology, pro-life groups have no monopoly on life, just as pro-choice groups aren't always about choice.

This side of eternity, all truth incarnates itself with inadequate expression, self-interest, personal wound, historical conditioning, ideology, and invincible ignorance. It's not easy not to be put off truth by the very persons seeking to bring it about - and the churches have no monopoly on compromise and double standards here.

What's the answer? If every concrete, enfleshment of church, morality, truth, justice, politics, family, and aesthetics is flawed by inadequacy, dysfunction, infidelity, self-interest, ignorance, and abuse, does this give us the right to absent ourselves from commitment?

We have a choice. However that choice is not between what's perfect (a pure church, social justice that's completely non-compromised, art without ego or arrogance, family life without dysfunction, politics without bias, morality without narrowness, feminism without imbalance, religion without flaw or bad history) and what's bad. The choice is rather between involvement with the limping, stained, and compromised or no involvement at all.

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 23, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 22,141.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 1,141.00

The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs and salaries is \$21,000.

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:



Lorenzo Bacchi-*US Marines*
Bryan R. Dempsey-*US Marines*
Jeremy deRoxas-*US Air Force*
Frederick Wm. Ellis-*US Army*
James J. Ferrara-*US Marines*
John Finn-*US Army*
Christopher Florca-*US Marines*
Donnie Frank-*US Marines*
Armand J. LeComte-*US Marines*
Anthony Mannino-*US Marines*
Peter Provenzano-*US Army*

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

Did you know?

Every Catholic household in the Diocese of Rockville Centre is entitled to receive a subscription to The Long Island Catholic, the diocesan newspaper. To add or change an address call 516.594.1000, extension 32.

The parish pays for subscriptions for our parishioners, with discounts based on the number of subscriptions. Today is Long Island Catholic Sunday. If you are able, please contribute \$20 to the parish in your Long Island Catholic Sunday envelope to the special collection to help defray the cost of those subscriptions to the parish.

If you are not already getting the paper, write your name and address on the back of the envelope and we'll add you to the subscription list.

El Salvador Mission News

CHRISTMAS IN EL SALVADOR

By Joseph Goldin

Christmas. It is celebrated in the United States and all over the world. In America we sometimes think of Christmas as sleigh bells and Santa Claus. Americans can easily forget the meaning of the holy holiday. People in economically disadvantaged countries aren't bombarded with as much commercialism and remember the real meaning of Christmas, Jesus' birth.

El Salvador, a mainly poor and Catholic country, celebrates Christmas in different ways. They have some unique celebrations. After traveling to El Salvador this summer, I researched their Christmas traditions. One of their special traditions is setting off fireworks. The El Salvadorians create elaborate displays whose noise can be heard all around the area. Even in the most deprived towns and villages, they still have their fireworks.

Christmas decorations in El Salvador need to be inexpensive, yet still festive. The resourceful people decorate with reindeer made out of hay and vines. Fruits such as grapes and apples imported from the US are feasted on.

Commercialism is arriving fast and in some cities you can see a Santa Claus walking through the town ringing a bell saying "Ho, ho, ho!"

The Salvadorians tend to celebrate Christmas Eve more than Christmas Day. In the smallest of villages they use Christmas Day as a resting day after the festivities of Christmas Eve. In Spanish

¡Feliz Navidad!
Merry Christmas!



El Salvador Mission Trip By Michelle Yuliano

The trip I took this past summer to El Salvador was a lot of fun. I enjoyed so many things that we did but the one thing I enjoyed the most was when we visited our sister parish in Tacuba. We created a Bible Camp for all of the children. I was so surprised at how excited the children were when they saw us. We brought with us Spanish books for the children that were donated by our parishioners. The children really seemed to like them. That day, every where you looked you saw a happy child with a book. They were so anxious to read the book or have it read to them. We weren't all that good at speaking Spanish but did the best that we could. The children didn't seem to mind though and continued to smile while we read.

After the trip, I had a totally different perspective of my life here in New York. I am blessed to live in a nice home and go to a great school. I also feel lucky for my family.

Next summer I would like to go back to El Salvador. I had such fun with the children and I hope some of them remember me. I traveled to a foreign country that I knew very little about. I had so much fun with the children that I met throughout the trip. I feel that meeting them and getting to know them made a difference in all of our lives.

If you would like to contribute to our newsletter by sharing your trip or sponsorship experience, please email Michelle at mbudion@optonline.net.

Sharing the Gospel

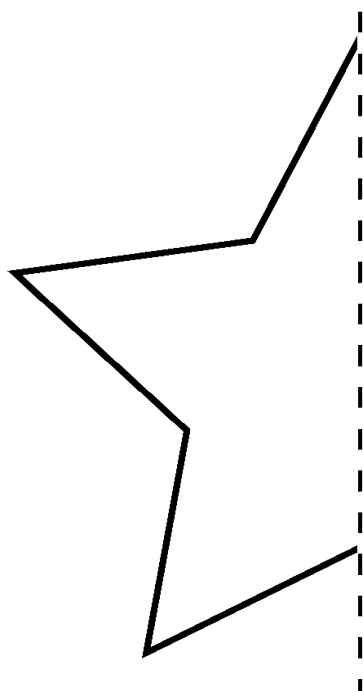
It may be hard to find the star in the east, but God will always show you how to find him. Bow before the altar of God and give the baby Jesus three presents of your own. For gold, share your goodness with others. For frankincense, send your prayers up to God for yourself, your family, and your friends. For myrrh, follow God's words like a sweet perfume.



I will remember that each day of my life is a gift.

Puzzle

Can you draw the second half of this star?



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Prayer



Lord,
I offer you my words,
my actions, and my
thoughts.

Something to Draw



Draw
three wise men
bringing presents
to Jesus.