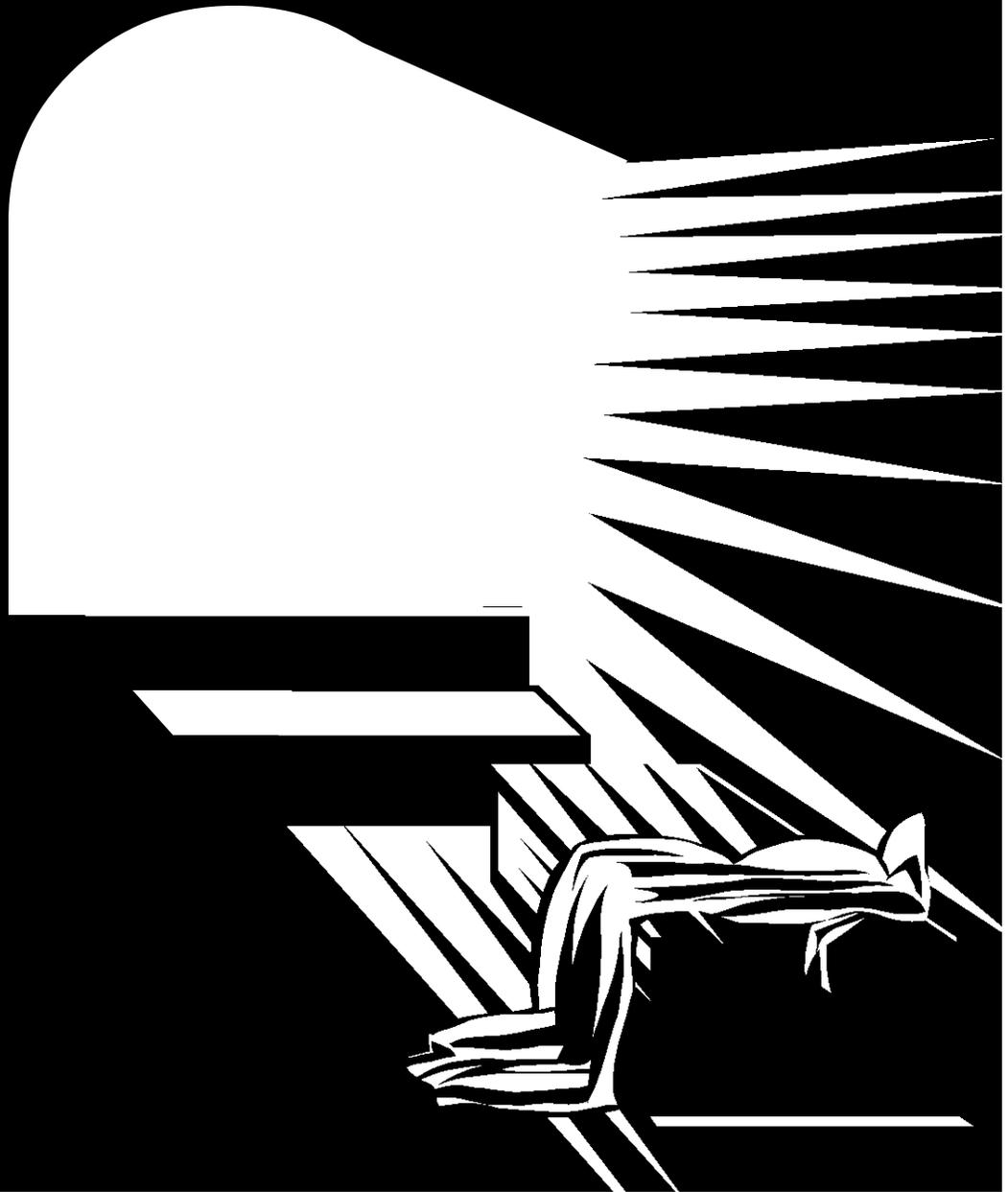


Our Lady of Lourdes • *Easter Sunday* • April 8, 2007

"he saw and believed.

*For they did not yet understand
the Scripture that he had to
rise from the dead."* John 20:9





Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano
Pastor

Welcome to our Parish Family! New Parishioners are cordially invited to register as members of our parish family. Please call or visit our Parish Office.

Parish Office

661-3224
Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM
Saturday: 9 AM - 3 PM
Sunday: 9 AM - 2 PM
email: ParishOffice@ollchurch.org
fax: 661-7143
website: www.ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes School

587-7200
Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM
email: rcioffi@ollschool.org

Religious Education Office

661-5440
Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon
1 PM - 5 PM
7 PM - 9 PM
email: ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org

Parish Outreach Office

661-9262
Monday-Friday: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

S.A.G.E.

