

**"YOU WILL BE
BAPTIZED WITH
THE HOLY SPIRIT
AND FIRE."**



LUKE 3:16

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

OUR LADY OF LOURDES • JANUARY 10, 2010



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.

Our Lady of Lourdes

*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

Mission Statement

As stewards of all that God has given us, the Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes serves and ministers to all who come to this place. Regardless of a person's history, ethnicity, gender, orientation, age or race, we commit ourselves to open wide the doors of our Parish to provide a place of welcome and hospitality.

Vision...

so that all may know that they are a vital part of the Body of Christ, we further recommit and challenge ourselves to...

Live out our Baptismal call passionately by caring for all of God's people with justice.

Grow in an understanding of God's role in each of our lives.

Respond to the Gospel in a radical way, inviting and inspiring all to form the Kingdom of God in every moment of life.

Acknowledge we are not complete without the willingness to grow, discern and discover the Spirit who moves and guides us.

Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano
Pastor

Rev. Patsy Amabile
Associate Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback
Associate Pastor

Rev. Ambrose Cabildo
In Residence

Deacon John DeGuardi

Deacon Tom Lucie

Deacon Jack Meehan

Coordinator of Stewardship

Deacon John Teufel

Sr. Margaret Bickar

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Sr. Nancy Campkin

Director of Religious Education

Allegra D'Alo

Youth Minister/Social Action

Jennifer Gallagher

Childrens' Choir/Women's Chorale

Summer Program Director

Carol M. Goetz

Parish Music Director

Louise Jane Krol

School Principal

Sr. Diane Liona

Director of Religious Education

Mary McMahan

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Robin Reynolds-Brennan

Coordinator of Worship

Vita Scorcio

Ministry Spiritual Director

Sr. Betty Toohig

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Anthony Trombino

Business Manager



Pastoral Council

Stacie Baltrusitis

Lisa Cantalino

Sonia DaSilva

Nilo DeLeon

Jane Desthers

Jerry Esposito

Deacon Jack Meehan

John Muldoon

Bob Natale

Eileen Rega

Vita Scorcio

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Christine Volk

Parish Staff

Barbara Catuosco

Religious Education Office

Mary Anne Lettieri

Parish Office

Debbie Meyer

Bulletin Editor/Parish Office

Rosemary Multer

School Office

Rex Muro

Organist

Rita Spera

Religious Education Office

Lori Walsh

Parish Office

Parish Office

661.3224

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Saturday: 9 AM - 3 PM

Sunday: 9 AM - 2 PM

email: ParishOffice@ollchurch.org

fax: 661.7143

website: www.ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes School

587.7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: lkrol@ollschool.org

Religious Education Office

661.5440

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon

1 PM - 5 PM

7 PM - 9 PM

email: ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org

Parish Outreach Office

661.9262

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30 AM - 3 PM

S.A.G.E.

661.3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth
and Enrichment)

email: Sage@ollchurch.org

Welcome...

to Our Lady of Lourdes!

We are so happy to welcome everyone who has come to worship with us today! Whether you have come a long distance or you live locally, we are glad that you have decided to spend some time with us as we worship our Lord together. Please know that your presence today is a blessing to our parish family.

Would you like to know more about our parish family?

All are welcome at Our Lady of Lourdes and we do our best to reach out to everyone.

If you would like more information about our parish or if you would like one of our team to be in touch with you, please fill this form out and place it in any collection or offering basket, mail it to us, or send an email to parishoffice@ollchurch.org

Welcome...

to Our Lady of Lourdes!



I would like information about:

Religious Education of my Children Becoming a Catholic or Adult Confirmation
 Marriage or Annulment / Remarriage Spiritual Direction or Counseling
 Our Parish Catholic School Adult Education Senior Services
 Joining the Parish Baptizing my Children Other _____

I would prefer to be contacted by:

