

"Lord, when did we see you
hungry or thirsty or
a stranger
or naked
or ill in
prison?"



Our Lord Jesus Christ the King
Our Lady of Lourdes
November 23, 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

fax: 661-7143

website: www.ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes School

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: 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

Parish Outreach Office

661-9262

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

S.A.G.E.

661-3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth
and Enrichment)

email: Sage@ollchurch.org

Rev. John Asomugha

In Residence

Rev. Ambrose Cabildo

In Residence

Deacon John DeGuardi

Deacon Tom Lucie

Deacon Jack Meehan

Coordinator of Stewardship

Deacon John Teufel

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

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.

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.

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

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.)

New “Liturgical” Year Resolution

-How about committing to coming to Mass better prepared. We are happy to provide a special resource, “At Home with the Word” that provides the readings for every Sunday along with some important suggestions and ideas for how to live the Word out for the week ahead. If you’re interested, e-mail John Sureau (jsureau@ollchurch.org) or stop by the Parish Office. The suggested offering for the book is \$10.00.

Mass Attendance

-Beginning with this new liturgical cycle, we will publish Mass attendance figures for each of our Sunday liturgies. In the same way that we pay attention to the amount of money donated to the support of our parish, let’s now pay closer attention to the amount of people praying with us each week! May this be a good awareness raiser for our parish community and for each one of us!

THE SIX....Bringing Light to the World

-This Advent and Christmas seasons our Six Committee is bringing Christ’s Light to the military by collecting supplies for a military base in Calverton, NY that will be sending care packages to a base in Iraq. One of the newly confirmed from the RCIA, Fernando DeLeon, has been serving in Iraq and his wife is helping us to organize this effort.

Beginning November 30th through the end of the Christmas season, we will be collecting any of the following items at The Six and at all of our Masses....

Prepaid Phone Cards + Body Wipes + Feminine Products + Chap Stick + Deodorant + Moisturizer + Foot Powder and Cream + Shampoo + Conditioner + Soap + Toothpaste + Q Tips + Nail Clippers + Gum + Beef Jerky + Oatmeal Packets + Instant Coffee + Healthy Snack Bars + Spray Water Bottles + Sports Equipment (soccer balls, etc.) + instant cameras + socks + air mattresses + pillows + bed linens

These items will be collected throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons....so please remember our military service women and men as you carry out your Christmas shopping.



OLL Christmas Concert 2008

On Saturday, December 6th at 7:30 PM our Music Ministry will be giving a Christmas Concert in the church. Take a break from your holiday preparations to enjoy the many talents of our wonderful musicians and singers!



Our Lady of Lourdes Consolation Ministry

You are invited to join our next Bereavement Support Group. The group will meet on Wednesdays for six weeks starting on January 7th, from 7:30 to 9:30 pm in the school faculty room.

This is a wonderful opportunity to be supported in a small discussion group with people who have also suffered a loss.

You are also invited to a one night gathering entitled: "Coping with the Holidays" Wednesday, December 10th from 7:30 to 9:30 pm in the parish center.

The holidays are a difficult time for anyone who is grieving, you don't have to go through it alone.

Call the office at 661-3224 to register

Fear not for your roots and mine
Are forever intertwined



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

Helen DeVilla died on November 10 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 12. We extend our prayers to her son, Richard, her grandchildren, great grandchildren and entire family.

Carmen Cajigal died on November 8 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 13. We extend our prayers to her husband, Modesto, her children, grandchildren and entire family.

Kenneth Boyd died on November 9 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 13. We extend our prayers to his parents, Mary Jane and Kenneth, his sisters and entire family.

Helen Hackett died on November 10 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 13. We extend our prayers to her daughter, Genevieve and entire family.

Stephen Perez died on November 8 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 14. We extend our prayers to his sister, Marie Wilson, and 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 24

8:00 AM Cornelius J. Peterson

Tuesday, November 25

8:00 AM George Shaddock

Wednesday, November 26

8:00 AM Jean Sullivan

Thursday, November 27

Thanksgiving Day

9:30 AM People of the Parish

Friday, November 28

8:00 AM Louis Gambardella

Saturday, November 29

8:00 AM Louise Parine, Vincent Trotta, Nicholas Caccavo,
Phyllis Stagnitta, Blessed Virgin Mary, Diane Schmitt,
Diane Roddin, Stephen V. Perez, Carmen Cajigal,
Kevin Kelly

5:00 PM Frank Cafaro

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Sunday, November 30

8:00 AM Robert D. Colin

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

9:30 AM Tony Squeo

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

11:00 AM Angelina and Diego Tucci

Fr. Mike Vetrano

12:30 PM Joseph A. Febrizio

Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Louis Gambardella, William Kuhlilm,
Helen Laszlo, Joseph Calderale, Sr., Patricia McGrath,
Lori Crean, Carmen Cajigal, Solveig and Kenneth Nelson,
James Marchese, Anthony Pancella, Jr.

Fr. John Asomugha

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

You're Invited to Join us for the Holidays!

Come and sing with us at Christmas.

