

**See how the farmer awaits the
precious yield of the soil.**



James 5:7

Third Sunday of Advent
Our Lady of Lourdes · December 15, 2013



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.

Daily Mass

8 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5 PM

Sunday: 8 AM, 9:30 AM,
11 AM, 12:30 PM and 6 PM

Reconciliation/Confession

Saturday: 4 PM - 4:45 PM

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.

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.

**Third Sunday
of Advent**



Pastoral Team

Msgr. Brian McNamara
Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback
Associate Pastor

Deacon John DeGuardi
Deacon Tom Lucie
Deacon Jack Meehan
Coordinator of Stewardship
Deacon John Teufel

Sr. Nancy Campkin, CSJ
Director of Religious Education
Trish Frodell
Director of Parish Social Ministry
Louise Jane Krol
School Principal
Sr. Diane Liona, CSJ
Director of Religious Education
Mary McMahon
Business Manager
Robin Reynolds-Brennan
Coordinator of Worship
OLL Choir Director
Vita Scorcia
Ministry Spiritual Director

Pastoral Council

Msgr. Brian McNamara
Eileen Rega
Mary Borgs
Lisa Cantalino
Sonia DaSilva
Nilo DeLeon
Jerry Esposito
Trish Frodell
Pam Gagliano
Deborah Lamb
Rosalie Mangels
Deacon Jack Meehan
John Muldoon
Bob Natale
Josephine O'Malley
Dottie Perdue
Vita Scorcia

Parish Staff

AnnMarie Buonaspina
Director of Youth Choirs
Michael Buonaspina
Parish Organist
Anne Gregg
School Office
Mary Anne Lettieri
Parish Office
Debbie Meyer
Bulletin Editor/Business Office
Rita Spera
Religious Education Office
Lori Walsh
Parish Office

Parish Office

**455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, NY 11795**

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

44 Toomey Road

West Islip, NY 11795

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- Friday

9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

S.A.G.E.

661.3224, ext. 122

**(Senior Advocates for Growth
and Enrichment)**

email: Sage@ollchurch.org



ADVENT OFFERINGS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16:

9:00am

REFLECTIONS ON THE ADVENT SUNDAY READINGS

SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER: Deacon Tom Lucie will lead.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17:

7:30pm

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT: "THE BIRTH OF JESUS"

PARISH CENTER: A movie that focuses on the life of Joseph and Mary up to the birth of Jesus from "*Jesus of Nazareth*".

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20:

5:00pm & 8:00pm

ST. FRANCIS TELLS THE CHRISTMAS STORY

CHURCH: A musical for the entire family. It is the story of the Birth of Jesus through the eyes of the manger animals.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21:

1:00pm – 2:00pm

4:00pm – 5:00pm

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS

CHURCH: Confessors will be available throughout these two times.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23:

3:00pm – 8:00pm

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS

CHURCH: Confessors will be available throughout this time.

*****DECEMBER 1 – DECEMBER 15: GIVING TREE GIFT PROGRAM FOR THE NEEDY*****

DECEMBER 10 – JANUARY 6: PARISH CENTER: The birth of Jesus is celebrated by all people. Come and visit Bethlehem as seen in Nativity sets from various countries of the world.

PLEASE SEE THE BULLETIN/WEBSITE (ollchurch.org) FOR DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS



For we need a little Christmas, right this very minute...

For I've grown a little leaner, grown a little colder, grown a little sadder, grown a little older...

Yes, we need a little Christmas right this very minute; we need a little Christmas now.

Sometime in December, we start the unusual “dance” of denouncing what Christmas has become, fighting to hold onto it, loathing it, loving it, lamenting the loss of the childhood sentimentality of it, and ultimately, failing miserably trying to re-create something that may not have even existed in the first place. Whew! That’s a lot of work. I often find that it’s a lot of work whenever I am living in expectations instead of reality, Christmas or not.

The “reality” of Christmas is that “it is what it is”. I mean that in two ways: 1) we have no control over what Christmas is to others, and we don’t have to protect it, because: 2) it will ALWAYS be the Feast of the Incarnation, the Celebration of the birth of Jesus, period. No matter what “spin” our culture may put on it, it is what it is. When any great event loses its original meaning, the external trappings become more important, until they eventually are used (sadly) to try to replace the meaning itself (e.g. Weddings). This is the very dynamic we struggle with every Christmas season. As we lose the meaning of it, the trappings become more and more important, until they are, for some people, replacing the meaning altogether. Like Charlie Brown, we reject the overt commercialism (embodied by Snoopy), but do we, like Linus, move to the place where we can proclaim Christmas as the birth of our salvation (Lk 2: 10-12, and Charlie Brown’s Christmas is going on 50 yrs. old!)? For Luke’s Gospel, salvation is US being saved from the condition of alienation from God. Christmas is truly the celebration of God and the human being becoming one.

