

*First Sunday of Advent*

*Our Lady of Lourdes • November 29, 2009*



*Jeremiah 33:15*

*“I will raise up for David  
a just shoot.”*



## *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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### *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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### *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

## *Pastoral Team*

**Rev. Michael A. Vetrano**  
Pastor

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**Rev. Patsy Amabile**  
Associate Pastor

**Rev. Robert Scheckenback**  
Associate Pastor

**Rev. Ambrose Cabildo**  
In Residence

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**Deacon John DeGuardi**

**Deacon Tom Lucie**

**Deacon Jack Meehan**

Coordinator of Stewardship

**Deacon John Teufel**

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**Sr. Margaret Bickar**

Senior Ministry-SAGE

**Sr. Nancy Campkin**

Director of Religious Education

**Allegra D'Alo**

Youth Minister/Social Action

**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

**Robin Reynolds-Brennan**

Coordinator of Worship

**Vita Scorcio**

Ministry Spiritual Director

**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 Scorcio

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Christine Volk

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## *Parish Staff*

**Barbara Catuosco**

Religious Education Office

**Mary Anne Lettieri**

Parish Office

**Debbie Meyer**

Bulletin Editor/Parish Office

**Rosemary Multer**

School Office

**Rex Muro**

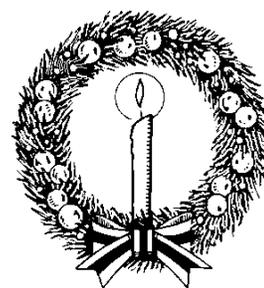
Organist

**Rita Spera**

Religious Education Office

**Lori Walsh**

Parish Office



**1st Sunday**  
*in Advent*

### **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, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30 AM - 3 PM

### **S.A.G.E.**

661-3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth  
and Enrichment)

email: [Sage@ollchurch.org](mailto:Sage@ollchurch.org)



## Oll Christmas Concert 2009

The Music Ministry of Our Lady of Lourdes invites everyone to come and enjoy the beautiful music of the Christmas season. Join us for a beautiful evening of music on **Saturday, December 12 at 7:30 PM in the Church.**

We look forward to spending some time together during this busy time of year to enjoy the sounds of Christmas and reflect on the meaning of the season.

## Adult Faith Formation

*Upcoming dates...*

### Monday Mornings in Advent

**Fr. Pat Amabile**

**Fr. Bob Scheckenback**

Come to 8 AM Mass on Mondays in Advent. You will be able to pray the rosary after Mass or just take some time for your own prayer. At 9 AM, we will gather in the Parish Center for coffee, rolls and a talk, with some time for discussion and reflection.

*(If you can't make Mass, please join us at 9 AM.)*

### Finding My Way to Bethlehem

**An Advent Evening of Reflection**

**Fr. Pat Amabile**

**Wednesday, December 16**

**7:30 PM**

**Parish Center**

During Advent, we journey as did Mary and Joseph. We bring the *joys* of preparing for Christ's coming, the *love* for one another along the way, the *peace* that waiting holds for us, and the *hope* that brings us beyond ourselves!

*There is a \$5 fee for each session. No fee is required for those who have paid the Religious Education Family Fee or Our Lady of Lourdes School tuition.*

*Registration is necessary and helpful. This will enable us to have enough reading material and refreshments for all those attending. To register, please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option 3 or email to [religioused@ollchurch.org](mailto:religioused@ollchurch.org).*



## *Our Lady of Lourdes Eighth Annual Family Christmas Pageant*

*Tuesday, December 22*

*7 PM in the Church*

*What better way to prepare for Christmas  
than to share the Christmas story with our children!*

*We invite our entire parish family to come and  
share this special evening with us.*

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We'd like to involve many members of our parish community, especially all parish children!  
It's easy...there are only two short practices and a dress rehearsal.