Join the OLL Choir for rehearsal on 12/14, 12/17, 12/18 and sing with us at the 11:00PM mass on Christmas Eve and/or 11:00AM Mass on Christmas Day.

Our Contemporary Group is inviting junior high school, high school students and young adults to sing on Christmas Eve with our group. We sing at the 4:00PM Christmas Eve mass. Our Contemporary Group rehearses on Sundays from 4:30-6:00PM and then sings at the 6:00PM mass throughout the year.

This is the year to be part of our Holiday singers! Give yourself and your church the gift of your time and talent for the holiday season.

For further information, please contact Carol Goetz at 661-3224 or send an e-mail to music@ollchurch.org.

What Do I Bring to the Manger?

This Christmas, journey with us as we come to the manger. Prepare with us as we focus on the Nativity. Let us put time aside as we bring our hearts and innermost selves to that special place.

Come, see, listen as our own Deacon John DeGuardi shares with us, St. Francis' role in our Nativity.

Sponsored by the ministry of Family Healing, **Thursday, December 11 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center**. Please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440 to register. Please come and bring a friend. As always, food and fellowship to follow.

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 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 631.661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org. This is a great way to help those in need (do some tremendous community service!)



ADVENT

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 in and the light will grow as our prayers do throughout the Mass.

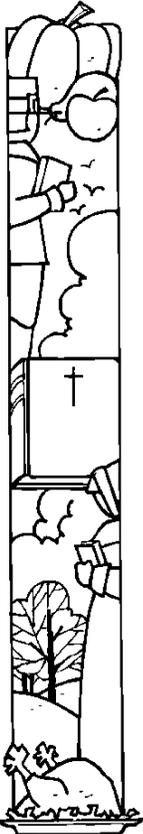
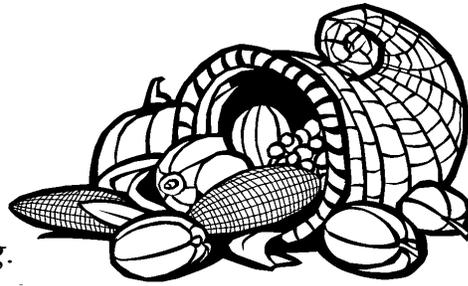
-We'll also support a local National Guard base by preparing "Care Packages" for the military! Look for more information at "The Six", soon!

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!

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 # _____



©LPH

Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

The Prison Fellowship Ministries had its beginnings in 1976 with Chuck Colson, a former aide to President Nixon who spent time in prison for a Watergate-related crime. Having witnessed firsthand those who felt left behind, he vowed to bring his faith back to them. From that single person, an organization has grown which includes 300 full-time employees and over 35,000 volunteers ministering to inmates in nearly 2,000 prisons around the world. Every month at their Bible studies and in-prison seminars, more than 120,000 inmates are in attendance. Never let it be said that one person cannot make a difference.

During his earthly ministry, Jesus was often questioned, even ridiculed for spending time with sinners, tax collectors, those with diseases or infirmities such as blindness. Why would he do this? As always, Jesus leads by example. In today's Gospel reading from Matthew, Jesus clearly explains that he is found in us all, but our challenge is to recognize him in the hungry, the thirsty, the sick, and the imprisoned. And when we do, we are to share our gifts, just as he shared the gift of the promise of salvation.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that works of mercy are charitable acts in which we help one another in times of spiritual and physical need (CCC 2447). Sometimes, we need to look no further than next door or across the office to see someone in need, someone who is struggling and could use some words of comfort. We are all given the powerful element of compassion, the ability to reach out whenever we see another hunger, or thirst, or shiver from the cold, cry from the pain, or those who have lost hope behind bars.

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Readings for the Week of November 23, 2008

Sunday:	Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/1 Cor 15:20-26,28/Mt 25:31-46
Monday:	Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5/Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday:	Rv 14:14-19/Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday:	Rv 15:1-4/Lk 21:12-19
Thursday:	Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a/Lk 21:20-28
Friday:	Rv 20:1-4, 11-21:2/Lk 21:29-33
Saturday:	Rv 22:1-7/Lk 21:34-36
Next Sunday:	Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Paramount International Student Exchange Program

Dear O.L.L. Family,

Our Lady of Lourdes School and Paramount International Education is currently looking for “Host” families near the town of West Islip to provide a 4-6 week housing arrangement for their students from South Korea. Their date of arrival has not been confirmed as of yet, but should be just after the Christmas Holidays. These students will be attending Our Lady of Lourdes School for an educational program and will stay at the “Host” family’s residence while here. Living together will enhance the understanding about other countries and people while appreciating differences in culture and customs. Your family will have benefiting experiences and would be helping the students to learn the actual great American life and family values.

“Paramount International Education (PIE), is an educational Institute based in Seoul, Korea. The main focus and goals of the organization are to provide Korean students with a global mind, help them experience the American culture and education system, and equip them to be better prepared for the future as our next generation. Our students would benefit as well by having the opportunity to stay with your family and exchange ideas with our students from Korea as well as learn the differences and similarities of Asian cultures.”

