

“Before us are life and death;



**whichever we choose
shall be given to us.”**

**February 13, 2011 - Our Lady of Lourdes
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



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

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-Catho-
lics and for Catholics who have
never received formal religious
education. If interested, please call
the Parish Office.

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.

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



Mark the date...

Family Mardi Gras

Sunday, March 6

3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Family fun for everyone!

Games galore, food and more!

Tickets go on sale soon...watch the bulletin for further details!

Don't want to wait until March 6th?
Here's how you can get involved now!

**Every family has a "LOONIE"
Share your "LOONIE" with Outreach!**

- 1. Take an empty jar: peanut butter, spaghetti sauce or large jelly jar - make sure it is clean!**
- 2. Fill the jar with stuff: gum, marbles, dog biscuits, candy, anything at all!**
- 3. Close the jar and decorate the lid.**
- 4. Donate your Family "Loonie" to Outreach - bring to the Outreach office or leave in the food bins!**
- 5. Family "Loonies" will be swapped at the Mardi Gras!**

**(Prize will be given during the Mardi Gras to the boy or girl who can answer the question:
What is a "LOONIE"?)**

Mark your calendars...

Walking with the World

**Our parish Lenten Retreat will be given on
Monday, March 14 through Thursday, March 17
by Dominican preachers
Fr. Ron Henerey and Fr. Bob Vaughan.**

The vision of this parish retreat is that of awakening faith and trust in God's prodigal care for human beings. The parish community is the place where people experience the visible signs of God's graciousness through Word and Sacrament.

The parish retreat is scripturally oriented, bringing the Word of God into perspective with people's lived experience. The preaching is practical and contemporary, with the use of poignant examples, humor and inspiration to call forth a response of faith and trust in the God who has promised to be with us always.



Fr. Ron Henerey, O.P. is a member of the Dominican Order, ordained in 1978. He is a graduate of Ohio University and the Dominican House of Studies. His ministry includes preached and directed retreats, spiritual direction, among other ministries. Some of his interests include music, reading and enjoying nature.



Fr. Robert Vaughn, O.P. is a member of the Dominican Order, ordained in 1971. Fr. Bob holds an MA in Counseling from Boston University. He is an experienced retreat director with over 30 years in retreat and spiritual direction ministry. He is a nature enthusiast and enjoys celebrating the wonders of God's creation in all of its expressions.

Parish Lenten Retreat



6 February 2011

Dear Parish Family:

As I prepare to head back to the Seminary, I wanted to let you know some of the things that have been happening with me since the last time I wrote to you.

First, the Fall semester has been a busy one! This past semester, I completed 17 credits (whew!) and took some clear steps closer to priesthood. I had written previously about the Ministry of Acolyte. In November, I received Candidacy to Holy Orders. This is, if you will, the official recognition of the Church that I am a candidate for the sacrament of Orders – both diaconate and priesthood. It's a big step – both officially and personally.

Over the past month, seminarians have been on our Christmas “break”. It gives us the opportunity to return to our home parishes, engage in some ministry and get a break from the “routine” of seminary life. Each level at the Seminary has a different expectation during the break. For example, last year I journeyed to the Holy Land on pilgrimage. This year, I had the opportunity to spend the week at Mount Saviour Monastery near Elmira, NY. The week allowed me to experience a different rhythm of life and to encounter men of tremendous faith and devotion. While I'm sure I'm not called to monastery life, I gained a lot from this experience that I will carry with me in the years ahead.

In addition to the retreat, I have had the chance to work again at Good Samaritan Hospital in West Islip and to continue some involvement with my “pastoral summer” parish, St. Anne's in Brentwood.

The time away from the seminary has also allowed me to return “home” – and I don't just mean my house. I mean the chance to return to Our Lady of Lourdes. A few of the men I live with came with me to the Christmas Pageant and walked away saying, “What a place!” Indeed, they're right! As always, I never fail to feel so welcomed and encouraged when I return. But more than that the prayers and support I always receive – whether physically present or not – make such a tremendous difference.

The semester ahead promises to be a busy, but good one. There are many classes, opportunities for pastoral work and who knows what else the weeks ahead will bring!

Let's continue to pray for and with one another in these days ahead. Talk to you soon!

