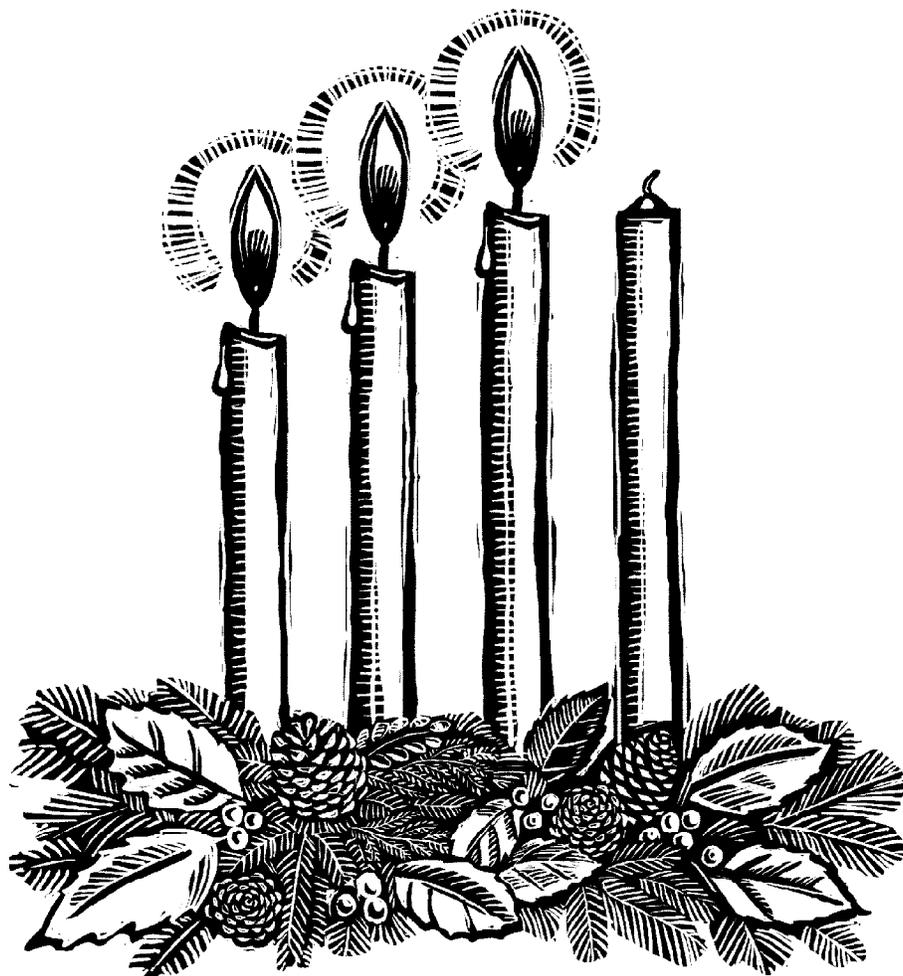




**I will send my messenger  
ahead of you**



**Third Sunday in Advent**

Our Lady of Lourdes • December 11, 2005

# Our Lady 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

Welcome to our Parish Family! New Parishioners 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.*

## 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.

**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 Scorgia**

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 McMahan

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**

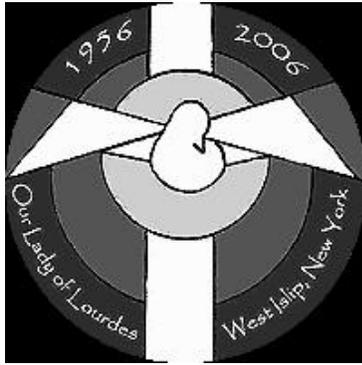
School Office

**Rex Muro**

Organist

**Rita Spera**

Religious Education Office



**D**uring our Jubilee Year, there will be many exciting and informative events going on.

**W**e would love for you to join us at...

## Empowering Our Minds and Spirit

### **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.

## **SAGE**

Retreat for the SAGE Group (**S**enior **A**dvocates for **G**rowth and **E**nrichment) will take place on **Tuesday, December 13** in the **Parish Center from 9 AM until 11:30 AM**. Presenter will be Sister Patty Tippen, IHM. All older parishioners are welcome.



### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

*We come together during this season of Advent to celebrate God's forgiveness!*

We will have individual confessions on Tuesday, December 20 with the following schedule:

<i>Fr. Nestor</i>	<i>4 PM - 5 PM</i>
<i>Fr. Mike</i>	<i>5 PM - 6 PM</i>
<i>Fr. Stan</i>	<i>6 PM - 7 PM</i>

We will have an **Evening Prayer Service**, celebrated by *Fr. Bob Scheckenback*, also on **Tuesday, December 20 at 7:30 PM in the Church**.

Individual confessions will follow the Evening Prayer Service.

*(Priests will be available for confession until 9 PM.)*

### **Thank you**

We would like to thank each and everyone who took time from their busy schedules to come out on Friday, November 26 (*the day after Thanksgiving*) and donate blood at our Semi-Annual Blood Drive. We had 100 donors register and were able to collect 86 pints! Thank you, thank you, thank you.

### **Help Wanted**

Security person needed for evenings and weekends here at Our Lady of Lourdes.

If you are interested, please call Tony at 661.3224.



*Our Lady of Lourdes Fourth 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!*

We'd like to involve many members of our parish community,  
especially all parish children!  
It's easy...there are only two short practices and a dress rehearsal.  
There's something for all ages:

**Children**

Pre-K through Grade 3

Grades 4 through 6

Grades 7 through 12

Angels and Shepherds

Three Kings and the Royal Servants; and Dancers

We need lots of help—musicians, singers, organizers  
and assistant directors!

If you can help with our pageant, please call Jennifer Gallagher at 661.3224 or email

[jengallagher@ollchurch.org](mailto:jengallagher@ollchurch.org).



**Pageant Practices for All**

Monday, December 12 from 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM in the Church

Saturday, December 17 Dress Rehearsal 11 AM in the Church

## **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](mailto: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

***BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR!***



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 [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org).

### ***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](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org).

## School News



### **Breakfast with Santa**

**Sunday, December 18, 2005**

**OLL School Cafeteria**

**First Seating 8:45 AM-10:45 AM**

**Second Seating 11:15 AM - 1 PM**

A delicious breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausages and lots of breakfast goodies. There will be crafts, entertainment and, of course, Santa!

You can also purchase tickets for our wonderful raffles, 50/50 and fabulous grand prizes! Admission is \$4.50 for children 2 years and older; \$8.00 per adult. Don't miss the fun at this truly special event! Please call 587-0241 for more information.

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.

## *Rest In Peace*

*Kenneth Meyer  
Grace Catapane  
Ann Horan*



### **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.

### **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.



### **Financial Summary**

#### **December 4, 2005**

Weekly Collection	\$ 16,937.00
Weekly Budget	<u>-\$ 21,000.00</u>
+/- for the week	\$ (4,063.00)

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

## *Baptisms*

*Eiurlan Grace Coppola*

Paul and Samantha

*Ryan Thomas DeCotis*

John and Patricia

*Thomas James McElwee*

Michael and Mary Ellen

*Connor Alexander Viar*

Paul and Kelly

#### **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, December 12

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

8:00 AM LaRocca & Sweeney Family

## Tuesday, December 13

*St. Lucy, virgin, martyr*

8:00 AM Charles Homann

## Wednesday, December 14

*St. John of the Cross, priest, doctor*

8:00 AM Stephen Sansone, Frankie Barba &  
Frankie Barba, Jr.

