

**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](mailto:olphcyophil@optonline.net)

**Program Coordinator:** Phil Amico

516-732-8520

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**FEBRUARY 26– 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT**

- 6:30 Mass for the People of the Parish
- 8:00 Book of the Faithful Departed
- 9:30 Reginald T. Sowinski
- 11:00 Dominick DeGirolamo
- 12:30 Dominick Cuiffini
- 5:00 Raymond Ruegamer
- 6:30 Polish Mass

**MONDAY: Feb. 27— Lenten Weekday**

- 8:00 Enthronement of Jesus Christ the King in Poland & all over the World
- 12:00 Fiore Casale
- 7:00 Thomas Cannon
- 7:30 Devotions (Novena)

**TUESDAY: Feb. 28– Lenten Weekday**

- 8:00 Mary Otruba
- 12:00 Katherine Savage Marko & Joshua
- 7:00 Gloria Jordan

**WEDNESDAY: Feb. 29— Lenten Weekday**

- 8:00 Gregory M. Pendergast
- 12:00 Irene Brennan
- 7:00 Maureen McDermott

**THURSDAY: March 1—Lenten Weekday**

- 8:00 Hedwig M. & John E. Yuliano
- 12:00 Joseph Zuppone
- 7:00 Sherry Banister

**FRIDAY: March 2—First Friday**

- 8:00 Anna Rose Farrell
- 12:00 Antonio Bonventre
- 7:00 Kazimierz Wiszowaty & Family
- 7:30 **Stations of the Cross** (Traditional)

**SATURDAY: March 3—First Saturday**

- 8:00 Thomas Daniel Matias
- 9:00 Suzanne & Anthony Finazzo

**VIGIL MASS –**

- 5:00 Dominica Dellaria

*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  
**Thomas Daniel Matias**  
Requested by  
**Michele Matias**



### From the Pastor's Desk:

#### History of Lent - FR. WILLIAM SAUNDERS

Lent is a special time of prayer, penance, sacrifice and good works in preparation of the celebration of Easter. In the desire to renew the liturgical practices of the Church, *The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* of Vatican Council II stated, "The two elements which are especially characteristic of Lent -- the recalling of baptism or the preparation for it, and penance -- It is by means of them that the Church prepares the faithful for the celebration of Easter, while they hear God's word more frequently and devote more time to prayer" (no. 109). Since the earliest times of the Church, there is evidence of some kind of Lenten preparation for Easter. However, the actual practices and duration of Lent were still not homogeneous throughout the Church.

Lent becomes more regularized after the legalization of Christianity in A.D. 313. The Council of Nicea (325), in its disciplinary canons, noted that two provincial synods should be held each year, "one before the 40 days of Lent." St. Cyril of Jerusalem (d. 386) in his *Catechetical Lectures*, which are the paradigm for our current RCIA programs, had 18 pre-baptismal instructions given to the catechumens during Lent. St. Cyril of Alexandria (d. 444) in his series of "Festal Letters" also noted the practices and duration of Lent, emphasizing the 40-day period of fasting. Finally, Pope St. Leo (d. 461) preached that the faithful must "fulfill with their fasts the Apostolic institution of the 40 days," again noting the apostolic origins of Lent. One can safely conclude that by the end of the fourth century, the 40-day period of Easter preparation known as Lent existed, and that prayer and fasting constituted its primary spiritual exercises.

Of course, **the number "40" has always had special spiritual significance regarding preparation. On Mount Sinai, preparing to receive the Ten Commandments,** "Moses stayed there with the Lord for 40 days and 40 nights, without eating any food or drinking any water" (Ex 34:28). **Elijah walked "40 days and 40 nights"** to the mountain of the Lord, Mount Horeb (I Kgs 19:8). Most importantly, **Jesus fasted and prayed for "40 days and 40 nights"** in the desert before He began His public ministry (Mt 4:2).

- Once the 40 days of Lent were established, **the next development concerned how much fasting** was to be done. In Jerusalem, people fasted for 40 days, Monday through Friday, but not on Saturday or Sunday, thereby making Lent last for eight weeks. In Rome and in the West, people fasted for six weeks, Monday through Saturday, thereby making Lent last for six weeks. Eventually, the practice prevailed of fasting for six days a week over the course of six weeks, and Ash Wednesday was instituted to bring the number of fast days before Easter to 40.

- **The rules of fasting varied. First,** some areas of the Church abstained from all forms of meat and animal products, while others made exceptions for food like fish. Pope St. Gregory (d. 604), writing to St. Augustine of Canterbury, issued the following rule: "We abstain from flesh, meat, and from all things that come from flesh, as milk, cheese and eggs."

