

**HE HAS SENT ME**



**TO HEAL  
THE BROKENHEARTED.**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
OUR LADY OF LOURDES-DECEMBER 11, 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.*

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## *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.*

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## *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

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**Rev. Patsy Amabile**  
Associate Pastor

**Rev. Robert Scheckenback**  
Associate Pastor

**Rev. Ambrose Cabildo**  
In Residence

**Rev. Michael Holzmann**  
In Residence

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**Deacon John DeGuardi**

**Deacon Tom Lucie**

**Deacon Jack Meehan**

Coordinator of Stewardship

**Deacon John Teufel**

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**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**

Business Manager

**Robin Reynolds-Brennan**

Coordinator of Worship

OLL Choir Director

**Vita Scorcio**

Ministry Spiritual Director

**Sr. Betty Toohig**

Senior Ministry-SAGE

## *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 Scorcio

Fr. Mike Vetrano

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## *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



## **Third 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](mailto:ParishOffice@ollchurch.org)

fax: 661.7143

website: [www.ollchurch.org](http://www.ollchurch.org)

### **Our Lady of Lourdes School**

587.7200 (option 2)

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: [lkrol@ollschool.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Sage@ollchurch.org)



## 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 this weekend, December 10/11, in the back of the All-Purpose Room.** Your support is greatly appreciated!



## Music Program at Our Lady of Lourdes

Our Lady of Lourdes School has an exciting music program!

We offer band, guitar, choir, chorus, violin, piano and recorder. Our teachers for these awesome programs are Ms. Anne Marie Buonaspina, Ms. Maggie Fatsis, Mr. Adam Nadler and Ms. Rachel Pantorno. Choir is on Tuesdays. Chorus is one period a week, violin is once a week, piano is every Friday and recorders are every Wednesday. For band you get to pick your own instruments. The choices are: the flute, clarinet, trumpet, saxophone, drums, trombone, and the bells.

Ms. Buonaspina puts music on the smart board so we can practice the different songs we are learning. For choir we are learning songs to sing during our school mass. In chorus we are learning Christmas songs for our concert in December. In cello and violin and we are learning how to play the song Dynamite. Our goal is to learn how to do read and play different types of music. Visit our website at [ollschool.org](http://ollschool.org) to learn more!

*by: Alicia Coppola, Elizabeth Flynn and Alysia Turnbull*



*Our Lady of Lourdes*

*Tenth Annual*

*Family Christmas Pageant*

*Thursday, December 22*

*7 PM in the Church*

*What better way to prepare for Christmas*

*than to share the Christmas story with our parish family.*

*(we even have live animals!)*

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We'd like to involve many members of our parish community, especially all parish children! It's easy...just come to the first practice to sign up.

*There's something for all ages:*

**Children**

**Nursery through Grade 3**

**Grades 4 through 6**

**Grades 7 through 12**

*angels and shepherds*

*three kings, royal servants, and dancers*

*We need lots of help—musicians, singers,  
organizers and assistant directors!*

If you can help with our pageant, please email Jennifer Gallagher at [jengallagher@att.net](mailto:jengallagher@att.net).

**Adults**

We need help with costumes and supervision of the “*angels and shepherds.*”

If you can help with any of these areas, please email [jengallagher@att.net](mailto:jengallagher@att.net).

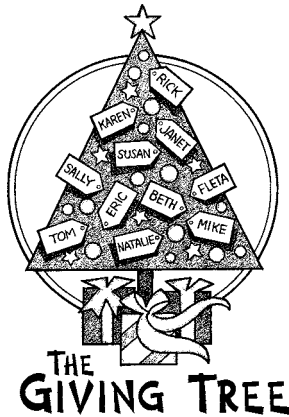
**Pageant Practices for All**

**Wednesday, December 14**

**Saturday, December 17**

7 PM in the Church

Dress Rehearsal at 11 AM in the Church



## **In anticipation of the great event: Christmas!**

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

Having collected the many gifts and donations for the past several weeks, the sorting will need to be done. Volunteers will be needed to help with sorting the gifts.

