

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

455 Hunter Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795

Msgr. Brian McNamara, Pastor
Rev. Robert Scheckenback, Associate Pastor

Deacon John De Guardi, Deacon Tom Lucie,
Deacon Jack Meehan, Deacon John Teufel

Sr. Nancy Campkin CSJ, Director of Religious Ed
Trish Frodell, Director of Parish Social Ministry
Louise Jane Krol, School Principal
Sr. Diane Liona CSJ, Director of Religious Ed
Debbie Meyer, Business Manager
Robin Reynolds Brennan, Coordinator of
Worship and Choir Director
Vita Scorgia, Ministry Spiritual Director

Parish Office

Phone: 661.3224, press 1
Monday-Thursday: 9:00am-7:30pm
Friday: 9:00am-5:00pm
Saturday: 9:00am-3:00pm
Sunday: 9:00am-2:00pm
E-mail: ParishOffice@ollchurch.org
Fax: 661.7143
Website: www.ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes School

Phone: 587.7200, press 2
Monday-Friday: 9:00am-3:00pm
E-mail: lkrol@ollschool.org

Religious Education Office

Phone: 661.5440, press 3
Monday-Friday: 9:00am-Noon,
1:00pm-5:00pm, 7:00pm-9:00pm
E-mail: ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org

Parish Outreach Office

Phone: 661.9262, press 4
Monday-Friday: 9:30am-3:30pm

SAGE (*Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment*)

Phone: 661.3224, Ext. 122
E-mail: Sage@ollchurch.org



Liturgical Schedule

Daily Mass

8:30am

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am, 12:30pm
and 6:00pm

Reconciliation/Confession

Saturday: 4:00pm-4:45pm or by appointment

Rosary

Daily at 8:00am

Miraculous Medal Novena

Monday at 8:00am

Sacraments

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.

Third Sunday of Advent • December 14, 2014



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.

Remember: Together, we can do something beautiful for God!

- Mother Theresa

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
Dottie Perdue
Vita Scorcia

Parish Staff

Patti Anderson
Parish Office
AnnMarie Buonaspina
Director of Youth Choirs
Michael Buonaspina
Parish Organist
Anne Gregg
School Office
Mary Anne Lettieri
Parish Office
Rita Spera
Religious Education Office
Lori Walsh
Bulletin Editor/Website
Pat Young
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.

Readings for the Week of December 14

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/ 1 Thes 5:16-24/ Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/ Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/ Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/ Mt 1:1-17
Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/ Mt 1:18-25
Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/ Lk 1:5-25
Saturday: Is 7:10-14/ Lk 1:26-38
Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/ Rom 16:25-27/ Lk 1:26-38

Financial Summary

December 7, 2014

Weekly Collection	\$ 22,558.00
Weekly Budget	- \$ 18,200.00
+/- for the week	\$ 4,358.00

Immaculate Conception \$ 2,750.00

Long Island Catholic \$ 1,239.00

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



Christmas in the Berkshires

I'm kidding. I just like the way it sounds, "Christmas in the Berkshires." One can almost feel the snow and see the steam puffing out of a reindeer's nose; looking out at a little New England village, perched atop a hill above a small frozen pond, twinkling with lights in the darkness. Carolers dressed like chimney sweeps are singing from scrolls in between sips of hot cider.

Why do we do that, why do we take certain experiences and romanticize them out of reality? Christmas HERE doesn't sound nearly as attractive, "Christmas Here." One can almost feel the freezing, wet cold, see the smoke puffing out of the cashier's nose outside of Best Buys; looking out into the traffic, twinkling with the flash of the red-light cameras, as people drive as fast as they can, just barely avoiding crashing into one another. Ah, Christmas here, the frantic shopping, anxiety, and impatience.

The truth is that the mythical, little New England village IS just like here. It's only a matter of how the people choose to be in it that makes it beautiful or not.

If you are a believer, "Christmas here" is about the birth of Jesus, PERIOD. It is so hard for us to "be here", especially for Christmas. We are in the past and the future; we're in Christmases that don't even really exist. Christmas is the Christian Celebration of the Incarnation, God becoming human; everything else is because of that and only icing on the cake.