So, we’re supposed to not take part in the world’s celebration of it? We’re not supposed to drink eggnog (fatty), put up Christmas trees (pagan), hang mistletoe (poisonous), or SHOP? (My first Christmas after ordination, this very excited woman came up to me, jumping all around, telling me how wonderful it was and how lucky I was that now, I no longer had to buy presents for my family because I could just say Mass for them. I told her she didn’t know my family and the rest I won’t put in print). The call of Jesus to discipleship is for us to be IN the world but not OF it. Look at it this way: there are plenty of places in your life that are filled with drama, chaos, anxiety...do you become a part of EVERY one of them? If we jumped into every place in our lives that weren’t in keeping with our temperament, our spirit, our beliefs, we’d be a little unstable, maybe even ill. We can still have (and ENJOY) the trappings without letting them become everything, or letting them define what the day and season means.

For we need a little Christmas. We need the memories. We need the sounds and the smells. We need the feeling of the smothering silence and peace that a fresh nighttime snowfall brings. We need the bleak mid-winter, the hot chocolate stirred with a candy cane. We need the love that the present giving embodies. We need the roasts, the cranberries and everything else that connects us to a simpler time. Don’t try to create it. Let it happen to you.

Yes, we need a little Christmas, maybe more than ever. We need a reminder that we are not alone; we are not alienated from each other or God. We need to remember what it means to be family, big or small. We NEED to wonder who Jesus was and reflect on how that matters in our lives. We need a time to be a little kinder, a little more compassionate, patient, and less self-absorbed. We NEED a model of who we should be all the time. We need a little Christmas, right this very minute.

-Fr. Bob

Mailing Team

Thank you!

We couldn't have done it without you! It is very heartwarming to know that during this busy time of the year, you take your time to help us put together and mail over 6000 pieces of mail to our parishioners. (I am still doing my "happy dance.")

SAGE

The SAGE Group (*Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment*) will meet on **Tuesday, December 17 in the Parish Center at 9 AM.**

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 on **Tuesday night, December 17.** 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.

Men's Prayer Group-morning

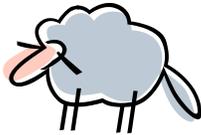
We invite all men of the parish to meet for prayer and reflection after the 8 AM Mass on **Thursday, December 19, in the *Spiritual Life Center*.**

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. Call Jack Fitzgerald at 587.5548 for more information.



St. Francis Tells the Christmas Story

Baa!



Friday, December 20, 2013

5:00pm and

8:00pm (two shows)



Presented by your fellow parishioners, **St. Francis Tells the Christmas Story** is an entertaining and enjoyable musical portrayal of the birth of Christ as seen through the eyes of the animals at the nativity. Please join us in this heartwarming reminder of the simplicity of the Christmas story and re-discover the real **“reason for the season.”**



To make this event even more meaningful for the children in the audience, we are inviting them to participate in a procession during the musical to bring *non-perishable food items* (for our Outreach Pantry) and present them to the Baby Jesus, as their gift to feed the hungry. **Please be sure to wrap your child’s food item as a Christmas gift!**

From the adults, we will take up a free-will offering to help defray the cost of presenting this musical (i.e., costumes, scenery, etc.)



Giving Tree

OLL Giving Tree

In anticipation of the great event Christmas!

The Giving Tree is decorated with gift tags and is located in the All-Purpose Room (same place each year). The Giving Tree will be decorated with tags so that you may help those in need this Christmas.

Please return your gift by December 16 so that there is time to sort and distribute the gifts. We ask that the gifts are brought in unwrapped, but we will gladly accept wrapping paper,

Religious Education

ADVENT 2013

READY THE WAY

Come Be a Part of "THE SIX"

Sunday, 6 PM Mass



ALL GRADE 5/6/7/8 And their FAMILIES in our Parish

Please join "THE SIX" with your grade...

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15 -Grade 6 ...Prepare to be challenged to live your life in a different way!

4th Sunday of Advent

December 22 -Grade 5... Discover the unexpected ways of God!

COME AND BE A LECTOR / GREETER/ USHER/ Participate in the Presentation of the Gifts.

We ask that you please bring an "un-food" item such as soap, shampoo, Kleenex, paper towels, etc. for our OLL Pantry.

Religious Education News

Special K....

an exciting program for children in Kindergarten!

For the past two years, we've been piloting a small program for youngsters in Kindergarten.

