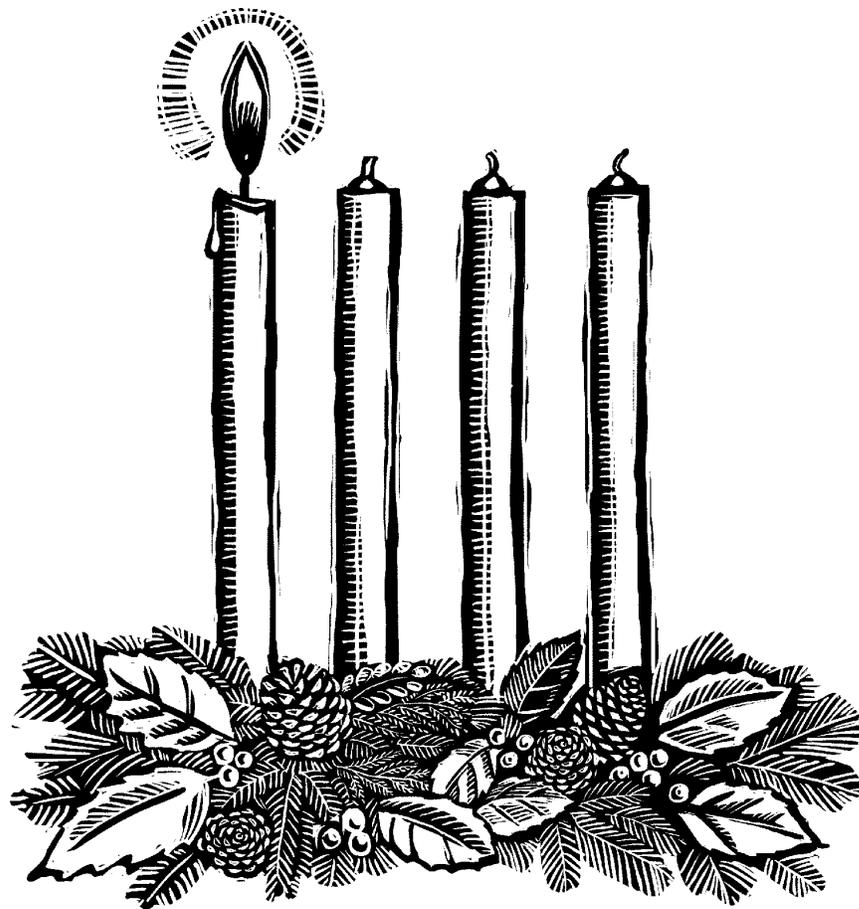


**Our Lady of Lourdes • November 30, 2008**

**Why do you let us wander,  
O Lord, from your ways?**

*Isaiah 63:17*



**First Sunday in Advent**



## *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 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

## *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  
West Islip, New York 11795



## **OLL Christmas Concert 2008**

Why is it important to attend the OLL Christmas Concert on **Saturday, December 6 at 7:30 PM in the Church?**

(Choose the correct answer)

- a) it is a chance to hear each of our music groups perform
- b) you deserve a relaxing musical break from busy holiday preparations
- c) the music of our talented singers and musicians will revive your holiday spirit
- d) all of the above

The correct answer is d) all of the above. So keep the date open and plan to attend this inspiring holiday concert!

## **Mass for Bereaved Parents**

**Saturday, December 20**

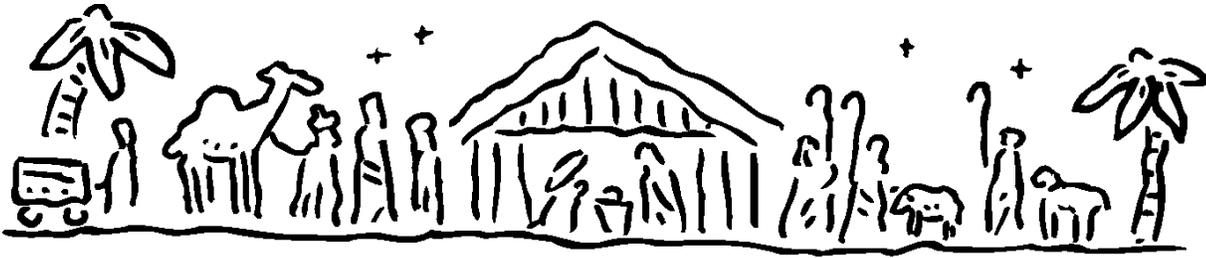
**OLL Church – 10:00 AM**



The holidays are often times of great celebration. But, for many, particularly those who have lost a child, the holidays are painfully hard. They are a reminder of our losses and a reminder of how our lives are perhaps a little less full. Whether you have lost a child in childhood or adulthood, to stillbirth or miscarriage, this Mass will be celebrated to bring you God's peace and consolation.

