

**“The world in its present form...**



**is passing away.”**

**1 Corinthians 7:31**

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Our Lady of Lourdes**

**January 25, 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](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.*

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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

## Catholic Schools Week

The week of January 25 is Catholic Schools Week and we begin with Family Mass at 9:30 AM in our church. We invite all our parishioners, whether you are interested in finding out about Catholic Education for your children or just interested in finding out what is going on in Catholic Education, to visit our school after Mass or any day that week from 9 to 11 AM.

Come on by to visit and find out why Our Lady of Lourdes is a school of excellence!



### Monday January 26

11:00 -12:15 - Student Appreciation Luncheon

7:30 PM – Eighth Grade Pin Ceremony – Church

### Tuesday January 27

1:00 – Student/ Faculty Volleyball Game – APR

### Wednesday January 28

A Day of Fine Art

Student art work will be displayed throughout the day in our corridors

12:30 Musical Concert presented by several OLL students

### Thursday, January 29

Pajama Day - students and teachers can come to school dressed in pajamas IF they bring in a new pair of pajamas and/or a new story book for a child in need

(re: the Pajama Program at [www.pajamaprogram.org](http://www.pajamaprogram.org))

The Ned Show - promoting academic achievement through character

Grades K - 4 12:30 - 1:15

Grades 5- 8 1:30 - 2:15

[www.thenedshow.com](http://www.thenedshow.com)

### Friday, January 30

11:30 AM Teacher appreciation Luncheon in the Parish Center

## Gingerbread Contest

Last month, first grade at Our Lady of Lourdes, West Islip, had a Gingerbread Delights contest to go along with their gingerbread thematic unit. Each child received a gingerbread person to decorate.

The children worked with their families to come up with a unique gingerbread design. The gingerbread designs were proudly displayed in the hallway where first, second and third grade voted by secret ballot for their favorite. It was a close contest, but Darryl Monaco came in first place with his gingerbread man diorama. His prize was a gingerbread house. All of the children and families are congratulated on a fantastic job!



# 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  
8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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**Concert and Evening of Prayer**

**Friday, February 6**

**7:30 PM in the Church**

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

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**Workshop for all OLL Liturgical Ministers**

**Saturday, February 7 from 9 AM -12 PM**

**Tickets: free to all OLL Liturgical Ministers**

## Evolution and the Church

Tuesdays, January 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](mailto:religioused@ollchurch.org).*

## “MOMS” – Ministry of Mothers Sharing

An opportunity for women to get together to share and nurture each other through the journey of motherhood.

- **Come...** *women who lead stressful lives.*
- **Come...** *women who live with many demands of their time and energy.*
- **Come...** *women who need a place to receive spiritual nurturing.*

Thursdays, February 12, 19, 26, March 12, 19, 26, April 2

7:30 – 9:00 PM

Presenter: Lyn Quinn, Pastoral Formation Institute/Diocese of RVC

Please sign up as soon as possible. Also, there will be a book purchase required.

For further info, please call Religious Ed at 661-5440 x 3 or email.

*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](mailto: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...*

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 .

**Monday, February 9**

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

**Parish Center**

**Presenter: Deacon John DeGuardi**

Remove yourself from your comfortable routines and experience your connection with St. Bernadette and Our Lady of Lourdes.

*After 151 years why do people come here?  
Why do they drink the water and bathe in it?  
Why do they touch the rock of the Grotto?  
Why do they light a candle?*

The symbols of Lourdes speak to us today and are alive because they remind us of the things in our human condition and can be seen with our eyes. I have been honored to have organized two pilgrimages to Lourdes with our former pastor, Father Joe in 1999 and with Father Mike in 2006.

Even before traveling to Lourdes, I knew that Bernadette's life was much more than a lovely story. Somehow, after visiting Lourdes, I have become even more convinced of the truth of her story, thanks to the place itself and the people I have met there and here at Our Lady of Lourdes in West Islip.

