

**Our Lady of Lourdes • January 4, 2009**

**“They paid him  
homage.”**

Matthew 2:11



**The Epiphany of the Lord**



## *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

**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

Lisa Cantalino

Sonia DaSilva

Nilo DeLeon

Jane Desthers

Jerry Esposito

Deacon Jack Meehan

John Muldoon

Bob Natale

Eileen Rega

Vita Scorgia

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Christine Volk

## *Parish Staff*

**Barbara Catuosco**

Religious Education Office

**Mary Anne Lettieri**

Parish Office

**Debbie Meyer**

Bulletin Editor/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  
West Islip, New York 11795

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

All are welcome at OLL – particularly the children. We invite everyone with kids from age 4 to about fourth grade – to be part of our Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9:30 AM Mass.

*What's this about....you may be asking?*

During the first part of Mass – the Liturgy of the Word – we send our young people out to learn about the readings in a way that's set for them. The readings are much simpler and there are activities designed to make the readings come to life for the kids and... You get a break during Mass! While your children are at the Children's Liturgy, you can sit back, listen well to the readings and reflect on what they mean to you! After the Intercessions (when we say "Lord hear our prayer"), the children return and remain with you during the remainder of the liturgy. This is a great way for you and your entire family to experience the Mass and one another, too!

## Come to The Six!

Hate getting up early? Need a more casual Mass? Need some music to shake you up a little bit? Want to get a little praying in before a busy school and work week? The 6 PM Mass is our Sunday night Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes. Our Sunday night liturgy provides a comfortable, casual and relaxed atmosphere for prayer. Our Six Committee and Contemporary Music Group work hard to make this interactive, exciting and meaningful for our young people, their families and people of all ages! Come and give it a try...encounter God in a radical way and take a break before the beginning of a new week.

## Saint Bernard League

If you're 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 our help, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224, ext. 135 or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org) and you will be added to our list. PLEASE SIGN UP AGAIN- even if you signed up last year.

We also need Saint Bernards...*(those who help people in bad weather)*. Can you and/or your family shovel, snow blow or clear out another family in need within our parish community? 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 and do some tremendous community service!





## **St. Benedict**

*Fourth in our series on the saints*

**Tuesday, January 6**

**7:30 - 9:30 PM**

**Parish Center**

**Presenter: S. Diane Liona, CSJ**

### ***“Listen with the ear of your heart...”***

When I first heard this core message of Benedict’s Rule, I knew I had found a home. I discovered a way to balance an active ministry with a rhythm of prayer which would provide a balance in my life which was essential.

Through the years, I have come to marvel at this saint whose spirituality is infused with Scripture, sanity and a deep appreciation of the nature of work.

This evening of reflection will not only introduce us to the wisdom of St. Benedict, but will give us some practical ways to incorporate the Psalms into our everyday prayer, leading us to mindfulness and reverence for the gift of each moment.

*To register, please call the Religious Education Office, Monday-Friday, between 9AM–5PM at 661.5440 x3, or e-mail to: [religioused@ollchurch.org](mailto:religioused@ollchurch.org).*

## **Please mark your calendars...**

### **OLL School Night at the Races**

“Night at the Races” will be held on **Saturday, January 17. Doors open at 7 PM.**

Admission is \$10 and no pre-registration is necessary. Bring Your Friends!

Come have a wonderful time and cheer on your favorite horse!

For more information, please contact Frank Antonawich at 587.7988.

### **Our Lady of Lourdes 25th Annual Duffers Classic**

#### **Monday, July 20, 2009**

The Our Lady of Lourdes 25th Annual Golf Outing to Support Catholic Education will be held on July 20, 2009. This year we will be honoring **Dom and Mary Anne Lettieri**, who have supported our Golf Outing and our Parish Italian Family Feast for over 25 years. Please mark your calendars and plan to be with us.

For more information about our Golf Outing, please contact the Parish Office.