We invite all who have lost a child to come and gather together for this special Mass on **Saturday, December 20 at 10:00 AM**. Mass will be followed by refreshments. Please feel free to invite family or friends with you. For more information, or to let us know you will be able to attend, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

Let's pray that through prayer and coming together, the challenges of the holidays can become a little lighter and that we may be strengthened by God's love and presence. If you're interested in helping with this celebration, please contact John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org).



*Our Lady of Lourdes Seventh Annual  
Family Christmas Pageant*

*Monday, 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.*

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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](mailto: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](mailto:JenGallagher@ollchurch.org).

**Pageant Practices for All**

Friday, December 5 from 5 PM until 5:45PM in the Church

Friday, December 12 from 5 PM until 5:45PM in the Church

Saturday, December 20 Dress Rehearsal 1 PM until 2:30 PM in the Church



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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 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!

# **Sixth Annual Mission Trip To El Salvador June 26 to July 2, 2009 For Students grade 8 through college**



**Consider spending  
a week with us  
this summer that  
will change your  
life**



The whole trip was indescribable, but the part that really stuck out to me was the day we spent at the school in our Sister Parish in Tacuba running a vacation bible camp for the kids there. Thanks to the donations of the people of OLL parish, every child got to choose their own book to take home to keep. Just seeing the look on a little girl's face as she picked up her Dora the Explorer book made me so grateful for everything I had back home.

Each day we visited towns and villages with arms full of donations from the United States. We were able to interact with the villagers and get a sense of who these people really were. Warm welcomes awaited us in each town along with humble gifts of wildflowers. I was amazed to find that many had walked miles to meet with us and thank us for coming. Even more astounding was that all of these miles were walked by men, women, and children, some with no shoes! This mission to El Salvador was a life-altering experience. It hit me hard after I returned home and went straight to sleep in my own room complete with TV, Internet and stereo, with my warm bed next to my closet filled with the latest \$100 sneakers.



**If you are interested in participating in this life-changing experience, come to an information meeting on Tuesday, December 9 at 8 PM in the cafeteria or email [jengallagher@att.net](mailto:jengallagher@att.net)**

## **Daily Mass**

8 AM

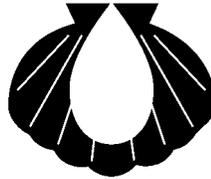
## **Weekend Masses**

**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***

*Delaney Victoria Whatley*

John and Victoria

*Justin Anthony Monzillo*

Robert and Christina

*Aiden Jason Alicea*

Jason and Jessica

*Justin David Ansman*

David and Michele

*Michael Augustus Cruz*

Michael and Erica

*Maura Joanne Keane*

Kevin and Delia

*Daniel Joseph Lyver, Jr.*

Daniel and Stacey

*Brody James Mackey*

Jerry and Tara

*Katie Lynn Skidmore*

Richard and Jennifer

*Sofia Isabel Vallejo*

Salvador and Cheryl

*Darryl Anthony Monaco, Jr.*

Darryl and Michelle

*Tristan John Thomas*

Raymond and Lisa

## **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)

## **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, December 1**

**8:00 AM** George Allen

**Tuesday, December 2**

**8:00 AM** Robert Herr

**Wednesday, December 3**

*St. Francis Xavier, priest*

**8:00 AM** Adam Ippolito

**Thursday, December 4**

*St. John of Damascus, priest, doctor*

**8:00 AM** Margaret Varley

**Friday, December 5**

**8:00 AM** Salvatore Testa

**Saturday, December 6**

*St. Nicholas, bishop*

**8:00 AM** Jessie Asuncion, James Werner, Lori Crean, Vincent Trotta, Stephen V. Perez, James Marchese, Ronald W. Cornils, Jean Elizabeth Konsonavick, Fred Scott, Ann Marie Preziotti

**5:00 PM** David Michael Calogero

**Sunday, December 7**

**8:00 AM** Loreto and Ben Fantauzzi

**9:30 AM** In Memory of the Lodespoto Family

**11:00 AM** James J. Werner

**12:30 PM** Lydia Ann Olsen

**6:00 PM** People of the Parish, Maria Acquaviva, Frances LaMonaca, Helen Laszlo, Joseph Anthony Doldo, Eleanor Coyne, AnnMarie Preziotti, Mary Perro



## Rest In Peace

*AnnMarie Preziotti* died on November 13 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 18. We extend our prayers to her children, dear friends and entire family.