## Thursday, December 15

8:00 AM Mary & Frank Sniadowski

## Friday, December 16

8:00 AM William B. Thompson

## Saturday, December 17

8:00 AM Alexander & Loreto Longo, Peter Schreiner,  
Marie Perez, Rachel Wernersback, Fr. Bill Shean, Edith Scavetti,  
In Honor of the Blessed Virgin, John Mathys

5:00 PM Frank Petrone  
*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

## Sunday, December 18

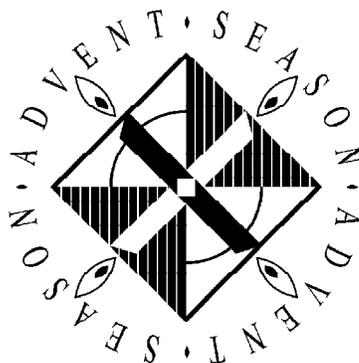
8:00 AM Loreto Fantauzzi  
*Fr. Nestor Watin*

9:30 AM Casertano & Galbo Families  
*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

11:00 AM Theresa Reardon  
*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

12:30 PM Patrick Manning, Dorothy & Joseph Boening  
*Fr. Stan Chukwube*

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Mike & Josephine Ferrante, Anne Tropeano & Laureen Brusa,  
Evelyn & Mickey Fontaine, Maria Acquaviva, Robert Speck, Amparo Cortes, Richard Cutro, Jack  
Giacamazzo, Doris Carroll, Angela Perticone, Thomas Gill, Phyllis Grieco, Ralph & Amalia Perrone,  
Nancy Percoco, Rose & Dominick Cocco, Mamie & Michael Raia, Mary Tortorella, Theresa & Frank  
Marsala, Rudy Carucci, Salvatore & Mary Carmel Yannati, Gus & Nicolina Prestia  
*Fr. Nestor Watin*



## Altar Bread & Wine

*In Memory of*  
Mary Ellen Choate

## 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

Celebrating Sacraments



## Altar Society

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Janet Loehr

### Pray for Our Sick

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers ...

*Thomas Brennan, Jo Brogan, Christian Bullock,  
Jerry Castonguay, John Finch, Jason Fisher,  
Theresa Grasso, Madeline Hopper, Benjy Margulies,  
Peter McCann, Sr., Arabella Elizabeth McCarthy,  
Joseph Ninivaggi, 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](mailto:ParishOffice@ollchurch.org)

fax:

661-7143

website:

[www.ollchurch.org](http://www.ollchurch.org)

### Our Lady of Lourdes School

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email:

[ReginaC@ollschool.org](mailto: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](mailto:ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org)

### S.A.G.E.

661-3224

(Senior Advocates for  
Growth and Enrichment)

email:

[Sage@ollchurch.org](mailto: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 have put 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 the Parish of the Resurrection, Farmingville: Knowing Christ in Others***

*by Connie Hornick, Parish Social Ministry Coordinator*

Our Parish Social Ministry serves many people of different cultures who have various problems. The myriad of issues range from food, homelessness, evictions, loss of utilities, domestic violence, bereavement, divorce as well as immigration issues and bias incidents.

We have found that resources, networking, as well as educating people on issues are imperatives to affect social change in one life or in a whole community.

*However logically we say this, to follow Christ is to know Christ in others....*

A couple of years ago I became a widow raising three children and for a long while we have seen the bottom and we have struggled alone in silence. I could never consider myself, or my children, unfortunate. Rather, I consider us blessed. Imagine being in the dark with no hope and unexpectedly, hope knocks on your door. It is an awesome and overwhelming feeling to know God loves us that much to send out his angels. *(Josephine)*

Parish Outreach has done so many things for me and for my family I don't know where to start and I don't have time to write a book. As a parishioner, an outreach client and also an outreach volunteer, I have seen and felt the kindness that really makes you feel like someone wants to help you and not because they have to help. When my husband was sick and when holidays were very hard the outreach volunteers were there for me. They have gotten my family through some hard winters when my husband had little work. Outreach does so much that I think people do not know all that they really do. *(Angel)*

After the birth of my second child in 1999 my family fell upon hard times due to medical expenses and unemployment. After feelings of shame, inadequacy, and embarrassment, another church member introduced me to Parish Social Ministry. I have been through times when I didn't know how I would be able to put a meal on the table or give my children a Christmas present or Easter basket. Parish Social Ministry arranged a baby shower for me and three others. It was beautiful and my third child did not need for anything. *(Debra)*

*These are just a few of Gods Gifts. Thanks be to God for them, for they are us.*

## 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](mailto:Dorothy.perdue@worldnet.att.net).



## “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.

## 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.

## 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 [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org)



## Third Sunday of Advent

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath. This candle symbolizes the midway point of our journey to the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Candles themselves can represent many things to us. We can warm our hands around the flame; we can hold it in front of us to help us find our way. But candles unlit are merely wax and string; someone must light them for their full use to take effect.

