

HERE IS MY SERVANT WHOM I UPHOLD,



MY CHOSEN ONE WITH WHOM I AM PLEASED.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 9, 2011 • OUR LADY OF LOURDES



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

Louise Jane Krol

School Principal

Sr. Diane Liona

Director of Religious Education

Mary McMahan

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Robin Reynolds-Brennan

Director of Music and Worship

Vita Scorgia

Ministry Spiritual Director

Sr. Betty Toohig

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Anthony Trombino

Business Manager

Pastoral Council

Diane Ackerly

Stacie Baltrusitis

Mary Borgs

Lisa Cantalino

Sonia DaSilva

Nilo DeLeon

Jerry Esposito

Trish Frodell

Rosalie Mangels

Maryellen McKee

Deacon Jack Meehan

John Muldoon

Bob Natale

Eileen Rega

Vita Scorgia

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Parish Staff

Jennifer Gallagher

Women's Chorale Director

Mary Anne Lettieri

Parish Office

Debbie Meyer

Bulletin Editor/Parish Office

Rosemary Multer

School Office

Rita Spera

Religious Education Office

Lori Walsh

Parish Office



Parish Office

661.3224 (*option 1*)

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 (*option 2*)

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: lkrol@ollschool.org

Religious Education Office

661.5440 (*option 3*)

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon

1 PM - 5 PM

7 PM - 9 PM

email: ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org

Parish Outreach Office

661.9262 (*option 4*)

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:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joining the Parish | <input type="checkbox"/> Baptizing my Children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Education of my Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Becoming a Catholic or Adult Confirmation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage or Annulment / Remarriage | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Direction or Counseling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Our Parish Catholic School | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

I would prefer to be contacted by:

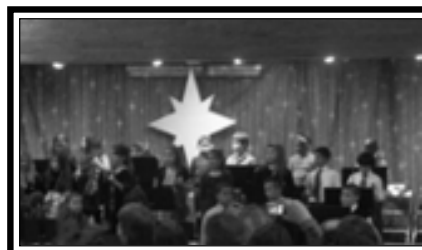
Phone at: _____ Email at: _____

Mail at: _____

Your Name: _____

Our Lady of Lourdes School

Our Doors are Always Open



OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 30 • 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Family Mass 9:30 AM

Come See What Makes Us Different?

NEW Fully Stocked Science Lab & Media Center, SmartBoard used in every classroom, Piano/Guitar/Violin/Ballroom Dance Lessons, Italian and Spanish Language, After-School Enrichment Clubs, Student Government, Classroom Laptops, Championship Sports Program, Student run TV Studio, Extended Care, 8th Grade 'Academy of Inquiry' in partnership with Stony Brook Medical School, Distance Learning with NASA, and Virtual Field Trips from Nursery through 8th Grade, Early Childhood Programs beginning at 2 years old.

**Visit our classes in session-
Have your child shadow a buddy for the day!**

**2010 -2011 Rolling Registration
Stop in or Call to Make an Appointment**

Testimonial: *"My daughter is in the fifth grade and is in her first year at OLL. I am so very pleased with the challenges that fifth grade has given her so far. This has been such a positive change for my daughter. All her teachers have challenged her to do her very best and to not settle for less. I know she has only been here for a few months, but if this is any indication of what she is to expect in the coming years, we are in for a wonderful ride!"* - B. Molina

Phone: 631.587.7200 ext.100

Fax: 631.587.4531

Please visit our Website: www.ollschool.org

Bereavement Ministry

Bereavement Support Group

Our next bereavement group will begin on **Wednesday, January 12, 2011**. We are a general group for all losses. We will be meeting, for six weeks, in the **Spiritual Life Center located in the Convent, from 7:30PM 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 Diane Ackerly at 631.226.9373 or email at dkkkk710@hotmail.com.



March for Life

Please join Ss. Cyril and Methodius Parish and School as we **“March for Life” in Washington, DC on Monday, January 24**.

Mass will be at 5 AM and then we will leave on the bus and return before 11 PM. A non-refundable \$15 donation is requested.

