

P A R I S H S T A F F

BUSINESS / FACILITIES MANAGER

Deacon Donald A. Stamm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 226-2384

Director of Religious Education: Thomas J. Acemoglu

RCIA / Adult Formation: Deacon Douglas G. Smith

Baptismal Prep: Deacon William Crosby

YOUTH MINISTRY 226-6239

Youth Ministry Coordinators: Brittany Marie Evans,
Thomas Schaefer and Anthony Amico

MUSIC DIRECTOR

James R. Kendall

SACRISTAN

Mark Costantino

PLANT MAINTENANCE

Vito Cudia

SPECIAL MINISTRIES

St. Vincent de Paul 225-5531

President: Joseph Illuminato

Catholic Youth Organization : olphcyophil@optonline.net

Program Coordinator: Phil Amico

516-732-8520

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

FEBRUARY 12– SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 6:30 Mass for the People of the Parish
- 8:00 Living & Deceased Members of the Holy Name Society
- 9:30 Kristen Mignogna
- 11:00 Book of the Faithful Departed
- 12:30 Gertrude C. Magliaro
- 5:00 Millie & Nick Alfieri
- 6:30 Polish Mass

MONDAY: Feb. 13— Weekday

- 8:00 Joanie Damm
- 12:00 Peggy Cullen
- 7:00 Susan Ryan
- 7:30 Devotions (Novena)

TUESDAY: Feb. 14– Sts. Cyril, Monk & Methodius, Bishop

- 8:00 Roseann Bertone
- 12:00 Ann Reasoner
- 7:00 Bruno & Victor Alvinovi

WEDNESDAY: Feb. 15—Weekday

- 8:00 Joseph Sredniawski
- 12:00 James M. Shea
- 7:00 Robert Lebitz

THURSDAY: Feb. 16– Weekday

- 8:00 Diane Smalling
- 12:00 Vincent Costigliola
- 7:00 Anthony Tabercio

FRIDAY: Feb. 17 The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

- 8:00 Charles Restaino
- 12:00 Jennie Ajello
- 7:00 Joseph Pino

SATURDAY: Feb. 18– Weekday

- 8:00 William J. Biscardi, Jr. & Mollie Cordiello
- 9:00 Donald Berger

VIGIL MASS –

- 5:00 James Lynn

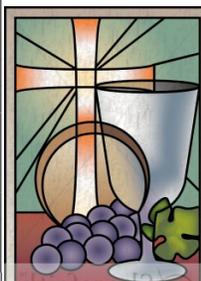
Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam



Mission Statement

“Trusting in God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and, motivated by Christ’s Life, Death and Resurrection, we, the people of God, under the protection of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, accept as our mission, the evangelization of our parishioners both active and inactive. We accept the call to bring all to a personal, Covenant relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior, to live the Paschal Mystery and to promote the spiritual health and growth of everyone in our parish community.”

- The OLPH Pastoral Council



Altar Bread & Wine

In Memory of

*Irene Canzoneri
& Maria Pecoraro*

Requested by

Liz & Agostino Pecoraro



From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Parishioners:

As you know, I will be stepping down as Pastor here at the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help this June. Thus the Parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help will have a new pastor in June 2012. I thought I would outline the process of selecting a new pastor.

First, a letter is sent to a number of the leadership people in the parish. This would include Fr. James Opoku, Fr. Moise Aime, Fr. Anselm Okeke, our Deacons, members of the parish staff, the members of the Finance Council, Trustees as well as heads of Parish Organizations and Committee. They are asked to submit, in writing, answers to the following questions:

-What are the strengths of your parish as you understand them at the present time?
Please list five such positives.

-What are the areas of pastoral life that are most in need of attention at the present time?

-What specific qualities of leadership do you think would best serve the needs of your parish in the next six years? Please list three.

Next, the Episcopal Vicar (Bishop John Dunne), the area dean (Msgr. Christopher Heller) and the Vicar for Clergy Personnel (Msgr. Brian McNamara) host an "Open Town House Meeting" to hear the concerns and vision of the larger parish community. This meeting will take place on **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 at 7:30pm in the School Auditorium. The purpose of this "Open Town House Meeting" meeting is to focus on the future of the parish:** Where does our parish need to go from here and what type of pastor can take us to that future.