John the Baptist knew that in preparation for the coming of Christ, he must light a candle. When the priests and the Levites questioned him as to his identity, he replied that he was the lone voice in the wilderness, preparing the way for the Lord. John was fully prepared to offer a lighted path to the one who would be our true Light, but he was also reminding those around him that they, too, must prepare themselves to receive the light of Christ.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that John the Baptist completed the cycle of prophets begun with Elijah. But he also began what is described as the restoration of mankind to “the divine likeness,” a full understanding of what we would achieve with and in Christ (CCC 720). This Advent season, let us prepare as John did; light a path for the coming of Christ, open our hearts to welcome him in to our lives. (c) 2006 Liturgical Publications Inc

### Readings for the Week of December 11, 2005

<b>Sunday:</b>	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/ 1 Thes 5:16-24/ Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
<b>Monday:</b>	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/ Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/ Mt 21:28-32
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/ Lk 7:18b-23
<b>Thursday:</b>	Is 54:1-10/ Lk 7:24-30
<b>Friday:</b>	Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/ Jn 5:33-36
<b>Saturday:</b>	Gn 49:2, 8-10/ Mt 1:1-17
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/ Rom 16:25-27/ Lk 1:26-38

## Longest Night Prayer Service

Prayer service for those suffering a loss through separation, divorce, health, job or loved one. No fee. St. Mary's Lower Church, Roslyn. Wednesday, December 21 at 7:30 PM. Please call to register at 516.621.2222.

## Holy Hour for Vocations

The Friends of the Seminary sponsor a monthly Holy Hour for the intention of an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The Holy Hour, which is held on the third Friday of each month at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, 440 West Neck Road, Huntington, will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. The next Holy Hour will be on Friday, December 16 at 8 PM. All are Welcome. For further information please contact the Vocation Office at 631.424.9888 or you may email [vocations@drvc.org](mailto:vocations@drvc.org).

## 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:

### "Giving & Helping Others"

Don't forget to tune in! Visit "Religion & Rock" on the web, [www.religionandrock.com](http://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.

## "Good News" Christmas Spectacular

*(with Fr. Jim)*

Be a part of a live studio taping!

**Tuesday, December 13 at 5:15 PM at Hayes Theatre, Molloy College.**

For more information, call the Good News hotline at 516.538.8704, ext. 157 or email [GoodNews@telecaretv.org](mailto:GoodNews@telecaretv.org)

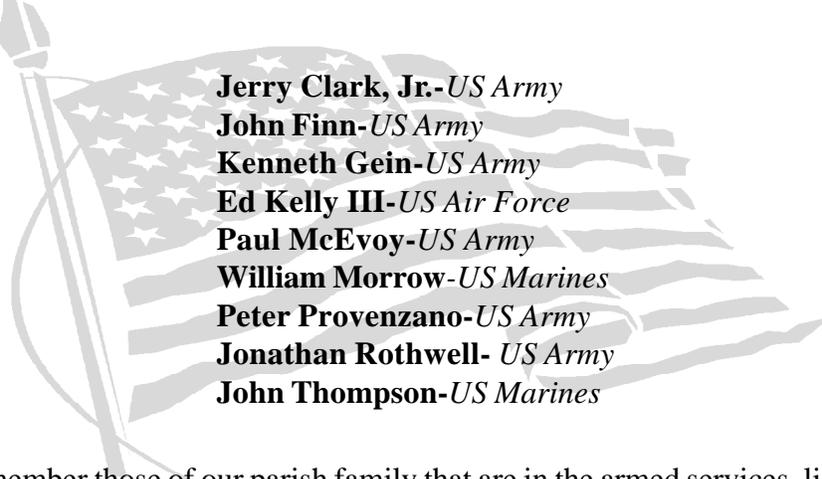
## Job Opening

Full time secretary at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Lindenhurst. Candidate must have secretarial experience, computer skills, pleasant demeanor, be a practicing Catholic. Salary coordinated with hours, etc. A pleasant, joyful fulfilling environment in which to work and serve the kingdom of God. Apply to Mrs. Lubrano, Principal at 631.226.0208.