Indeed, the whole of human life can be seen as pilgrimage!

Take this opportunity to hear the story of Bernadette and her family that led them to the Grotto and beyond. God speaks to us in as many ways as there are believers. The key is being aware and attentive to recognize this.

***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](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.



## ***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 and entire family.

## Remembering . . .

### Monday, January 26

*Ss. Timothy & Titus, bishops*

8:00 AM Kim Ecker

### Tuesday, January 27

*St. Angela Merici, virgin*

8:00 AM James Peter Olsen

### Wednesday, January 28

*St. Thomas Aquinas, priest & doctor*

8:00 AM Rick Munkwitz

### Thursday, January 29

8:00 AM Mary Jean Wilkinson

### Friday, January 30

8:00 AM Marie Shaw

### Saturday, January 31

8:00 AM Rosa Dirubba, James Hill, Cathy Liszewski,  
Erlinda deLeon, John D. Norton, Jr.

5:00 PM Dolores Haggerty

*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

### Sunday, February 1

8:00 AM Mark Polito

*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

9:30 AM Tony Squeo

*Fr. John Asomugha*

11:00 AM John Lovari

*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

12:30 PM Winifred Peterson

*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Dolores Borman, Carmen Cajigal,  
Giuseppe Acquista, Bobby Guierro

*Fr. John Asomugha*

## Upcoming Marriages

*Tonia Graziano and*

*William Perdue, both OLL*



# FAMILY MARDI GRAS



SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 22<sup>nd</sup>

3:00 PM

ending with Mass at 6 PM

Our Lady of Lourdes All Purpose Room



DJ ~ GAMES ~ PRIZES  
CASTLE BOUNCE  
FACE PAINTING  
CHINESE AUCTION  
HOT DOGS ~ ICE CREAM

Tickets on sale in Outreach Office

\$7.00 per person includes all  
(plus 5 raffle tickets!)

Proceeds to benefit Outreach.

## Parish Outreach

**Office telephone:**

661-9262, option 4

**Office hours:**

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

## Pantry Needs

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canned fruit  
canned vegetables  
jelly  
peanut butter  
pudding/jello  
soup

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

## Outreach Memorial Donations

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

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.

## Useful Information from Social Services

### HEAP Benefits

Eligibility guidelines for HEAP have changed. People who were denied assistance should re-apply. If eligible, you may qualify for 3 HEAP benefits. Helpful heating information can be obtained at [www.HeatSmart.NY.org](http://www.HeatSmart.NY.org)

### Foreclosure Intervention

Are you in danger of losing your home? Here are some local agencies which may be able to help if you are having trouble paying your mortgage:

The Community Development Corporation of LI  
2100 Middle Country Road, Suite 300  
Centereach, NY 11720  
Ph: 631-471-1215

The CDC provides free foreclosure intervention counseling with a HUD certified housing counselor and maintains a list of attorneys that will provide a free initial consultation regarding your options.

Long Island Housing Services, Inc.  
640 Johnson Ave , Suite 8  
Bohemia, NY 11716  
Ph: 467-5111

Provides foreclosure counseling and housing advocacy free of charge.



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## 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Perhaps you've heard the story about the small-town doctor who always bragged about the big fish he caught. It was hard to believe, but no one could catch heavier fish than him; he even had pictures of them hanging from his personal fish scale showing the weight. One day while fishing, he got an emergency call that a woman had gone into labor at home and he needed to get over there. After the baby was born, the family had nothing to weigh it with so the doctor pulled out his fish scale. The baby came in at twenty-six pounds, fourteen ounces. His prideful ways were revealed.

"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Has anyone ever made a better offer? As Jesus began his ministry, he made a very conscious decision to surround himself not with disciples who considered themselves religious leaders of the day, but rather with ordinary men, men who worked hard, led simple lives, and whose minds were open to a new way of life in Christ. They abandoned their nets in order to take up a life of evangelization. The "nets" of salvation they will offer will in fact give us freedom from sin.

