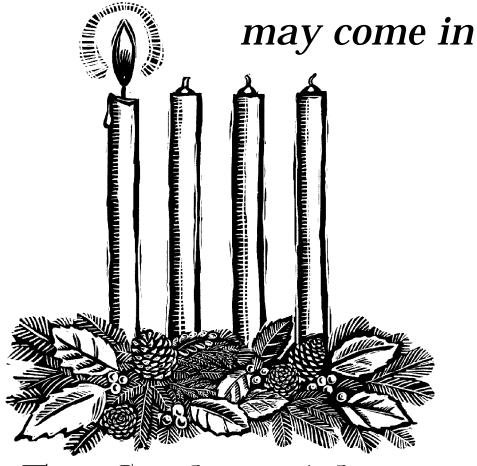
# Lift up your heads, O you gates...

that the **K**ing of glory



First Sunday in Advent

Our Lady of Lourdes • November 27, 2005

# Our **Z**ady of Lourdes

455 Hunter Avenue West Islip, New York 11795

# Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano

**Pastor** 

Rev. Stanislaus Chukwube

Associate Pastor

**Rev. Nestor Watin** 

Associate Pastor

 $\mathsf{W}\mathsf{e}\mathsf{l}\mathsf{c}\mathsf{o}\mathsf{m}\mathsf{e}$  to our  $\mathsf{Parish}\ \mathsf{Family!}\ \mathsf{New}\ \mathsf{Parish}\mathsf{i}\mathsf{o}\mathsf{n}\mathsf{e}\mathsf{r}\mathsf{s}$  are cordially invited to register as members of our parish family. Please call or visit 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.

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.

Rev. Robert Scheckenback In Residence

Deacon Stephen M. Behar Deacon John DeGuardi Deacon Jules O. A. Gagnon Parish Outreach

**Deacon Jack Meehan** Coordinator of Stewardship

**Deacon John Teufel** 

Sr. Margaret Bickar Senior Ministry-SAGE

Sr. Nancy Campkin

Director of Religious Education

Regina Ann Cioffi

School Principal

Jennifer Gallagher

Director of Youth Services

Carol M. Goetz

Parish Music Director

Sr. Diane Liona

Director of Religious Education

Vita Scorcia

Ministry Spiritual Director

John Sureau

Coordinator of Worship

Sr. Betty Toohig

Senior Ministry-SAGE

**Anthony Trombino** 

**Business Manager** 

# Pastoral Council

Michael Abbruscato Salomon Acosta Regina Ann Cioffi Jane Desthers Stephen Frodell Anne Kerrigan

Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)

Mary McMahon

Doreen Spiller

Mary Steck John Sureau

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Marie Yuliano (co-chair)

# Parish Staff

**Barbara Catuosco** 

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

#### Advent 2005

This Sunday, we begin our Church's new Liturgical Cycle as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas. The Advent season calls us to prepare well by participating at Sunday liturgy, reading over the Advent scriptures, and working to support the well-being of others.

Take some time for you this Advent season!

# LONGING

Longing for God's presence in our lives, We rush through the Christmas season, intent on fulfilling the desires and wishes of our families and friends, when focus should be on getting ready to receive Jesus—the Hope of the World.

OCOME TO MY HEART, LORD JESUS: THERE IS ROOM IN MY HEART FOR THEE!

# Throughout Advent...

#### **Liturgical Changes/Updates**

Our parish Liturgy Committee is working hard during this year of the Jubilee to strengthen the sense of community already alive and well here at OLL!

Here are some of the changes you might notice:

#### **Introductions**

At the beginning of all Masses, we are going to invite you to introduce yourself to those around you. The liturgy calls us to recognize and celebrate the community we belong to here at OLL! So during the Call to Worship, the cantor will invite you to take a minute or two to introduce yourself to those you'll be praying with at Mass.

#### **Staying and Sending Forth**

Adding to that sense of staying together and praying together is the whole idea of remaining for the Final Blessing and Sending Forth. We've done well over the past few weeks with this. Let's together make this a goal for the Jubilee Year!



# Celebrating Our Parish Life

Sunday, November 27 is the first Sunday of Advent—it also is the parish-wide beginning of our "Jubilee Year."

The beginning of our *year of jubilee* is celebrated at all Sunday masses with the distribution of our commemorative jubilee pin *(free to every parishioner)*. There will also be an opportunity to purchase a special commemorative ornament.

# Pilgrimage to Lourdes

#### Come with Father Mike on a pilgrimage to Lourdes!

As part of our 50th Anniversary Celebration, we will make a pilgrimage to Lourdes, travel dates **April 17-25, 2006**.