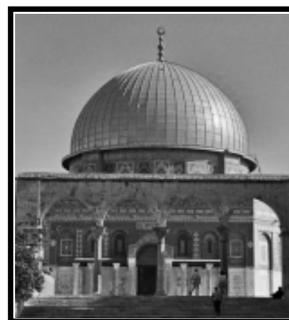
Peace

John Sureau

P.S. You can still follow life in the Seminary at www.johnsureau.blogspot.com.

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*

Wednesday, February 23, 7:30 in the Parish Center

Adult Faith Formation

Book Discussion:

***The Naked Now* by Richard Rohr**

Presenter: Tom Petriano

Tuesdays - February 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.

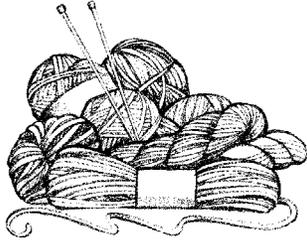
It will be helpful to read Chapter 1 before first session.

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

Come be a part of lively discussions and interesting presentations. Don't miss it!

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 religiouslyed@ollchurch.org.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Join us ...

Wednesday, February 16 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.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, February 15**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM.**

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, February 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.

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.

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, February 15.** Come with your ideas.

We'll read and discuss the Liturgy for the following Sunday Mass and...

Back by Popular Demand!

Deacon Tom Lucie will do an encore performance of his presentation and sharing that was so well received at the morning Men's Prayer Group meeting. Come and see for yourself.

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

Centering Prayer Group

OLL Centering Prayer Group will be meeting in the **Spiritual Life Center** on **Thursday, February 17 at 7:30 PM.** If you have any questions, please contact Diane at 587.0966.

Youth Ministry

Calling all teens!

Join us after “The Six” on Sunday, February 27 in the All-Purpose Room for volleyball and snacks.

All teens are invited to hang out until 8:30 PM for a game and some fun.



Helping Others Sleep Tight In Pajamas

Our Lady of Lourdes in West Islip celebrates Catholic Schools Week in a special way each year. This year the week long celebration ran from January 31 through February 4, and throughout the week there were many fun-filled activities for the students. One of the program favorites is Pajama Day. Here’s how it works: students and teachers are allowed to wear their pajamas to school in exchange for one pair of brand-new pajamas to be given to the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Outreach. This year we collected over 230 pairs of pajamas! It’s a great way for our students to give back to the community!

Mangia! Mangia!

Spaghetti Dinner

Thursday, February 17 at 5:30 PM & 7 PM

Teachers will serve you in the school cafeteria, a complete spaghetti dinner, for only \$5 per person.

Call Ms. Kennedy at 587.7200, extension 101 or lkennedy@ollschool.org

Stranger Danger!

The students and teachers at Our Lady of Lourdes School in West Islip were delighted to have a Stranger Safety Program sponsored by Good Samaritan Hospital visit on Monday, January 24th. The Kindergarten, First, Second, and Third Grade classes enjoyed a fun-filled and informative Puppet Show to help elevate student awareness about stranger interaction. What a great way to keep safe and make learning fun!



Ministry of Family Healing

Your Faith is all it takes, and you can walk on water too!

Troubles may surround us, pull us down, but Jesus calls us to step out in faith. He tells us to come, He will fill us with courage, He tells us to fear not. He says He will save us from lack of faith, so that we too can walk on water. The Ministry of Family Healing is inviting you to a night of prayer and reflection on the courage it will take for us all to walk on water.

Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center. Please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option 3, to register. Please bring a friend and as always, food and fellowship to follow.

Welcome

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all newly registered members of our parish family...

McKeefery Family

Oakley Family

Kevin and Christine Smith and family

Paul Mezzacappa

...we are truly blessed by your presence among us!

Mass Book of Intentions

The 2012 Mass Book of Intentions will be opening on Tuesday, February 15 at 9 AM in the Parish Office.

As always, we will do our best to accommodate your Mass Intention requests.



Rest In Peace

Filippo (Phil) Mallimo died on January 24 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 31. We extend our prayers to his brothers, sisters, and entire family.

Nicholas Stanziani died on January 29 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 1. We extend our prayers to his wife, Dorothy, children, grandchildren and entire family.

Francis M. Aronsen died on January 28 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 3. We extend our prayers to his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and entire family.

Remembering...

