

**“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO
HAVE NOT SEEN
AND HAVE BELIEVED.”**

JOHN 20:29



**OUR LADY OF LOURDES
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 15, 2007**



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

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.]

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.**

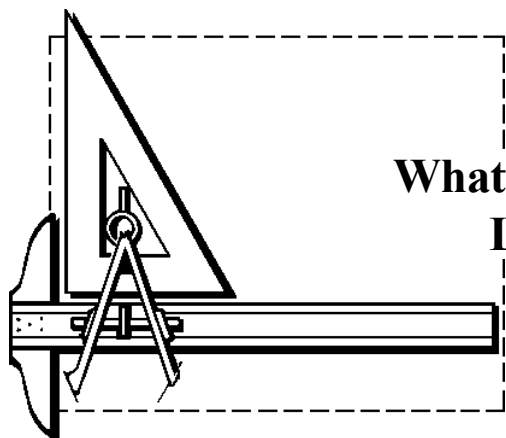
The cost of the trip is \$40 and includes a video, a tour of the museum, prayer time, a visit to the gift shop and a late lunch. The bus will leave the OLL parking lot at 8 AM.

For further information and reservations, please call Vera at 587.1553. Reservations are on a first come, first served basis.

Senior Circle

Wouldn't you like to join us because...

We are a spiritual and charitable organization. We are a group of men & women fifty-five & over. We meet on the last Monday of each month throughout the year in the Parish Center at 12:30 PM. Our activities consist of socials, trips, informative speakers, special Christmas celebrations, shows & dinners and last but not least, you will experience enjoyable and lasting relationships with each other. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please feel free to call Wilma at 669-4728.



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.

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

There are so many who helped to make our Holy Week and Easter Sunday celebrations so beautiful-too many to mention by name, but I wish to thank all those who:

*prepared our worship space, welcomed our parishioners,
presided at our liturgies, set our altar, ushered those who came to worship,
ministered the Eucharist, read the Word of God, led us in song,
praised God with instrument and voice, served at our masses,
and most of all, for all who prayed and celebrated with us.*

Fr. Mike

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

Our Lady of Lourdes School PLANT SALE



Weekend of May 5th & 6th
after all Masses



PLEASE SUPPORT
OUR PARISH SCHOOL!

For your added convenience, you can place your order now for pick up. Pre-order forms can be picked up at the School office and can be dropped off at the School prior to April 30 - your flowers will be ready for pick-up on Saturday, May 5 between 3 PM and 5 PM.

4.5" pots = \$6.00

New Guinea Impatiens
Geraniums

Mixed Colors
Red

4.5" pots = \$4.50

Vinca Vine
Spikes

10" (TRADITIONAL)

Large hanging baskets = \$20

Daisy
Rose Bud Impatiens
Verbena
Impatiens
Fuschia
Geraniums

Primrose Flats = \$22 (perennials)

Primrose Multicolor: 18 - 3" pots per flat

BEDDING PLANT FLATS \$15 per FULL flat

Impatiens	White, Red, Violet, Pink, Orange, Mixed
Petunia	Red, Pink, Purple, White Stars, Mixed
Marigold	Orange, Yellow, Two-tone
Salvia	Red, White, Deep Purple, Mix
Dahlia	Figaro Mix
Begonia	Pink, Red & White
Coleus	Red, Mixed
Ageratum	Hawaii Blue
Snadragon	Floral Showers mix

School parents: Please note that only pre-orders will count towards your Mandatory Fundraising amount.

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, participate in activities, refreshments, clean-up, etc., and assist the Adult Chaperones.



Reminder...

Important Confirmation Meeting

All Eighth Grade Parents in OLL Parish Family -

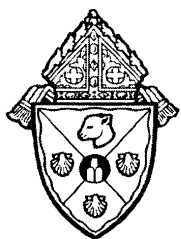
Tuesday, May 8 at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria

or

Wednesday, May 9 at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria

or

Thursday, May 10 at 10 AM in the cafeteria.



