

89 OVERLOOK DRIVE  
MASTIC BEACH, NY 11951  
PHONE: 631-281-5743

Roman Catholic  
Shrine Church of  
**St. Jude**

WWW.STJUDEMB.ORG  
RECTORY@STJUDEMB.ORG  
FAX: 631-395-5786

“To the Greater Glory of God and the Salvation of Souls.”



**Celebration of  
the Eucharist**

SATURDAY EVENINGS  
5:00pm Vigil Mass  
7:30pm Spanish Mass  
SUNDAY  
8:00am English & Italian  
9:30am Children's Choir  
11:30am Adult Choir  
5:00pm Youth Mass  
MONDAY, TUESDAY,  
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY  
9:00am Mass  
WEDNESDAY  
9:00am Mass  
Noon Mass  
SATURDAY  
8:30am Mass  
HOLY DAYS AS  
ANNOUNCED.

## 2nd Sunday of Lent - March 20th 2011

**Pastor**  
Rev. Gregory Yacyshyn  
**In Residence**  
Msgr. John Heinlein  
**Senior Priest**  
Rev. James Leone

**Parish Office  
Hours**

MONDAY, TUESDAY,  
THURSDAY AND  
FRIDAY  
9:00am-5:00pm  
WEDNESDAYS  
9:00am-6:00pm  
SATURDAYS  
CLOSED  
SUNDAYS  
9:00am-2:00pm  
CLOSED HOLIDAYS

**Deacons**  
Thomas Gillen  
Kenneth Geoghan  
Mark Herrmann  
Joseph Simeone

**Useful Numbers**

RECTORY  
281-5743  
PARISH OUTREACH  
281-5634  
RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION  
281-2835  
YOUTH MINISTRY  
281-5743  
NURSERY SCHOOL  
395-3959  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES  
SCHOOL  
878-1033  
ST. VINCENT DEPAUL  
281-5743 ext. 29

**Sacrament of  
Anointing of  
the Sick**  
Available in danger of  
death or whenever  
there is a personal  
need, call the rectory  
for an appointment.

**Sacrament  
of Penance/  
Confession**  
SATURDAYS  
Noon during Lent,  
4:00-4:45pm and by  
appointment  
WEDNESDAYS  
2:00-2:45pm and by  
appointment

**Parish Outreach**  
MON.-THURS.  
9:00am-1:00pm  
CLOSED  
FRI., SAT., SUN.  
AND HOLIDAYS

**Sacrament of  
Marriage**  
Couples wishing to be  
married should contact  
the rectory at least one  
year in advance to meet  
with one of the priests  
to make wedding  
arrangements.  
Pre-Cana is required  
for all couples.

**Sacrament of  
Baptism**  
Celebrated on most  
Sundays throughout  
the year. Please contact  
the rectory to set up  
an appointment with  
a member of the staff  
to arrange for the  
Baptismal preparation  
session and to set a  
date for Baptism.

**Devotions**

MIRACULOUS MEDAL  
NOVENA  
Mondays after the  
9:00am Mass  
ST. JUDE NOVENA  
Thursdays after the  
9:00am Mass  
ADORATION OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT  
Wednesdays after the  
NOON Mass  
Benediction at 3:00pm  
FIRST FRIDAY  
8:00pm-9:00pm  
Benediction at 9:00pm  
THE HOLY ROSARY  
Monday through Friday  
at 8:30am; Saturdays at  
8:00am