If you are interested in becoming an 'elf'-please join us on **Sunday, December 18 at 1 PM in the All-Purpose Room** to help us sort the gifts. We are very organized and work in teams of two-so bring a friend, dust off your elf hat and join us! Another way to 'give' during this Advent season.

## **Did you notice The Giving PODS?**

Our thanks goes to Terry Lachner , manager for PODS on Long Island, for donating the use of a POD to our Outreach Office for the Christmas Season.

The POD will be used to store your generous gifts and contributions until they can be distributed at Christmas. Terry has also offered a discount on a POD rental for any OLL parishioner! Contact the Outreach Office for details.



## **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...*

**Please, bring your favorite cookies on Tuesday, December 13, 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](mailto:religioused@ollchurch.org) or drop off a copy of your recipe at the Religious Education Office by Monday, December 12.**



## **R.C.I.A. – The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** *Our Family Grows*

Recently, 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*



## Rosary Christian Mothers

### Holiday Raffle

The "Holiday Basket Raffle" was a great success! A special thanks to our Rosary Christian Mothers who generously contributed the beautiful gift baskets. Also, our deep appreciation to the following businesses for their donations. It is their generosity that helps make our raffle such a success! Please patronize them:

*Frederick J. Chapey & Sons  
Funeral Home, Inc.  
Boyd-Spencer Funeral Homes  
Mangano Family Florist  
YMCA of Great South Bay  
Advent Shop  
All-Brite Cleaners  
Anthony's Pizza & Pasta  
Bali Hair Design  
Best Kitchen  
Bonwit Inn  
Carmela's Hair Design  
Carousel Diner  
Carvel(West Islip)  
Chowder Bar  
Flavor Crisp  
Francesco's Restaurant  
Home Town Heroes  
Long River  
Molly Malone's Restaurant*

*Outback Steak House  
Panera Bread  
Peter Pan Diner  
Pizzaiola  
Popei's Clam Bar  
Premier Diner  
Raindrops & Roses  
Salon de Caro  
Shear Instincts  
Stuff-a-Bagel  
Towers Flowers  
Villa Monaco  
White Cap Fish Market  
Ziegler's Deli*

Extra special "Thank You" to our Rosary Christian Mothers who decorated the baskets so professionally!

Thank you again,

*Claire McLoughlin*  
President RCM

## 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 **W GOD** 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 *Elijah*.

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**.

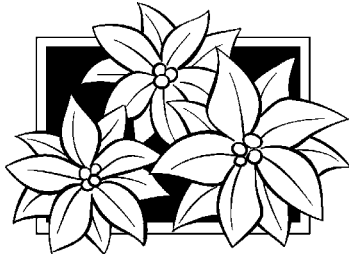
## Family Liturgy and Children's Liturgy of the Word

### *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!

If you are interested or you have any questions, please contact Cathy Danowski at [danowhouse@aol.com](mailto:danowhouse@aol.com) or call the Parish Office at 661.3224.



## **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.

## **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, December 15, 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, December 20**. Come with your ideas. We'll read and discuss the Liturgy for the following Sunday Mass.

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

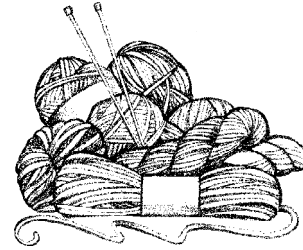
## Prayer Shawl Ministry

*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.



## 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.

### 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.**

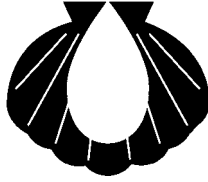
## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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.*



## ***Baptism***

*Emerson Sage Rougey*  
 Pierre and Amy  
*Mylee Jean Ullman*  
 John and Tiffany  
*Adrianna Theresa Capezza*  
 Frank and Anna  
*Aubrey Marie Guiliano*  
 John and Krystyna  
*Dominic Anthony Kaatsiz*  
 Seref and Nicole

## ***Rest In Peace***



*Thomas Farrell* died on November 14 and a Memorial Mass at OLL was December 3. We extend our prayers to his children, grandchildren, and entire family.