**Second,** the general rule was for a person to have one meal a day, in the evening or at 3 p.m.

These Lenten fasting rules also evolved. Eventually, a smaller repast was allowed during the day to keep up one's strength from manual labor. Eating fish was allowed, and later eating meat was also allowed through the week except on Ash Wednesday and Friday. Dispensations were given for eating dairy products if a pious work was performed, and eventually this rule was relaxed totally.

- Over the years, modifications have been made to the Lenten observances, making our practices not only simple but also easy. People are still encouraged "to give up something" for Lent as a sacrifice.

An emphasis must be placed on performing spiritual works, like attending the Stations of the Cross, attending Mass, making a weekly holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament, taking time for personal prayer and spiritual reading and most especially making a good confession and receiving sacramental absolution. Although the practices may have evolved over the centuries, the focus remains the same: to repent of sin, to renew our faith and to prepare to celebrate joyfully the mysteries of our salvation.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This article is reprinted with permission from *Arlington Catholic Herald*.

May God +bless you and yours, today and forever.

*Fr. Trapani*

**BANNS OF MARRIAGE**

**First Time:**

*Sean O'Rourke (St. Lawrence, Sayville) & Tara Dawson (OLPH)*

**Second Time:**

*Thomas McDonald (OLPH) & Tiffany O'Connor (Our Lady of Grace, West Babylon, NY)*



**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

*John Bertone Elaine Tejera  
Barbara McPhail  
Charles Herman  
Josephine Senatore  
Edward Saturnino*

*Dear God,*

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



**Baptisms**

*Matthew Francis James Martin*

*We Welcome you, with love, to our parish family!*

*We have had 14 Baptisms so far In 2012.*



**PRAY FOR THE DEAD**

*John J. Brennan  
Angelo Cuzzo  
Anna Inshingolo  
Leo Interdonato  
Hugo Mascari*

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

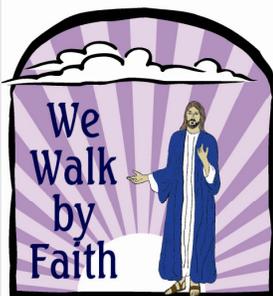


**As Christian Stewards in Today's World, We "Walk by Faith."**

**February 26, 2012 —First Sunday of Lent**

**The waters of Baptism make us part of the new covenant in Christ. The Bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship reminds us that "there is a fundamental obligation arising from the sacrament of Baptism... that people place their gifts, their resources—their selves—at God's service in and through the Church."**

*We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish whose giving—whether of alms, time or service—will be an expression of gratitude for what the Father has given them.*



**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.

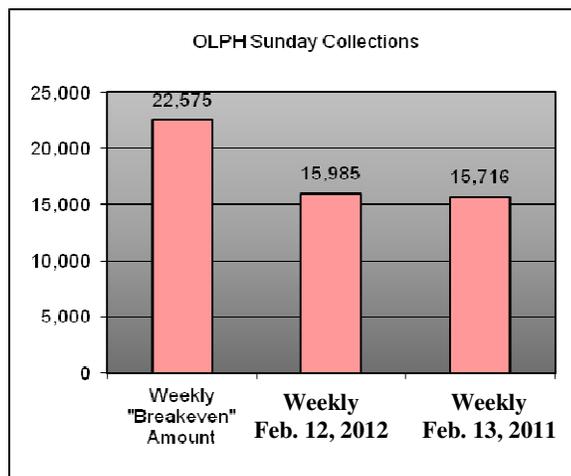
**OUR PARISH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH  
DEPENDS ON YOUR GENEROSITY**

***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 (filled out an information card) in the parish in order to receive envelopes. Thank you.**

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



### PARISH NEWS

- The Episcopal Vicar, Bishop John Dunne, the area dean, Msgr. Christopher Heller and the Vicar for Clergy Personnel, Msgr. Brian McNamara will host an "Open Town House Meeting" to hear the concerns and vision of the larger parish community 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**.
- **First Friday Devotions**— in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be conducted **Friday, March 2** at 7:45am and after the 12 noon Mass.
- **First Saturday Devotions** in honor of Our Lady of Fatima will be conducted **Sat., March 3** beginning with the rosary at 7:40am, Mass at 8am and continued devotion. A continental breakfast will follow in the pastor's meeting room in the basement of the rectory.
- **Nocturnal Adoration** will be held **Saturday, March 3** from 9pm—midnight. All are welcome to come and spend an hour in prayer with the Lord.

