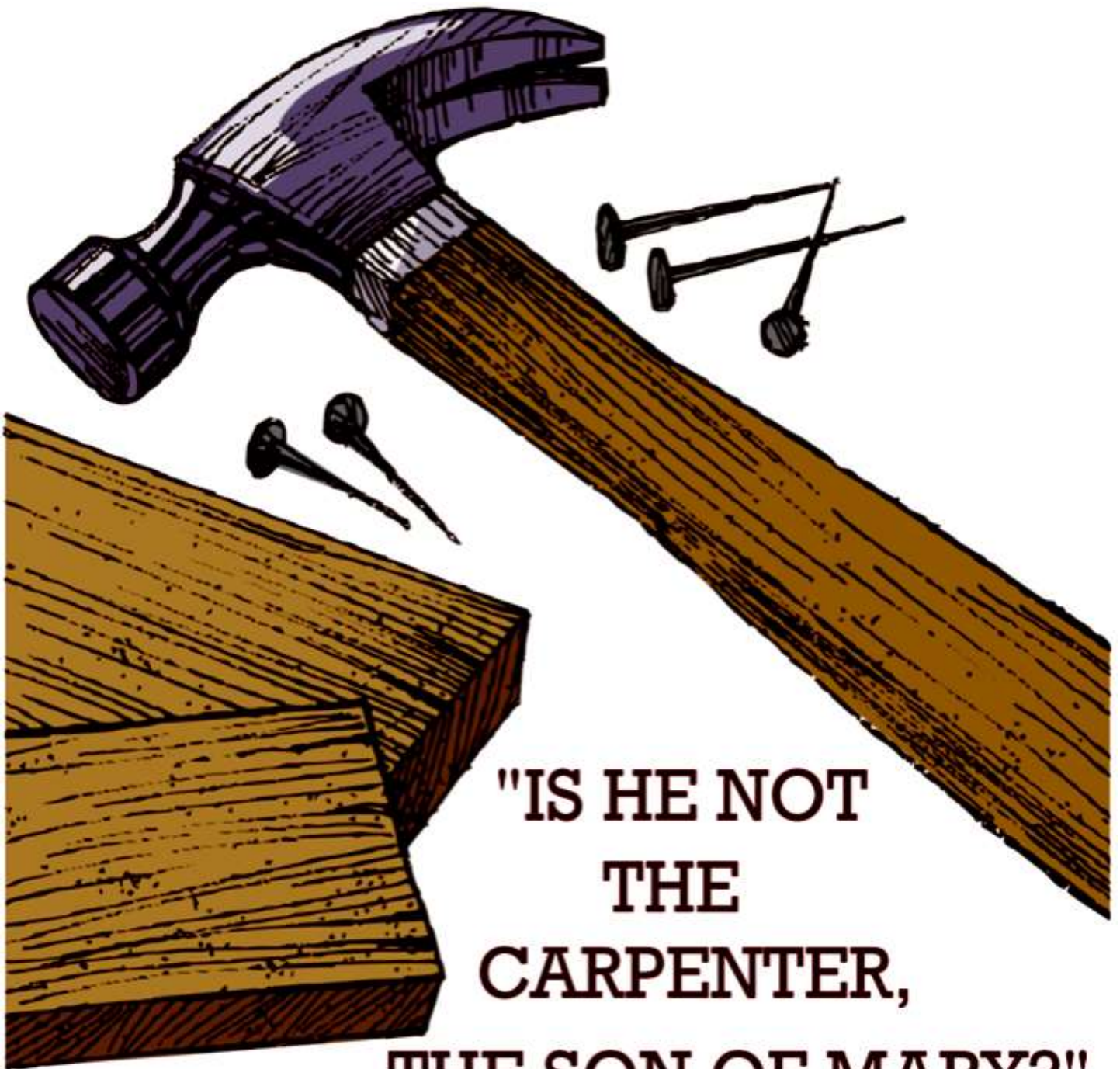


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**Church of the
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION**

Website: iccwhb.org
Parish email: parishoffice@iccwhb.org
FB: www.facebook.com/iccwhb
YouTube: www.youtube.com/@iccwhb



