

"All of you are  
children of the light  
and children of the  
day."

1ThessaIonians5:5



Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
november 16, 2008



## *Pastoral Team*

**Rev. Michael A. Vetrano**

Pastor

**Rev. Robert Scheckenback**

Associate Pastor

### **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: [lkrol@ollschool.org](mailto:lkrol@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)

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

**Rev. John Asomugha**

In Residence

**Rev. Ambrose Cabildo**

In Residence

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**Deacon John DeGuardi**

**Deacon Tom Lucie**

**Deacon Jack Meehan**

Coordinator of Stewardship

**Deacon John Teufel**

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**Sr. Margaret Bickar**

Senior Ministry-SAGE

**Sr. Nancy Campkin**

Director of Religious Education

**Jennifer Gallagher**

Childrens' 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 McMahan**

Director of Parish Social Ministry

**Vita Scorgia**

Ministry Spiritual Director

**John Sureau**

Coordinator of Worship

**Sr. Betty Toohig**

Senior Ministry-SAGE

**Anthony Trombino**

Business Manager

## *Pastoral Council*

Stacie Baltrusitis

Jane Desthers

Anne Kerrigan

Deacon Jack Meehan

Vita Scorgia

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

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## *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

**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.*

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*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.*

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## *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

*Christ is the icon of the invisible God.*

*-Colossians 1:15*

*Our pastor, Father Mike, has graciously given me the opportunity to create a new processional cross for our parish here at Our Lady of Lourdes. With the carpentry skills of Ed Hawkins, I was able to design the front and back of the icon image of the Crucified Christ and Christ's Resurrection.*

*The icon image reflects a form of spirituality that is identified with many Byzantine, Russian and Greek Christians, however, as for us in the Roman Catholic Church, these images offer us an opportunity to grow and deepen our faith. The word icon comes from the Greek, "eikon", which simply means "image" specifically referring to a sacred image.*

*Unlike other art experiences, the one who paints the icon comes to prayer with each painting session by making the sign of the cross. The process of making the icon image becomes a level of prayer between the artist and the image that is being formed. It is at this time that there is truly a one on one spiritual relationship with the artist and the saint or the Christ image that is the subject of the icon. Over a period of many months, the iconographer comes to a realization that he is not doing the icon, the icon is doing him. When the icon is complete, a prayer of gratitude is said thanking God that His mercy has granted the grace to paint the Holy Image.*

*In the tradition of all icons, when completed, they must be blessed. On Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27, at the 9:30 AM Mass, our new icon processional cross will be blessed. During the process last year, our parish school then seventh graders, now the eighth grade class, had the opportunity to follow the process when the different stages of the developing icon was brought to their class-seeing the drawings, and following the painting, but most of all, understanding that viewing an icon is truly a personal spiritual relationship between the image and the viewer.*

*And so I dedicate the new processional cross to the class of 2009 of Our Lady of Lourdes School.*

*-Deacon John*

# Thanksgiving



# Mass

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*This day is a wonderful day...what better way to begin than to celebrate Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes! Everyone is invited to celebrate Thanksgiving Day as a community on ...*

**Thursday, November 27**  
**9:30 AM Mass**

*This beautiful celebration will include:*

***Anniversary Celebration of our Parish***

***Blessing of our new Processional Cross***  
*(see previous article from Deacon John)*

***Gift of Blessed Bread for all who come!***

***Procession of Food***

*We invite all who come to bring a significant food donation that will be presented during the presentation of the gifts at Mass.*

*(Please note: The 8 AM Mass will not be celebrated on this day.)*

## **Altar Servers: Serving God with Gladness**

Last Sunday, at the 9:30 AM Family Mass, our parish prayed for and sought God's blessing upon our newest altar servers...

*Kathryn Antonawich + Joseph Attalah + Zachary Bhak + Stephen Davidson  
+ Stephanie Hahn + Amy Kuchler + Grace Shapiro + Jake Shapiro  
+ Samantha Vandenburg + Christopher Whalen*

These young women and men have practiced for weeks in preparation for this ministry. Thanks, also to Joseph Goldin, Michael Goldin, Jaclyn Hahn and John Pannachione who helped to train our newest altar servers!

Altar Servers can begin serving in fourth grade. We hope to do a new round of training in the Winter/Spring! Sign up today if you're interested by calling John Sureau at 661.3224, extension 135 or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org).

