



# Our Lady of Grace

## Roman Catholic Church

**Our Mission: We change lives through the Risen Christ**

### BY **Prayer**

WE PRAY EVERY DAY FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR PARISH'S MISSION AS WELL AS FOR OUR OWN INTENTIONS.

### BY **Presence**

WE JOIN OUR COMMUNION OF FAITH FOR MASS EVERY SUNDAY FOR MUTUAL SUPPORT AND FOR THE GRACE GOD OFFERS US.



### BY **Witness**

WE LOVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR EACH DAY.

### BY **Support**

WE SHARE OUR GIFTS AND WE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER.

## We Celebrate the Eucharist

VIGIL OF SUNDAY: 5:00PM SATURDAY EVENING  
SUNDAY: 8:00AM, 10:00AM (CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD),  
AND 12:00 NOON (CHOIR)  
WEEKDAYS: MONDAY – FRIDAY 8:00AM AND 9:00AM • SATURDAY 8:00AM  
HOLY DAYS: SEE INSIDE

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FAITH FORMATION OFFICE (631) 661-9353

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**January 6, 2019 • The Epiphany of the Lord**

## Worship This Coming Week

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**Mon. Christmas Weekday**  
Jan. 7 *1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25*  
8:00 Antonio Iemma  
9:00 Lillian Simeone  
**Tue. Christmas Weekday**  
Jan. 8 *1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44*  
8:00 Jean Nittolo  
9:00 Larry Konicke  
**Wed. Christmas Weekday**  
Jan. 9 *1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52*  
8:00 Charles Lyons (7 Anniv.)  
9:00 Anthony Bonventre

**Thu. Christmas Weekday**  
Jan. 10 *1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Lk 4:14-22a*  
8:00 Carol Dimuro  
9:00 Vincent Hagan  
**Fri. Christmas Weekday**  
Jan. 11 *1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16*  
8:00 Maryanne Furey  
9:00 Joseph A. Pergola  
**Sat. Christmas Weekday**  
Jan. 12 *1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30*  
8:00 Larry Konicke

### The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 4:00pm, Presider: Fr. Gabriel and Fr. Vin

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### Worship for Sunday, January 13, 2019

#### The Baptism of the Lord

*Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22*

	Presiding	We pray at this Mass especially for
5:00pm (Sat.)	Fr. Gius	Julia Philomena La Cascia
8:00am	Fr. Gius	Giovanni Iemma
10:00am	Fr. Vin	People of the Parish
12:00pm	Fr. Gabriel	Dolores and Edward Astarita
1:30pm	Fr. Vin	For Persons With Disabilities

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### The Sacrament of Baptism

Saturday, 11am: Presider,

*Baptisms are celebrated throughout the year. Call the Parish Office for more information or to schedule an appointment for a Baptism interview. This should be done as soon as practicable.*

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### The Sacrament of Matrimony

*Arrangements for marriage should be made as soon as possible, but not less than six months prior to the intended wedding date.*

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### The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

*This sacrament is celebrated each Saturday during the 8:00am Mass for those facing surgery or those with major disorders. Other arrangements may be made by calling the Parish Office.*

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### Becoming a Catholic • Completing Initiation as a Catholic

*Any adult, teen, or child older than age seven who is interested in becoming a Catholic or in completing the Sacraments of Initiation as a Catholic (Baptism, Confirmation, Communion), is invited to contact the Parish Office.*

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### Regular Devotions:

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Mondays from 2pm to 9pm except holidays or when noted.

**Miraculous Medal Novena with Rosary:** Mondays following the 8am and 9am Masses.

**Holy Face of Jesus:** Hour of Reparation First Friday after 9am Mass.

**Padre Pio Prayer Group:** Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm.

**Scripture Sharing:** Every Tuesday at 9:30am (except during July and August).

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# Our Parish Communion

## **This week:**

**Sunday, January 6:** Solemnity of the Epiphany. Celebration of admission to the Catholic Church, and of the Sacrament of Confirmation for adults (Noon Mass).

