

**and people kept coming to him.”**

**Mark 1:45**

**“He remained outside in deserted places,**



**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Our Lady of Lourdes**

**February 15, 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

## LENT 2009

### *Burning of the Palms*

We have been and are actively preparing for the season of Lent at OLL and we need your help!

Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten season and the signing of ashes is a powerful reminder to us of this time of reflection, reconciliation and renewal. The ashes come from burned palm – preferably the palm distributed last Palm Sunday.



Please bring back any palm you have at home throughout the month of February and place it in the baskets at the doors of the Church. This palm will be burned during the weekend of February 21/22.

The purpose of this action is twofold. First, it actively involves each of us in the celebration of Ash Wednesday and Lent. Second, it demonstrates the continuous work of our liturgical cycle/year. By connecting last Palm Sunday with this year's Ash Wednesday, we are reminded of the dying and rising of Christ – the Paschal Mystery - which the liturgy invites us to experience.



### *The Journey Continues!*

Our candidates and catechumens of the RCIA are such an inspiration to our parish community! Since November, they have gathered on Sunday morning to break open the word at Sunday liturgy and again on Monday nights to learn more about the tenets of our faith.

They are actively preparing for the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion this Lent.

Please pray for *Janette D'Angelo + Hung Lu + Michael Pulver + Christine M. Smith* and for their beautiful families who are supporting and loving them every step of the way.

Already – our parish is looking forward to welcoming them fully into the Church at the Great Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 11, at 7:30 PM.



# 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.

## 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!

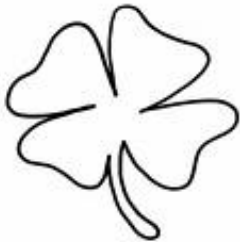
#### *What's the commitment?*

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.

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

Saturday, 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  
-all for only \$30 per person.

## Dessert Contest

All are eligible to enter, if you wish.  
A panel of judges will determine winners  
and award prizes.

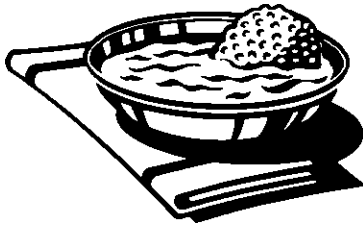


To reserve tickets, please call  
Parish Outreach at 661.9262, option 4.  
Space is limited, so get your tickets early!

The event is hosted by the combined efforts of  
Our Lady of Lourdes Holy Name Society,  
Rosary Christian Mothers and Parish Outreach.  
Proceeds will benefit OLL Parish Outreach.

## **Mass Book of Intentions**

The 2010 Mass Book of Intentions will be opening on **Tuesday, February 24 at 9 AM in the Parish Office**. As always, we will do our best to accommodate your Mass Intention requests.



## **Ministry of Family Healing**

Jesus invites us to follow his example of humility and love for one another. The Ministry of Family Healing invites you to join in a night of reflection on ***“The Basin and the Towel.”***

Come pray with us on **Thursday, March 5 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center**.

Please call the Religious Education Office to register at 661.5440, option 3.

As always, food and fellowship to follow.

## **Please Note**

Due to a printing error in *The Pennysaver*, 2/5/09 edition, it appeared that there were tickets for sale for the Healing Mass here at Our Lady of Lourdes on Tuesday, February 10. There were no tickets for the Healing Mass.

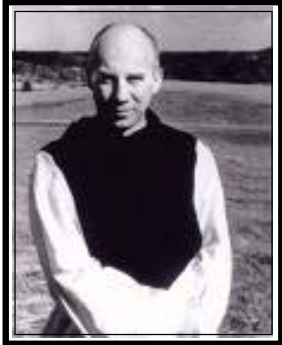
We invited all our parishioners and friends to attend this special Mass of Healing and peace on the vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

We are sorry for any misunderstanding and confusion this error may have caused.



## 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.*



### Thomas Merton

**On Being Myself – An Evening with Thomas Merton**  
*Sixth in our series ...*

**Tuesday, February 24**

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

**Parish Center**

**Presenter: Tom Petriano**

Everyone “*knows of*” Thomas Merton...

**BUT does everyone “*really know*” Thomas Merton and**

**who he was? Join us for this evening... as we discover this man of faith**

Thomas Merton was born in 1915 and died in 1968. Merton’s life was a continual quest for God. After his conversion, he went on to become a Trappist monk, a writer, a poet, an activist for peace and justice, and a spiritual guide respected by people of many faiths and people of no faith.