### **“The Six”**

Our Sunday Night Mass Committee is working hard to make Advent and Christmas special. Come and help us plan our Masses and activities.

Our next meeting is Sunday, November 23 at 5 PM in the Cafeteria.

### **Serving at The Six**

On Sunday, November 23, we'll once again Help the Homeless in our local community by making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches after Mass in the Cafeteria. The activity begins at “The Six” and concludes no later than 7:45 PM.

#### ***What can you do?***

- Come on November 23
- Bring donations of bread, peanut butter and jelly on the night of the 23rd or sooner
- Invite a friend to come to Church with you to be part of this wonderful activity

### **The Holidays Can Be Difficult...**

and a hard time for anyone who is grieving. You don't have to go through it alone. The Bereavement Ministry of OLL will host a one night meeting, “Coping with the Holidays” on Wednesday, December 10 from 7:30 PM until 9:30PM in the Parish Center. If you are interested or if you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224, extension 121.

## *Heroes & Heroines... of Our Faith*



These friends of God challenge, inspire and deepen our faith. Come join us as we journey with these living witnesses of God's unchanging love.

... our second "Heroine" and friend of God is **Dorothy Day** "Icon of the Streets." This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the *Catholic Worker*, a movement, which has changed the way the Catholic Church has reached out to the poor and destitute and viewed nonviolence and social justice. Does the message of its founder, Dorothy Day, have any words of wisdom for each one of us today?

**Tuesday, November 18 from 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM in the Parish Center  
Presented by Dot Horstman, Instructor P.F.I., Diocese of RVC**

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 to register at 661.5440, option 3, Monday-Friday from 9 AM until 5 PM and 7 PM until 9 PM or you can email to [religioused@ollchurch.org](mailto:religioused@ollchurch.org).

*upcoming...*

### *Heroes & Heroines of Our Faith*

**St. Benedict** presented by *S. Diane Liona, CSJ*

**St. Bernadette** presented by *Deacon John DeGuardi*

**Thomas Merton** presented by *Tom Petriano*

## *My Life with the Saints*

Enjoy an evening with Fr. James Martin's inspiring, witty and surprising account of how the saints can help us to find our way in the world.

Fr. James Martin, author of *My Life with the Saints*, believes along the way he has been accompanied by special friends—the saints of the Catholic church.

**Tuesday, December 2 from 7:30 - 9:30 PM in the Church**

*Fr. Martin's book will be available for purchase and signing this evening.*



## **Support Groups**

### **Alcoholics Anonymous:**

Monday and Tuesday at  
8 PM and Saturday at 2 PM  
and 7 PM in Lourdes Hall-  
convent lower level.

### **ALANON:**

Each Wednesday at  
10 AM in Lourdes Hall-  
convent lower level.  
(Babysitters available)



## ***Rest In Peace***

*Michael Guaiani* died on October 28 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was October 31. We extend our prayers to his daughter, Rose and entire family.

*Anna Cagliari* died on October 31 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 3 in New Jersey. We extend our prayers to her daughter, Marge Cassiano and entire family.

*Irene Dunne* died this past June and celebration of a memorial Mass was November 8. We extend our prayers to her son, Michael and her entire family.

## **Rosary/Novena**

### **Rosary**

Daily after 8 AM Mass

### **Miraculous Medal Novena**

Monday after 8 AM Mass

### **Anointing of the Sick**

Throughout the liturgical year.

If needed sooner, please call the Parish Office.

### **Baptism**

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

### **Marriage**

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

### **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults(RCIA)**

A process to be embraced by the Catholic Church. For non-Catholics and for Catholics who have never received formal religious education. If interested, please call the Parish Office.