*Katherine Stevenson* died on December 2 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was December 9. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, and entire family.

*Francis G. Quevedo, Jr.* died on December 4 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was December 7 at St. James, Setauket. We extend our prayers to his daughter, Carol Grillo, children, grandchildren, great-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, December 12**

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

**8:00 AM** Vito Mastrorocco

### **Tuesday, December 13**

*Saint Lucy, virgin and martyr*

**8:00 AM** James Smith

### **Wednesday, December 14**

*Saint John of the Cross, priest and doctor of the Church*

**8:00 AM** James and Charlotte Quinn

### **Thursday, December 15**

**8:00 AM** Joseph Netska

### **Friday, December 16**

**8:00 AM** Ann P. Keogh

### **Saturday, December 17**

**8:00 AM** Pasquale DelPennino, Josephine Sabella,  
John Murphy, Barbara Hamra, Michael Racanelli

**5:00 PM** Carolyn Wissing  
*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

### **Sunday, December 18**

**8:00 AM** Anita Argetno  
*Fr. Patsy Amabile*

**9:30 AM** Loreto and Ben Fantauzzi  
*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

**11:00 AM** Bill Best  
*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

**12:30 PM** Joseph Aguanno  
*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

**6:00 PM** People of the Parish, Rose Golia, Doris Dailey, Joseph Lehmann,  
James Bonanno, Delores Chmielewski, Helen Moore, Alfred Waters,  
Frank & Margaret Riggio, Rose & Dominick Cocco,  
Mamie & Michael Raia  
*Fr. Michael Holzmann*

## 3rd Sunday of Advent



©LPI

Coming home can be a bittersweet experience. For many, there is the joy of seeing family and friends, the comfort of familiar foods, and a return to places that hold treasured memories. For some, a return home increases anxiety and brings about conflict. During the holiday season we often hear stories about how families cope with coming together for celebrations. Family conflict during the holidays has been an endless source of material for films. Movies such as *All I Want for Christmas*, *Four Christmases*, and *A Christmas Tale* all play off of the theme of family gatherings and coming home.

Today's selection from the prophet Isaiah was written at the time when the inhabitants of Jerusalem were returning home from the fifty-year Exile in Babylon. Their city was in ruins, their vineyards and fields desolate, their Temple destroyed. Having endured the ravages of war, the people are now free to rebuild their lives. It is in this context of desolation that Isaiah proclaims words of hope.

Throughout the years there have been many stories in the news about the trauma that soldiers experience as they come back from active duty. Some find the lower-keyed life away from the war zone difficult to cope with. Stateside life cannot compare to the adrenaline-pumped experience of combat. And some try to assuage their anxiety with high risk behavior in an attempt to once again feel the high. For these men and women coming home is difficult.

Isaiah's prophecy is more than fanciful words uttered ages ago. It is the promise of the Savior's work among us, and a challenge to those of us who believe in Christ and strive to continue to do his work. Healing the brokenhearted is one of the tasks for those who have been gifted by the Holy Spirit. Our works of charity in this holiday season extend beyond food and gifts for the needy. It is also bringing light to those in darkness.

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### Readings for the Week of December 11, 2011

<b>Sunday:</b>	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
<b>Monday:</b>	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Lk 7:18b-23
<b>Thursday:</b>	Is 54:1-10/Lk 7:24-30
<b>Friday:</b>	Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Jn 5:33-36
<b>Saturday:</b>	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38



## Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Marie Cirone*.  
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 ...