### 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, Bagpipers 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](http://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](http://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.**

LENTEN OBSERVANCES

*Ash Wednesday: Feb. 22*

*4pm Distribution of Ashes Service*

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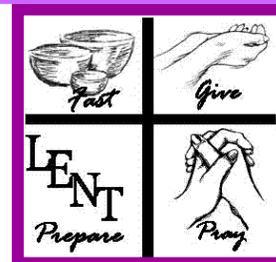
*Traditional Stations of the Cross*

*will be conducted at 7:30 pm*

*Fridays: Feb. 24, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30*

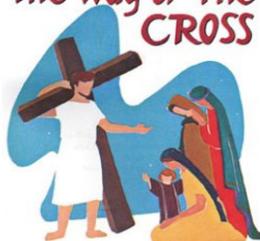
*and after the 12 noon service*

*on Good Friday, April 6.*



*All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent. All Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine inclusive are also bound to observe the law of fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be taken during the day.*

**The Way of The CROSS**



**For Children**

**Family Life** invites

all children and their parents to participate in the

**Stations of the Cross**

Friday, March 9th & 30th

at 4 p.m. in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

Come join us as we walk the footsteps of Jesus to each Station and remember what happened to Jesus on Good Friday because of his love for us.

*All Parishioners are Welcome to participate.*

If your child would like to be a reader and for further information contact:

Debbie McDonough @957-0765 or Chris Ferris @ 957-2321



**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.



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS  
AT OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH**

Registration for public-school students who will participate in the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Religious Education Program for the 2012-2013 academic year will be held on:

<b>Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>4:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.</b>
<b>Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.</b>
<b>Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>9:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.</b>

**The Religious Education Office is located at 260 South Wellwood Avenue**

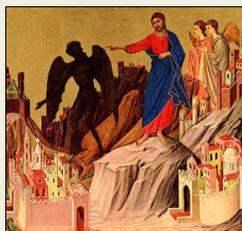
Parents with a child now in Kindergarten who will be in the first grade in September 2012 should register the child for religious instruction at this time.

All students entering first grade in any of the Lindenhurst Public Schools and residing within the parish boundaries who wish to make First Communion at the regular time in the second grade must be registered on one of the dates mentioned above and must regularly attend both the first and second grade of the Religious Education Program. Students entering grades 2-8 who did not attend the OLPH program in the past academic year (2011-2012) must also register on the above dates.

Parents registering their children for the first time must bring the original copy of the child's Baptismal Certificate as a requirement for registration, unless the child was baptized in OLPH Church.

For further information, please call the OLPH Religious Education Office; 631-226-2384.

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.; Wednesdays 4:30 to 8:30 P.M.



**Stewardship Bulletin Reflection February 26, 2012 – First Sunday of Lent**

**[Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15](#)**

Lent is upon us. This season of intense fasting and prayer offers us an opportunity to focus on our sinful nature and the wonder of Christ's saving power in a particularly poignant way. As Jesus tells us in the gospel reading today, we are to "repent and believe in the gospel."

But doing so involves much more than a simple passive belief. In fact, for Christian disciples, this belief in the gospel necessitates a life actively lived for the sake of the gospel, a life lived in immigration of Jesus who gave himself up for death for the sake of others.

This does not mean that we will all be called to die a martyr's death. But our lives ought to be lived out for others. As stewards, we ought to give ourselves in loving service for others — at home, in our parishes, at work, at school and elsewhere. The life of a Christian disciple, as Christ so radically shows us, is a life of self-giving in love.

It sounds like a lot of work, and rightly so. Just look at the cross. It is far from easy. But, then, focus on the resurrection. Christ suffered the most unthinkable agony, but in his resurrection he experienced the most tremendous victory. That is what we live for. We give of ourselves like Christ did, knowing that we look forward to the glory of eternal life. The reward of a self-giving Christian steward far surpasses the effort it takes to live this way; it far surpasses any hardships we experience along the way.

So, we live for others and we call others to do the same, proclaiming the good news that Christ has come to save. All we need to do is repent and believe. Then, on Easter morning, we celebrate together the joy of the resurrection and we look forward to the day when we run out to meet the Lord together with all the angels and saints.

What a glorious gospel we proclaim!



Medium Jar Candles ▶

### Christian Mothers & Guild **Yankee Candle Fund-Raiser**

Jar Candles, votives, tea lights in a variety of scents. Tea light, votive holders, & jar shades. Room sprays, reed diffusers & car air fresheners.

Prices range from *\$5.00 to \$30.00.*

We even have fruit & floral kits, flower mats & blooming bulbs.

Great gift ideas for Mother's Day.

Prices range from *\$8.00 to \$15.00.*

Please help support this Parish fund raiser.

