

I AM

THE ALPHA

THE OMEGA



Revelations 22:13

Our Lady of Lourdes  
Seventh Sunday of Easter • May 20, 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](mailto:ParishOffice@ollchurch.org)

fax: 661-7143

website: [www.ollchurch.org](http://www.ollchurch.org)

### **Our Lady of Lourdes School**

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: [rcioffi@ollschool.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*

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## *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

## 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 only six places left! Hurry and reserve your place with us for this fabulous trip. Our next travel meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 21 at 7:30 PM in Room 16. If you would like to receive the travel itinerary and make a reservation, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.



## OLL's Ongoing Concert Series

### Sweet Plantain

**...an evolution in the string quartet**

If you've loved listening to our violinist, Mr. Eddie Venegas, play at our special Holy Week services, here's your chance to enjoy his playing in a concert setting.

Mr. Venegas is the violinist for the *Sweet Plantain String Quartet*. They will be performing at OLL at a special concert to be given on **June 1 at 7:30PM in the Church.**

*Sweet Plantain* is a string quartet with a contemporary voice. Its repertoire is diverse and includes all genres of music. Musical innovation is the hallmark of this group. Its unique sound is a fusion of classical, jazz, Latin, funk and pop.

Join us on June 1 and enjoy an evening of musical diversity and creativity. Tickets are only \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Sponsorships are available for \$200. You may purchase your tickets in the Parish Office.

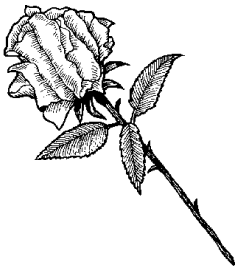
Remember to keep June 1 open for a wonderful musical experience! For more information and insight into the "Sweet Plantain String Quartet," be sure to visit their website at [www.sweetplantain.com](http://www.sweetplantain.com).

## Ministry of Family Healing

I AM NOT A HERO...  
I AM NOT AN ANGEL...  
I AM JUST A MAN...

*Can you hear St. Joseph saying these words to Mary?  
We don't know much about St. Joseph, he is rarely mentioned in Scriptures.*

Come and join the Ministry of Family Healing for a night of prayer and reflection on St. Joseph. Join us as we listen to our fellow parishioners: *Sal Acosta, Deacon John DeGuardi, Bill Kuchler and Deacon Jack Meehan* share their reflections on St. Joseph. We will be meeting on **Wednesday, May 23 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center**. Please call the Religious Ed Office to register at 661-5440, option 3. As always, food and fellowship to follow. We hope to see you on May 23 and, please, bring a friend.



### **Mother's Day / Father's Day Mass for parents who have lost a child**

We would like to invite any parent who has lost a child to a special **Mass on Saturday, June 2 at 10 AM**.

Mother's Day and Father's Day can be difficult times for parents who have lost a child. Whether you have lost a child in childhood or adulthood, to stillbirth or miscarriage, this Mass will be celebrated to bring you God's peace and consolation.

Mass will be followed by hospitality in our Parish Center. Please feel free to invite family or friends with you. For more information, or to let us know you will be able to attend, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

## Summer Evening Prayer

Our Summer Evening Prayer Committee has begun meeting and is ready for an exciting summer of prayer, fun, and community building! Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, May 24 at 7 PM in the Library**. Come and be a part of it.

*and...Save the Dates*

### **Summer Evening Prayer**

Mondays of Summer beginning July 9 at 7:30 PM on the Great Lawn

(In case of rain or extreme heat on any Monday night, we will gather in the All Purpose Room)

Come and be part of it all!

## School News

### Phoneraiser Fundraiser

*Support our school, painlessly!*

*Protect the environment!*

*Donate your used cell phones!*

Our Lady of Lourdes School Parents Club is conducting a fundraiser. There's nothing to buy. We are simply asking you to donate your used cell phones (no earpieces or charges needed). Your donation will help protect the environment. If improperly disposed of, one cell phone can pollute up to 132,000 liters of drinking water. Your unwanted cell phones will be recycled in accordance with EPA regulations or refurbished and recycled.

And, depending on the value of the items you donate, your donation may be tax deductible. All of the proceeds from the items we collect will help fund school events for our children. We greatly appreciate your support! Please drop all used cell phones in the box located in the Narthex of the Church.