We have water and snacks. Bring your own lunch, your rosary and your energy to our nation’s Capitol to hear our Church and political leaders speak out for life. For further information, or to sign up, please call Annette at 631.661.9109.

If you have any more questions, you can contact Fr. Bob Scheckenback, Respect Life contact person here at Our Lady of Lourdes.

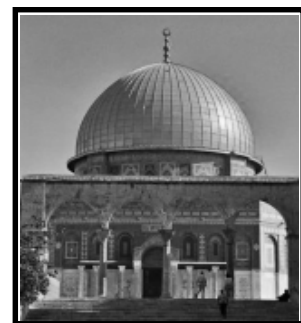
OLL Pilgrimage to the Holy Land Walking in Jesus’ Footsteps

April 25 - May 4, 2011

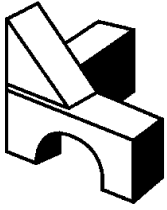
Come and walk in the footsteps of Jesus along with our Pastor, Fr. Mike Vetrano.

Consider being with family and friends on a trip of a lifetime! Walk the streets of Jerusalem and be in the place of our Christian heritage. Come to Bethlehem, visit the Basilica of the Nativity. Be at the Baptism site of Jesus on the Jordan River, sail on the Sea of Galilee and walk in the Garden of Gethsemane. You will visit the room of the Last Supper, walk on the Via Dolorosa “The Way of the Cross”, and drive through the wilderness of Judea and the mountains of Jerusalem. All this on your trip of a lifetime. *For more information, our next meeting will be on*

Thursday, January 20, 7:30 in the Parish Center



Adult Faith Formation



Family Matters:

Building Blocks for a Richer Family Life

Presenter: Sr. Lauren Hanley, CSJ

Tuesdays, January 11 and 18

Parish Center

7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

- *Have you ever felt* concerned about how family life is changing?
- *Do you wonder about* how your experience growing up in a family has impacted who you are today?
- *Are you interested in* discovering ways to make changes in how you interact with your family members?
- *Would you like to learn* more about what makes families tick?

YES? Then this workshop is for you!

Recognizing the importance of "family matters", this workshop will provide an opportunity to explore how families work. Emphasis will be placed on how to build on strengths and change patterns that are not life giving.

Book Discussion:

The Naked Now by Richard Rohr

Presenter: Tom Petriano

Tuesdays January 25, February 1,8,15 and March 1

Parish Center

7:30-9:30 PM

Book will be available for purchase in the Religious Education Office. Cost is \$18.

It will be helpful to read Chapter 1 before first session.

The description of Richard Rohr's most recent book, *The Naked Now*, suggests that it was written to:

- *Awaken* your desire for God
- *Free* yourself from the fears that can cripple you
- *Connect* to the joy already within you
- *Transform* yourself
- *Inspire* others to see as the mystics see
- *Live* in full awareness of the Naked Now

Through a careful reading, guided lectures, and shared discussion, this course will be presented as a meditation on these themes and the overall message of the book which Richard Rohr explains in his introduction is that "All saying must be balanced by unsaying," and "All light must be informed by darkness."

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.



Children for Children at CLTW

“Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me...”

Throughout the month of January the Children’s Liturgy of the Word Committee will be collecting the following items for Parish Outreach:

Diapers of all sizes

Formula

Baby wipes

Baby Food

Please bring donations to the Outreach pantry bin at the Parish Center on Sundays in January. There are children all over Long Island, and here in West Islip, who need our help which is why CLTW has started “Children for Children.” Christ was a child born to a modest family in a manger and we know his worth. Please help us to celebrate the value of the children in our community who are also members of families who are struggling. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



The Rosary Christian Mothers are sponsoring a **St. Valentine’s Day Dance to be held on Saturday, February 12 in the All-Purpose Room.**

The proceeds from the dance will go towards the “Grotto to Our Lady of Lourdes.”

There will be dancing to the music of “Rick,” dinner, wine, beer, soda coffee, and dessert - all for only \$35 per person. Don’t forget 50/50, raffles and baskets of cheer!

We will be taking reservations for tables of two, four, six, and eight people.

Watch future bulletins for more details...