## Masses for the Week

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2011

5:00pm Joseph & Josephine Gervasi †

7:30pm Parishioners of St. Jude

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2011

8:00am Ralph Salzillo †

9:30am Kara Williams †

11:30am Dennis Bingert †

5:00pm Michael Latham †

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2011

9:00am John Michael Mensch †

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2011

9:00am Valerie A. Niver †

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2011

9:00am Saint Jude Guild — Lynee Kopft †

NOON Frank DiMaria †

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2011

9:00am Helen Curcio †

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2011

9:00am John Mensch †

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2011

8:30am Jeffrey Edward Haar †

5:00pm Salvatore Vetere †

7:30pm Poor Souls in Purgatory

SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2011

8:00am Stephen D. Stribula †

9:30am Parishioners of St. Jude

11:30am John Michael Mensch †

5:00pm Henry Cieri †

† Denotes Mass is for deceased

FOR THE SICK: Rich Alliegro, Christopher Barnes, Sr., Barbara Breier, Edwin Brennin, Don Bull, Francis X. Butler, Cory Castelli, Rose Coppola, Anthony Cuccia, Mary Theresa Cunningham, Dorothy Davin, Anthony DeLuco, Alexandra Ditman, Mike Fallgren, Nicholas Ferrara, Theresa Ferrer, James Fiore, Steven Heerbrandt, Richard & Matthew Kaminsky, Lawrence Katz, Cookie Landau, Joseph Lutz, Dennis MacWilliams, Joe Maloney, Jean McDonald, Jack McCarthy, Phyllis Mohn, Anthony Naglieri, Francis Naglieri, Jennie Paruolo, Dorothy Romero, Frank Russo, Jeffrey Scaccio Jr., Fara Schacca, Lucille Scharrer, Barbara Schiebel, David Simon, Tony Sinagra, Julia Tolve, Julia Vaglio, Al Vanderbilt, Mary Vazzana, Ronald Weick, Joan Weisner, Tony Zottoli

FOR THE MILITARY: John Abel, Joseph Competello, Matt Corica, Michael Cuervo, Kenneth Drumm, Jr., Daniel Edwards, Daniel Engo, Michael Hickey, Jeffrey Holmes, Steven Kay, Richard Kruger, Chris Manakides, John Maresca, Joe Occhineri, Matthew Parenti, Rich Pinckney, Tory Pinckney, Gerard Posillico, John Redding, Jr., Eric Reilly, Vinnie Riveria, Don Skelton, Bobby Sosa, James Tagliamonte, Derek Trabocchi, Timothy Weisner

## Lenten Regulations

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on all 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 in between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be eaten during the day.

## Morning Lauds

As has been the custom here at St. Jude, we will pray Morning Prayer (The Prayer of the Church) Monday through Friday at 8:15AM followed by the Holy Rosary.

## Sacrament of Confession/Penance

Lent is a special time of grace in the life of the Church. It is a time when many people receive the grace to come back to the practice of the faith. It is also a time of ongoing conversion for each of us.

The Sacrament of Confession/Penance is available each Saturday during Lent at noon, and from 4PM to 4:45PM and Wednesdays 2:00PM to 2:45PM. We encourage you to make use of this sacrament. The Confession Schedule for Holy Week will be printed closer to that week. Please mention this opportunity to family and friends who may be looking for the opportunity to come home!

## Lenten Stations of the Cross

'The Way of the Cross' each Friday evening during Lent at 8:00PM.

Spanish Stations will be on Tuesdays at 7:30PM.

Italian Stations will be on Wednesdays at 7:30PM.

On April 8th at 8:00PM, there will be a presentation of the Stations of the Cross. The Lenten season is an especially prayerful time for us. We focus on our challenge to Follow Christ and the narrow road He took, that eventually led Him to Calvary. In our own way, we are called, by Him to do the same. The Stations, are a vivid reminder of those last 18 hours of Jesus' life.

We will be using scenes from the movie "*The Passion*." Each scene is between 45 seconds to a minute and a half. They are played to remind us of that particular station and what it was that Jesus truly endured for us. There will be songs sung and prayers we will participate in, to bring us to a deeper understanding of Jesus' Passion.

These stations are a reenactment of those last hours of Christ. They are dramatic, awe inspiring and painful to watch. It was His journey. It was and is an act of pure love. This is a powerful experience that is not meant for children (not recommended for children under 14). It is meant for those who wish to know and understand the length and depth and width of Christ's love for us. God Bless You.

## Lenten Fish Fry

'St. Jude Parish' and the 'J.V. Kavanaugh Knights of Columbus' will be hosting the annual Lenten fish fry! Come feed your body and soul. Each Friday during Lent ending April 15th the week before Good Friday. There is plenty of time to enjoy your meal and afterwards join us for the Stations of the Cross at 8PM in the church. Dinner includes: Fish fillet, french fries, coleslaw, roll, dessert and soda (or bring a drink of your choice) for just \$8.00 per person. The fish fry will be held at the parish center hall from 5:00PM to 7:30PM.