Many of these children have siblings in the Religious Education Program already and are dying to be part of the program as well. Come and see the many ways in which young children can learn about many aspects of their faith.

The Program dates are Fridays: **January 17, February 7, March 7, April 11, and May 16.**

We begin in the Church at 4:30 PM and the program runs for about 40 minutes. There is no fee for this program. To register, e mail Sister Diane at sdiane@ollchurch.org.

Reflections on the Advent Sunday Readings

Monday Mornings during Advent

9 AM

Spiritual Life Center

Each Monday of Advent, at 9AM, please join us as we gather in the Spiritual Life Center for coffee, rolls, and a talk, with some time for discussion and reflection.

Monday, December 16, 9am Deacon Tom Lucie will lead

Family Movie Night:

The Birth of Jesus

Tuesday, December 17

7:30 PM

Parish Center

A movie that focuses on the life of Joseph and Mary up to the birth of Jesus from "Jesus of Nazareth."

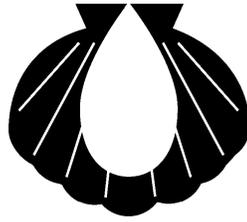


Reconciliation/Confessions

Saturday, December 21 from 1- 2 PM and 4 -5 PM. Confessors will be available throughout these two times.

Monday, December 23-Confessors will be available throughout this afternoon/ evening, from 3 PM until 8 PM this evening in the Church.

Whether it's been three months or thirty years, take this holiday season to experience the wonderful sacrament of Reconciliation.



Baptism

Nikolas Blaise Sokolowski
John & Stephanie
Michael Christopher Scandura
Stephen & DinaMarie



Upcoming Marriages

Danielle Petersen, OLL and
Luke Loftsgaarden, St. Mary's, Altoona, WI



Rest In Peace

Beatrice Mattel died on November 26 and Mass of Christian Burial was November 30. We extend our prayerful sympathy to her children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Maria A. Camilleri died on November 26 and Mass of Christian Burial was December 2. We extend our prayerful sympathy to her niece, Victoria, and entire family.

Francis "Frank" Aragona died on December 1 and Mass of Christian Burial was December 5. We extend our prayerful sympathy to his sister-in-law Carmela, and entire family.

Henry D. Devine died on December 2 and Mass of Christian Burial was December 9. We extend our prayerful sympathy to his son, William, and entire family.

Remembering...

Daily Readings

Monday, December 16 (*Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27*)

8:00 AM Sweeney & LaRocca Families

Tuesday, December 17 (*Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17*)

8:00 AM Carolyn Wissing

Wednesday, December 18 (*Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25*)

8:00 AM James Acquaviva

Thursday, December 19 (*Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25*)

8:00 AM Margaret McGloin

Friday, December 20 (*Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38*)

8:00 AM Frank Costa

Saturday, December 21 (*Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45*)

8:00 AM Alex Sipplak, Giuseppe Ingolia

5:00 PM Theresa Reardon

Fr. Brian McNamara

Sunday, December 22 (*Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24*)

8:00 AM Josephine Sabella

Fr. Brian McNamara

9:30 AM Tony Squeo

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

11:00 AM Michael Torina

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

12:30 PM Angela D'Ambrosio

Fr. Brian McNamara

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Thomas Labetti, Madeline Urzo,
Edward Filippone, Charles Joseph Ognibene,
Michael DiLorenzo, Joseph Dell'Orto, Mamie & Mike Raia,
Rose & Dominick Cocco

Fr. Brian McNamara

Financial Summary

December 8, 2013

Weekly Collection	\$ 20,219.00
Weekly Budget	<u>-\$ 18,200.00</u>
+/- for the week	\$ 2,019.00

The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs, and salaries is \$18,200.

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:

Michael Fantauzzi-*US Air Force*

John Filosa-*US Air Force*

Christopher Florca-*US Marines*

Kyle Fouhy-*US Marines*

Anthony Mannino-*US Marines*

James Rooney III-*US Marines*

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

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Pat Wissing*.
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 ...