### Big Bucks Raffle!

We will be having a Big Bucks Raffle on June 5. First prize will be \$5,000 and each raffle will cost \$100. Raffle tickets can be picked up at the OLL school office.

## Showing Our Respect for the Eucharist

Throughout the Easter Season, our parish's second graders will be receiving the Eucharist for the first time. Their catechists and families have worked so hard to give them a good foundation about this most beautiful and life giving sacrament! It is probably a good time for each of us to do a little Communion "Check-Up" for ourselves and how we prepare to receive the Eucharist each Sunday!



### *Check Up Point #5: Go Out and Tell!*

The Sacrament of the Eucharist calls for a real change, a real conversion in each of us!

We are called to go out and be the Body of Christ in our world. This means getting involved in issues of justice and peace – both locally and globally. It means being a person of forgiveness especially when we're dealing with someone we find difficult. It means seeing the value that is present within each one of us!

So, receive the Body of Christ – and let everyone know – not by what you say but by who you become!

As we seek to be models to those receiving First Holy Communion, let's remember we are always on a journey – seeking to grow closer to the God we hope to imitate in every moment of our lives.

## Religious Education

*This Sunday...*

### “Rescue Closing”

**Sunday, May 20-6 PM Mass**

ALL ARE WELCOME

... to join with the 8th graders in our Parish Family, their Sponsors and parents. Look and see some of what’s been going on.

Here are pictures showing Nick Fagone (Gr 8/Rm 27) and his sister Samantha (Gr 8/Rm 27) with Bishop Walsh and below doing his “Rescue Service” with his sponsor “Uncle Ed” Gauss.

Nick collected food and brought it to Queen of the Most Holy Rosary parish in Roosevelt.

*and...*

when this picture was taken Nick and Samantha didn’t know that Bishop Walsh is coming to OLL on October 25, 2007 to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to them and all 302 of our Confirmation Candidates.



*and...*

### Grade 7... there’s more on Service Projects

Room “Cafe East” helped our Parish Family do “Wash Up Kits” after the “SIX.”

See... Mrs. Maria Buscarino with some of the Confirmation Candidates in her class. What a great way to help others... and have fun, too!

*and... of course*

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

Friday June 22                      7:30 PM - 9:30 PM                      Parish Center

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

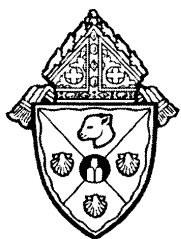
All 6th / 7th / 8th graders of our Parish Family... come play volleyball, basketball.

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.



# 2007 Catholic Ministries Appeal

*The Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us*

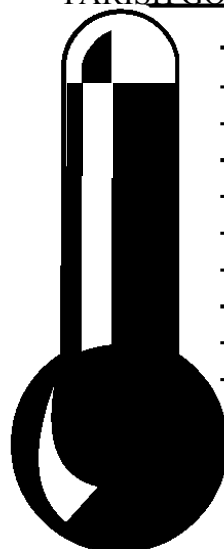
The key ingredient to the success of our appeal is participation. In order to reach our goal, we need to have every family participate in the appeal to the best of their ability. If you have not had an opportunity to make a gift to the appeal or have been waiting to make a pledge, please complete the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

## Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rockville Centre provides a wide range of services to approximately 60,000 Long Islanders each year, as it strives to bring God's healing love to the poor and vulnerable among us. These services are designed to help people with many of their most critical needs, such as helping a senior citizen find safe and affordable housing, or providing a disadvantaged family with access to nutritious food and health care, or by developing residential services for children and adolescents who suffer from serious emotional difficulties, or helping a young, frightened, teenaged mother-to-be become prepared and equipped to be a loving and effective parent.

Catholic Charities operates 14 programs of service including more than 60 sites from Elmont to the East End and works closely with more than 100 of our parishes' social ministries, helping them develop their own local programs of service. The Catholic Ministries Appeal provides 22 percent of all dollars raised to ensure the continuation and expansion of these vital services and programs.

**PARISH GOAL \$103,000**



\_\_\_\_ \$ 80,135  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Pledged  
 \_\_\_\_\_ to Date

367 Pledges  
 \$220 Avg. Pledge

For more information, please call 516.379.5210, extension 2 or email to [www.drvc.org/cma.html](http://www.drvc.org/cma.html).