Phone at: _____ Email at: _____

Mail at: _____

Your Name: _____

Adult Faith Formation

Images of Mercy

*Icons of Justice**

**applicable for Advance Certificate*

Presenter: Tom Petriano, St. Joseph's College, Patchogue

Tuesdays, January 19, 26 and February 2, 9, 23, 2010

7:30 - 9:30 PM

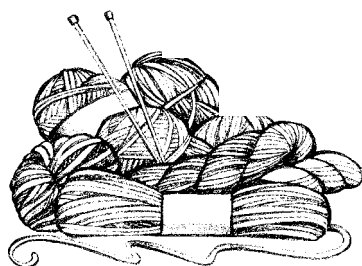
Parish Center

The witness of the lives of prophetic figures from various cultures and traditions can be iconic for us, and studying their lives can be both illuminating and transformative. This course will look specifically at the lives of Mother Teresa, Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin, Mohandas Gandhi, Oscar Romero and the Jesuit martyrs of El Salvador, and Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks as examples of modern day prophets. Their writings, sermons, letters, speeches and the witness of their lives will be examined in order to understand the spirituality and theology that was the source of their prophetic witness.

There is a \$5 fee for each session. No fee is required for those who have paid the Religious Education Family Fee or Our Lady of Lourdes School tuition. Registration is necessary and helpful. This will enable us to have enough reading material and refreshments for all those attending. To register, please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option 3 or email to religioused@ollchurch.org.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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



Join us...

Wednesday, January 13 from 9:30 AM until 11:30 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.

To register or for more information, please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option #3 during office hours (9 AM - 12 Noon and 1 PM - 5 PM.)

Taize-Prayer Around the Cross

Tuesday, January 12 at 7:30 PM in the Church

Carol Goetz, Parish Music Director

Looking for another way to pray?

Taize is a form of worship that provides some time in our busy lives where we can stop and focus on the love of God. Together we will share simple chants and prayers that will help guide us as we bring our concerns and hopes to the Lord. Please join us for a Taize Prayer Service on **Tuesday, January 12 at 7:30PM in the Church.** If you're interested in singing/playing with our Taize Group, please contact Carol Goetz at music@ollchurch.org for further information.

Religious Education

Do all that you can in 2010...

Look at those 7th Graders

These kids Know when they can !!!... more in '10

The 7th Graders in our parish family know how to love and serve... and feel that sense of belonging. As part of their Service Projects they help and learn more about our Ministries at OLL...

- Hosting refreshments for Mass of Remembrance with Ministry of Consolation
- Packaged and gave Bread out on Thanksgiving Day with our Liturgy Committee
- Organized our missalettes/music issues for our Parish Family
- Helped our 2nd graders with their Sacrament of Reconciliation nights
- Helped put Advent Tags on our Parish Giving Tree and helped organize the presents for Parish Outreach
- Hosted refreshments for our Bereavement Ministry, Christmas Concert and Christmas Pageant
- Helped Art and Environment Ministry decorate our Church and All-Purpose Room

Grade 8... in '10... Here's When.....

All Grade 8 Confirmation Candidates will meet with their Sponsors for **RESCUE** – **“Religious Education Sponsor Candidate United Effort”**—with a kick-off every Sunday afternoon in January '10. This night of prayer and reflection will provide them with an opportunity to learn about their new roles as sponsors and candidates, hear personal reflections about what it means to be a sponsor and commit to take a more active role in this process. Each evening will conclude with Sunday's 6 PM Mass. Look for them Sundays, January 10, 24, and 31. Sponsors and candidates plan to meet together three times on their own, including doing some service together. Sponsors and candidates work together at a soup kitchen or cook a meal for a soup kitchen, help an elder adult, help with Parish Outreach, Stewardship, Art & Environment, etc. Let's continue to pray for our parish's Confirmation Candidates.

GRADES 6/7/8 Hang Out Nites

BE THERE ...DON'T MISS IT

Fridays in 2010

January 15, February 12, April 16, May 21, June 18

- Guitar Hero III is here at OLL
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- American Idol is here, too...

PLUS some new additions!

- PRIZES
- RAFFLES

They continue to serve those in need... they care. Every month Grade 6/7/8 bring food/ paper goods/and or \$1 for our Parish Food Pantry. They have contributed over \$200 since October '09. Wreaths, decorated by our Hang Out Kids, were given to our families who received “Giving Tree Gifts.” Over 100 kids come each month – be ONE of them.



Christmas Pageant 2009

Mrs. Oskey's Kindergarten class performed a Christmas Pageant for the school. The performance was remarkable and afterward there was a celebration to be shared by all!