*There's something for all ages:*

### **Children**

Pre-K through Grade 3

Angels and Shepherds

Grades 4 through 6

Three Kings and the Royal Servants; and Dancers

Grades 7 through 12

We need lots of help—musicians, singers, organizers and  
assistant directors!

If you can help with our pageant, please call Jennifer Gallagher at 661.3224 or email  
[jengallagher@ollchurch.org](mailto:jengallagher@ollchurch.org) .

### **Adults**

We need help with costumes and supervision of the “angels and shepherds.” If you can  
help with any of these areas, please call Jennifer at 661.3224, or email

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

### **Pageant Practices for All**

Wednesday, December 9 from 7 PM until 7:45PM in the Church

Friday, December 11 from 7 PM until 7:45PM in the Church

Saturday, December 19 Dress Rehearsal at 11 AM in the Church




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## After the Storm

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The climate in El Salvador is a wet, humid one but recently a hurricane that hit the country has created many environmental problems for the people there. The death toll rises as the mudslides continue and relief is needed now, more than ever!  
How wonderful it is that we are in a position to help.

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### **AMERICA/EL SALVADOR - After the hurricane: “get busy and help the children” says second report from Caritas San Vicente on the situation**

San Vicente (Agenzia Fides) – Manuel de Jesus Moran Hidalgo, Assistant Director of Caritas in El Salvador, said in a press conference that we are all called to help our brethren, especially in these times of need: “As Archbishop Romero said, they are brothers whose cries reach heaven, and we must offer them human and material aid.” Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez, at the same press conference, also said: “We are united in grief and united in hope.”

Caritas El Salvador in the Diocese of San Vicente, sent Agenzia Fides a second report detailing the situation, after the first published yesterday (see Fides 10/11/2009). The relief groups in El Salvador have started to remove mud and debris in search of other victims in 5 of the 14 departments that were hit over the weekend by heavy rains that killed at least 130 and caused much damage, especially in San Vicente. There are currently recorded at the national level: 108 landslides, 1835 homes uninhabitable, 209 houses totally destroyed, 18 bridges hit, 13 serious floods, and 12 overflowing rivers. The authorities have opened 87 emergency shelters across the country, where 10,348 people are being lodged, according to figures provided by the Head of Civil Protection.

Manuel Castellanos, Governor of San Vicente, said that the people of Guadalupe, Verapaz, and Tepetitán have suffered the worst damage in the area and there are 800 people who are currently housed in 14 hostels. “Probably the most damaged is Verapaz (a town 48 km east of San Salvador). Here there are still about 600 people missing,” said the governor.

A national work plan has begun to coordinate emergency relief efforts of pastoral workers and groups of different communities with the national civil protection. The preliminary report of the damage was in fact prepared by the local civil defense committees, the staff of various municipalities affected, by parish priests, and volunteers already working in the area.

The second report by Caritas, sent to Agenzia Fides, also features photos showing the damage in many areas of San Vicente, Cologne Dos Puentes, Colonia La Caridad, Verapaz, Molineros, Tepetitán, La Entrevista, Santa Elena, Guarumo y Casas Viejas and San Francisco Chamoco. (EC) (Agenzia Fides 11/11/2009)

## Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Awareness Trip 2009

As many of you know, this past July, a team of 28 OLL parishioners traveled to El Salvador to pray and work with the communities of Mogotes and Tacuba. It is in keeping with Catholic Social teaching that we help others and share our faith with Catholics everywhere. With the help of the parishioners here at home, the El Salvador Team has been raising money through our CASA project to build homes for those belonging to our sister parishes. Through the support of Our Lady of Lourdes, our young people have been able to experience another culture and help people in need. Thank you OLL!

### Remember...

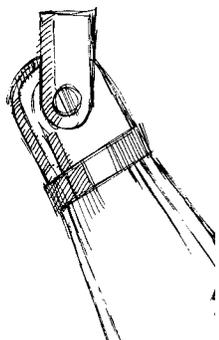
If you bought a bank to benefit the El Salvador CASA project, we ask our parishioners to return their spare change (not the banks) to our special coin receptacles at the doors of the Church, on the first Sunday of each month-next weekend-December 6.

