

“Stay
awake
for you
know
neither the
day nor the
hour.”

Matthew 25:13

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Our Lady of Lourdes • November 6, 2011



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

Rev. Michael Holzmann
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

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

OLL Choir Director

Vita Scorcia

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 Scorcia

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Parish Staff

AnnMarie Buonaspina

Director of Youth Choirs

Michael Buonaspina

Parish Organist

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-Thursday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Friday: 9 AM - 5 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, ext. 122

(Senior Advocates for Growth
and Enrichment)

email: Sage@ollchurch.org



Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes
"Renewing Our Spiritual Home"

Renewing Our Spiritual Home Projects

First week with our new lights is a brilliant success.

Last week was a wonderful experience for OLL parishioners arriving to the warmth of our new lights. Thank you so much to all for your positive and encouraging comments. This was a huge project for us and it was so good to see everyone enjoying the new view of our Church.

You will notice some continuing improvement as we install the remaining lights in our tabernacle area as well as the lighting for our sanctuary. The lighting controller which will be programmed in the coming week or two will allow us to customize the amount of light for different occasions from daily Mass, prayer services, concerts, etc.

Parish Center

Our next project will be the Parish Center. New rugs, seating, ceiling, lights, kitchenette, and storage will all be renewed in the early months of 2012. We are working now with an architect to design the new layout of our room with new storage spaces for our ministries.

Happy New Year for our Parish Center!

Is it too late to participate?

Not at all! All gifts and pledges are always welcome. Just call our Parish Office at 661.3224 or send me an email at pastor@ollchurch.org. It would be wonderful if every Our Lady of Lourdes parishioner could claim a share of the "Renewing Our Spiritual Home" Project.

Thanks for all you do to support the parish family of Our Lady of Lourdes!

Fr. Mike

OLL Blood Drive-Thank you!

We are grateful for all who helped produce such a successful Blood Drive.

The event collected 45 lifesaving units of blood, which have been separated into their components and distributed to patients in hospitals throughout the area. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and provided a rewarding donation experience.

Remember its 45 units of blood that Blood Services did not have the day before.

God Bless each and everyone who gave up time from their busy schedules to save lives.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

An Advent Festival of Faith

Dear Parish Family:

The first week of Advent will be a busy celebration of faith for our parish family. We begin with a visit from nationally famous church musician Dan Schutte, who will offer a workshop for our ministers and a concert on Friday night. Then on Saturday morning, we celebrate the ordination of Deacon John Sureau to the priesthood. John will celebrate his first Mass with us on Sunday at 12:30 PM with a reception and first blessings to follow. So mark your calendars for these events.



**Thursday, December 1
7:30 PM in the Church**

Dan Schutte will offer a workshop on music, liturgy, and celebration for all who serve in ministries worship.

Friday, December 2 :: 7:30 PM in the Church

Dan Schutte in Concert. This wonderful musician who brought us songs like Eagles Wings and Come to the Feast will lead us in an evening of music and celebration. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and young adults.

Saturday, December 3 :: 11 AM at St. Agnes Cathedral

Bishop William Murphy will ordain John Sureau to the priesthood at St. Agnes Cathedral. You are welcome. In fact you are more than welcome! It would be a true sign of our gratitude to God if the Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes would FILL the cathedral of St. Agnes.



Sunday, December 4 :: 12:30 PM in our Church

John Sureau will celebrate his first Mass here at Our Lady of Lourdes! Please join us to celebrate this wonderful event. The Mass will be followed by a reception in our cafeteria and the opportunity to receive John's first blessing as a priest. All are Welcome to join in this celebration

Fr. Mike



**“There are different kinds of gifts,
but the same spirit...”**

Corinthians 12:4-13

Confirmation

This **Thursday, November 10**, *Bishop Emil Wcela* will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to our candidates at 1:30 PM and 4:30 PM. They look to their Parish Family with an even greater awareness of what the words of St. Paul to the Corinthians means to them.

Many of those who will receive Confirmation are already actively involved in many ministries including our Religious Education program, Gr. 6/7/8 Hang Out Nights, Music Ministry, Altar Servers, Lectors, Ushers, Parish Outreach and Art & Environment. Please continue to pray for our candidates, sponsors, and parents as they prepare for this special day!

