

THE
Lamb
OF
BREATH
GOD

JOHN 35:1

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

JANUARY 18, 2009



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

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

Something special at the 9:30!

Children's Liturgy of the Word continues to challenge and inspire the young people of our parish - and it gives their parents some time to help, too!

During the Advent season, the children who came to CLTW each week were asked to get their hearts, families and world together for Christmas! Each week they set up the straw that was used in the manger in the Parish Center. Their good work prepared a stable place for Jesus!

Here are some of the things they did...

helped Dad fix the Christmas lights, listen to God, be nice, helped with my brother, praying everyday, putting cookies out, do good things, setting up the nativity, celebrate Jesus' birthday, be a nice kid, light the advent wreath, give away toys, help the poor, be nice to my sister, bake cookies, we love him.

Our work is already getting under way for Lent, and we still continue to work each Sunday at the 9:30 AM Family Mass. Want to get involved in this growing ministry? Of course you do! If you're interested, contact John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@Ollchurch.org Or come to CLTW any Sunday at the 9:30 AM Mass!

Mark your calendars...

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...

“THE SIX”

Bringing Light to the Nations

Throughout Advent and Christmas, the members of “The Six” Committee have been working hard to bring “light” to the world by preparing military packages. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our parish community...so much so that we need to ask for some help!

The base we are working with in Calverton has asked for some postal sponsors. If you feel you can help with this, please send a donation to MILITARY PACKAGES POSTAL SPONSOR, c/o John Sureau, Our Lady of Lourdes R.C. Church, 455 Hunter Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795.

Our Lady of Lourdes School

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 25

Family Liturgy - 9:30 AM
Curriculum Fair 10:30 AM- 12:30PM

Visit our classes in session

Monday - Wednesday, January 26, 27, 28
9 AM- 11AM

What Makes Us Different?

NEW Science Lab & Media Center
SmartBoard, Music, Dance, Italian and Spanish Language,
Enrichment Clubs, Before and After Care
8th Grade Advanced Research Program in Partnership with
Stony Brook Medical School

Early Childhood Programs beginning at 2 years old!

2009-2010 Registration Applications

will be accepted beginning Catholic Schools Week
January 25 - January 31, 2009

44 Toomey Road, West Islip, NY 11795

Phone: 631.587.7200 FAX: 631.587.4531

Visit our Website: www.ollschool.org

Living Liturgy



New Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Extraordinary Ministers distribute communion at Sunday liturgy, weekday Masses and during holy days of obligation. Some ministers also choose to bring Communion to the Sick in our parish community.

What's the commitment?

There is a training offered by the Diocese of Rockville Centre in the Spring and a follow up training here at OLL. We try to schedule you based on the Mass you most frequently attend. Ministers sign up to serve on holidays, holy days and special occasions. We also offer opportunities for reflection and prayer that all are invited to and requested to be a part of throughout the year.

I want more information...

Ask one of our Extraordinary Ministers you might see at Mass, call 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org

Lectors



Who better to proclaim God's Word than you? You might notice some new voices at OLL! Some of our newest lectors include: *Diane Bronkhurst, Alex Carlin, Sean Gordon, Nicole Madden, and Joan O'Grady.* We welcome them and thank them for their wonderful service.

Our lectors prepare and proclaim the Scripture readings at our liturgies and services throughout the year. This is a wonderful ministry because you bring the power of God's Word to all who gather in our parish community!

What's the commitment?

If you are interested, we will assign you to work with a "veteran" lector. We will try to schedule you based on the Mass you most frequently attend. Lectors sign up to serve on holidays, holy days and special occasions. We also offer opportunities for reflection and prayer that all are invited to and requested to be a part of throughout the year.

If you're interested, contact John Sureau at jsureau@ollchurch.org or call 631.661.3224 x. 135.



Well-Known Musician and Composer
Dan Schutte
is coming to OLL!

Our Lady of Lourdes is happy to host an evening of music and prayer with Dan Schutte, one of the renowned “St. Louis Jesuits” and composer of liturgical favorites such as *Here I Am, Lord, Table of Plenty* and many others.

People who have attended Dan’s concerts have often commented that it seems more like an evening of music, prayer and spirituality than a concert. Dan introduces each song with stories about their creation and with moving reflections about our common journey of faith.

These events are a wonderful way of bringing a parish community together to be spiritually renewed around the singing of Dan’s inspiring music.

Concert and Evening of Prayer

Friday, February 6

7:30 PM in the Church

Tickets: \$10 each, available at OLL Parish Office

Workshop for all OLL Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, February 7 from 9 AM -12 PM

Tickets: free to all OLL Liturgical Ministers

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 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- 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!!

Evolution and the Church

Tuesdays, January 20, 27 and February 3

7:30 – 9:30 PM

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 of 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.