Salvatore Albanese, Frances Amato, Cathrine Battiata, James Bianco, Artie Clemens, Patti Clemens, Robin Cohen, Regina Cranor, Neil Coogan, Art Daley, Beverly DeCanio, Jeanne DellaRogiane, Mark DellaRogiane, Patricia Dennehy, Harry Denyse, Frank Edwards, Jake Feldman, Billy Fuchs, Kenneth Garretson, Dan Golden, Vivian Gordon, Patrick Anthony Heffron, Shena Kahn, Robyn Kerrigan, John Lamacchia, Kelly (Kuntz) Lee, Lisa Letterel, John Liona, Christopher Maher, Jean McCauley, Michele Nonnon List, Patrick O'Connor, Eugene Olsen, Baby Joseph Onofrietti, Ayn Paoella, Joanne Popper, Shirley Roefs, Gasper Salerno, Joseph J. Schiavoni, Joseph S. Schiavoni, Ann Marie Schiraldi, Joseph Sepe, Antoinette Sierchio, Kathleen Squillanti-Diamond, Andrew Valenti

Candlelight Carol Sing

The Parish of Saint William the Abbot in Seaford, NY will be holding it's second Candlelight Carol Sing on Wednesday, December 18, beginning at 7:30 PM.

A wonderful event sure to become a holiday family tradition, attendees participate in singing familiar Christmas favorites as well as being entertained with the sounds of beautiful music provided by professional musicians, handbells and a wonderful group of singers. A featured moment of the evening is the singing of the familiar "Silent Night" carol with the church illuminated only by candlelight.

Arriving early is recommended. Those arriving early (on or before 7 PM) will enjoy warm cider or hot chocolate on the front plaza around a fire while a brass quintet serenades them. Admission is free, although free-will offerings are accepted. Please bring your family and friends for an unforgettable event.

For more information please call our music office at (516) 781-3253 or visit www.stwilliam.org/music.

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.

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.

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: Wednesday at 10 AM in Lourdes Hall (convent lower level.) *Free babysitting available*
Beginner's meeting at 9:30 AM.

AA Day-by-Day/Girls Night Out: Thursday at 7:30 PM in Lourdes Hall (convent lower level.)

Men's Bible Based Recovery Group: 1st three Wednesdays of the month at 8 PM in Lourdes Hall (convent lower level.) Open to men with any addiction, a 12 step program using the "Life Recovery Bible."



Donations to Outreach: November 2013

- Marie Ricigliano has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *John Toohig*.
- Outreach has received a donation in honor of the *60th Wedding Anniversary of Ethel and Harold Murray* from Angela and Joseph Franzone.
- Marilyn Duffy and Meta Ermert have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *John Toohig*.
- Marie Ricigliano has made a donation to Outreach in *Thanksgiving for Blessings received*.
- Phil and Connie Ambrosino have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *John Toohig*.
- Mary Anne and Dom Lettieri have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Allen Minkler*.
- Pat and Bill Young have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Allen Minkler*.
- Franklin and Paula Edwards have made a donation to Outreach in memory of their beloved son, *Franklin*.
- The Guglielmo Marconi Lodge, Order of the Sons of Italy, No.2232 has made a *donation to Outreach*.
- Mr. and Mrs. George Mangels have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Edie Mellino*.
- Marie Nappo has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Cheryl Nappo*.
- Sylvester Bonacci has made a donation to Outreach in memory of his beloved wife, *Alice*.
- Regina Mirabella has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Doris Muro and John Toohig*.

Essay Writing Contest

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians is sponsoring a writing contest for all in grades 6-8, Level I and grades 9-12, Level II. There will be monetary prizes awarded on local, state and national levels. Please contact Ann Munkwitz at 631.666.4756 for additional information, essay theme and rules. Entries must be received no later than January 10, 2014.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

We are searching for the Longest Married Couple in the U.S. Maybe it's your parents... grandparents... that nice couple who live down the street. Nominations are accepted from anywhere in the United States. Send nominations to: dickanddiane66@bellsouth.net
Nominate a couple you know today!

Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 15 at 7:30pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

210 South Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst

In the evening, in the peak of winter darkness, we will gather in the quiet church, with candles lit from the Peace Light originating from the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, to hear the Scriptures and great music of Advent. Based on the traditional service from Kings College, Cambridge, OLPH parish will add its own touch, with readers of all ages and music led by the adult choir, youth band, youth choir, cantors, and instrumentalists. The assembly is as much a part of this service as the choirs and joins in singing the great hymns of Advent. Join us as we prepare for the coming of Christ into our hearts and pray for peace throughout our troubled world.

Free Throw Contest

The Bay Shore Knights of Columbus will be holding a Free Throw Contest on Sunday, January 12 from 9 AM to 12 PM at St. Patrick's gym, Bay Shore.

The competition is open to boys and girls ages 9-14 (bring birth certificate). There will be winners for each age group. It is a statewide competition and winners from each age group will advance to next round of competition, with a chance to go to State finals.

For information call Jack McCullough at 666.5939 or Eric Cabrera at 388.0789.

Religion & Rock

Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. Listen on Saturdays at 11 PM on Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and at 11 PM on XM Satellite, Channel 117. Next Sunday's theme is **"The Best Presents."**