Adult Faith Formation



St. Paul: A person of faith...

*A searcher with steadfast conviction in the power
of Jesus...*

just like us!

Presenter: Msgr. Jim McNamara

Tuesday - October 25, November 1, 8, and 15

7:30-9 PM

Parish Center

Come join us as we explore St. Paul's personal journey, spirituality, and life of faith by tracing his experience of conversion, commitment, grace and community.

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.



Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of July will be on **Wednesday, November 9 from 1- 3 PM**. All are invited and welcome!

Rosary Christian Mothers

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

SAGE

The SAGE Group (**Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment**) will meet on **Tuesday, November 8**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

Phantom of the Opera

Did you miss the “Phantom of the Opera” on Broadway?

...You are sooo lucky. You can catch it at the **Creative Ministries Theater in Oakdale on Sunday, November 13 at 2PM**. The cost is only \$18. Don't miss the chance to see this beautiful musical. Call Wilma at 669.4728.

Altar Servers

*For **all** Altar Servers already serving and for anyone interested in being a server (4th grade and up)-*

There will be a series of training sessions on “how to serve the altar”, including Sunday Liturgies, Weddings, and Funerals. They are:

Saturday, November 5 at 3 PM

Sunday, November 6 at 4 PM

Saturday, November 12 at 3 PM

Sunday, November 13 at 4 PM

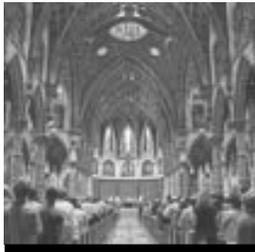
Friday, November 18 at 4 PM

Saturday, November 19 at 3 PM

All sessions will be held in the Church.

Please make every effort to attend as many of these as possible!

For any information, please contact Mrs. Kuchler at nkuchler@ollschooll.org



Welcoming the
ROMAN MISSAL THIRD EDITION
Deepen. Nurture. Celebrate

Scriptural Reflections on the New Roman Missal *by Msgr. Chris Heller*

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nov 6 - Matthew 25:1-13

9. Anyone who has been a member of a Scouting organization, or a member of a sports team, or who has served our country in military life is aware of the importance of taking personal responsibility for their words and actions. Doing so brings the honor and dignity of faithfulness not only to the member, but also to the group to which he or she belongs. In a similar way, because each of us has been baptized into the full life, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, each of us is expected to be personally ready to serve others at a moment's notice, whenever God calls us into action. This mission is repeatedly confirmed by human experience, especially on the days in which we are **totally convinced** we know what our destination is supposed to be. Then, some delay or interruption or detour strategically relocates us, where we find ourselves moving toward the place where we are **truly** supposed to be. But it is our willingness, our readiness, our receptivity to the movement of God's Spirit that indicates the true depth of our relationship with Jesus, in whom we live and move and have our being.

In three weeks, we will begin praying a new translation of the texts at Mass. As we learn the new prayers and responses together as a community of faith, we will need to follow the recommendation given in the Gospel for all followers of Jesus: remain awake, stay alert and be attentive. Not only will we speak and hear the new words with which we will begin to pray, but we will also experience a significant difference. Because the new translation is more in accord with the original Latin text, we may well feel the pacing of the prayers shift and lengthen a little. It will take some time for God's People as well as the priests and the deacons to become accustomed to a new rhythm in the recited texts, and even more so in those phrases that we will hear sung. And since the revised texts often will have strong and wonderful images for us to ponder, we will not want to miss a word of them from beginning to end. In time, we will gradually begin to reap together the spiritual benefits of the new translations, especially in the places where the texts echo the words of the Scriptures and our worship tradition. Blessed be God, who gives us new life and new hope in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Fr. Chris can be seen delivering these reflections on the program The Word on Telecare. The episodes will run until November 14. The schedule is as follows: Wednesdays at 7 PM, Thursdays at 9:15 AM, 1 PM, and 7:15 PM, Saturdays at 9 AM, 12:45 PM, 7 PM, and Sundays at 10:45 AM.

Our Lady of Lourdes School Fundraiser

Your support is always appreciated!