*Joseph Badala, Jr., Nicole Cerny, Eddie Cronin, Jeanne Marie DellaRagione,  
Frank Edwards, Jake Feldman, Ann Finn, Elizabeth Fredriksen, Kenneth Garretson,  
Baby Gavin Gradiska, Baby Peter Horyczun, 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, Louie Zaino*

## No Room in the Inn

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Mary gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

In the Christmas story, we have always vilified and demonized the innkeeper who turned Mary and Joseph away, leaving them no choice for shelter except a stable. And the lesson we took from this was the need for greater hospitality in our lives, the need to not be so busy and preoccupied that there is “no room in the inn”, that is, that there is no place in our busy lives for a messiah to be born, for Christmas to happen.

There is some truth in this, but scholars suggest that there is a deeper lesson in Jesus having to be born in a stable because there was no room for him in the inn. What is being stressed is not so much lack of hospitality by an innkeeper, but rather the fact that Jesus was born outside of a city, outside of what is comfortable, outside of glamour and fame, outside of being recognized by the rich and the powerful, and beyond notice by the everyday world. Jesus was born in anonymity, poor, outside of all notice, except for family and God.

Being rejected by the city also foreshadowed his death. Jesus’ earthly life will end as it began. He will be a stranger, an outsider, crucified outside the city just as he was born outside the city.

Thomas Merton once gave a wonderful commentary on this: Into this world, this demented inn, in which there is absolutely no room for Him at all, Christ has come uninvited. But because He cannot be at home in it, because He is out of place in it, and yet must be in it, His place is with those others for whom there is no room. His place is with those who do not belong, who are rejected by power because they are regarded as weak, those who are discredited, who are denied status as persons, who are tortured, bombed, and exterminated. With those for whom there is no room, Christ is present in the world. He is mysteriously present in those for whom there seems to be nothing but the world at its worst.

Jesus was born into this world unnoticed, outside the city, and outside of all persons and events that seemed important at the time. Two thousand years later, we recognize the importance of that birth, but, at

the time, virtually no one did. Understanding what is implied in that can help give perspective to those of us who, in our lives, forever, feel like we are outsiders, unknowns, anonymous, small-time, small-town, persons who are incidental to the big action and the big picture. Our photo and our story will never appear in TIME or PEOPLE magazine. Our names will never be up in lights and we are destined to live and die in basic anonymity, not known by anyone outside of our own small circles.

Most of us will live lives of quiet obscurity, in rural areas, in small towns, and in the unknown parts of our cities, watching the big events of our world from the outside and seeing always someone other than ourselves as being at the center. We ourselves, it seems, will remain forever unknown, and our talents and contribution will not be recognized by anyone, perhaps not even our own families. There will never be room for us in the inn. We will live, work, and give birth to life and to our children in much humbler places.

And, perhaps most painful of all, we will suffer the frustration of being unable to manifest our talents and gifts to the world, but will instead find that the deep symphonies and melodies that live within us will never find satisfying expression in the outside world. Our dreams and our deepest riches will never find an earthly stage. There will never be room in the inn, it seems, for what is best within us. Our deepest riches, like Jesus’ birth in our world, will be consigned to the fringes, to the martyrdom of inadequate self-expression, as Iris Murdoch once called this. Art too has its martyrs and there is no pain greater than the inadequacy of self-expression.

Mary gave birth to the Christ in a stable because there was no room for them in the inn. This is a comment on more than just the busyness and inhospitality of some ancient innkeeper. It is a comment upon what, in fact, lies deepest within human life. In essence, what it says is that it is not those who sit at the center of things, the powerful, the rich, the famous, the government leaders, the entertainment celebrities, the corporate heads, the scholars and academics, who ultimately sit at the center of life. What deepest and most meaningful inside of life lies in anonymity, unnoticed by the powerful, tenderly swaddled in faith, outside the city.

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*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](http://www.ronrolheiser.com).*

## Financial Summary

### December 4, 2011

Weekly Collection	\$ 19,734.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 734.00

The Long Island Catholic \$ 3,548.00

*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*

...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 Montefusco Family in gratitude for the safe return of JD from active duty.