All this information is distributed to the members of the Priest Personnel Assignment Board. This Board consists of six elected priests (elected by the other priests in the Diocese), the Vicar for Clergy Personnel, the three auxiliary bishops, the Vicar General, and Bishop Murphy.

At this same time, other priests in the diocese can apply to become the pastor. These pastor candidates have undergone a screening process and an interview with one of the auxiliary bishops and two members of the Priest Personnel Assignment Board. This Board then recommends that Bishop Murphy accept or postpone an individual priest for entrance into the "pastor pool". As the Bishop, Bishop Murphy makes the final decision regarding the priest candidate. Once accepted into the "pastor pool", a priest can apply for any open parish as the pastor.

Normally, each open parish would have a few priest candidates applying for the parish. The Priest Personnel Assignment Board members read through the information from the letters from the leadership people and the report from the "Open Town House Meeting". The Board then recommends candidates for the pastorate to Bishop Murphy. As the Diocesan Bishop, Bishop Murphy then chooses the next pastor of the parish.

I know that the Priest Personnel Assignment Board takes this responsibility very seriously. I ask for your prayers in the coming weeks so that the Holy Spirit will send a good shepherd to the people of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish. I am very confident that with the new pastor, our parish family will continue to live out the Gospel of Christ.

In Christ,

Fr. Trapani



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11; 1 Cor 10:31-11:1; Mk 1:40-45

“Do everything for the glory of God,” Paul tells the Corinthians in today’s second reading. Indeed, we are all charged with that same task. As Christian disciples, we are called to live in such a way that all we do and say gives glory to the Lord. We recognize that He is the one who has given us the many good gifts we enjoy – our time, our talents, and our treasure. Even our very lives come by way of gift from God, and it is our duty as His disciples to use the many gifts He has given us in such a way that we bear witness to Him. It is not an easy task, particularly in the world in which we live. We are surrounded by so much relativistic thinking, and engulfed in a culture of selfishness. The secular society tells us that what “I” want to do and when “I” want to do it is all that matters. Yet, we know that there is so much beyond our “here and now” life on Earth. There is so much beyond the “feel-good” mentality of our culture. We are here to know, love, and to

serve God, and when we do so, all who come in contact with us will see Christ. It is a difficult task to be in the world but not of it, and to live for one person and one person only: the Lord. But we know that, when we do, we are richly rewarded. The life of a Christian disciple isn’t an easy one. In fact, just as the Corinthians to whom Paul writes this letter, we are sure to confront constant opposition, but when we live for Christ, giving Him glory in all we do – at home, at work, at school, and elsewhere, we are richly blessed.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

John Bertone Elaine Tejera
Linda McLellan Barbara McPhail
Rocco Meiners

Dear God,
 We place our worries in Your hands and ask that
 You restore Your servant to health again.



PRAY FOR THE DEAD

Thomas Osborne, Jr.
Giovanna Elia
Framciszek Wegrzynowska

We ask you,
 O God,
 to be our quiet strength
 and consolation.

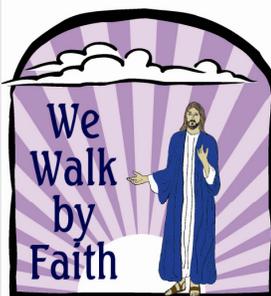


As Christian Stewards in Today’s World, We “Walk by Faith.”

February 12, 2012 —6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today’s second reading, St. Paul urges the Corinthians to “do all for the glory of God.” If we follow that advice in everything we do, we cannot help but be good stewards.

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who use their gifts to welcome and offer hospitality to those who are frequently shunned ... the stranger, the immigrant, the AIDS sufferer, the mentally ill and the poor.



WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Your Parish Finance Council has suggested that this simple bar graph be added to our weekly bulletin to illustrate the gap between the Sunday collection and the amount needed to achieve a balanced parish budget. Since the beginning of our fiscal year, September 1, 2011, we have experienced a weekly shortfall in collections. It is urgent that we begin to reverse this trend.

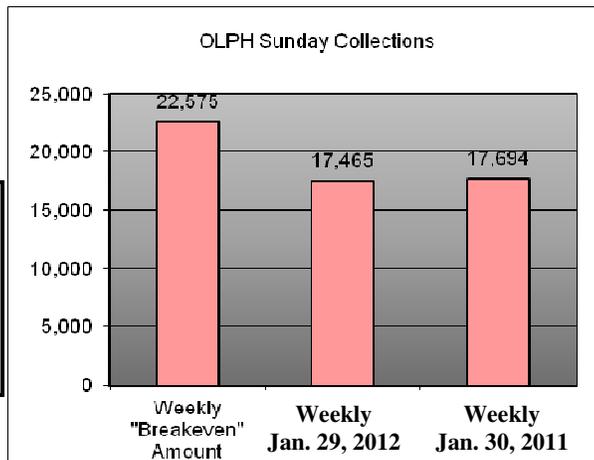
**OUR PARISH’S FINANCIAL HEALTH
 DEPENDS ON YOUR GENEROSITY**

HELP CLOSE THE GAP!

All envelopes must have your account number and offering amount indicated in order for your account to be credited for weekly and special donations.

The account number, after the #267, is located under the date. Remember you must be registered in the parish in order to receive envelopes. Thank you.

We now have 82 parishioners/families enrolled in Faith Direct!



PARISH NEWS

- Right now a bill co-sponsored by Republican Jeff Fortenberry (NE) and Democrat Dan Lipinski (IL), titled the **Respect for the Rights of Conscience Act** or **H.R. 1179**, would prohibit the federal government from requiring a provider to provide, participate in, or refer for a specific health care service contrary to the provider's religious beliefs or moral convictions. Senator Roy Blunt, R-MO, has a complementary bill in the Senate called **S. 1467**. The **Reproductive Health Act** seeks to have abortion declared a 'fundamental right' in New York State, prohibiting even basic and widely supported protections, such as parental consent and limits on government funding of abortion. The law would allow any "health care practitioner" to perform an abortion, jeopardize any agency that does not refer for abortion and seriously threaten conscience protections for hospitals and medical professionals. On **Feb. 11, 12, 18 & 19**, members of the Respect Life Committee will be **collecting signatures** on both **petitions against** the "**Reproductive Health Act**" AND the "**Respect for the Rights of Conscience Act**" to send to Albany.