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

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



St. Bernadette

Fifth in our series on the saints...

Monday, February 9

7:30 - 9:30 PM

Parish Center

Presenter: Deacon John DeGuardi

Come and bring a friend to celebrate 150 years of St. Bernadette's life, spirituality and "friendship" with Our Lady of Lourdes at the Grotto in Lourdes, France and in our church .

Pre-registration is necessary and helpful. This will enable us to have enough reading material and refreshments for all those attending. Please call the Religious Ed Office at 661.5440 (option 3), Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 5 PM and 7 PM – 9 PM or e-mail to: 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.

Upcoming Marriages

Tonia Graziano and

William Perdue, both OLL



Rest In Peace

Christopher N. Romanello died on January 7 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 10. We extend our prayers to his wife Lorrie, son Christopher, parents and entire family.

Gloria Lewis died on January 8 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 12. We extend our prayers to her son Herbert, her brothers Armand and Arthur and entire family.

Salvatore Galasso died on January 8 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 12. We extend our prayers to his children Daniel and Patricia, his grandchildren and entire family.

Remembering . . .

Monday, January 19

8:00 AM David York

Tuesday, January 20

St. Fabian, pope and martyr

8:00 AM Tom Malcolm

Wednesday, January 21

St. Agnes, virgin and martyr

8:00 AM Henry Riedemann

Thursday, January 22

8:00 AM Kim Ecker

Friday, January 23

8:00 AM Loretta Yankel

Saturday, January 24

8:00 AM Peter Reehil, Rosa Dirubba, Ellen Veronica Brown,
Carmine Maiocco, Mary Pazus, Diayana Rodriguez,
Patricia Boswell, Michael Fenech

5:00 PM Joseph & Amelia Moscarelli
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Sunday, January 25

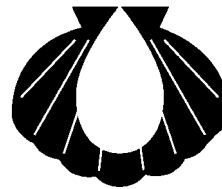
8:00 AM Nancy Proctor
Fr. John Asomugha

9:30 AM Domenica Prudenti
Fr. Mike Vetrano

11:00 AM Elinor Shaddock
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

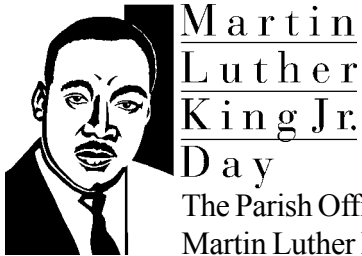
12:30 PM Nancy Catalano
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Anthony Ferrante, Giuseppe Acquista,
Anthony Ferrante, Joseph Eletto, Amelia Marotta, Angelina Kearns
Fr. Mike Vetrano



Baptisms

Michael William Medina, Jr.
Michael and Sarah



The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 20 at 9 AM.

March For Life

Thursday January 22, 2009 is the 36th Annual March on Washington, D.C.

to protest the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. Pro-life Americans will gather in our Nation's capital at noon on "The Mall" to bring our important simple pro-life message to all. This year's theme is a call for equal care for a pregnant mother and her unborn child with no exceptions. It is a powerful day for families and parishes to stand up for our beliefs and take part in one of our freedoms in the democratic process, a day of prayer and fellowship. Our Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes will team up with neighboring parishes to share bus space. If you are interested, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 to leave your name and telephone number.

For Women Who Are Exploring Life Choices

If 2009 is your year to discover how to better make a difference in today's world, don't miss this informative series created by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood. "Claiming Your Power in a Changing World" is a compelling series that will take place on three consecutive Thursday evenings at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 455 Hunter Ave, West Islip, Room 16, from 7-9PM on the following dates:

January 22

January 29

February 5

Mark your calendar for the first session, January 22!

Please come and bring a friend for an evening filled with information, inspiration, refreshments and best of all, new friends.

To register or for more information, contact S. Mary Walsh, CSJ at walshm@csjbrentwood.org or call 516.483.6799.

Parish Outreach

Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

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

Pantry Needs

canned pasta, ravioli, etc.
chili
macaroni & cheese
pasta
tomato sauce

Outreach Memorial Donations

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

- Outreach has received a donation in memory of *Frances Lang* from Mr. & Mrs. John VanVelsor of Wading River.
- The Giuffre Family has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Johnnie Pezzuti*.
- The Adult Choir has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Charlotte Mueller*.
- Pat & Carl Falco have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Elizabeth Lombardi*.
- Mr. & Mrs. John Amabile have made a donation to Outreach in thanksgiving for prayers answered by the Holy Family for *Joseph John*.

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

Gentle Reminder: We no longer accept clothing donations.
Please do not leave them on the premises.