**Monday, January 7:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 2-9pm.

**Tuesday, January 8:** Scripture Sharing 9:30am, Rosary Makers 10am, Youth Ministry 7pm.

**Wednesday, January 9:** Middle-School Youth Ministry kickoff meeting.

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## **Next week:**

**Sunday, January 13:** Mass for Persons with Disabilities at 1:30pm.

**Monday, January 14:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 2-9pm.

**Tuesday, January 15:** Scripture Sharing 9:30am, Youth Ministry 7pm.

**Friday, January 18:** Widows and Widowers 12pm.

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## **Upcoming:**

**Sunday, January 27:** Family ministry breakfast (after 10am Mass).

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## **Mass Intentions for 2018-2019**

The Parish Mass Book through June 30, 2019, is open for Monday through Friday Masses only. All Masses must be requested in person, and the offering must be given at the time of the request.

All dates and times are subject to change when a priest cannot be available, and the Mass must be rescheduled. In addition, 9am Masses may, when necessary, be celebrated as a Funeral Mass.

Parishioners should be aware that intentions are available for the Saturday morning collective-intention Mass each week. Intentions for the Sunday Masses are taken not more than one month in advance.

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## **Our Pastoral Council**

Mrs. Lee Abseck  
Mr. Ralph Fiorillo  
Ms. Mary Ellen McEntee  
Mr. James Nevins  
Ms. Maria Russello-Chetti  
Ms. Lucy Sanchez  
Ms. Haydee Santini  
Mrs. Kathleen Scheid  
Mrs. Concetta Whelan

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## **Our Finance Council**

Mr. Richard Korcz (Trustee)  
Mr. Leonardo LoCricchio  
Ms. Debra Nicosia  
Mr. Joseph Salzone  
Mr. Robert Scharf (Trustee)  
Mr. Thomas Vilella

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## **Our Ministries**

### **Ministries of Worship**

Msgr. Vincent Rush, Pastor  
Rev. Gabriel Miah, Associate  
Rev. Gius Garcia, Associate  
Deacon Brian Miller  
Deacon Irwin Saffran  
Mr. Terence Purtell, Director of Music

### **Parish Social Ministry**

Mrs. Ann Kristoffersen,  
Coordinator

### **Ministries with Children and Families**

Mrs. Peggy Harnisch, Director  
Ms. Jeanmarie Florio, Day Care Director  
Mrs. Tischa Stanley, Angel Care Coordinator  
Ms. Doreen Scalise, Kids of the Kingdom / Summer Fun Coordinator

### **Ministries of Administration**

Parish Services, Finance  
Mr. James Pisano, Facilities Manager

# As I See It

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By Fr. Vin

## The Three Kings' Journey

Today's feast – Epiphany – is often called “Three Kings” in Spanish-speaking cultures, and is a bigger celebration for them than Christmas. (“Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “showing” or “manifestation,” and it celebrates the revelation of Christ to non-Jewish peoples; so in that sense the Hispanic celebration is more accurate to our condition than our own tradition is...) But today I want to focus on these central characters – I can't say “three” because the Gospel doesn't give a number, and “kings” is a translators' choice; the Greek says *magoi*, which is literally “Magi” in English, but often translated as “wise men” or “astrologers.” (Remember that astrology and astronomy weren't split apart in those days, so any student of the heavens – for understanding or for trying to foretell the future – was an “astrologer.” And the Gospel story's reference to their “seeing the star” and changing their lives because of it lends credence to the “astrologer” translation...)

So with that out of the way, let's think about the story and its meaning. The Magi were looking for something – they knew that they couldn't be satisfied just sitting around doing the first-century equivalent of drinking beer and playing cards with the TV on in the background. They were aware that something was missing from their lives. (Even if they weren't kings, the astounding generosity of their gifts shows that they could have had pretty much any sort of trinket or distraction that they craved). We're meant to learn something from their restlessness.

We all know that our lives are meant for more than going shopping, despite what our trivializing culture tries to tell us. Unfortunately, we don't get much help in figuring out what that “more” is. The traditional Christian language of “vocation” is helpful to a point, but what do we do once that question – married, single, vowed religious, clergy – has been answered? What then? Here's where a sense of personal *mission* can help.

When the Magi left their home country they were on a mission – to find out what the star's appearance meant, and to respond appropriately. “Where is the newborn King of the Jews? We have come to do him homage.” That's what they said to Herod. And when they had accomplished that – although the Gospels don't tell us – presumably they “went home to their country by another route,” with a sense not only that they had fulfilled one mission, but that they now had another – to figure out how to live now that the King of the Jews had come.

