



ISAIAH 40:2

***"HER SERVICE IS AT AN END;
HER GUILT IS EXPIATED."***

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
OUR LADY OF LOURDES • DECEMBER 4, 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

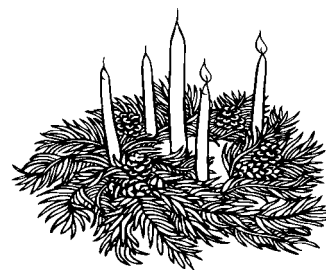
School Office

Rita Spera

Religious Education Office

Lori Walsh

Parish Office



Second 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



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.



R.C.I.A. – The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Our Family Grows

Last Sunday, those at the 11 AM Mass, participated in the Rite of Acceptance with our candidates and catechumens of the R.C.I.A. - The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. They are gathering every Sunday for 11AM Mass and will be “dismissed” after the Homily to pray and share on the Sunday readings. Every Monday, they will meet for catechesis and reflection. Please pray for them, by name, as they continue on this journey of new life and hope!

Our “Catechumens”(to be fully initiated into the Church) are:

Jonathan Amdur and Foong Lin Lam

and “Candidates” (those to receive Eucharist and/or Confirmation) are:

Charles Frith and Tina Hennessey

Ordination to the Priesthood

4 December 2011

Dear Parish Family:

By the time you read this, God willing, I will have been ordained a priest on Saturday, December 3rd at the Cathedral of St. Agnes by



Bishop Murphy. What a wonderful day for our entire parish family and so much of what has happened over these past few years is, in large part, because of your prayers, presence and support. Please never doubt that!

We have much to celebrate these days and our journey continues! I want to invite you to be part of some of the upcoming events on this journey. Next Sunday, I will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at 10:00 A.M. at **St. Anne's R.C. Church in Garden City**. The address is 35 Dartmouth Street, Garden City, NY and the web address is stannesgc.org. It would be great for you to come and meet the community that has become such a part of my life over the past few months. (You'll probably meet many of them today at OLL!)

Then, on Saturday, December 17th at 5:00 P.M., I will offer another Mass of Thanksgiving at **St. Anne's in Brentwood**. You know from my writing to you last Summer how wonderful an experience I had in St. Anne's. Here, again, it would be wonderful if you're free to join in this celebration. The address here is 88 Second Avenue, Brentwood, NY. (You'll probably meet many people from this St. Anne's at OLL this weekend, too!)

Thank you, again, for all you have done for me! Let's continue to pray for and with one another as we continue on this Advent journey, preparing the way of the Lord!

Peace –

Fr. John Sureau

The First Thanksgiving

Mrs. Francine Sullivan's second grade class attended a very special Virtual Field Trip. Students participated in a Video Conference with the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia to learn all about "The First Thanksgiving." Students interacted with the instructor as she taught about the Pilgrims and Indians, and as a result created a special Thanksgiving beaded bracelet that tells the story of the Pilgrims difficult journey. What a great learning experience!



Our Lady of Lourdes School Christmas Season Sale

Come see and purchase our beautiful fresh wreaths, poinsettias, cemetery blankets and pillows. These items will be for sale **after Masses next weekend, December 10/11 in the back of the All-Purpose Room.** Your support is greatly appreciated!



Our Lady of Lourdes School

Breakfast with Santa

Christmas Shopping Spree Raffle!

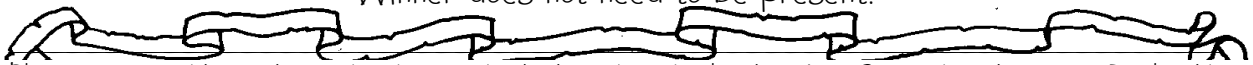
Who couldn't use some extra cash for Christmas? Take a chance on our Christmas Shopping Spree Raffle! **Purchase 5 tickets for \$25.00.**

First Prize - 30% cash Second Prize - 15% cash Third Prize - 5% cash

You can win up to 50% cash prize

Winning tickets will be announced at the third seating of this year's Breakfast with Santa being held in our school cafeteria on Sunday, December 11, 2011.

Winner does not need to be present!