Fresh Wreaths-balsam pine with beautiful evergreen accents
 "Deluxe" - bows and decorations in burgundy/gold, red/white, and Christmas plaid
 "Simple" -same color choices as "Deluxe", no decorations- pinecones and bow only
Poinsettias-gorgeous Christmas favorites in red or cream - three sizes to choose from
Fresh Cemetery Blankets & Pillows-evergreens, decorations, and red velvet bow

Order Deadline Wednesday, November 16

Family Name _____ Child name/Grade _____

Address _____ Contact number _____

(pre-order purchases apply to family mandatory account)

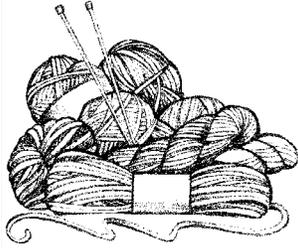
Item	Size	Color	Quantity	\$ / Item	Total
Cemetery BLANKETS	-	-		\$55	
Cemetery PILLOWS	-	-		\$40	
Deluxe Fresh WREATHS (w/ Bow & Decorations)	18"	Burgundy/Gold		\$28	
		Red/White		\$28	
		Christmas Plaid		\$28	
Deluxe Fresh WREATHS (w/ Bow & Decorations)	22"	Burgundy/Gold		\$32	
		Red/White		\$32	
		Christmas Plaid		\$32	
Simple Fresh WREATHS (w/ Bow & Pinecones)	18"	Burgundy/Gold		\$22	
		Red/White		\$22	
		Christmas Plaid		\$22	
Simple Fresh WREATHS (w/ Bow & Pinecones)	22"	Burgundy/Gold		\$26	
		Red/White		\$26	
		Christmas Plaid		\$26	
POINSETTIAS	4.5"	Red		\$ 6 or 3/\$15	
		Cream		\$ 6 or 3/\$15	
	6"	Red		\$10 or 3/\$28	
		Cream		\$10 or 3/\$28	
	8"	Red		\$20 or 3/\$55	
		Cream		\$20 or 3/\$55	

**Order pick-up will be Saturday,
 December 3 12 noon- 3 PM**

SUBTOTAL	
Delivery (optional)	\$10
TOTAL	

(payment due at time of order-checks payable to OLL School)

If you have any questions, please contact Bronwen Sessa at bsessa@ollschool.org
 or call 631.806.6228.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Join us ...

Wednesday, November 9 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.

Operation Gratitude

Attention all knitters and crocheters!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of OLL has been busy making 'Scarves for Our Troops'. We will be sending them to Operation Gratitude in early December. All of these handmade items are created with love, and prayers are said over them for the safety and well-being of all who will wear them.

If you would like to add to our collection, please make these scarves *according to instructions only from Operation Gratitude*. You may use your own patterns and yarn, but only certain sizes and colors are permitted. For exact instructions visit:

www.operationgratitude.com/2010/08/05/scarf-hat-cool-tie-project-details-materials-size-patterns/ Please call Vita Scorcia at 669.4717 for more information.

There will be a collection box in the Narthex for the scarves. Also, if you would like to donate a dollar or two for shipping costs, please leave it at the Parish Office, c/o Vita Scorcia. Any amount donated over what is needed to ship the scarves will be donated to Operation Gratitude for their own shipping costs. Thank you!

Bereavment Ministry

You can learn to enjoy the holidays again.

Come spend some time with our group as we enjoy some holiday treats and share in conversation. We will meet on Saturday, November 19 at 11 AM in the Spiritual Life Center (in the convent).

To register please call Diane Ackerly at 631.226.9373 or email at dkkkk710@hotmail.com

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)

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.



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

What's it all about?

IF you are an adult AND

... you were never Baptized

... you were Baptized in another faith and would like to become a baptized Catholic

... you never received Holy Communion (Eucharist)

... you never received your Confirmation

IF you are an adult AND one or all of the circumstances above apply to you...

IF you feel you would like to become a baptized Catholic or become more fully initiated into your Catholic faith

Our email address is RCIA@ollchurch.org or call the Parish Office at 661.3224, option #1, and we would be happy to help you.

Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society invites the men of our parish, young and old, to join us. We can use the wisdom of the older men and the energy and fresh ideas of our younger men. The Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting will be on **Sunday, November 13**. We come together to **pray the Rosary at 7:40 AM in the Church and the meeting will follow the 8 AM Mass at 9 AM in Room 16**.

