

The Epiphany of the Lord

Our Lady of Lourdes • January 3, 2010



Matthew 2:11

**“They saw the
child with Mary,
his mother.”**



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.

Our Lady of Lourdes

*455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, New York 11795*

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

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.

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.

Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano
Pastor

Rev. Patsy Amabile
Associate Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback
Associate Pastor

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

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

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



Parish Office

661.3224

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Saturday: 9 AM - 3 PM

Sunday: 9 AM - 2 PM

email: ParishOffice@ollchurch.org

fax: 661.7143

website: www.ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes School

587.7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: lkrol@ollschool.org

Religious Education Office

661.5440

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon

1 PM - 5 PM

7 PM - 9 PM

email: ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org

Parish Outreach Office

661.9262

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30 AM - 3 PM

S.A.G.E.

661.3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth
and Enrichment)

email: Sage@ollchurch.org

Welcome...

to Our Lady of Lourdes!

We are so happy to welcome everyone who has come to worship with us today! Whether you have come a long distance or you live locally, we are glad that you have decided to spend some time with us as we worship our Lord together. Please know that your presence today is a blessing to our parish family.

Would you like to know more about our parish family?

All are welcome at Our Lady of Lourdes and we do our best to reach out to everyone.

If you would like more information about our parish or if you would like one of our team to be in touch with you, please fill this form out and place it in any collection or offering basket, mail it to us, or send an email to parishoffice@ollchurch.org

Welcome...

to Our Lady of Lourdes!



I would like information about:

Religious Education of my Children Becoming a Catholic or Adult Confirmation
 Marriage or Annulment / Remarriage Spiritual Direction or Counseling
 Our Parish Catholic School Adult Education Senior Services
 Joining the Parish Baptizing my Children Other _____

I would prefer to be contacted by:

Phone at: _____ Email at: _____

Mail at: _____

Your Name: _____

Adult Faith Formation

Images of Mercy

*Icons of Justice**

**applicable for Advance Certificate*

Presenter: Tom Petriano, St. Joseph's College, Patchogue

Tuesdays, January 19, 26 and February 2, 9, 23, 2010

7:30 - 9:30 PM

Parish Center

The witness of the lives of prophetic figures from various cultures and traditions can be iconic for us, and studying their lives can be both illuminating and transformative. This course will look specifically at the lives of Mother Teresa, Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin, Mohandas Gandhi, Oscar Romero and the Jesuit martyrs of El Salvador, and Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks as examples of modern day prophets. Their writings, sermons, letters, speeches and the witness of their lives will be examined in order to understand the spirituality and theology that was the source of their prophetic witness.

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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

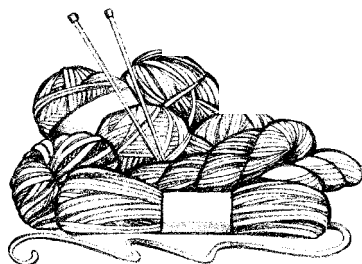
Bring your prayer and creativity together in a gift of love.

Join us...

Wednesday, January 13 from 9:30 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.

To register or for more information, please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option #3 during office hours (9 AM - 12 Noon and 1 PM - 5 PM.)



Taize-Prayer Around the Cross

Tuesday, January 12 at 7:30 PM in the Church

Carol Goetz, Parish Music Director

Looking for another way to pray?

Taize is a form of worship that provides some time in our busy lives where we can stop and focus on the love of God. Together we will share simple chants and prayers that will help guide us as we bring our concerns and hopes to the Lord. Please join us for a Taize Prayer Service on **Tuesday, January 12 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 for further information.

Religious Education

Do all that you can in 2010...

Look at those 7th Graders

These kids Know when they can !!!... more in '10

The 7th Graders in our parish family know how to love and serve... and feel that sense of belonging. As part of their Service Projects they help and learn more about our Ministries at OLL...

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

Grade 8... in '10... Here's When.....

All Grade 8 Confirmation Candidates will meet with their Sponsors for **RESCUE** – **“Religious Education Sponsor Candidate United Effort”**—with a kick-off every Sunday afternoon in January '10. This night of prayer and reflection will provide them with an opportunity to learn about their new roles as sponsors and candidates, hear personal reflections about what it means to be a sponsor and commit to take a more active role in this process. Each evening will conclude with Sunday's 6 PM Mass. Look for them Sunday, January 3, 10, 24, and 31. Sponsors and candidates plan to meet together three times on their own, including doing some service together. Sponsors and candidates work together at a soup kitchen or cook a meal for a soup kitchen, help an elder adult, help with Parish Outreach, Stewardship, Art & Environment, etc. Let's continue to pray for our parish's Confirmation Candidates.