Please Tear off this portion of the sheet and submit to the school office- Attn: BWS Shopping Spree Raffle with your check for \$25.00. Check should be made payable to Our Lady of Lourdes School. All school families will receive credit towards their mandatory requirement for this purchase.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

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 \$ _____





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 religioused@ollchurch.org or drop off a copy of your recipe at the Religious Education Office by Friday, December 9.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, December 6**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

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, December 11**. 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!**

Christmas Poster Contest

Holy Name Society Diocesan Union

"Christmas is Jesus' Birthday"

Every year posters are made by students up to eighth grade, from all over the Diocese of Rockville Centre, including children from our School and Parish.

The Award Ceremony this year will be sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes, and be held here in our school cafeteria on Saturday, January 8, 2012 from 2 PM-5 PM. The former President for Our Lady of Lourdes Holy Name Society, Ronald Koraus, will be honored posthumously, with the award for Outstanding Service-Man of the Year, by the Diocesan Union.

Please join us in honoring Ron and celebrating the faith of our young people. The posters submitted this year were beautifully made, and show that our children still know the meaning of Christmas. Mark your calendars-

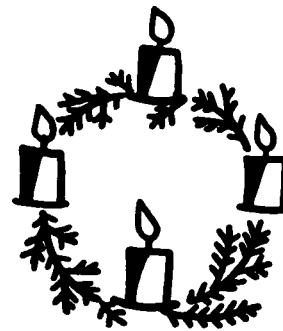
Saturday, January 8, 2012 from 2 PM to 5 PM in the school cafeteria.

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 **John the Baptist**.

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.

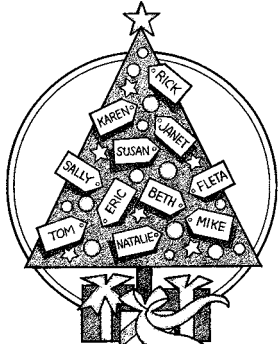
Don't forget - **Tuesday, December 6 at 7 PM in the Church**

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!



The Giving Tree

In anticipation of the great event: Christmas!

The Giving Tree will be decorated and filled with tags so that you may help those in need this Christmas.

In the upcoming weeks, volunteers will be sorting the gifts. If you are interested in becoming an 'elf'-please watch the bulletin for further details.

November Donations: 2011

- Helen Bukowski has made a donation to Outreach in honor of *Fr. John Sureau*.
- Deacon John and Anne DeGuardi have made a donation to Outreach in tribute to *Fr. John Sureau*.
- Susan Castonguay has made a donation to Outreach in loving memory of her husband, *Jerry*.
- Muriel and Vinny Meade have made a donation to Outreach in loving memory of the *deceased members of the Hallinor and Meade families*.
- Mr. and Mrs. Francis Sweeney have made a donation to Outreach in recognition of the *Ordination of Fr. John Sureau*.
- The Hulse Family has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Bill Philips*.
- The Hetterich Family has made a Thanksgiving donation to Outreach.
- Donald Eck has made a donation to Outreach in loving memory of his wife, *Justine*.
- Frances Hodgkins has made a donation to Outreach in loving memory of her husband, *John*.
- Deacon Jack, Celeste, John and Lily Meehan have made a donation to Outreach in honor of *Fr. John Sureau*.
- Outreach has received a *Thanksgiving donation* from Eddie's Pond Maintenance, Inc.
- Michele Bencivinni, Esq. has made a donation to Outreach in memory of holidays shared with *Nancy Bencivinni and Jay Perri*.
- Maria Lucie's class at Westbrook Elementary School have made a *Holiday donation* to Outreach.
- The Sisters of Charity have made a donation to Outreach in honor of *John Sureau*.
- Franklin and Paula Edwards have made a donation to Outreach in thanksgiving for "*our neighbors and friends during our time of need.*"
- Lorraine and Bob Petito have made a donation to Outreach in honor of *John Sureau's Ordination to the Priesthood*.

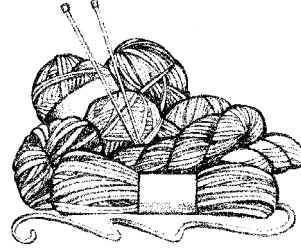
Prayer Shawl Ministry

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.



Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of July will be on **Wednesday, December 5 from 1- 3 PM.** All are invited and welcome!

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 PM until 9 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.

Nocturnal Adoration

National Night of Prayer for Life

Nocturnal Adoration will hold a National Night of Prayer for Life from 8:30 PM until 1 AM on **Thursday, December 8.** Please come and pray with us. All are invited and welcome! Bring a friend.



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

Alfred J. Waters died on November 14 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 19. We extend our prayers to his wife, Marion, children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Diana Hogan died on November 16 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 18. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Susan C. Aviza died on November 20 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 26. We extend our prayers to her husband, Paul, children, and entire family.

Carl A. Hotton died on November 24 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 28. We extend our prayers to his wife, Patricia, children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Lucille Trupia died on November 24 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 28. We extend our prayers to her children, 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, December 5

8:00 AM LaRocca and Sweeney Family

Tuesday, December 6

Saint Nicholas, bishop

8:00 AM David Michael Calogero

Wednesday, December 7

Saint Ambrose, bishop and doctor of the Church

8:00 AM Lodespoto Family

5:00 PM Pearl Harbor Day

Thursday, December 8

*The Immaculate Conception of
the Blessed Virgin Mary*

8:00 AM Herbert Olsen

7:30 PM Laura & Charles Abela

Friday, December 9

Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

8:00 AM John Lovari

Saturday, December 10

8:00 AM Frances Caccavo, William E. Tesauo, Catherine DiMola,
Maria DeLeva, Catherine King, Gani Viloera, Alvatina delos Santos Valdes

5:00 PM Michael & Frances Torina
Fr. Mike Vetrano

Sunday, December 11

8:00 AM Gene Langan
Fr. Michael Holzmann

9:30 AM Joseph & Patricia Santangelo
Fr. Michael Holzmann

11:00 AM Jo Kelley
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

12:30 PM Joseph DiGangi
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Clifford Wulff (*10th anniv.*), Maria Badillo,
Frederick Ansman, Gloria Walden, Fanny Chiarella, Fonti Piazza,
Elizabeth Seifert, Catherine Whittman, Salvatore Mannino
Fr. Bob Scheckenback



Feast of the Immaculate Conception Thursday, December 8

(holy day of obligation)

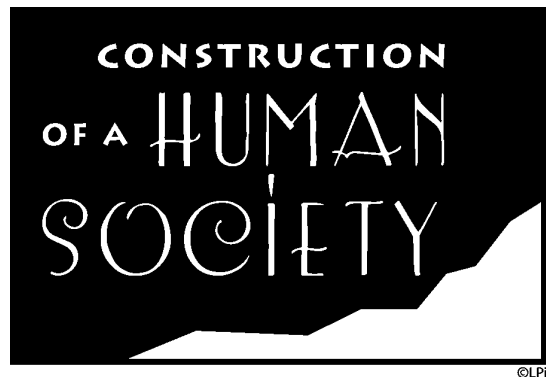
Mass Schedule:

Wednesday, December 7

Mass 5 PM (vigil)

Thursday, December 8

Mass at 8 AM and 7:30 PM



2nd Sunday of Advent

Imagine your whole city being deported after being defeated. Every person of any means is packed up with whatever few possessions they can gather and are transported away. Only a few of the very elderly, the very poor, or the very simple are left behind. This was the experience of the population of Jerusalem in 587 BC after the city was defeated in battle by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. The inhabitants of Jerusalem were carried off in captivity to the area south of Baghdad in what is now modern-day Iraq. Such is always the way of conquerors, who treat the human population as the spoils of war.

It is in this context that the prophecies of the second part of the Book of Isaiah are written (chapters 40-55). These are words of consolation to a people in exile. Today's first reading begins second Isaiah with the words, "Give comfort to my people." The well-known words about valleys being filled in and mountains made low reflect the arduous trek across the desert that the captives endured at the hands of the Babylonian army. A highway in the desert would have been a blessing!