Parade of Champions

Athletes from Our Lady of Lourdes School had the opportunity to attend an Islanders game in their honor on December 23. The New York Islanders Hockey organization had their first ever Parade of Champions, where athletes from championship teams were recognized on the ice as well as the score board. Our Lady of Lourdes brought all three championship teams to this event; boy's basketball, girl's softball, and girl's soccer. Both the athletes and their families had a great time at this event and hope that OLL will have more championship teams attending next year!

**A
BIG
THANK YOU**

Thank You

The Ministry of Consolation would like to thank the Religious Education Grade 7—Room 16—"Service Project" for their help setting up hospitality after the Mass for Bereaved Parents on December 19. Thank you so much.



Coming Home for Christmas

As I prepare to take leave for the Holy Land, I wanted to thank everyone for the great sense of welcome you provided me over the past few weeks. There is no doubt that I “came home” for Christmas here at OLL.

This is the first time since leaving in August that I have been home for an extended amount of time. The pace of life outside of the Seminary has taken some time to get used to, yet it has been good to approach prayer, life, ministry and study in a different way over the past few weeks.

Celebrating Christmas is a good example of the adjustment of returning home in a bit of a different capacity yet finding comfort and support in many of the familiar and foundational places that have brought me to this place in my life. No place matches the experience of OLL at Christmas.

I am so grateful to Fr. Mike and Robin Reynolds (*how lucky is our parish to have her serving and ministering here!*) for the many ways they made sure I was included and part of the celebration of Christmas. I was a welcomed “volunteer” for sure! More than that it was so wonderful to meet and talk with so many people. I am so lucky to be a part of this parish community – and the past few weeks have been a clear reminder of that (*like I had any doubt!*).

As I wrote earlier, I leave today - January 5, 2010 – on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It will be quite the extensive trip and one that I am sure will impact me in many, many ways. Upon my return from the pilgrimage, it is back to books as the second semester gets under way and the more formal part of seminary life kicks back in gear.

Please continue to keep me in your thoughts and prayers, particularly as we embark on this pilgrimage. (*You can read about the itinerary at www.johnsureau.blogspot.com – so be sure to follow it!*)

Know how grateful, blessed, and overwhelmed I am by all of your love and support.

Peace!

John Sureau

Bereavement Group

Our next Bereavement Group will begin on **Wednesday, January 13, 2010**. We will be meeting, for six weeks, in the Spiritual Life Center located in the Convent, **from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM**. There is no fee to attend and the group is open to people of all faith denominations and parishes. For information and registration, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224, extension 121.

Altar Servers

Starting in fourth grade, our young people, both girls and boys, are asked to consider being trained to serve the Altar for our Saturday, Sunday, Wedding, and Funeral Liturgies. This is a great opportunity to significantly contribute to the Parish as a young member, as well as a wonderful way to be involved in and learn about the prayer and faith-life of the Parish. We are grateful to the many boys and girls, some now men and women, who have been a part of this Ministry through the years. There will be training sessions this winter, spring, and fall.

Men's Group

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, January 21, 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.

Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, January 25, 2010** at **12:30 PM in the Parish Center**.

Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group

The Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group meets each **Thursday afternoon** in the **Church**. The meeting is from **3 PM until 4 PM in front of the Blessed Sacrament**.

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.

Shaking things up with OLL Youth Ministry!

There are now a few ways for young people to have fun and to learn at Our Lady of Lourdes...



Open Mic Night

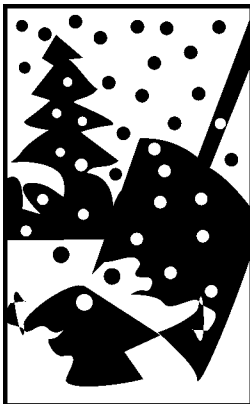
Once a month, **Open Mic Night**, is a great way for students to come and express themselves through music or poetry. It is also a fun and safe way to hang out with your friends and spend a Friday night. We will also begin our **Movie Nights** once a month, which is another way to relax and have fun, even when school gets really crazy.

Peace and Justice Club

Peace and Justice Club is another opportunity for young people to get involved. Through Peace and Justice, parishioners are invited to learn and discuss many social justice issues that are prominent in today's world. This club also discusses ways that we might get involved with service work at Our Lady of Lourdes. This club meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM in the School Media Center.