We are all members of the family of God, and Christ stands at the center of this calling. We are taught in the Catechism of the Catholic Church that the kingdom belongs to the poor and lowly, which means those who have accepted it with humble hearts (CCC 544). Throughout his life, he lived among the poor, the sick, and the sinners. He called his disciples from among them, and promised that the last shall be first. Today, you are invited to put down those things which have no real meaning, and take up the Gospel of Christ into your heart.

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### Readings for the Week of January 25, 2009

<b>Sunday:</b>	Jon 3:1-5, 10/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20
<b>Monday:</b>	2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Mk 3:22-30
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Heb 10:1-10/Mk 3:31-35
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Heb 10:11-18/Mk 4:1-20
<b>Thursday:</b>	Heb 10:19-25/Mk 4:21-25
<b>Friday:</b>	Heb 10:32-39/Mk 4:26-34
<b>Saturday:</b>	Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Mk 4:35-41
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Dt 18:15-20/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

## **Altar Society**

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Joyce Petersen*.

If you would like to help care for our altar needs,  
please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

## **Pastoral Care of Our Sick**

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

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



## **Pray for Our Sick**

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

*Connie Altadonna, Lucas Anderson, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry,  
Deacon Steve Behar, Ben Bellotti, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Howard Campkin,  
Regina Cranor, Angelito Cruz, 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*

## ***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

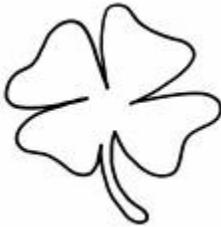
**Monday, March 9 through**

– Parish Lenten Retreat

**Thursday, March 12**

## ***Mark Your Calendar....***

### **Our Lady of Lourdes 1st Annual St. Patrick's/St. Joseph's Day Celebration**



March 21 from 8 PM until midnight  
in the All-Purpose Room



The evening will include music, dancing, Italian and Irish buffet, beer, wine and soda.

The event is hosted by OLL Holy Name Society, OLL Rosary Christian Mothers and Parish Outreach.  
Proceeds to benefit OLL Parish Outreach.

*watch future bulletins for more details...*

***and don't forget...***

### **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.

## 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*

**Edward A. Kelly, IV**-*US Air Force*

**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 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.

## “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.

# The Domestic and the Monastic

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

“God is more domestic than monastic!”

A novelist, Nikos Kazantzakis, wrote those words but a theologian might have. Christ was born into a family not a monastery.

Not that there is anything wrong with monasteries. Maybe they're not places where families live but they're special places, like deserts and shrines, where we can be apart from the ordinary to do some deeper inner work. You can find God too in a monastery, but, ordinarily, God is found wherever there are little children, and families, and kitchen tables, and petty squabbles, and bills to pay, and all those other kinds of things that seem unspiritual.

Carlo Carretto, the renowned spiritual writer, shares how he learned this from experience: A much respected spiritual mentor, he had spent most of his life living by himself as a hermit in the Sahara desert, praying in silence and translating scripture into the Bedouin language. On one of his visits home to Italy, sitting with his mother, he was struck by the fact that she, an earthy practical woman who had raised a large family and who had gone through whole years of her life so preoccupied with the duties of raising her children that she never had any quality time alone, was more of a contemplative than he was, her hermit son, who had spent years alone in solitude trying to block out the distractions of the world so as to pray.

But Carretto didn't draw a simplistic conclusion from this. Realizing that his mother, who had been so busy and preoccupied for so many years, was more contemplative than he was didn't suggest that there was something wrong with what he had been doing all those years in the desert. Rather it suggested that there had been something very right about what she had been doing during those years when the constant demands of little children and family left her with no time ever for herself.