## *Remembering...*

### **Monday, November 17**

*St. Elizabeth of Hungary, religious*

**8:00 AM** Delphine A. Reynolds

### **Tuesday, November 18**

**8:00 AM** Nora O'Brien

### **Wednesday, November 19**

**8:00 AM** Peter Reehil

### **Thursday, November 20**

**8:00 AM** Juliana C. Davis

### **Friday, November 21**

*Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

**8:00 AM** Anna Lettieri

### **Saturday, November 22**

**8:00 AM** Anna Lettieri, Placida Academia, Joan O'Brien,  
Peter Schreiner, Blessed Mother, Richard Neri, Sr.,  
John Buonocore, Phyllis Stagnitta, Clifford Seaman,  
Helen Laszlo

**5:00 PM** John Lovari

*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

### **Sunday, November 23**

**8:00 AM** Joseph & Christina Kollmer  
*Fr. John Asomugha*

**9:30 AM** James & Charlotte Quinn  
*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

**11:00 AM** John McKeefery  
*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

**12:30 PM** Donald & Patrick Manning  
*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

**6:00 PM** People of the Parish, Rick Munkwitz, William Kuhlwilm,  
Frank Carbone, Kevin Kelly, John Iuliano, Lori Crean,  
Mr. Robinson, Alice Bryant, Francesca Mannino  
*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

### **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



## **RCIA-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, Sister Nancy, or Fr. Bob at the Parish Office, 661.3224, option #1, and we would be happy to help you.

Our first information meeting will be on **Sunday, November 16, at 11:30 AM in the Parish Center.**

## **Saint Bernard League**

*(Saint Bernards are known for bringing people to safety in hazardous weather conditions!)*

If you are in need of help when it snows, members of our parish community will come to your home and shovel you out! If you think you can use this help, call the Parish Office at 661.3224 extension 135 or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org) today so we can begin to match people up now.

(Please sign up again even if you signed up last year.)

### **We also need Saint Bernards!**

Can you and/or your family shovel, snow blow or clear out another family or two in need within our parish community? We'd love to have all families matched up before the first snow of the season.

If you can help with this call the Parish Office at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org). This is a great way to help those in need (do some tremendous community service!)




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# ADVENT

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In the midst of the Thanksgiving season, the Church gives us the beautiful season of Advent beginning on Sunday, November 30. This also marks the beginning of the new Liturgical Cycle. Get ready for a season of prayer, reflection and activity for you and your entire family!

*weekend of November 29/30*

**-Blessing of the Parish's Advent Wreath**

-This blessing will begin our parish's liturgies on this weekend. A smaller version of the blessing will also be in the bulletin that week for you to bless the Advent wreath in your own home.

**The 9:30 AM Family Mass – Preparing a Place for Jesus**

-Each week of Advent, we invite all of our young people to come to the 9:30 AM Mass to prepare for Advent in a special way. Each week, we'll work together to prepare a place for Jesus – not only in the manger, but in our hearts. For those new to our parish or whose kids are from age four to about fourth grade, consider coming to this Mass and praying with our parish community.

**The Six – Bringing LIGHT to the WORLD!**

-Each week at "The Six," we'll look at the ways we can bring the Light of Christ to the world. Our liturgies will begin in darkness as we are reminded of the struggles of the world we live and the light will grow as our prayers do throughout the Mass.

-We'll also support a local National Guard base by preparing "Care Packages" for the military! Look for more information at "The Six", soon!

Advent is a great time to get our "spiritual" lives in order – consider making an effort to go to Mass each week. Even better, bring someone back to Church with you!

## Parish Outreach

**Office telephone:**

661-9262, option 4

**Office hours:**

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

## Pantry Needs

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detergent  
kleenex  
paper towels  
personal feminine products  
shampoo  
soap  
toilet tissue  
toothbrush  
toothpaste

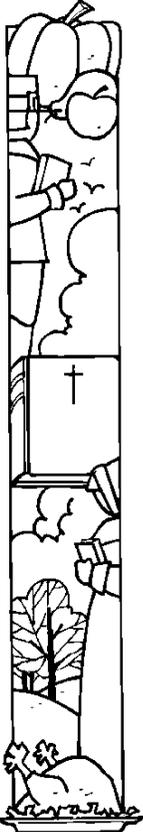
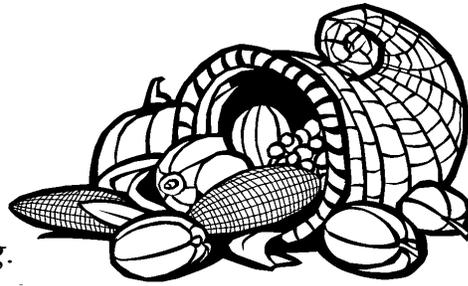
## Donations

- Outreach has received a donation in memory of *Irene Dunne* and *Anna Cagliari*.
- A donation to Outreach was made to honor the memory of *William Callahan* from DCMA-Long Island.
- The Giuffre's have made a donation to Outreach to honor the memory of *Anna Gugliotta* and *Richard Giuffre*.
- Outreach has received a donation in memory of *Sister Rose Ann* from Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Ulrich.
- A donation in memory of *Irene Dunne* and *Anna Cagliari* has been made to Outreach by Deacon John and Ann DeGuardi.
- Outreach has received a donation to our Food Pantry in memory of *John Wallace*, from his daughter Maryann.
- Diane Garretson has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Nicholas Caccavo*.