GRADES 6/7/8 Hang Out Nites

BE THERE ...DON'T MISS IT

Fridays in 2010

January 15, February 12, April 16, May 21, June 18

- Guitar Hero III is here at OLL
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- American Idol is here, too...

PLUS some new additions!

- PRIZES
- RAFFLES

They continue to serve those in need... they care. Every month Grade 6/7/8 bring food/ paper goods/and or \$1 for our Parish Food Pantry. They have contributed over \$200 since October '09. Wreaths, decorated by our Hang Out Kids, were given to our families who received “Giving Tree Gifts.” Over 100 kids come each month – be ONE of them.

OLL Students Selected



Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent Our Lady of Lourdes School in the annual SCMEA All-County Music Festival (March 2010). *Jaclyn Hahn (Div. II), Stephanie Sabarese (Div. I) and Katherine Scheid (Div. I) will represent Chorus. Robert Buonaspina (Div. II) and Eva Gallegos (Div. II) will represent Orchestra, both playing violin.*

Shown: Eva, Jaclyn, Stephanie, Katherine and Robert

Breakfast With Santa

Our Lady of Lourdes School recently held their annual *Breakfast With Santa* gathering. Parents from the school cooked a full course pancake breakfast. Kids had a chance to make holiday crafts and even Santa made an appearance.

Shown: The Martinez children with Santa.



Santa's Surprise Party

Our Lady of Lourdes School recently had their holiday play *Santa's Surprise Party*. Grades 4th - 8th participated in every aspect of the play from set builders and costume designers to actors and actresses under the direction of Drama Teacher, Mr. Darin St. George.



Annual Christmas Concert

Families gathered at the annual Christmas concert at Our Lady of Lourdes School. All grades, K - 8, participated in the choir. The 3rd grade played the violin, 4th grade played violin and cello, 5th grade played piano, 6th, 7th and 8th played in band with a select few playing a guitar medley.

Bereavement Group

Our next Bereavement Group will begin on **Wednesday, January 13, 2010**. We will be meeting , for six weeks, in the Spiritual Life Center located in the Convent, **from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM**. There is no fee to attend and the group is open to people of all faith denominations and parishes. For information and registration, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224, extension 121.

Altar Servers

Starting in fourth grade, our young people, both girls and boys, are asked to consider being trained to serve the Altar for our Saturday, Sunday, Wedding, and Funeral Liturgies. This is a great opportunity to significantly contribute to the Parish as a young member, as well as a wonderful way to be involved in and learn about the prayer and faith-life of the Parish. We are grateful to the many boys and girls, some now men and women, who have been a part of this Ministry through the years. There will be training sessions this winter, spring, and fall.

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, January 21, 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.

'Tis the season to join our Parish Music Ministry...

(to the tune of Deck the Halls)

Love to sing? then join our choirs.....Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la

Reading notes is not required.....Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la

Full or part-time choir commitment.....Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la

Sing at Christmas, Easter, Lent.....Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la

Join one or more of our music groups: OLL Choir, Women's Chorale, Youth Choir, Contemporary Group, Taize Music Group. For further information please contact: Carol Goetz, Parish Music Director, at music@ollchurch.org (OLL Choir, Contemporary Group, Taize) or Jennifer Gallagher at jengallagher@ollchurch.org (Women's Chorale, Youth Choir)

Rosary Christian Mothers

The Rosary Christian Mothers meet on the first Monday evening of each month. The next meeting will be **Monday, January 4**. We will begin with **Rosary at 7:45 PM in the Parish Center** followed by **meeting at 8 PM, also in the Parish Center**.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, January 5**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of January will be on **Wednesday, January 6 from 1-3 PM**. All are invited and welcome! We will be praying for our children, our country, our men and women in the military and our clergy.



Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, January 25, 2010 at 12:30 PM in the Parish Center**.

Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, January 10**. We will begin with the **Rosary at 7:40 AM in the Church** and the **meeting will follow the 8 AM Mass at 9 AM in Room 16**.