Youth Group Meetings:

Happy New Year to all from our active youth group! Youth Ministry has taken on a new life at OLL. Youth Group is meeting once a week with both High School and Middle School students. Each meeting is a chance for students to discuss the things that are on their minds—we begin with a prayer and something we call “the high/low check in.” Our group of about twenty explains the best and worst parts of their week. We then move on to a spiritual reflection. Sometimes we talk about faith, what God “looks” like or even sit in complete silence for ten minutes (no easy accomplishment for a teenager)! We finish off each meeting with a “Big Question.” What is a “Big Question?”

It is a question that starts an ethical discussion; a debate about what is right and what is wrong and maybe some things that are in between. Some times it is about Catholic Social teaching which the students act out in our monthly service projects. *Please check the bulletin for important El Salvador meetings and fundraisers.*

Youth Group Activities:

Since the beginning of the school year, we have been to the “Hospitality Too” Soup Kitchen at St. Anne’s Church in Brentwood and Madonna Heights, a residential treatment facility for abused women in Dix Hills, to volunteer at a fair. Then, last but not least, is our annual trip to El Salvador. Many of our teens have participated and it is certainly a big commitment. Each student must be a part of fundraising for the trip itself, our sponsorship program “Families with Heart,” fundraising for the CASA Project which, through the generosity of the parish, built a home for a family in El Salvador this year. It is such a pleasure as a young adult to be a part of the lives of the truly brilliant teens at OLL. They are living examples of Christ and I am very proud to host them in our Youth Ministry programs. *If you or someone you know is interested in participating in any of our youth projects please do not hesitate to contact Allegra@ollchurch.org or phone 661.3224 ex. 135.*

El Salvador Sponsorship and Drive at OLL

This year we are celebrating our Familias Con Corazones—”Families With Hearts”—all of the OLL families who sponsor children through CFCA. We are building a display in the narthex to celebrate all of our generous families, and the connections they have with their sponsored children. If you sponsor a child through CFCA, please return the form below to the Rectory or to the special box in the Narthex. If you can, please include a picture of your sponsored child.



We sponsor a child through CFCA!

Family/Sponsor Name: _____

Name of Sponsored Child or Adult: _____

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)



Rest In Peace

Evelyn Capozzi died on December 23 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was December 28. We extend our prayers to her sister, Catherine, and her entire family.

Rosina Strano died on December 30 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 3. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, and entire family.

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 10

8:00 AM Dr. Thomas J. Calogero III

Tuesday, January 11

8:00 AM Fortunato & Carmela Maggi

Wednesday, January 12

8:00 AM Alexander Staniszewski

Thursday, January 13

Saint Hilary, bishop and doctor of the Church

8:00 AM Carolyn Wissing

Friday, January 14

8:00 AM Aquino Family

Saturday, January 15

8:00 AM Dorothy Langlan, Josephine Carrano,
Linda Kelly, Michael Brennan,
Vito Mastrorocco, David Alexander (*living*)

5:00 PM Olga Bauman
Fr. Mike Vetrano

Sunday, January 16

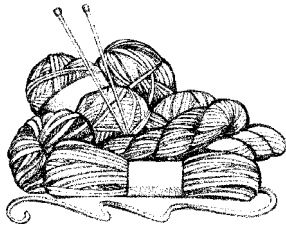
8:00 AM Thomas Coletto
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

9:30 AM Katherine Swift
Fr. Mike Vetrano

11:00 AM Peter Kearns
Fr. Pat Amabile

12:30 PM Anthony Cannizzaro
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Teresa DioGuardi, Daniel J. O'Brien,
Baby Ruthie Kudrle, Henry Wolfram, Irving Weiss,
Eleanor Dale, Ruth Paltin, Vincent Siani
Fr. Bob Scheckenback



Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Join us ...

Wednesday, January 12 at 9:30 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.

Senior Circle

Please note: There was no meeting held on Monday, December 27.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday, January 31, 2011 at 12:30PM in the Parish Center.**

Men's Prayer Group-Morning

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 20, 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.

Centering Prayer Group

OLL Centering Prayer Group will be meeting in the **Spiritual Life Center** on **Thursday, January 20 at 7:30 PM.** If you have any questions, please contact Diane at 587.0966.