## Thanksgiving at OLL

*It's November...*

*and Thanksgiving is fast approaching.*



As all may be aware, Outreach has had a dramatic increase in requests for assistance in these past few months. This year we have requests from 90 families for assistance at Thanksgiving.

Once again, we ask our generous parish family to help those less fortunate in our community by making a donation to **OLL Parish Outreach-Adopt-A-Family**.

We would like to suggest that when you are shopping for your Thanksgiving dinner, simply buy a duplicate dinner for one of our needy families and bring it to Parish Outreach for distribution.

If shopping is not in your schedule, we will gladly accept food certificates or financial donations.

We ask that you bring your **donations to the Parish Center on Monday, November 24 between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM.**

## Thanksgiving at OLL

### Parish Outreach Adopt-a-Family

I will be happy to donate a Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixins' for a family of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_



## 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

For more than twenty years, the Golden Apple Award has been given to Chicago-area teachers for excellence in education. The 2007 winner, Danna Dotson, says this about her pupils: "I insist that my students know they have a lot to offer in what they already understand and that they overcome their fear of being incorrect. I try to instill in them that the smallest contribution can have the most dynamic effect." Danna wants them to know that they are all given tremendous gifts, and no matter how small, they must be willing to invest the time to grow them and share them with others.

At first glance, today's Gospel reading from Matthew appears to be a lesson in sound economic principles, but as with all of Jesus' parables, one must look beyond the obvious to discover the true meaning. Just as the man in the parable entrusted his servants with various amounts of money, God entrusts us with gifts. And just as some of the servants chose to invest his money, most of us use our gifts. But the servant who buried his coin is likened to those of us who fail to share our gifts with others.

It could be said that the only consistent thing in life is that we are all different. But our differences-our talents-are what belong to God's plan, and God wills that each of us receive what we need from others, and that those endowed with particular "talents" share the benefits with those who need them (CCC 1937). This quite simply is the concept of sharing; a doctor shares his or her talents to save lives, an artist shares a painting to add beauty to the world, a teacher shares her understanding of the human being to bring out the confidence in her students. Do you recognize your talent? Do you share it with others?

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### Readings for the Week of November 16, 2008

<b>Sunday:</b>	Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/1 Thes 5:1-6/Mt 25:14-30 <i>or</i> 25:14-15, 19-21
<b>Monday:</b>	Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5/Lk 18:35-43
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Rv 3:1-6, 14-22/Lk 19:1-10
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Rv 4:1-11/Lk 19:11-28
<b>Thursday:</b>	Rv 5:1-10/Lk 19:41-44
<b>Friday:</b>	Rv 10:8-11/Lk 19:45-48
<b>Saturday:</b>	Rv 11:4-12/Lk 20:27-40
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/1 Cor 15:20-26,28/Mt 25:31-46

## Senior Circle

The Senior Circle usually meets on the last Monday of each month. However, the next meeting will be held on **Monday, November 17, at 12:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

## SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, November 18, in the Parish Center at 9 AM.**

## A New Men's Group is Forming

*An Invitation to all men from OLL and beyond...*

Come join us on **Thursday, November 20, in the Parish Center after the 8 AM Mass.**

We plan to meet once a month to read and discuss the Scriptures for the following Sunday. Come with your ideas and suggestions. We'll gather for conversation and fellowship. Join us in this pioneering experience for **MEN ONLY.**

If you plan to attend, please call Jack Fitzgerald at 587.5548.

## Rosary Christian Mothers

The Rosary Christian Mothers will be sponsoring a Holiday Raffle on the weekend of November 22/23. Raffle tickets will be sold after the 5 PM Mass on November 22 and after the 9:30, 11 AM and 12:30 PM Masses on November 23. Please help support this wonderful ministry.

