



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.

Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano

Pastor

Rev. Stanislaus Chukwube

Associate Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback

Associate Pastor

Deacon John DeGuardi

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

Jen Gallagher

Anne Kerrigan

Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)

Mary McMahan

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

*Our Lady
of Lourdes*

455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, New York 11795

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.

Third Sunday
in Advent



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.

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: rcioffi@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

Day of Reconciliation



This **Monday, December 18**, come and experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation at Our Lady of Lourdes. Our priests will be in church from **3 PM to 9 PM** to celebrate the sacrament of forgiveness and healing with you.

Confident in a God that loves us unconditionally,
let us join together to receive this holy and life giving Sacrament.

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM.....*Fr. John Asomugha*
 3:45 PM – 4:30 PM.....*Fr. Mike Vetrano*
 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM.....*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*
 5:15 PM – 6:00 PM.....*Fr. Stan Chukwube*
 6:00 PM – 6:30 PM.....*Fr. Mike Vetrano*
 6:30 PM – 7:00 PM.....*Fr. John Asomugha*
 7:00 PM – 7:30 PM.....*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*
 7:30 PM – 8:15 PM.....*Fr. Stan Chukwube*
 8:15 PM – 9:00 PM.....*Fr. John Asomugha/
 Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

Living Liturgy



*“Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again.
 Rejoice!”
 (Philippians 4:4-7)*

It is common to say that one rejoices because of a person – for what he or she brings or for what happens to him or her - that one shares in another’s joy. But “in the Lord?” This joy that Saint Paul speaks of so often, is marked by “serenity”, as can be seen, for example, in the elderly, particularly our parish’s beautiful SAGES! It is a joy, also, that guards against anxiety...it is an interior peace “in the Lord”, a surrendering of His providence and love, which Jesus tells us about so often!

The antiphon, at the beginning of this reflection, gives this Sunday a special character. This day has often been called Gaudete Sunday, after the Latin gaudete, to rejoice. And “rejoice” is a term that suits it well.

The mention of joy is found in the opening prayer we will pray together at Mass today, “Lord, God may we your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ, experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving.”

Finding Peace in a Busy Season...

Monday - December 18

9 AM - 10 AM in the Parish Center

Presenter: Rev. Michael A. Vetrano

Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes



Advent Morning Mass Reflections

Come to morning Mass on Mondays in Advent. Our homily that day will introduce a theme for you to reflect on in the time after Mass. You will be able to use our morning rosary and prayer after Mass or just take time for your own reflection. At 9 AM, we will gather in the Parish Center for a talk and time for discussion. Coffee and rolls will be available.

(If you can't make 8 AM Mass-please feel free to join us at 9 AM.)

December 18 :: "I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year."

Lessons about Christmas from a modern day prophetic book - A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens.

Gentle Reminder: Preregistration 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 from 9 AM until 5 PM at 661.5440, extension 3 or email to religioused@ollchurch.org. Fee is \$25 and may vary with each class. No fee is required for those who have paid Religious Education Family Fee or OLL School tuition.



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, Jen Gallagher or Fr. Stan at the Parish Office. You can call 661-3224, option #1, and we would be happy to help you!

Advent at “The Six”

...Prayin', Preparin' and Servin'

This Advent, our parish's “Six Committee” is working to bring the readings to life for young people and for all in this community.

The readings challenge us to *pray* well, to *prepare* well and to *serve* well for the coming of Jesus in our lives at Christmas.

This can be especially hard in the world in which we live.

December 17 – we'll try to bring it together in our reflection on the power of service. We'll hear from people of all ages and ways of life and how they live out the call to justice and service. Prepare to be challenged to live your life in a different way!

Come and be part of it all and make Sunday nights during this busy time of the year, a special time for you!

All Are Welcome (even on Christmas!)

Next weekend, we will welcome thousands of people to our parish for Christmas Masses. Let's remember they are guests and we welcome them with open arms (even if they took our parking spot or only come when they can!). Say hello, offer the sign of peace, and be a real example of OLL's hospitality at our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses!

Christmas Parking

Remember we are fortunate to be able to use the parking lot of Manetuck Elementary School during busy feast days like Christmas. You can enter the driveway off of Hunter Avenue. The entrance is on the West Side of the Rectory. This will save you some stress for sure on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Cell phones and more...