661-3224
(Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment)
email: Sage@ollchurch.org

Rev. Stanislaus Chukwube

Associate Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback

Associate Pastor

Deacon John DeGuardi

Deacon Jack Meehan
Coordinator of Stewardship

Deacon John Teufel

Sr. Margaret Bickar

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Sr. Nancy Campkin

Director of Religious Education

Regina Ann Cioffi

School Principal

Jennifer Gallagher

Director of Youth Services

Carol M. Goetz

Parish Music Director

Sr. Diane Liona

Director of Religious Education

Mary McMahan

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Vita Scorcia

Ministry Spiritual Director

John Sureau

Coordinator of Worship

Sr. Betty Toohig

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Anthony Trombino

Business Manager

Pastoral Council

Michael Abbruscato
Salomon Acosta
Regina Ann Cioffi
Jane Desthers
Stephen Frodell
Jen Gallagher
Anne Kerrigan
Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)
Mary McMahan
Doreen Spiller
Mary Steck
Fr. Mike Vetrano
Marie Yuliano (*co-chair*)

Parish Staff

Barbara Catusco
Religious Education Office
Mary Anne Lettieri
Parish Office
Debbie Meyer
Bulletin/Parish Office
Rosemary Multer
School Office
Rex Muro
Organist
Rita Spera
Religious Education Office
Lori Walsh
Parish Office

Mission Statement

As stewards of all that God has given us, the Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes serves and ministers to all who come to this place. Regardless of a person's history, ethnicity, gender, orientation, age or race, we commit ourselves to open wide the doors of our Parish to provide a place of welcome and hospitality.



Vision...

so that all may know that they are a vital part of the Body of Christ, we further recommit and challenge ourselves to:

***Live** out our Baptismal call passionately by caring for all of God's people with justice.*

***Grow** in an understanding of God's role in each of our lives.*

***Respond** to the Gospel in a radical way, inviting and inspiring all to form the Kingdom of God in every moment of life.*

***Acknowledge** we are not complete without the willingness to grow, discern and discover the Spirit who moves and guides us.*

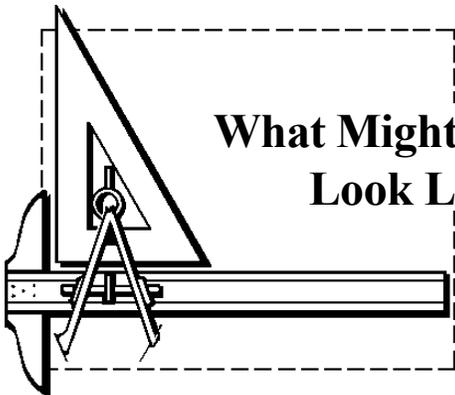
*Our Lady
of Lourdes*

455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, New York 11795

Welcome to Our Lady of Lourdes!

We are so happy to welcome everyone who has come to worship with us today! Whether you have come a long distance or you live locally, we are thrilled that you have decided to spend some time with us as we worship our Lord together. Please know that your presence today is a real blessing to our parish family. We were really looking forward to seeing you!

There's always so much happening here at OLL. We want you to remember that you are always welcome to come and be with us and participate in our ministries, programs, and activities. If you would like more information about our parish family or you are thinking about becoming a member of our parish, please contact the Parish Office at 661.3224 or email jmeehan@ollchurch.org.



What Might Our Lady Of Lourdes Look Like 5 Years From Now?

**Come to our Town Meeting
on May 14 and find out.**

Since last Easter, almost 600 of our parishioners attended more than 40 listening sessions to contribute their ideas about the future of our parish buildings and grounds. The results were compiled by the design team from the University of Detroit Mercy. They brought our ideas together with their expertise in design and architecture to present us a plan for the future.

On May 14 at 7:30 PM the plan will be presented to our parish.
Join us that evening to:

- Meet the team from Detroit Mercy
- See the results of all our listening sessions
- Hear the plan described in detail
- Discuss the plan with the design team, our pastoral team, and pastoral council.



Listening to the Hidden Voice of God

Early spring is a wonderful time to go hiking in the mountains of New York. To the eye it is still winter. The trees are bare and everywhere snow blankets the ground. But there is also the hint of life returning to the earth. You can feel it in the warmth of the sun but the real first sign of life is something you hear – the sound of water beginning to flow down the mountains and fill the streams. You can't see it and you can barely hear it, these springs are still deep under the snow, but in the air is the unmistakable sound of running water. Summer cannot be far away!

Easter for the first disciples was something like that. They were striving to believe against their doubts that Jesus was raised as he promised. For them, the first signs of Christ's resurrection were like the first signs of spring, what they heard in the darkness of their fear and grief. Think of the disciples on the road to Emmaus listening to Jesus explain the mystery of his suffering death or Jesus greeting his disciples in the locked room and telling them "Peace be with you."

In our own parish, I hear the hidden voice of God in so many of your voices. I hear it in the voices of men and women at the Easter vigil saying yes to their baptism. I hear it in our teachers and catechists explaining the Eucharist to our first communicants. I hear the voice of God's love in the wedding vows spoken by couples to one another and the voice of God's compassion in outreach volunteers caring for another person in need. I hear it in the courageous voices of our social action ministry calling us to the ways of peace and in the welcoming voices of stewardship.