Arrangements have been made to gather at the very place that St. Bernadette experienced her apparitions of our Blessed Mother.

Our journey will take us to Avignon, the city of the Popes, Arles, Carcassone, Lourdes and Paris.

We will meet again on **Tuesday, November 29 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center**. If you have any questions or for additional information, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

### **OLL Website**

Please take a moment and visit our parish website. You'll be glad you did!

It is chock full of information regarding our "Jubilee Year." There are links to "Remembering Our History", "Celebrating Our Parish Life", "Empowering Our Minds and Spirits" and more.

The parish website is <u>www.ollchurch.org</u>.



#### **Christmas Sacred Concert**

Wednesday, December 14 7:30 PM Church

Join us for a fun and relaxing evening of gorgeous Christmas music that will be provided by the many talented musical groups of our parish.

There will be a Christmas carol sing-along, followed by hot cocoa and cookies for all! Take a break from the hectic schedule of the season and bring your family for a wonderful evening with your parish family.

# Giving and Receiving the Gift of Peace

An evening of prayer and reflection on the true meaning of Christmas

Monday, December 19

7:30 PM

Church

In the book of the prophet Isaiah, we read about the kind of gift that God wants to give to our world. A gift of justice and peace to be shared by each and every person and by all the nations of the earth. Without a doubt this is the true meaning of Christmas.

On this evening, we will listen to John Bingham speak about how we can give this gift to others and how we can receive it ourselves. Mr. Bingham is a native Long Islander who now lives in France with his family and works for International Catholic Migration Commission which helps refugees worldwide. He is a former director of immigration for Catholic Charities and has traveled the world to spread the message of justice and peace.

If you are wondering how you can fit this talk into the last busy week of Christmas shopping, ask yourself how you can afford to miss the true meaning of this season.

# **Becoming Married: The Journey to Intimacy**

future classes in the series...

Communication...

talking and listening secrets that lead to intimacy

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

presented by Pat Leonard

Parenting...

how do we parent through the stages of our children's lives

Wednesday, February 15, 2006 presented by Joe Tomaselli

Beginning Again...

healing and freedom through the annulment process

Wednesday, May 17, 2006 presented by Fr. Mike Vetrano

# Our Catholic Faith Through Literature

future classes in the series...

The Prodigal Son Tuesdays, March 7, 14 and 21, 2006

presented by Tom Petriano

Vino and DaVinci Wednesday, May 3, 2006

presented by Margaret Mannino

# Healthcare Issues in the 21st Century

future classes in the series...

Catholic Thinking on Issues of Life and Death

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

with Father Mike

Living Wills, Health Care Proxies, Patient Rights

Tuesdays, March 28 and April 4, 2006

with Marty and Anne Kerrigan

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, 9AM – 5PM and 7PM – 9PM, 661-5440 or e-mail to religioused@ollchurch.org.

Fee: \$5 per presentation or \$15 for the series (5 presentations). 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.

# St. Bernard League

Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!



The winter months can be a stressful and tough time for many in our parish community. Our parish's youth community and Social Action Group have created a special group-The Saint Bernard League- to help with shoveling for our parishioners in need throughout the winter months.

#### How does this work?

When it snows – "your" Saint Bernard will call you to see if you are in need of help. If you need their services, you will set up a convenient time and your Saint Bernard will shovel for you and your family.

#### Do you want to be a Saint Bernard?

We are in need of individual parishioners and parish families to be "Saint Bernards" to those in need within our parish community. If you want to become an OLL Saint Bernard, just call the Parish Office at 661.3224 and leave your name and phone number or e-mail to <u>jsureau@ollchurch.org</u>.

#### Do you need the services of our OLL Saint Bernards?

If you would like to be included on the list of parishioners who may need the services of our OLL Saint Bernard League volunteers, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 or email to *jsureau@ollchurch.org*.

## **Nocturnal Adoration**

Nocturnal/Eucharistic Adoration will **follow the 5 PM Mass on Saturday, December 3** with Benediction at 9:50 PM. Let us prepare our hearts this Advent for the coming of Christmas by praying before the Blessed Sacrament. All are invited and welcome!

## **Altar Servers**

Training for new altar servers will now take place in January. If you're interested in becoming an altar server and have not already signed up, you can contact the Parish Office at 661.3224 or e-mail to <a href="mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org">jsureau@ollchurch.org</a>



# **School News**

Please consider supporting our school's SCRIP program. The SCRIP desk is located in the OLL School Lobby. The SCRIP desk hours are Monday and Wednesday,

12 noon - 2:45 PM, Thursday 12:30 PM - 3:15 PM, Friday,

12 noon - 3:15 PM and Sunday, after the 9:30 AM Mass.