*Look for more information in future bulletins...*

## Everything is Fine... in '09

### Look at those 7th Graders

*These kids are great!!... more in '09*

The 7th Graders in our parish family know how to love and serve... and feel that sense of belonging. As part of their Service Projects so far, they have been living out our Vision Statement, "Live out our Baptismal call passionately by caring for all of God's people with justice." Some of the "serving" includes:

- Hosting refreshments for the Mass of Remembrance with Ministry of Consolation
- Packaged and gave bread out on Thanksgiving Day with our Liturgy Committee
- Organized our Missalettes/Music Issues for our Parish Family
- Helped our 2nd graders with their Sacrament of Reconciliation nights
- Helped put Advent Tags on our Parish Giving Tree and helped organize the presents with Parish Outreach
- Hosted refreshments for our Christmas Concert and Christmas Pageant
- Helped Art and Environment Ministry decorate our Church and All-Purpose Room for Christmas

### Grade 8... in '09...They're Great!

All Grade 8 Confirmation Candidates will meet with their Sponsors for **RESCUE** - "Religious Education Sponsor Candidate United Effort" with a kick-off every Sunday afternoon in January '09. This night of prayer and reflection will provide them with an opportunity to learn about their new roles as sponsors and candidates, hear personal reflections about what it means to be a sponsor and commit to take a more active role in this process. Each evening will conclude with Sunday's 6PM Mass. Look for them Sundays, January 4, 11, 18 and 25. Sponsors and candidates plan to meet together three times on their own, including doing some service together. Sponsors and candidates work together at a soup kitchen or cook a meal for a soup kitchen, help an elder adult, help with Parish Outreach, Stewardship, Art & Environment, etc. Let's continue to pray for our parish's Confirmation Candidates.

### Grades 6/7/8 Hang Out Nites

*Don't miss it ...*

**Fridays- January 16, February 13, April 24, May 15 and June 19**

- Guitar Hero III is here at OLL
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Dance Revolution
- ...and more
- PLUS some new additions!
- PRIZES and RAFFLES

They continue to serve those in need... they care...every month Grade 6/7/8 bring food/ paper goods/and or \$1.00 for our Parish Food Pantry... they have contributed over \$300 since October '08... wreaths decorated by our Hang Out Kids were given to our families who received "Giving Tree Gifts"... They're GREAT too!!

## Taize-Prayer Around the Cross

Tuesday, January 13

7:30 PM in the Church

Presenter: Carol Goetz, Parish Music Director

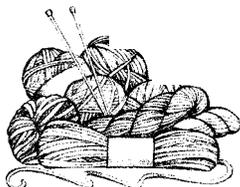


*Looking for another way to pray?*

Taize is a form of worship that provides some time in our busy lives where we can stop and focus on the love of God. Together we will share simple chants and prayers that will help guide us as we bring our concerns and hopes to the Lord. Join us this evening, as we bless our San Damiano Cross for our Taize Prayer. The original San Damiano Cross was the cross through which St. Francis of Assisi received his commission from Christ: *"Rebuild my Church."*

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

*Bring your prayer and creativity together in a gift of love.*



**Join us at our next meeting...**

**Wednesday, January 14, 2009 from 9 AM until 11:30 AM in the Parish Center.** All you need to bring is scrap yarn, knitting needles or crochet hooks (patterns and instructions will be given to you) and your gifts of love and prayer.

*Coming soon...*

## Evolution and the Church

Tuesdays, January 20, 27 and February 3

7:30 – 9:30 PM in the Parish Center

Presenter: James Philipps, Religious Studies Department,  
Holy Trinity High School, Instructor PFI

Not many years ago Pope John Paul II reaffirmed the long-standing position of the Catholic Church that there is no fundamental conflict between the theory of evolution and the creation stories of the Bible. Yet hardly a month goes by without news from somewhere in the United States about a tussle between those wanting to teach Creationism in the classroom and a local school board. Why all the fuss? Is there some fundamental conflict between Christianity and Science? Can a proper understanding of the theory evolution actually help us in incorporating the religious truths of the scriptures into our lives? Join us as we explore these and other related questions during these presentations.