## 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.**

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## *Affordable Housing and the Financial Crisis*

**MICAH\*: An Interfaith Campaign to End Poverty on Long Island**

(\*Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger)

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

-Micah, 6:8

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As everyone now knows, the nation’s current economic crisis began with the wave of subprime mortgage defaults. This led to declining home values, the failure of powerful financial institutions, and a panic that quickly spread from Wall Street to Main Street and markets around the world.

Why did this happen? Too many people were persuaded- even tricked- by certain lenders to take out loans they could not repay, particularly interest-only mortgages, exploding Adjustable Rate Mortgages and “Option ARMs” that gave borrowers the option of skipping payments and going further in debt. Too many lenders gave loans to home buyers without doing the necessary due diligence to confirm that the buyer did, in fact, qualify financially for the loan. And too many risky loans were resold in exotic forms to investors who did not understand that there was a high probability that they could lose their entire investment.

Why did the lenders encourage these risky mortgages? Some of the reasons have to do with sin, our human brokenness, and the tendency to mess up things. Investors bought bad mortgages mostly out of greed, foolishness, and recklessness, and those who issued the loans and repackaged them for investment sometimes were guilty of fraud, duplicity, and incompetence. There is a good reason that no-documentation mortgages were called “liar loans.”

But why did homebuyers want these dubious mortgages in the first place? Many were desperate to find a place to live. When the average Long Islander can only reasonably afford to borrow enough money for a \$180,000 home but there are nearly no homes available at this price, the average guy will get in over his head. Even with the decline in home prices over the past year, very few Long Islanders can qualify for a reasonable mortgage on a median-priced home that is still around \$400,000.

What are the lessons we can learn from these crises? The remedy would partly be to enact rules that prevent a repetition of working people deluded into easy mortgages because of the inflated housing prices that literally priced them out of home ownership in the first place.

To learn more about the MICAH campaign, contact Rev. Thomas Goodhue at the LI Council of Churches (licchemp@aol.com) or LICC Advocacy Director Neelofer Chaudry (licmicah@aol.com)

## Altar Society

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

## Pastoral Care of Our Sick

Please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 to leave the names  
of parishioners who:

- are homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist
- are in Good Samaritan Hospital and would like to be visited  
by a member of our Pastoral Care Ministry.
- would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick.



## Pray for Our Sick

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

*Connie Altadonna, Lucas Anderson, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry,  
Deacon Steve Behar, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Howard Campkin, Regina Cranor,  
Karen DellaVecchia, Josephine DiBenedetto, James, Jr. & Julia Florio (infants),  
Susan Gigante, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Kathleen Kerrigan, Evelyn Lang,  
Nancy Letsch, Kara Lobasso, Baby Josephine Mahan, Vicky Massaro,  
Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., David McCarthy, Eleanor McGee,  
Dorothy Meloni, Brenden Muldoon, Frances Parine, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper,  
Joe Radosti, Patricia Salimbene, Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Gloria Shukal,  
Derek Stahl, Diana Marie Taveras, Charlie Tibbetts, Baby John Tramazzo,  
Jean Virgilio, Pat Wallace*

## 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:



**Bryan R. Dempsey**-US Marines  
**James J. Ferrara**-US Marines  
**Thomas W. Ferrara** -US Air Force  
**John Finn**-US Army  
**Christopher Florca**-US Marines  
**Donnie Frank**-US Marines  
**Armand J. LeComte**-US Marines  
**Michael Mallimo**- US Army  
**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.

# Breathing Emotionally

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

One of the things that made Henri Nouwen such a loved writer was his disarming honesty. He hid little about himself.

And one of the things that he was able to give voice to was his constant struggle to be affirmed, to be made to feel special, to be touched, to be singled out for admiration, to feel tangible proofs of love. Over and over again, in his diaries, he shares his yearning for this. The wording varies, but the pleading is always along these lines:

Today the small rejections of my life are too much for me - a sarcastic smile, a flippant remark, a brisk denial, a bitter silence, a failure to be noticed, a coldness from a colleague, an indifference from someone I love, a nagging tiredness, the lack of a soul mate, a loneliness that I can't explain. I feel empty, alone, afraid, restless, unsure of myself, and I look around for invitations, letters, phone calls, gifts, for someone to catch my eye in sympathy, for some warm gesture that can heal my emptiness. And right now I don't particularly want God, faith, church, or even a big and gracious heart. I want simply to be held, embraced, loved by someone special, made to feel unique, kissed by a soul mate. I'm empty, a half-person. I need someone to make me whole.