**"IS HE NOT
THE
CARPENTER,
THE SON OF MARY?"**

MARK 6:1-6

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 7, 2024**



Church of the Immaculate Conception

580 Main Street

P.O. Box 1227

Westhampton Beach, NY 11978-7227

STAFF

Rev. Kenneth Grooms, Pastor

Deacon Joseph Byrne
Deacon Mark Herrmann

Shawn Pinson, Sacristan
Bobby Peterson, Music Director
Donna Cosme, Director of Religious Education
Anne Dean, Assistant to Director of Religious Ed
Linda Geohan, Parish Secretary
Juan Vicente, Maintenance Manager

Parish Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday
9:00am to 5:00pm

CLOSED Friday, Saturday, Sunday, & Holidays

Parish Office 631-288-1423
Fax 631-288-5498
parishoffice@iccwhb.org

Religious Education 631-288-4188
Fax 631-288-8215
religioused@iccwhb.org

Queen of Apostles, Regional School 631-878-1033

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday

5:00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday

8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am
6:00pm (Spanish Mass)

Daily Mass

8:00am Monday through Thursday
The Rosary is recited immediately after daily Mass

Holy Days

Vigil @ 7:00pm (Spanish Mass)
Day @ 8:00am, 12:00pm, & 7:00pm

First Saturday Mass 9:00am

Rosary starts at 8:45am

Eucharistic Adoration

The FIRST FRIDAYS of each month at 12:30pm and
the LAST MONDAYS of each month at 7:00pm in
the Church.

Confessions

Every Saturday 4:00pm to 4:45pm

MARRIAGES: Arrangements should be made at least 1 year in advance. Marriage dates may be made only with the priest after he interviews the couple. Please call the Parish Office to set up an appointment. Pre- Cana classes are required.

BAPTISMS: Parents are required to attend one evening class before Baptism; and are encouraged to attend class during pregnancy. Baptismal class is held on the 1st Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. To register for Baptism, please contact the Parish Office.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING THE SICK:

Emergency calls for the Sacraments for the seriously ill may be made any time of the day or night, every day of the year. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will also be celebrated every second Friday of the month at the 8:00am Mass. All those who are seriously ill, including those preparing for surgery or a hospital stay, are invited to receive the Sacrament.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear ICC Family,

Thank you all for your support in my decision to cancel the Friday Mass. I've looked more intently at my schedule and have decided that I can continue to offer a Friday Mass ... but it will be at 12:00pm every Friday, not 8:00am. Adoration will take place the 1st Friday from 12:30pm to 3:00pm.

Thank you for your continued support as we venture through parish life together and make our parish a place where can all come together to know, love, and serve God!

Wishing you God's blessings

Fr. Ken



Diana, our statue renovator, is busy with the Grotto! Thank you Diana for sharing your gifts and talents with us!

We would like to thank our parishioner, George Lawrence, for painting and restoring our signs in front of our Church and Parish Center.

Carlos also did a great job installing the signs. Our signs look Beautiful ... thank you to all involved!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Office Hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday
9am to 5pm
631-288-4188

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2024-2025 YEAR IS NOW UNDERWAY!

Registration forms have been given out or mailed to all families of current students.

Do you know of a child entering first grade?

If you do, it's time for them to enter their two-year process of preparing to receive First Holy Communion. Religious Education at Immaculate Conception Church begins in first grade and continues every year through tenth grade. If you have an incoming first grader, please contact the religious education office at (631) 288-4188 or email to religioused@iccwmb.org.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

As another great school year in our religious education program has concluded, we are excitedly planning for next year. Our mission to nurture faith, inspire growth, and build a strong community relies on the commitment of our wonderful volunteers.

Why Volunteer with Us?

Impact: By volunteering, you directly impact the spiritual formation of our students. Your presence matters!

Growth: Volunteering is an opportunity for personal and spiritual growth. You'll learn, connect, and be part of something meaningful.

Support: We will provide training, resources, and ongoing support.

How Can You Help? We have various roles available, including catechists (Levels 1-10), classroom assistants, hall monitors and coordinators. Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or new to this, there's a place for you.