Our lives are meant to be lived like that: We're meant to discover what the particular mission God is giving us is, year by year. It may be one that continues, but is reshaped by events: sustaining a family, and guiding the growth of children through the years. New missions may appear: to help a relative who falls ill, perhaps. And the vitality of old ones may pass, as we accomplish them or as events make them irrelevant.

In earlier columns I've said that our personal mission has three dimensions: first, to grow more aware and grateful each day for the gifts God is giving us; second, to grow more responsive each day to God's generosity by learning how to care more effectively for those around us. These we share with every other person called by Christ. But the third aspect of our mission is unique to each of us, something that is vital to God's work in the world that only we can accomplish. To discover, and give our energies, to that mission – even as it changes shape as we go through life – is the foundation for our deepest joy and sense of satisfaction.

So this week take the Magi as examples for your own life: What is God inviting you to do? What is the “star” that has appeared to you, that invites you to follow it to see what it means, and how that will change you? And how has your following of that star led you into company with others? (After all, the Magi didn't travel as individuals...)

A Catholic parish is a community of people who are called by Christ to do His work. Some of that work we can only do as individuals, with our particular gifts and opportunities. Other parts of the work we have to do together, because it's too much for any one of us alone. So think of us as the Magi this week; here, two thousand years later, still following a star. Until next week, peace.

# Faith Formation

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## Faith Formation Office Hours – Christmas Week

The Faith Formation Office will be open December 26, 27, 28 and December 31 from 9:00am until 2:00pm. Regular hours return January 2, 2019.

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## Mass Coupons and Reflections

Please remember to keep putting Mass Coupons in the basket once each month. We expect to see you at Mass each week but want to have coupons monthly. Try not to get behind.

This month our Parent classes for Level 1 will talk about Conscience formation. This is especially for new parents but everyone is invited! This is a great topic. These meetings will be held Monday and Tuesday evening at 7:15pm.

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## Christian Service

Thank you to everyone who supported our Confirmation Bake Sale! Our students raised over \$600.00 toward their fundraising goal! They made the baked goods and worked at the Bake Sale.

Our Faith Formation Students in Levels 6, 7 and 8, as part of preparation for Confirmation, complete several service projects at home and in the parish as part of their discipleship journey! Our first group of Level 8 students made 342 sandwiches for the soup kitchen.

Our Walk-A-Thon was held in PES Hall due to weather conditions, but they walked and raised over \$1200.00! I am always so happy to go through this journey with them, and the students work so hard.

Our Level 7 students have started in the Community Garden even working in the rain to get things done! We talk about Jesus as our model of service and how he calls us to serve each other!

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## Catechists

We are always looking for people who may be able to help our students as catechists (teachers) in our Faith Formation Program. No experience needed! We will train and prepare you with everything you need. Please consider and pray about this important ministry. Our catechists are wonderful people, and we always need more. We are already thinking ahead for next year. Call the Faith Formation Office and ask for Peggy or email [mharnisch@ourladyofgrace.net](mailto:mharnisch@ourladyofgrace.net).

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# Parish Social Ministry

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## CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

### Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

#### Prayer For Families

We bless your name, O Lord,  
for sending your own incarnate Son,  
to become part of a family, so that as he lived His life,  
He would experience its worries and its joys.

We ask you, Lord, to protect and watch over this family,  
So that in the strength of your grace its members may enjoy prosperity,  
possess the priceless gift of your peace, and, as the Church alive in the home,  
bear witness in this world to your glory.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

From Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers

As we move ahead in this New Year let us pray for the light and wisdom to reflect:

- What does my lifestyle say about my discipleship in Christ?
- Am I finding God amid the events of these unsettled times?
- What was the most satisfying and rewarding gift you GAVE this Christmas?

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### Connections: Child and Family Bereavement Support Program

Good Shepherd Hospice offers a FREE, professionally run, eight-week bereavement group program for children ages 5-17 years old and their caregivers who have experienced a death of a loved one.

Children engage in therapeutic activities that encourage emotional healing, increase understanding, development of healthy coping skills and preservations of memories. Adult caregivers attend their own concurrent support group, where they will learn about the nature of their children's grief and how to best support them.

Good Shepherd Hospice Inpatient Center, 200 Belle Terre Road, Port Jefferson  
Wednesday Evenings – January 9 thru March 6/ 6:00pm – 7:15pm  
Registration Required – Please call Diane McNamara LCSW-R at 631-828-7636

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### A Very Special Thank You!