In-stock items are available immediately and orders placed by 10AM Monday will be available for pickup on Friday or thereafter. Please consider supporting our school's SCRIP program.



# Baptisms

Edward Nicholas Haeffer Edward and Amanda Hailey Elisabeth Hoefferle Tom and Maribel Daniel Louis Klein Daniel and Mary Brendan Conor Pollard Turlough and Diane Lianna Maria Crisci Michael and Lynn Michael Vincent Crisci Michael and Lynn Sophia Louise Lastorino Robert and Lisa Madison Ryan Nicolosi Joseph and Coleen Daniella Marie Pastore Peter and Dennine Brian Patrick Shindel Ronald and Sara Samuel James Viola Anthony and Karah

# Rest In Peace

Raymond A. Zaher

John J. Stark

Mary Cafaro

OSS in the
hurch

amily

Rosary/Novena Rosary:

Daily after 8 AM Mass

**Miraculous Medal Novena:** 

Monday after 8 AM Mass

#### **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.

# **Financial Summary**

#### **November 20, 2005**

Weekly Collection \$

Weekly Budget <u>-\$ 19,057.00</u>

+/- for the week \$ ()

(due to change in bulletin deadline-

the November 20 collection will appear next week)

The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs and salaries is \$19,057.

#### **Baptism**

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

#### Marriage

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

# Remembering...

Monday, November 28

**8:00 AM** Salvatore Dellaria

Tuesday, November 29

8:00 AM Robert Russell

Wednesday, November 30

St. Andrew, apostle

**8:00 AM** Edward P. Lowe

Thursday, December 1

**9:30** AM Joseph Constantine, Frankie Barba and

Frankie Barba, Jr.

Friday, December 2

8:00 AM Angelo Genova

Saturday, December 3

**8:00 AM** Maureen A. Parson, Voice of the Faithful,

Eva Cintron, Frank Mancusi, Robert Wilson,

Richard Najdek

**5:00 PM** Margaret Varley

Fr. Nestor Watin

Sunday, December 4

8:00 AM Felizberta Francisco and

Ramon Dimaculangan

Fr. Nestor Watin

**9:30 AM** Barbara McGarrity

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

**11:00 AM** Joseph Rizzo and Morrone Family

Fr. Stan Chukwube

**12:30 PM** Joseph L. McPhail

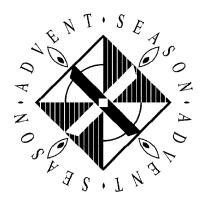
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

**6:00 PM** People of the Parish, James J. Werner,

Angie Locetta, Rosemary Toner, Charles Oliver,

Anthony Crisci, Jeff Kirsty (L)

Fr. Stan Chukwube



**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



# **Altar Society**

Elizabeth Netska

# **Pray for Our Sick**

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers ... Thomas Brennan, Jo Brogan, Christian Bullock, Jerry Castonguay, Lena Conti, Baby Isabella Crudele, John Finch, Jason Fisher, Brian Hampel, Madeline Hopper, Jeff Kirsty, Benjy Margulies, Peter McCann, Sr., Arabella Elizabeth McCarthy, Margaret Miller, Nichole O'Connor, Joe Radosti, Rose Serragano, Mary Stone, Rosemary Van Acker, Loretta Vitale, Valerie Vitolo

# **Anointing of the Sick**

Throughout the liturgical year. If needed sooner, please call the Parish Office.

# **Communion Calls**

Communion brought to those who are homebound. Contact the Parish Office.

#### **Pastoral Care of the 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.

#### **Senior Circle**

Our Senior Circle meets at 12:30 PM in the Parish Center on the *last* Monday of every month.

#### **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:

ReginaC@ollschool.org

# **Religious Education Office**

661-5440

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon

1 PM - 5 PM

7 PM - 9 PM

email:

ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org

#### S.A.G.E.

661-3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment)

email:

Sage@ollchurch.org

#### Thrift & Gift Boutique

Monday & Thursday: 9 AM-11 AM Saturday: 10 AM - 1 PM

#### **Parish Outreach**

#### **Outreach Office Hours**

Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM. For information/assistance call 661.9262. Scrip is sold in Parish Outreach during office hours.

#### Home Care

If you need help at home—home companion or child care—please call Parish Outreach at 661.9262.

#### **Our Lady of Lourdes Bereavement**

Our parish support group for those who have lost a loved one—If interested, please call the Parish Outreach Office at 661.9262.