Stop by, ALL ARE WELCOME!

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, November 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.

Men's Prayer Group-evening

An *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, November 15**. 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.



Rest In Peace

Edwin C. Brewer died on October 23 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was October 27. We extend our prayers to his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and entire family.

Teresa V. Haffel died on October 25 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was October 28. We extend our prayers to her husband, Danny, children, grandchildren, and entire family.



The Parish Office will be **closed on Friday, November 11** in observance of Veteran's Day. The Parish Office will reopen on Saturday at 9 AM.

Rosary/Novena

Rosary:

Daily after 8 AM Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena:

Monday after 8 AM Mass

Anointing of the Sick

Throughout the liturgical year.

If needed sooner, please call the Parish Office.

Baptism

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

Marriage

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults(RCIA):

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

Remembering...

Monday, November 7

8:00 AM Elizabeth Meditz

Tuesday, November 8

8:00 AM Rosemarie LaCapria

Wednesday, November 9

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

8:00 AM Anthony DeVivo

Thursday, November 10

Saint Leo the Great, pope and doctor of the Church

8:00 AM Vindon Vizdeck

Friday, November 11

Saint Martin of Tours, bishop

8:00 AM Nancy Maher

Saturday, November 12

8:00 AM Lawrence D'Esposito, Laura Hahusic, Laura Hill,
Frances Caccavo, Michael Hasson, Steven Mastrandrea,
Angelo DeLeo, Felicia DeLeo, Frank DeLeo

5:00 PM Connie Celiberti

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Sunday, November 13

8:00 AM Dec'd members of the Holy Name Society

Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

9:30 AM Fortunato Maggi

Fr. Mike Vetrano

11:00 AM John & Margaret Dowd

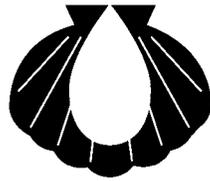
Fr. Michael Holzmann

12:30 PM Donald & Patrick Manning and Dorothy & Joseph Boening

Fr. Pasy Amabile

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Margaret & Harry Palm, Josephine Staver,
Jim Policastro, MaryAnn Marra, Michael Hassan, John Duchman,
Michael & Marie DeLeo, Lucinda Nunes

Fr. Bob Scheckenback



Baptism

Justin Pasquale Martin

Wayne and Felicia

Sean Edward Casey

Edward and Kristine

PREPARED IN MIND AND BODY



©LPI

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Every scout knows the motto, "Be Prepared." Even the general public commonly associates the words with scouting. What's less well-known is that Robert Baden-Powell describes this preparedness as being in a state of readiness of both mind and body. For him, to be prepared in mind meant that a scout had thought out beforehand any situation that might occur, so that he or she would know the right thing to do at the right moment, and be willing to do it. Being prepared in body meant that a scout would be strong and active and able to do the right thing at the right moment."

The Gospel parable of the wise and foolish virgins could be said to be an example of Baden-Powell's scouting philosophy. The wise virgins were prepared in mind. They had thought through the process recognizing that if the bridegroom were to be delayed they would need extra oil to keep their lamps burning."

Of course, the parable is not about scouting. But we who await the arrival of the bridegroom, Jesus Christ, should be prepared just as readily as any scout. For us being prepared to "do the right thing at the right moment" means that we have formed our consciences in line with the moral teaching of Christ and that we are ready to act as a Christian in the face of injustice and immorality. It means that we have chosen a way of life that aligns our actions with the teachings of the Gospel, prepared to help those in need. We Christians have waited a long time for the return of the Lord. In that time we have fed the poor, tended the sick, educated the young, sheltered the homeless, preached the Gospel, and championed the oppressed. Not everything that we have done has been perfect, because we are still sinners. We still have much left to do to prepare ourselves for the bridegroom's coming.

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Readings for the Week of November 6, 2011

Sunday:	Wis 6:12-16/1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-14/Mt 25:1-13
Monday:	Wis 1:1-7/Lk 17:1-6
Tuesday:	Wis 2:23-3:9/Lk 17:7-10
Wednesday:	Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22
Thursday:	Wis 7:22b-8:1/Lk 17:20-25
Friday:	Wis 13:1-9/Lk 17:26-37
Saturday:	Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9/Lk 18:1-8
Next Sunday:	Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/1 Thes 5:1-6/Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Elizabeth Netska*.
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 ...