The first night of the fish fry was very successful. Thank you to all who attended and volunteered. A special thanks to the Rosary Altar Society for baking all the delicious desserts, and assisting with serving. It was wonderful to have such a large participation from our Youth Group who assisted where ever needed: Michael Gervasio, Ashley Enright, Amber Nemeth, Sanna Barry, Emily DiGiovanna, Marie Theresa Lipari, Doug Els, Dawn DeVere and T.J. Franzone.

From the Pastor  
March 20th, 2011  
Second Sunday of Lent



# Anniversary of the Church Dedication

Next Friday, March 25th, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. While not a day of universal Mass obligation, it is of very high significance. This great feast commemorates the Incarnation (“taking flesh”) of the Word of God—Jesus the Christ—in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The traditional noontime prayer, *The Angelus*, recalls: “The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary—and she conceived by the Holy Spirit...” We rejoice that our Lady said with her lips and her heart: “Let it be done to me according to thy Word” to Gabriel, the messenger of the Most High God. (It is no mistake that March 25th is exactly nine months from the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord—Christmas.)

10 years ago on this date, our beautiful new church was dedicated and consecrated by the late Bishop John R. McGann. In addition to the hard-working pastor, Fr. Joseph Mirro and the parish clergy of 2001, many neighboring and former clergy of St. Jude Parish were in attendance for the Mass. And of course, also present were many of you who are reading this, who lovingly gave of your resources so that the dream of this new church could become a reality.

To mark this occasion, following the Fish Fry in the parish center (with some nice desserts—no fasting on the feast!), instead of the regular Lenten Friday communal praying of the Way of the Cross (a.k.a. Stations), we will celebrate the Church’s official prayer—the Liturgy of the Hours or the Divine Office—sung vespers of the Solemnity and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, at 8:00PM. We are very pleased that Fr. Mirro has graciously accepted the invitation to be with us and to preach on the occasion. We hope that many can join in singing the praises of God here in church next Friday.

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the new church, I want to inform the parish about the current status of the old church structure. Several months ago, contractors removed the wainscoting ceiling and insulation to reveal more damage (severe splits) to roof trusses than was first anticipated. The weakened roof is slowly pushing out the west wall. After consultation with an engineering company, it was determined that in order to stabilize the structure, steel I-beam buttresses would have to be fabricated and sunk into the ground outside to shore-up the exterior walls and roof. To get to the point of the whole project, after speaking with the engineer and architect in regard to the mechanical and structural modifications that would have to be done for the building to be up to code and functioning as a public meeting space, we may be looking at a realistic cost of about \$400,000. If such a renovation were realized, there would also be the additional issue of the annual maintenance costs of heating, cooling, electric, cleaning, etc., which would then add to the parish budget.

If there are parishioners who believe that it is worth looking into raising funds to save the old church, I heartily invite them to speak with me about a plan of how to do so.

In the meantime, we are making ready for the much anticipated overhaul of the parish center heating and cooling system and complete auditorium makeover. This is to take place after Easter, once the Faith Formation classes have ended. The work will all be accomplished through capital campaign funds.

Additionally, the much needed renovation of the St. Jude Shrine and surroundings will take place after monies are raised through donations and memorials. Plans for this fundraiser will be discussed with the finance committee, yet I believe we will have no trouble finding donors among the many clients of our beloved patron both from within the parish, and from St. Jude’s clients who come to visit from places near and far.

Finally, thanks to all those who have pledged and/or made a gift to the 2011 Catholic Ministries Appeal. To date, 132 donors have already brought us up to \$41,704 = 83.1% of our goal of \$50,174! This is well ahead of our pace for both 2009 and for 2010. All gifts that truly come from the heart, whether small or large, are a blessing to the recipient as well as the giver. If you haven’t yet, please consider a pledge or gift towards the good works of the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

God bless, and I hope your Lent is proceeding fruitfully!

**In Christ,  
Fr. Greg**

## St. Jude 10th Anniversary

The Parish of St. Jude will be celebrating the 10th Anniversary of our Church on Friday, March 25th. There will be vespers at 8:00PM in the church in place of the Stations of the Cross. All are welcome to attend. Refer to Pastors letter for more details.

## Lighthouse Catholic CD of the Week

### **“SEVEN DEADLY SINS/SEVEN LIVELY VIRTUES” BY FR. ROBERT BARRON**

Fr. Barron uses *Dante’s Divine Comedy* to expose those great spiritual blocks that inhibit our relationship with God and others — and the antidote to them, the ‘Seven Lively Virtues!’ This fascinating journey shows the path that God has designed to lead us to health, happiness and holiness.