**Sale ends March 23rd.**

For further information or to see a catalogue contact:

*Barbara Nee @ 957-0314 or Debbie McDonough @ 957-0765.*

(Brochure may be view at [www.YankeeFundraising.com](http://www.YankeeFundraising.com))



Reed Diffuser ▶

## **CHILDREN, HAVE YOU SEEN THE DEAD TREE IN CHURCH?**

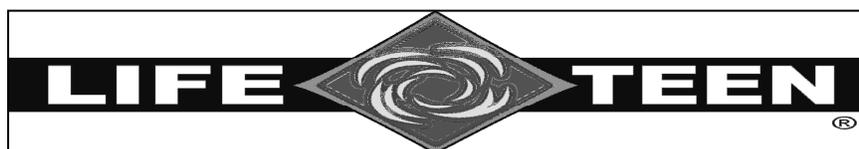
**Family Life** invites all children to help bring our dead tree back to life on ***Easter Sunday.***

**Lent** is a time to ***do something*** that will help you to grow closer to God.

You may pray more, be more helpful to others, or do chores without complaining.

During each Sunday of Lent, pick a leaf from the basket. Follow the task written on the leaf. The following Sunday bring the leaf back to church and place a dogwood flower on the tree as a symbol of the good deed you did during the week.

As Lent progresses the tree will blossom as a reminder of the life Jesus gave us by dying on the cross and his resurrection on Easter Sunday.



## Leading Teens Closer To Christ

**LIFE NIGHT TONIGHT:** 6pm Life Night Coming Attractions

- 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.

### 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!! All teens welcome!

### Parents-

Anyone interested in donating food please see Brittany after mass or contact the Life Teen office [olphlifeten1@gmail.com](mailto:olphlifeten1@gmail.com) or [631-226-6239](tel:631-226-6239)

Follow along with our daily lenten scripture reflection on our website!

Lastly please check our website for more details about all the events listed above  
[www.lifeteenolph.weebly.com](http://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!

**Next Edge: Tuesday, Feb.28th**

Check out the EDGE website @ [www.olphym.com](http://www.olphym.com) or call **226-6239** and leave a message for Peggy



### Readings for the Week—Feb. 26-Mar. 4 2012:

**Sunday, February 26:** 1st Sunday of Lent:

**Gn 9:8-15, 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15**

**Monday, Feb. 27:** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

**Tuesday, Feb. 28:** Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

**Wednesday, Feb. 29:** Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

**Thursday, March 1:** Est C:12,14-16,23-25; Mt 7:7-12

**Friday, March 2:** Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

**Saturday, March 3:** Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48



# Knights of Columbus Presents Las Vegas Nights



**Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012**

**7:30pm-1:00am**

**Saturday March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012**

**6:00pm-1:00am**

**Food & Refreshments Available**

400 South Broadway  
Lindenhurst, NY 11757

For additional information call: 226-3240



O.L.P.H Knights of Columbus  
St. Patrick's Day Dance

Honoring Jerry Cunningham

March 17, 2012

7pm. - 11pm.

\$25.00 per person

Corned beef and cabbage, open bar, DJ, dancing, raffles and Irish Step Dancers

For tickets contact Jim Mahaney at 226-3240



The Knights of Columbus Councils  
Of the 8th New York District



14th Annual Celebrate Life Fund Raising  
Pasta Dinner

*The Life Center of Long Island*

"Special Guest Speaker"

Date: Sunday, March 25, 2012 from 1-5 PM  
Place OLPH  
Knights of Columbus Hall  
400 South Broadway  
Lindenhurst, NY 11757



Tickets are: \$13.00 per person, or \$25 per couple  
Includes Dinner, Beer, Wine & Soda

For tickets, send a check made payable to:  
*The Life Center of Long Island*

Mail to:  
Michael Hearney, PGK, DD  
210 East John Street  
Lindenhurst, NY 11757

For additional info call 631-560-0451



**ENJOY THE CHINESE AUCTION WHILE AT THE PASTA DINNER**

**Sponsor Councils**

- Our Lady of the Rosary Council #4428
- Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal #6556
- Archbishop Fulton J Sheen #7479
- Our Lady of Grace #11968

"Together We Can and Will Make a Difference"



The Knights of Columbus Council 794

*Squirettes of Mary*

*Cordially invite you to attend an*

*Afternoon Tea Party*

*Finger Sandwiches  
Flavored Teas  
Scenes  
&  
many other delectable delights*