2007 Catholic Ministries Appeal

The Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us

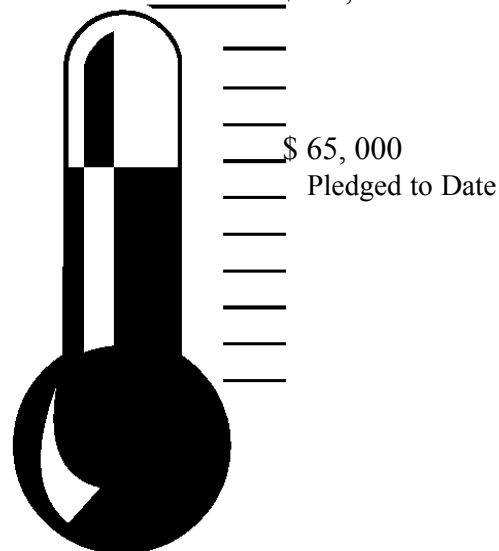
The key ingredient to the success of our appeal is participation. In order to reach our need we need to have every family participate in the appeal to the best of their ability. If you have not had an opportunity to make a gift to the appeal or have been waiting to make a pledge, please complete the pledge card below and place it in the collection basket.

WHAT ARE YOU ASKED TO DO?

As a parishioner in your parish and a member of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, we ask you to help us meet the challenge we now face. To succeed in accomplishing the needs of this appeal, we ask each of our Catholic families to consider a sacrificial pledge to the Catholic Ministries Appeal to the best of their financial ability. The specific amount to be donated is a decision that each family is asked to make after prayerful consideration.

Keep in mind that while no pledge is too small or too large, it should have some relationship to your own standard of living and how generous God has been to you and your family. Our ultimate need in this appeal is 100% participation! We thank you in advance for your generosity and support in this very important endeavor.

PARISH GOAL \$103,000



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 Frontenac. 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.

There are a limited number of places available. If you would like to receive the travel itinerary and make a reservation, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224. Please feel free to come and meet the travelers at our next meeting on Monday, April 23 at 7:30 PM in the school cafeteria.

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

Philomena Crosby

Easter Flowers 2007

*Antonio, Jermano, Carvalho &
DiFulvio Family*

Catusco/Locascio Families

Richard Heithaus

Norah Williamson

Nick LoPorta

Vera DeSantis

Jean DeBlasi

M/M Philip Ambrosino

John Richard McKeefery

William F. Adams

Robert Joseph Decker

Charlotte Sweeney

Angelina Sibilla

Louise & Joseph Koveleski

Ruth & Anthony Mammola

Muriel & Jack Kinsley

Frances Manen

Dominick Giannini

Lillie Giannini

Anthony Giannini

John Walsh

Irene Gries



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 16

8:00 AM Mariangela Anselmo

Tuesday, April 17

8:00 AM Maria Manganis

Wednesday, April 18

8:00 AM Olga Milazzo

Thursday, April 19

8:00 AM Hector Girgenti

Friday, April 20

8:00 AM Frank Harnos

Saturday, April 21

8:00 AM Peter Reehil, Josephine Brogan, Richard Gimmler, Mary Schaezle, Dolores Wagner, Kevin Manning, Thanks to St. Anthony, Anthony Loffredo, Tommy Caramanca, John Reidy, James L. Boyle, Jennie Quigley, Robert Herr, Jr. (L)

5:00 PM Josephine Sanfilippo

Fr. Ed Dowling

Sunday, April 22

8:00 AM John Cunneen

Fr. Mike Vetrano

9:30 AM Erna Schmid

Fr. Stan Chukwube

11:00 AM Sylvan Lodespoto

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

12:30 PM Nicola & Anna Santa Andriola

Fr. John Asomugha

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Joseph Rizzo & dec'd mbrs of the Rizzo Family, Teresa Wright, John McBride, Molly Izzarone, Patrick O'Regan, Michael V. Walsh, Edward Romanelli, Allen Martindale, Ben Mari, Julia Pascal, Nancy Campagnola, Pasquale Artese

Fr. Stan Chukwube



Rest In Peace

Jennie Quigley

Elaine Vasconcellos

Donato Miranda

Celebrating Sacraments

Let Them Eat Cake!