For Merton, the achievement of holiness occurs in the discovery of the true self. I invite you to share my love for Thomas Merton as we explore his journey and the guideposts it offers for our own quest for God and our own true self.

### “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 19, 26, March 12, 19, 26, April 2**

**7:30 – 9:00 PM**

**Presenter: Lyn Quinn, Pastoral Formation Institute/Diocese of Rockville Centre**

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. option 3 or email to

***religioused@ollchurch.org.***

*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.



## Rest In Peace

*Verna Malone* died on February 1 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 5. We extend our prayers to her sons, John and Robert, her grandchildren and entire family.

*Raymond Brogan, Sr.* died on February 7 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 11. We extend our prayers to his son, Raymond and Donna, his grandchildren, siblings and entire family.

## President's Day

The Parish Office will be **closed on Monday, February 16 in observance of President's Day.** We will reopen Tuesday, February 17 at 9 AM.

# Remembering . . .

## Monday, February 16

8:00 AM Jane Keunzig

## Tuesday, February 17

8:00 AM Margaret F. Smith

## Wednesday, February 18

8:00 AM Margret Homann

## Thursday, February 19

8:00 AM Mary Sniadowski

## Friday, February 20

8:00 AM Frances Sullivan

## Saturday, February 21

8:00 AM Rick Munkwitz, Mary Cresham, Maria Baldwin,  
Joseph Mariarossi, Elizabeth Locascio, Patrick Rose,  
Dec'd mbrs of DeRoxas and Ismiph Families, William Wilson,  
Kelsey Moffett, Joseph Lazzara

5:00 PM Vee Vivo

*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

## Sunday, February 22

8:00 AM Alice Bonacci

*Fr. John Asomugha*

9:30 AM Michael Walsh

*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

11:00 AM William L. LeComte

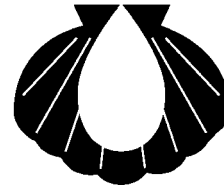
*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

12:30 PM John Balbi

*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Frank Carbone, Gerard Ambrosino,  
Mary Iovino, William Cronin, Matilda Cacciatore, Mary Pazus,  
Neil O'Connor, Louis Mark, Joan Maietta

*Fr. Mike Vetrano*



## Baptisms

*Carley Louise Bonamico*

Mark and Jennifer

*Leah Josephine Giana*

Frank and Debra

## Outreach Updates



*A disclaimer: There is no theological basis for these reflections!*

Lent! Ugh! What a season . . .it even coincides with the February Blues! Is there anything redeeming about Lent at all??! As a child, Lent was always a drag. I attended Catholic schools and in those days the teaching was that Lent was a period of fasting and mortifications! My friends and I made lists of the things we enjoyed and scrupulously crossed off the items to be 'given up.' We sacrificed during Lent; (and yes, this is true, we even walked around with rice in our shoes) so that

on Easter we would be ready to celebrate the Resurrection and eat chocolate, cookies, cake and ice cream again. The Lenten Marathon! I never made it to the finish line!

As I matured in 'wisdom' and grace (?) my appreciation for the season of Lent changed. After all, Mardi Gras ushered in the forty days of Lent. I still didn't look forward to Lent, but I did anticipate Mardi Gras with delight! What better way to lighten the winter blues than feasting?!!

As I continue on my journey as a mother of two, the Lenten Challenge has taken on new dimensions as I question how to best help my children understand the significance of this period of reflection in the Church. I am certain I don't want them to feel dragged down by Lenten obligations. I do want my children to be spiritually enlivened by Lent. I want them to engage in positive actions helping others (including helping around the house!). I want my children to join with a Community of Believers as we all walk the forty days of Lent. I want them to understand that the days of fun and parties are over for awhile as we all look for ways to build the Reign in our midst.

With this in mind, I would like to extend an invitation to join Outreach as we host our first Mardi Gras. There will be a DJ, Castle Bounce, games, prizes, a raffle, food and tons of FUN!!! Mardi Gras will start at 3PM and end with the 6:00 Mass. Before Mass, we will place all the symbols of the Mardi Gras in a treasure chest and we will explain to the children that the time for fun has stopped for awhile as we move into the season of Lent. We will place the treasure chest on the Altar as a reminder of our responsibility to help others throughout Lent.

Please join us for Mardi Gras. Admission is \$7.00 per person and will include all of the events listed. Tickets are on sale in the Outreach office or can be purchased at the door.