Men's Prayer Group-Evening

A new *evening* men's prayer group! It will be held once a month, on the third Tuesday of each month from **7:30 PM until 8:30 PM in the Spiritual Life Center.**

The next meeting will be **Tuesday night, January 18.** Come with your ideas. We'll read and discuss the Liturgy for the following Sunday Mass.

For more information, call Bob Natale at 893.3041, Charles Zeiss at 669.7189 or Cliff Proctor at 669.3198.

Prayer for Divine Mercy

An invitation to all men and women to be part of God's plan.

We invite you to meet in prayer for the world and our nation to put their trust in God. Our hope is that the nations will have a new spirit of morality.

Please come with your love and hope for humanity as well as your prayer requests. We gather together every **Thursday at 1:30 PM before the Blessed Sacrament** for about one half hour. For more information, call Charles Argento at 586.8528.

"Renewing Our Spiritual Home"

Summary Data

- 119 Responses to Questionnaire
- 91% Positive Responses



So many of our parishioners who responded to the questionnaire stated their love for our parish and the warmth they experience being a part of our parish family.

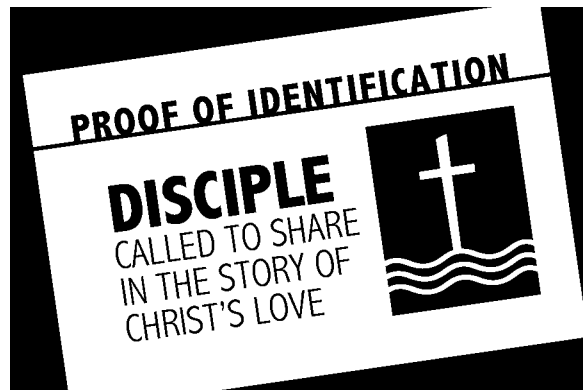
List of projects that need to be addressed...

- Church lighting and electrical
- Narthex entrance
- Church pews, kneelers, chairs, and doors
- Parking lot refurbishment
- Parish Center air conditioner unit
- Parish Center repair and remodel

Brief summary of written comments...

- almost all agree lighting in the Church needs to be addressed
- some felt the parking lot is not a top priority
- Parish Center repair/remodel should be a high priority
- flexibility in payment plan for pledges would be appreciated
- many comments stated their understanding that the projects are like maintenance each must do to their own homes

It is time for our current parishioners of our parish to respond with the same love and generosity of our original parishioners and those who were part of our efforts in 1986. We need to care for our home. We need to give priority to our house of faith. Please take a moment and fill out the questionnaire (*found in the Parish Office*) and let us know how you feel-your feedback is important!



©LPI

The Baptism of the Lord

A lot of times, as people grow up, they have a role that they play as part of their life. It's easy to recall some of the names that were used to describe certain folks in school: the class clown, the teacher's pet, the good girl, the "bad" girl, the bully, the class nerd, etc. For good or ill, each of these persons was thought of as just a little bit out of the norm, and so the rest of the class gave them an identity (or maybe they took it on themselves). When you go to a class reunion ten or twenty-five years later, the temptation is to view that person in the same light, even though they may have turned out very different. That happened recently, in which a person who was not exactly a stellar student ended up becoming a very successful businessman and has now retired fully ten years before anyone else in the class is even approaching standard retirement age.

In the Gospel today, Jesus is revealed with an identity. He is the beloved Son, with whom the Father is well pleased. As Son of the Father he will redeem the world and reconcile humankind to its Creator, putting an end to the ancient enemy, death, through his own dying and rising. That message of salvation and the telling of the story of Jesus' life, miracles, teachings, and saving acts is recounted not just by Matthew, who wrote down today's Gospel, but by Christians throughout the ages in their preaching and their lives.

In promoting vocations this Sunday, the church invites us to be aware that the work of spreading the good news continues to this day. Jesus went from his baptism in the Jordan to call his disciples to follow him and to spread his message. That call continues in our day, for some as priests, deacons, or religious, and for the rest as people who share the story of Christ's love.