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2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Men have a habit that apparently is not shared by their wives. It's called pantry grazing, or cabinet surfing, or raiding the refrigerator. It is a simple process in which we hear a little voice in our heads (or our stomachs) which commands us to find something to eat. Now, most of us are pretty clueless when it comes to what exactly we want or where exactly we might find it. We do our best to graze the pantry or surf the cabinets in solitude, but the minute we open that refrigerator door, our wives are suddenly standing behind us, asking "What are you looking for?"

What are you looking for? Some people spend their entire lives trying to "find themselves" or "find the meaning of life." Sadly, some find neither. Two of John the Baptist's followers were with him when Jesus walked by one day. "Behold, the Lamb of God," John said to them. Immediately, they wanted to be with him, referring to him as rabbi, or teacher. Andrew introduced his brother Simon to Jesus who immediately changed Simon's name to Peter. In this short period of time, these men found the meaning of life-and themselves.

Today's Gospel reading from John tells of the beginning of Jesus' other family, his disciples. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that "the Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit" (CCC 2205). By praying daily and reading the word of God, we strengthen our families and further our ability to spread the Gospel of the Lord, just as those called to Jesus' other family were able to do when they found what they were looking for.

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Readings for the Week of January 18, 2009

Sunday:	1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42
Monday:	Heb 5:1-10/Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday:	Heb 6:10-20/Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday:	Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Mk 3:1-6
Thursday:	Heb 7:25---8:6/Mk 3:7-12
Friday:	Heb 8:6-13/Mk 3:13-19
Saturday:	Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Mk 3:20-21
Next Sunday:	Jon 3:1-5, 10/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Janet Loehr*.

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, Ben Bellotti, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Howard Campkin,
Regina Cranor, Karen DellaVecchia, Marge Flem, James, Jr. & Julia Florio
(infants), Elizabeth Fredriksen, Susan Gigante, Brian Hinkelman,
Lili Hinkelman, Kathleen Kerrigan, Kara Lobasso, Baby Josephine Mahan,
Robert Mariani, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr.,
David McCarthy, Eleanor McGee, Josephine Mele, Dorothy Meloni,
Brenden Muldoon, Ann Nardone, Frances Parine, Arthur Petrino,
Joanne Popper, Joe Radosti, Patricia Salimbene, Dorothy Shiavone,
Joe Shields, Derek Stahl, Mary Clair Stephen, Dorothy Sullivan,
Diana Marie Taveras, Charlie Tibbetts, Baby John Tramazzo,
Jean Virgilio, Pat Wallace, Flo Worysz, Angela Zagarino*

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!

Weekly	1/11/09
5 PM	467
8 AM	149
9:30 AM	219
11 AM	395
12:30 PM	249
"The Six"	247
Total	1771
<i>Last Year</i>	<i>2273</i>

Save the Dates....

There is much happening in the liturgical and prayer life of our parish community in the days and weeks ahead. Mark your calendars today!

- Friday, February 6** – Dan Schutte Concert (*see page 7 for more info*)
- Saturday, February 7** – Workshop with Dan Schutte for Liturgical Ministers
- Tuesday, February 10** – Vigil of Our Lady of Lourdes Healing Mass
We gather together and ask for God's healing at a beautiful Mass at 7:30 PM in the Church. *More details to follow...*
- Sunday, February 22** – Parish Mardi Gras Celebration
- Wednesday, February 25** – Ash Wednesday
- Monday March 9 through Thursday, March 12** – Parish Lenten Retreat

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*

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.

Our whole parish family rejoices with the LeComte Family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty. **Armand J. LeComte**-*US Marines* has returned to the United States safe and sound from his tour of duty. Thank you, Armand, for your generous service to our country! The LeComte Family would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family for all of their prayers.

Blood and Water Poured Out

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Paradox is everywhere: Sometimes the things you think will make you happy end up saddening you and sometimes the very thing that breaks your heart is also the thing that opens it to warmth and gratitude.

Sometimes it's death itself that pours out life.

We see this in the language that surrounds the death of Jesus in the Gospels. In some of the Gospels, the moment of Jesus' death brings with it a series of apocalyptic-type cataclysms - the temple veil is ripped, top to bottom, and a series of earthquakes shake the earth, opens graves, and the saints begin to walk around. Among other things, what this says is that Jesus' death strips away the veil that blocks us from seeing what's inside of God and, after Jesus' death, we are to believe that the graves are empty, our loved ones aren't there, but with Jesus, alive, elsewhere.

John's Gospel though has a different image: He tells us that after Jesus died, the soldiers came and pierced his side with a sword and "immediately blood and water poured out." Classically theologians have been quick to read the origin of the sacraments into that, namely, the blood and water refer to Eucharist and Baptism. No doubt that's true, but there's something more immediate there.