Please remember to turn off your cell phones, pagers, beepers, etc. when coming to pray here at OLL! These are wonderful creations. . . .but they can easily interfere with our prayer and the prayer of others! Rather than telling your friends and family to call you – tell them to come with you to our parish here at Our Lady of Lourdes!





It's that time of year! Christmas is on its way... In order that we may give those less fortunate in our area a "Merry Christmas", Parish Outreach along with other ministries here at OLL have put together our annual "Giving Tree."

Our "Giving Tree" has tags that ask for gifts of toys, clothes, food certificates and clothing certificates. This year, we will use color coded tags to make our giving and sorting a little easier for our "elves."

blue tags are requests for donations of clothes

white tags are requests for donations of toys

yellow tags are requests for donations of food store certificates

green tags are requests for donations of clothing store certificates

You can help by:

- taking a tag from our "Giving Tree",
- place the requested item in a box, with the tag attached, under the tree no later than **December 17**,
- 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 at 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!

School News

The next **School Mass**, prepared by the fifth grade, will be on **Tuesday, December 19 at 9 AM**. All are invited.

Our **Pre-K students** will perform some **Christmas songs** for their parents on **Wednesday, December 20**. Our four-year-olds have been practicing hard and can't wait to sing their hearts out.

Support Catholic Education and Become a Classroom Angel

A gift of \$1000 to Our Lady of Lourdes School will support programs of science, technology, and the arts in our award winning Catholic School. Your name will be engraved on a plaque over the door to the classroom of your choice for a whole year!

The new school newspaper, "**OLL Chronicles**" has just gone to press. Look for it to be available by December 18. In addition to giving a copy to each student, we will make copies available at the doors of the church.

Prophets and Promises

This Advent, our Children's Liturgy and Family Liturgy teams are going to help our young people focus on the prophets of Advent and the promises we are called to be a part of. Each week, our young people will reflect on the promises of peace, forgiveness and service and encounter some people who have worked to bring that about both in the times of the Bible and our lives today. Be sure to take a look at our Prophets and Promises newsletter that will be given out at the end of each Children's Liturgy celebration.

If you have not been part of our 9:30 AM Liturgy, we celebrate the readings in a special way with young people from approximately age four to about fourth grade. After the Opening Prayer, they journey to the Parish Center to hear God's Word in a way that keeps the message but makes it a little more understandable for them. If you have small children or are one yourself, consider coming to the 9:30 AM Liturgy one Sunday to find out more about this great experience for young people.

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**.

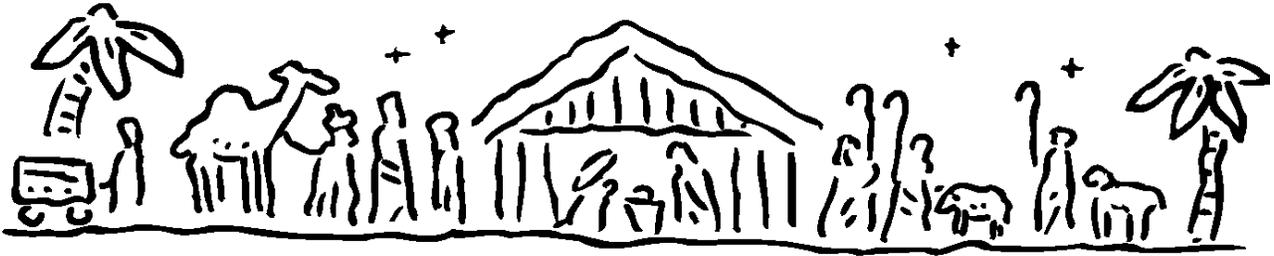
Good Samaritan Prayer Group of L.I.

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.



Please take a moment and visit our beautiful Church website for the latest information about Advent 2006. There is information about our "Giving Tree", Advent Monday Mornings, Christmas Shopping Day for El Salvador, Advent Evening of Prayer, and so much more! Visit us at www.ollchurch.org.



Our Lady of Lourdes Fifth Annual Family Christmas Pageant

*Friday, December 22
7 PM in the Church*

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

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

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

Angels and Shepherds

Grades 4 through 6

Three Kings and the Royal Servants; and Dancers

Grades 7 through 12

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.