2010 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of January 9, 2011

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Sunday: | Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17 |
| Monday: | Heb 1:1-6/Mk 1:14-20 |
| Tuesday: | Heb 2:5-12/Mk 1:21-28 |
| Wednesday: | Heb 2:14-18/Mk 1:29-39 |
| Thursday: | Heb 3:7-14/Mk 1:40-45 |
| Friday: | Heb 4:1-5, 11/Mk 2:1-12 |
| Saturday: | Heb 4:12-16/Mk 2:13-17 |
| Next Sunday: | Is 49:3, 5-6/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34 |

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 ...

Giovanni Andriola, Susan Aviza, Ben Bellotti, Viola Callanan, Grace Ciccarello, Virginia Crescini, Lucilia DaTorre, Beverly DeCanio, Jeanne DellaRagione, Tony Drexler, Debbie Eichen, Ann Farrell, Jake Feldman, Kathleen Kerrigan, Robyn Kerrigan, Ann Losee, Louise Malcuit, John McNevin, Vincent Meade, Frances Miranda, Julio Miranda, Michael Montesanto, John Mordente, Ruth Murray, Evelyn Nonnon, Karen Parpounas, Mary Phelan, Fran Pizzani, Joe Radosti, Dorothy Schiavone, AnnMarie Schiraldi, Baby Isabella Shaw, Derek Stahl, Lindsay Stahl, Linda Starr, Patrick Tardo, Nancy Turano, Bunny Vilim, Joe Yezek

Financial Summary

December 25, 2010-Christmas

Collected Amount \$ 44,099.00

December 25, 2010-Parish Ministry

Collected Amount \$ 10,618.00

December 26, 2010

Weekly Collection \$ 15,212.00

Weekly Budget -\$ 19,000.00

+/- for the week \$ (3,788.00)

January 2, 2011

Weekly Collection \$ 18,895.00

Weekly Budget -\$ 19,000.00

+/- for the week \$ (105.00)

January 1, 2011-Solemnity of Mary

Weekly Collection \$ 3,460.00

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

JD Montefusco-US Marines

Peter Provenzano-US Army

Joshua Tyrrell-US Army

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

Parish Outreach

Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30 AM - 3 PM

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.

December Donations

- The Sage Ministry has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Patrick Greene* and *Vito Mastrorocco*.
- Tess and Jim O'Reilly have made a donation to Outreach *in gratitude for prayers answered*.
- Lawrence and Phyllis Clyde have made a donation to Outreach in loving memory of their sons, *Christopher and Kevin*.
- Kathleen and William Small have made a Christmas Donation to Outreach in honor of William's mother, *Rose Small*.
- Mr. and Mrs. Alexander MacGregor have made a Christmas Donation to Outreach in loving memory of their son, *Alexander MacGregor III*.
- Suzanne Fasano has made a Christmas Donation to Outreach in loving memory of her brother, *Anthony Alfieri*.
- Rosa Mastrorocco has made a Christmas Donation to Outreach in loving memory of her husband, *Vito*.
- Frank and Tina Aparo have made a donation to Outreach in loving memory of *Michael Bertino*.
- A donation was made to Outreach in honor of *William and Clair Thomson-in gratitude for their; "giving hearts and for being wonderful parents."* This donation was made by James Thomson, Christine & Ronald Wilson, Timothy & Patricia Thomson and all the grandchildren.
- Robert and Dianne Kurse have made a donation to Outreach in loving memory of *Mary and Stanley Kurse*.

Lessons from the Monastic Cell

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Monks have secrets worth knowing. Here's some advice from the Desert Fathers: Go to your cell and your cell will teach you everything you need to know. Here's another counsel from Thomas a Kempis' famous book, *The Imitation of Christ*: Every time you leave your cell you come back less a person.

On the surface these counsels are directed at monks and cell refers to the private room of a monk, with its small single cot, its single chair, its writing desk, its small basin or sink, and its kneeler. The counsels suggest that there is a lot to be learned by staying inside that space and there are real dangers in stepping outside of it. What can this possibly say to someone who is not a monk or contemplative nun?