Contemplativeness and openness to the presence of God are not as much a question of silence and quiet, important as these are, as they are of being unselfish and beyond self-preoccupation. Contemplativeness is self-forgetfulness. Silence and the desert can help us to forget ourselves, but so too can duty, the demands of family, parenting, job, and vocation. Indeed, the normal road to sanctity (which is unselfishness and gratitude) leads through family, job, unpaid bills, and duty, rather than through a monastery. Monasteries are special places and the monastic vocation is a special calling, not the norm or ideal for everyone.

My parents' generation had their own way of understanding this. They called this living out one's "duties of state." Their idea was simple, practical, and solidly theological: Nobody gets a free ride in life: We are expected to do some work and fulfill a vocation given us from God. Accordingly we should expect that family, church, duty, and work will necessarily consume our primary time and energy up until we retire. But the idea was that this is where God wants us and that this is where we will find sanctity. Sanctity is found by doing the duties that conscriptively unfold before us each day - doing our work, raising kids, taking care of aging parents, paying bills, helping neighbors, serving country, helping with church life.

The formula for sanctity doesn't need to be searched for; it finds you, in the duties that you find daily in the path of ordinary life. Ordinary life is your monastery. The alarm clock that goes off early each morning to rouse you from sleep and send you off to work is your monastic bell, as is the mortgage you are paying, the aging parents you now need to care for, the demands of your children, and the needs of your neighbors and country. Like the bell at a monastery, they summon you out of your own agenda and self-interest to something larger than yourself, the agenda of the community and God's cause. Not least, the church bell which summons you to weekly or daily worship is also a monastic bell. God is found in the rhythms of your daily life, at your kitchen table, in your bedroom, in the struggle to pay your bills and meet your responsibilities, and in the summons to go to church.

Monks have secrets worth knowing, but so too do families. Carlo Carretto did some deep inner work during all those years of silence, fasting, and prayer in the desert, but so too did his mother, during all those years when the asceticism of being a mother, of being over-busy, and of having to think always of other people's needs before her own made her fast from so many pleasures that she might have enjoyed and forced her to be self-forgetful and generous.

There are two kinds of monasteries and two kinds of monastic bells. Both are good, as long as they summon us beyond ourselves to the kind of fasting and prayer that makes us put others and God before ourselves.

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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

### January 18, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 16,380.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (2,620.00)

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

## Senior Circle

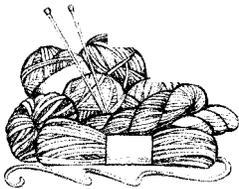
The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, January 26, 2009 at 12:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

*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.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

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



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

**Wednesday, February 11, 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.

## 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.

## 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 29**                      **February 5**

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](mailto:walshm@csjbrentwood.org) or call 516.483.6799.

## The Beginning Experience

The "Beginning Experience" is help for the heartache of divorce, separation and widowhood. Come experience a weekend away for a lifetime of change. The next weekend is February 20 through 22, 2009. For information and reservations, please call Carmen at 516.739.0973.

## St. Ignatius Loyola Parish 150th Anniversary Celebration

As part of our year-long celebration marking the 150th Anniversary of St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, Hicksville, former parishioners and friends are invited to attend a Cocktail Party on Saturday, February 7 from 7-10 PM in Msgr. Tarrant Hall, E. Nicholai St., Hicksville. Cost is \$25 per person. Come and reminisce about the parish, see old friends and make new ones! Please mail your checks (made payable to St. Ignatius Loyola Parish) to St Ignatius Loyola Rectory, 129 Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801 Attn: 150th Anniversary Cocktail Party. All guests must be age 21 and over. Sorry, no walk-ins allowed. Please reserve no later than February 3. We look forward to seeing you!

## Dominican Village

Please join us for an **Open House on Saturday, February 7 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.

## Religion & Rock

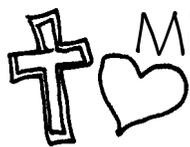
Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. The show is also available on Sirius Radio, Channel 159 at 11 PM on Saturday.