In this time of year the earth comes to life, but more importantly we come to life. The resurrection of Christ is not a fact from long ago but something that happens every day in our world when men and women speak with God and for God. Listen carefully to one another and you will hear the hidden voice of God calling forth the best of our gifts and kindness for one another. God's life and strength are always near!

May the blessings of this Easter be with you always,

Fr. Mike

Fr. Mike Vetrano
Pastor

Adult Faith Formation

upcoming course...

Acts of the Apostles...The Sequel to the Gospel of Luke

Take a journey of discovery with the apostles and the early Church community. The people, places, events shaping the future.

- The birth of the church-uncovering the meaning of Pentecost
- spreading the Good News-becoming missionaries
- Internal and external struggles-acceptance and rejection inside the new community and in the world.

Take a journey of discovery with the Church in our time. The people, places, events shaping our time and our future.

- What is the meaning of Pentecost for our time?
- What is our mission today?
- What do the struggles of the early Church teach us for our time?

This course is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, April 17, 24, May 1, 8, and 15 from 7:30 PM until 9:30 PM in the Parish Center. Our presenter is Claire Stiglic, MA, former Assistant Director of the Pastoral Formation Institute.

Pre-Registration is necessary and helpful. This will enable us to have enough reading material and refreshments for all those attending. Please call the Religious Education Office, Monday-Friday, between 9AM – 5 PM and 7PM – 9PM, at 661.5440 x3, or e-mail to: religioused@ollchurch.org. Fee: \$25 [No fee is required for those who have paid the Religious Education Family Fee or Our Lady of Lourdes School Tuition. Fees may vary appropriately.]

Music Ministry

Try something new for Spring!

If you've always wanted to be a part of the growing Music Ministry at OLL, now is the perfect time. There are many ways to be involved:

- Our Adult Choir rehearses every Thursday night from 8 - 10 PM and sings weekly at the 11 AM Mass on Sundays from September through June.
- The Contemporary Group, grade 8 through college age, rehearses on Sunday afternoon from 4:30 - 6 PM and sings at "The Six" from September through June.
- The Youth Choir, grades 2 - 8, rehearses every Thursday from 7-8 PM and sings at 9:30 AM Mass every Sunday from September through June.
- Women's Chorale rehearses once a month and sings the first Sunday of the month at 11 AM Mass, September through June.

There are also opportunities to sing with many of our groups during holiday seasons. Our "Holiday Choir" requires a limited commitment to a small number of rehearsals before Christmas or Easter.

If you have any questions regarding the Adult Choir, Contemporary Group or Holiday Choir, please contact Carol Goetz at 661-3224 or music@ollchurch.org.

If you have any questions about our Youth Choir or Women's Chorale, please contact Jennifer Gallagher at 661-3224 or jengallagher@ollchurch.org.

You're needed and always welcome to join us in singing God's praise!

Religious Education

...tons going on during the Easter Season

Sponsor/Candidate Enrollment Sunday

Sunday, April 22 - Third Sunday of Easter

6 PM Mass

All seventh graders in our Parish Family choose a Sponsor in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please come and join with all the 7th Graders of our parish, their families and their newly chosen Sponsor, as we celebrate this commitment. They look to their Parish Family for prayers and support on their faith journey.

Then there is...

“Rescue Closing”

Sunday, May 20

6 PM Mass

All 8th graders in our Parish Family, their Sponsors and parents share in celebrating their time together. The eighth graders and their Sponsors have been getting together and doing service for others.

and... of course

Grade 6/7/8 Hang Out Nites continue...

Friday April 20	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Parish Center
Friday May 18	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Parish Center
Friday June 22	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Parish Center

Don't forget...there's something for everyone !

All 6th / 7th / 8th graders of our Parish Family... come play volleyball, basketball.

We have Guitar Hero 2, Dance Revolution, music and more... DON'T MISS IT !

also...

Grades 9/10/11/12

ALL ARE WELCOME! High School Chaperones help with set-up, participating in activities, refreshments, clean-up, etc., and assist the Adult Chaperones.

Reminder...

Important Confirmation Meeting

All Eighth Grade Parents in OLL Parish Family -

Tuesday, May 8 at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria *or* Wednesday, May 9 at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria *or*

Thursday, May 10 at 10 AM in the cafeteria.

School News

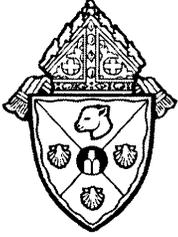
Plant Sale

Why not order your flower bed flats, plants and baskets through the

Our Lady of Lourdes School Plant Sale?

Flowers will be on sale after all Masses on the weekend of May 5/6. For your added convenience, you can place your order now for pick up at a later date. Order forms can be picked up at the School office. Order forms can be dropped off at the School office prior to April 30 - your flowers will be ready for pick-up on Saturday, May 5 between 3 PM and 5 PM.





2007 Catholic Ministries Appeal

The Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us

Thank you to all those who have responded!

The Diocese of Rockville Centre would like to thank all those who have made a sacrifice by making a gift to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. If you have not had an opportunity to make a gift to the Appeal or have been waiting to make a pledge, please complete the pledge card below and return it to the Parish Office or to any collection basket.