*Paul Wuerth* died on November 14 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 19. We extend our prayers to his wife, Kathleen, and entire family.

## *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.*

## **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.

## **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.

## **Men's Night of Reflection**

Come join us on **Wednesday, December 17 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center**

**Theme:** The Cross in the Crib: What Christmas can teach us about the true meaning of sacrifice.

**Speaker:** Jim Philipps, Theology Teacher at Holy Trinity High School, Adjunct Professor at Molloy College and author of several books exploring various themes in scripture. Light refreshments will be served. Please call Jack Fitzgerald at 587.5548 for further information.

## 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.

*Save the date....*

## Advent Reconciliation

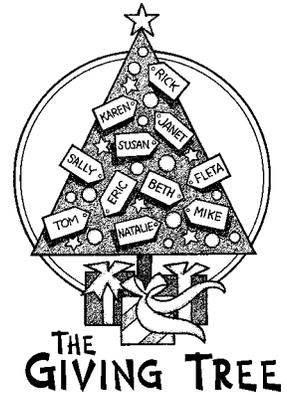
**Tuesday, December 23**

**5 PM – 8 PM**

Our parish priests will be available to hear individual confessions. The Advent season brings us promises of transformation and renewal. This beautiful sacrament is one way this can happen. Be open to the healing forgiveness of Reconciliation!

## The Giving Tree

Each ornament on our Parish Giving Tree is a gift tag that represents something needed by a family in our parish. Help us to meet these needs by taking a tag from our tree and returning a gift. Your gift will help you to think about the real meaning of Christmas and will help a needy family in a very concrete way. You may also make a financial gift to Parish Outreach and they will use it to purchase a gift or to help a family who needs financial support. Please remember to attach the tag on the gift.



## 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 11:00 PM mass on Christmas Eve and/or 11:00 AM 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 4:00 PM Christmas Eve mass. Our Contemporary Group rehearses on Sundays from 4:30-6:00 PM and then sings at the 6:00 PM 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](mailto:music@ollchurch.org).

## 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 631.661.3224, 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!)



**Breakfast With Santa**  
**Sunday, December 14, 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 AM - 10:30 AM

10:45 AM - 12:45 PM

Any questions, please call Rita Vandenburg at 667.0092

or Kate Newman at 539.8542

Thank you in advance for your support!

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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 AM \_\_\_\_\_ or 10:45 AM \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

“Oh believers, let there be a right in your wealth for those deprived and in need of shelter and safety.”

-Verse from the Quran

***“Lack of Affordable Housing = Rx for Economic Disaster”***

**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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Economist Pearl Kamer’s study, “Lack of Affordable Housing: Prescription for Economic Disaster,” found that, based on census figures within the past five years, at least 62,000 families in Nassau and Suffolk are living in rental housing they cannot begin to afford and that 165,000 families in owner-occupied homes are paying more than they can afford on housing. And these figures do not include those living in illegal apartments, living with their parents, and living in shelters, tents, and trailers. Kamer estimates that we need 250,000 more houses and apartments at prices that most workers and retirees can really afford.

It is a vicious circle: If seniors cannot rent out part of their empty nests to folks who need an apartment, they may not be able to stay here. Where there are too few rentals available at a price most renters can afford, renters have trouble saving any down payment. When homebuyers try to get a mortgage with little money down, they often get bad loans. When borrowers get bad mortgages, they are more likely to default. When lenders foreclose on one home on your block, the value of your home declines, making it harder for your neighbors to refinance. When workers cannot afford to live here, our local economy suffers.

A Chinese proverb warns, “Unless we change direction, we will end up where we are headed.” What we are headed for is parents working way too many hours, desperate to pay the rent or mortgage; McMansions covering most of the remaining open space on Long Island while young adults and seniors leave the area; congregations losing both young adults and youngish retirees; decaying downtowns and strip malls; businesses slowly strangled by a shortage of workers. What better future might we envision?