Senior Circle Annual Cake Sale to benefit Outreach.

Cakes, cookies and delicious baked goods will be on sale after each Liturgy the weekend of April 28/29.

Sweet tooth required!
Buy a cake and support Outreach-



**Food
Pantry
Needs**

canned pasta, ravioli, etc.
chili
macaroni & cheese
pasta
tomato sauce

Food Bags

With every bag of food that leaves the office, there is a story. So, here is a story...it is about the "A" word.

This gentleman has been coming to Outreach for food since November-disabled masonry worker, wife works in discount superstore, 4 children. It's not tough to feed a family of six on one income, it's impossible! We send him home with food each week, we include laundry detergent, toothpaste for the kids, soap. Often, he returns some of the canned food in the food bags because his kids don't like vegetables. He tells us to give these to another family who will eat them. Some weeks he doesn't come for food and when he shows up again, we learn he has been in the hospital. We tell him to go to Department of Social Services-he should apply for foodstamps-we show him what services he and his family may be eligible to receive.

Finally, pride aside-he goes to DSS and applies for foodstamps. He tells us he is eligible and won't need our help. But, you know, there is this waiting period until the food stamps are activated, so he continues to come in for food. Each week, he tells us he is still waiting...three weeks, four weeks, finally, six weeks. Now he is agitated-he tells us every time he phones the Department of Social Services the phones are busy. We ask him to bring the paperwork to our office and we'll make some calls for him. Sure enough, when we phone DSS, the lines are busy...busy for hours! We phone the Operator and ask to check if the phone lines at DSS are actually in operation. She tells us they are. Jane, our chief core worker, goes right to the top. She phones the Commissioner of Social Services for Suffolk County. He answers the phone. Jane tells him there is a terrible problem with the phone lines in all the offices-they must be out of service because they have been busy all day. She tells him there is an even bigger problem-our client, a disabled father of four has been waiting for over 6 weeks to get his food stamps activated. She asks the Commissioner if he knows how hard it is to feed a family of 6 and she demands to know why our client has had to wait so long.

The Commissioner puts Jane on hold. When he returns to the phone, he asks Jane to tell our client that the food stamps have been activated. He can go shopping. He can buy meat.

Two weeks pass. Our friend returns with some canned food his kids won't eat. He saved these cans from our food bags, just in case. He tells us how great it was to go shopping and buy food, particularly meat and milk. The kids went crazy!

Have you figured out what the "A" word is? It's **ADVOCACY**...

"to plead the cause of another"...we do a lot of that in the Outreach office.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Marie Cirone*.
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, Adam Ippolito, Brigid Kinney,
Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang, Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento, Diego Marino,
Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Bryan Monahan, John O'Grady,
Frieda Perry, Gene Perry, Louise Posanti, Joe Radosti, Dorothy Schiavone,
Dorothy Sullivan, Loretta Vitale, Maureen Wright*

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment)
will meet on **Tuesday, April 17**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

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.



Second Sunday of Easter

We are all familiar with the wonderful characters created by A. A. Milne in his stories of Winnie the Pooh. Each had his or her own traits and personalities, but there is something charming about Eeyore, the gray donkey with the pessimistic nature. While he was a part of the group, he was equally satisfied with going off by himself, muttering about how bad things were. One can't but help think of Eeyore when reading about the apostle Thomas.