Young Women's Prayer Group

Young Women's Prayer Group is the new way that young women and new mothers can come together to reflect on their faith, even in the midst of their busy lives. When you were a student, everyone was trying to get you involved and now it seems like you don't get a chance for anything but work! We meet on the second Thursday of each month and talk about what it is to be a Catholic Woman.



Saint Bernard League

If you're in need of help when it snows, members of our parish community will come to your home and shovel you out! If you think you can use our help, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224, ext. 135 or e-mail to Allegra@ollchurch.org and you will be added to our list. PLEASE SIGN UP AGAIN- even if you signed up last year. We also need Saint Bernards...*(those who help people in bad weather)*. Can you and/or your family shovel, snow blow or clear out another family in need within our parish community? If you can help with this call the Parish Office at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to Allegra@ollchurch.org. This is a great way to help those in need and do some tremendous community service!

Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Awareness Trip 2009

As many of you know, this past July, a team of 28 OLL parishioners traveled to El Salvador to pray and work with the communities of Mogotes and Tacuba. It is in keeping with Catholic Social teaching that we help others and share our faith with Catholics everywhere. With the help of the parishioners here at home, the El Salvador Team has been raising money through our CASA project to build homes for those belonging to our sister parishes. Through the support of Our Lady of Lourdes, our young people have been able to experience another culture and help people in need. Thank you OLL!

El Salvador Time-line of Historical Events

- 1524** - Spanish adventurer Pedro de Alvarado
- 1540** - Indigenous resistance finally crushed and El Salvador becomes a Spanish colony.
- 1821** - El Salvador gains independence from Spain.
- 1859-63** - President Gerardo Barrios introduces coffee growing.
- 1961** - Right-wing National Conciliation Party (PCN) comes to power after a military coup.
- 1977** - Guerrilla activities by the left-wing Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) intensify amid reports of increased human rights violations by government troops and death squads; General Carlos Romero elected president.
- 1979-81** - Around 30,000 people are killed by army-backed right-wing death squads.
- 1980** - Archbishop of San Salvador and human rights campaigner Oscar Romero assassinated; Jose Napoleon Duarte becomes first civilian president since 1931.
- 1986** - Duarte begins quest for negotiated settlement with FMLN.
- 1989** - FMLN attacks intensify; another Arena candidate, Alfredo Cristiani, voted president in elections widely believed to have been rigged.
- 1991** - FMLN recognised as political party; government and FMLN sign UN-sponsored peace accord.
- 1993** - Government declares amnesty for those implicated by UN-sponsored commission in human rights atrocities.
- 1994** - Arena candidate Armando Calderon Sol elected president.
- 1999** - Arena candidate Francisco Flores beats former guerrilla Facundo Guardado in presidential election.
- 2001** January, February - Massive earthquakes kill 1,200 people and render another one million homeless.
- 2002** July - US court holds two retired, US-based Salvadoran army generals responsible for civil war atrocities, orders them to compensate victims who brought case.
- 2003** August - 360 Salvadoran troops dispatched to Iraq.
- 2003** December - El Salvador - along with Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala - agrees on a free-trade agreement with the US. The government ratifies the pact in December 2004.
- 2004** March - Arena candidate Tony Saca wins presidential elections.
- 2005** October - Thousands flee as the Ilamatepec volcano, also known as Santa Ana, erupts. Days later scores of people are killed as Tropical Storm Stan sweeps through.
- 2006** March - El Salvador is the first Central American country to implement a regional free trade agreement with the US.
- 2009** January - Former FMLN rebel movement emerges as largest party in parliamentary elections, although short of a majority. This is seen as preparation for presidential election in March.
- 2009** March - Mauricio Funes of the FMLN party wins presidential elections, marking the first time in two decades that a leftist president has been voted in.
- 2009** June - Mauricio Funes sworn in as president.

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)



Rest In Peace

Carol Cosentino died on December 17 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on December 22. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and entire family.

Inez Josephine Hunter died on December 26 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on December 29. We extend our prayers to her husband, William, her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and entire family.

Michael Finnegan died on December 24 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on December 30. We extend our prayers to his wife, Denise, his children, mother, siblings, and entire family.

Angelo Lombardo died on December 31 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on January 5. We extend our prayers to his children, grandchildren, great-grandchild and entire family.