#### The Giving Tree

Christmas is on its way—actually for those of us at Outreach, it's here!

In order that we may give those less fortunate a nice Christmas, Parish Outreach and other ministries at OLL are putting together our annual "Giving Tree."

This year we have increased the number of tags to help our neighboring churches and outreach programs and, hopefully, to have some gifts go to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Our "Giving Tree" has tags that ask for gifts, toys, food certificates and clothing certificates.

#### You can help us by:

- -taking a tag or two from the tree,
- -place the requested item in a box, with the tag attached, under the tree no later than **December 18**.
- -all items should be left unwrapped, but feel free to provide wrapping paper and bow,
- -if you are giving a gift certificate (food or clothing), you may return them by putting them in the collection basket, dropping them to the Parish Office or Parish Outreach during business hours. (Please, do not leave certificates under the tree.)

We are sure that you will join us in making this a Merry Christmas for all, and we thank you for your continued generosity. We wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas!



# **Restoring the Covenant**

"We are asked to examine our lives and to reflect on how we are living the Gospel call to love and care for each other, and not to forget the least of these."

New York's Catholic Bishops in Restoring the Covenant

Living God's Covenant with the Poor On Long Island: Stories of Hope and Support

# Living God's Covenant with the Poor in Catholic Charities Mental Health Services: Grief, Presence and Care

by Denis Demers, Program Director for Mental Health Services

A call was received at one of our mental health clinics from the owner of a small manufacturing business. One of his Latino employees had just suffered a tragic, fatal accident in the work yard. Most of the employees are Latino and have limited English. The business owner was urgently seeking help for them. They had been severely traumatized after witnessing the accident that killed their friend and co-worker.

The employer had first called the local Catholic parish which offers Mass in Spanish and where many of his employees worship. The parish outreach coordinator referred him to our nearby Catholic Charities Mental Health Clinic.

Martha Torres, a bi-lingual, clinical social worker, responded at the scene. For much of the next three days Martha provided individual and group counseling to the employees for post traumatic stress. She retrieved and provided them with helpful, bi-lingual information from the internet, and, finally, led a prayer service to help the employees bring closure to their grievous loss. Martha also provided supportive counseling to a most thankful employer and assisted him in reaching out to the family of the employee who was killed.

Competent, bi-lingual clinicians are difficult to recruit due to their scarcity and the high demand among hospitals and government agencies which are able to offer higher wages. Catholic Charities is most fortunate in having Martha on staff. She is a seasoned therapist who is also faith-centered and faith-sensitive in the care she provides to her clients. Martha brought her contact with the workers to a close by offering ongoing individual therapy at our Mental Health Clinic for those still struggling with their loss.



#### "The Six"

#### **Cleaning Up This Advent**

This Advent, the "Six Committee" and the Social Action Group are working hard to help those most in need. We will be putting together "Wash Up Kits." In order to be able to do this, we will need new, unused wash cloths, bars of soap, small "sample" style shampoos, toothpastes and toothbrushes. We will be collecting these toiletries throughout the Advent season, so please bring them with your food donation to Church each weekend.

On Sunday, December 18, we will be putting together these "Wash Up Kits." This is a great opportunity for community service during this holiday season. Please come to the Parish Center after "The Six" and help put these "Wash Up Kits" together. These "small items" will be a "big help" to those in need.

#### **SAGE**

The SAGE Group (<u>Senior Advoactes for Growth and Enrichment</u>) will meet on **Tuesday, November 29** in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**. All older parishioners are welcome.

# **Social Action Group**

Our Social Action Group works on issues related to peace and justice. The group coordinates service activities, political action campaigns, assists at local soup kitchens and shelters and helps to direct the justice movement in our parish community.

Our next meeting is **Monday, December 12**, at **7:15 PM in the Faculty Room.** For more information contact Dorothy Perdue or John Sureau at the Parish Office or e-mail to *Dorothy.perdue@worldnet.att.net*.

Support Groups Alcoholics Anonymous

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

#### **ALANON**

Each Wednesday at 10 AM in Lourdes Hall-convent lower level.



# First Sunday of Advent

Christmas dinner in most homes is planned weeks in advance. Guests are expected; we must be ready for them with a magnificent feast. On that day, a perfect choreography of timing will ensure that everything arrives on the table hot and ready to eat. But what if we had no idea what time our guests would be arriving? Would we still be prepared? How would we greet them when they finally do arrive?'