Adults

We need help with costumes and supervision of the “angels and shepherds.” If you can help with any of these areas, please call Jennifer at 661.3224, or email JenGallagher@ollchurch.org.

Pageant Practices for All

Thursday, December 21 Dress Rehearsal 7:30 PM in the Church

Daily Mass

8 AM

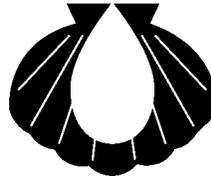
Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5 PM

Sunday: 8 AM, 9:30 AM,
11 AM, 12:30 PM and 6 PM

Reconciliation

Saturday: 4 PM - 4:45 PM



Baptisms

Domenic Salvatore Azzariti

Salvatore and Stephanie

Logan Vaughn Coppola

Paul and Samantha

Antoine Jayland Dunn

Michelle

Reese Lauren Fortunato

Loriann

Ashlyn Julia Murphy

Christopher and Nancy

Jocelyn Catalina Sandoval

Jose and Michelle

Adrianna Faith Scuoppo

Daniel and Regina

Jack Francis Stefanak

Timothy and Dina



Rest In Peace

David Calogero

George Bukowski

Elizabeth "Pat" Curry

Frank Magri

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.

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.

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.

Remembering...

Monday, December 18

8:00 AM Frederick J. Ansman

Tuesday, December 19

8:00 AM Peter Reehil

Wednesday, December 20

8:00 AM Eleanor Tuohy

Thursday, December 21

8:00 AM Theresa Reardon

Friday, December 22

8:00 AM Michael Torina

Saturday, December 23

8:00 AM Edward DeMatteo, Concetta Petrucci, Josephine & Mike Ferrante,
William & Marie Conrad, Joseph Constantine, Frank Barba,
Edward Wernikowski, Sue Carlson, Salvatore Dellaria,
Dominick Mancuso, John Ward, Giuseppe Ingoglia, Eleanor Mitrani,
Repose of the Soul of All Saints, Carmine Maiocco

5:00 PM Anthony Alfieri

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Sunday, December 24

8:00 AM Robert Charles McGrath, Sr.

Fr. John Asomugha

9:30 AM Susan Tornabene

Fr. Mike Vetrano

11:00 AM Patrick & Donald Manning and Grandparents

Fr. Stan Chukwube

12:30 PM Galbo & Casertano Family

Fr. Ed Dowling



Please refer to page 12 for our Christmas Schedule of Masses.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24 *Vigil of Christmas*

4 PM Steven Perone
(Church) Fr. Bob Scheckenback

4 PM Danny, Mickey, and Mike Salegna
(cafeteria) Fr. John Asomugha

6 PM John J. Goode, Sr. & Joan F. Goode
Fr. Mike Vetrano

8 PM Nicholas Lo Porto & Great Grandparents
Fr. Stan Chukwube

11 PM John L. Pizzella
Fr. Mike Vetrano

Monday, December 25 *Christmas Day*

8 AM Lillian LaRocca
Fr. Stan Chukwube

9:30 AM Anthony Alfieri
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

11 AM Mark & John Nardone
Fr. Mike Vetrano

12:30 PM Dec'd mbrs of Dixon & Isola Families
Fr. John Asomugha

Social Action Alert

Living God's Call for Charity and Justice in Political Life

An excerpt from *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love), the first Encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI ...to the Bishops, priests, and deacons, men and women, religious and all the lay faithful on Christian love.

What Defines Us as Church? The Sacraments, the Word and Charity

“All who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need” (*Acts 2:44-5*). In these words, Saint Luke provides a kind of definition of the Church, whose constitutive elements include fidelity to the “teaching of the Apostles”, “communion” ... “the breaking of the bread” and “prayer” The element of “communion” ... consists in the fact that believers hold all things in common and that among them, there is no longer any distinction between rich and poor. As the Church grew, this radical form of material communion could not, in fact, be preserved. But its essential core remained: within the community of believers there can never be room for a poverty that denies anyone what is needed for a dignified life. As the years went by and the Church spread further afield, the exercise of charity became established as one of her essential activities, along with the administration of the sacraments and the proclamation of the word: love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to her as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the Gospel. The Church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word....