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

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

## Let There Be Light!

On **Tuesday, December 13**, the actual Feast of St. Lucy, the Patron Saint of the Blind, the Xavier Society for the Blind will be celebrating **Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral at 6:30 PM**. There will be materials available for the sighted to follow the Mass, as well as large print and braille versions for those who are vision impaired.

## Christmas Concert to benefit The INN soup Kitchen

Through the generosity of the **Church of St. Joseph, Babylon, on Sunday, December 11 at 7 PM, St. Joseph's Choir and Friends will present a free concert**. Preceding the concert will be a candlelight procession. Early arrival is recommended. A free-will offering will be taken at the end of the program and checks may be made payable to THE INN Soup Kitchen.

## We Wish You Christmas

A Holiday Choral and Dance Concert featuring Saint John the Baptist Chorus, Women's Chorale, MOVE (Men's Ensemble), Concert Choir and Dance Works. The concert will be on **Friday, December 16 at 7:30 PM in the Anne Frances Dunne Auditorium, Saint John the Baptist DHS**.

Donation is \$7.

## 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.

## Annual Holiday visit to Calverton National Cemetery

This is a free trip sponsored by your local Dignity Memorial Funeral Home. Coffee, cookies and cold drinks will be served along with a pizza lunch on the return trip. The trip will be on **Tuesday, December 13 arriving at Calverton at 10:30 AM**. Pick up will be at Claude R. Boyd -Spencer Funeral Home, Babylon village at 9:15 AM and Claude R. Boyd-Caratuzzolo Funeral Home, Deer Park at 9:30 AM.

For reservations and further information, call 631.667.8614.

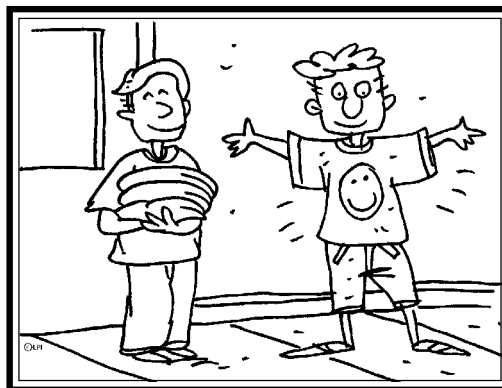
## Religion & Rock

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 **"Sharing Our Gifts."** Don't miss it!

To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go to [www.religionandrock.com](http://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

How can you show you love God? Instead of keeping all of your clothes and food, share some with people who don't have any. Be happy and thankful for all God has given you. When you love God more than money, you'll be happy to share.



## Mission for the Week

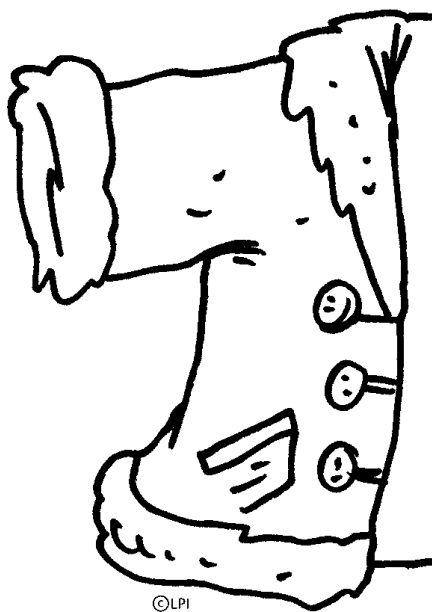


The next time you go grocery shopping with your parents, ask if you can pick out some foods to share with the poor. As a family, talk about how thankful you are for the many ways God takes care of you.



## Puzzle

Complete the picture.



## Prayer



Dear God,  
help me to  
share happily with  
others."

## Something to Draw



Draw a picture of  
yourself sharing a  
snack with a  
classmate who has  
none."