These counsels were written for monks but the deep principles underlying them can be extrapolated to shed wisdom on everyone's life.

What's the deep wisdom contained in these counsels?

These counsels are not saying, as has sometimes been taught, that a monastic vocation is superior to a lay vocation. Nor are they saying that, if someone is a monk or a professional contemplative, social interaction outside of one's cell is unhealthy.

Cell, as referred to here, is a metaphor, an image, a place inside of life, rather than someone's private bedroom. Cell refers to duty, vocation, and commitment.

In essence, this is what's being said:

Go to your cell and your cell will teach you everything you need to know: Stay inside of your vocation, inside of your commitments, inside your legitimate conscriptive duties, inside of your church, inside of your family, and they will teach you where life is found and what love means. Be faithful to your commitments and what you are ultimately looking for will be found there.

Every time you leave your cell you come back less a person: This is telling us that every time we step outside of our commitments, every time we are unfaithful, every time we walk away from what we should legitimately be doing, we come back less a person for that betrayal.

There's a rich spirituality in these principles: Stay inside your commitments, be faithful, your place of work is a seminary, your work is a sacrament, your family is a monastery, your home is a sanctuary, stay inside of them,

don't betray them, learn what they are teaching you without constantly looking for life is elsewhere and without constantly believing that God is elsewhere.

Carlo Carretto, the renowned Italian spiritual writer, shares a story to illustrate this: After he had been a monk for more than a quarter of a century and had spent thousands of hours alone in the desert praying, he went to visit his elderly mother. She was a woman who had been so consumed with the duties of raising a large family that for long periods of time, paralleling his years of solitude in the desert, she had been too busy to have any quiet time in her life. He had spent long years in quiet. She has spent long years in activity. Yet, by his admission, she was perhaps more contemplative than he was. Moreover, he suspected that she was more selfless than he and that she possessed a depth of soul that he could, at that stage of his life, only envy.

But the conclusion he drew from that realization was not that there was something wrong with what he had done during those long, monastic years in the desert. Rather there was something very right about what his mother had done in giving herself over so selflessly to her duties as a wife and mother. He had gone to his cell and it has taught him what he needed to know. She had gone to her cell and it had taught her what she needed to know. His was a monk's cell in the technical sense. Hers was a monastic cell in the wider sense. Both lived monastic lives and both monasteries taught them what they needed to learn.

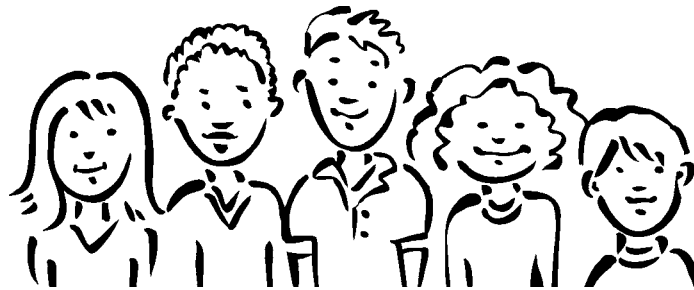
As well, every small betrayal of his monastic vocation had left him less himself, just as, for his mother, every small betrayal of her duties as wife and mother had left her less herself.

What we have committed ourselves to constitutes a monastic cell. When we are faithful to that, namely, to the duties that come to us from our personal relationships and our place of work, we learn life's lessons by osmosis. Conversely, whenever we betray our commitments as they pertain to our relationships or to our work we become less than what we are.

We are all monks and it matters not whether we are in a monastery or are in the world as spouses, parents, friends, ministers in the church, teachers, doctors, nurses, laborers, artisans, social workers, bankers, economic advisors, salespersons, politicians, lawyers, mental health workers, contractors, or retirees. Each of us has our cell and that cell can teach us what we need to know.

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.

We Can End Childhood Hunger...



"If a child smiles, if an adult smiles, this is very important. In our daily life, if we can smile, if we can be peaceful and happy, not only we, but everyone will profit from it. This is the most basic kind of peace work."

Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hahn

We Have the Resources. Do We Have the Will?