Next Steps: Please contact the Religious Education Office at 631-288-4188 or stop by during our office hours to obtain a form to sign up and get more info. VIRTUS training is required. Please pray about this and see if the Holy Spirit may be guiding you to this opportunity to share your faith with our young learners.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Courtney Cosentino, Blythe Fickenwirth,
Young Katie Kennedy, & Dick Nolan

Please call the Parish Office (631-288-1423) to add a name to the sick list. This list will be cleared bi-monthly.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions

Wednesday: St. Benedict

Friday: St. Henry

Saturday: St. Kateri Tekakwitha

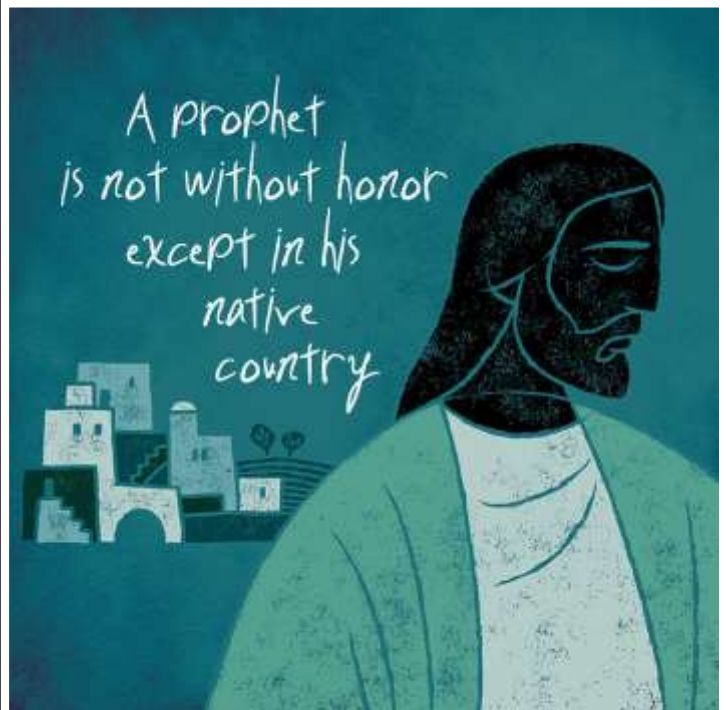


2025 MASS BOOK

The 2025 Mass Book will be open to schedule Masses on **Monday, July 22nd**.

To schedule a Mass for the deceased or for the intentions of the living, please visit the Parish Office Monday through Thursday, 9:00am - 5:00pm.

Individual Masses are \$20 each and Guild Masses (multiple) are \$10 each.



ONLY HALFWAY

You can only go halfway
into the darkest forest;
then you are coming out the other side.
~ Chinese proverb

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Ethan Bentley (Navy)
Lt. Col. William Robesch
RJ Ruggiero (Navy)
Lt. Cameron Worden
Lt. Matthew Worden (Navy)

Please contact the Rectory @631-288-1423 to add a loved one to the military list

PRAYER REQUESTS

There is a great power in prayer. It is our lifeline to God. Through it we communicate with God, and people are strengthened, helped, and made whole.

Do you know of some concern, or of some person with a special need for whom we ought to pray? We have 29 prayer warriors praying, please call Charles Schmidt at 631-288-4243 and leave a message with your prayer request.

INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

We gather now around this holy table and join our voices to those of the angels and saints who offer an endless prayer of thanksgiving around the throne of the Lamb.

WORDS

Fair words butter no parsnips.
~ John Clarke

MEDITATION with Deacon Joe

Tuesdays at 2pm in the Parish Center
Try this spiritual practice, it will surprise you!

TEDDY'S CORNER



PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS
We are in DIRE need of
TOILETRIES & CANNED FRUIT
Canned fruit, Toiletries (shampoo & soap),
Juice Boxes, Rice, Beans, Cereal, Pasta, Tuna, Peanut
Butter, Jelly, Canned Vegetables (all varieties)

SACRAMENTALS

Altar Bread and Wine, Altar Flowers & Sanctuary Lamp

To arrange a sacramental in loving memory of or for the intentions of your loved one, please visit the Parish Office.