*James Bianco, Nicole Cerny, Maria Chiarello, Eddie Cronin,
Jeanne Marie DellaRagione, Frank Edwards, Jake Feldman,
Ann Finn, Elizabeth Fredriksen, Kenneth Garretson,
Baby Gavin Gradiska, Jennifer Horne, Baby Peter Horyczun,
George Impellizeri, Marie Impellizeri, Peter Joseph, Robyn Kerrigan,
Richard LaFountaine, Anne Losee, Christopher J. Maher,
Marge Marotta, Tony Marotta, John McNevin, Arlene Monte,
Rae Morris, Patricia Muller, Evelyn Nonnon, Peter Porzio,
Louise Posanti, Joe Radosti, Teresa Saraceno, Ann Marie Schiraldi,
Baby Isabella Shaw, Angelo Tedesco, Nancy Turano, Joseph Yezek*

Seeking a Confessor

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Perhaps more than anything else, we are unconsciously seeking a confessor, someone before whom we can open our hearts, be completely transparent, pour out our confusion, and freely admit our sins. Inside our search for a soulmate is the search for a confessor. But a good confessor isn't easily found. Colm Toibin, in his recent novel, *Brooklyn*, gives one of the reasons why:

His main character, Eilis, a young woman from Dublin, moves to New York and falls in love with a man named Tony. But, several months into the relationship, Eilis has to return to Ireland because her sister, Rose, has died. Tony, insecure and fearing that Eilis will not return, talks her into marrying him civilly before she leaves.

Back in Dublin, living with her mother, mourning her sister's death and having to delay her return to New York because of a friend's wedding, Eilis is pursued by a young man, Jim Farrell, and goes on a number of dates with him without telling him about her American husband. But she is haunted by her lack of disclosure and agonizes about what to do. What she would most love to do is to share her secret with him, pour out her confusion, make him her confessor, and have him help her sort this out, but his innocence makes her hesitate. As Toibin puts it: Could she possibly tell Jim what she had done such a short while earlier in Brooklyn? The only divorced people anyone in the town knew were Elizabeth Taylor and perhaps some other film stars. It might be possible to explain to Jim how she had come to be married, but he was someone who had never lived outside the town. His innocence and his politeness, both of which made him nice to be with, would actually be, she thought, limitations, especially if something as unheard of and out of the question, as far from his experience as divorce, was raised. The best thing to do, she thought, was to put the whole thing out of her mind.

Doris Lessing once made a comment about George Eliot, suggesting that Eliot would have been a better, deeper, writer, had she not been so moral. Innocence, it seems, can be, as both Eilis and Doris Lessing fear, a limitation, something that blocks empathy and insight. But is this true?

There's a stream of popular thought that strongly suggests that it is. In its crasser forms, you see this in the cynicism in our culture around virginity and innocence,

with both being simplistically identified with naiveté and lack of maturity. Indeed, lack of sexual experience is singled out as being the most suspect of all naiveties. Very common is the algebra which equates experience with "having been around" and equates "having been around" with understanding life. Our old catechisms taught that when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit their minds were darkened. Popular thought today emphasizes instead that their eyes were opened, that experience, licit or not, is what widens the mind. From that it is easy to move to the idea that the ideal confessor, the person who understands life, is someone who "has been around".

But we don't really believe this. Why? Because what we unconsciously look for in a confessor belies this. In seeking a confessor (not necessarily a confessor in the sacramental sense) we are not looking for another drinking buddy, a partner in crime, someone who will not judge us because his or her life is as is just as confused and messed-up as our own. In seeking a confessor, consciously or unconsciously, we are looking for someone whose understanding and acceptance will take us to another place, beyond our confusion and weakness. Deep down we know that our sin will not be healed by someone else's sin, but that it needs to meet instead something more innocent, more Godlike, like the embrace of the father of the prodigal son.