Monday, February 14

*Saint Cyril, monk, and
Saint Methodius, bishop*

8:00 AM John Lodespoto

Tuesday, February 15

8:00 AM Theresa Reardon

Wednesday, February 16

8:00 AM Antonia Martino

Thursday, February 17

8:00 AM Lucille Santinello

Friday, February 18

8:00 AM Margaret Homann

Saturday, February 19

8:00 AM Pasquale DeSantis,
Anthony DeVivo, Fr. Bill Sheehan (*6th Anniv.*),
Margaret Bartolomeo, Mary Juratovac

5:00 PM Mary Sniadowski
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Sunday, February 20

8:00 AM Rita Lyons
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

9:30 AM Tony Squeo
Fr. Pat Amabile

11:00 AM Florence H. Worysz
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

12:30 PM Michael Walsh
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Margaret McCluskey,
Anthony DeVivo, Joseph LeRoy, Maryanne Viscomi,
Frank Monteleone, Alfonze Giordano
Fr. Pat Amabile

Upcoming Marriages

*Patricia Lagana, OLL and
George Fellows*

*Dawn Yngstrom, Sacred Heart, Merrick and
Vincent Perniciaro, OLL*



"Renewing Our Spiritual Home"

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

Update January 28:

As I told you last week, our project has now been officially approved by the Diocese to enter the campaign phase. Our Diocesan Finance Office suggested that because of increasing costs and contingencies we should set our goal at 1,000,000 dollars. This seems to be a wise decision, and will make sure that if we strive for this goal, we will have enough to complete all our projects. Last week and this week, our Campaign Committee will be meeting with advisors to determine the best way to conduct our campaign. If you would like to be part of the team for this fundraising effort, please contact Fr. Mike Vetranio or Deacon Jack Meehan at the Rectory.

Fr. Mike

OLL Week-at-a-Glance

Week of	Church	Parish Center	Spiritual Life Center
Monday February 14	8 AM Mass after 8 AM Mass Miraculous Medal Novena		8 PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH
Tuesday February 15	8 AM Mass	9 AM SAGE	7 PM Men's Prayer Group SLC 8 PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH
Wednesday February 16	8 AM Mass	9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:30 PM Children & Grief Wkshp	7:30 PM Bereavement Support Group
Thursday February 17	8 AM Mass 1:30 PM Prayer for Divine Mercy 5 PM Youth Choir 7 PM Adult Choir		6 PM RCIA SLC
Friday February 18	8 AM Mass 4:30 PM PEP Activity		
Saturday February 19	8 AM Mass 1 PM Baptism 4-4:45 PM Confessions 5 PM Mass		2 PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH 7 PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH
Sunday February 20	8 AM Mass 9:30 AM Mass-CLTW 11 AM Mass, 12:30 PM Mass 6 PM Mass Contemporary		11 AM RCIA



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

There's the old joke about the fourth grader who had just memorized the Ten Commandments. He was very proud of his accomplishment since he had studied hard and had managed to recite them all without a single mistake. When his mom came to pick up him and his younger brother from religion class the two were standing together on the curb. The younger brother was shaking and sobbing. When mom enquired what had happened, the younger brother pointed to the older and said that he had been punched by him. The mom turned to the fourth grade boy and asked, "Didn't you just learn the commandments? You got them all correct, but now look what you did to your brother. What does the fifth commandment say?" To which the fourth grader replied, "The fifth commandment is, 'You shall not kill.' And I didn't kill him. I just socked him really good!"

Of course it is precisely this kind of literalism that Jesus expects his followers to leave behind. In the Sermon on the Mount, he is teaching his disciples, those who want to live by his words. Again and again in his discourse, Jesus asks his followers to move to a higher ethic by saying, "You have heard it said? But I say to you?" Each time, Jesus proposes moving beyond the strict limit of the law to a fuller understanding of the concept. And that's where it can get difficult.