We can focus more on the truth of Christmas. It's a matter of practice. The Church and our religious practices, our rituals, symbols and images may not be the whole answer, but certainly gives us a great place to start. We have a tremendous amount of opportunities to get caught up in the beauty and mystery of the incarnation, many ways to pray, reflect and be a part of other people who want to focus on the birth of Jesus.

We have the Season of Advent, with morning and evening Advent reflections. We had the lighting of our Christmas tree with a cookie fair and beautiful St. Nicholas Celebration (with the Family Liturgy's "Advent Village"). Family movie night, "The Nativity" is December 16, St. Francis Tells the Christmas Story show is December 19, 5:30pm and 8:00pm. We have countless pageants and Christmas gatherings of every age group in the Parish. We, of course, follow a very Christmas-specific course of prayers and Scripture in our Sunday and Daily Liturgies. Outside of our Parish there are a multitude of beautifully decorated Churches, pageants, live nativities.

We can certainly fall into the same patterns and programs we always follow for "the Holidays" or we can decide to do something different. We can use the many ways in our lives and in our community to focus on Christmas, and make Christmas here, just that, Christmas HERE.

Peace,
Fr. Bob

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Janet Loehr*. If you would like to help care for our altar needs, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

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.

Michael Fantauzzi-*US Air Force*
Christopher Florca-*US Marines*
Kyle Fouhy-*US Marines*
Christopher Jensen-*US Air Force*
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.



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.

Parish Spiritual Care Companions

Do you know a parishioner who is homebound and would welcome a visit from one of our trained Parish Spiritual Care Companions? Please call Rick Danowski at 586.2192, Vita Scorcia at 669.4717 or Charlie Zeiss at 669.7189.

Pray for Our Sick

Please remember to keep in your thoughts and prayers ...

Salvatore Albanese, Anthony Anitra, Patricia Beni, Frank Biondo, Dorothy Blandino, Matilda Bontempo, Mary Breest, Robert Burnett, Thomas J. Calogero III, Patricia Carlson, Grace Ciccarello, Dolores DellaVecchia, Karen DellaVecchia, Andrew DiBlasi, Amanda DiTingo, Mark Dixon, Frank Edwards, Paula Edwards, Jake Feldman, Billy Fuchs, Kenneth Garretson, Robert Garretson, Donna Gerek, Tommy Haughney, Josephine Heffron, Patrick Anthony Heffron, Alexander Howe, Betty Infurno, Shena Kahn, Millie Kelly, Anne Kerrigan, Michael Kirshbaum, George Koehler, Kevin Kuchler, Frank Licciardi, Sean Lillis, Paul Martucci, Trisha Masiar, Vinny Meade, Richard Meyer, Ruth Murray, Alfred Musella, Evelyn Nonnon, Michele Nonnon List, Baby Joseph Onofrietti, Dorothy Proctor, Artie Petrino, Jimmy Reilly, Linda Anne Savino, Roseann Savino, Joseph J. Schiavoni, Ann Marie Schiraldi, Joseph Sepe, Carol Shinn, Roy Sorrese, Patricia Troiano, Joseph Visconti, Camille Watts



Rest In Peace

*Alice McCaffery
John Mierzejewski*

We extend our prayerful sympathy to the families and loved ones of those recently deceased.

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 15

8:30am Heim & Jensen Families

Tuesday, December 16

8:30am Deceased Members of Langan & Clancy Families

Wednesday, December 17

8:30am Special Intention of Clifford Proctor

Thursday, December 18

8:30am Thomas Brando

Friday, December 19

8:30am Audrey Rooney

Saturday, December 20

8:30am James Amend, Dominick Paladino,
Linda Reichlin, Donald McClatchey,
Chris Scalfani, Angela LaGiglia (*living*)

5:00pm Joseph Lehmann & Fr. Brendan Fleming
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Sunday, December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00am Jim Palladino
Msgr. Brian McNamara

9:30am Josephine Sabella
Msgr. Brian McNamara

11:00am Clare Donohue
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

12:30pm Franklin Edwards V
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

6:00pm People of the Parish, Alice Carlin,
Ellen Buchanan, Anne Tropeano,
Josephine Phillips, Richard Holland,
Christine McKenna, Mary Ann Wade
Msgr. Brian McNamara