- Could we have “smart growth” that creates neighborhoods of sufficient density to preserve open space and allows people to walk to local stores, schools, libraries, bus or train stops, and maybe even to the place where they worship?
- Can we recycle empty strip malls into affordable housing?
- Will we redevelop decaying downtowns, creating a diverse mix of homes and businesses, rather than pave the Pine Barrens?
- Can “brownfields” such as abandoned gas stations and laundries that litter the landscape and pollute our water be cleaned up for housing and other uses?
- Will we build legal accessory apartments and apartments above stores in which the below-market rentals to seniors will help first-time buyers get a mortgage?

Will your neighborhood become a lively, vital, interesting place to live, embracing racial and economic diversity, rather than fearing it?

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

## Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Dottie Collins*.

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.

## Paramount International Student Exchange Program

Dear OLL 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 587.7200 or you can contact Kate Newman at 539.8542.*

## **SAGE**

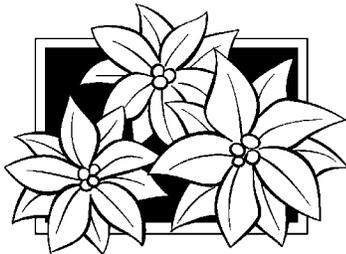
The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, December 2** in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

## **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.



## **Christmas Flower Offerings**

Christmas Flower offerings received by Sunday, December 7 will be published in the Christmas bulletin. Offerings received after that date, will be published in subsequent bulletins.

## **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!



## First Sunday of Advent

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

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

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

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### Readings for the Week of November 30, 2008

<b>Sunday:</b>	Is 63:16b-17,19b;64:2-7/1Cor 1:3-9/Mk13:33-37
<b>Monday:</b>	Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
<b>Thursday:</b>	Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
<b>Friday:</b>	Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
<b>Saturday:</b>	Is 30:19-21, 23-26
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

# Advent Longing

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin once suggested that peace and justice will come to us when we reach a high enough psychic temperature so as to burn away the things that still hold us apart. In saying this, he was drawing upon a principle in chemistry: Sometimes two elements will simply lie side by side inside a test-tube and not unite until sufficient heat is applied so as to bring them to a high enough temperature where unity can take place.

That's wonderful metaphor for advent. What is advent?

Advent is about getting in touch with our longing. It's about letting our yearnings raise our psychic temperatures so that we are pushed to eventually let down our guard, hope in new ways, and risk intimacy.

John of the Cross has a similar image: Intimacy with God and with each other will only take place, he says, when we reach a certain kindling temperature. For too much of our lives, he suggests, we lie around as damp, green logs inside the fire of love, waiting to come to flame but never bursting into flame because of our dampness. Before we can burst into flame, we must first dry out and come to kindling temperature. We do that, as does a damp log inside a fire, by first sizzling for a long time in the flames so as to dry out.

How do we sizzle psychologically and spiritually? For John of the Cross, we do that through the pain of loneliness, restlessness, disquiet, anxiety, frustration, and unrequited desire. In the torment of incompleteness our psychic temperature rises so that eventually we come to kindling temperature and, there, we finally open ourselves to union in new ways. That too is an image for advent.

Advent is all about loneliness, but loneliness is a complex thing.

Nobel Prize winning author, Toni Morrison describes it this way:

*"There is a loneliness that can be rocked. Arms crossed, knees drawn up, holding, holding on, this motion, unlike a ship's, smoothes and contains the rocker. It's an inside kind - wrapped tight like skin. Then there is a loneliness that roams. No rocking can hold it down. It is alive, on its own. A dry and spreading thing that makes the sound of one's own feet going seems to come from a far-off place."*

All of us know exactly what she is describing, especially the latter type, the roaming kind of loneliness that haunts the soul and makes us, all too often, too restless to sleep at night and too uncomfortable to be inside our own skins during the day.

And what's the lesson in this? What we learn from loneliness is that we are more than any moment in our lives, more than any situation we are in, more than any humiliation we have experienced, more than any rejection we have endured, and more than all the limits within which we find ourselves. Loneliness and longing take us beyond ourselves. How?

Thomas Aquinas once taught that we can attain something in one of two ways: through possession or through desire. We like to possess what we love, but that isn't often possible and it has an underside.