The fourth grader's behavior was clearly unacceptable, even according to the common understanding of what is required by the fifth commandment. But what is asked of the followers of Jesus is so much more. (Just wait till we get to next week's Gospel!) As Christians, we are asked by Jesus to live beyond the law. We are asked to see the law not as a minimal requirement for what we shouldn't do, but as an invitation to extend the boundaries of what we should. 2010 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of February 13, 2011

Sunday:	Sir 15:15-20/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 <i>or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37</i>
Monday:	Gn 4:1-15, 25/Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday:	Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday:	Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Mk 8:22-26
Thursday:	Gn 9:1-13/Mk 8:27-33
Friday:	Gn 11:1-9/Mk 8:34---9:1
Saturday:	Heb 11:1-7/Mk 9:2-13
Next Sunday:	Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Angela MacDermott*.
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, Deacon Dick Barry, Viola Callanan, Edith Caputo, Nicole Cerny, Grace Ciccarello, Katherine Colleran, Virginia Crescini, Lucilia DaTorre, Beverly DeCanio, Jeanne DellaRagione, Tony Drexler, Debbie Eichen, Jerry Fabozzi, Jake Feldman, Patricia Ferrara, Zana Gashi, Winifred Hanrahan, Kathleen Kerrigan, Robyn Kerrigan, Frank Larkin, Eric Lee, Ann Losee, Louise Malcuit, John McNevin, Vincent Meade, Frances Miranda, Julio Miranda, John Mordente, Ruth Murray, Evelyn Nonnon, Philomena Owens, Karen Parpounas, Gertrude Parine, Dorothy Proctor, Joe Radosti, Dennis Ryan, Dorothy Schiavone, AnnMarie Schiraldi, Brian Schweibert, Derek Stahl, Lindsay Stahl, Kay Stevenson, Patrick Tardo, Nancy Turano, Patricia Wallace, Joe Yezek

Financial Summary

February 6, 2011

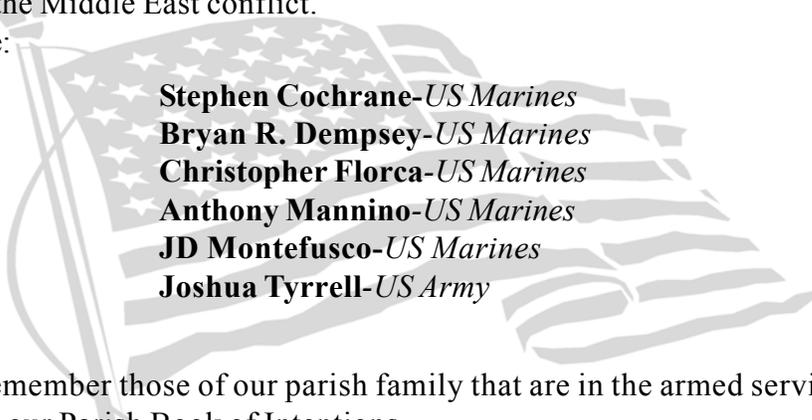
Weekly Collection	\$
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 0

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.

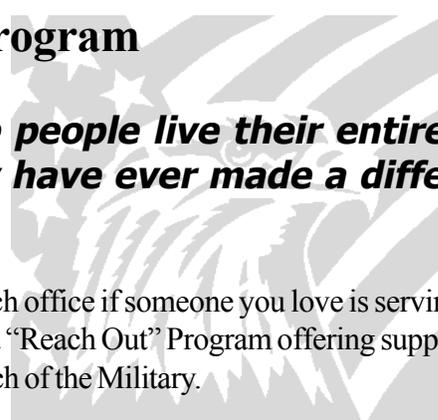
They are:



Stephen Cochran-*US Marines*
Bryan R. Dempsey-*US Marines*
Christopher Florca-*US Marines*
Anthony Mannino-*US Marines*
JD Montefusco-*US Marines*
Joshua Tyrrell-*US Army*

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

“Reach Out” Program



“Some people live their entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world...”

Ronald Reagan

Please contact the Outreach office if someone you love is serving on active duty overseas. Outreach will be starting a “Reach Out” Program offering support to men and women on active duty in any branch of the Military.



THE ANSWER:

The St. Patrick/St. Joseph Dance

THE QUESTION:

*What is the most celebrated event at OLL
(with the exception of The Feast, of course!)*

Saturday , March 19

7:30 PM– 11:30 PM

Tickets go on sale Monday, February 28

Details to follow...

Outreach Needs for February:

Thanks to Our Lady of Lourdes School for donating hundreds of pairs of new pajamas for the children of Outreach. Families were so grateful to have new, warm pajamas for their children. Thanks, too, for the cans of soup donated on “Souper Bowl Friday.”

Thanks goes to the Senate at West Islip High School for the surprise food drive! The bin outside the Outreach Office was filled to overflowing.