### Young Women's Faith Group

The next Young Women's Faith Group meeting will take place on Thursday, December 10 at 7 PM in the Spiritual Life Center. This month we are taking a break and watching the movie "Love Actually." Come and grab a hot chocolate and relax for a bit with us before the holidays.

### Fr. Bob Unplugged

"Fr. Bob Unplugged" will take place on Thursday, December 17 at 7 PM in the Parish Center. If you ever had a question about the Church, about God or about Fr. Bob's favorite food, now is the time to ask! All questions are anonymous and all questions will be answered! Come grab a snack and hang with your friends, too.



### Youth Spotlight!

Our Lady of Lourdes Youth Program now has a FACEBOOK! Friend Bernie Soubirous and join the OLL Youth group and stay in the loop about all of the teen events that are happening at OLL. Awesome things are coming up so you don't want to miss out.

## ***Call to Action: Oppose HPNAP Budget Cut***

**MICAH\***: An Interfaith Advocacy Campaign to End Hunger & Poverty on Long Island  
(\*Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger)

**“Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.” Micah, 6:8**

### ***What can you do?***

Please contact by phone, email or postal mail (*template below*) your state representative or the governor’s office to voice opposition to this proposal. Swift action is needed as the time frame for the budget process is difficult to determine.

Contact: <http://www.state.ny.us/governor/contact/index.html>

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November 2009

The Honorable David A. Paterson  
New York State Governor  
State Capitol Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

I am writing to you to support the position of the Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger (MICAH). MICAH has over 400 leaders from more than 270 congregations and agencies on Long Island. MICAH is committed to education and advocacy by the faith community and others on behalf of programs and public policies that remove the barriers to food security on Long Island. Of special concern to MICAH are the more than a quarter million hungry Long Islanders who seek help at food pantries each year.

We are fully aware that the economic situation in New York is grave and that tough budget decisions lie ahead. Sadly many good programs are going to face budget cuts, but *we must strongly oppose* the proposed \$958,000 budget cut to the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP). We implore you to at least keep this program at its current level of funding, if you do not have the financial means to increase funding at this time.

As you are well aware, last month unemployment officially hit 10.2%. This is the first time in 26 years that the national unemployment rate has reached a double-digit percentile. According to a Feeding America study, 1 out of 8 Americans are currently food insecure. The primary driver of hunger is unemployment. Unemployment is rising and this means that the number of people becoming food insecure is increasing. This is especially true in New York and more specifically, Long Island.

For over the past 25 years, HPNAP provided State and Federal funds to improve the quality of food distributed to an estimated total of 2,500 Emergency Food Relief Organizations (EFRO) such as food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens and emergency shelters in New York. The 160 million meals are served in NYS through HPNAP funding. The last hunger study conducted by Feeding America in 2005 determined that there were approximately 259,000 Long Islanders suffering from hunger. These figures were calculated before the economic crash and assuredly are much higher today.

Without food, adults will not have the energy to perform at work or to seek work if they are unemployed. Without food, children will not have the energy needed to succeed in school. MICAH does not support cutting HPNAP which helps the selfless EFRO agencies and people who devote their time and effort to keeping their neighbors properly nourished. In the midst of the worst recession since the 1930’s, please do not balance the State’s budget by creating more hungry people on Long Island, and elsewhere in New York State. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**MICAH**

## Parish Outreach

### Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

### Office hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30 AM - 3 PM



## Pantry Needs

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

## Outreach Donations

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.

### ***Call to Action: Oppose HPNAP Budget Cut***

**MICAH\***: An Interfaith Advocacy Campaign to End Hunger & Poverty on Long Island  
(\*Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger)

**“Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.” Micah, 6:8**

### ***What is the issue?***

NYS Lawmakers are convening for a special legislative session to consider Gov. Patterson’s proposed budget cuts. Included in his proposal is a \$958,000 budget cut to the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP).