What Nouwen articulates in this is not a particular neurosis, immaturity, narcissism, or a lack of intimacy. That may be true too of him (or any of us) on a given day, but what he expresses here is the universal human struggle for emotional and spiritual maturity. And that struggle isn't easy.

We aren't born simple, mature, whole, saints. That's life's journey. We're born complex, lonely, greedy, restless, with powerful, selfish instincts that remain with us even when we are mature. What Nouwen gives expression to is the aching and pressures we feel inside of us because of those instincts.

And it's not a just a question of finding intimacy and meaning in our lives (a spouse, a family, close friends, someone to socialize with, meaningful work). Having these can help, but nothing ultimately takes our loneliness away or fully reprograms our instincts and so the day inevitably arrives when the pain that Nouwen expresses here begins to gnaw away inside us. To feel this kind of need for tangible affirmation is not a sign that there's something wrong in our lives but simply a

sign that we're emotionally healthy and not calloused, warped, or depressed. In the end, it's healthy to feel our need for the touch of another in a way that's so visceral that it drives us to our knees.

And that isn't just emotionally painful, it's also spiritually confusing. When we take this tension to prayer and ask God to take it away, more often than not it will seem that our prayer isn't heard. The tension will remain and sometimes even intensify. Why?

Not because God hasn't heard our prayer, but because we are being weaned, just as surely as a baby from its mother's breast. What's happening is this: Our natural instincts give us one way of breathing emotionally. What naturally gives us energy, emotional oxygen, is the good feelings we derive from tangible love, emotional affirmation, loving touch, and physical pleasure. It's not that these are wrong, it's just we won't ever become mature if our motivation for living with and serving others is contingent upon always having to feel these. We'll never grow mature if unconsciously we keep saying: I will love you and stay with you, as long as there's something in it for me.

Maturity, emotional and spiritual, demands that ultimately we choose love, choose service, choose prayer, and choose God, not on the basis of a feeling but on the basis of value, truth, and goodness. We are mature when love is a decision that's not based upon an emotional pay-off for us but on the intrinsic goodness that's inside the other.

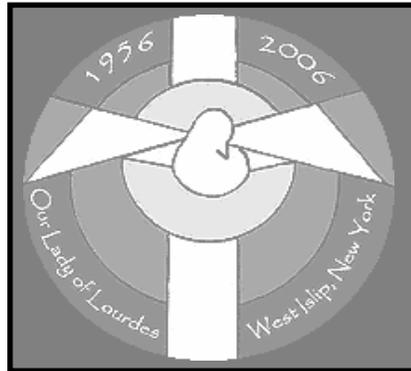
But to come to this, we have to learn a new way of breathing emotionally. The excruciating pain we feel sometimes when precisely we want nothing more in the world than a physical and emotional touch that we can't have is, in essence, a weaning, the pain of the child who has to cry herself to sleep because her mother will no longer nurse her, but is forcing her instead to learn a new way of taking in sustenance. Our prayers don't seem to be heard because God, like a good mother, knows that giving a certain emotional breast back to the child only delays the inevitable. Maturity lies in learning how to breathe emotionally in a new way.

The mystics called this "a dark night of the soul". And we are in one of these dark nights every time we feel the kind of aloneness that drives us to our knees pleading in mercy for the kind of tangible touch that, for a moment at least, would let us feel whole again.

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*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](http://www.ronrolheiser.com).*

*When we love...*



*...we serve.*

**Renewing our Support for Our Lady of Lourdes**

*Dear Parishioners:*

*Each year, our parish uses the weeks at the end of October and beginning of November to celebrate parish stewardship. Stewardship is a way of life, an attitude of generosity and faith that allows us to use our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to do the work of the gospel. Our parish community would not exist without the generosity of our members. Please pay special attention to the message of stewardship on these upcoming weekends.*

**Saturday and Sunday, November 15 and 16**

**Commitment Weekend**

Parishioners will be invited to return their commitment cards if they did not do so last weekend. In addition, we will have cards available at the entrances of the Church over the next several weeks for your use. All cards can be returned in the collection baskets at Mass or they can be dropped off at or mailed to the Parish Office in the Rectory.