Available Dates:

Altar Bread/Wine: July 15, 22, 29, August 5, 12, 19, 26

Altar Flowers: July 14, 21, 28, August 4, 11, 18, 25

Sanctuary Lamp: July 15, 22, 29, August 5, 19, 26

QUESTION OF THE WEEK



How do I react when someone criticizes or challenges me? Do I dismiss their words at once? How can I prayerfully consider their criticism or advice?

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

Each Sunday the Holy Spirit draws us here to hear God's word, to receive Christ in the Eucharist, and to worship the Lord. We pray that our faith is strengthened by this time we spend in prayer. When Jesus preached in his hometown, he was amazed at the lack of faith of his neighbors. They came to the synagogue to pray but left questioning how this unassuming neighbor could teach with such authority. May we look beyond surface impressions to find nourishment for our faith.

REFLECTIONS

Living Stewardship

How strong is your faith? Do you believe Jesus can help you in your daily struggles or do you seek help and comfort from other sources? Turn to Jesus and trust in Him. Build a foundation of trust in Jesus in your life.



Bulletin Reflection

In today's Gospel, we hear about the unbelief of many of Jesus' neighbors.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



Last week's Treasure mentioned the "Nuns of the Battlefield," religious sisters from several communities who served as nurses in the Civil War. Florence Nightingale had only instituted female nurses a decade before in the Crimean War, so the idea of women tending to wounded soldiers was extraordinary. The medical and sanitary conditions on the battlefields were appalling, and the sisters were nearly all teachers. Few had any medical training beyond what they had learned as youngsters in the family. Anti-Catholic prejudice

was so deeply entrenched in America that sisters could not wear their habits in public. These sisters were the first, and people on both the Union and Confederate sides soon began to marvel at their bravery, efficiency, and respect for Protestant soldiers. More than six hundred sisters from twenty-one communities went to war, serving in wretched conditions. They were tough and single-minded, efficient and fearless.

After the war, sisters could appear in public everywhere in the reunited nation, and often received the praise and gratitude of grateful soldiers and family members on behalf of their sister nurses. An outdoor monument to the "Nuns of the Battlefield" stands in Washington at M Street and Rhode Island Avenue. The inscription reads: "They comforted the dying, nursed the wounded, carried hope to the imprisoned, gave in His name a drink of water to the thirsty."



"The Return From Calvary"
Herbert Schmalz 1891

Prayer for Healing

Diocese of Rockville Centre
Office for the Protection of Children/Young People

Please join us **Tuesday, July 16th** after the 8:00am Mass for a special prayer service for the Parishes on Long Island. All towns will be announced while we pray for the people of God within those parishes. The prayer will be led by Deacon Joe. We hope to see you there!

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Children and Young People

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our
promise
to protect.

Learn more.

www.drvc.org/OPCYP

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ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS:

If you are experiencing difficulties with navigating through the website to do NECESSARY background checks, the Director of VIRTUS for the Diocese of Rockville Centre will be here in the Parish Center on **Thursday, July 11th at 10:30am** to provide assistance to help you successfully complete your volunteer requirements. Appointments are not necessary. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office.

Coming Soon!

OUR NEW Directory!



It's time for a new parish pictorial directory. It won't be our directory without you!

Look for more information to follow.

BOOK NOW



COMING SOON!

We're having a PARISH DIRECTORY made! A photographer will be at the Parish Center Wednesday, July 24th through Saturday, July 27th (by appointment only). If you'd like to be included in the Directory AND get a FREE 8x10 photo & a FREE Directory, or have any questions, please contact the Parish Office. **Don't miss out** ... be a part of Immaculate Conception Church history in the making!

The Parish Secretary will be at all the SUNDAY Masses the weekends of July 7, & July 14 to take appointments. Please visit the Narthex on your way out of Mass those weekends or you can call the Parish Office during the week to schedule your photo appointment as well.

SUNDAY MASS at the PARISH CENTER

Due to our influx of summer parishioners, our 8:00am Sunday Mass is now held in the Parish Center. Welcome Summer!