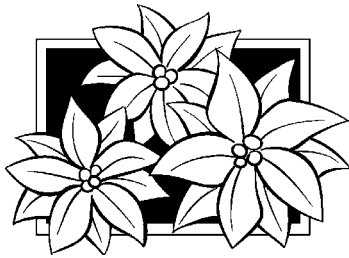
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. used this same prophecy from Isaiah in his "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963. Through Isaiah's words, he expressed the hope of generations of African-Americans for the fulfillment of equality in their own land.

As giant highway projects show, we have the capacity to level mountains and fill in valleys. Building a highway in the desert was accomplished by US Army engineers early in the war in Iraq.

But the real construction of a human society rooted in God's love still needs to go on. There is much inequality that we need to address. Isaiah continually reminded the people of Israel that it would be God who acted, but that humankind must cooperate with God's grace. That challenge remains the same for us today! 2011 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of December 4, 2011

Sunday:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday:	Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday:	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



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 *Dottie Collins*. 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, Baby Jonathan J. Lavin, 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

Longing, Desire, and the Face of God

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

“Like a deer yearns for flowing streams, so my soul yearns for you my God.” “My soul keeps vigil for you in the night.”

We’ve all heard these lines, prayed them, and in our more reflective moments tried to mean them; but, mostly, our hearts have belied those words. We haven’t really, at least not in our more conscious thoughts and feelings, longed for God with any real intensity and in our beds at night our souls are generally keeping vigil for someone other than God. But, for this, we need not apologize.

We are human beings, not angels, and nature and instinct conspire to direct our gaze and our desire towards this earth. It is persons and things of this earth for which our hearts long with intensity. Moreover, our longings are wide and promiscuous. We ache for a lot of things, though the most intense longings mostly have to do with yearning for a soulmate and with emotional and sexual consummation.

Those desires, at first glance at least, generally do not appear as holy or God-directed. Indeed, they seem the opposite. What we long for with deep intensity and what our souls keep vigil for in the night is, most times, someone or something much more earthy and erotic than what we associate with God. For example, when we see someone hauntingly beautiful or when we experience strong sexual attraction, what are we feeling inside of ourselves in the face of that radiance? For whom is our soul keeping vigilance at that moment? For what are we longing?

We dare not associate what we are feeling at those times with the holy sentiments we express in our psalms and prayers. And we are the poorer for that, religiously and humanly. First of all, that desire, far from being unhealthy, is in fact a sign of health. Beauty is meant to be honored; we are meant to feel that powerful attraction and pull, including its sexual component. Beauty, of course, is also meant to be respected and not violated. Our capacity to honor beauty is a sign of health and our capacity to not violate that beauty is a test of that health, though that’s not the point here.

The point here is that, consciously and unconsciously, we understand these powerful earthy and erotic attractions as taking us away from God and as something we need to give up in order to move closer to God. Our

desire for God and our more earthy and sexual desires are perceived as competitors, incompatible, demanding that we renounce one for the other. That misconception, more than we imagine, hurts us.

Why? Because everything that is beautiful and attractive, however earthy and sexual, is contained inside of God. God is the creator of all that is beautiful, attractive, colorful, sexual, witty, brilliant, and intelligent. All that we are attracted to on this earth, including the beauty that allures us sexually, is found inside of God and our attraction and longing for it here on earth is, in the end, a longing for God. Our souls need to keep vigil at a deeper level.

This is what many of the saints and mystics intuited when they felt such intensity in their longing for union with God. All that is beautiful and attractive is found inside of God and is found there in a form that exceeds our experience of it here. The saints and mystics rightly intuited that God is more interesting, more beautiful, and more sexual than anyone or anything here on earth. Hence their longing for God could indeed be compared to a thirsty deer longing for a drink from a cool stream.

We experience the same longing and the same intensity, except we never associate those feelings with God, though we should. The ache that we feel within ourselves in an obsession, in a powerful sexual desire, and in the face of stunning beauty is, ultimately, a yearning for God because everything we desire, be it ever so human, fleshly, or sexual, is inside of God, the author of all that is good. Our souls too thirst for God and they keep vigil for God at night, even though mostly we are unaware of it.