Date: Sunday, April 22, 2012

Time: 1:00 -4:00 pm

Place: K of C Hall  
400 South Broadway  
Lindenhurst, N.Y. 11757

Price: \$15.00 Per Person

Contact: Ann Marie Perullo (631) 225-1165  
Theresa Hearney (631) 888-5579



*Hot Parade with a prize for the best Hot*



*Most Unique Tea Cup Contest too!*

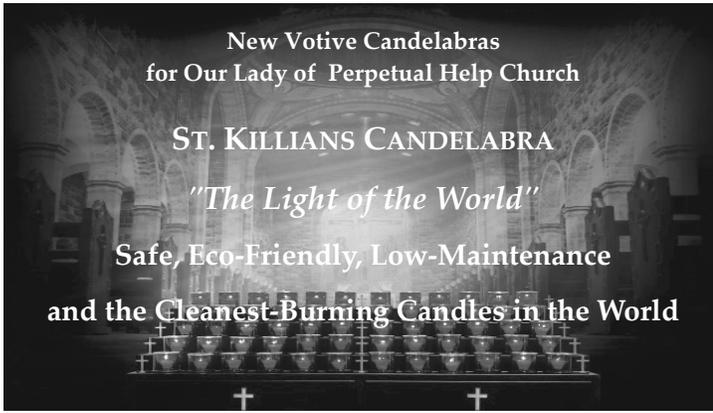


**\*\*NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!**

*Proceeds will be donated to the O.L.P.H. Restoring God's Glory Campaign &*

*The Nassau Suffolk Chapter of 'The Autism Society of America*





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](mailto:dcoyne@drvc.org) if you are planning to attend.

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

"Blessed Are You"  
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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"

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## WHY IS INCENSE USED DURING MASS?

**Father William Saunders**



The use of incense in the ancient world was common, especially in religious rites where it was used to keep demons away. Herodotus, the Greek historian, recorded that it was popular among the Assyrians, Babylonians and Egyptians. In Judaism, incense was included in the thanksgiving offerings of oil, rain, fruits, wine (cf. Numbers 7:13-17). The Lord instructed Moses to build a golden altar for the burning of incense (cf. Exodus 30:1-10), which was placed in front of the veil to the entrance of the meeting tent where the ark of the covenant was kept.

We do not know exactly when the use of incense was introduced into our Mass or other liturgical rites. At the time of the early Church, the Jews continued to use incense in their own Temple rituals, so it would be safe to conclude that the Christians would have adapted its usage for their own rituals.

In the liturgies of Ss. James and Mark, which in their present form originate in the fifth century, the use of incense is mentioned. A Roman Ritual of the seventh century marks its usage in the procession of a Bishop to the altar and on Good Friday. Moreover, in the Mass, an incensation at the Gospel appears very early; at the offertory, in the 11th century; and at the Introit, in the 12th century. Incense was also used at the Benedictus and Magnificat during Lauds and Vespers about the 13th century, and for the exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament about the 14th century. Gradually, its usage was extended to the incensing of the celebrant and assisting clergy.

The purpose of incensing and the symbolic value of the smoke is that of purification and sanctification. For example, in the Eastern Rites at the beginning of Mass, the altar and sanctuary area were incensed while Psalm 50, the "Miserere," was chanted invoking the mercy of God. The smoke symbolizes the prayers of the faithful drifting up to heaven: the Psalmist prays, "Let my prayer come like incense before you; the lifting up of my hands, like the evening sacrifice" (Psalm 141). Incense also creates the ambiance of heaven: The Book of Revelation describes the heavenly worship as follows: "Another angel came in holding a censer of gold. He took his place at the altar of incense and was given large amounts of incense to deposit on the altar of gold in front of the throne, together with the prayers of all God's holy ones. From the angel's hand, the smoke of the incense went up before God, and with it the prayers of God's people."

In the General Instruction of the Roman Missal incense may be used during the entrance procession; at the beginning of Mass, to incense the altar; at the procession and proclamation of the Gospel; at the offertory, to incense the offerings, altar, priest and people; and at the elevation of the Sacred Host and chalice of Precious Blood after the consecration. The priest may also incense the Crucifix and the Paschal Candle. During funeral Masses, the priest at the final commendation may incense the coffin, both as a sign of honor to the body of the deceased which became the temple of the Holy Spirit at Baptism and as a sign of the faithful's prayers for the deceased rising to God.

The usage of incense adds a sense of solemnity and mystery to the Mass. The visual imagery of the smoke and the smell remind us of the transcendence of the Mass which links heaven with earth, and allow us to enter into the presence of God.



*Fr. Saunders is president of Notre Dame Institute and associate pastor of Queen of Apostles Parish, both in Alexandria.*