On this first Sunday of Advent, we are given to recall and renew our greatest expectation, the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Just as the faithful prepared for the glorious coming of the Messiah, no one knew the hour or even the day, let alone that this coming would be in such a humble place as a stable in Bethlehem. Likewise, Jesus cautions us that not even the angels in heaven know when the Son of God will return. "What I say to you, then, I say to all: Watch!"

As we remember the anticipation of the coming of the Messiah and renew our spirits to prepare for Christ's return, we must know that there is "no surer pledge or clearer sign of this great hope in the new heavens and new earth ... than the Eucharist." (CCC, 1405) We are anxiously awaiting the most glorious of guests, who promises to be with us soon if we only live through his eyes and his heart now. Our meal is prepared, our feast is ready. Are we?

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### Readings for the Week of November 27, 2005

**Sunday:** Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

**Monday:** Is 2:1-5/ Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday:Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24Wednesday:Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22Thursday:Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27Friday:Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31

**Saturday:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26/ Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 **Next Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/ Mk 1:1-8

#### **Advent Silent Retreat**

Are you looking for a quiet space in the midst of the holiday rush? Jesus said, "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest awhile." (Mark 6:31) The quiet of the winter woods along with the silent, prayerful companionship of other retreatants. Friday, December 2 with 4 PM registration. For more information, call 631.588.8366.

# **Spiritual Journey**

A spiritual journey of hope for women sexual abuse survivors. *This group meets the first Saturday of each month at Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church in Wyandanch*. The next meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, December 3 from 10 AM until 12 Noon** in the **Rectory Sitting Room**. For further information, please call Libby at 631.225.0734.

# **FOCCUS Training**

The marriage preparation ministry for active people with busy lives.

FOCCUS is a self-assessment instrument designed to help couples learn more about themselves and determine their readiness for marriage. To be held at **Church of the Immaculate Conception**, **West Hampton Beach on Saturday, December 10 from 9:30 AM until 12 noon**. The cost is \$45 with FOCCUS manual. Pre-registration required no later than December 5. For registration, please call 516.678.5800, ext. 233.

# Religion & Rock

Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Fr. 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. Next Sunday's theme is:

#### "Thanksgiving"

Don't forget to tune in! Visit "Religion & Rock" on the web, www.religionandrock.com. Also watch "Good News with Father Jim" on TELECARE, channel 29, on Mondays and Fridays at 9:45 AM; Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 7:45 PM; Sundays at 8 PM.

# **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:

Jerry Clark, Jr.-US Army
Justin Estelle-US Army
John Finn-US Army
Kenneth Gein-US Army
Ed Kelly III-US Air Force
Paul McEvoy-US Army
William Morrow-US Marines
Peter Provenzano-US Army
Jonathan Rothwell- US Army
John Thompson-US Marines

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

#### **Reunion Planned**

The Bishop McDonnell Memorial High School Alumnae are planning a 50 year reunion for the classes of January and June 1956. For information, please contact Patricia Donovan Guerin at 631.474.3819 or Mary Louise Monroe Schuck at 631.331.5085.

# Thank you for being there for me...

When we talk about reaching women facing unplanned pregnancies, it's easy to get nervous and ask, "What would I say to her? How would I connect with her?"

The answer is not in what we say, but in simply being available. If we will listen, if we can empathize and share the love of Jesus Christ, the other answers fall into place. If you have a heart to "be there" for a young woman in this situation, call us. Together we can make a difference in her life. Life Center of Long Island at 631.243.2373.

# **Sociable Singles 40+**

Christmas Party! Saturday, December 3 at 8 PM Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church, Deer Park. \$15 donation at the door. For further information call 631.242.4711.

## The "Nutcracker"

by the New York City Ballet at Lincoln Center on December 11. Join St. Joseph's in Babylon for the New York City Ballet presentation of The "Nutcracker." Transportation will be provided by Classic Coach Company. The cost is \$110 per person. Please call Valerie Stone for information and booking at 631.236.2222.

# Sharing the Gospel

Have you ever planned a surprise birthday party for a grown-up? It is not easy to keep the secret, but it is so much fun. On the big day of the party, someone needs to look out the window, watching for the special



birthday guest to arrive. It could be any minute. God has even better surprises planned for us in heaven. Jesus will be coming back, and we need to watch for him. Will you be ready?

# Prayer

Dear God,



as I wait to go to heaven, help me to be ready. Help me to show your love to the people around me-my family, my friends, and my neighbors. I want them to come to heaven with me. In Jesus' name, Amen.





Mission

for the

# Week

Ask your mon and dad to tell you about the happiest surprises they can remember. As a family, talk about ways you can be ready for the best surprise of all—when Jesus comes back.