**Financial Summary**

**November 9, 2008**

Weekly Collection	\$ 18,696.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (2,304.00)

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

## Thank You to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

HandCrafting Justice and the Sisters of the Good Shepherd offer their deepest thanks to you for your generous response to our mission. The receipts of the sale plus donations will enable us to continue, and increase, our support for the women and their families in Asia, Africa and Latin America. We know from our visits with the women themselves that this support makes a great difference in their lives and the lives of their families. We thank you on their behalf, and invite you to read more about their lives and stories on our website-[Handcraftingjustice.org](http://Handcraftingjustice.org)-where you can also shop for more of their amazing work. Thank you again for your generosity and support!

## Help Feed the Hungry

The Mercy INN Soup Kitchen in Wyandanch is in need of a person to pick up food early on Thursday mornings and someone to make a once a month mid-morning food pickup on a Monday. If you can help, please call Kathy at 631.422.1420.

## Celebrate a Special Mass

A Special Mass will be celebrated for anyone afflicted with any form of cancer, survivors of cancer, and their families on Monday, November 17, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church on Deer Park Avenue in Deer Park. Refreshments will follow. For information, please call Debbie at the Parish Center at 667-4044 ext. 114.

## 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 inventions but, they can easily interfere with our prayer and the prayer of those around us. 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!

## Religion & Rock

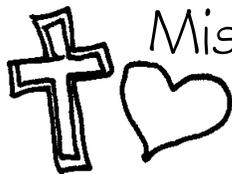
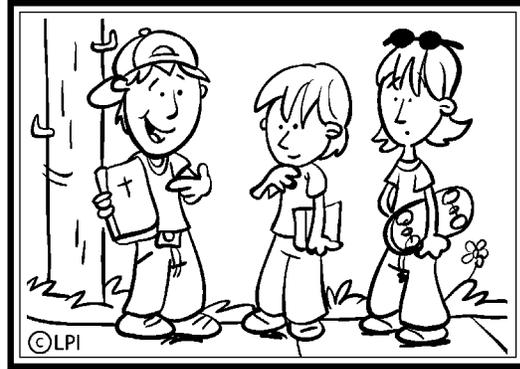
Tune into “Religion & Rock” with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on Long Island’s East End. The show is also available on Sirius Radio, Channel 159 at 11 PM on Saturday nights.

Next Sunday’s theme is: **“Responsibility.”** Don’t miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding Religion and Rock, go to [www.ReligionandRock.com](http://www.ReligionandRock.com).

Don’t forget to tune into TELE CARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 271 for the best in Catholic television!

# Sharing the Gospel

You can choose to waste your time, your money and your special talents. You can be selfish with them, too. Or, you can use those gifts from God to spread good news about Jesus. When you choose to use your gifts for God, and he will fill your heart with joy.



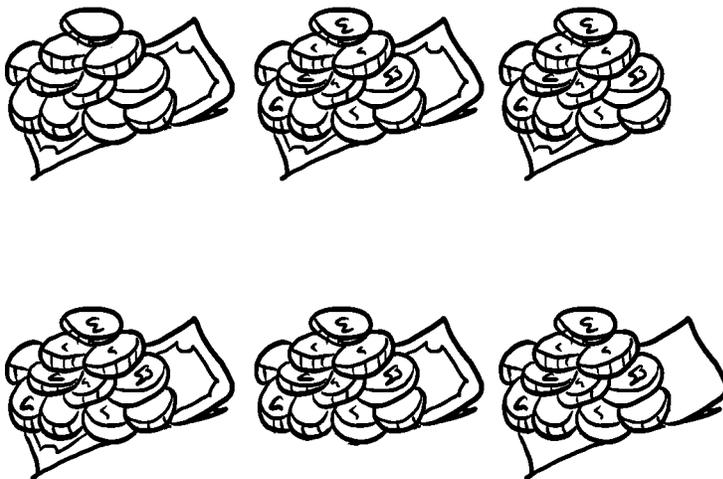
## Mission for the Week

God has given your family money.

Use some of it to buy food for a needy family.

### Puzzle

Find the two that are the same.



©LPI

### Prayer



God,  
help me to use my  
time, my money and  
my special talents  
for you.

### Something to Draw



Draw a picture of  
yourself helping a  
younger child learn  
how to tie their  
shoes.