Mark DeSantis, a Boy Scout working toward his Eagle Badge, organized a food drive for Outreach. Mark’s hard work reaped many benefits for Outreach: 2700 lbs of food were sorted and delivered on Sunday, February 6.

With the tremendous donations of food last weekend, the shelves in the pantry are once again stocked. We are able to distribute two complete bags of food once again. Many of our ‘customers’ receive food stamps. Food stamps do not cover cost of certain items: personal care products, soap, toothpaste, paper towels, napkins, toilet paper, shampoo, or laundry detergent. If you could target your donations to any of these supplies, we would be grateful.

REMEMBER: The Mardi Gras!!! Coming Soon. ...Fun for Everyone!

Never too early to prepare for Spring!

Victorian Tea

Sunday, May 22

“ The English Parlour Room”

Do polish your silver and air your linens. There will be no excuse deemed acceptable for those attending in less than their finest of Victorian fashion and lac (Advance tickets are not yet on sale-but do mark your calendars as we have no tolerance for weeping if your request for tickets is denied!)



The Challenge of Accepting Pleasure without Guilt

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Many of us suffer from a certain inchoate guilt. Simply put, we struggle to healthily enjoy pleasure without guilt, to not feel guilty about feeling good, to not be apologetic about our good luck.

Instead we tend, however unconsciously, to associate depth and religion with what's grey, sad, broken, and melancholy. In the name of depth and religion we are stoic rather than joyous in our acceptance of pleasure. Many of us, I suspect, suffer from an existential incapacity to drink in life's more earthy pleasures in genuine delight. Instead we always nurse some inchoate guilt feelings about pleasure.

And so we have certain unspoken religious axioms by which we live: If it hurts more, it's better for you! Beauty is a pagan luxury. The Gospel calls us to an austerity of body and spirit. A truly deep person does not thoroughly enjoy a pleasure, especially a bodily one. Reticence and anxiety in the face of deep pleasure is healthy spiritually. Jesus' challenge was much more about renunciation than about drinking in deeply the life that God offers us.

But this psychological and religious inhibition exists in all cultures and is not a particularly Christian problem. Too many people blame guilt feelings on their religious training when, in fact, their roots lie far beyond and outside of religion. This isn't a "Christian neurosis"; it's a human one. In all cultures and in all religions, most sensitive adults suffer from a certain chronic depression, namely, they find it hard to simply delight in life without at the same time feeling the shadows around that momentary delight.

And so, like the people at table with Jesus on that night when a woman broke an expensive jar of ointment on his feet, cried on his feet, and dried his feet with her hair, pleasure does not sit comfortably with us. Rather, in the face of raw pleasure, we shift about uncomfortably and give reasons why it shouldn't be happening.

That's acceptable, but we should not try to rationalize this neurotic reticence in the name of Jesus, Christianity, religion, or depth of soul. We should not confuse Hamlet with Jesus.

In her first novel, *Final Payments*, Mary Gordon tells the story of a young woman's struggle with precisely this neurosis, an incapacity to ever delight in life. Suffering through a difficult period of her life, the grayness

and joylessness of her life are re-enforced by her own interpretation of Catholic spirituality and especially by a woman she lives with, Margaret, whose austerity, piety, and lack of joy are too easily assumed to be depth of soul and commitment to Christ. One afternoon, after a bitter argument with Margaret, she stumbles out of the room in tears when a major insight breaks through:

It is one of the marvels of a Catholic education that the impulse of a few words can bring whole narratives to light with an immediacy and clarity that are utterly absorbing. 'The poor you have always with you.' I knew where Christ had said that: at the house of Martha and Mary. Mary had opened a jar of ointment over Christ's feet. Spikenard. I remembered. And she wiped his feet with her hair. Judas had rebuked her: he had said that the ointment ought to be sold for the poor. But St. John had noted, Judas had said that only because he kept the purse and was a thief. And Christ had said to Judas, Mary at his feet, her hair spread out around him. 'The poor you have always with you: but me you have not always.'

And until that moment, climbing the dark stairs in a rage to my ugly room, it was a passage I had not understood. It seemed to justify to me the excesses of centuries of fat, tyrannical bankers. But now I understood. What Christ was saying, what he meant, was that the pleasures of that hair, that ointment, must be taken. Because the accidents of death would deprive us soon enough. We must not deprive ourselves, our loved ones, of the luxury of our extravagant affections. We must not try to second-guess death by refusing to love the ones we loved in favor of the anonymous poor.