Respect Life Ministry - Life Issues Forum: Each Of Us Is A Masterpiece



Of God's Creation by: *Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap., Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities*

My dear friends in Christ:

Pope Francis has captivated the world with his humility, warmth and compassion for each person. Vivid accounts of his tenderness for “the least of these”—the elderly, the imprisoned, those with disfiguring disabilities, the unborn, and many more—seize our attention. Why? At the heart of each of these interactions is a truth which resonates in our hearts, revealing to us something essential to understanding ourselves and our purpose. **We are loved.**

In his 2013 Day for Life Greeting, Pope Francis conveyed that “even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.” We see Pope Francis living out the truth of these words in his actions.

We want to be part of a society that makes affirmation and protection of human rights its primary objective and its boast. Yet to women faced with an unexpected pregnancy, abortion is often presented as their only “choice.” A large percentage of children pre-diagnosed as having Down syndrome are never given the chance to live outside their mothers’ wombs. Elderly members of our families fear they will become burdensome and seek physician assisted suicide. We see these and many more of our brothers and sisters pushed to the periphery.

These tragedies go directly against respect for life, and they represent a direct threat to the entire culture of human rights. Rather than societies of “people living together,” our cities risk becoming societies of people who are marginalized, uprooted and oppressed.

What can be done to prevent this? We must draw close to Jesus in prayer and in the sacraments. We must ask the Lord for the grace to see ourselves and others as he sees us—as masterpieces of his creation. When God created each of us, he did so with precision and purpose, and he looks on each of us with love that cannot be outdone in intensity or tenderness. We must look at ourselves and at others in light of this truth and treat all people with the reverence and respect which is due.

The Church’s antidote to an individualism which threatens the respect for human dignity is community and solidarity. Are we moved by the suffering of those without shelter? Do we seek to alleviate the fear, confusion and panic that women facing unexpected pregnancies may be experiencing? Do our hearts ache for elderly patients in nursing homes who feel abandoned and unwanted, having no one to visit them?

Our mission is to show each person the love of Christ. As uniquely created individuals, we each have unique gifts which we are called to use to share Christ’s love. We are continually given opportunities to do so in our interactions with the cashier at the grocery store, our spouses, children, friends and even the people we encounter in traffic. Each of these moments is valuable beyond our realization. We may never know how much a simple gesture of compassion may affect someone’s life.

Let us take a moment to reflect on the theme, “Each of Us is a Masterpiece of God’s Creation,” and how this truth affects both our understanding of ourselves and others and the way we live. Pastoral and educational resources of the program can be found at www.usccb.org/respectlife.

Love and justice must motivate each of us to work for a transformation of our own hearts so that we can transform the world around us. This is the message of Pope Francis. May the Risen Lord put the Gospel of joy in our hearts so that we may bear witness to the greatest love story ever told.

Our Lady of Lourdes **Respect Life Ministry** has a limited number of seats reserved for the January 22, 2015 **March for Life** event in Washington, D.C. For more information, contact Deacon Tom at 661.3224, Ext. 121 or email: DeaconTom@ollchurch.org



ADVENT OFFERINGS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15:

9:00am

REFLECTIONS ON THE ADVENT SUNDAY READINGS

SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER: Deacon John will lead the reflection.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16:

7:30pm

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT: "THE NATIVITY"

PARISH CENTER: A great family movie that focuses on the life of Joseph and Mary up to the birth of Jesus.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19:

5:30pm & 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.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22:

3:00pm – 8:00pm

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS

CHURCH: Confessors will be available throughout this time.

9:00am

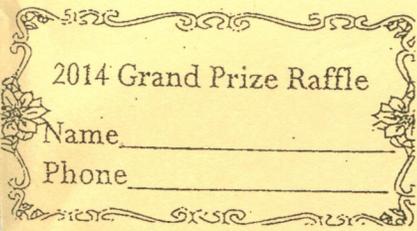
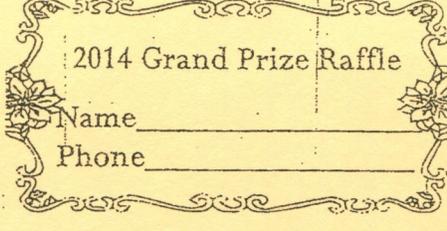
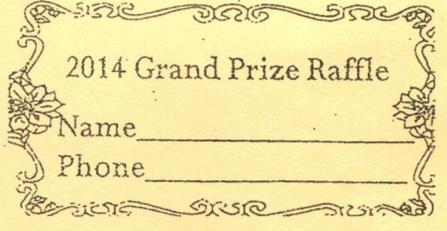
REFLECTIONS ON THE CHRISTMAS READINGS

SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER: Deacon Jack will lead the reflection.