But not every kind of innocence meets this test. Eilis' unwillingness to reveal her struggles before Jim Farrell's innocence might indeed have been a wise decision. There is an innocence that, because it is deliberately blind at a certain point, is unhealthily immune to complexity. But there is an innocence too, and that is the kind we unconsciously seek out, that does meet the test.

A young seminarian struggling with sexual issues once wrote to Therese of Lisieux seeking her counsel. He hinted at his issues but told her: "If I shared with you what I am really struggling with, I fear that you would be horribly shocked and scandalized and would not write back to me." Therese wrote back: "If you think that way, then you don't really know me!"

The Cure d' Ars was a man of stunning simplicity and utter innocence. Yet he was perhaps the most sought-after confessor of his time. We long for just such a confessor, someone before whom we can freely pour out our complexity, but who doesn't at the same time share our sin.

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.

Financial Summary

October 30, 2011

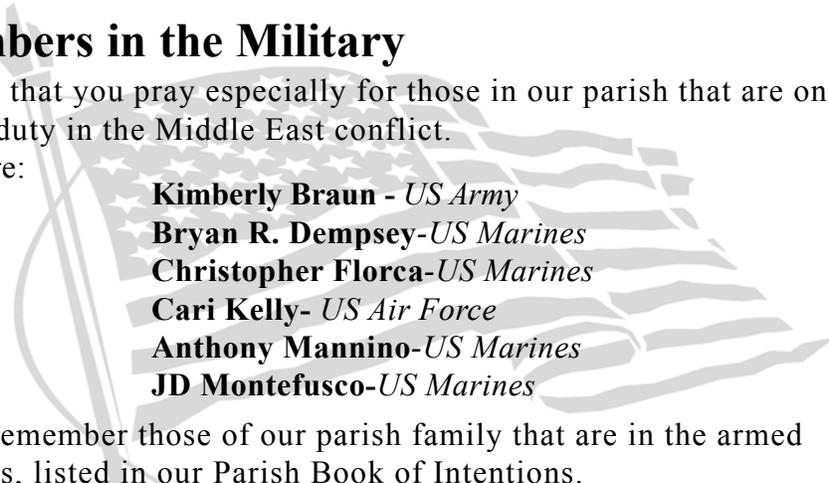
Weekly Collection	\$ 16,820.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (2,180.00)

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:



Kimberly Braun - *US Army*
Bryan R. Dempsey-*US Marines*
Christopher Florca-*US Marines*
Cari Kelly- *US Air Force*
Anthony Mannino-*US Marines*
JD Montefusco-*US Marines*

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

Safely Home

Our whole parish family rejoices with the Kerschner Family in gratitude for the safe return of Garrett from active duty.

Garrett Kerschner-*US Marines*, has returned to the United States safe and sound from his tour of duty in Iraq. Thank you, *Garrett*, for your most generous service to our country!

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

Technophobe

I have a phobia. I admit it. I don't know how to switch from the TV to the DVD player using the remotes. I don't understand the difference between an iPod, and an iPad. Two years ago, acting on impulse and against my better judgement, I purchased an iPhone when my cell phone stopped working. Did I really believe this small contraption would make my life easier? Do you have any idea how many hours I spent agonizing over programming contacts into it? Forget about downloading applications! I just wanted a simple phone from which I could make and receive calls. One winter morning, last year, I was rushing out the door when I slipped and fell down the stairs. Papers, calendar, folders were sent flying through the air, landing in piles of snow and ice. You have no idea how relieved I was when I returned home later that afternoon and saw my iPhone in a puddle of melting ice! I would have to get a new phone-a simple phone, a phone that received and made only phone calls! Call me a dinosaur, call me a technophobe, call me old!



In truth, sometimes I don't want to connect instantly, I like practicing the virtue of patience. Once in awhile I like to be lost, to wander around in new territory looking for a sign, for direction. If I don't have the answer to a question, I like to stretch my imagination and wonder about the possibilities.

Advent will be here before you know it. Why not consider entering into the silence, be 'tech free' for a day, a night or even a weekend! I wonder what you might discover about yourself, about members of your family, maybe even about your relationship with your God...