Possession is limited, desire is infinite. Possession sets up fences, desire takes down fences. To quote Karl Rahner, only in the torment of the insufficiency of everything attainable do we know that we are more than the limits of our bodies, our present relationships, our jobs, our achievements, and the concrete situations within which we live, work, and die.

Loneliness and longing let us touch, through desire, God's ultimate design for us. In our longing, the mystics tell us, we intuit the kingdom of God. What that means is that in our desires we sense the deeper blueprint for things. And what is that?

Scripture tells us that the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, of simple bodily pleasure, but a coming together in justice, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, that is what we ache for in our loneliness and longing: consummation, oneness, intimacy, completeness, harmony, peace, and justice. Sometimes, of course, in our fantasies and daydreams that isn't so evident. God's kingdom seems something much loftier and more holy than what we often long for - sex, revenge, fame, power, glory, pleasure. However even in these fantasies, be they ever so crass, there is present always a deeper desire, for justice, for peace, for joy, for oneness in Christ.

Our loneliness and longing are a hunger and an energy that drive us, always, beyond the present moment. In them we do intuit the kingdom of God.

Advent is about longing, about getting in touch with it, about heightening it, about letting it raise our psychic temperatures, about sizzling as damp, green logs inside the fires of intimacy, about intuiting the kingdom of God by seeing, through desire, what the world might look like if a Messiah were to come and, with us, establish justice, peace, and unity on this earth.

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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).*

## Advent Lessons and Carols

The Diocesan Choir of Rockville Centre will present Advent Lessons and Carols on **Saturday, December 6 at 4 PM** at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception located at 440 West Neck Road in Huntington. For more information, contact the Diocesan Worship Office at 516.678.5800, ext. 504. All are welcome!

## Charismatic Renewal Center

Charismatic Prayer groups in Nassau County will sponsor an evening of Prayer and Praise on Monday, December 8 beginning at 8 PM in the St. Barnabas Holy Family Chapel (lower church), Bellmore. After a period of Prayer and Praise, we will have a music fest. John Finelli, who has written many spiritual songs, will share them with us. John is a retired music teacher in the NYC school system. It will be a great way to kick off the Christmas season. Everyone is welcome! For further information, call Charismatic Prayer Groups in Nassau County at 516.785.0054.

## Harvest Houses

Harvest Houses, Residences for Well-Elders are affordable, gracious living alternatives offering seniors both privacy and companionship, security and quality of life. Every Harvest House is home for eight independent elders who want the fullness of living in a family atmosphere, the continuity of “a home away from home.” An opening is now available in the Syosset and Floral Park residences. If you are interested in finding our more information or visiting one of our Harvest Houses please contact Sister Jeanne A. Brendel, O.P., CSW, Executive Director at 516.496.9796.

## 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 the East End of Long Island. Don’t forget to tune in! Visit “Religion & Rock” on the web, [www.religionandrock.com](http://www.religionandrock.com). Also watch “*Good News with Father Jim*” on TELE CARE, channel 29, on Mondays and Fridays at 9:45 AM; Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 7:45 PM; Sundays at 8 PM.

# Sharing the Gospel

Have you ever planned a surprise birthday party for a grown-up? It is not easy to keep the secret, but it is so much fun. On the big day of the party, someone needs to look out the window, watching for the special birthday guest to arrive. It could be any minute. God has even better surprises planned for us in heaven. Jesus will be coming back, and we need to watch for him. Will you be ready?



## Prayer

Dear God,

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

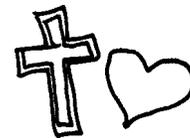


## Word Search

Circle these words from today's Gospel in the puzzle:

WATCH	MASTER	MIDNIGHT
READY	COME	DAWN
SERVANTS	EVENING	MORNING

E	V	E	N	I	N	G	S	N	G	C
L	E	R	D	A	W	N	I	W	S	J
D	V	I	Y	O	A	T	R	F	E	A
E	M	A	P	M	T	Y	A	U	R	M
I	O	S	B	F	C	O	M	E	V	K
G	R	D	W	K	H	J	A	C	A	P
E	N	Y	L	R	A	V	S	M	N	G
M	I	D	N	I	G	H	T	C	T	N
O	N	C	H	N	L	V	E	F	S	J
L	G	U	K	G	S	B	R	Y	F	K
D	H	P	R	E	A	D	Y	T	O	B



## Mission

for the

## Week

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