

**"WHY DO YOU LET US WANDER,
O LORD, FROM YOUR WAYS?"**



ISAIAH 63:17

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
OUR LADY OF LOURDES-NOVEMBER 27, 2011**



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.

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.

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



First Sunday of Advent

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

An Advent Festival of Faith



Well-Known Musician and Composer

Dan Schutte

is coming to OLL!

Our Lady of Lourdes is happy to host an evening of music and prayer with Dan Schutte, one of the renowned “St. Louis Jesuits” and composer of liturgical favorites such as *Here I Am*, *Lord*, *Table of Plenty* and many others.

People who have attended Dan’s concerts have often commented that it seems more like an evening of music, prayer and spirituality than a concert. Dan introduces each song with stories about their creation and with moving reflections about our common journey of faith.

These events are a wonderful way of bringing community together to be spiritually renewed around the singing of Dan’s inspiring music.

Concert and Evening of Prayer

Friday, December 2

7:30 PM in the Church

Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 children and young adults

Tickets available at the Parish Office

Workshop for all OLL Liturgical Ministers

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

Tickets: free to all OLL Liturgical Ministers

Ordination to the Priesthood



Saturday, December 3
St. Agnes Cathedral
11 AM

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.

Please join the Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes in prayer and joyful celebration as Father John Sureau offers a Mass of Thanksgiving

Sunday, December 4
OLL Church
12:30 PM

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!

Native American Presentation

The Early Childhood Department at Our Lady of Lourdes School welcomed Kenneth Little Hawk for a special Native American presentation. Little Hawk captured the children’s attention with authentic storytelling, song and dance.



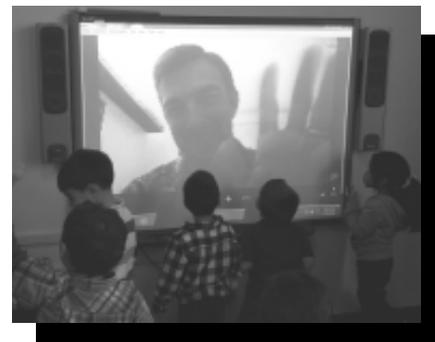
Day of the Dead

Students in Miss Nicole Verni’s 3rd grade Spanish Class at Our Lady of Lourdes School participated in a video conference that taught them traditional Mexican dances! Students have been learning about the Mexican holiday Day of the Dead so this conference was a great way to end this cultural holiday! Students learned three traditional dances that are a part of Day of the Dead!



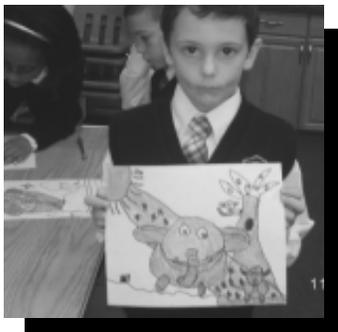
Veteran’s Day

Mrs. Lisa Pryhocki’s preschool class at Our Lady of Lourdes School learned about Veteran’s Day! They used SKYPE to talk to Mr. Ryan, a parent who is currently serving on active duty in Hawaii. His son Kevin was jumping for joy when he saw his dad on the Smart Board! The children sang “God Bless America” and learned how The Navy is helping people in other countries. They made flag cards and sent them to Mr. Ryan! Happy Veteran’s Day to all the men and women who have served our country!



Animal Action Contest

During the month of November, Mr. Vincent Montella’s Art Class created a colorful picture of an elephant for the Animal Action Contest. The International Fund for Animal Action Welfare (IFAW) provides young students around the world with the knowledge and tools they need to take positive action on behalf of animals and our shared environments. Founded in 1969, IFAW saves animals in crisis around the world. IFAW rescues individual animals, works to prevent cruelty to animals, and advocates for the protection of wildlife and their habitats.



Our Lady of Lourdes School



Breakfast with Santa

Sunday, December 11

OLL School Cafeteria



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

Buy your tickets early, seating is limited
\$7 per person - Children 3 and under - FREE

There will be three seatings:

8 AM- 9:45 AM and 10:15 AM-11:45 AM and 12:15 PM-2 PM

If you have any questions, call April at 917.449.5015

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

Family Name: _____

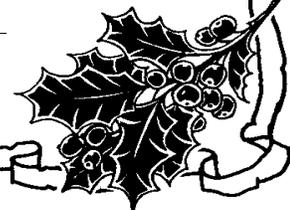
Phone number: _____ email _____

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

Which seating will you be attending?:

8 AM _____ 10:15 AM _____ 12:15 PM _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____



Serving the Body of Christ...