Have you Responded?

One of our goals is to have every family participate in this Appeal by responding with a YES or a NO. We are hopeful that every family in our parish and diocese has responded to this call for sacrifice. Our goal had been based on every family making an equal sacrifice, not an equal gift. Look at what God has given to you and your family and consider the gift you can give to help those in need here on Long Island. Only you can decide what that gift will be. If you have not yet responded, please consider what you can do to the best of your ability to help our parish and diocese reach a successful conclusion.

YOUR GIFT - is like any other gift to a loved one. What we give to our parish is a gift given without reservation or condition.

THANKSGIVING - our offering is a grateful response to the immense Love and Blessings God has shown for us. It is a testimony that God is first in our lives.

PLANNED GIFT - a decision that requires thought and time. We don't give merely what we happen to have left over in our wallet or purse when the collection basket comes.

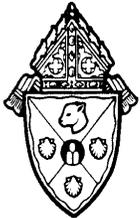
CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL • DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
PO Box 4000 • ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11571-4000 • 516-379-5210 EXT 2 • www.drvc.org/cma.html

2007 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Supporting the Community Around Us

TO PROVIDE FUNDS I/WE AGREE TO MAKE A GIFT OF:

PLEDGE \$ _____ INITIAL PAYMENT \$ _____ BALANCE \$ _____



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PARISH OF DONOR _____

SIGNATURE OF DONOR _____

A GUIDE TO GIVING	
PLEDGE	10 PAYMENTS
\$5,000	\$500
2,500	250
1,500	150
1,000	100
500	50
300	30
150	15
OTHER \$ _____	
EVERY GIFT COUNTS!	

Please make checks payable to:
Catholic Ministries Appeal
Thank you for your support

For More Information, please call 516-379-5210, Ext.2
or e-mail us at www.drvc.org/cma.html

Parish Pilgrimage 2007

Travel this summer to Montreal and Quebec. Experience a pilgrimage that brings a wonderful fellowship among us. Travel dates are scheduled for July 9 - July 16, 2007.

In Montreal: enjoy Montreal Harbor, the Basilica of Notre Dame, Botanical Gardens, the famous Oratory of St. Joseph.



In Quebec: experience the largest French speaking city in North America. Visit the Basilica of St. Anne de Beaupre, stroll down world known St. Catherine Street and experience the Chateau Frantenac. As we travel, we will have occasions to celebrate Mass with our own Father Bob presiding and Deacon John assisting and our fellow travelers will have the opportunity to serve as Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors.

For more information, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

5th Annual El Salvador Mission Trip

June 30-July 5, 2007:

Join us for a week-long retreat among the poor! This experience, which is especially geared for teens ages 12-18, will enable you to share your faith, culture, and hospitality with the people of our Sister Parish of Tacuba, El Salvador.

We will spend a week walking with the people, learning about their lives, and running a mini-vacation Bible camp for the children there!

The cost of the trip will be approximately \$850. For more information, email jengallagher@ollchurch.org or come to our first trip meeting on **Thursday, April 19 at 8 PM in the Parish Center.**

Sixth Annual OLL Vacation Bible Camp

Save the dates: July 23-27.

This year's theme is FLIGHT Camp!! (**F**un-**L**earning-**I**n-**G**od's-**H**oly-**T**ime) and rumor has it that OLL will be visited by all kinds of FLYING things that week!

Vacation Bible Camp is for students in nursery - grade 5 and runs daily from 9 AM-12:30 PM. Campers learn through interactive Bible stories, arts and crafts, games, super science center, and lots of those crazy camp songs! Students in sixth grade or older can serve as volunteer counselors.

Camp registration forms will run in the bulletin beginning the first week in June. Be sure to save the dates and plan to join us for a fun week. Up, up, and away!

Daily Mass

8 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5 PM

Sunday: 8 AM, 9:30 AM,
11 AM, 12:30 PM and 6 PM

Reconciliation

Saturday: 4 PM - 4:45 PM

Altar Bread & Wine

Baby & Richard Joseph Shaddock



Rest In Peace

William Tyler

Doris M. Patterson

Rosary/Novena

Rosary:

Daily after 8 AM Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena:

Monday after 8 AM Mass

Anointing of the Sick

Throughout the liturgical year.

If needed sooner, please call the Parish Office.

Baptism

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

Marriage

Arranged at least six months in advance, please call the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults(RCIA):

A process to be embraced by the Catholic Church. For non-Catholics and for Catholics who have never received formal religious education. If interested, please call the Parish Office.

Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous:

Monday and Tuesday at
8 PM and Saturday at
7 PM in Lourdes Hall-
convent lower level.

ALANON:

Each Wednesday at
10 AM in Lourdes Hall-
convent lower level.

Remembering...