I have been hesitant to raise the topic of the holidays. Outreach is struggling to gear up for Thanksgiving. We have a list of 55 families who will need Thanksgiving dinners. Food donations are very low and have been for several months. We are all struggling. I know it, the volunteers know it and the people Outreach helps know it. The economy is in the pits, \$20.00 is barely enough to purchase bread, milk and eggs. Forget about the price of gas and God help you if you are heating your house with oil this winter. So, I put this question to the community: **How are we going to do this?**



If your budget has room to help Outreach with Thanksgiving, we suggest a donation of a "Thanksgiving Fixings Basket" for families of 2, 4 or 6. A "Fixings Basket" would include anything that you serve at your Thanksgiving table: vegetables, instant potatoes, canned gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce and dessert. If your budget allows, Outreach would gladly accept a turkey or ham. Donations will be accepted anytime up to Monday morning, November 21. Outreach volunteers will begin distributing baskets that afternoon.

Our parish has always been exceptionally generous. I truly believe that the scarcity in Outreach these months is a reflection of the struggle most of us are experiencing. Many are choosing to do without material items we once thought were necessities. We are finding it necessary to simplify in order to meet basic expenses, hopefully in the process we will discover a wealth not found in possessions- but found in relationship with Self-with others and with God. Choose wisely and turn off your phones!

-Mary McMahon

FILM IN A FLASH

Returns to Our Lady of Lourdes, West Islip!

Seeking Our Lady of Lourdes ALUMNI & ADULT filmmakers for an intensive workshop!

For the first time ever, former students & adults will unite to share talents, collaborate and create films!

Call 631.587.7200 to sign up!



Info@LearnFilmInAFlash.com

LearnFilmInAFlash.com

This class is intended for experienced filmmakers seeking to improve their abilities.

*Tuesdays 7-9pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, West Islip

* November 15 - December 6, 2011

* \$200 (cash or check - made payable to Film in a Flash)

* Access to Film in a Flash's production templates, instructors & online forums

Acting

Casting

Directing

Photography

Cinematography

Props

Lighting

Locations

Wardrobe

Set Design

Sound

Editing

Screenwriting

Pre-Production

Post Production

Introduction to Centering Prayer

Presented by: Sr. Kathy Madden & Sr. Mary Spratt
Saturday, November 12 at the Cenacle ,
310 Cenacle Road, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779-0430
For further information, please call 631.588.8366

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.

Good Shepherd Hospice: Volunteers Needed

*Have you always wanted to make a difference in someone else's life?
Are you that special person who is willing to walk along with our patients and families during their final journey?*

FIND OUT!

Please call the Volunteer Department at Good Shepherd Hospice at 631.465.6355 to learn more about our volunteer opportunities. Training and education are provided.

Dominican Village

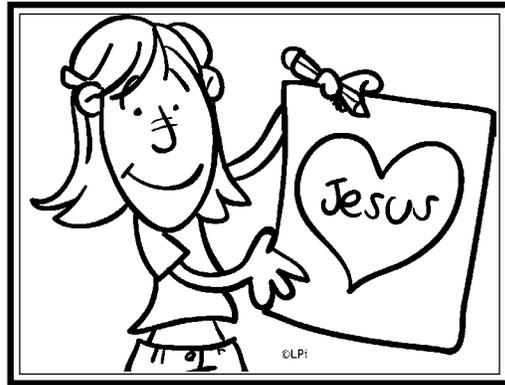
Please join us for an Open House on Thursday, November 10, from 1 PM until 3 PM. Dominican Village is an independent retirement community that offers assisted living and respite care, outstanding programs, all-inclusive services and bountiful amenities. For more information, or to schedule a tour at your convenience, call 631.842.6091.

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 **"The Saints in Our Lives."** 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

Make sure your heart is ready for Jesus. One day Jesus will come back. If your heart is empty and dark - without love - you will be left out. But if your heart is filled with God's love for other people, Jesus will bring you into heaven with him forever.



Mission for the Week

As a family, go through your closets and drawers. Take out all the clothes you don't wear anymore. Then donate them to charity.

Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

VIRGINS
LAMPS
FOOLISH

WISE
OIL JARS
BRIDEGROOM

WEDDING
DOOR
WATCH

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

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Prayer



God,
fill my heart with
your love. I want to
be ready for Jesus.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of
yourself helping
your parents set
the table because
you love Jesus.