Please stand up for your Catholic beliefs! Come sign the petitions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Lindenhurst School District 2012 Budget Workshop Dates:** Wed., **Feb. 29**, Community input night; **March 6**, Bldg & Grounds, Sp. Ed., Trans; **March 14**, Building Budget, Transportation; **March 19**, Personnel; **March 27**, 2012-13 Budget; **April 4**, B of Ed Business Meeting. All workshops will be 7pm at Administration Bldg, 350 Daniel St.
- **Healing Mass at St. Ignatius Retreat House, Manhasset** (across from Christopher Morley Park (621 -8300) 6:30 p.m. Rosary, 7 p.m. Healing Mass Schedule: Tuesday, **March 6**, Tuesday, **April 17**, Tuesday, **May 15**, Tuesday, **June 5**.
- **The Dominican Sisters of Amityville** will host their **Annual Irish Night Dance** Sat, **March 3** at St. Bridget's School, Westbury. Starting with a Mass for "Peace for the World" at 7pm followed by the Irish Step Dancers, Bag pipers and "Celtic Connection Band" at 8pm. Complete with traditional Irish Dinner—\$40pp—call 631-842-600 X 238 or S. Patricia Koehler, OP pkoehler@aol.com.
- **Bereavement Support Group: St. Mary's Parish**, East Islip, 8 week support group for adults struggling with the deaths of loved ones which occurred prior to Dec. 7, 2011. Registration is required. Wed, **March 7**, 7-9pm. Refreshments will be served. For Info and registration call 631-581-4266 X 100.
- **Church of St. Mary's**, East Islip, is hosting "**Compassion Fatigue**" Sat. **March 10**, 9:15—11am presented by Barbara Redmond, R.N., BSN, RTS, for caregivers, parents, professionals and anyone who interacts with others. Come be enlightened and renewed. RSVP to St. Mary's Rectory 631-581-4266 X 100. NO FEE! Refreshments.
- **Dominican Village St. Patrick's Day Celebration—March 16**, 6:30-11pm Helen Butler O.P. Hall, 565 Albany Ave. Amityville. Open Bar, Irish Cuisine, Irish Story teller, Step Dancers! \$2500 Raffle Prize. \$60pp 631-842-6618.
- **7th Annual Divine Mercy Conference—** will take place **March 24** 9am-5pm at Cardinal Spellman H.S. Bronx, NY. Guest speakers include: Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR, Abby Johnson & Scott Hahn. **Registration a must:** \$55 per person; \$9 pre-selected lunch (or bring your own) online registration: www.thedivinemercy.org/bronx; 1-800-462-7426 or by mail. Informational/registration brochures available on the pew ledges.
- **Family, Marriage and Individual Therapy—**provided by NYS licensed therapists available to our parish and 102 other parishes. Services provided by Catholic Counseling Center. Most insurance policies, including Medicare, are honored. Confidential information and appointments: call Dr. Giuliani 631-243-2503 or go to our website thecatholiccounselingcenter.com.

The 2011 tax statements are being mailed to those households whose donations total \$200 or more. All others will be forwarded upon request.

Faith Direct members should use the statement mailed to each member on Jan. 31 in addition to the statement received from the parish.

SCHOOL NEWS

Language Arts - Grade 7 - Students took their first midterm today. They have been learning to identify literary elements which are important to greater understanding and comprehension. They need to know 34 terms which they have been learning and applying to all genres of literature since 6th grade.

Religion - Grade 7 - Students are learning the symbols of the Holy Spirit. They understand the significance of the dove, fire, water, and anointing. They learned the special fragrant oil which is blessed by the bishop is called chrism.



February 12, 2012 — Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11; 1 Cor 10:31-11:1; Mk 1:40-45



In today's second reading, Paul exhorts the Corinthians: "do everything for the glory of God," an exhortation that applies as directly to us today as it did to his original audience.

The Corinthians were largely Gentile Christians, having converted to Christianity without Jewish roots. Meanwhile, many of the early Christians were Jewish converts, so they were of the belief that all Christians ought to follow Jewish laws and customs, namely not eating meat that had been sacrificed to idols. Yet, the Corinthians understood that the idols to which the meat was offered did not exist, so to them, consuming the meat was not a grave wrong. At the same time, however, they recognized that their pagan neighbors, believing the idols to exist, took a certain delight in the Christians consuming such meat.

Recognizing the conundrum in which the Corinthians found themselves, Paul encouraged them, reminding them that the most important thing was that they glorify God in all they do, being careful, at the same time, not to offend those around them, "just as I try to please everyone in every way, that they may be saved," he wrote.

We live in a very different world today, and our understanding of Church law has evolved greatly over the years, yet the goal of our lives is one and the same. We are striving to be Christian disciples, to give ourselves to Christ in service and to follow His example. And we face many opposing forces as well. Indeed, everywhere we turned we are face-to-face with people encouraging us to turn away, encouraging us to submit to the relativistic culture that is so prevalent in our society, to choose whatever is easy or enjoyable for me in the moment.

Our calling as stewards requires us to look beyond the here and now, to look beyond what feels good at the time and focus on the cross, seeing in it the selfless sacrificial love that defined Christ's life here on Earth and, in all things to give God the glory. He deserves it.

He is the all-powerful Lord we serve. He has given us every good gift. He has gifted us beyond our wildest dreams, like the lepers in the first reading and the Gospel today, God has blessed us beyond belief and we ought to shout His praise from the rooftop.