Constance Patchen died on January 2 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on January 5. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Rosary/Novena

Rosary

Daily after 8 AM Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena

Monday after 8 AM Mass

Anointing of the Sick

Throughout the liturgical year.

If needed sooner, please call the Parish Office.

Baptism

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

Marriage

Arranged at least six months in advance, please call the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults(RCIA)

A process to be embraced by the Catholic Church. For non-Catholics and for Catholics who have never received formal religious education. If interested, please call the Parish Office.

Remembering . . .

Monday, January 11

8:00 AM Carmela & Vincent Stumpo

Tuesday, January 12

8:00 AM William C. Kapps

Wednesday, January 13

Saint Hilary, bishop and doctor of the Church

8:00 AM John Lovari

Thursday, January 14

8:00 AM Mario & Elizabeth Lombardi

Friday, January 15

8:00 AM Michael Egolf

Saturday, January 16

8:00 AM Anthony Lombardi, Gertrude Teufel
Heim and Jensen Family,
Gladys Frania-In Thanksgiving (*living*),
In Thanksgiving-Estellita DeLeon (*living*)

5:00 PM Armand Porzio
Fr. Pat Amabile

Sunday, January 17

8:00 AM Carolyn Wissing
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

9:30 AM Ann Nardone
Fr. Mike Vetrano

11:00 AM Amelia Rudolph
Fr. Pat Amabile

12:30 PM Mario Marra
Fr. Mike Vetrano

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Angela Russo,
Megan Anderson, Jack Timmer,
Lisa Cavalluzzo, Virginia Trimarchi,
Inez Hunter
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo



Baptism of the Lord

The old African-American spiritual "Michael Row the Boat Ashore" has one verse that goes, "Jordan's river is chilly and cold / hallelujah / chills the body but not the soul / hallelujah." We don't know what the temperature of the Jordan River was when Jesus stepped into it in front of John the Baptist. But Luke's Gospel relates that after he had been baptized and while he was praying the heavens opened up and the Holy Spirit descended upon him. A voice from heaven was heard, saying, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

It is unlikely that any such explicitly miraculous events occurred at our own baptism, or any that we may have attended. But something just as momentous did take place when we were baptized. In our baptism we became intimately connected to God; we became God's own children, just as Jesus is the Father's beloved Son. And when we were baptized the Holy Spirit descended upon us—not as a dove, but as the Spirit of God that always dwells in our hearts. That connectedness to God never disappears. Even when we are guilty of the worst sins, God is with us. We believe that the Holy Spirit dwells in us, helping us to act more and more like Christ as we reaffirm our baptismal commitment.

While we celebrate the signs and wonders at the Jordan that herald Jesus' baptism and the beginning of his public ministry, we also recall that our own baptism begins the call to minister in this world. Our baptismal call is to act like Christ, to be his hands, and voice, and heart in this world. When we act like him, we can be assured we too will hear the Father's voice, "with you I am well pleased."

2009 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of January 10, 2010

Sunday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or 40:1-5, 9-11/Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
Monday:	1 Sm 1:1-8/Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:9-20/Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday:	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday:	1 Sm 4:1-11/Mk 1:40-45
Friday:	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday:	Is 62:1-5/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

Outreach Donations-December

Parish Outreach has received many donations in memory of loved ones.

- Delores Tibbetts has made a donation to Outreach in memory of her husband, *Charles*.
- Outreach has received a donation from Jean Fisher in memory of *Robert Keith Fisher*.
- Rosemary VanAcker has made a Christmas Donation to Outreach in memory of her late husband, *Wayne*.
- Barbara Tuma has made a donation to Outreach in honor of *Chris Muldoon's Birthday*.
- The Aparo Family has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Alfred Aparo*.
- A donation has been made to Outreach in memory of *Agnes Mahoney, George Prygocki and Alberta Firth* from the Catuosco Family.
- Richard and Doris Shaddock have made a donation to Outreach in memory of their children *Baby and Richard Joseph*.
- Francoise Heim has made a donation to Outreach in memory of her husband, *Bill*.
- Mr. and Mrs. Michael Borruso have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Alberta Hawkins-Firth*.
- Joyce and Bob Peterson have made a Christmas Donation to Outreach *in honor of Mary McMahon* for the gift of her dedication, compassion and love that she puts into everything she does.
- Teresa and James Reilly have made a Christmas Donation to *Outreach*.
- Phyllis Diesso made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Charles Diesso*.
- The Kerrigan Family donated gifts to Outreach in memory of *Paul McKee, Harvey Spiers, Danilo Garcia, Anthony Marotti and in honor of John Sureau and Christine Muldoon*.
- Clare Hopkins has made a donation to Outreach in memory of her late husband, *Richard Hopkins*.
- Outreach received a donation from Marianne, David and Anna McGee in memory of Marianne's father, *John Wallace*.
- The Herringer-Velasco Family has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Alberta Hawkins-Firth*.
- Outreach has received a donation in memory of *Kevin and Christopher Clyde*.
- Outreach has received a donation in memory of *William and Audrey Chartrand*.