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

We congratulate and welcome our parish's newest Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion—*Lori Gargaro and Marisa Gargaro* who have been commissioned to serve as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion in our parish! Pray for them as they begin this important ministry in the life of OLL.

“I was sick and you visited me”

On **Monday evening, November 28 at 6PM**, there will be a training program at Good Samaritan Hospital for those who would like to visit OLL hospitalized parishioners. This is a wonderful and very fulfilling ministry.

We encourage you to consider this work which provides a very fine link between parish and parishioners in the hospital. If you have additional questions about our OLL hospital visiting program, please contact Sister Betty or Sister Margaret at the SAGE Ministry office, 661.3224, extension 122 or sage@ollchurch.org. Thank you for considering this great ministry opportunity.



Mass for Bereaved Parents

Saturday, December 10

OLL Church-- 10:30AM

The holidays are often times of great celebration. But, for many, particularly those who have lost a child, the holidays are painfully hard. They are a reminder of our losses and a reminder of how our lives are perhaps a little less full. Whether you have lost a child in childhood or adulthood, to stillbirth or miscarriage, this Mass will be celebrated to bring you God's peace and consolation.

We invite all who have lost a child to come and gather together for this special Mass on **Saturday, December 10 at 10:30 AM**. Mass will be followed by refreshments. Please feel free to invite family and friends.

For more information, or to let us know you will be able to attend, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224, extension 121. Let's pray that through prayer and coming together, the challenges of the holidays can become a little lighter and that we may be strengthened by God's love and presence.

Advent Alive

Come join us at Children's Liturgy of the Word at 9:30 AM Sunday Mass. All children ages 4 yrs to 4th grade (or shorter than Fr. Bob) will follow the living scriptures on OLL's channel WGOD in the Parish Center.

A character from the readings of the day will light our Advent Wreath at the beginning of Mass and then will be interviewed during the Children's Liturgy of the Word in the Parish Center. Our special guest today is *The Watchman*.

The four week season of Advent, beginning November 27, will help the children and their families "prepare" for the true meaning of the Christmas Celebration.



Saint Nicholas Day

St. Nicholas was called "the secret gift-giver." The night of his feast he would fill the children's shoes with sweets and goodies. All the children of the parish are invited to come to the Church on December 6 at 7 PM to celebrate St. Nicholas.

Wear your pajamas and make sure you have shoes or slippers for St. Nick to fill. Bring your favorite Christmas cookie.

Come and see St. Nicholas and learn about Christmas traditions from around the world. Don't forget - Tuesday, December 6 at 7 PM in the Church

Family Liturgy and Children's Liturgy of the Word

We need your help -

At the 9:30 AM Family Liturgy each Sunday, we invite all of the children in attendance to be dismissed for their own Liturgy of the Word. There is a committee of parishioners that take responsibility for the planning, and for the Scriptural presentation itself.

Of course, everyone is invited to be on the committee or to be a Scripture leader, but what we really need is: People to help escort the children to the Parish Center and to stay in the Parish Center while the Scripture Leaders offer the presentation. You would only be scheduled about once a month, maybe every six weeks. You would escort and help with the children. Please consider this an easy way to contribute to our Family Liturgy; the entire committee would be extremely grateful!



Nocturnal Adoration

Nocturnal Adoration will follow the 5 PM Mass on **Saturday, December 3**, concluding with Benediction at 9:50 PM. Please come and pray with us. All are invited and welcome! Bring a friend.

Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, November 28**, at **12:30 PM in the Spiritual Life Center**.

Ministry of Consolation

During the month of November, we remember all of the faithful departed - especially those from our Parish Family. As you leave Mass today, be sure to stop by the bulletin board in the Narthex and see the names of our friends and loved ones who have left us during this past year. Let us continue to pray for them, and their families, now and always!

Finding My Way to Bethlehem *An Advent Evening of Reflection*



Fr. Pat Amabile
Tuesday, December 13
7:30 PM – Church

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

We invite you to join in our Advent journey, this evening, by bringing your favorite cookies to share with all in a spirit of *joy, love, and peace*. In this same spirit of sharing...copies of your cookie recipe will be available... so please email us your recipe at religiously@ollchurch.org or drop off a copy of your recipe at the Religious Education Office by Friday, December 9.