In today's gospel, Mark tells of a leper whom Jesus heals, and, though Jesus asked Him not to say anything, the man couldn't help himself. He went all about the town praising Jesus for His good works, giving Him the credit for the miracle.

Likewise, we ought to proclaim the good news of what God has done. We ought to use all that God has given us — our time, our talents and our treasure to praise and glorify Him, letting all who see or hear us know that He is the one worthy of praise.

He is the great gift giver.

All praise and glory to God!



Society of St. Vincent de Paul : "WE HELP PEOPLE"

PEANUT BUTTER, JELLY & JAM, TUNA FISH, CANNED MEATS, CANNED & PKG. POTATOES, SHELF-STABLE POWERED & EVAPORATED MILK, PANCAKE MIX & SYRUP, PORK & BEANS, CAKE MIX, JELLO & PUDDING, CANNED FRUIT, CEREAL, COFFEE, HOT CHOCOLATE.

PLEASE - NO PASTA AT THIS TIME!

St. Vincent de Paul Pantry is located at 272 South Wellwood Ave.

The office is open ONLY on *Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 am—12 noon.* Call 631-225-5531.





**2012 Family Life
MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION**

From Happy Hour to Holy Hour! Come join us for a family evening of fun followed by a Prayer Service as we begin our Lenten journey strengthening our relationship with God



Date: Tuesday, **February 21**, 2012

Time: **6:30 to 9:30 p. m.** (doors open at 6 p.m.)

Location: **OLPH Parish/School auditorium**

Cost: **\$20.00 per family** *or* **\$5.00 per person**

Please bring a covered dish to be shared: Lemonade, ice tea, & water will be provided

music, games, 50/50, raffles & prizes

Mardi Gras King & Queen will be crowned

Tear Off: **Please return to OLPH Rectory ASAP no later than 2/15**

Attn: Family Life

210 South Wellwood Ave, Lindenhurst

(no tickets will be sold at the door; limited capacity of 160).

Name: _____ # of adults _____ # of children & ages _____

Telephone number _____

Amount enclosed: cash _____ check _____ (Make checks payable: **OLPH**)

if possible please bring a covered dish for your family and a little extra to be shared

Covered dish _____

All donations will be accepted

Any questions and/or ticket information contact:

Deirdre Strigaro 225-0928 & Debbie McDonough 957-0765



Ringling Bros., Barnum and Bailey Circus

Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum

7pm, Wednesday, March 21st

\$12 per ticket



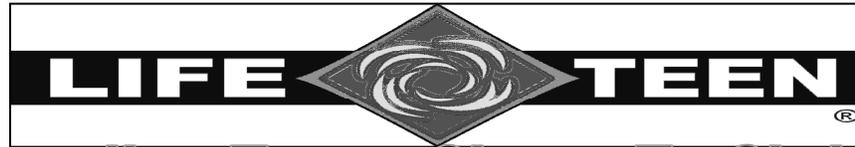
To order tickets, return the attached form, by **February 18th**, to:
Stephen Strigaro Phone: **(631) 225-0928**
131 North 7th Street
Lindenhurst, NY 11757-3739

Make checks payable to: **OLPH Knights of Columbus #794**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

#Tickets: _____ @ \$12 each Total: \$ _____



Leading Teens Closer To Christ

LIFE NIGHT TONIGHT: 6pm Life Night Gifted

- Come see what we are all about! 8th grade through high school welcome :)

Bible Study

-Join us Sunday before mass each week for a bible study 4pm in the Life Teen room.

Girl's Night!! Feb 24th

-Jess & Britt are planning a good one! All girls welcome!!! Need more details? Email us here

olphlifeteen1@gmail.com

Women of Faith

-A new group started by Carol Miranda and Brittany Evans will meet twice a month, this is for all women who have graduated high school and are interested in forming friendships centered around their faith and prayer. Our next meeting will be Wednesday **Feb 22nd** at 7pm in the Life Teen office, we just ask for a donation for food.

Please contact us here for more information olphlifeteen1@gmail.com

RETREAT!!