Financial Summary

December 27, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 20,673.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 1,673.00

January 3, 2010

Weekly Collection	\$ 22,166.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 3,166.00

Christmas 2009

Collected Amount	\$ 49,951.00
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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:

Bryan R. Dempsey-US Marines

Christopher Florca-US Marines

Michael Mallimo- US Army

Anthony Mannino-US Marines

JD Montefuso-US Marines

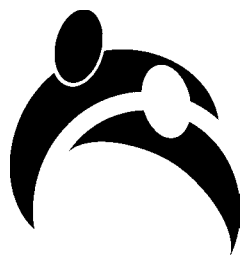
Peter Provenzano-US Army

Frank Sliva-US Army

...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 *Elizabeth Netska*.
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 ...

Phil Ambrosino, Roy Anderson, Susan Aviza, Matthew Badamo, Deacon Dick Barry, Ben Bellotti, Antoinette Bongiorno, Theresa Buffa, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Veronica Byrne, Howard Campkin, Nicholas Cibelli, Michael Ciotkosz, Regina Cranor, Jeanne DellaRagione, Ann Donlon, Susan Ferguson, Edward Herger, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Robert Kaminski, Mary Kaval, Veronica Kenny, Kathleen Kerrigan, Joseph Lehmann, Kara Lobasso, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Dorothy Meloni, Rick Mirabella, Brenden Muldoon, Evelyn Nonnon, John O'Brien, Frances Parine, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Laura Prichard, Joe Radosti, Frank Raimo, Carol Randazzo-Hopkins, Michael Savino, Ann Marie Schiraldi, Jayna Schmidt, Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Albina Sipplak, Derek Stahl, Mary Clair Stephen, Stephen Straub, Sr., Baby John Tramazzo, Nancy Turano, Vera Vieni, Pat Wallace, Joseph Walsh, Sr., Kyle Williams, Flo Worysz

Our Struggle to Celebrate

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

It's hard to celebrate properly. We want to, but we don't know how.

Mostly we celebrate badly because our idea of celebration is to overdo things. We try to celebrate by taking ordinary things (eating, drinking, singing, telling stories, playing) to excess. Celebration, for many of us, means over-eating, over-drinking, loud socializing, drunken singing, and staying at parties into the wee hours of morning, all in the hope that somehow in all that excess we will achieve celebration (whatever that means). But, for all our frenzied effort, there is precious little genuine enjoyment.

Occasionally we do succeed and genuinely celebrate. At those times we feel ourselves more deeply joined to others, widened, made larger, made more aware, made more playful, and sense more deeply the love and joy that lie at the heart of life. But that rarely happens and it never happens when we are in frenzy. Too often our celebrations are followed by a hangover (of one kind or another). Why?

The reasons for this are complex, deep, and mostly hidden from us.

Perhaps the primary reason why we find it so difficult to genuinely celebrate is that we seem to lack the capacity to simply enjoy things, to take life, pleasure, love, and enjoyment as a gift from God, pure and simple. It's not that we lack the capacity for to do this, it's more that this capacity in us is generally buried under a mound of guilt. What this means is that often we cannot enjoy legitimate pleasure because somehow, however unconsciously, we sense what is articulated in the ancient myths, namely, that in enjoying pleasure we are somehow stealing something from God.

We tend to blame religion for this, but this neurosis is universal, as much outside of religious circles as inside of them. Somehow, in the name of the divine, most everyone feels guilt in pleasure.