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](http://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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

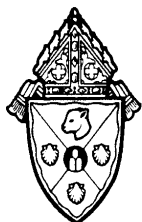
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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**



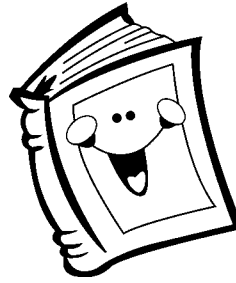
## 5th Annual El Salvador Mission Trip

**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](mailto:jengallagher@ollchurch.org).



## Project READ

### OLL Mission Awareness Trip El Salvador 2007

Do you have a favorite children's book from when you were growing up? For so many children in our sister parish of Tacuba, El Salvador, they do not have access to the books we all loved to read growing up. This year, our group of missionaries would like to go down to Tacuba with suitcases full of books for the children in the town. We would like to ask your help in doing this.

We will be collecting donations of Spanish children's books (new or very gently used!), gift certificates to local book stores or monetary donations so that we can purchase as many children's book as we can hold to donate to our sister parish. Our goal is to bring down 327 books.

Members of this year's mission trip will be at each of the masses the weekends of June 10 and June 17 to collect your donations.

Thank you so much for helping to bring the joy of reading to the children in our sister parish!

## Sixth Annual OLL Vacation Bible Camp

**Save the dates: July 23-27.**

This year's theme is FLIGHT Camp!! (Fun-Learning-In-God's-Holy-Time) 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

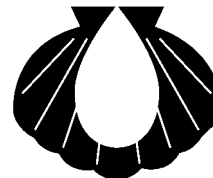
**Weekend Masses**

**Saturday:** 5 PM

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

**Reconciliation**

**Saturday:** 4 PM - 4:45 PM



***Baptisms***

*Raymond Joseph Maqueda*  
Walter and Patricia

**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.

***Upcoming Marriages***

*Kristine Sokolowski, OLL and*  
*1Lt. Christopher Buscaglia,*  
St. Peter & Paul, Williamsville, NY

**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.

# Remembering...



## *Rest In Peace*

*Carmela Ciano*

### **Monday, May 21**

**8:00 AM** Molly Sweeney

### **Tuesday, May 22**

*St. Rita of Cascia, virgin*

**8:00 AM** Thomas Daly & Henry McCaffrey

### **Wednesday, May 23**

**8:00 AM** Neil Santorelli

### **Thursday, May 24**

**8:00 AM** Aniello Bianco

### **Friday, May 25**

**8:00 AM** Mary Colin

### **Saturday, May 26**

**8:00 AM** Norah Williamson (*1st Anniversary*), George F. Bukowski,  
Blessed Virgin Mary, Claire M. Wilson, Jose Garcia-Cabrejos

**5:00 PM** Danny Salegna

*Fr. Ed Dowling*

### **Sunday, May 27**

**8:00 AM** Philip Testa

*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

**9:30 AM** Anne Magner

*Fr. Stan Chukwube*

**11:00 AM** Margaret & John McHugh (*Wedding Anniversary*)

*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

**12:30 PM** Frank Albanese

*Fr. Stan Chukwube*

**6:00 PM** People of the Parish, Anthony Porzio, William J. Beyerbach,  
Mildred Powell, Patrick O'Regan, Alice Plant

*Fr. John Asomugha*

**Celebrating Sacraments**

## Thank you

The Rosary Christian Mothers wish to thank all those who participated in our Divine Mercy Devotion, especially *Father Stan* who made the celebration so beautiful!

We also want to thank *Sister Nancy, John Sureau, and the Family Liturgy Committee* who made our May Crowning such a wonderful event!

We hope to see you all - and more - next year.

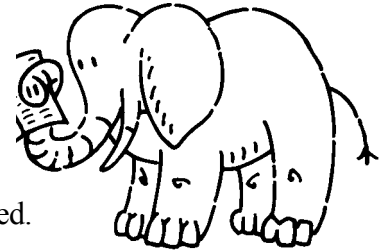
-Rosary Christian Mothers

## Spring Cleaning

Please remember The Rosary Christian Mothers- we are sponsoring a **“White Elephant Sale”** on **Saturday, June 9 from 10:30 AM until 6 PM.**

Any gently used or new items would be greatly appreciated.