*To register, please call the Religious Education Office, Monday-Friday, between 9AM – 5 PM at 661.5440 x3, or e-mail to: [religioused@ollchurch.org](mailto:religioused@ollchurch.org).*

## **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

## **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**

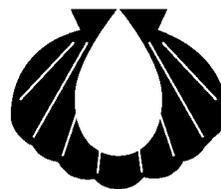
Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

### **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.



## ***Baptisms***

Christopher James DelColle

*Jamie and Janice*

Nico Louis Nunziato

*John and Michelle*

## ***Altar Bread & Wine***

*Baby and Richard Shaddock*

# Remembering . . .



## Monday, January 5

*St. John Neumann, bishop*

8:00 AM Rita Bunting

## Tuesday, January 6

*Blessed André Bessette, religious*

8:00 AM Peggy Wilson

## Wednesday, January 7

*St. Raymond of Peñafort, priest*

8:00 AM Jeanette Carlucci

## Thursday, January 8

8:00 AM John Lovari

## Friday, January 9

8:00 AM Scott Catania

## Saturday, January 10

8:00 AM Andrew Brennan, Helen Mogilnicki

5:00 PM Antonio & Josephine Paladino

## Sunday, January 11

8:00 AM Fortunato Maggi

9:30 AM Michael Memoli

11:00 AM Dec'd mbrs of Sweeney & Primrose Family

12:30 PM Angela Russo

6:00 PM People of the Parish, James Marchese, James Schwenk,  
Courtney Tomkin, Mary Pazus, Bea Klein

## Rest In Peace

*Salvatore L. Mirrione.* died on December 15 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was December 18 We extend our prayers to his sons Thomas and Steven, his grandchildren and entire family.

*Fred Ball* died on December 17 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was December 22. We extend our prayers to his children, Kathleen Cappiello, Fredrick, Susan, Patricia Schneider, Anne Marie Thomson, Bernadette Parezo, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and entire family.

## **Our New Men's Group**

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

Come join us on **Thursday, January 15, in the Parish Center after the 8 AM Mass.** We 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.



## **Daytime Eucharistic Devotion**

The afternoon adoration for the month of January will be on **Wednesday, January 7 from 1-3 PM.** All are invited and welcome! We will be praying for our children, our country, our men and women in the military and our clergy.

## **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.**

## Rosary Christian Mothers

The Rosary Christian Mothers meet on the first Monday evening of each month. The next meeting will be **Monday, January 5, 2009**. We will begin with **Rosary at 7:45 PM in the Church** followed by **meeting at 8 PM in the Parish Center**.

## SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, January 6, 2009** in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**. All older parishioners are welcome.

## Holy Name Society

Our Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, January 11, 2009**. We will begin with the **Rosary at 7:40 AM in the Church** and the **meeting will follow the 8 AM Mass at 9 AM in Room 16**. Come and join us!

## Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, January 26, 2009 at 12:30 PM in the Parish Center**.

### *Wouldn't you like to join us...*

We are a social and spiritual organization. We are a group of men and women who are fifty-five and over. We meet on the last Monday of the month at 12:30 PM throughout the year in the Parish Center. Our activities consist of social trips, informative speakers, and special celebrations. Perhaps, more importantly, you experience the camaraderie of a compassionate group of people and form lasting friendships. We are looking forward to another year of successfully reaching our goals to enhance and stimulate the lives of our seniors.

## Parish Outreach

**Office telephone:**

661-9262, option 4

**Office hours:**

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

## Pantry Needs

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

## Outreach Memorial Donations

*Parish Outreach has received many donations in memory of loved ones.*

- The Small family has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *William Small*.
- Lillian Hinkelman made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Denise Mace*.
- Marie Ricigliano has made a donation to Outreach in gratitude for the Gift of Friendship with *The DiGuardi Family, The Meehan Family, John Sureau, Jerry Esposito and Fr. Stephen*.
- Patricia Rodenburg has made a donation to Outreach as a Christmas gift for *her parents*.
- Outreach has received a donation in memory of *Sr. RoseAnn, CSJ*.

If you would like to make a donation to Parish Outreach in memory of a loved one, please call Mary McMahon, Director of Parish Social Ministry at 661.3224, option 4.