## Faith Formation

### **CONFIRMATION PREP 2 & RCIC2 UPPER STUDENTS AND THEIR CATECHISTS:**

Please attend a ‘Large Group Presentation’ on Monday, March 21st from 7:30-8:30PM in the parish center main hall. Topic is *Social Justice & Stewardship*. Class will meet as usual on Tuesday, March 22nd.

### **FAITH FORMATION BAKE SALE:**

The week of March 21-24th and March 26th in the parish center lobby. We are asking for donations of home baked or store bought items. You may bring your donation of goodies when you bring your child for class. The items may be purchased either before or after classes. Students will not be permitted to eat their purchase during class, you must bring it home. So, come to bring your child to class, lured by the smell of fresh baked goodies, purchase something decadent and enjoy it at home with a warm cup of hot tea later on in the evening. Yum, sounds inviting! THIS WILL BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR CONF. PREP. 1 & 2 STUDENTS TO DO COMMUNITY SERVICE. CALL 281-2835 FOR INFORMATION.

### **CONFIRMATION CONVERSATION:**

Friday, March 25th beginning at 4:30PM. Please check in at the Faith Formation Office. This is for 6th level students that are entering Confirmation Prep 1 in the fall. Each student needs to have a

conversation about their faith with the staff. Please be prompt. If you have not received your letter with your scheduled appointment, please call 281-2835.

### **CONFIRMATION PREP 2 & RCIC2 UPPER RECONCILIATION SERVICE**

On Tuesday, March 29th from 6:30-8:00PM in our church. This is for students who attend class on Tuesday evenings. This will take the place of regular class on March 29th. There will be regular Conf. Prep. 2 & RCIC2 Upper classes as scheduled on March 28th.

**Just a reminder, the Communion fee of \$30.00 is due to Faith Formation Office by the end of March, and the Confirmation Fee of \$60.00 is due when you pick up robes. Thank you.**

## Mary Immaculate, Bellport

### **LENTEN SERIES: PRAYER IS A HUNGER:**

We will explore a variety of approaches and experiences to pray er that can open one more fully to God’s presence. Prayer form that will be introduced are Ignatian Prayer, the Jesus Prayer, Lectio Divina (Holy Reading), Guided Meditation, and the Taize Prayer. Join us on Tuesdays, March 22nd, 29th, April 12th, & 19th from 9:30-11:00 and Wednesdays, March 27th, 30th, April 13th, & 20th from 7:30-9:00PM. The facilitator is Sister Grace. Free for all, both men and women. Lectures are located at ‘Mary Immaculate’ in Bellport in the church auditorium Room 7.

## Night For Michelle

‘Knights of Columbus’, ‘Columbiettes’ and ‘Kiwanis of Mastic’ are sponsoring, ‘A Night for Michelle’ on Saturday, March 26th. There will be a pasta dinner and a Chinese Auction at the ‘Shirley Bingo Hall’. Doors open at 5PM. Dinner is between 6-10PM. Tickets are \$8.00 per person. Children under 5 are free. Tickets can be purchased in advance (call Benny at 281-6501). Tickets will also be available at the door on the night of the event.

## St. Vincent de Paul

In the Gospel Jesus is transfigured and a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased: Listen to Him.” Do we listen to Jesus when He asks us to care.

## Our Lady Queen of Apostles School

Join us on Saturday, April 2nd at 5PM for a Chinese Auction, at the ‘Rock Hill Country Club’ in Manorville. \$45.00 per person includes dinner, dessert and beverage. For more information or to purchase tickets please call the school at 878-1033.

## Easter Remembrance Envelope

The envelope for the Easter Remembrance Masses is included in the active coded parishioner mailed envelope packet. These Masses will be celebrated Easter Sunday, April 24th. Please return your Remembrance Mass envelopes early in the regular collection basket or at the rectory, so that your loved ones are in the Easter Day Intentions.

## Sisters of Life: Hope and Healing After Abortion

Do you know someone who is carrying the grief and sorrow of past abortions? Share with them the “good news” of God’s merciful love at a “Day of Prayer” at our convent in the Bronx and “Healing Retreat” in Stamford, CT. Have them join us Saturday, April 2nd. May they realize that they have a community of people to whom they can turn in time of need and will help them on the way to true healing with patience and love. FOR WOMEN: Please call the Sisters of Life: 866-575-0075 or email [hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org](mailto:hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org). FOR MEN: Please call: 877-586-4621 or email [lumina@postabortionhelp.org](mailto:lumina@postabortionhelp.org). For more information, please go to [www.sistersoflife.org](http://www.sistersoflife.org).