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.

Shaking things up with OLL Youth Ministry!

There are now a few ways for young people to have fun and to learn at Our Lady of Lourdes...



Open Mic Night

Once a month, **Open Mic Night**, is a great way for students to come and express themselves through music or poetry. It is also a fun and safe way to hang out with your friends and spend a Friday night. We will also begin our **Movie Nights** once a month, which is another way to relax and have fun, even when school gets really crazy.

Peace and Justice Club

Peace and Justice Club is another opportunity for young people to get involved. Through Peace and Justice, parishioners are invited to learn and discuss many social justice issues that are prominent in today's world. This club also discusses ways that we might get involved with service work at Our Lady of Lourdes. This club meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM in the School Media Center.

Young Women's Prayer Group

Young Women's Prayer Group is the new way that young women and new mothers can come together to reflect on their faith, even in the midst of their busy lives. When you were a student, everyone was trying to get you involved and now it seems like you don't get a chance for anything but work! We meet on the second Thursday of each month and talk about what it is to be a Catholic Woman.



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-this weekend-January 2/3, 2010.

Youth Life Chats

Last but certainly not least, the **Youth Life Chats** are beginning this January for both Middle School and High School students. The Middle School group will meet the first and third Mondays of each month and the High School group will meet the first and third Thursdays of each month. These discussions are called “**Big Question Nights.**” We are talking about the important things. “Why are we here?” “Why do bad things happen to good people?” “What is faith and do I have it?” It is ok to not be sure and we have so much to learn from one another. To get involved with “**Big Question Nights**” or any other project contact Allegra@ollchurch.org. It is through these meetings that students can determine the kinds of service they would like to perform as well. Shortly, teens will be invited to participate in “**Midnight Runs**” as well as other hands-on service activities. It is just one of the many ways that our young people can learn about themselves and the world.

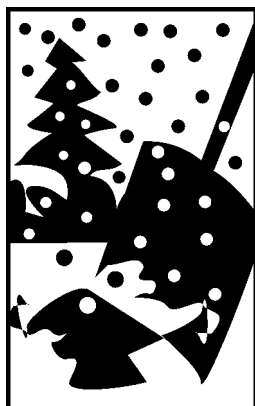
Big Question Night

The first Youth “Big Question Nights” will begin in January! For **grades 6-8** the first meeting will be on **Monday, January 4th beginning at 6:30 PM in Room 16 of the school.** **High School students will meet for the first time on Thursday, January 7th at 6:30 PM in Room 16** of the school. All students are welcome to come and share what’s on their minds! As always, food will be served and fun will be had.



The Six Committee

The Six Committee is inviting the parish youth to get involved with our liturgy and music. The Six is a great mass for so many reasons. You can relax all day and still come to Mass in the evening. The music is performed by our Contemporary Choir, and in general, it is just a more casual liturgy. For any student who would like to be a part of making their Mass fresh and inviting, the Six Committee is the place for you! The Six Committee is also responsible for arranging certain service activities. This month we are finishing up a clothing drive which is to be donated to a local organization. If you want service hours for school, or you just like to make a difference, come to our meetings! We meet once a month after The Six Mass.



Saint Bernard League

If you’re in need of help when it snows, members of our parish community will come to your home and shovel you out! If you think you can use our help, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224, ext. 135 or e-mail to Allegra@ollchurch.org and you will be added to our list. PLEASE SIGN UP AGAIN- even if you signed up last year. We also need Saint Bernards...*(those who help people in bad weather)*. Can you and/or your family shovel, snow blow or clear out another family in need within our parish community? If you can help with this call the Parish Office at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to Allegra@ollchurch.org. This is a great way to help those in need and do some tremendous community service!

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

Joseph Steven Battista
Steven and Laura



Elizabeth Ann Seton-January 4

Mother Seton is one of the keystones of the American Catholic Church. She founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity. Here at Our Lady of Lourdes, we have our Sisters of Charity - Halifax, *Sr. Margaret Bickar, Sr. Barbara Lynch and Sr. Betty Toohig.*

Elizabeth Ann Seton opened the first American parish school and established the first American Catholic orphanage. All this she did in the span of 46 years while raising her five children.