# **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.

**Our trip is almost full!  
If you would like to be a part of our  
Mission Trip 2009, please contact Jen Gallagher  
as soon as possible at [jengallagher@att.net](mailto:jengallagher@att.net)**



## The Epiphany of the Lord

Throughout Germany at this time of year, you will find most main doorways inscribed with the following: 20+C+M+B+09. Children known as Sternsinger (star singers) dress up as the Magi and go door to door, requesting candy for themselves and money for the Church. As they leave, the house is blessed, and the inscription written in chalk. The 20 and 09 refer to the year, the CMB are said to represent either Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar-the Magi-or the Latin Christus Mansionem Benedicat, which means "Christ, bless this home."

Today, we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, in which we remember the adoration of the newborn Christ by three wise men from the East. This should leave no doubt in anyone's mind just how far and wide the promise of a Savior had spread. These representatives of pagan religions from other lands were determined to pay their respects; it was as if they were born to do this-to acknowledge in some way the beginning of the greatest reign of the greatest king of all.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that the Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and savior of the world (CCC 528). In the three wise men from different lands and different religions, we understand that in Jesus Christ, all are welcome. The Epiphany is the third manifestation of the mystery of the Incarnation, following the Annunciation and the birth of Christ. Today is truly the beginning of the paschal mystery. Perhaps your pastor will bless a piece of chalk for you, or better yet, invite him over for dinner and ask him to bless your home.

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### Readings for the Week of January 4, 2009

**Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12  
**Monday:** 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25  
**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44  
**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52  
**Thursday:** 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Lk 4:14-22a  
**Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16  
**Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30  
**Next Sunday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 *or* Is 55:1-11/Acts 10:34-38  
*or* 1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

## **Altar Society**

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Monenna Kennedy*.

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, Michael Ciotkosz,  
Regina Cranor, Karen DellaVecchia, James, Jr. & Julia Florio (infants),  
Susan Gigante, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Kathleen Kerrigan,  
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, Patricia Santangelo,  
Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Derek Stahl, Joseph Sullivan,  
Diana Marie Taveras, Charlie Tibbetts, Baby John Tramazzo,  
Jean Virgilio, Pat Wallace*

# Christmas Flower Offerings 2008

*William Winberry  
Ann Heritch  
Family's Dec'd Members  
M/M Francis McLoughlin  
Mildred & Fred Gangi  
Margaret McDevitt  
Russo & Scorcia Families  
Dec'd mbrs of Sullivan &  
Callahan Families  
Thomas E. Dowling  
Joseph E. Manno, Sr.  
Hilbert & Evoskevicz Families  
M/M Vincent McGuire  
Mary Gerardi  
Carmella DeFio  
Anthony DeFio  
Edward Rutkowski  
Nancy Rutkowski  
Martha & John Sanner  
Bo Chmil  
Joseph Montesanto  
M/M John Seylar  
Fioravanti & Dowd Family  
Madeline Hopper  
George Wild  
Charles & Genevieve Garoklanian*

*Stephen Perez  
M/M Mark Barbera  
Rosa & John Scalia  
M/M Anthony LiPari  
Mary Klein  
Evelyn Albert  
Grace Okuska  
Salerno & D'Angelo Family  
M/M Edward Conte  
M/M Nilo DeLeon  
Charlotte Sweeney  
Charles M. Garoklanian  
Rosemary Wrigley  
Cecilia Stromecki  
Bernard & Elizabeth Darienzo  
George Jorgensen  
Michael Davis  
Angelo & Rose Paolino, Sr.  
M/M Joseph Staniszewski  
Irene & Hans Gries*

## 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*

**Danielle DiLapi**-*US Army*

**James J. Ferrara**-*US Marines*

**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*

**Trent Narra**-*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.

Our whole parish family rejoices with the Ferrara Family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty. **Thomas W. Ferrara** -*US Air Force* has returned to the United States safe and sound from his tour of duty.

Thank you, Thomas, for your generous service to our country!

The Ferrara Family would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family for all of their prayers.