Parish Outreach

Outreach Office Hours

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



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

baked beans
boxed potatoes
boxed rice
canned meat
cookies
crackers
hot chocolate
mayonnaise

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: **"Consumerism/Shopping."**

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.

Financial Summary

December 11, 2006

Weekly Collection	\$ 19,335.50
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (1,664.50)

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



Third Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:10-18

At this time of year, many holiday gatherings are being planned. For so long, we have waited for this occasion; to get together, to share meals and stories, all in the name of remembering the arrival of a child who would change our world forever. And just as important, we remember that this innocent child promised to return again someday. Within that promise, we were told to make ourselves ready, to be prepared. What, then, should we do?

For hundreds of years, the prophets had foretold of the coming of a king. Quietly, patiently, faithfully, the people waited. And now, a man named John was proclaiming that the time had arrived, and so too would this king. As word spread, people from all walks of life hurried to see John and to be cleansed of their sins by the waters of the traditional Jewish rite of baptism. As they came, they asked John what they needed to do in preparation. He answered each according to their profession, and to all according to their responsibility in this world.

During this season of Advent, we spend time wondering what we should do to prepare. John advised all to share their food and clothing with those who have none. These simple acts of charity are our responsibility as we are all the body of Christ and individually members of it. Therefore, if one suffers in this Body, all suffer. The smallest act of charity, then, returns as a benefit to all. (CCC 952)

Readings for the Week of December 17, 2006

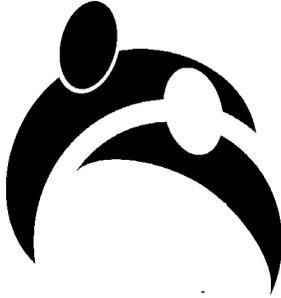
Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
Monday:	Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday:	Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
Friday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
Saturday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
Next Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Nancy Trujillo*.
If you would like to help care for our altar needs, please call the
Parish Office at 661.3224.

Communion Calls

Communion brought to those who are homebound.
Contact the Parish Office at 661.3224.



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.

Pray for Our Sick

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

*Sr. Margaret Bickar, Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan, Elise Brenner, Jo Brogan,
Christian Bullock, Sr. Nancy Campkin, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo,
Nicholas Curella, John Eifler, Joseph Fiore, Jason Fisher, Patricia Funk,
Kathleen Kerrigan, Loretta Koskasko, Joseph Lehmann, Anthony Lombardo,
Mike Lorento, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Donato Miranda,
Bryan Monahan, Freida Perry, Gene Perry, Robert Petersen, Joe Radosti,
Dan Rodriguez, Fred Ruggio, Rose Serragano, Dorothy Sullivan, Loretta Vitale*

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:



Daniel D'Arienzo-US Army
Frederick Wm. Ellis-US Army
John Finn-US Army
Paul McEvoy-US Army
Michael Mallimo-US Army
Peter Provenzano-US Army
James Stultz- US Army

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

A Meditation on Joy

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Every year on the third Sunday of advent, the church asks us to do a meditation on joy. That seems a curious thing to ask, though it becomes less curious when we actually reflect on the nature of joy. What is joy?

Few things are as misunderstood as is the notion of joy. Of itself that wouldn't be serious except that in this case we are often left chasing the wrong things in life.

Too often we confuse joy with good cheer or with a certain rallying of the spirit that we try to crank up when we go to a party or let off steam on a Friday night. We tend to think of joy this way: There is ordinary time in our lives, when duty, work, emotional and financial burdens, tiredness, worries, and pressure of all kinds keep us from enjoying life and from being as cheery and pleasant as we would like. We think of ordinary times in our lives as keeping us from joy - the grind, the routine, the rat-race, the work-week - and so we look forward to special times, weekends, nights out, vacation times, social times, celebrations, and parties where we can break the routine, break out, enjoy ourselves, and experience joy.

Joy then is identified with the boisterous good cheer we try to crank up at parties or the lack of pressure and the freedom from burdens that we feel when on vacation. But is this joy? It can be, though often isn't. The loud robust cheer that we enter into at parties is often little more than a desperate effort to keep our depressions at bay, a form of denial. That's why the good cheer dissolves so quickly when we go home and why, three days after returning from vacation, we are again just as tired and in need of a vacation as before.