Please call 669.3178 for donations.



## Wedding Ministry

How do you feel when you get to share in the most special days of a couple’s life? Excited? Joyful? Blessed? Nostalgic? These are words we use to describe our feelings about being a part of the Wedding Ministry. We are there for the couple on the day of their wedding rehearsal to go through the steps of the ceremony and answer any last minute questions they may have. More importantly, we are there to calm, reassure, and offer our support. On the “big day” we are at the Church early to prepare and welcome the couple and their guests to OLL. In the wedding ministry it is all about the little things. We hope to help make their day as beautiful as they dreamed it would be!

-Theresa Moy

Our Wedding Ministry is growing and changing and looking for some new members!

If you are interested in finding out how this ministry works and “shadowing” a present wedding ministry member, please contact Linda Kucala at 277-5324 or email [lkuchem@optonline.net](mailto:lkuchem@optonline.net) or Ann Munkwitz at 631.666.4756 for more information! All are welcome!

## 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.**



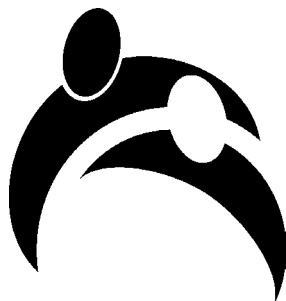
## Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Monenna Kennedy*.

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

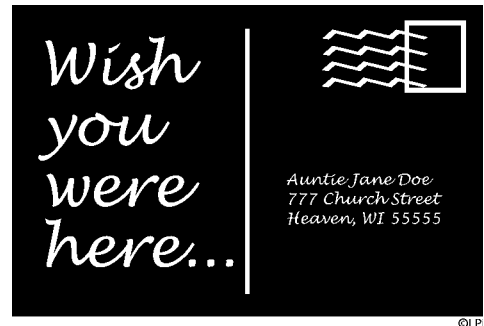
Please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 to leave the names of parishioners who:

- 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 ...

*John Aspromanti, Kassidy Belcher, Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Christian Bullock, Lynn Castellano, Dawn Coughlin, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Anthony Ferrante, Jason Fisher, William Fortcher, Cathy Gries, Kevin Hahn, Samantha Hil, Adam Ippolito, Brigid Kinney, Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Adam McFarland, Dot McNamee, Bryan Monahan, Jimmy Murphy, Frieda Perry, Gene Perry, Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds, Carol Scheid, Dorothy Schiavone, Dorothy Sullivan, Marie "Amy" Turano, Loretta Vitale, Terry Whalley*



## Seventh Sunday of Easter

Summer is nearly here! School is almost out, and plans are well underway to take the annual summer vacation. Perhaps you will be traveling to a place you've never visited before. Once there, you may even take part in that age-old tradition of sending postcards to family and friends back home. And chances are, you will utilize the small space on the postcard to tell them "Having a great time, wish you were here!"

Today's Gospel reading from John is one of Jesus' most powerful prayers. He had begun by proclaiming "the hour has come." And now, his concern is not for his impending persecution, but for the 11 seated around him and the ministry they were to carry on without him. The peace Jesus feels, he wishes for his disciples; "I wish that where I am, they also may be with me." Not where he is going, where he is - at peace.

Jesus wishes for us a perfect life. This perfect - the communion of life and love with the Holy Trinity, the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed - is called "heaven" (CCC 1024). How selfless that in what Jesus must have known to be his final few hours with his disciples, he would ask for nothing for himself, only that his disciples and all of us who hear their words find the grace and peace of God's love, and that from then on we would know that heaven is both a destination and the journey.