## Catholic Ministries Appeal Update

Our Lady of Lourdes would like to thank all those who have made a sacrifice by making a gift to the *2008 Catholic Ministries Appeal*. We appreciate your generosity and thank you very much for your contribution.

One of our goals is to have every family participate in this Appeal by responding with a YES. We are hopeful that every family in our parish and diocese has responded to this call for sacrifice. Our goal has been based on every family making an equal sacrifice, not an equal gift. Look at what God has given to you and your family and consider the gift you can give to help those in need here on Long Island. Only you can decide what that gift will be.

If you have not yet responded, please consider what you can do to the best of your ability to help our parish reach those in need. If you have not had an opportunity to make a gift to the Appeal or have been waiting to make a pledge, please do so now. Your sacrifice will help us towards reaching our parish goal.

## Clapton, Blues and Conversion

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Recently some friends gave me the autobiography of Eric Clapton (Eric Clapton, *The Autobiography*, N.Y., Random House, 2007) I generally shun the biographies of the rich and famous, but his story interested me. Eric Clapton is perhaps the best blues guitar player in the world, I have been a long-time fan of his music, and I knew nothing about his life. So I picked up the book.

I wasn't disappointed. The book gives all kinds of insights into the inner world of rock music, but, more importantly, Clapton tells his story with a wonderful intelligence and disarming self-effacement. This isn't a cheap celebrity, ego-trumpeting book, but a story of art, youth, restlessness, search, falling, near-disaster, and life-saving conversion. And its real interest lies exactly in that latter element since, as Heather King puts it, sin isn't interesting but conversion is.

Clapton fans won't be disappointed either at how seriously he takes his art. Throughout his whole career, however fuzzy his head may have been about other things, he was always clear and single-minded about his art, the blues, willingly sacrificing popularity and money for the sake of his craft. For him, art is pure, something near to God, and is meant always to remain pure. His words: "For me, the most trustworthy vehicle for spirituality had always proven to be music. It cannot be manipulated, or politicized, and when it is, that becomes immediately obvious."

Those are the words of a good artist, but his real struggle was never with art but with his obsessions, addictions, ego, and sobriety.

Success came to him early and the world of rock-and-roll bathed him in a culture of alcohol, drugs, and irresponsibility. He was soon an addict, with everything in his life other than his music spinning out of control. Eventually grace intervened and, during a second trip to an alcoholic clinic, he found grace and sobriety. Here are his own words:

"Nevertheless, I stumbled through my month in treatment much as I had done the first time, just ticking off the days, hoping that something would change in me without me having to do much about it. Then one day, as my visit was drawing to an end, a panic hit me, and I realized that in fact nothing had changed in me, and that I was going back out into the world again completely unprotected. The noise in my head was deafening, and drinking was in my thoughts all the time. It shocked me to realize that here I was in a

treatment center, a supposedly safe environment, and I was in serious danger. I was absolutely terrified, in complete despair.

At that moment, almost of their own accord, my legs gave way and I fell to my knees. In the privacy of my room, I begged for help. I had no idea who I thought I was talking to, I just knew that I had come to the end of my tether, I had nothing left to fight with. Then I remembered what I had heard about surrender, something I thought I could never do, my pride just wouldn't allow it, but I knew that on my own I wasn't going to make it, so I asked for help, and getting down on my knees, I surrendered.

Within a few days I realized that something had happened for me. An atheist would probably say it was just a change of attitude, and to a certain extent that's true, but there was much more to it than that. I had found a place to turn to, a place I'd always known was there but never really wanted, or needed, to believe in. From that day until this, I have never failed to pray in the morning, on my knees, asking for help, and at night to express my gratitude for my life and, most of all, for my sobriety. I choose to kneel because I feel I need to humble myself when I pray and with my ego, this is the most I can do.

If you are asking me why I do all of this, I will tell you ... because it works, as simple as that. In all this time that I have been sober, I have never once seriously thought of taking a drink or a drug. .... In some way, in some form, my God was always there, but now I have learned to talk to him."

"You are never more of a mature adult than when you get down on your knees and bend humbly before something greater than yourself."