## 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**

**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 Catherine McAuley High School Alumnae are planning a 50th year reunion of the classes of January and June 1956. For information regarding the reunion please contact Lillian (Mace) Gallagher at 631.587.3250 or email FrednLil@aol.com. Reunion date is Saturday, April 8, 2006.

## 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.

## 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

If someone came up to you and said, "Knock, Knock," what would you say? "Who's there?" Do you have a favorite "Knock, Knock" joke? In today's Gospel reading, the church leaders were curious about John the Baptist. He was teaching people, washing people, and asking them to change. But who was he? John was the man God sent to "knock" on the hearts of many people. But this is no joke. Are you ready to meet Jesus?



## Prayer

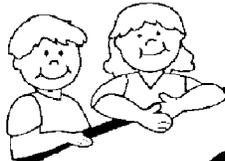


Dear God,  
thank you for sending John the Baptist. Please show me ways I can help other people to get ready for Jesus, too.  
Amen.

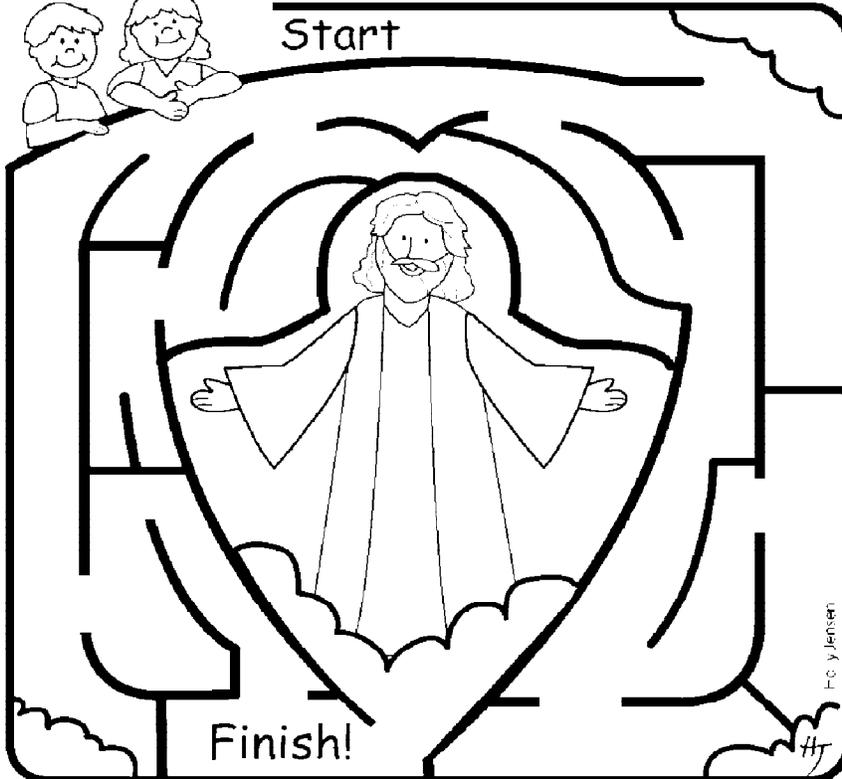


## Maze

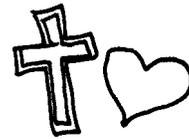
Help these children find their way to Jesus in the maze below!



Start



Finish!



## Mission

for the  
Week

Take turns telling "Knock, Knock" jokes with your family. After you've run out of jokes, talk about John the Baptist. Who was he? Why was he special?