And it came to me, fumbling in the hallway for the light, that I had been a thief. Like Judas, I had wanted to hide gold, count it in the dead of the night, to parlay it into some safe and murderous investment. It was Margaret's poverty I wanted to steal, the safety of her inability to inspire love. So that never again would I be found weeping, like Mary, at the tombstone at the break of dawn. . . . I knew now I must open the jar of ointment. I must open my life. I knew now that I must leave. But I was not ready, I would have to build up my strength.

Authentic religion brings us a double challenge: Be prepared to renounce life – and be prepared to enjoy it!

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.

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.

Donations: January 2011

- Doris and Doug Cameron have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Margaret McHugh*.
- Bob and Adele O'Shea have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Margaret McHugh*.
- Barbara and Joe Catuosco have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Tony DeVivo*.
- Katie Shields has made a donation to Outreach in memory *Margaret McHugh*.
- Peter and Regina Mirabella have made a donation to Outreach in loving memory of their parents, *Walter and Pearl Gizewski ; Vincent and Mary Mirabella*.
- Outreach has received a donation in loving memory of *Jack and Margie McHugh*.
- The Sage Ministry has made a donation to Outreach in memory of their beloved member, *Margie McHugh*.
- Paula and Frank Edwards have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Vito Mastrorocco*.
- Glen and Susan Schmid have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Margaret McHugh*.
- Connie Lynch has made a donation to Outreach in loving memory of *Margaret McHugh*.
- Outreach has received a donation in loving memory of *Grandma Ann and Mom* from Eileen and Kevin Graham.
- *Peter and Regina Mirabella* have made a donation to Outreach in honor of their *65th Wedding Anniversary*.

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.

Golden Wedding Anniversary

On Sunday, April 3, 2011, couples married 50 years or more are invited to a special Mass to be celebrated by Bishop William Murphy at **St. Lawrence the Martyr in Sayville at 2:30 PM.** Please pick up your registration card at the Parish Office, fill it out and return it to the Parish Office no later than March 17. Approximately one week before the ceremony, information regarding the day will be mailed to you. If you have any questions, you may call 516.678.5800, extension 583.

An Evening of Prayer and Petition

with the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Cap in Canada on **Sunday, February 13 from 7 PM - 8 PM at St. Anne's Church, Brentwood.** The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Cap visits us from Cape Madeline, Canada. The Sanctuary of Cap is a peaceful place of prayer which is a popular destination for many Catholics. Through a special arrangement, the statue will be present at St. Anne's. Come and join us to pray for the Church, World Peace and your special intentions.

All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner

Boy Scout Troop 179, Chartered by Our Lady of Lourdes Church, is hosting an All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on **Saturday, February 19, from 4 PM – 7:30 PM in the OLL School Cafeteria.** The cost is \$5 per person (all you can eat). There will be raffle tickets for sale at the door and you need not be present to win. Some of the great prizes include a ski trip, brunch at the Danford Inn, passes to Medieval Times, Atlantis Marine World, among others.

Writings of St. Paul

This four week course develops four themes Fr. James McNamara identified while on sabbatical, studying the writings of St. Paul. -Paul's Personal Journey -Justification through Faith -Eschatology (The end times and eternal Life) -Church. Each evening will consist of a presentation followed by a question and answer segment. The course will be held, **Tuesdays, March 29, April 5, 12 and 19 at St. Joseph's Church, Babylon from 8 PM until 9:30 PM.** The course is offered free of charge, but you must RSVP to reserve your seat. Please contact Jane at 669.0068, extension 159 or email stewardship@stjosephsbabylon.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 "**Relationships.**" 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 Channel 29/137 or Verizon FIOS 296 for the Best in Catholic Television!

Sharing the Gospel

God's rules stop you from hurting yourself and the people around you. God knows that if you really love him, you will want to follow his rules. You will trust him. You will want to be thoughtful and kind. You will want to love people the way God does.



Mission for the Week

Ask your parents to list three ways you can honor them.



Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

OBEY
BETTER
MURDER

ANGRY
FAITHFUL
THOUGHTS

PROMISE
KEEP
SWEAR

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

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Prayer



God,
help me to follow
your rules with my
whole heart.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of
yourself cheerfully
helping your par-
ents dust and
vacuum your house.