On another note- I want to Shout Out a big THANK YOU to Natalie Costantino. Natalie is in the third grade at Bellew Elementary School. Natalie collected food for our pantry from neighbors and friends-THANKS Natalie!

Another big SHOUT OUT to the Fifth Grade Religious Ed. Class in Room 23! THANKS for collecting food for the pantry! Keep up the good work!

*-Mary McMahon*  
Director of Parish Social Ministry

## Parish Outreach

**Office telephone:**

661-9262, option 4

**Office hours:**

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



## Pantry Needs

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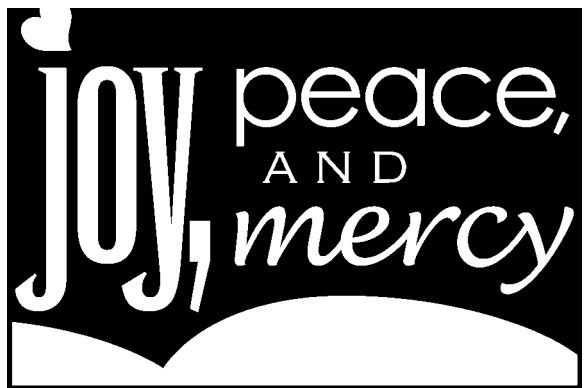
canned pasta, ravioli, etc.  
chili  
macaroni & cheese  
pasta  
tomato sauce

## Outreach Memorial Donations

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

- Outreach has received donations in memory of *Connie Sasso Ragonese* and *Anna Cagliari*.
- The Worysz Family has made a donation in memory of *Michael Worysz*.

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.



©LPI

## 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sometimes it is simply impossible to keep a secret, especially good news. Our natural inclination is to "shout it from the mountaintop" even if we were told not to say a word. So, too, is it difficult to keep from blowing our own horn while on that mountaintop. We take it upon ourselves to perform some act of charity for a friend in need, and can't wait to tell someone about it. Part of us feels good about what we've done, but the other part—our pride—seeks recognition from others. But there is really only one whose recognition and approval we will ever need, and God already knows what we've done!

Today's reading from the Gospel of Mark is a perfect example of our inability to keep a secret. A leper is cleansed by Jesus, his disease completely cured. But Jesus explicitly tells the man to keep this to himself and simply give thanks in the temple. Unfortunately, the man cannot keep himself from telling everyone about the miracle that Jesus performed; in doing so, Jesus' ability to carry out his mission is hampered. Unable to simply preach in the villages and towns, he must remain in the outlying areas. Even so, the crowds still find him, though not always for the reasons he sought them.

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we are helped to understand the very beautiful and abundant rewards of acts of charity. The fruits of our labor, as they are called, are joy, peace, and mercy (CCC 1829). Jesus speaks on many occasions about the need to keep our good deeds to ourselves. The recipient knows what you have done, as does the Father. Having received joy, peace, and mercy, what more could you ask for!

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### Readings for the Week of February 15, 2009

<b>Sunday:</b>	Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/1 Cor 10:31---11:1/Mk 1:40-45
<b>Monday:</b>	Gn 4:1-15, 25/Mk 8:11-13
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Mk 8:14-21
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Mk 8:22-26
<b>Thursday:</b>	Gn 9:1-13/Mk 8:27-33
<b>Friday:</b>	Gn 11:1-9/Mk 8:34---9:1
<b>Saturday:</b>	Heb 11:1-7/Mk 9:2-13
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25/2 Cor 1:18-22/Mk 2:1-12

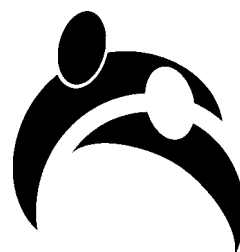
## Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Pat Wissing*.  
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 ...

*Lucas Anderson, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Deacon Steve Behar,  
Ray Berthold, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Howard Campkin, Jean Cilluffo,  
Michael Ciotkosz, Regina Cranor, Angelito Cruz, Karen DellaVecchia,  
Marge Flem, James, Jr. & Julia Florio (infants), Susan Gigante, Alice Hallahan,  
William Heartt, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Kathleen Kerrigan,  
Kara Lobasso, Baby Josephine Mahan, Robert Mariani, Vicky Massaro,  
Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., David McCarthy, Eleanor McGee,  
Dorothy Meloni, Brenden Muldoon, Frances Parine, Arthur Petrino,  
Joanne Popper, Armand Porzio, Joe Radosti, Patricia Salimbene,  
Patricia Santangelo, Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Roy Sorrese, Derek Stahl,  
Mary Clair Stephen, Diana Marie Taveras, Charlie Tibbetts,  
Baby John Tramazzo, Jean Virgilio, Pat Wallace, Rosemarie Wurmser*