Monday, April 9

8:00 AM James J. Werner

Tuesday, April 10

8:00 AM James Peter Olsen

Wednesday, April 11

8:00 AM Nettie & John Pizzella

Thursday, April 12

8:00 AM Asuncion F. Castro

Friday, April 13

8:00 AM Antoinette Connolly

Saturday, April 14

8:00 AM Lucy & Eddie Regina, George F. Bukowski, Peter Schreiner,
Constance & Salvatore Filangeri, Lily Turano, Jo Brogan,
Richard Gimmler, St. Jude, Jason Chasteen, Vincent McCarthy,
Jeremiah Michael Murphy

5:00 PM Dan & Peter Mancuso

Sunday, April 15

8:00 AM Barbara McGarrity

9:30 AM Loreto & Ben Fantauzzi

11:00 AM Dec'd. mbrs of Monroe & Shaddock Families

12:30 PM Joe, Nina & Kathy Chiarelli

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Richard Munkwitz, Sr., Rick Munkwitz,
Teresa Wright, Paul Kunzinger, Bridie Schaefer, Brian Bogart,
Jacob Anthony Habertzettl, S. Dixon Hunter, Molly Izzarone,
Vincent Deriggi, James Pantorno, William Paquette, Saul Rodriguez



canned fruit
canned vegetables
jelly
peanut butter
pudding/jello
soup

Friendly Visitor Program

Outreach is looking for a few friendly volunteers!

If you are interested in becoming a “Visitor” to

one of our elderly or infirm parishioners, Outreach would love to have you. This is a wonderful way to extend “community” to those who are unable to leave their homes due to age or illness. The visitor Program will involve visiting an elderly or infirm parishioner in their home once a week.

Training will be offered for you here at OLL. If interested, please call the Outreach Office and speak with Mary for more details. You can reach her at the Outreach Office at 661.9262, option 4.

Parish Social Ministry

The Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes hosts a number of programs under the umbrella of Parish Social Ministry. Our Outreach Office provides food and assistance for families within our Parish area who may be experiencing difficulty or hardships due to illness, unemployment or other unfortunate circumstances. The Food Pantry is stocked weekly by the generous donations of our Parishioners. Each week, the Sunday Bulletin lists items which are needed by the food pantry. In addition, local merchants contribute financially each month enabling us to purchase items such as pampers, cleaning products, health and grooming needs. These merchants are part of our Angel Network.

In addition to the Outreach Office, Parish Social Ministry includes our Social Action Group. This Group meets monthly and bi-monthly contributes to projects which extend beyond our Parish boundaries, including the undocumented, the prayer and action for peace, the right to life and so much more. The Social Action Group also oversees a number of other projects. You’ll see invitations to be part of one of our Peanut Butter and Jelly Gang nights where we make over a thousand sandwiches for local soup kitchens and homeless shelters. Other times throughout the year we’ll come together as a parish to make wash kits to distribute to homeless shelters and nursing homes. Volunteers from The Social Action Group also cook for local soup kitchens, allowing core workers of these kitchens much needed time-off. There are always needs issues, ideas, events and plans in this area of Parish Social Ministry!

There is also our hugely successful Thanksgiving and Christmas drive. Through the generous donations of our parishioners, we are able to provide Thanksgiving dinners and Christmas dinners and gifts to so many in our Parish in need. All our parishioners who give so abundantly become members of our Outreach as we make the miracle of the holidays come alive for others.

Finally, in all of this, in all that we do, we strive to be people who witness to the Gospel Imperative to be People of Justice, to be light in our world. Please call the Outreach office if you would like to become part of this vision.

Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of April will be on **Wednesday, April 11 from 1- 3 PM**. All are invited and welcome!
We will be praying for the safety of our troops overseas and the welfare of their families.



Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, May 13**. We will begin with the **Rosary at 7:40 AM in the Church** and the **meeting will follow the 8 AM Mass at 9 AM in Room 16**. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

Rosary Christian Mothers

The Rosary Christian Mothers meet on the first Monday evening of each month. However, the next meeting will be on **Sunday, May 6**. We will have our May Crowning of Mary and our annual Communion Breakfast. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.



Nocturnal Adoration

Nocturnal Adoration will **follow the 5 PM Mass on Saturday, May 5**, followed by Benediction at 9:50 PM. Please come and pray with us. All are invited and welcome! Bring a friend.

Senior Circle

OLL Senior Circle is sponsoring a day trip to the **National Center for Padre Pio in Barto, Pennsylvania**. **The trip is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18**. The cost of the trip is \$40 and includes a video, a tour of the museum, prayer time, a visit to the gift shop and a late lunch. The bus will leave the OLL parking lot at 8 AM. For further information and reservations, please call Vera at 587.1553. Reservations are on a first come, first served basis.

Here Politics and Faith Meet: Long Islanders Seeking Justice
How Catholic citizens “work for a just ordering of society” as called for in
Pope Benedict XVI’s encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love)

Doing Justice For and With Poor People

Source: *Pathway to the Holy*, by Richard Koubek and Connie Loos,
 published by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Rockville Centre, Autumn, 2001

The pursuit of justice must be a fundamental norm of the State and ... the aim of a just social order is to guarantee to each person ... his share of the community’s goods.

-Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*.

Rosa haltingly told her story before the Suffolk County Legislature on June 5th, 2001. A single mother, she works two jobs to earn \$22,000 a year. Only one of her three children had medical insurance. “I applied for Medicaid (government health insurance for the poor) for my diabetic son,” Rosa told the legislators, “but I was denied because they said I made too much money. I make \$22,000 a year – how ironic.”

Rosa was testifying for a Living Wage bill that would require all companies and agencies contracted with Suffolk County to pay their employees no less than \$9.00 an hour with health insurance. “I have lost my house two times ... and I am at the moment facing probable eviction again” Rosa told the legislators.

Thanks to the persistence of Rosa, many Catholics working with Catholic Charities’ Public Policy Education Network (PPEN) and other advocates in Suffolk County who called on their legislators to support the Living Wage, the bill passed. But, the story does not end here. Following the vote, numerous contracted agencies asked County officials to reconsider the bill. “Who will pay?” they wanted to know, since county contracts don’t always provide sufficient funds to pay the Living Wage. Rosa’s moving story had run into the harsh reality that Americans hate to pay the taxes needed to support government programs for the poor.

Rosa, and the thousands of single mothers like her, and those who advocate for and with them, have to return again and again to remind our elected officials, and one another, that our community will be judged by how we treat the poor and vulnerable among us.

Do you want to work for justice? Contact Dr. Richard Koubek at
Catholic Charities’ Public Policy Education Network, 516.733.7077
or by e-mail: Koubek.richard@catholiccharities.cc

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Dottie Collins*.
If you would like to help care for our altar needs, please call the
Parish Office at 661.3224.

Communion Calls

Communion brought to those who are homebound.
Contact the Parish Office at 661.3224.



Pastoral Care of the Sick

Please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 to leave the names
of parishioners who:

- are homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist
- are in Good Samaritan Hospital and would like to be visited
by a member of our Pastoral Care Ministry.

Pray for Our Sick

Please remember to keep in your thoughts and prayers ...

*Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan, Christian Bullock, Lynn Castellano, Regina Cranor,
Joseph Cristallo, Jason Fisher, Jimmy Grillo, Samantha Hil, Adam Ippolito,
Monica Jasinski, Brigid Kinney, Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento, Diego Marino,
Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Bryan Monahan, Doris Patterson, Frieda Perry,
Gene Perry, Delphine Reynolds, Dorothy Schiavone, Dorothy Sullivan, Loretta Vitale*

Good Samaritan Prayer Group of L.I.

The Good Samaritan Prayer Group of Long Island holds their **meetings every
Friday (except the first Friday of the month) at OLL School in Room 16
from 8 PM until 10 PM.**

All are welcome to experience singing, praying and fellowship each evening.

Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group

The Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group meets each **Thursday
afternoon** in the **Church**. The meeting is from **3 PM until 4 PM** in
front of the Blessed Sacrament.



Easter Sunday

You've no doubt heard someone say to you "I've got to get something off of my chest." Once he or she has finished, the person may have even said that he or she felt "a weight lifted from their shoulders." When the heart is opened and the truth is confessed, what an accurate description these sayings can be! The troubles, worries and sins we carry in our heart must be released, no matter how large the stone that blocks our way.

Perhaps we believe that the stone of Jesus' tomb was moved to let him rise as he had said he would. Wouldn't it be a truer thought that the stone was moved for others to see into the tomb? The fulfilled promise of Jesus' Resurrection was more than another physical miracle performed; it was the triumph of life over death itself, a message entrusted to every disciple from then on to proclaim to the world.

On this Easter Sunday, we are reminded that those who first rushed to the tomb found it empty; no physical body of Jesus, no flesh, yet it was this day that fulfilled the promise of the Word made flesh. For from that time on, we come together to proclaim our belief in the resurrection of the flesh and the life of the world to come (CCC 1015). Remove the stone from your heart, and believe in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ.

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Readings for the Week of April 8, 2007

Sunday:	Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col 3:1-4 <i>or</i> 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 <i>or</i> Lk 24:1-12
Monday:	Acts 2:14, 22-33/Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday:	Acts 2:36-41/Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday:	Acts 3:1-10/Lk 24:13-35
Thursday:	Acts 3:11-26/Lk 24:35-48
Friday:	Acts 4:1-12/Jn 21:1-14
Saturday:	Acts 4:13-21/Mk 16:9-15
Next Sunday:	Acts 5:12-16/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31

Financial Summary

April 1, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$

Due to a change in the bulletin deadline, the collection amount for Palm Sunday, April 1 will be published next week.

The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs and salaries is \$21,000.

Members in the Military

We ask that you pray especially for those in our parish that are on active duty in the Middle East conflict.

They are:

Daniel D'Arienzo-US Army

Bryan R. Dempsey-US Marines

Frederick Wm. Ellis-US Army

John Finn-US Army

Armand J. LeComte-US Marines

Michael Mallimo-US Army

Peter Provenzano-US Army

...and remember those of our parish family that are in the armed services, listed in our Parish Book of Intentions.