Strengthen, O Lord, my senses and my affections that they may not stray into any betrayal of trust.

—Saint Angela Merici

## St. Joseph's College

Thursday, April 7th Father John Dear, S.J., internationally known author, speaker and Nobel Peace Prize nominee, will give a talk about "The Beautitudes and Nonviolence at 7:30PM in the McGann Conference Room (O'Connor Hall) at St. Joseph's College 155 West Roe Blvd. Patchogue. Free and open to the public, no RSVP required. Inquiries to Professor Paul Ginnetty 631-687-2681.

## Molloy Open House

Molloy College is holding a 'Spring Open House' for prospective students on April 10th at 1PM on campus in Rockville Centre. For more information please call 516-678-5000 ext. 6230.

## With One Brush Stroke

**AN AFTERNOON OF ART AT THE MBPOA** Ten talented local artists are displaying and selling their art to raise funds for the 'Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk Inc.' On April 10th from 2-6PM at the 'Mastic Beach Property Owners Association.' The artists will be displaying and selling their art, and will be auctioning off pieces throughout the day. Wine and cheese will be served along with fruits and other snacks. A \$5 minimum donation is requested at the door which will go to 'Hospice House.'

## Gospel of John Performance

Acclaimed actor, Frank Runyeon, will be performing the "Gospel of John: The book of Signs for one night only, on April 13th at 8PM at 'Mary Immaculate RC Church' in Bellport. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 by calling 631-286-0154.

## The Bishop McDonnell High School Reunion

The Bishop McDonnell High School Reunion will be held on Saturday, April 16th from noon to 6pm at the former Bishop McDonnell bldg, 260 Eastern Parkway in Bklyn. Classes ending in 1 and 6 will be honored. Graduates from the 30s and 40s classes always welcome. For specific information, please contact Rita Monaghan-Maloney '59 at 718-857-2700 ext 2253 or rmaloney@blmhs.org.

## St. Jude Easter Fair

Keep the date open our Annual Easter Fair is on Saturday, April 16th this year. If there is any vendor interested, we have a few tables still open. Please contact the rectory for more information.

Anyone wishing to donate new items for our Chinese Auction please drop them off at the rectory. Thank you. **Easter raffle tickets will be sold** at all Masses on the weekends of March 26 & 27th and April 2nd & 3rd. Please consider purchasing a ticket to help support our annual fundraiser. **The prizes are:** 1st \$300.00 cash, 2nd \$250 Value (\$100 cash & Oven Stoneware), 3rd \$200.00 cash, 4th \$150.00 cash, and 5th Variety Easter Basket by Lee Anne's Flower Shoppe, Bracelet from Enrico's Jewelry and \$25.00 Gift Certificate to The Cottage at Moriches (\$100 Value).

## Help—Long Island Teen Freedom!

This wonderful program advocates abstinence until marriage as a lifestyle that is both desirable and achievable. 'Long Island Teen Freedom,' which encourages teenagers to reject the hook up culture and to embrace a culture of dignity and respect, needs to raise \$200,000 by May 1st to continue educating our teenagers. Please send contributions to 'L.I. Teen Freedom,' 35 E. Willow St., Massapequa, NY 11758. For more information visit [www.liteenfreedom.org](http://www.liteenfreedom.org). Thank you so much for your support.

## St. Jude Annual Golf Outing

Save the date. The golf outing will be held on Wednesday, May 4th at Rock Hill Country Club in Manorville. All proceeds will go to our Outreach Program here at St. Jude. Price is \$150 per golfer or \$45 for dinner only. Tee sponsorships are \$100. Please call Tom 921-6793 or Ron 255-0339 for more information.