In today's Gospel reading from John, we are again introduced to Thomas. He was not with the disciples when Jesus first appeared to them after the Resurrection; instead he was off by himself, fearful for his safety and deeply saddened by the loss of his friend and teacher. Not believing the others had seen Jesus, he only proclaimed "My Lord and my God!" after seeing him himself. This is our challenge; to reach out to those who doubt the most.

Thomas, though, was only the last of them to doubt. Remember, these believers had just experienced the Passion and death on the cross; so great was their grief, one can imagine that the Resurrection seemed impossible (CCC 643). But, as with all things having a purpose, it was through Jesus' appearance to them in their time of doubt that their faith was born. Look around you for signs of life; remove whatever doubt you may have that such signs are anything but a gift of the promise of new life in Christ.

©2007 Liturgical Publications Inc.

Readings for the Week of April 15, 2007

Sunday:	Acts 5:12-16/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31
Monday:	Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday:	Acts 4:32-37/Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday:	Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21
Thursday:	Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36
Friday:	Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15
Saturday:	Acts 6:1-7/Jn 6:16-21
Next Sunday:	Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

Financial Summary

April 1, 2007-Palm Sunday

Weekly Collection	\$ 25,070.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 4,070.00

April 8, 2007-Easter Sunday

Easter Collection	\$ 42,131.50
Ministry Collection	\$ 7,217.00
Weekly Collection Total	\$ 49,348.50
Weekly Budget	-\$ 60,000.00
+/- for the week	\$(10,651.50)

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:

"Friends."

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.

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)

Organizing Poor Parents for Political Participation

Source: *Pathway to the Holy*, by Richard Koubek and Connie Loos, published by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Rockville Centre, Autumn, 2002

Building a just social and civil order in which each person receives what is his or her due, is an essential task which every generation must take up anew.

-Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*.

It’s the kind of thing that can happen anywhere. A 13 year-old Latino middle school student in Long Beach was very agitated. So was the assistant teacher. One word led to another and the student was suspended; his mother was called up to the school. The boy’s mother speaks no English and she too was very upset. But, there was no guidance counselor on staff who spoke Spanish, even though 25 percent of the people living in Long Beach are Latinos.

Latino parents don’t always have the political resources needed to influence a school district’s power structure. Many work two jobs and don’t have the time to attend PTA or School Board meetings. Many don’t speak English. Others don’t understand how American schools function.

This is why the Long Beach Latino Civic Association was founded, in part with a grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. “This is all about participation and how to get parents involved in the education of their child” said one of their leaders, Mike Cruz. “They see the importance of education. But they are afraid; they shy away.” The Long Beach Latino Civic Association held meetings with Latino parents about the need for a Spanish-speaking guidance counselor. They gathered 250 signatures on a petition and sent a delegation to address the Board of Education in May, 2002.

Afraid, but determined, the suspended boy’s mother told her story to the Board and presented the petitions. Twenty Latino parents sat in the audience to show their support. The Board members and the Superintendent of Schools listened attentively. A Spanish-speaking guidance counselor was added to the middle school. Perhaps most important, the Latino parents felt empowered and more confident about bringing their children’s needs to the school authorities. This was all about participation.

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

Gennesaret Retreat

A unique opportunity for persons facing serious illness. The weekend retreat takes place on **May 4 - 6 at Montfort Spiritual Center, Bay Shore**. Several OLL parishioners have enjoyed this retreat in the past. There is no cost for the retreat. Volunteer health care professionals are available for the entire weekend. There are a limited number of places and the retreat fills up very quickly since it is so popular. Please call Collette Fanelli at 665.7052

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome

As part of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of our diocese, Bishop William Murphy invites you to join him on a **pilgrimage to Rome November 4-12, 2007**. Bishop Murphy has asked Msgr. Jim McNamara, the pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Nesconset, to be the spiritual leader. If you wish further information or to book online, please visit www.pilgrimages.com/rvcd or call toll free 1.800.206.8687 for a brochure.

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.

Upcoming PFI Information Meetings are as follows:

Wednesday, April 25 at 7:30 PM at Holy Spirit Church, New Hyde Park.