What are "blood" and "water"? Blood carries life through our bodies. It's the flow of life. In a manner of speaking, blood is life itself. Water keeps us alive, quenches thirst, and, importantly too, washes us clean. What John is saying when he says that "blood and water" flowed out of the dead body of Jesus is that Jesus died in such a way that his death became for those who loved him and for those of us who continue to love him a source of life, health, and cleansing. After he died, those who loved him, paradoxically, experienced his death not as something that drained life from them and made them feel guilty, but the opposite: As sad and heart-breaking as was his death, those who loved him experienced it as something which gave them deeper life, let them breathe more freely, and freed them from feelings of guilt. That's an incredible paradox but we are not without parallels within our own experience to help us understand this. We all too have experienced blood and water flowing out at the funeral of someone we've loved.

During the past several years, the most genuinely joy-filled occasions I've gone to were three particular

funerals, each a farewell to a man who died relatively young, the victim of cancer. Two of the men were in the mid-fifties and the other was a young seventy. But in each case, the man had lived, and then died, in a way so as to make his death his final gift to his family and his loved ones.

In each case, all of us who were at the funeral walked out of church deeply sad but, at the same time, strangely more free, more open to life and love, more grateful at some deep level, and more free from that free-floating guilt that can so easily rob our lives of delight. In every case, almost tangibly, blood and water flowed from their casket. That's not just a metaphor.

We experience this negatively as well: Sometimes someone we know dies and his or her death has the opposite effect. No blood or water flows. Rather that person's death somehow asphyxiates us, stops our blood, gives us trouble breathing, and we feel guilty about having known this person and about all the things we did, didn't do, or should have done. A sword has pieced someone's side, but no blood and water are flowing out.

I remember a conversation with one of those men whose funerals were so joy-filled. Visiting him in palliative care, I asked him if he was afraid of anything. He answered: "No, I'm not afraid of dying, though I'm finding this hard. It's hard to describe the loneliness of it. I have a very loving family and so many friends and someone is holding my hand almost constantly, but I am deeply alone inside of this. People can love you, but they can't go into this with you. But I'm only really afraid of one thing, of not doing this with dignity. I want to make this, the way I die, my final act of love for my family. I want to do this right!" He did. We cried at his funeral but we all walked out of the church afterwards more free, more loving, less wrapped in guilt.

Sometimes the very thing that breaks your heart is the thing that most warms it and the very life that is taken from you is what opens up the flow of blood inside of you. Our task, in the end, is to do what this man did, die in such a way that our going away is our final gift to those whom we love.

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.

Financial Summary

January 11, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 15,522.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (3,478.00)

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

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, January 20**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

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.

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.

Telecare Turns 40!

The Telecare Telethon is the weekend of January 17/18-this weekend! Please tune in on Cablevision channel 29 or Verizon FIOS 271 to support our diocesan Television Stations. It will be 18 hours filled with guest stars-many of the clergy, religious, and dedicated lay people of our Diocese. Additionally, visits from some celebrity chefs, musical groups and New York sports teams will help fuel the enjoyment. Join Msgr. Jim Vlaun, Msgr. Joe DeGrocco, and Fr. Frank Nelson for the 18th Annual Telecare Telethon, celebrating Telecare's 40th year and consider making a donation by phone or a secure donation over the internet at www.TelecareTV.org.

Dominican Village

Please join us for an Open House on Sunday, January 25, 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 Arico." 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 Diane 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 your 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

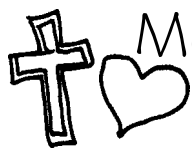
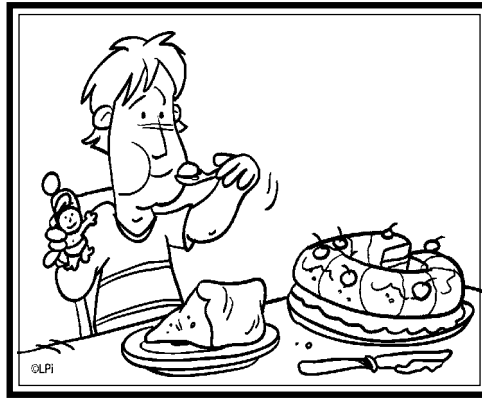
Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. The show is also available on Sirius Radio, Channel 159 at 11 PM on Saturday.

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

To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go to www.religionandrock.com. Don't forget to tune into TELECARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 271 for the Best in Catholic Television!

Sharing the Gospel

Mexican families share a special treat called a Kings' Cake on January 6th. Hidden inside the cake is one tiny little doll shaped like the baby Jesus. If you find Jesus in your piece of cake, you tell everyone. In today's Gospel, Andrew met Jesus for the first time. Andrew was so excited to find the Savior, he ran to tell his brother he had found Jesus.



Mission for the Week

Ask your family if you could include Kings' Cake in your holiday celebrations next year.



Puzzle

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

We have found the Messiah.

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©LPI

Prayer



Jesus,
help me tell
my family and
friends about you.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture
of yourself telling
a friend about
Jesus' love.