What is joy? Joy can never be induced, cranked up, or made to happen. It's something that has to find us precisely within our ordinary, duty-bound, burdened, full-of-worries, and pressured lives. This is joy: Imagine walking to your car or to the bus after a day's work, tired, needing some rest. But, just as you reach your car or the bus-stop, you fill with a sense of life and health; in some inchoate way, all jumbled together, you feel your body, mind, soul, gender, sexuality, history, place within a family, network of friends, city, and country, and this feeling makes you spontaneously exclaim: "God, it's good to be alive!" That's joy.

And as C.S. Lewis puts it, it has to surprise you. You can't find joy, it has to find you. That's its real quality. You can go to a party and say, "Tonight I'm going to have a good time, if it kills me!" It might!

Indeed parties and letting off steam have their place. You might even find good cheer at a party or find a good distraction and these can be needed therapy and a good respite from hard work. But neither is joy.

Joy is always the by-product of something else. As the various versions of The Prayer of St. Francis put it, we can never attain joy, consolation, peace, forgiveness, love, and understanding by actively pursuing them. We attain them by giving them out. That's the great paradox at the centre of all spirituality and one of the great foundational truths within the universe itself: The air that we breathe out is the air we will eventually breathe back in. Joy will come to us if we set about actively trying to create it for others.

If I go about my life demanding, however unconsciously, that others carry me rather than seeking to carry them; feeding off of others rather than trying to feed them; creating disorder rather than being a principle of peace; demanding to be admired rather than admiring, and demanding that others meet my needs rather than trying to meet theirs, joy will never find me, no matter how hard I party or try to crank up good cheer. I'm breathing the wrong air into the universe.

The great mystic, John of the Cross, ends one of his most famous instructions with this poem:

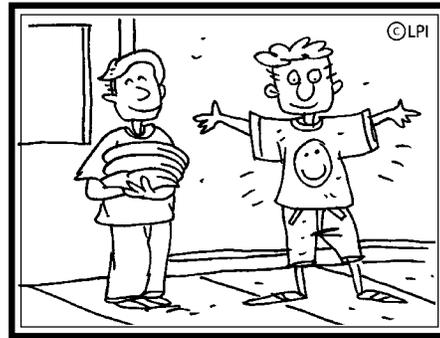
*To reach satisfaction in all
desire its possession in nothing.
To come to possess all
desire the possession of nothing.
To arrive at being all
desire to be nothing.
To come to the knowledge of all
desire the knowledge of nothing.
To come to the pleasure you have not
you must go by the way in which you enjoy not.
To come to the knowledge you have not
you must go by a way in which you know not.
To come to the possession you have not
you must go by a way in which you possess not.
To come to be what you are not
you must go by a way in which you are not.*

That, and that alone, is a recipe for joy.

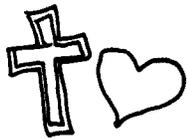
Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Father Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author and is currently the President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com.

Sharing the Gospel

How can you show you love God? Instead of keeping all of your clothes and food, share some with people who don't have any. Be happy and thankful for all God has given you. When you love God more than money, you'll be happy to share.



Mission for the Week



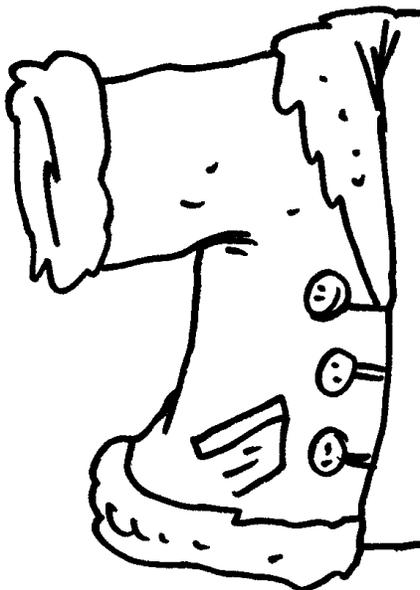
The next time you go grocery shopping with your parents, ask if you can pick out some foods to share with the poor.

As a family, talk about how thankful you are for the many ways God takes care of you.



Puzzle

Complete the picture.



©LPI



Dear God,

help me to share
happily with
others.

Amen