### ***Why is HPNAP important?***

For over the past 25 years, HPNAP provided State and Federal funds to improve the quality of food distributed to an estimated total of 2,500 Emergency Food Relief Organizations (EFRO) such as food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens and emergency shelters in New York. The 160 million meals are served in NYS through HPNAP funding. The last hunger study conducted by Feeding America in 2005 determined that there were approximately 259,000 Long Islanders suffering from hunger, before the economic downturn.

*This information was provided by Long Island Cares.*

To learn how you can get involved in the MICAH campaign, contact Cristina Notaro, MICAH Steering Committee ([crisnotaro@gmail.com](mailto:crisnotaro@gmail.com)).

## Breakfast With Santa

### Breakfast with Santa is looking for donations

Our committee is looking for kid's games, books, dvd's, toys, gift certificates, and Christmas gift items. Please bring donations to the School Main Office marked for "Breakfast with Santa." Please have donations to the main office no later than November 30.

If you have any questions, please call Charlene at 254.4998.

## School Family Mass

Beginning Sunday, December 6, and the FIRST Sunday of every month, will be our School Family Mass at 9:30 AM. Please join us and let's pray together with our parish family.



## Candle in the Darkness

We invite all 5-6-7 and 8 graders and their families to be a Candle in the Darkness. Come and be a part of "The Six," each week, Sunday evening Mass at 6 PM.

## Fire Safety

Our Lady of Lourdes School, in West Islip, welcomed Fire Safety month with a visit from Lt. Mike Harty of the FDNY.

Lt. Mike visited Mrs. Harty's Nursery Class and Mrs. Harris' Third Grade Class where he reviewed fire safety tips. The Nursery learned to stop, drop and roll while the Third Grade reviewed what to do in the event of a fire.



Both classes had the opportunity to use a fire extinguisher as well as learn how the equipment is used to protect the fire fighters. A fun educational learning experience was had by all!



Our Lady of Lourdes School

# Breakfast with Santa

Sunday, December 13

OLL School Cafeteria

Breakfast with Santa

Don't miss our delicious  
Homemade Hot Pancake Breakfast  
There will be crafts, prizes, a 50/50 and of course  
Santa!

Buy your tickets early, seating is limited  
\$5 per person Children 3 and under - FREE

There will be two seatings:

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM and 11 AM - 1 PM

If you have any questions, call Charlene at 254.4998

Please cut out this order form, complete it in full and submit it to our School Office to the attention of: Breakfast With Santa Committee. Enclose form with your check made payable to: Our Lady of Lourdes School. Families will receive a call for ticket pick up.

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

# of people in attendance: adults \_\_\_\_\_ children \_\_\_\_\_ # of Kids 3 & under: \_\_\_\_\_

Which seating will you be attending?: 8:30 AM \_\_\_\_\_ or 11 AM \_\_\_\_\_

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



## **Daily Mass**

8 AM

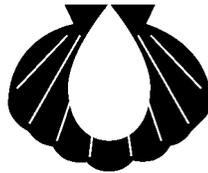
## **Weekend Masses**

**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.

(Free babysitting available)

## ***Baptisms***

*Timothy Michael Archacki*

Timothy and Meredith

*Nicholas Joseph Dempsey*

Steven and Christine

*Frank James Galatro, Jr.*

Frank and Jennifer

*Madeline Rose Leone*

Paul and Lisa

*Isabella Kristina Virgilio*

Michael and Courtney

## **Rosary/Novena**

### **Rosary**

Daily after 8 AM Mass

### **Miraculous Medal Novena**

Monday after 8 AM Mass

### **Anointing of the Sick**

Throughout the liturgical year.

If needed sooner, please call the Parish Office.

### **Baptism**

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

### **Marriage**

Arranged at least six months in advance, please call the Parish Office.

### **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults(RCIA)**

A process to be embraced by the Catholic Church. For non-Catholics and for Catholics who have never received formal religious education. If interested, please call the Parish Office.