To be considered as a Host family, it is necessary that all the family members agree to do so and that a room will be available to use by the student visitor. Your hospitality will earn you a stipend for his/her stay. A registration form must be filled out and returned to Our Lady of Lourdes School no later than Monday, December 1, 2008. Forms are available at the school office or go on-line to [www. Ollschool.org](http://www.Ollschool.org) and click the “In the Backpack” link (located on top right corner of page).

For more information, please contact the school office at 631-587-7200, or you can contact Kate Newman at 631-539-8542.

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

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.

Steadying Ourselves in the Storm

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

The early years of my adulthood and priesthood were spent teaching theology at a College in Edmonton, Canada. They were exciting years: I was young, full of energy, loved teaching, and was discovering the joys of ministry. These were good years, everything that young adulthood should be.

But they weren't always easy years. My congenital restlessness, the demands of ministry, the tensions of community, the obsessions I'm forever prone to, the not-infrequent departure of cherished friends from the priesthood, and the constant movement of people through my life, occasionally left me in emotional chaos, gasping for oxygen, too restless to sleep, wondering who I was, saying to myself, like Janis Joplin in her moments of desperation: 'Where is everybody going?'

But I had a little formula to help handle this. Whenever the chaos got really bad, I would get into my car and drive four hours to our family farm just across the border in Saskatchewan. My family still lived in the house I'd grown up in, ate at the same table I'd eaten at as a child, slept in the same beds we had as children, and walked the same ground I'd walked as a child. Usually it didn't take long for home to do its work. I'd only need to be there for a meal or overnight and the chaos and heartache would subside, I'd begin to feel steady and to know again who I was.

Coming home didn't cure the heartache but gave the heart the care it needed. Somehow home always works.

Today the same kind of emotional chaos and heartache can still unsettle me on occasion and leave me unsure of who I am, of the choices I've made in life, and of whom and what to trust. But I can't often drive to my childhood home anymore and so I have had to find the steadying that going home once gave me in new a way. And, even amidst a good community, loving friends, and a wonderful job, that isn't always easy to find. Home can be elusive on a restless night. What steadies the heart when it's restless isn't so easy to access. Once you've left home, you sometimes can't get back there again.

So what do I do now when I need to go home and retouch my roots to steady myself? Sometimes a trusted friend is the answer; sometimes a family that has become family to me can provide that special place, sometimes I can find that place in prayer or in nature, but sometimes I can't find it at all and I have to live with the chaos until, like a bad storm, it blows over.

But through the years, I've also discovered that sometimes a special book that can take me home in the same way as driving there once did. One of the books that does this for me, almost without fail, is *The Story of a Soul* by Therese of Lisieux. Not surprising, it's the story of a recessive journey, the story of Therese's own effort at recapturing what her house, home, and family once gave her.

But the recessive journey in itself is not what gives this book (which I highly recommend for anyone who's heart is aching in a way that unsettles the soul) such a special power. Many autobiographies unsettle more than they settle. Remembering alone doesn't necessarily care for the heart and sometimes our memories of home and childhood carry a lot of pathology and pain. Not everyone's home was safe and nurturing.

What *The Story of a Soul* does is what a good home does; it names and claims for us what's deepest and most precious inside of the human person. That's what gives the soul the steadying it needs.

What is that place? Home is where we can shut the door on the outside world, where a warm fire is burning, where we can eat familiar foods, where we don't have to be on guard when we speak, where we can be sick and somebody takes care of us, where we can sleep in our own beds, where a trusted hand steadies the world, where we can be weak, and where we can shut the door and lock out every kind of storm and restlessness. Home is where we are safe. It's also the place where, one way or the other, we learned about God. (And it's this that is so tragically and irrevocably destroyed in sexual abuse.) I used to drive four hours, just for a meal or a night's sleep, in order to find that. Today, among other places, I find it when I read *The Story of a Soul*.

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.



Breakfast With Santa
Sunday, December 14th, 2008



HO HO HO

Don't miss our delicious Homemade Hot Pancake Breakfast!!!

There will be crafts, prizes, a 50/50 and of course Santa!!!

Buy your tickets ASAP, as seating is limited.

\$5 per person and children 3 and under – FREE

Price includes a photo with Santa

(One picture per family – You are welcomed to bring your own camera)

School families will receive Mandatory credits for any purchases for this event

2 Seatings:

8:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

10:45 A.M. – 12:45 P.M.

Any questions, please call Rita Vandenburg at 667-0092

Or Kate Newman – 539-8542

Thank you in advance for your support!

Please tear off this portion of the flyer, complete it in full and submit it to our School Office – **Attention: Breakfast With Santa Committee no later than Dec. 1st.** Please make checks payable to Our Lady of Lourdes School. Non-school families will receive a call for ticket pick up arrangements.

Family Name: _____

Phone number: _____

of people in attendance: _____ Number of kids 3 & under: _____

Which seating will you be attending: 8:30 A.M. _____ or 10:45 A.M. _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

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**.

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.

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