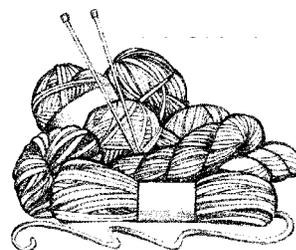
Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Join us ...

Wednesday, December 14 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, November 29**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

Parents Night Out *to benefit Parish Outreach*

Senior/Cadette Girl Scout Troop 1082 will once again offer their babysitting services to help parents finish up some holiday shopping or just enjoy a few hours without the kids! Parents Night Out will be **Friday, December 16 from 6:30 until 10 PM in the Parish Center**.

There will be crafts, games, movies and light snacks provided by the troop. Children must be potty trained. We can only accept a limited number of children so register ASAP by contacting Susan Hahn at 631.667.0736. Cost – monetary donations will be collected at drop off to support Parish Outreach – please be as generous as you possibly can, especially at this time of year. Thank you.

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.

Mass Prayers

(Text in **bold** represents the wording)

GREETING

Priest: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And with your spirit.**

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and **on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you, we bless you, we adore you,
we glorify you, we give you thanks for your
great glory,**

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ,

Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

Son of the Father,

you take away the **sins** of the world, have
mercy on us;

**you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;**

you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all **things visible and invisible.**

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only **Begotten** Son of God,
born of the Father **before all ages.**

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,

consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit

was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and
became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day

in **accordance with** the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory

to judge the living and the dead

and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and
the Son,

who with the Father and the Son

is adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism

for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection

of the dead and the life of the world to

come. Amen.

and Responses

that has changed in the Roman Missal.)

INVITATION TO PRAYER (Response)

May the Lord accept the sacrifice
at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name, for our good
and the good of all his **holy** Church.

PREFACE DIALOGUE

Priest: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: *Let us give thanks
to the Lord our God.*

People: **It is right and just.**

HOLY, HOLY HOLY

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of **hosts**.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

MYSTERY OF FAITH (Memorial Acclamation)

Priest: ***The mystery of faith.***

People:

B – When we eat this Bread
and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your death,
O Lord,
until you come **again.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Priest: ***Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away
the sins of the world.***

***Blessed are those called
to the supper of the Lamb.***

All: Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and **my soul** shall be healed.

Having difficulty with the changes? It may help to remember the most important things. Regardless of what words we use, the miracle of Jesus making himself present to us and coming into our hearts in Holy Eucharist has not changed. The mystery of Jesus present in his Word and in our community of faith has not changed. The challenge to take Jesus to the world through our loving actions and our own transformation has not changed. These are the important things. So relax, be at peace, be kind, and keep it in perspective.



Upcoming Marriages

*Brittany O'Hara, and
Anthony Notaroberta, both OLL*



Rest In Peace

Grace DiNapoli died on November 13 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 17. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and entire family.

Catherine E. Whitman died on November 14 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 17. We extend our prayers to her husband, George, 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, November 28

8:00 AM Andy Duong

Tuesday, November 29

8:00 AM Timothy and Jill Vaughan (living)

Wednesday, November 30

Saint Andrew, apostle

8:00 AM Louis Gambardella and
Robert LoPorcaro

Thursday, December 1

8:00 AM Vito Mastrorocco

Friday, December 2

8:00 AM Heim and Jensen Family

Saturday, December 3

8:00 AM Carol Jackson, Thomas Frascinella,
Rosario Speciale, William Massaro,
Kevin and Christine Blaes, Mary Brush,
Sylvia Barraca, Nancy Cortina,
Frank Osker, Charles Rosenthal

5:00 PM Rose Giacalone

Sunday, December 4

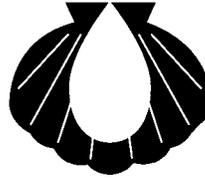
8:00 AM John Meditz

9:30 AM William Massaro

11:00 AM Joseph A. Fioravanti

12:30 PM Margaret Varley

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Marie Setteducate,
Lawrence D'Esposito, Helen Mihalik,
John Pozsgai, Carol Haimowitz, Doris Killane,
Blanca Burgos, William G. Salvemini, Carmilla Dinato