And because of this, we tend to alternate between rebellious enjoyment ("pleasure we steal from God") and joyless duty (a dutiful life, but without genuine pleasure and enjoyment). We never seem to be able to genuinely celebrate. I say genuinely because, paradoxically, our incapacity to enjoy is the very thing that pushes us into pseudo-celebration, hedonism, and an unhealthy pursuit of pleasure.

Simply put, because we struggle to enjoy ourselves simply we pursue enjoyment too much and substitute excess for enjoyment.

And this often leads to a dangerous confusion wherein we substitute pleasure for enjoyment, excess for ecstasy, and the obliteration of consciousness for heightened awareness. The champagne-soaked athletes celebrating a major victory and the mindless frenzy of a Mardi gras give us all the video footage we need to understand this. But excess isn't enjoyment, nor is obliterated consciousness heightened awareness. They are weak, unsatisfying substitutes.

The very purpose of celebration is to heighten and intensify the meaning of something (a birthday, a wedding, a major achievement, a victory, a graduation, the birth of a child, the beginning or ending of a year). These events demand to be shared, heightened, widened, trumpeted. We have a congenital need to celebrate and this is very healthy.

What does it mean to celebrate something? To celebrate an occasion is to heighten it, share it, savor it, enlarge it. We also celebrate in order to link ourselves more fully to others, to be playful, to intensify a feeling, to bring ourselves to ecstasy, and, more commonly, just to rest and unwind. But because of our incapacity to enjoy something simply we often try to create that enjoyment through excess and seek the ecstasy of heightened self-awareness in the obliteration of our consciousness.

Small wonder we often trudge home with a hangover, emptier, more tired, more alone. A hangover is an infallible sign that somewhere we missed a signpost.

But we must continue to try. Christ came and declared a wedding, a feast, a celebration, at the heart of life. He shocked people as much by the way he enjoyed his life as by the way he gave it up. In the end, he was rejected as much for his message of enjoyment as for his message of asceticism. That is still true today. We tend to read the gospels selectively so as to ignore Jesus' positive challenge to enjoy without guilt.

And in that lies our problem: Because we are never challenged religiously and in the name of Jesus, to enjoy, deeply and without guilt, the very human pleasures of our lives, our healthy, God-given, need for pleasure and enjoyment tends to go underground. We still seek pleasure and enjoyment, but now we split them off from what is religious and holy and "steal them from God" rather than enjoy them simply and religiously. That is one of the main reasons why we substitute excess for enjoyment and an obliterated consciousness for heightened awareness.

God has given us permission to enjoy life and its pleasures. That truth too needs to be a central part of our religious teaching. Pleasure is God's gift, not the forbidden fruit.

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.

Dominican Village

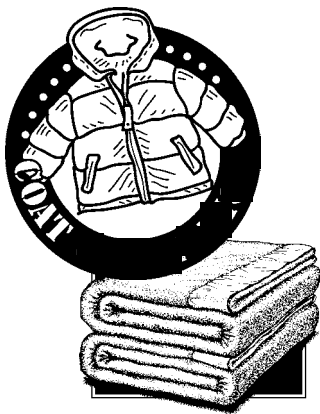
Please join us for an Open House on Thursday, January 14, 2010 from 1 PM until 3 PM. Dominican Village is an independent retirement community that offers assisted living and respite care, outstanding programs, all-inclusive services and bountiful amenities. For more information, or to schedule a tour at your convenience, call 631.842.6091.

Actors, Singers, Dancers, and Musicians Needed!

Creative Ministries, a Long Island Touring Company, seeks male and female actors, singers, dancers and musicians for a dramatic presentation of the Passion of Jesus.

The Journey, Cross and Crucifixion, a re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross, will be presented at parishes throughout Long Island this Lenten Season. If interested, please join us at the CM Performing Arts Center, located at 931 Montauk Highway in Oakdale on Monday, January 18 or Tuesday January 19 at 7:30 PM.

Please check our website at www.cmpac.com or call 631.218-2812.



Coat and Blanket Drive

The West Islip Fire Department is collecting gently used (or new) coats and blankets for children and adults in need of warmth this winter. OLL Parish Outreach will be able to send people to the Fire Department for these coats and blankets after January 1.

If you have coats and blankets you would like to donate, please bring these to the West Islip Fire Department on Union Blvd.