## Mass Attendance

	SATURDAY			SUNDAY			Total
	5pm	7:30	8am	9:30	11:30	5pm	
Feb. 20	278	119	171	305	600	220	1693
Feb. 27	293	155	188	319	550	217	1722
Mar. 6	344	210	183	413	605	225	1980
Mar. 13	348	200	187	323	605	223	1886

## Weekly Collections

Regular Collection Mar. 13th \$10,506.06  
Ash Wednesday Collection \$2,878.00

## Catholic Ministries Appeal

2011 Goal \$50,174.00  
Total pledges a/o 3/15/11 \$41,704.00  
# of Donors 132  
Payments a/o 3/15/11 \$21,934.00

Thank you to all that have pledged to give to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. We have pledged 83.1% of our goal. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. If you have not pledged to give please consider making a donation no matter how small. Every dollar counts. God Bless the parishioners of St. Jude.

## Scripture Readings

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2011 *Lenten Weekday*  
DN 9:4B-10 • LK 6:36-38

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2011 *Lenten Weekday*  
IS 1:10, 16-20 • MT 23:1-12

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2011 *Lenten Weekday*  
JER 18:18-20 • MT 20:17-28

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2011 *Lenten Weekday*  
JER 17:5-10 • LK 16:19-31

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2011 *Annunciation of the Lord*  
Is 7:10-14; 8:10 • Heb 10:4-10 • Lk 1:26-38

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2011 *Lenten Weekday*  
MI 7:14-15, 18-20 • LK 15:1-3, 11-32

SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2011 *Second Sunday of Lent*  
EX 17:3-7 • ROM 5:1-2, 5-8 • JN 4:5-42  
OR 4:5-15, 19B-26, 39A, 40-42

## Altar Bread and Wine

The altar bread and wine for the week of March 21st has been donated:

In memory of the Fusco & Kamerer Families

## Wedding Banns

Il. Joseph Lobiondo/Jennifer Morales

## Baptisms

Andie Grace Waldeck  
God Bless her and her family!

# Baby Bottle Campaign!



Saint Jude's Baby Bottle Campaign to benefit the Life Center of Long Island. Remember to bring in those baby bottles!

Saint Jude just 'kicked-off' our 'Baby Bottle Campaign' to benefit 'The Life Center of Long Island.' The weekend to bring those filled baby bottles in is:

## April 2nd & 3rd

The Life Center is a pregnancy help center that counsels women and men who are experiencing an unexpected pregnancy. They provide maternity housing, medical care referrals, cribs, car seats, diapers and ALL other baby items that are needed.

Remember that all it takes is your spare change in a baby bottle and heartfelt prayer to make a big, positive difference for all those we serve. May every drop of a coin remind you to pray with our whole heart for the lives of our pre born children!

Though God hates sin more than any other thing, but He loves us poor miserable sinners. He ardently desires the welfare of our souls as if His own happiness depended on it.  
—Saint John Neumann

## “Do not be afraid.”

I used to live in an apartment with a basement laundry area. In the dim light from the basement windows, it seemed fairly tidy. However, if you flipped on the lights, you'd be overwhelmed by the number of stringy, sticky cobwebs enveloping the corners and ceiling pipes. I'm a fairly courageous woman, but cobwebs leave me feeling less than brave... OK, let's just say it: afraid! In Matthew's version of Jesus' transfiguration, he emphasizes the disciples' great fear. I'm not surprised—seeing Jesus transfigured must have been quite shocking. But I wonder if they weren't so much afraid of who Jesus was revealed to be—fully the Son of God—but rather, who they were revealed to be—broken sinners hardly measuring up to Jesus' brilliance.

Did they perhaps sense the sinful betrayal they would later exhibit at Jesus' crucifixion? In the stunning light of Jesus' goodness, our own weaknesses and brokenness are

In the stunning light of Jesus' goodness, our own weaknesses and brokenness are revealed like cobwebs in the corners of our souls.

revealed like cobwebs in the corners of our souls. Perhaps we turn a blind eye to them in the dim light of every day, but when faced with the brightness of the One we're to emulate, the stringy webs are impossible to avoid and can be frightening to behold.

Yet, like Peter and James, we are not alone. When we take time to look clearly at our cobwebs of sin, Jesus touches us, too, and says, “Do not be afraid.” Jesus accompanies us when we attend to the brokenness in our lives—our persistent patterns of anger, our inability to forgive, our struggle to love as Jesus loves.

If we reach for Jesus' touch—during Lent or at any time—we can find the courage to sweep away the cobwebs and shine with the divine light found inside us too.

JANEL ESKER  
[sundaybulletins@liguori.org](mailto:sundaybulletins@liguori.org)