- To the West Babylon Community Youth Group which, under the direction of Pat Farrell, donated a huge bundle of toys, so Santa could put them under the Christmas tree.
- To the families who generously adopted some families in need.
- To the many volunteer ministers who serve in the Social Ministry Office and in the Pantry Services. Without you behind the scenes, none of the varied works serving those in need would have been accomplished.
- To the many volunteer drivers, especially Michael and his grandson Thomas, who delivered to the homebound.
- To the maintenance staff for their help during this busy time.
- To all the parishioners who donated gifts and gift cards to help make Christmas happy for those families in need who come to Parish Social Ministry.
- To Boy Scout Troop 175 who sent scouts to help us distribute gifts for Christmas.
- To Helen A., who donated dozens of handmade crocheted stockings with goodies inside.

May the peace of Christ be with all of you.

# Parish News

## Please Pray for Those Who Have Died This Week

Brian Vincent Henry

Pauline Meder



### Youth Ministry Update

Youth Ministry, 7:30pm, Tuesdays in Room 212/214. Teens 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Nothing to do Tuesday nights? Room 212. Join us for faith, fun and fellowship!

## News from the Widows and Widowers

Our Lady of Grace Widows and Widowers will meet on Friday, January 18, at 12pm in Room 109. For more information, please call 631-661-3439. New members are always welcome.

## Reminder to All Staff and Ministers – I.D. Tags Required

As part of our safe environment policy, all staff and ministers wear I.D. tags when acting in any official capacity on parish property (with the exception of presiders, deacons, lectors, musicians, and EMHCs during Mass). This is especially important with the start of the new year of Faith Formation. Please get into the habit of wearing your I.D. If you don't do so now, please do so now and (gently) challenge other ministers you see who may have neglected to wear theirs.



## Calendar Raffle Winners

The Calendar Raffle tickets for January through June of 2019 are in the mail. If you do not receive these tickets, please come into the Parish Office and pick them up. Remember, you got to be in it to win it!

12/31/18	1/1/19	1/2/19	1/3/19	1/4/19	1/5/19	1/6/19
94	109	545	23	281	46	452

*The Gift you have received*  
*Give as a Gift*  
Matthew 10:8

### Financial Stewardship Report September 1, 2018, through November 26 2018

**Sunday offering target: \$13,195 per week**

Target: \$171,535

Collections: \$173,715

**Over target by \$2,180**

A complete financial report for FY2018 is on the parish website,  
[www.ourladyofgrace.net](http://www.ourladyofgrace.net).

*Many thanks to our generous sacrificial givers!*

# Ministries with Children and Families

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us in Family Life Ministry. Today we celebrate the wonderful Feast of the Epiphany. I wonder what it must have been like for Mary and Joseph as they cared for their young baby and were visited by people that they may never have seen before. People from different counties and cultures, all wanting to worship their baby boy. It's a great reminder of the Human Dignity we all share!

## What is Family Life Ministry?

Family Life Ministry came out of the need and desire we all have for community. Would you like to get to know the people you worship with each week? We host a monthly breakfast after the 10am Mass where we gather for a light breakfast and can sit and meet some new people or bring the family for a nice break before we get busy for the day! If you attend another Mass, we would still love you to join us. Everyone is welcome, whether you are a family of many or a family of one!

We also offer several events during the year that are both spiritual and social. In addition, we meet monthly to plan these events. We meet on Monday evenings; but if you'd like to help and can't be at our meetings, contact us – we still want you involved! Our next meeting will be January 7 at 7:30pm!

## Our next hospitality breakfast will be Sunday, January 27, after the 10am Mass.

Please join us! We will have coffee, tea and juice plus bagels, quiche and muffins. This is a great way to get together with our worship community!

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## Coming Soon!

### Journey

#### The Our Lady of Grace Middle School Youth Ministry

Where: Our Lady of Grace R. C. Church Parish Center (Room to be announced)

When: Second and fourth Wednesday of every month.

Who: All Middle Schoolers in Grades 6, 7, and 8

Please join us for our Kickoff Meeting and Pizza on January 9, 2019.

#### For more information, please contact the Faith Formation Office

For our first meeting (and to plan for pizza) we would like to get an idea of how many are attending. If you can, please email Faith Formation to let them know. If you forget, no problem - come anyway!

What is Middle School Youth Ministry?