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

****DECEMBER 8 – JANUARY 12: STOP BY THE PARISH CENTER & VISIT A COLLECTION OF NATIVITY SETS**

Below please find a set of 3 chances. It is a 50-50 drawing. Chances are \$50 each or 3 chances for \$100. 1st place winner will win 35% of the money, 2nd place will win 10% of the money and 3rd place will win 5% of the money. You have to be in it to win it! The drawing will take place on **Sunday, January 4 after the 12:30pm Mass**. Hopefully, the Wise Men will bring you a gift of a winning ticket!

 <p>2014 Grand Prize Raffle</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>1 chance for \$50; 3 chances for \$100</p>	 <p>2014 Grand Prize Raffle</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>1 chance for \$50; 3 chances for \$100</p>	 <p>2014 Grand Prize Raffle</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>1 chance for \$50; 3 chances for \$100</p>
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SAGE

The SAGE Group (*Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment*) will meet on **Tuesday, December 16 in the Parish Center at 9:00am.**



Always Our Children

We are gay and lesbian Catholics, their family members and friends who meet once a month to pray, support each other, and discuss how God is present in our lives. We look forward to meeting this month on **Thursday, December 18 at 7:30pm in the Spiritual Life Center.** Each month, a relevant different topic is discussed and reflected upon. Come join us; all are welcome.

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 7:30pm until 8:30pm in the Spiritual Life Center.** The next meeting will be on **Tuesday night, December 16.** Come with your ideas. We'll read and discuss the Liturgy for the following Sunday Mass. For more information, call 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 8:30am Mass on **Thursday, December 18 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. Call Jack Fitzgerald at 587.5548 for more information.

El Salvador Mission Trip Fundraiser

Need a few last minute stocking stuffers?



Hand-made table runners, jewelry, purses, jewelry boxes and more will be available for purchase after all Masses the weekend of December 20 and 21.

Please support our El Salvador Mission by purchasing some of these beautiful crafts. Prices range from \$5.00 - \$30.00.

Religious Education

ADVENT 2014

READY THE WAY

Come Be a Part of "THE SIX"

Sunday, 6:00pm 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 14 -Grade 6 ... Prepare to be challenged to live your life in a different way!

4th Sunday of Advent

December 21 -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.



Special K

If you have a child in Kindergarten, please consider coming to a wonderful program! Designed to gently lead your child into formal religious education, this format will introduce your children to many Church traditions, children's prayer experiences and some practical ways in which to participate in Mass on their age level.

We meet monthly in Church from 4:30pm to approximately 5:10pm:

January 16, February 13, March 13, April 17, May 15

Please register at: sdiane@ollchurch.org. There is no fee for this program.



Christmas Candles

This year, we are offering a *Loving Candle* which will be placed in the Tabernacle area and lit on Christmas Eve. This symbolic light will remain in the Tabernacle area for the life of the candle (approximately a week).

This is a beautiful way to remember our family and friends (both living and deceased). The *Loving Candles* will be available after all the Masses this weekend and at the Parish Office (Rectory) during the week for a donation of \$10. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 631-661-3224, ext. 121.

St. Francis Tells the Christmas Story

Friday, December 19, 2014
5:30pm and 8:00pm (two shows)
Our Lady of Lourdes Church



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**” on **Friday, December 19 at 5:30pm or 8:00pm** in our lovely Church.



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!**

A free-will offering will be taken up from the adults to help defray the cost of presenting this musical (i.e., costumes, lighting, etc.)

Family Movie Night: “The Nativity”

Tuesday, December 16

7:30pm

Parish Center



Come join us in the Parish Center for a great family movie that focuses on the life of Joseph and Mary up to the birth of Jesus.