For more information call Kathy Singleton at 516.354.2363 or email kvsing@aol.com.

Monday, April 30 at 7:30 PM at Our Lady of Assumption Parish, Copiague.

For more information call 631.842.5211.

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.

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.

A musical evening of class and style featuring renowned **Irish tenor, Anthony Kearns and the Hibernian Festival Singers will be held on Saturday, April 28 at 8 PM at St. Patrick's Church, Bay Shore**. Tickets are \$45 per person and can be purchased by calling 631.665.1371

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.

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.

The graduates of **Queen of the Rosary Academy, Class of '57**, will celebrate their **50th Anniversary Reunion in September 2007**. For more information contact Debbie at 516.764.4331.

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.

God's Resurrecting Power as Ultimate Truth *Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI*

As children we believe in fairy tales and nurse the naive idea that there is somewhere a divine magic which can, and will in the end, swish away all evil, injustice, and pain and make a happy ending to everything.

The older we get, the harder it is for us to believe that. Reality is shock therapy. After seeing all the magic around us deconstructed and more than enough unhappy endings, we begin instead to believe George Orwell who said that "if you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on the human face forever."

But who's ultimately right, the child or Orwell? What should we live our lives by, the child's belief in magic or Orwell's pan-adult realism? What's to be the end of our lives and of human history, divine magic or a boot in the face? At the end of the final day, what's reality and what's naive?

The more adult and sophisticated we become the greater the temptation to opt for the view of Orwell. We wish, of course, that it wasn't so, that there was somewhere a divine magic that could make for happy endings, but, stoically or bitterly, we accept that things are otherwise. When all is said and done, the facts seem to say that darkness triumphs over light, loneliness over community, self-interest over love, egoism over altruism, injustice over justice, bitterness over compassion, tastelessness over beauty, and death over life. To believe the opposite, it would seem, is to be naive, whistling in the dark, setting oneself up for a massive disillusionment.

An acceptance of reality demands realism and this, in its turn, demands a certain despair. We don't so much, to nuance Thoreau, live lives of quiet desperation as we live lives of quiet, practical despair. This takes various forms: For some, this is the unconscious attitude that, since nothing ultimately means anything anyway, we should try at least to get our share of riches, comfort, and pleasure in this life. For others, this expresses itself in a simple bitterness, that life isn't fair and we have been short-changed. In its higher expressions, this shows itself (to use Albert Camus' beautiful phraseology) in "meta-physical rebellion", in an attitude which believes that ultimately selfishness, injustice, and death are paramount, but we can create some temporary dignity and meaning by fighting these in the meantime.

In the end, however, no matter how noble its visage, despair is despair. When there is no power or magic beyond our own a boot in the face is our final destiny.

The resurrection of Jesus, however, exposes this supposed realism for what it is, a naive. In the resurrection of Jesus, things are turned upside-down and the supposed hard-facts are blown to hell, literally. What looks like naive is in fact final truth and what looks like hard truth is naive.

If we believe in the resurrection, then Orwell is wrong and the child is right, the hard empiricists are wrong and the pious are right, those who stopped believing in magic are wrong and those who profess the creed are right, fairy-tales are more true than the law of entropy, the law of love is more binding than the law of gravity, the Holy Spirit is more of a physical force than all the winds in the world, and the infinite horizon of eternity rather than the mortal limit of our world is what we need to look to and run our lives by.

What's important in all of this is not who's right and who's wrong, but what ultimately we should guide our lives by. What is the ultimate truth? For a believer, that truth is not the empirical facts, further deconstructed and hardened, by the Enlightenment, but God's power as revealed in the resurrection of Jesus. If the resurrection happened, and it did, the faith of hundreds of millions of men and women cannot be sustained for 2000 years on a wish or a lie, then to believe in divine magic and happy endings is right. To believe in the resurrection is to believe Julian of Norwich's wonderful dictum: And all will be well and all will be well and every manner of being will be well. In the resurrection of Jesus we see that final end of the story, our story and the story of human history, will not be a boot in the face but, as we always sensed as children, the wonderful triumph of light, love, justice, graciousness, beauty, joyous-embrace, and God.