VACATION BIBLE CAMP

St. John the Evangelist (Riverhead) will be providing Vacation Bible Camp, July 29th through August 2nd, 6:00pm-8:30pm, grades 1-6 at 546 St. John's Place (cafeteria). Cost: \$10 for 1st child; \$25 for two or more children. REGISTER by July 10th: 631-727-6774 or stjohnsyouthministry25@gmail.com



Due to a change in the Swordfish Calendar, our **BEACH MASS** has been changed to **Sunday, July 28th @ 8:30am**. We hope to see you there!

Save the Date

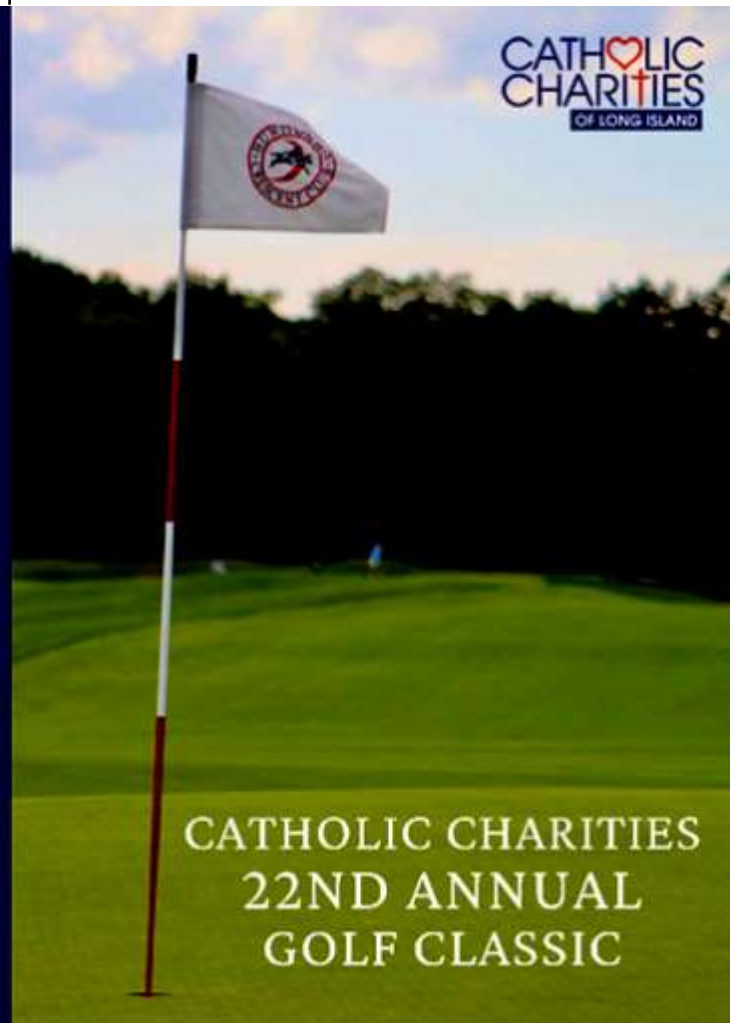
Monday, September 30th, 2024
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henderson.maren@catholiccharities.cc

INVITATION TO FOLLOW



Making Sense Out of Bioethics
Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

Contextualizing Near-Death Experiences

Near-death experiences (NDEs) are a complex set of phenomena that often include reports of leaving one's body, seeing it from outside or above, passing through a tunnel of light, seeing various forms of illumination, experiencing the presence of deceased relatives and friends, and even sensing the presence of angelic or divine beings. Between 12 and 15 percent of resuscitated heart attack patients report NDEs.

Sometimes discussions of these experiences include spiritual interpretations and religious overtones, and some commentators have claimed that "near-death experiences are certainly pronounced and conspicuous evidence of a transphysical soul" that we may use "to extract information about the afterlife." Such strong claims, however, require further substantiation, even as they trigger vigorous discussion.

NDEs, to be clear, are not instances of a person actually dying and then returning from the dead to tell about it. If an individual were to die and return to life, there would have to be a supernatural explanation and cause. Human corpses do not come back to life, apart from the rare miraculous events surrounding the deaths of Jesus, Lazarus, the daughter of Jairus, the son of the widow and Nain, as we see in the Gospels.