Reflections on the Advent Sunday

Readings

Monday Mornings during Advent

9:00am

Spiritual Life Center



Each Monday of Advent, at 9:00am, 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 15, 9:00am Deacon John De Guardi will lead

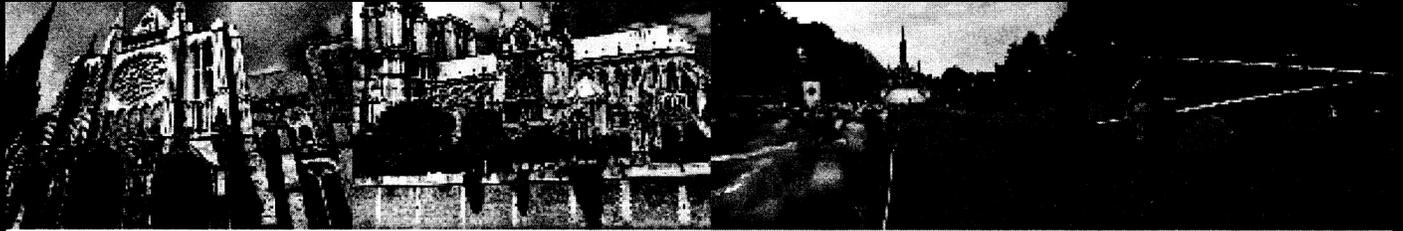
Monday, December 22, 9:00am Deacon Jack Meehan will lead (*Christmas readings*)



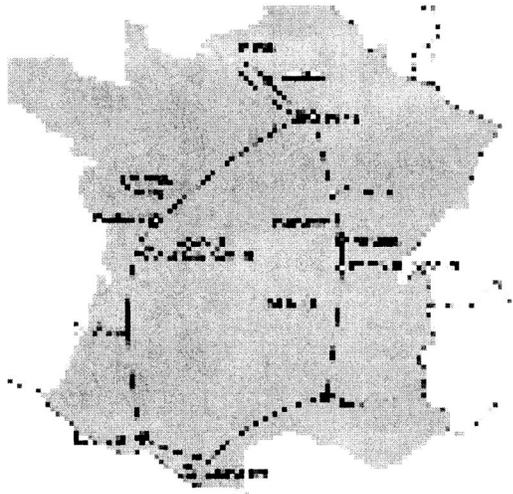
Christmas Flower Offerings

Christmas Flower offerings received by **Sunday, December 14** will be published in the December 28 bulletin. Offerings received after that date, will be published in subsequent bulletins.

Pilgrimage to France - August 26-September 7, 2015



Join Father Brian McNamara on a Spiritual Pilgrimage to THE SHRINES OF FRANCE & LOURDES



Air & Land \$3582
Land Only \$2149

August 26 - September 7, 2015
Paris to Paris (12 days)

Headsets throughout the tour

Sightseeing: Visits to Lisieux, Poitiers, Carcassonne, Avignon, Paray-le-Monial, Nevers, Chartres

Scenic Highlights: Château Country, Dordogne, Burgundy

Mass/Religious Service: Lisieux, Lourdes, Avignon

Guides: Local Guides for city sightseeing in Paris and Lourdes; services of a professional Tour Director while touring

PARIS Kyriad Bercy (ST)

POITIERS Ibis Centre (F)

LOURDES Quality Alliance (ST)

AVIGNON Mercure Cité des Papes (F) or Ibis Styles Avignon Sud (ST)

NEVERS Kyriad Centre (ST)