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, January 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious

8:00 AM LaRocca & Sweeney Families

Tuesday, January 5

St. John Neumann bishop

8:00 AM Naomi Fitzpatrick

Wednesday, January 6

Blessed André Bessette, religious

8:00 AM John Cosenza

Thursday, January 7

St. Raymond of Penafort, priest

8:00 AM Michael Seib

Friday, January 8

8:00 AM Thomas Hyde

Saturday, January 9

8:00 AM Mary Ann Koebel, Pam Felton,
John Dempsey, John Carlson

5:00 PM Antonio & Josephine Paladino
Fr. Mike Vetrano

Sunday, January 10

8:00 AM John & Margaret Kopitsch
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

9:30 AM Fortunato & Carmelo Maggi
Fr. Pat Amabile

11:00 AM Dec'd mbrs of Sweeney & Primrose Families
Fr. Mike Vetrano

12:30 PM Thomas Coletto & Joseph Lombardi
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Angela Russo, Edward J. Nixon,
Theresa Buffa, Lisa Cavalluzzo, Angelo Scarpitta,
Phil Ambrosino (*living*)
Fr. Bob Scheckenback



Rest In Peace

Paul Crepaldi on December 13 and a the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on December 17. We extend our prayers to his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and entire family.



©LPI

Epiphany of the Lord

Stars are amazing-not the people who claim star-status because of their work in sports or entertainment-but the stars that populate the universe. Most are between one and ten billion years old, a time span impossible to comprehend. Other than the sun, the closest star to Earth is Proxima Centauri, about twenty-five trillion miles away, another calculation that is impossible to comprehend. The exponential numbers scientists use when working with stars, whether it is age, distance, weight, composition, luminosity, or any other characteristic, race beyond our everyday calculations of hundreds and thousands. Stars are just too big for us humans.

No wonder Matthew's infancy narrative included a star as the sign for the newborn king. Everything about this child's birth seemed unimportant: born in Bethlehem instead of the big city, Jerusalem; unknown to the important people of the day; the pregnant woman taken into Joseph's home quietly so as not to cause scandal; a quiet, unremarkable birth in an unimportant country in the empire.

But then there's that star! Big, shining, revealing that there is more to this event than meets the eye. Visitors come from afar, and upset the balance of power as they seek the child who would be king. Epiphany is the manifestation of Christ to the world. And the star shows him to be who he really is-king of the universe and Lord of all. So it shouldn't seem so strange to us that Matthew would point out one of those incomprehensible entities in the night sky as the signifier of the One who is beyond all human understanding. What is remarkable is that that One came to be one of us so that we could understand him.

2009 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of January 3, 2010

Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday:	1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday:	1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday:	1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday:	1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday:	1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30
Next Sunday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or 40:1-5, 9-11/Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Parish Outreach

Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30 AM - 3 PM



Pantry Needs

detergent
 kleenex
 paper towels
 personal feminine products
 shampoo
 soap
 toilet tissue
 toothbrush
 toothpaste

Outreach 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.



Christmas Flower Offerings

*Joseph Ennis, Sr.
 Douglas Killane, Sr.
 Lawrence Killane
 Walter P. Sokol, Sr.
 Donald Ferguson, Sr.
 Donald Ferguson, Jr.
 John R. Hodgkins
 Mr. Daniel Golden
 Pasquale DeVivo
 Joanne Wolffe
 Mr. Terence McAdams
 Rosemary & Charles Clancy
 Bob Costanza
 M/M Nilo DeLeon
 John & Maary Farkas
 Joseph & Mary Balcar*

*Vera DeSantis
 William Mace
 Peter Roache
 M/M Peter J. DeBlasi
 M/M William King
 Ms. Mechelina Geddie
 M/M Angelito Cruz
 William Knoblich
 Michael Davis
 Martin Klein
 M/M Michael Montesanto
 M/M Timothy Tamney
 Grace & Walter Okuska
 Molly Conroy
 M/M Joseph Lehmann
 M/M John Szczecina*

Financial Summary

December 20, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 9,018.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (9,982.00)

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:

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*

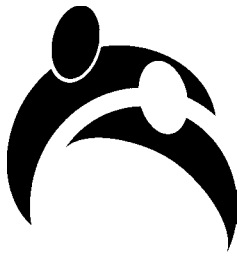
...and remember those of our parish family that are in the armed services, listed in our Parish Book of Intentions.