It's games, music, food and talking about our faith in a fun way and talking about the issues important to you. You come when you can!

Why not give it a try?

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# Parish News

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## Day Care News

Please come in to visit us. New for this year is our enrichment program. We hired a teacher to visit the classrooms to teach special lessons in math, language arts, science, music and movement. For a tour or interview, please call 631-422-4681.



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## Angel Care Is Here



Our Angel Care Program is up and running for the school year. If you would like information about our program or would like to register your child, come down and pick up a registration packet.

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## Beginning the New Year

A bereavement group will form after the New Year. We now will have both a male and female facilitator. We encourage people who have lost their spouses to join us. If you are interested or want to know more about the group, call John at 631-874-0210 or Fran at 631-587-1578.

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## New Choir Members Start in January

In the month of January, brief introductory sessions will be held after all Masses for prospective new choir members. For those interested in joining the Children Choir or Adult Choir, sessions begin January 6. For teenagers ("Youth Choir"), sessions begin January 19. After any Mass on these weekends, feel free to just come up to the grand piano. For more information, please see our organist Terence.

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## Children's Liturgy of the Word

Our Children's Liturgy is up and running. All children in kindergarten through eighth grade are welcome to attend this inspiring liturgy experience. Come to the 10am Mass on Sunday and see what it is all about. The schedule for this liturgy is on our web site [www.ourladyofgrace.net](http://www.ourladyofgrace.net).

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## Child Abuse Reporting and Standards of Conduct for Church Personnel

There is a special diocesan phone line for reporting allegations of sexual abuse by church personnel and volunteers: 1-516-594-9063. The New York State abuse hotline for all allegations of child abuse can be reached at 1-800-342-3720.

Our parish complies with a diocesan child protection policy. The text of the policy can be found on the diocesan website at [http://www.drvc.org/policy\\_procedure\\_forms](http://www.drvc.org/policy_procedure_forms) and is also available through the Parish Office.

A code of conduct to which all parish clergy, employees, and volunteers must comply can be found at [http://www.drvc.org/pdf/protecting\\_children/policy/pastoralconduct.pdf](http://www.drvc.org/pdf/protecting_children/policy/pastoralconduct.pdf) and is also available from the parish.

Further information, including information on the diocesan child protection and safe environment programs to which our parish subscribes can be found on the diocesan website at <http://www.drvc.org/efforts-to-protect-children-and-young-people/diocesan-efforts-to-protect-children-and-young-people.html>.

# Parish News

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## Opportunity for Eucharistic Ministers

If you have already received the A and B training by the diocese for distribution of Holy Communion in a hospital and would like to volunteer as a Eucharistic Minister, please contact the Pastoral Care Office at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center at 631-376-4103.

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## Looking for Volunteers

Maria Regina Residence, at 1725 Brentwood Road, Brentwood, is an 188-bed skilled nursing facility under the care of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

We are currently seeking compassionate, dedicated men and women who are willing to volunteer their time and talent in varied service areas (usually one morning or afternoon per week) in assisting the Pastoral Team as a Eucharistic Minister, helping to transport residents in their wheelchairs, assisting with recreational service or other needs in the building.

For more information, please contact Sr. Mary Sheppard, CSJ at 631-229-3288. Prayerfully and thankfully, we look forward to hearing from you.

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## Auditions are Coming

The Babylon Chorale will hold auditions on Monday, January 7 and January 14, 2019 at St. John the Baptist High School in West Islip. All voice parts are welcomed. Join us for rehearsal from 7:30 – 9:45pm; auditions take place at 8:30pm. For further information, please call 631-585-3111 or 516-221-3211, visit [www.babylonchorale.org](http://www.babylonchorale.org) or email [thebabylonchorale@gmail.com](mailto:thebabylonchorale@gmail.com).

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## Religion and Rock

Tune into “*Religion and Rock*” with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7-8am on WBAB 102.3 FM. Listen on Saturdays at 11pm on *Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel* and at 11pm on XM Satellite, Channel 117. To listen online or receive more information regarding *Religion and Rock* go to [www.ReligionandRock.com](http://www.ReligionandRock.com) or at “*Religion & Rock*” on ITUNES.

Don't forget to tune into CATHOLIC FAITH NETWORK, Cablevision Channel 29/137 or Verizon FIOS 296 or visit [www.cfntv.org](http://www.cfntv.org)!