# Remembering . . .

**Monday, November 30**

*St. Andrew, apostle*

**8:00 AM** Robert D. Colin

**Tuesday, December 1**

**8:00 AM** John Lovari

**Wednesday, December 2**

**8:00 AM** Fred Ball

**Thursday, December 3**

*St. Francis Xavier, priest*

**8:00 AM** Charles Ecker

**Friday, December 4**

*St. John of Damascus, priest & doctor*

**8:00 AM** Margaret Varley

**Saturday, December 5**

**8:00 AM** Charles Ecker, Mary Pazus, Paul McKee,  
Vincent & David McCarthy, Josephine Sabella,  
AnnaMarie Monteforte, Eugene Holleran

**5:00 PM** Mary & John Flynn

**Sunday, December 6**

**8:00 AM** David Michael Calogero

**9:30 AM** Erin Theresa Belfer

**11:00 AM** Ann D. Murray

**12:30 PM** James J. Werner

**6:00 PM** People of the Parish, Robert K. Contacessa,  
David Forsythe, Luigi Capaccia, Teresa Stallone,  
Megan Anderson, Robert D. Baxter, James Altadonna,  
John Timmer, William Kruger



## Rest In Peace

*Josephine Cox* died on November 14 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on November 17. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and entire family.

*William M. Kruger* died on November 14 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on November 18. We extend our prayers to his mother, Margaret, his siblings, nieces, nephews, and entire family.

Celebrating Sacraments

# EXPRESS OUR FAITH

©LPI

## 1st Sunday of Advent

Christians always end up with this cultural collision this time of year. While we begin a new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent, we find ourselves approaching the final month of the civil year. While we struggle to focus on the religious meaning of one of the central events of our salvation-the birth of the Savior-we are overwhelmed by the crass commercialism of the "holiday" season. Even the sacred names that originated the feasting get pushed to the side in favor of what is perceived to be less offensive nomenclature.

Maybe that's as it should be as we begin Advent. The Gospel readings provided for the final Sundays of the church year and the beginning of the new one invite us to consider what will happen at the end of time. This Advent in particular, for the first three Sundays, the focus is on justice-God's justice, which is brought to completion when the Lord returns in glory.

In the meantime, we wait, sometimes patiently, and sometimes impatiently, like shoppers ready to take advantage of the first "door-busters" of the season. We could bemoan the lack of religiosity in this run-up to Christmas. Or we could use it to our advantage. It doesn't take much to express our faith this time of year. A cheerful greeting of "Merry Christmas" in the check-out line; a teaching moment with children when passing a store display of manger scenes; including religious emblems in our lawn displays; singing a Christmas carol for meal prayer each night: these are all ways that we can easily express our faith in the midst of the culture. The Gospel commands, "Be vigilant at all times." In our vigilance we can look for ways to express faith at every opportunity.

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### Readings for the Week of November 29, 2009

<b>Sunday:</b>	Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12---4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
<b>Monday:</b>	Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
<b>Thursday:</b>	Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
<b>Friday:</b>	Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
<b>Saturday:</b>	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35---10:1, 5a, 6-8
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6



## Nocturnal Adoration

Nocturnal Adoration will follow the 5 PM Mass on **Saturday, December 5**, concluding with Benediction at 9:50 PM. Please come and pray with us. All are invited and welcome! Bring a friend.

## SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, December 1**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

## Men's Group

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

We invite all men of the parish to meet for prayer and reflection after 8 AM Mass on **Thursday, December 17, in the Parish Center**. We meet once a month to read and discuss the Scriptures for the following Sunday. Come with your ideas and suggestions. We'll gather for conversation and fellowship. Join us in this pioneering experience for men. Call Jack Fitzgerald at 587.5548 for more information.