Next Sunday's theme is "**Searching for Meaning.**" 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 TELECARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 271 for the Best in Catholic Television!

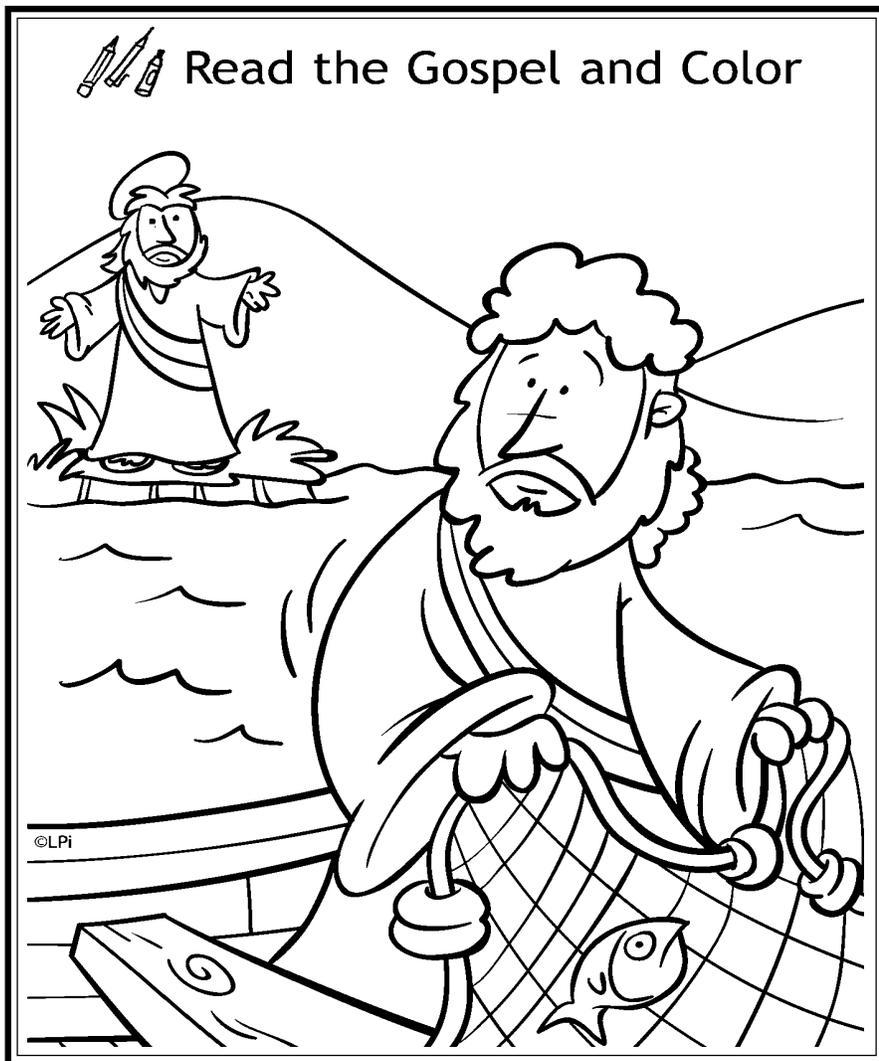
# Sharing the Gospel

There's a colorful envelope addressed to you on the kitchen table. You see it's from your friend. You open it and find a party invitation inside. You parents say you can go! When Jesus invited Peter, Andrew, James and John to come along with him, they were just as excited to go. Jesus was the Savior and a good friend. They couldn't wait!



## Mission for the Week

Jesus wants you to come to his home in heaven. Make a party invitation from Jesus to you. Use this invitation as a bookmark in your Bible.



## Prayer



Jesus,  
I thank you  
for inviting me to  
spend time with you.

## Something to Draw



Draw a picture of  
Jesus smiling and  
waving to you.