Religion & Rock

Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Fr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island.

Next Sunday's theme is:

"Easter-New Beginnings"

Don't forget to tune in!

Visit "Religion & Rock" on the web, www.religionandrock.com.

Also watch "Good News with Father Jim" on TELECARE, channel 29, on Mondays and Fridays at 9:45 AM; Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 7:45 PM; Sundays at 8 PM.

Health Care Cuts

This year's state budget battle is turning into the toughest in recent memory. The proposed cuts at the state level are tremendous. The planned cuts determine that every one of New York State's 229 not-for-profit hospitals would lose critically needed funding. The impact on Good Samaritan Hospital alone would be over \$2 million dollars. Cutting health care providers undermines the hospital's ability to invest in life-saving advances, the health care workforce and the public's health. Please stop by the Outreach office to pick-up a copy of a letter to Governor Spitzer asking him to reconsider these health care cuts, or contact Governor Spitzer via e-mail:

<http://www.ny.gov/governor/contact/index.html>. Thank you.

Saint Anthony's Golf Classic

Saint Anthony's High School Golf Classic will take place on **Monday, May 7** at the Tam O'Shanter and Old Westbury Country Clubs. All proceeds will go directly to Saint Anthony's Endowment. Foursomes and individual starts are still available, as are many levels of sponsorship opportunities.

If you are interested in playing or supporting this important fund-raiser, please contact Tony Trombino at 661.3224.

Upcoming Events

Our Lady of Grace Columbiettes presents "A Date to Remember" at the Villa Monaco, West Islip on Friday, April 20 from 7 PM until 11 PM. The cost is \$35 per person and all funds go to the benefit of education grants and Parkinson's Disease research.

For ticket information, call Regina at 888.0232.

Our Lady of the Assumption Church will have a Chinese Auction on Friday, April 20 at 7 PM in the auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 PM and admission is \$5 and includes coffee/tea, cake and a round of auction tickets. For more information, call Linda at 789.4537 or Vicky at 842.4991.

Doo Wop Dance Party sponsored by The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Bishop McDonnell #1403. Dance Party will be held on Saturday, April 21 at St. Joseph's Church, Babylon. \$25 per ticket includes dessert and coffee. For more information, call Ellen at 422.0593.

Maria Regina Residence

Maria Regina Residence is a skilled long term care facility located on the property of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Brentwood. It provides Adult Day Health Services offering a wonderful day program including transportation and meals, as well as a loving atmosphere provided by an inclusive staff. If interested, or for further information, please contact Veronica Anderson, Director at 631.299.3045.

For Your Information

All 9/11 workers and volunteers who did rescue, recovery or cleanup work...

If you are not currently sick, the possibility exists that you may become sick in the future because of having been exposed to toxic air after 9/11. Therefore, you must register with the Worker's Compensation Board by August 14, 2007 to protect your right to file a claim if you do become sick. For registration form and instructions, please call 1.866.WTC.2556.



Golden Wedding Jubilee

On **Sunday, April 29, 2007** couples married 50 years or more are invited to a special Mass to be celebrated by Bishop William Murphy at **St. Lawrence the Martyr, Sayville at 3 PM**. Please pick up your registration card at the OLL Parish Office no later than Monday, April 9.

Pastoral Formation Institute

The Pastoral Formation Institute offers an exciting, integrated approach to discipleship through instruction, prayer, faith sharing and the development of leadership skills. Weekly sessions prepare the lay Catholic adult to enter more fully into the life of the Church. In addition to weekly sessions, formation weekends at the Seminary enrich the PFI process. Watch upcoming bulletins for information on registration for Fall 2007 classes and upcoming information meetings.

School Reunions

Saint Catherine of Siena School, Franklin Square is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year! To mark this event, we cordially invite alumni and past faculty to attend a grand reunion on Saturday, April 21. For more information, please contact our Alumni Committee at 1.800.424.3367, extension 422 or email alumni@siennaspirit.org.

Our Lady of Peace School, Lynbrook is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a reunion on Saturday, May 19 at 8 PM at the school. A fun evening gathering old friends and classmates is being planned. If you attended OLP or sent your children to OLP, please come and share in the celebration. Tickets are \$30 per person. For further information, please contact Jennifer at 516.887.6768 or Kristan at 516.599.3847.

Presentation of the BVM School, Jamaica will close in June 2007. This will conclude 120 years of Catholic education to generations of students. It is with sadness that we extend this invitation to all: graduates, parents, teachers, and staff to a closing Mass on Saturday, May 5 at 10:30 AM with a luncheon to follow at noon. Please respond to this invitation by calling 718.739-2003

Deanery Celebration

Local parishes in our Deanery will be gathering for a special multilingual celebration marking the 50th Anniversary of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. We are celebrating fifty continuous years of God blessing our people, who compose our parishes and diocese with the gifts of faith, hope and love. Save the date: Sunday, April 22 at the 11:45 AM Mass at St. Joseph Church, Babylon in Msgr. Nolan Hall. Refreshments will follow.

Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy Mass is being held at Ss. Cyril & Methodius, Deer Park at 12:30 PM on Sunday, April 15. Devotions will follow at 1:30 PM until 4 PM. Eucharistic Adoration until 7 PM.

The Cross as Revealing the Inner Life of God

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

There's a particularly poignant line in the account of Jesus' death which says that, when he died, "the veil in the sanctuary was torn from top to bottom." I remember, as a boy, hearing that read in church, picturing it literally, and thinking: "Now they'll know what a terrible thing they've done!"

But that line doesn't refer to some ominous, dark sign at the moment of the crucifixion, meant to stun the world and prove it made a gross mistake. It refers to something else, not dark and fateful at all. The sanctuary veil was the curtain that hung between the ordinary people and the holy of holies, the most sacred of all places, and prevented them from seeing what was behind. What the gospel-writers are saying is that, at the moment of Jesus' death, the veil that sits between us and the inner life of God was ripped open so that we can now see what God looks like inside.

The cross, then, is the ultimate icon, the real depiction of the Holy. It shows us God's heart, the inner life of the Trinity. How is this so?

On the cross, there is not just one person, Jesus. Ultimately all three persons in the Trinity - Father, Son, and Spirit - are on the cross.

On the surface, of course, we see Jesus, the Son. What's he doing? He's suffering and dying, but in a particular way. He hangs on the cross in anguish, dying, alone, humiliated, misunderstood, but he also hangs there in trust and fidelity, giving his life away without resentment, recrimination, and bitter questioning because he knows and trusts someone deeply enough to, literally, believe in the sun even when it isn't shining, in love even when he isn't experiencing it, and in God even when God is silent.

We see Jesus on the cross, but we see him there clinging to someone else with a trust that turns hatred into love, curses into blessing, bitterness into graciousness, recrimination into understanding, and God's silence into faith. On the cross we see one person, but as being held and empowered by somebody else.

Less visible, but clearly there as the recipient of this trust, present as the one about whom this drama is ultimately about, is the Father. He is also on the cross, suffering with the son, holding the son in this darkness, showing himself worthy of trust, and trusting the son not

to short-circuit the tension so that God's response, the resurrection, can be what it should be, not an act of vengeance, nor a bullying definition of whose in charge, but an act of unfathomable redemption, understanding, forgiveness, and love, an act that, more than anything else, defines God. The Father is there too on the cross, suffering, waiting in patience, empowering another to trust.

Finally, the Holy Spirit is also on the cross, uniquely generated and released by what unfolds there. As the drama of the crucifixion, this deep interplay of giving and receiving in love and trust, is taking place, a forgiving warmth, a healing fire, and an unfathomable patience and understanding are being produced, revealed, and released. That energy, the ultimate oxygen, which the gospels depict as spilling out of Jesus' pierced side as blood and water, is the Holy Spirit and that Spirit reveals precisely what is going on inside of God. What is happening there?

Inside of God, as we can see from the cross, there is no bitterness, vengeance, loss of patience, or lack of graciousness (not a single trace). When the veil inside the temple is torn, when the side of Jesus is pierced, what we see, what flows out, is only forgiveness, patience, gentleness, understanding, and warm invitation.

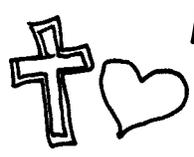
We have an analogy for this, however inadequate, inside human relationships. Whenever two people love each other so deeply that the power of that love enables them to trust enough so as not to grow embittered, recriminating, and questioning of God in times of pain and darkness, than that love becomes an energy, a warm spirit, an oxygen, that empowers everyone who comes into contact with it. You see this in a good marriage, where the love and trust that a man and a woman have for each other become something akin to a warm fireplace that warms everyone around them. From their side too flows "blood and water", a spirit and a baptism. But that only happens when their love for each other is of the kind that enables them both to sweat blood in the garden rather than give in to bitterness, recrimination, and the temptation to make God prove himself. A good love empowers both parties to carry the burdens of others as well as the burden of doubt, without resentment.

The cross is an icon of this kind of love. It defines God as love and gives us a picture of what that kind of love looks like.

Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Father Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author and is currently the President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com.

Sharing the Gospel

Happy Easter! When we read the Easter story, we know what happened. Jesus rose from the dead! But at the time, Jesus' closest friends had a hard time understanding or believing what happened. So if you have friends or family who do not believe in Jesus yet, be patient with them. Love them, and pray for them.



Mission for the Week

Make an Easter card for someone you know who lives in a nursing home.

Puzzle

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

- | | | |
|---------|--------|---------|
| morning | spices | alive |
| women | stone | raised |
| tomb | body | believe |

mronngi	<u>m</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>i</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>g</u>
bleevei	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
alvie	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
stnoe	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
tmbo	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
raside	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
bdoy	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
spcies	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
wmone	___	___	___	___	___	___	___

Prayer



Dear God,
thank you for
bringing Jesus
back to life.
Thank you for
Easter.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of
yourself telling a
friend about Jesus.