## Taize-Prayer Around the Cross

Please join us for a Taize Prayer Service on **Tuesday December 1 at 7:30PM in the Church**. If you're interested in singing/playing with our Taize Group, please contact Carol Goetz at [music@ollchurch.org](mailto:music@ollchurch.org) for further information.

## Bereavement Ministry - Coping with the Holidays

*"How Can I Celebrate When My Heart is Broken?"*

All who have experienced a loss are invited to a Presentation and Brunch to help in facing and embracing the holidays while mourning. The Presentation and Brunch will be on **Saturday, December 12 at 11:30 AM in the Spiritual Life Center**. Please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 to register.

## Financial Summary

### November 22, 2009

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

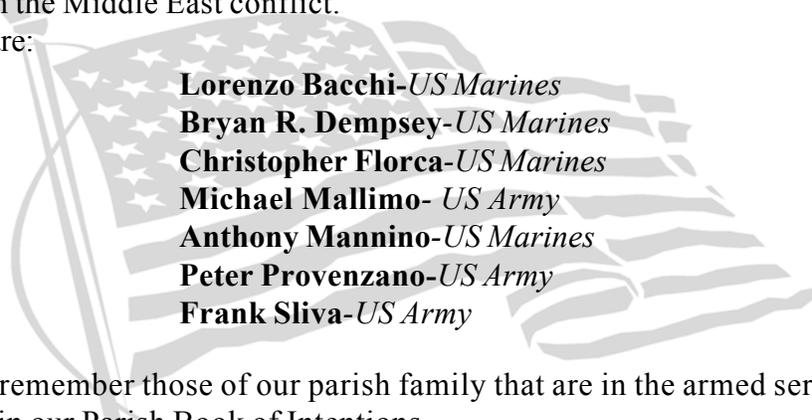
Due to a change in the bulletin deadline, the collection amount for November 22 will be published next week.

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

## 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:



**Lorenzo Bacchi**-*US Marines*  
**Bryan R. Dempsey**-*US Marines*  
**Christopher Florca**-*US Marines*  
**Michael Mallimo**- *US Army*  
**Anthony Mannino**-*US Marines*  
**Peter Provenzano**-*US Army*  
**Frank Sliva**-*US Army*

...and remember those of our parish family that are in the armed services, listed in our Parish Book of Intentions.

## Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Marie Cirone*.  
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 ...

*Mansour AbouZeid, Roy Anderson, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Ben Bellotti,  
Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Howard Campkin, Nicholas Cibelli, Michael Ciotkosz,  
Regina Cranor, Jeanne DellaRagione, Pat DeRosa, Ann Donlon, Marge Flem,  
Ed Hawkins, Albert Hawkins-Firth, Edward Herger, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman,  
Mary Kaval, Veronica Kenny, Kathleen Kerrigan, Joseph Lehmann, Kara Lobasso,  
Amy Maher, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Dorothy Meloni,  
Rick Mirabella, Brenden Muldoon, Evelyn Nonnon, John O'Brien, Aiden Pinto-Hawkins,  
David Petito, Mark Petito, Arthur Petrino, Helen Pitkowitz, Joanne Popper,  
Laura Prichard, George Prygocki, Santa Quevedo, Joe Radosti, Frank Raimo,  
Carol Randazzo-Hopkins, Michael Savino, Jayna Schmidt, Dorothy Shiavone,  
Joe Shields, Albina Sipplak, Derek Stahl, Mary Clair Stephen, Stephen Straub, Sr.,  
Baby John Tramazzo, Nancy Turano, Vera Vieni, Pat Wallace, Flo Worysz*

# The Struggle with Terrorism

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

There's an old axiom that says that the country with the best poets eventually triumphs. The strength of a people, in the end, lies not in its military power, but in its faith, moral fiber, imagination, and in the vision of its poets, artists, philosophers, and priests.

Never has this been more true, and harder to believe, than today in our struggle with terrorism and the merciless violence it has unleashed all over the planet. To make peace with terrorism, as we are painfully learning, will require more than guns and military might. It is going to require new imagination, new poetry, and a moral stretch to which we are unaccustomed. This is a different kind of enemy, one that seems to grow the more it is crushed.