## ***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!

- Sunday, February 22** – Parish Mardi Gras Celebration  
**Wednesday, February 25** – Ash Wednesday  
**Monday, March 9 through** – Parish Lenten Retreat  
**Thursday, March 12**

***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.

## **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.





## Six Students Nominated for The National Young Scholars Program

Six students from Our Lady of Lourdes School have been nominated and accepted for entrance into The National Young Scholars Program (NYSP). This program is specifically designed and created for 2nd through 5th grade students with a history of academic achievement, who even at their young age have demonstrated a high degree of leadership potential.

Pictured are *Grant Macina, Chris McDonald, Grace Shapiro, Danielle St. Laurent, Agnes Goldin and Dylan Herbert* who have been personally selected by their teachers. Teachers who nominate are instructed to select only those students who can meet the challenge of the advanced academic curriculum and who merit the distinction of a nomination.

Young Scholars are all outstanding individuals representing a variety of backgrounds and possessing a broad range of interests and goals and each contribute to the special strength and character of the program.

## Author Alan Gerwartz visits OLL School



The students of Our Lady of Lourdes School in West Islip were excited about a visit from author Alan Gerwartz last week. Mr. Gerwartz, a retired teacher, shared with the second grade how easy simple rhymes can be made into poems, birthday cards and even into story books!

He shared how he created his book, “The Magic Turtle,” a story of a little turtle who produces money when the family who own it decide to contribute to charity. Mr. Gerwartz was not only entertaining but very effective as he taught how important it is to think of others and give whatever they can to those less fortunate.

Our children have since decided to get our school involved in the “Pajama Program” collecting new pajamas for children their own age!

# The World as a Phone Booth

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

For Christmas last year, I was given a cell-phone (a “mobile phone”, in European terms). I’d always resisted buying one for a couple of reasons.

First off, I’m already too accessible, as are most of us. The poet, Rumi, once said: “I have lived too long where I can be reached!” Wonderfully put. We can no longer go out for dinner, have a family outing, take a day off, or go on vacation without life intruding back in on us. The opportunity for instant and constant distance-communication has, no doubt, made our lives more efficient, but it has also made them more demanding and has robbed most of us of the precious few chances we still have to get away from the pressures of life. We are too accessible.

Beyond that, I have been perennially irritated by the over-use, mis-use, and useless-use of cell-phones. It is no longer possible to be in almost any public place and not be within earshot of someone talking on a cell-phone. I glance around public places sometimes - airports, parks, coffee bars, public squares, parks - and notice that virtually everyone is either speaking on one, punching information into one, or at least holding one in his or her hands. They’re omnipresent.

With that being said, I do admit that they are a marvelous invention and have saved lives. They’re also a wonderful convenience. In the two months that I’ve had mine, it has already twice bailed me out while driving and getting lost, allowed me to reschedule a flight while stranded in a storm, facilitated airport pick-ups on several occasions, and given me instant access from anywhere to colleagues, family, and friends.

But still, I’m hardly a convert. Cell-phones still too often irritate me. Why?

More superficially, I get the impression that too many of us still think that being engaged in a cell-phone conversation in a public place makes us look important. I may be wrong and, God-willing, the near universality of the phenomenon should soon enough erase any such illusions.

More seriously, I’m concerned about how cell-phones are changing the way we relate and deforming us somewhat both in our capacity for attention and in our propriety. Let me explain:

First, regarding our capacity for attention: I agree with Thomas Friedman (*The World is Flat*) when he suggests that mobile phones, text-messaging, emails,

and other such media are making us so accessible to everybody that paradoxically we are becoming accessible to nobody. We are communicating all the time and, strangely, becoming lonelier in the process, more isolated from each other. Studies show that today, inside of this instant and continuous communication, we in fact have fewer close friends and family life is being strained by technology, not enhanced by it. Technology is dividing us perhaps more than uniting us.

Beyond this, our excessive preoccupation with technological communication is producing in us something Friedman calls continuous partial attention disorder. We are becoming the antithesis of a contemplative. How do you stay in touch with your deep center when you are constantly pulled in all directions?