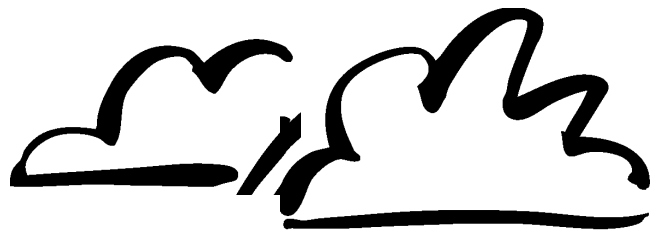
For more information, please call Lt. Dan O'Neill at 559.7951.

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 "Life's Struggles." Don't miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go to www.religionandrock.com or at "Religion & Rock" on ITUNES. Don't forget to tune into TELE CARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 296 for the Best in Catholic Television!

St. Vincent's Model Train and Toy Show

Sunday, January 24 between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elmont. Featured are Lionel, LGB and American Flyer trains and accessories with toys, crafts and match box miniatures. For more information, please call 516.352.2127



Dream Workshop

Dreams offer an opportunity to explore the deep hidden truth of who we are as God's beloved and precious creation. This day of prayer and reflection will focus on exploring how the language of symbol opens up the hidden messages found in our dreams and offers us new experiences in working with dreams. The workshop will be **Saturday, January 23, 2010 from 9:30 AM until 4:30 PM presented by Jean Lynch, at the Cenacle Retreat Office in Ronkonkoma.**

Registration begins at 9 AM. The offering is \$50 for the day and includes a light lunch.

A deposit of \$15 (non-refundable) will hold your registration.

For more information, please call 631.588.8366.

Families Anonymous

Are you concerned about a family member who appears to have an alcohol, drug, or behavioral problem? We can help. Meetings are held every **Saturday at 9:30 AM, Room 115 and every Wednesday at 8 PM, Room 116 at Our Lady of Grace School, West Babylon.**

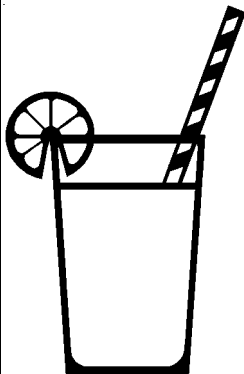
For information, contact Donna at 631.589.3790 or Julia at 631.587.5921.

Contemplative Outreach of Long Island/Queens

It's that time of year when Contemplative Outreach of Long Island/Queens has their annual visit from Fr. Carl Arico. Fr. Carl will enrich us with his workshop on Theresa of Avila on **Saturday, January 16 from 9:30 AM until 3:30 AM in the OLL Parish Center.**

For further information, please contact Diane at 587.0966.

How to Make Lemonade from Lemons in Your Life



This program focuses on: What to do when your experience moves you toward God. What to do when your experience moves you away from God. The afternoon will include presentations and time for personal quiet reflection and will end with a prayer service. The program will be on **Sunday, January 24, 2010 from 1:30 PM until 5:30 PM presented by Judy Osterburg, r.c. and Valerie Dunne, Staff Associate at the Cenacle Retreat Office in Ronkonkoma.**

Registration begins at 1 PM. The offering is \$30 for the day and includes light refreshments. A deposit of \$10 (non-refundable) will hold your registration.

For more information, please call 631.588.8366.

Sharing the Gospel

Your Dad says, "Wash your hands, please. It is almost time to eat." After you wash your hands really well, your Dad smiles. He says, "That's my boy. You did a good job!" In today's Gospel, it was time for Jesus to be baptized. After his baptism, Jesus talked to God his Father in prayer. Jesus did everything his Father asked. God was happy with his Son and said, "I'm pleased with you."



Mission for the Week

Find out what makes God happy.

As a family, read John 15:9-12.

Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

JOHN
MESSIAH
BAPTIZING

WATER
POWERFUL
SANDALS

HOLY SPIRIT
FIRE
JESUS

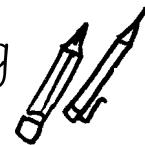
A J T U A R B Y W E N
H O L Y S P I R I T O
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E M O Z T U Y M S U A
S A N D A L S E O T H
U D Y T O E A N G E D
S O B A P T I Z I N G

Prayer



God,
I want to make you and
my parents happy.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of God
telling you, "Good job!"