Our whole parish family rejoices with the Bacchi Family in gratitude for the safe return of their son Lorenzo active duty. **Lorenzo Bacchi**-*US Marines*, has returned to the United States safe and sound from his second tour of duty in Iraq. Thank you, *Lorenzo*, for your most generous service to our country!

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

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Monenna Kennedy*.
If you would like to help care for our altar needs,
please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.



Pastoral Care of Our Sick

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

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

Pray for Our Sick

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

*Roy Anderson, Susan Aviza, Matthew Badamo, Deacon Dick Barry, Ben Bellotti,
Theresa Buffa, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Veronica Byrne, Howard Campkin, Nicholas Cibelli,
Michael Ciotkosz, Regina Cranor, Jeanne DellaRagione, Ann Donlon, Edward Herger,
Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Inez Hunter, Mary Kaval, Veronica Kenny,
Kathleen Kerrigan, Joseph Lehmann, Kara Lobasso, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann,
Peter McCann, Sr., Dorothy Meloni, Rick Mirabella, Brenden Muldoon, Evelyn Nonnon,
John O'Brien, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Laura Prichard, Joe Radosti, Frank Raimo,
Carol Randazzo-Hopkins, Michael Savino, Ann Marie Schiraldi, 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,
Kyle Williams, Flo Worysz*

Doing the Right Thing Because it is the Right Thing *by Ron Rolheiser, OMI*

“Have you ever done something simply on principle, because it was the right thing to do, knowing that you couldn’t explain it to anyone, without there even being a good feeling attached to your act?”

Karl Rahner wrote that and then added: “If you have done this, you have experienced God, perhaps without knowing it.”

Jesus would agree, so much so that he makes this both the central tenet of religion and the overriding criterion for salvation.

We see this explicitly in the famous text in the gospels where Jesus tells us that whatsoever you do to the poor here on earth you do to him. For Jesus, to give something to a poor person is to give something to God, and to neglect a poor person is to neglect God.

There’s an important background to this teaching. They had been asking Jesus: “What will be the test? What will be the ultimate criterion for judgment as to whether or not someone enters into the kingdom of heaven or not? His answer surprised them. They had expected that the final judgment would revolve around issues of religious belonging, religious practice, correct observance, and moral codes. Instead they got this answer: “When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.”

And what, according to Jesus, will be the basis for the separation? Only this: Did you feed the hungry? Give drink to the thirsty? Invite in the stranger? Clothe the naked? Visit the sick and imprisoned? Because when you do these things to the hungry, to the thirsty, to strangers, to the sick, and to the imprisoned, you do them to God, and vice versa.

And immediately there was confusion among those who heard these words. Both those who did what was asked and those who didn’t were equally befuddled and lodged the same protest: When? When did we see you hungry? When did we see you thirsty? When did we see you naked, or a stranger, or sick, or in prison and serve you or not serve you? When did we see you, God, and do this to you?”

Both are caught off guard and both ask seemingly the same question, but their protests are in fact very different:

The first group, those who had measured up, are pleasantly surprised. What they say to Jesus is essentially this: “We didn’t know it was you! We were just doing what was right!” And Jesus answers: “It doesn’t matter! In serving them, you were meeting me!”

The second group, those who hadn’t measured up, is rudely shocked. Their protest, in effect, is this: “If we had only known! If we had known that it was you inside the poor we would have responded. We just didn’t know!” And Jesus answers: “It doesn’t matter! In not serving them, you were avoiding me!”

What’s the lesson? The more obvious one of course is the challenge that is already contained in the famous mantra of the prophets who had stated unequivocally that the quality of our faith will be judged by the quality of justice in the land and that the quality of justice will be judged by how the most vulnerable groups in society (widows, orphans, and strangers) fare while we are alive. The Jewish prophets had already taught us that serving the poor is a non-negotiable, integral part of religion, that nobody gets to heaven without a letter of reference from the poor. But Jesus adds something: God doesn’t just have a preferential option for the poor, God is inside the poor.

But there’s another lesson too, subtle but important: In this gospel story, neither those who served God in the poor nor those who didn’t serve God in poor knew what they were doing.

The first group, who did respond, did so simply because it was the right thing to do. They didn’t know that God was hidden inside the poor. The second group, who didn’t respond, didn’t reach out because they didn’t realize that God was inside the poor. Neither knew that God was there and that is the lesson:

A mature disciple doesn’t calculate or make distinctions as to whether God is inside of a certain situation or not, whether a person seems worth it or not, whether a person is a Christian or not, or whether a person appears to be a good person or not, before reaching out in service. A mature disciple serves whoever is in need, independent of those considerations.