Recently in an airport, I sat beside a young man who was listening to an i-pod, working on his lap-top, and speaking on his cell-phone all at the same time. I suspect he would protest that he is now part of a generation that can “multi-task”. Perhaps there’s some worth in that since the capacity to walk and chew gum at the same time is indeed a virtue. But I would be wary of his contemplative capacities, just as I would of his manners. Too often the capacity to “multi-task” is also the capacity to be impolite and inattentive to more than one person at the same time.

Then there is also what cell-phones are doing to us in terms of public propriety, etiquette, and manners.

In essence, we have turned the whole world into a phone-booth. But is that a bad thing? Efficiency-wise, no; but propriety-wise, yes.

Phone-booths were invented for a good reason, as were living rooms, offices, bedrooms, parks, living rooms, restaurants, dining rooms, theatres, and churches. We sit in public places today and we over-hear conversations that have to do with business, family life, intimacy, and trivia which propriety and manners suggest would be better conducted precisely inside of offices, living rooms, bedrooms, and parks - or at least in the relative privacy of a phone-booth. But the whole world is now becoming a phone-booth, just as it is also becoming a business office, a living room, a bedroom, and a venue for endless chatter in public about trivia that is best talked about in private. Cell-phones have not made for good hygiene, psychic or social.

In the end, cell-phones are a good thing. Sadly though our common sense and manners haven’t kept pace with the technology.

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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

### February 8, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 18,317.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (683.00)

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

## Mass Attendance

	February 8
5 PM	452
8 AM	196
9:30 AM	435
11 AM	459
12:30 PM	262
"The Six"	207
TOTAL	2011
2008	2154

## 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.

## Holy Family DHS

Class of '79 is holding its 30th year reunion at the Smithtown Sheraton, July 18, 2009. Please send your contact info, and any other classmate's info you might have, to [info@reunionsofamerica.com](mailto:info@reunionsofamerica.com) or call (631) 266-1836. Feel free to chat with your former classmates on [facebook.com](http://facebook.com); *Holy Family High School Class of 1979*.

## 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.

## "Fill My Heart with Peace" Bereavement Conference

For the bereaved and those ministering to them – all faiths welcome.

Sponsored by Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Rockville Centre on **Saturday, March 21** from 8:30 AM until 5:30 PM at Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale. The day features an opening keynote by Antoinette Bosco, Ph.D., award winning syndicated columnist and author, bereaved mother of three children, conference bookstore and closing Eucharistic Celebration. For registration and further information, please call 516.334.7990, extension 120 or 122.

## St. Ignatius Retreat House

**Hermitage Day on Monday, February 16 from 10 AM until 4 PM.**

This day of silence includes a bedroom, lunch and an opportunity to meet with a Spiritual Director from among our staff associates. Offering \$55.

**Directed Retreat Weekend (Silent) beginning with dinner on Friday, February 20 at 6:30 PM to Sunday, February 22 after lunch.** Directors will be St. Ignatius Team and the offering is \$245. To register for any of the programs or retreats, please call Terri at 516.621.8300, extension 15.

## Religion & Rock

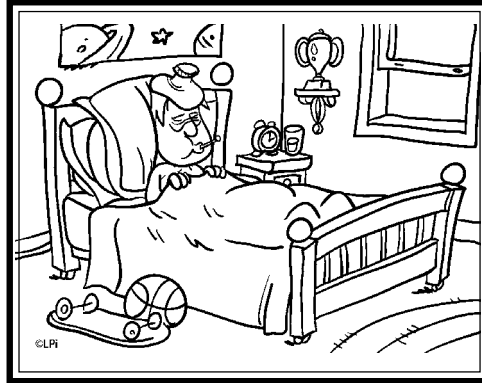
Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. The show is also available on Sirius Radio, Channel 159 at 11 PM on Saturday.

Next Sunday's theme is "**Leadership.**" 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

It is not fun to be sick. You miss your friends at school. You can't go outside to play. On top of being bored and lonely, you don't feel well at all. The man with leprosy in today's Gospel was sick a long, long time. He was really bored, lonely, and feeling awful. There was no medicine for leprosy. Jesus was the only one who could help him.



## Mission for the Week



Visit the sick. Make a card. Take a treat to share. Give them something to read. Pray for them before you leave. You will brighten their day.

### Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

- |         |        |        |
|---------|--------|--------|
| LEPROSY | WELL   | GIFT   |
| JESUS   | WARNED | HEALED |
| POWER   | SHOW   | WALKED |

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

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### Prayer



God,  
you have the power to heal. Help me to trust you, even when I'm sick.

### Something to Draw



Draw a picture of yourself sick in bed.