The novelist, Barbara Kingsolver, in a book of essays entitled *Small Wonder*, brilliantly describes what we are facing:

*This new enemy is not a person or a place, it isn't a country; it is a pure and fearsome ire as widespread as some raw element like fire. I can't sensibly declare war on fire, or reasonably pretend that it lives in a secret hideout like some comic-book villain, irrationally waiting while my superhero locates it and then drags it out to the thrill of my applause. We try desperately to personify our enemy in this way, and who can blame us? It's all we know how to do. Declaring war on a fragile human body and then driving the breath from it - that's how enmity has been dispatched for all of time, since God was a child and man was even more of one.*

But now we are faced with something new: an enemy we can't kill because it's a widespread anger so much stronger than physical want that its foot soldiers gladly surrender their lives in its service. We who live in this moment are not its cause - instead, a thousand historic hungers blended together to create it - but we are its chosen target. We threaten this hatred, and it grows. We smash the human vessels that contain it, and it doubles in volume like a magical liquid poison and pours itself into many waiting vessels. We kill its leaders, and they swell to the size of martyrs and heroes, inspiring more martyrs and heroes. This terror now requires of us something that most of us haven't considered: how to defuse a lethal enemy through some tactic more effective than simply going at it with the biggest stick in hand.

The enemy, in the end, as Kingsolver points out, is not a person, a country, or a religion, but hatred itself. Only hatred can call forth this kind of sickness, indiscriminate murder done in God's name. Only hatred sees murder as martyrdom. And, as Kingsolver points out, we're not its cause, but its target. This is not to say that some of the things we have done in history and some of the things we still do today are not to blame for helping produce this (It's wise to ask the question 'Why?' when someone hates us so powerfully) but the kind of hatred that foments murder in God's name draws upon more sources than those for which we are to blame. Moreover this kind of hatred can't simply be beaten with guns because it isn't like fighting an army; it's like fighting a plague, people die but the disease continues on to infect millions of others.

So what's to be done? While military strength can never ultimately subdue this, this doesn't mean that is isn't necessary to contain it. A disease needs to be contained even while it is being fought. But, at the end of the day, winning this battle will require something beyond guns and bombs. To win, which ultimately means to win over, will require poetry, imagination, and a vision drawn from genuine religion.

Kingsolver, in searching for some vision, draws upon the Greek story of Jason and the Argonauts, Jason finds himself facing a particular kind of dragon which when it is slain and its corpse falls to the ground becomes even more deadly because each of its teeth germinate and instantly produce a new enemy, fully armed. So each time he kills an enemy, the enemy multiplies. He sees the impossibility of his situation, every time he kills something, he has more to fight. Eventually a woman who loves him, Medea, tells him a secret: Hatred only dies when it is turned upon itself. Jason takes her advice, gives up his sword, and instead finds a way to throw a rock cryptically so that it triggers an internal riot within which his enemies fight each other. Later Medea also shows him a way to slip an elixir of contentment into the mouth of sleeping dragons so that they remain peaceful.

Hatred only dies when it is turned upon itself. We are right in trying to contain it, but eventually it can only be defeated from within. In the interim, we need better poetry.

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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).*

## Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, December 14, at 12:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

## 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.

## Upcoming Craft Fair

Christmas Craft Fair at **Westminister United Presbyterian Church, Udall Rd., West Islip on Sunday, December 5 from 9 AM until 4 PM.**

Vendors are welcome-\$25 table fee.

Please call the church office at 631.661.6740 for more information.

## Goin' Green!

Each week we work hard to recycle and to save our planet. Our Sacristans with the help of many volunteers work hard to clear our Church of all worship aids, bulletins and the like! We are always in need of help with this effort!