Baptism

Kayla Paige Blanco

Peter and Jeanetta

Jason Ryan Farrell

James and Nancy

Abigail Nicole Gerace

James and Bridget

Aiden Michael Nilsen

Michael and Denise

Ava Victoria Nilsen

Michael and Denise

Juliette Cecilia Callahan

Joseph and Susan

Charles Thomas Keenan IV

Charles and Michelle

1st Sunday of Advent



Although these reflections usually focus on the Gospels, during the Advent/Christmas season this year, we'll turn to the first reading, which generally comes from the prophet Isaiah. Biblical scholars have long recognized that the Book of the Prophet Isaiah comes out of three different historical periods of the people of Israel. The first part (chapters 1-39) was written in the years before the Exile in Babylon. The inhabitants of Jerusalem were well off, confident, and self-reliant. Worship of God was an afterthought. Chapters 40-55 were written during the Exile, which lasted from 587 BC to 538 BC. This section of Isaiah is filled with words of comfort and consolation. The final part of Isaiah (chapters 56-66) was composed after the return to Jerusalem and includes some of the most hopeful writing in the Old Testament, with promises of a new heaven and a new earth.

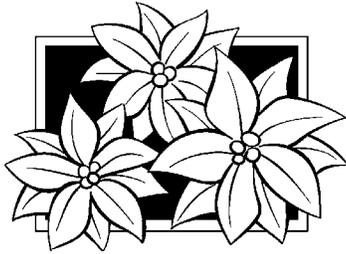
It's little wonder that the church turns to the latter part of Isaiah during the Advent/Christmas season, when we celebrate the birth of the Savior who is the fulfillment of all our longing.

Much was made earlier this year of the prognostications of radio preacher Harold Camping who suggested that the world would end on May 21. Some people were so caught up in his prediction that they stopped working and spent their time spreading the message of judgment day. Camping's message resonated with those who were looking for certainty in a very uncertain world.

The writer of the third part of Isaiah had to contend with the same thing. The Jewish people had just returned to Jerusalem after fifty years of captivity. Their city was in ruins, and their future was unsure. Isaiah proclaimed that they should focus on the Lord, and at the same time rebuild their city. It is that balance of the heavenly and the worldly that we must especially strive for at this time of year in our own culture. 2011 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of November 27, 2011

Sunday:	Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37
Monday:	Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8



Christmas Flower Offerings

Christmas Flower offerings received by **Sunday, December 11** will be published in the Christmas bulletin. Offerings received after that date, will be published in subsequent bulletins.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Joyce Petersen*. 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 ...

Nicole Cerny, 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, Anne Losee, Christopher J. Maher, Marge Marotta, Tony Marotta, Vicky Massaro, John McNevin, Margaret Meringolo, Denise Michelback, Arlene Monte, Rae Morris, Patricia Muller, Andy Nolfo, Evelyn Nonnon, Peter Porzio, Joe Radosti, Teresa Saraceno, Ann Marie Schiraldi, Baby Isabella Shaw, Angelo Tedesco, Nancy Turano, Joseph Yezek

Virgin Birth

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Christian tradition has always emphasized that Jesus was born of a virgin. The Messiah could only come forth from a virgin's womb. The main reason for this emphasis of course is to highlight that Jesus did not have a human father and that his conception was from the Holy Spirit.

But there is often a secondary emphasis as well, less-founded in scripture. Too common within that notion is the idea that Jesus was born from a virgin because somehow sexuality is impure, that it is too base and earthy to have a connection to such a sacred event. The holy must be kept separate from what is base. Jesus wasn't just born of a virgin because he did not have a human father; he was also born of a virgin because his birth demanded a purity that, by definition, rules out sex. Our concept of the virgin birth has been infiltrated by a piety which, for all kinds of reasons, cannot accord sexuality to the holy.

What's wrong with this? Beyond denigrating the God-given goodness of sexuality, it misses one of the major aspects of revelation within the virgin birth. There is a moral challenge within the virgin birth, something which invites imitation rather than admiration.

Christian tradition emphasizes a virgin birth (just as it emphasizes a virgin burial, a virgin tomb to parallel the virgin womb) not because it judges that sexuality is too impure and earthy to produce something holy. Rather, beyond wanting to emphasize that Jesus had no human father, the Christian tradition wants to emphasize what kind of heart and soul is needed to create the space wherein something divine can be born. What is at issue is not celibacy rather than sex, but patience rather than impatience, reverence rather than irreverence, respect rather than disrespect, and accepting to live in tension rather than capitulating and compensating in the face of unrequited desire. A virgin's heart lets love unfold according to its own dictates rather than manipulating it. A virgin's heart lets gift be gift rather than somehow, however subtly, raping it. A virgin's heart accepts the pain of inconsummation rather than sleeping with the bride before the wedding. That, in the end, is what constitutes virginal space, the space within which God can be born.