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### Readings for the Week of May 20, 2007

Sunday:	Acts 7:55-60/Rv 22:12-14, 16-17, 20/Jn 17:20-26
Monday:	Acts 19:1-8/Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday:	Acts 20:17-27/Jn 17:1-11a
Wednesday:	Acts 20:28-38/Jn 17:11b-19
Thursday:	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Jn 17:20-26
Friday:	Acts 25:13b-21/Jn 21:15-19
Saturday:	Mass in the morning: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Jn 21:20-25
Next Sunday:	Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 <i>or</i> Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b <i>or</i> Ez 37:1-14 <i>or</i> Jl 3:1-5/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39
Day:	Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 <i>or</i> Rom 8:8-17/Jn 20:19-23 <i>or</i> Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

## Financial Summary

**May 13, 2007**

Weekly Collection	\$ 17,360.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (3,640.00)

*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:



**Brian Barthel**-*US Air Force*  
**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:

**"Traditions."**

Don't forget to tune in!

Visit "Religion & Rock" on the web, [www.religionandrock.com](http://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)

### *Moving Consciences and Hearts...in the Street*

By Patricia Berkley, St. Joseph the Worker Parish

*The Church wishes to help form consciences in political life and to stimulate greater insights into the authentic requirements of justice.*

Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*.

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We have tried to move consciences and hearts on the War in Iraq by joining an international peace organization called, “Women in Black.” Every Saturday, we meet at the “four corners” – a well known, well traveled intersection – in Bellport, from 11:00 to 11:45 AM. Joined by many women of faith, wearing black, we silently protest the violence in Iraq. Through our silent protest, we are joining thousands of other women around the world who are also witnessing for peace. The women in our group have visited our Congressman, Tim Bishop, many times, to discuss our concern that the war is drawing funds away from important social needs like affordable housing here on Long Island.

Sometimes, the “Women in Black” meet at another intersection in Patchogue, just as the day grows dark, to hold a candlelight vigil. There, we pray for peace, knowing that our public actions are making us Apostles of Christ, willing to speak out for justice and peace.

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*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](mailto:Koubek.richard@catholiccharities.cc)*





canned fruit  
canned vegetables  
jelly  
peanut butter  
pudding/jello

## Teach a Person to Fish...

**“ When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you,  
or thirsty and give you a drink?”** Matthew 25: 37

A heartfelt “Thank You” to all who have so generously donated food and financial assistance to Outreach during the months of February, March and April. Your contribution of food each week is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to extend “Thanks” to the local merchants who donate financially each month. These merchants are our “Angel Network”. Please remember these merchants when shopping locally: *Forerunner Telcom* in Bohemia (telecommunications); *West Islip Wines and Liquors* on Union Blvd next to the West Islip Post Office. There is also a local merchant who does not wish to be recognized for her generosity-and to her we offer our sincere “Thanks.” If you are a local merchant who would like to contribute either financially or with an offering of goods, please contact the Outreach office at 661.9262.

At the end of the month, Flo Worysz, one of our volunteers, painstakingly pours over the daily records and compiles statistics for the month. From the numbers which Flo puts together, we generate a report for Catholic Charities. Among other things, this report reveals how many people are serviced through Outreach and the type of assistance offered. I thought it would be a good idea to share these numbers with our Parish Community. After reviewing the numbers, you can decide how we are doing.

For the month of February Outreach provided food to 217 individuals. The three biggest needs that month were for food, housing and financial assistance. The nature of the financial assistance was for heating fuel and rent. During March, Outreach provided food to 241 individuals and again the greatest need was for food, housing and financial assistance. Finally, in April Outreach provided food to 172 individuals. In April, financial assistance totaled \$550, with money assisting for heating bills, food cards and infant needs such as diapers and formula. As I am writing this, I admit that I do not have the financial breakdown for February and March-but if anyone is interested, please phone me in the Outreach Office and I can get these for you.

There are two issues I would hope to clarify. Outreach does not distribute cash to clients and we do not indiscriminately pay bills for clients. When a client presents us with a need, we have a rigorous screening application which is completed. Assistance is offered only after a client is denied help from the Department of Social Services (DSS). Often, we help clients with applications for services from DSS and tell clients that we will help when they return with a “Denial of Assistance” form from DSS. We never deny a client food. In addition, we work with clients to formulate a plan for independence the goal being self-sufficiency.

**“Give a person a fish, and they eat for a day.**

**Teach a person to fish and they eat for a lifetime.”**

## Bereavement Group

Consolation Nursing Facility is offering a Bereavement Group.

This is an 8 week group which will meet every Monday, from 7:30-9 PM starting on June 4.

If you are interested, please phone Peggy Nixdorf at 587.1600, extension 8297.