- **Buffet breakfasts; 5 dinners**

Vacation overview

Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers in Paris, where guided sightseeing features all major sights and visits the Basilica of Sacre Coeur and Notre Dame Cathedral, where the relics of the Passion of the Christ can be seen on the first Fridays of the month (departures April 3 & July 31 only). During an excursion to Lisieux, visit Les Buissonnets, family home of St. Therese, and the basilica. Also visit St. Peter's Cathedral and the Carmelite Convent, where she lived as a nun. Back in Paris, special visits have been included to the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Shrine, where the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Catherine Laboure in 1830, and the St. Vincent de Paul Shrine. Travel south to Poitiers and visit the baptistry of St. John, then arrive in Lourdes, one of the world's most famous places of pilgrimage, where you will stay for three nights. Visit the grotto where the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Bernadette in 1858, the Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, and St. Bernadette's birthplace and family home. You may wish to bathe in the healing waters, attend the "Blessing of the Sick," or join the evening's rosary and candlelight procession. A full day at leisure allows the chance to join an optional excursion to the nearby Pyrenees. Via medieval Carcassonne, travel to Avignon to see the Palace of the Popes and to attend Mass in the Cathedral of Avignon. Stop in Paray-le-Monial, home to the Chapel of the Apparitions, and visit the Basilica of the Sacred Heart before arriving in Nevers. Here, visit St. Gildard, then on to Chartres, where you visit the magnificent cathedral. Return to Paris for a final overnight.

Tour Price: \$2149 p/person (based on double occupancy; singles and triples available upon request)

Air from JFK: \$1433

Insurance, \$199, highly recommended to protect your vacation investment, **must be paid at time of deposit to cover pre-existing conditions.**

CruiseOne

Contact: Monica Colonna

631.539.9756 or mcolonna@cruiseone.com

COSMOS  **JOURNEYS YOU CAN BELIEVE IN**

Attention Ushers!

We are in need of usher volunteers for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. There are sign-up sheets available in the sign-in room for all the scheduled Masses.

Thank you for your service to our Parish Family!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following students for making the Honor Roll for the first quarter of 2014 at St. Anthony's High School:

Allison Appey
Jordan Barker
Alec Caraballo
Vincent Carboni
Elizabeth Conklin
Franki Dorfman
Richard Fatscher
Adam Francoeur
Eva Gallegos
Meghan James
Gavin McGuire
Taryn McLees

Jillian McLees
Sean McShane
Kerri Murphy
Kaitlyn Radesca
Jake Russo
Jason-Michael Saint Laurent
Lee Santore
Nicholas Scibetta
Grace Shapiro
Sara Siddiqui
Jack Stanton
James Woltmann



Cereal
Cookies
Crackers
Juice
Peanut butter / jelly

Donations

If you would like to make a donation to Parish Outreach in memory of a loved one, please call Trish Frodell, Director of Parish Social Ministry at 661.3224, press 4.

Ministry of Praise

Members pray at home for the intentions of the Church and Parish; designed for the homebound, senior citizens, etc. Monthly calendar is available in the Narthex. Prayer requests can be left in the Ministry of Praise box along with the name and address of any homebound person who might want a copy of the calendar mailed to them (please print).

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 8:00pm until 10:00pm. All are welcome to experience singing, praying and fellowship.

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 1:30pm** before the Blessed Sacrament for about one half hour. For more information, call Charles Argento at 586.8528.



Boy Scout Troop 179

For more than 41 years, Our Lady of Lourdes has been sponsoring Boy Scout Troop 179 of West Islip. We meet every **Thursday** in the School Cafeteria from **7:30pm to 9:00pm**. If you are interested in joining Boy Scouts, check out our website and stop by a meeting!

Website: <http://witroop179.wix.com/bsatroop179#>

Email: WIBSATroop179@outlook.com

Support Groups *(all meetings are in Lourdes Hall - lower level of Convent)*

Alcoholics Anonymous: Monday and Tuesday at 8pm and Saturday at 11am and 7pm.

ALANON: Wednesday at 10am. Beginner's meeting at 9:30am. Free babysitting available.

AA Day-by-Day/Girls Night Out: Thursday at 7:30pm.



In addition to our parish website, 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.

New Year's Silent Retreat

Montfort Spiritual Center
26 South Saxon Avenue
Bay Shore, NY 11706
631.666.7500

An overnight time of silent reflection on our relationship with Jesus. We begin with celebration of the Eucharist at 8:00pm on Tuesday, December 30 and will conclude on Thursday, January 1 at 9:00am. We will celebrate New Year's Eve Eucharist at 11:00pm.