"Hungry children incur ... impairments that limit their physical, intellectual and emotional development.... [They] do more poorly in school ... because they are not well prepared for school and cannot concentrate. [They] have more social and behavioral problems because they feel bad, have less energy... and cannot adapt as well...."

(Source: Child Food Insecurity: The Economic Impact on Our Nation, John Cook, Ph.D., Karen Jeng, AB, 2009)

Have you volunteered as a mentor or tutor to help end the effects of childhood hunger?

For more information www.islandharvest.org

Child Nutrition Authorization Signed into Law

The Child Nutrition Reauthorization is now law! This means that crucial funding for Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), the Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and other programs will continue. Thank you to everyone who contacted their Representatives!

Going forward, we must make sure that the SNAP Program (formerly known as food stamps) is fully funded. We will keep you informed.

And starting in 2011 - Island Harvest to be Honored by ACIT

ACIT (Advancement and Commerce, Industry & Technology) will present Island Harvest with its Special Recognition Award at its Executive Business Breakfast on Friday, January 7. A portion of proceeds collected at the breakfast will be donated to Island Harvest.

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.

Service & Goods Auction

St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School, West Islip, is proud to announce their **12th Annual Service & Goods Auction which will be held on Friday, January 21 at 7 PM in the Cougar Café.** Many items to bid on, door prizes and raffles! Vacations, camps and dinners are just a few items to bid on. Please join us for a fun evening where the proceeds will benefit students at SJB.

A Time Set Aside for YOU

A Women's Gathering presented by Tina Cafaro and Joan Vessio on **Tuesday, January 11 at 10 AM until 12 noon.** The offering is \$15. The program will be held at the **St. Joseph Renewal Center**, 1725 Brentwood Rd., Brentwood. Call 631.273.1187, extension 23, for reservations.

Free Food for Those In Need

The C.S.F.P. (Commodity Supplemental Food Program), funded by USDA and NYSDOH, administered by Catholic Charities is offering free food. The food package includes cheese, milk, starches, cereals, juices, canned fruits, and more. For further information, and income guidelines for women and children, please call 6331.591.4166 or 631.491.4156.

Dominican Village

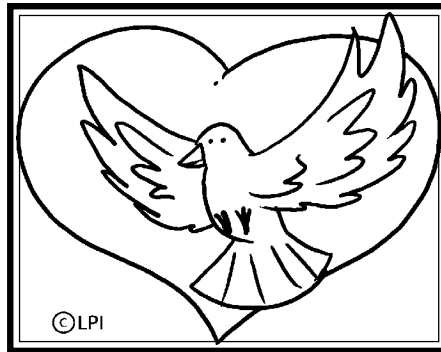
Please join us for an Open House on Thursday, January 13 from 1 PM until 3 PM. Dominican Village is an independent retirement community that offers assisted living and respite care, outstanding programs, all-inclusive services and bountiful amenities. For more information, or to schedule a tour at your convenience, call 631.842.6091 or info@dominicanvillage.org.

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 "**Life's Struggles.**" 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 TELECARE, Cablevision Channel 29/137 or Verizon FIOS 296 for the Best in Catholic Television!

Sharing the Gospel

Jesus came to John one day to be baptized. Jesus was God's Son, and had no sin for John to wash away in the Jordan River. But Jesus wanted to be baptized anyway, to please his Father in heaven. God looked down from heaven, and when Jesus came out of the "river, God sent his Spirit to rest on Jesus like a dove. Then God spoke from heaven "for John and everyone else to hear. God said, "This is my son.



Mission for the Week



Ask your parents to tell you about the day when you were baptized.

Puzzle

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

| | | |
|---------|----------|--------|
| Jesus | baptized | dove |
| Galilee | John | voice |
| Jordan | water | heaven |

| | |
|----------|--|
| esJsu | <u>J</u> <u>e</u> <u>s</u> <u>u</u> <u>s</u> |
| ohJn | _____ |
| hevane | _____ |
| laGilee | _____ |
| wetra | _____ |
| rodJan | _____ |
| devo | _____ |
| batidpez | _____ |
| vocie | _____ |

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Prayer



Dear God,
 thank you
 for showing John
 that Jesus was
 your Son.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of Jesus on the day of his baptism.