## Lead Me Lord

The Risen, Glorified Lord ascends to the Father with the promise to send the Advocate.

This is Pentecost-the birth of the Church. This session will be on Monday, May 21 and runs from 7:30 PM until 9:30 PM at St. Patrick's Church in Bay Shore in the lower level of the Religious Education building. The session will be presented by Patricia Leonard who is an adjunct professor of Theology at St. Joseph's College and St. John's University. We ask that you please register so there will be enough materials and refreshments. You can register by email to [susan@delucamaisto.com](mailto:susan@delucamaisto.com) or call 665.4911.

## Summer Sports Camps

St. John the Baptist is pleased to announce that they will once again offer summer sports camps. Weekly camps run from June 25 through August 3 and include lunch and an athletic trainer.

For Summer Sports Camp brochure, please email [athletics@sjbdhs.org](mailto:athletics@sjbdhs.org) or call 587.8000, ext. 164.

## School Reunions

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.

## 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.

## Marriage Encounter

*Spring has sprung...*

So why not put the spring back in your marriage. Don't you and your spouse deserve a beautiful, romantic weekend away together? If you agree, then you'll want to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next weekend is scheduled for June 1-3. Registration is limited. For more information or to register, call 1.866.499.6354. Please visit our local website at [www.wmeli.org](http://www.wmeli.org).

## Archbishop Romulo

Those of us who have been around awhile may remember Fr. Romulo. Fr. Romulo spent a few summers here with us at Our Lady of Lourdes and was very popular with parishioners. He has kept in touch with some of us through the years and we are very happy to hear that he was installed as Archbishop of Zamboanga Diocese, Phillipines in January 2007. May God Bless Archbishop Romulo in his new ministry.

## Centering Prayer Retreat Weekend

Sponsored by Contemplative Outreach of LI/Queens, our next Centering Prayer Retreat Weekend will be held Friday, June 22 through Sunday, June 24 at the St. Ignatius Retreat House in Manhasset. For further information please call Diane Garretson at 587-0966.

## Bereavement Workshops

Bereavement workshops for those working with the bereaved sponsored by Catholic Cemeteries, Diocese of Rockville Centre will be held on Friday, June 8 at St. Matthew Parish Center, Dix Hills. Nurturing self-care tips with Jane Malone, Ph.D., LCSW from 9:30 AM until noon with a fee of \$10. Call Diane to register at 516.334.7990, extension 119

## Diocesan Liturgy

A Diocesan Liturgy celebrating the gifts of persons with special needs will be celebrated with Msgr. Robert Brennan on Sunday, June 10 at 3 PM at St. Frances de Chantal Church, Wantagh. Family and friends are welcome! Light refreshments to follow in the parish center. For more information, call Mary Anne Russo at 516.678.5800, extension 540. Come celebrate with us!

## Be a Part of Divine Intervention

You are invited to be a part of our new season of "Divine Intervention", Telecare's hit game show. We are looking for people to be a contestant or a member of the studio audience. Tapings will take place during the first two weeks in June. Contestants will have the opportunity to win fabulous prizes! Audience members will be asked to stay for the taping of three shows, from 9 AM until 1 PM. Snacks will be provided. To be a contestant or to make a booking to be in the audience, call the Divine Intervention hotline at 516.538.8704, extension 159 for contestants or extension 104 for audience.

## The Mystery of Presence and Absence in Love

*Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI*

Someone needs to write a book with one of these titles: *The Metaphysics of a Goodbye*, *The Anatomy of a Farewell*, *The Pain of Moving On*, or, better still, *A Spirituality of the Ascension*. Why such a book?

Because we experience many painful goodbyes in life. There are so many times when someone we love has to go away, or we have to go away. There are many times when, for whatever reason, someone has to move on and irrevocably change a relationship. Almost always this is painful, sometimes so painful that it leaves us feeling restless and empty, as if all the colour, energy, and joy have gone out of our lives.

But, as we know, usually this isn't the end of the story. Most of the time, after the restless, dark heartache of a painful goodbye has worn off, we experience the opposite, a deep joy in sensing now our loved one's presence in different way.