Our retreat is SO SOON!! We still need more teens to make it successful!! Join us for the weekend, spend your time centered around prayer, fun, and amazing people! **March 16th, 17th, and 18th** at **Camp Alvernia** contact the Life Teen office for permission slips, **deposits of \$50 are due 2/26.**

Parents-

Anyone interested in donating food please see Brittany after mass or contact the Life Teen office

olphlifeten1@gmail.com or [631-226-6239](tel:631-226-6239)

Lastly please check our website for more details about all the events listed above www.lifeteenolph.weebly.com

The Edge is for all middle school age kids – no matter where you go to school—this is the place for you! We meet in the basement of the Convent. Look for the blue door on the south side of the Convent. We meet from 7:30 til 8:45 pm. It's a great place to come, hang out, play great games and learn about our faith.

Just come on down, no need to sign up!

Edge Feb.28th

Check out the EDGE website @ www.olphym.com or call **226-6239** and leave a message for Peggy



Catholic Middle School Ministry

Readings for the Week—Feb. 12-18, 2012:

Sunday, February 12: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46, 1 Cor 10:31-11:1, Mk 1:40-45

Monday, Feb. 13: *Jas 1:1-11; Mk 8:11-13*

Tuesday, Feb. 14: *Jas 1:12-18; Mk 8:14-21*

Wednesday, Feb. 15: *Jas 1:19-27; Mk 8:22-26*

Thursday, Feb. 16: *Jas 2:1-9; Mk 8:27-33*

Friday, Feb. 17: *Jas 2:14-24, 26; Mk 8:34-9:1*

Saturday, Feb. 17: *Jas 3:1-10; Mk 9:2-13*



New Votive Candelabras
for Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

ST. KILLIANS CANDELABRA
"The Light of the World"

Safe, Eco-Friendly, Low-Maintenance
and the Cleanest-Burning Candles in the World

This Lenten season our parish will begin replacing the old electric votive racks with new wax-candle racks manufactured by St. Killians Candle Company of Tipperary, Republic of Ireland.

The St. Killians Candelabra provide natural candle light in a safe, clean, eco-friendly environment that is easy to use and maintain. This patented candle rack system is an innovative yet traditional alternative to conventional systems used in cathedrals, churches and shrines. There are many advantages of using this product over traditional and electronic votive racks. These new candles are safe and virtually smoke-free. Maintenance is minimal and simple. Devotion is enhanced with the beauty and warmth of natural candle light.

This new system has been introduced successfully at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York as well as several parishes in our own diocese. These new votive candelabra may be memorialized by one or more families at a donation of \$2500 for each votive rack. More information will be available in the rectory office.



OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION ✠ DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

PARISH STAFF MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS PLEASE JOIN US!
All who work with families come to share ideas, discuss challenges, and learn about exciting family programs happening throughout our diocese

STRENGTHENING & SUPPORTING THE FAMILY
FAMILY MINISTRY NETWORK MEETINGS
AN INTIMATE COMMUNITY OF LIFE & LOVE

SHARING, SHAPING AND SHARPENING OUR MINISTRY TO FAMILIES

Preparing Our Hearts for the Risen Lord

An interactive and hands-on presentation of Lenten activities leading us from Mardi Gras to Easter morning

Tuesday, March 6, 2012 • 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
210 South Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst, NY 11757-4989
Convent Meeting Room

Presenter
Debbie McDonough • Parish Coordinator • Family Ministry

RSVP by Friday, March 2, 2012
There is no fee to attend this meeting. All are welcome to attend!

Please e-mail Debbie Coyne at dcoyne@drvc.org if you are planning to attend.

www.drvc-faith.org ✠ (516) 678-5800 ✠ P.O. Box 9023, Rockville Centre, NY 11571

"Blessed Are You"
Bereavement Conference
SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2012
KELLENBERG MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL, UNIONDALE, NY • 8:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M.