Dominican Village

A not-for-profit retirement community in Amityville, NY, provides both independent living and assisted living apartments for senior citizens. Sponsored by the **Sisters of St. Dominic**, our beautiful 13 acre campus provides modern apartments, restaurant style dining, many services and amenities, as well as activities. Residents live in a supportive environment in which the sacredness of life and the dignity of each person are held in the highest regard. For more information and/or to arrange for a visit and tour, please call 631.842.6091. Dominican Village: **"When you're here, you're home."**

8th World Meeting of Families

Will be held in Philadelphia from September 22-27, 2015

The theme of this celebratory event is, ***Love is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive.***
For specific information about this event please go the following website:
www.worldmeeting2015.org

Plans for the people of our diocese to attend the World Meeting of Families are being organized through the diocesan Office of Faith Formation and will be available shortly. For further information please call 516 678-5800 Ext 236



Worldwide Marriage Encounter



Fifth Annual Search Begins for Longest Married Couples in United States

The fifth annual search for the longest married couple in the United States is under way as announced by Worldwide Marriage Encounter, the original faith-based marriage enrichment program in this country. Once again, we want to honor the longest married couple in the United States, as well as in each of the 50 states and territories. The national winners will be recognized during Valentine's Week 2015 which coincides with World Marriage Day which is the second Sunday of February (2/8/15). This marks the project's fifth consecutive year for the highly acclaimed activity recognizing couples for their long marriages. There have been over 1,200 couples nominated for the honors during the last four years. Winners are selected solely from nominations submitted. Local Long Island winner will be honored at a celebration on February 6, 2015.

The contact information for sending in a nomination, which simply requires the name of the couple, their wedding date and where they currently reside plus a contact phone or email address of the individual nominating the couple, is as follows: email wwmelmc2015@gmail.com, regular mail Dick & Diane Baumbach 8924 Puerto Del Rio Drive Suite 402, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920, and special phone number 321-613-5180. **Nominations must be received by January 10, 2015.** For more information visit our web site at <http://www.wwme.org>.

The Long Island Catholic December Edition

In addition to compelling columns and news about our Diocese, read about how to build a Sacraments Keepsake Box, explore the sacred and rarely seen treasures of Immaculate Conception Seminary, see how two families prepare for His coming through Advent traditions in the home and read about the final report from the Extraordinary Synod on the Family. To subscribe to the monthly magazine of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, visit licatholic.org or call 1-800-443-2155 today.

Religion and Rock

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

Sharing the Gospel

People noticed John the Baptist. He loved God, and he used words honestly. He really wanted to help people change and grow closer to God. He stood out as someone really different and special. People came from all around to hear him and learn about him. When people asked him questions, he pointed them to Jesus.



Mission for the Week



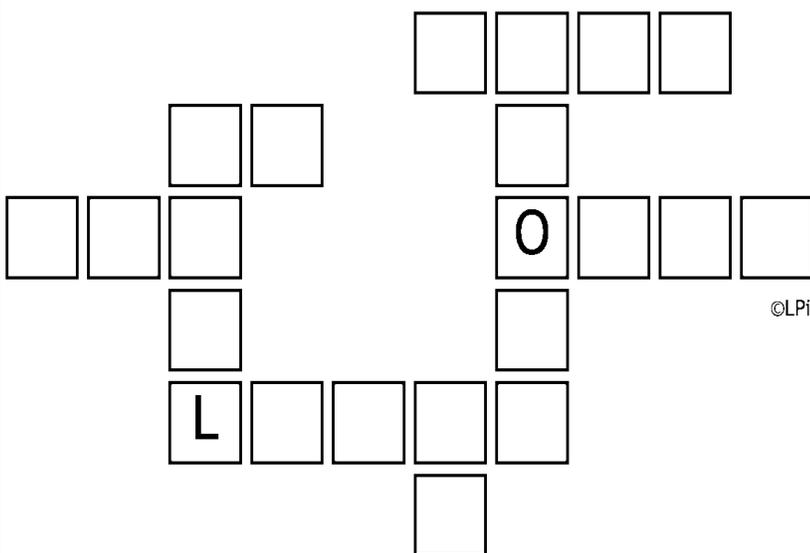
Ask a friend if he or she is ready to meet Jesus.



Puzzle

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

He came only to tell about the light.

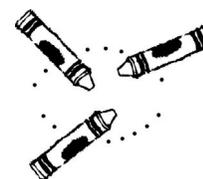


Prayer



Jesus, help me to be different because I love you.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of yourself being honest and kind with your family.