Parents, for example, experience this when their children grow up and leave home to start lives of their own. At first, when a child leaves home to go to college, to get married, or to take a job elsewhere, we are often left with a restless heartache that leaves us feeling empty. But, after a while, especially when our child, in the full bloom of adulthood, comes back to visit us our heartache can just as quickly disappear because our loved one, now no longer a child, can offer us a richer love and presence than he or she could when they were little. The pain of losing someone turns into the joy of finding something deeper in the one whom we thought we had lost.

When Jesus was preparing his disciples for his ascension, he told them: "It is better for you that I go away! You won't understand this now. You will grieve and have heavy hearts, but, later, this will turn to joy and you will understand why I have to do this because, unless I go away, I can't send you my spirit."

These are the unspoken words that children say to their parents when they leave home to begin lives on their own; these are the unspoken words we say to our friends when we have to move on from a certain circle of friendship to get married; these are the unspoken words spouses sometimes say to each other when they have to grow in ways that, at the end of the day,

will make their marriage stronger, but which, on a given day, leave their partner with a heartache; and these are the unspoken words we say to each other every time we have to say a goodbye, even if it's just to go off to work for the day: "It is better for you that I go away, even if there is sorrow now!"

The paradoxical interplay of presence and absence in love is a great mystery. We need to be present to each other physically, but we also need to be gone from each other at times. We bring a blessing both when we visit someone and when leave after the visit is over. Presence is partly predicated on absence and there is something of our spirit that we can only give by going away. Why is this so?

Because absence is sometimes the only thing that can purify presence. When we are physically present, there are always certain tensions, irritations, disappointments, flaws in our bodies, and faults in our character that partially block full love and blessing. That's why we rarely appreciate our loved ones fully, until they are taken away from us.

Absence can help wash us clean. What the pain of absence does is stretch our hearts so that the essence, the beauty, the love, and the gift of the one who is absent can flow to us without being coloured by the tensions, disappointments, and the flaws of everyday life. As well, the other's absence can work to stretch our hearts so that we can receive him or her in a way that more fully accepts and respects who he or she really is. That's why our children have to go away (and we have to feel that bitter heartache) before we can accept that they are no longer children, but adults like ourselves, with lives of their own.

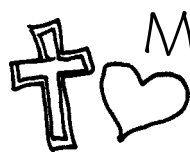
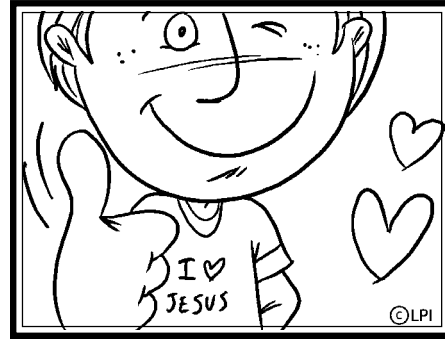
The mystery of saying goodbye is really the mystery of the Ascension, the most under-understood mystery both inside and outside of religion. The Ascension is about going away so that our loved ones can fully receive our spirit. It's about the mystery of saying goodbye, when goodbye isn't really goodbye at all, but only love's way of taking on a different modality so that it can be present in a way that's deeper, purer, more permanent, less-clinging, and less-limited by the tensions, disappointments, inadequacies, wounds, and betrayals that, this side of eternity, forever make our intimacy a work in progress.

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*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](http://www.ronrolheiser.com).*

# Sharing the Gospel

The lives of the disciples had been changed forever. Once Jesus went back to heaven, it would be up to them to tell everybody what they knew about Jesus. They had seen the power of Jesus. They looked forward to receiving that same kind of power from God. The disciples had a big job ahead of them, but with God's help they knew they could do anything.



## Mission for the Week

Make a thank you card for someone who teaches you about Jesus.



### Puzzle

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

Messiah	promised	Bethany
nation	power	raised
forgiven	heaven	<del>happy</del>

hpapy	<u>h</u> <u>a</u> <u>p</u> <u>p</u> <u>y</u>
Btehnay	_____
pwroe	_____
frogvine	_____
Mseshia	_____
rasedi	_____
hevnae	_____
prmoside	_____
natnio	_____

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### Prayer



Dear God,  
thank you for all  
the people who  
have helped me  
learn about Jesus.

### Something to Draw



Draw a picture of  
someone who  
teaches you about  
Jesus.