Thirty years ago, trying to express this, I wrote a poem entitled, *Virgin Birth*. Today I blush at the youthful idealism in that poem; but, on my better days, I take counsel from the young man who wrote those lines:

Virgin Birth

*The perennial paradox, peculiar to this Father and Son
Specialists in confounding human wisdom withdrawn
from wonder:*

A virgin gives birth, not to sterility, but to a Messiah.

What has virginity to do with giving birth? Nothing!

*When wisdom wastes words wandering towards a truth
that will not set us free.*

*Virginity and inconsummation: Incomplete heart and
flesh,*

wrestle with a God who has no flesh

who won't let flesh meet flesh

ache, awaiting completeness

*to stave off sterility, truly the unforgivable sin against the
spirit of life.*

*But sterility becomes pregnant with yearning for the
spirit that sleeps with God at night and*

*impregnates with messianic spirit those patient enough
to yearn and sweat lonely tears*

rather than ruin gift

with impatience.

*Only virgins' wombs bring forth messiahs because they
alone live in advent*

waiting a delaying bridegroom

late, hopelessly beyond the eleventh hour:

Still the virgin's womb waits

Refusing all counterfeit lovers and impatience

which demand flesh on flesh and

a divine Kingdom on human terms.

Messiahs are only born

in virginity's space

within virginity's patience

which let God be God and

love be gift.

Why a virgin's womb for a Messiah's birth? Why an obsession with purity within the Christian tradition? Because, as we all know only too well, our lives are full of most everything that is not virginal or pure: impatience, disrespect, irreverence, manipulation, cynicism, grandiosity; and, as we all know too, within this matrix no messiah can be gestated.

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

November 20, 2011

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

Due to a change in the bulletin deadline, the collection amount for November 20 will be published in an upcoming bulletin.

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.



In addition to our Parish website at www.ollchurch.org, please visit us on Facebook at **The Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes**.

Click “like” and you will receive the latest news on upcoming Parish events and information.

Hand-made Christmas Cards

For information about Christmas cards, designed by a prisoner to help needy children, please e-mail Sister Camille D'Arienzo, RSM at Cherilife@aol.com.

The Treasures of Christmas at Sagtikos Manor

Get in the holiday spirit and take a guided tour of the Manor all decked out for this year's theme, "The Treasures of Christmas". The tours will be on Saturday, **December 10 and Sunday, December 11, from 11 AM – 3 PM** (tours begin every 15 minutes). Sponsored by the Sagtikos Manor Historical Society and Suffolk County Parks Department. For more info please call 631.661.5169 or www.sagtikosmanor.com.

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.

Long Island Catholic Donation Sunday

For fifty years, The Long Island Catholic has been Long Island's trustworthy source of Catholic teaching, news and commentary. You can share your Catholic faith with the next generation, by continuing or beginning your family's subscribing membership in The Long Island Catholic. Just place your TLIC envelope, with name, address, and donation of \$20 or more, in your parish's **TLIC Sunday collection the weekend of December 3/4**. Or, if you like, make your donation/subscription online by visiting us at www.licatholic.org. We'll make sure you are glad you did!

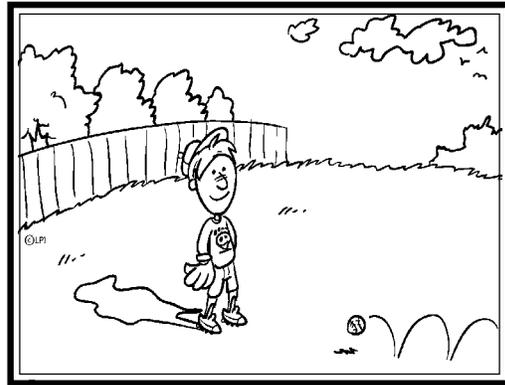
Religion & Rock

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 "**Responsibility.**" 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

When you play on a baseball team, you learn how to pay attention. Your coach reminds you and your teammates to stay ready. You learn to watch the ball. Those are good lessons to learn, because Jesus wants you to pay attention, too. Keep your eyes and your mind on Jesus, so you're ready when he comes.



Mission for the Week



Play a quick game of baseball. Cheer for one another. End the game with a prayer that you will keep your eyes on Jesus.

Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

WATCH
READY
TIME

COME
MASTER
EVENING

MIDNIGHT
DAWN
MORNING

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

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Prayer



Jesus,
help me to
stay ready for you.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture
of people who
help you stay
ready for Jesus.