But we never really understand this. If we did, we would, like the saints and mystics of old, become obsessed with God, instead of being obsessed only with what we find attractive here on earth. Some of us are obsessed with beauty, some of us are obsessed with finding a soulmate, some of us are obsessed with sex, some of us are obsessed with truth, some of us are obsessed with justice, and some of us are obsessed with the energy, color, and pleasures of this world. But very few of us are obsessed, or even much interested, in God who is the author of beauty, sexuality, intimacy, truth, justice, energy, color, and pleasure.

Why aren’t we more interested in the One of which these things are only a pale reflection?

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	\$ 15,179.00
Weekly Budget	<u>-\$ 19,000.00</u>
+/- for the week	\$ (3,821.00)

November 27, 2011

Weekly Collection	\$ 19,305.00
Weekly Budget	<u>-\$ 19,000.00</u>
+/- for the week	\$ 305.00

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.



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!

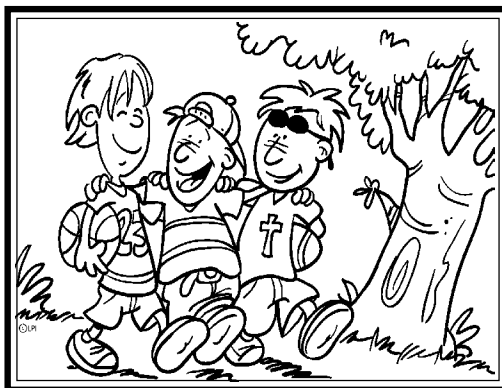
Religion & Rock

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 **"Being Prepared."** 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

John the Baptist had an important message. When you make sinful mistakes, and when you turn away from God, stop. Learn from your mistakes, and do things God's way. Were you bossy or rude? Be thoughtful and kind. Did you tell a lie? Be honest instead. God wants you to share his love with other people.



Mission for the Week

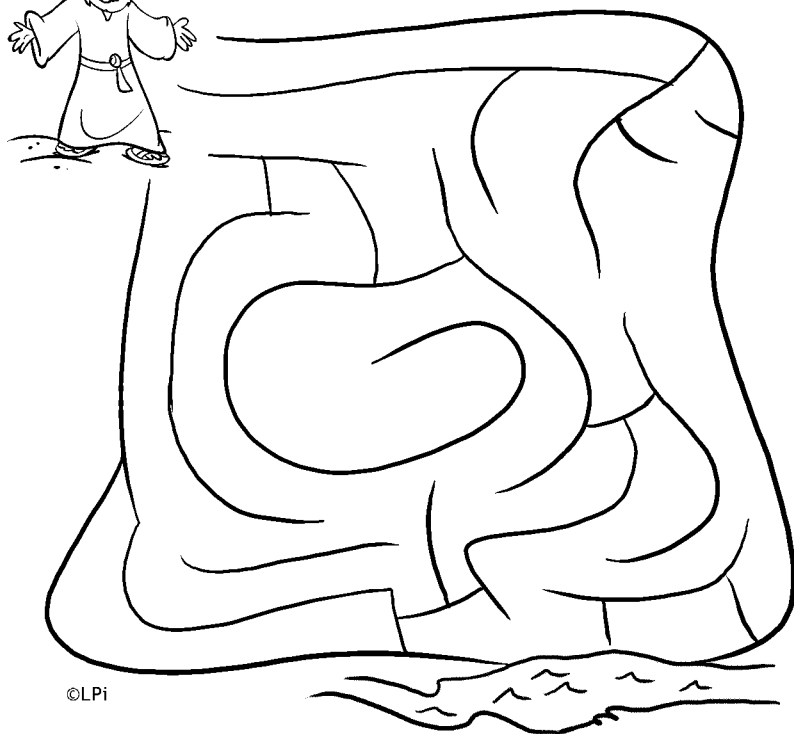
Ask your family if you have hurt their feelings.

Ask them to forgive you.



Puzzle

Help John the Baptist find his way to the Jordan River.



©LPI

Prayer



Jesus,
help me to learn
from my mistakes.
Thank you for
forgiving me.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of
yourself being kind
to a friend.