For the Bereaved and Those Ministering to Them

WORKSHOPS AND SHARING SESSIONS ARE OFFERED IN THE FOLLOWING
Specific Loss · Spirituality & Support for All Losses · General Loss ·
For Professional & Volunteer Facilitators & Caregivers

For more info visit: www.drvc-faith.org/bereavement.html or call 516-334-7990 ext. 120 or 112.
Online Registration Discount: <http://holyroodcemetery.org/Bereavement.html>

Sponsored by Catholic Cemeteries and the Office of Faith Formation in the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

"...Blessed are they who mourn for they shall be comforted." MT 5:4

Sunday March 25, 2012
Seminary Auditorium
3:00pm

N.T. WRIGHT
Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity,
University of St. Andrews
"How God Became King:
Why We've All Misunderstood the Gospels"

For further information, contact:
Seminary of the Immaculate Conception
Academic Office ~ 440 West Neck Road ~
Huntington, NY 11743
(631) 423-0483 x 112
Free will offering

February 2012—Ministry of Praise

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we put away the last ornaments in their boxes and wrap up all of our Christmas belongings, we can take a sigh of relief, the season is over. Did we come away with “what it’s about?” The opportunity to know and understand better, that a child was born to lead the way to Salvation! A child, hard to truly understand, the message is a simple one. A child, in his thought and actions, was pure and free from all of the trappings of this world. The Advent season, was an opportunity to be that child again, free from all the trappings of this world, to love and give to us with an open heart.

Well, all is not lost. We are, in a few weeks coming into a new season, the season of Lent. (*Isn't God Good*) What's so great about that? There is suffering, dying and of course, the resurrection. What's the opportunity in that? It's the chance for change. Some change is wonderful, winning the lottery or starting again in a new job. Starting a family or watching a child take its first steps and saying its first words.

Some changes are painful, the loss of a loved one, losing all you have worked hard for all your life. Expecting a healthy child and having one with a serious illness. All things change in this life we have. Just as in Jesus life, he had a change of address, change of career, and change of life expectancy.

I often wonder if Jesus hadn't been so good with change. What would have happened? He, like his mother, Mary, when asked, to take the opportunity to change the condition of their lives, their dreams, for God's plan, they were willing to do so with great enthusiasm.

How about us? Not always so willing to take the opportunity God hands us to be the person he would have in mind. We don't always say, 'your will not mine be done', as often as we can. Here, in the Lenten season, which is coming up soon, is your opportunity to reevaluate your life.

Where is it going? Am I closer to God than I was before? Or have I stepped off the path. Is God my main focus? Or is he in the wings for when I get an extra minute or two. Are the Words he taught my words? Am I living out the Gospel message? Do I care or love the way he did?

God is love, in all its forms, words, actions and deeds. It's hard to be like him if you don't really know him or spend much time getting to know him. Well, you're in luck! That is what the seasons of Advent and Lent are for.

“Come unto me, all of you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

No, it's not winning the New York LOTTO. It's the LOTTO of eternal salvation. The goal of us all is to be more like Christ in word and action. To love without expecting any in return, it's counseling not being counseled, understand not being understood, giving without receiving.

A favorite Saint of mine has words I love to share. Mother Theresa knew Jesus and The Holy Trinity. Her life was a testimony to that. Most of us aren't Mother Theresa, but she can inspire us to see the beauty and goodness that she found in doing the work of Christ. Her words are, “Do It Anyway”.

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self centered. Forgive them anyway.
 If you are kind, People may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
 If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies. Succeed anyway.
 If you are honest and frank, People may cheat you. Be honest and frank anyway.
 What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight. Build anyway.
 If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous. Be happy anyway.
 The good you today, People will often forget tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may not be enough. Give the world the best you have anyway. You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway. In reading her poem, you see she never lost an opportunity to see God's plan for all of us, salvation. So, in this new season of Lent, stop and ask God to be ever more present in your life and in your actions so one day you too can say as St Paul, ‘I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race and I kept the Faith’. May the God of love and kindness be with you and open your heart to the changes and opportunities in your race to salvation, letting God, work through your words and actions to heal yourself and others.

**Your sister in Christ,
Donna Salina**