*How can you help?*

- *Clean up after yourself!* When you leave the Church, take home any extra worship aids, bulletins, or whatever else you see around.
- *Help us recycle!* Each week our Sacristans keep all the paper collected. Whenever you come to Mass check in the Sign In Room. (It's located in the front of the All Purpose Room with a big banner by its entrance) Check with the sacristans or take a box from the room and drop it in your recycle can!

## **Wanted: Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist who have been commissioned by the Diocese are needed to bring the Eucharist to patients at Good Samaritan Hospital.

You may schedule whatever mornings are convenient for you. Even one day per month will help a great deal. If interested, please call 631.376.4103.

## **Rebuilding Together**

Volunteers are needed any time, Mondays to Fridays. Rebuilding Together Long Island is a volunteer group that performs free repairs to low-income seniors and handicapped homeowners in both Nassau and Suffolk.

Volunteers with minor skills are needed. Come join us and feel the joy of helping others in an atmosphere of fun. Call 516.541.7322.

## **World March for Peace and Nonviolence**

The World March is a global initiative with one million participants committed to ending wars and occupations, nuclear proliferation and violence of all kinds. On November 30, the world will march in New York City. Information on events, transportation from Long Island, please call 631.875.7647 or check the website at [www.worldmarchusa.net](http://www.worldmarchusa.net) for national news and events.

## **Good Shepherd Hospice**

Volunteers needed! Do you have a few hours a week to spare? Are you that special person who is willing to walk along with our patients and families during their final journey? Find out! Please call the Good Shepherd Hospice Volunteer Department at 631.465.6355 for more information on volunteer opportunities.

## **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. Listen on Saturdays at 11 PM on Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and at 11 PM on XM Satellite, channel 117. Next Sunday's theme is "**Waiting and Patience.**" Don't miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go to [www.religionandrock.com](http://www.religionandrock.com) or at "Religion & Rock" on ITUNES. Don't forget to tune into TELE CARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 296 for the Best in Catholic Television!

# Sharing the Gospel

One day Jesus will come back to take us home to live with him in heaven. So when scary things happen around us, we do not need to be afraid. We can stand up tall, because we know heaven will be so much better than this world.



## Prayer



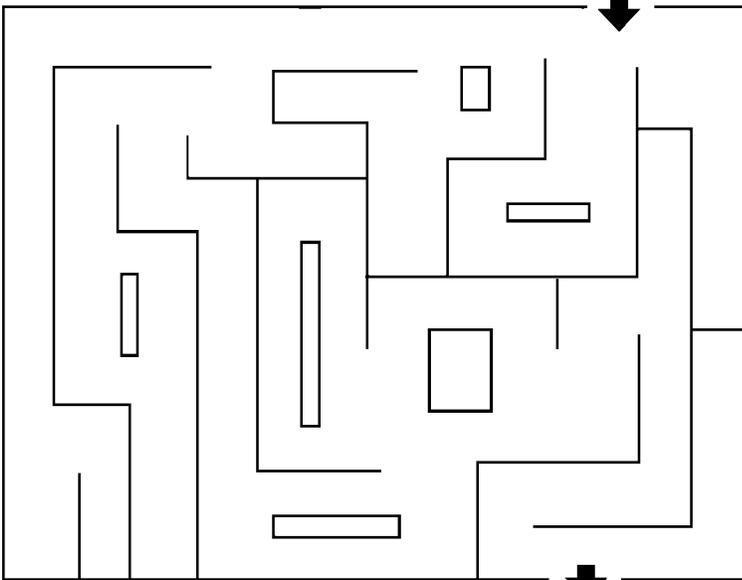
Dear God,

when I am afraid, help me to be brave and trust in you.  
I know heaven will be wonderful.



## Puzzle

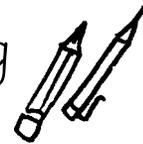
Help this child find the path to God.



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## Something to Draw



Draw a picture of Jesus coming back in the clouds, ready to take you to heaven.

## Mission for the Week



Write down one thing that scares you. Tell God about it, and ask him to help you to be brave.