Human death always involves the key notion of irreversibility, which is to say: the irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions, or the irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brain stem, as explained in the 1981 Guidelines of the American Medical Association. NDEs involve situations that are reversible. They may be caused by physiological phenomena that arise as the human brain faces various stressors, like oxygen deprivation, rather than any properly supernatural phenomena.

While supernatural forces could, in theory, cause an NDE, explanatory entities should not be multiplied beyond necessity, as "Occam's razor" counsels. The Church's wisdom in evaluating such matters is that we should generally prefer a natural explanation for a phenomenon, unless and until the evidence for a supernatural explanation becomes truly compelling or overwhelming.

Rather than presupposing a supernatural explanation for NDEs, scientists have considered alternative explanations by examining stressful, near-death situations and their effects on brain function.

A 2023 *Scientific American* article notes how researchers "analyzed EEG data from four comatose patients before and after their ventilators were removed. As the patients' brains became deprived of oxygen, two showed an unexpected surge of gamma activity, a type of high-frequency wave linked to the formation of memory and the integration of information."

This raises the prospect that even in situations of severe hypoxia, certain brain functions may, at least briefly, operate in ways that could still affect thought and perception.

Dr. Kevin Nelson, a researcher who has studied near-death experiences extensively, notes "One of the most common causes of near-death experiences is fainting," which is able to generate a sense of being separated from your own body, or a feeling of euphoria. Researchers have also reported that a restriction of oxygen flow to the eye can sometimes result in an experience of tunnel vision.

Others have argued that central nervous system hallucinatory mechanisms may contribute to NDEs. The well-known neurologist, Dr. Oliver Sacks, notes how migraine headaches can generate illusions or hallucinations, which sufferers often describe as pulsating lights, shimmering illumination, or fields of brightness.

Sacks has also described the work of Swiss neuroscientist Dr. Olaf Blanke who was able to generate a hallucination, “a ‘shadow person’ in a patient by electrically stimulating her left temporoparietal junction. ‘When the woman was lying down,’ Sacks reported, ‘a mild stimulation of this area gave her the impression that someone was behind her; a stronger stimulation allowed her to define the [someone] as young but of indeterminate sex.’”

NDE’s can also resemble drug-induced experiences, and many have noted the similarity of NDE accounts to essays written by conscious drug users about their experimentations and trips while using drugs like mushrooms, cannabis, LSD, ayahuasca, etc.

Sacks also offers the important observation that the reason hallucinations seem so real is that “they deploy the very same systems in the brain that actual perceptions do.” When a person is hallucinating a face, the fusiform face area, normally used to perceive and identify faces in the surrounding environment, is activated; when someone is hallucinating a voice, the auditory pathways are stimulated. It seems reasonable to believe that NDEs may rely on similar mechanisms.

Sacks also raises the possibility that NDEs may not occur when individuals are actually suffering an absence of circulation to the brain or when they are trapped in a deep coma, but rather as they are surfacing out of the coma and their cortex is beginning to regain function.

Since it is difficult to verify the cause of an individual’s NDE, it is wise to use some caution around the interpretation of such experiences.

The most authoritative source of information about the afterlife remains the One who came from heaven, redeemed us through His suffering, death and resurrection, and who invites us to follow Him into eternal life.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as Senior Ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org and www.fathertad.com.



OBSTACLES

The prophet Ezekiel, Saint Paul, and the Lord Jesus share something in common in today’s scripture readings. They all experience obstacles to their ministry. Ezekiel is summoned to prophesy to the Israelites, who are “hard of face and obstinate of heart” (Ezekiel 2:4). Saint Paul recounts how he has been given a “thorn in the flesh” (2 Corinthians 12:7). The Lord Jesus is unable to perform many signs in his native place. The Gospel tells us that “[he] was amazed at their lack of faith” (Mark 6:6). We too sometimes encounter obstacles as we travel along the journey of faith. So often we experience weakness on this journey. Let the words of the Lord to Saint Paul encourage us today: “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Kelly & Hulme, P.C.

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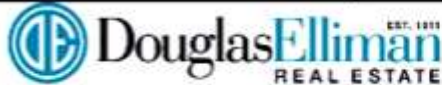


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