The last temptation that is the greatest treason is to do the right thing for the wrong reason. T.S. Eliot said that. Jesus would add that doing the right thing is reason enough.

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.

Thank You

The Bereavement Ministry would like to thank the Religious Education Grade 7—Room 17—"Service Project" for their help with setting up and directing guests for our Holiday Program on December 12. Thank you so much.



Men's Winter Retreat

"Your Spiritual Self" presented by Fr. Joe Costantino, SJ, former director of St. Ignatius Retreat house and currently pastor at St. Francis Xavier Church, NYC and Marie Bannister, spiritual director and staff associate at St. Ignatius Retreat House. The retreat is January 7-10, 2010 at St. Ignatius Jesuit Retreat House, Manhasset and costs from \$250 - \$360, based upon accommodations. Please call 516.621.8300, extension 15 for information and reservations.



Coat and Blanket Drive

The West Islip Fire Department is collecting gently used (or new) coats and blankets for children and adults in need of warmth this winter. OLL Parish Outreach will be able to send people to the Fire Department for these coats and blankets after January 1.

If you have coats and blankets you would like to donate, please bring these to the West Islip Fire Department on Union Blvd.

For more information, please call Lt. Dan O'Neill at 559.7951.

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 **"Fresh Start."** Don't miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go to 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!

Blended Families

An upcoming program at the **St. Joseph Renewal Center, Brentwood on Sunday, January 3, 2010 from 6 PM until 8 PM.** Presented by Michael & Valerie Dunne, Greg & Grace Dugre and Mary & Bob Freudenburg.

The offering is \$30 per couple and includes supper.

Please call for reservations at 631.273.1187, extension 23.



Dream Workshop

Dreams offer an opportunity to explore the deep hidden truth of who we are as God's beloved and precious creation. This day of prayer and reflection will focus on exploring how the language of symbol opens up the hidden messages found in our dreams and offers us new experiences in working with dreams. The workshop will be **Saturday, January 23, 2010 from 9:30 AM until 4:30 PM presented by Jean Lynch, at the Cenacle Retreat Office in Ronkonkoma.**

Registration begins at 9 AM. The offering is \$50 for the day and includes a light lunch.

A deposit of \$15 (non-refundable) will hold your registration.

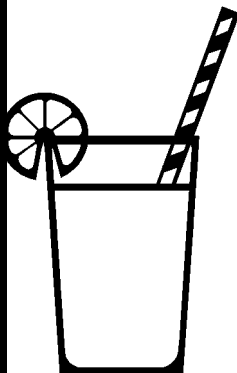
For more information, please call 631.588.8366.

Families Anonymous

Are you concerned about a family member who appears to have an alcohol, drug, or behavioral problem? We can help. Meetings are held every **Saturday at 9:30 AM, Room 115 and every Wednesday at 8 PM, Room 116 at Our Lady of Grace School, West Babylon.**

For information, contact Donna at 631.589.3790 or Julia at 631.587.5921.

How to Make Lemonade from Lemons in Your Life



This program focuses on: What to do when your experience moves you toward God. What to do when your experience moves you away from God. The afternoon will include presentations and time for personal quiet reflection and will end with a prayer service. The program will be on **Sunday, January 24, 2010 from 1:30 PM until 5:30 PM presented by Judy Osterburg, r.c. and Valerie Dunne, Staff Associate at the Cenacle Retreat Office in Ronkonkoma.**

Registration begins at 1 PM. The offering is \$30 for the day and includes light refreshments. A deposit of \$10 (non-refundable) will hold your registration.

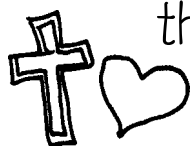
For more information, please call 631.588.8366.

Sharing the Gospel

Isn't God amazing? He made all the stars and planets to move, so every night the sky looks a little different. When God created the world, he planned exactly when the wise men would see the star. He wanted them to find Jesus.



Mission for the Week



Visit a planetarium to learn more about the star of Bethlehem.



Prayer



Dear God,
thank you for
making the planets and
stars so the wise men
could find Jesus.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of stars
and planets shining in
the night sky.