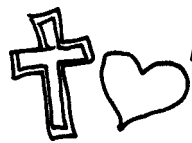
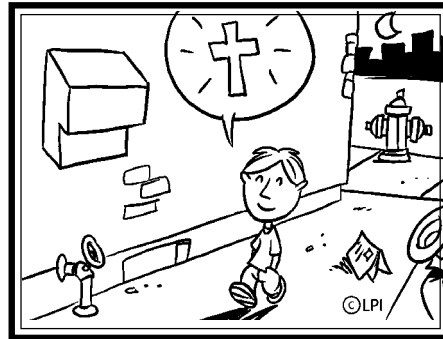
If we believe in the resurrection of Jesus, we can stare the empirical facts in the face, no matter how bad, and know that injustice, selfishness, violence, loneliness, chaos, and death are only an interim chapter in the story.

Beyond all pain and present frustrations, there is Someone who loves us more dearly than does any fairy-godmother and that Someone, God, has a magic wand that is infinitely more powerful than any fairy-tale has ever imagined.

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

After Jesus died on the cross, the disciples were afraid people would want to hurt them, too. They stayed together in a room and locked the door. Then Jesus came to his friends, to show them he was really alive again. Jesus changed their fear into gladness. Have you ever been so afraid that you just wanted to hide? Remember that Jesus is with you when you are afraid, too.



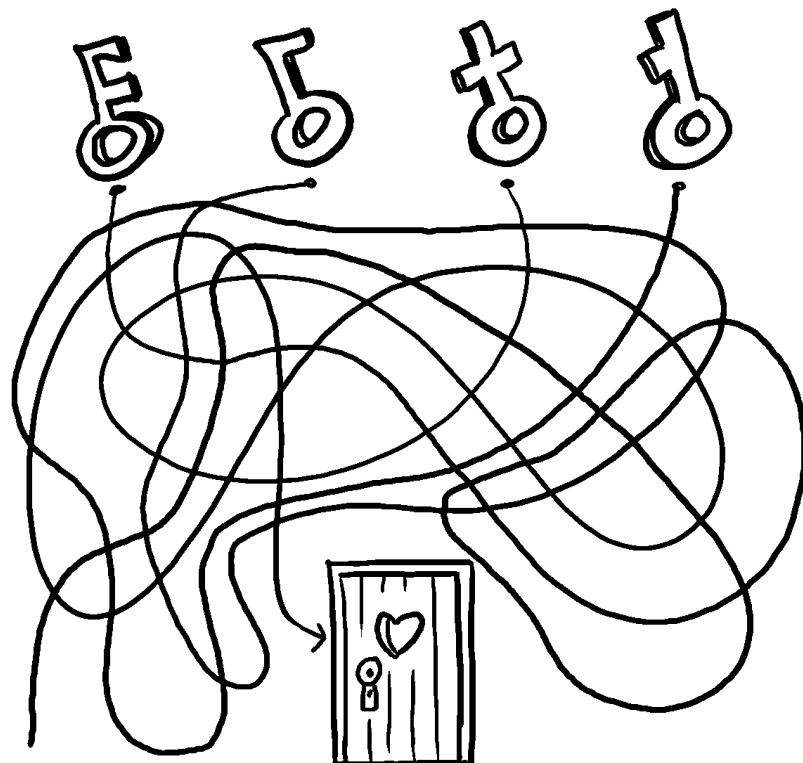
Mission for the Week

I will talk to God whenever I am afraid.



Puzzle

Which key can unlock the Door?



Prayer



Dear God,
thank you
for being
with me
when I am
afraid.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of
Jesus next to you
when you are
afraid.