I read those words in a catechism book when I was a little boy and knew, already then, that they contained a truth that perennially needs to be asserted in the face of human pride. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin says something similar. At a certain time in your life, he says, you realize that you have only two choices: Genuflect before something greater than yourself or begin to self-destruct.

Eric Clapton, I think, would agree.

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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).*

## Financial Summary

### December 21, 2008

Weekly Collection	\$
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$

*The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs and salaries is \$19,000.*

Did you notice our new budget amount- \$19,000 vs. \$21,000 (*last year*)? This reflects the difficult economic times and our attempt to adjust our budget to meet that.

### **Please Note:**

*Due to a change in this week's bulletin deadline, the weekly collection and mass attendance will be published in a future bulletin.*

## 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!

### December 21, 2008

5 PM  
8 AM  
9:30 AM  
11 AM  
12:30 PM  
"The Six"  
Total

## Membership Sunday

Sister Margaret Rogers, SHCJ will be visiting our parish on the weekend of **January 10/11, 2009**.

Sister Margaret spent twenty-two years as a missionary in Nigeria, West Africa before beginning ten years of development work all across Africa with an ecumenical organization.

Sister looks forward to sharing her mission experience with the people of our parish. A collection for Membership Sunday for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith will be taken up at the Masses on January 10/11. It is your opportunity to share in the mission work of The Diocese of Rockville Centre.

## Dominican Village

**Please join us for an Open House on Saturday, January 10, 2009 from 1 PM until 3 PM.** Dominican Village is an independent retirement community that offers assisted living and respite care, outstanding programs, all-inclusive services and bountiful amenities. For more information, or to schedule a tour at your convenience, call 631.842.6091.

## Contemplative Outreach of Long Island/Queens

Contemplative Outreach of Long Island/Queens presents "A Day with Father Carl Arixo." Fr. Carl will enrich us with his workshop on "The Forgiveness Prayer" on Saturday, January 24 from 9:30 AM until 3 PM in the Parish Center at Our Lady of Lourdes, West Islip.

For further information, please call Daine at 631.587.0966.

## Holy Innocents Parish

Attention former parishioners of Holy Innocents Parish, Brooklyn!

We will begin celebrating our **100th Anniversary in 2009**. We are seeking former parishioners and graduates of the parish/school. We'd love you assistance as a volunteer or donor. To be on the contact list or for further information, please call Louise Perrotta, class '66 at 631.412.3831 or Holy Innocents at 279 E 17th Street, Brooklyn

## Religion & Rock

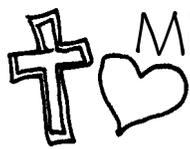
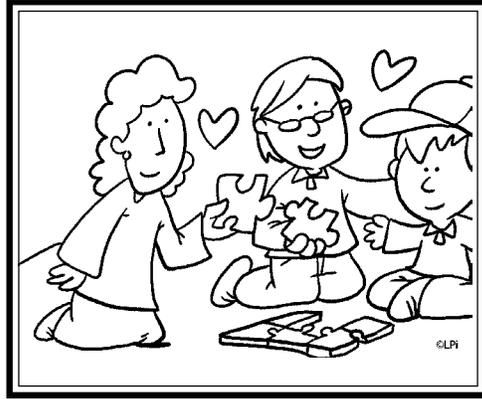
Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. The show is also available on Sirius Radio, Channel 159 at 11 PM on Saturday.

Next Sunday's theme is "**Fresh Start.**" Don't miss it!

To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & 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

Jigsaw puzzles are fun. Solve a puzzle with your whole family, and it comes together even faster. God helped the wise men solve a puzzle. They wanted to find the newborn king. Together the wise men read God's promises, did their homework, and followed the star. When all of their answers fit, they found baby Jesus.



## Mission for the Week

Solve a puzzle together with your family. Work together like the wise men did.



### Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

WISE MEN  
STAR  
HEROD

MESSIAH  
WORSHIP  
EXCITED

GIFTS  
WARNED  
DREAM

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

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### Prayer



God,  
thank you for all the  
people who helped  
me find Jesus.  
Amen

### Something to Draw



Draw a picture of  
the people who help  
you learn more  
about Jesus.