



**"FOR AS OFTEN  
AS YOU  
EAT THIS  
BREAD**

**AND  
DRINK  
THE CUP,**



**YOU PROCLAIM THE DEATH OF  
THE LORD UNTIL HE COMES."**

1COR11:26

**THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST  
OUR LADY OF LOURDES • JUNE 10, 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.*



## 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



## **F.L.I.G.H.T. Camp**

**Fun Learning in God's Holy Time!**

### **Our Lady of Lourdes Sixth Annual Vacation Bible Camp**

**July 23-27, 2007**

**9 AM - 12:30 PM Daily**

*Don't miss the fun!*

#### **Where?**

Right on the grounds of Our Lady of Lourdes, which will be transformed into FLIGHT Camp! (FLIGHT stands for Fun Learning in God's Holy Time)

Vacation Bible Camp runs daily from 9 AM-12:30 PM.

#### **What will we do?**

Our campers will participate in lots of fun daily activities: singing super songs, making cool crafts, participating in awesome flight-themed science activities (including a visit from a hot air balloon company!), and learning about God through different Bible adventures! And, of course, there'll be snacks!

#### **Who can come?**

Campers should presently be in Pre-K (age 4) through 5th grade.

Students in grades 5-12: we need you as volunteer counselors and assistants.

#### **Who's running the camp?**

The camp director is Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, the Youth Services Director at OLL. She'll be working with a volunteer team of adults and teens from our parish family.

#### **How much does it cost?**

The cost is \$65 per child. The fee includes all materials, snacks, crafts, an official camp T-shirt, and a closing camp celebration for all!

#### **How do I sign up?**

Fill out the registration form (which is available at the school and religious ed. offices and will be in the bulletin on June 17) and mail it to OLL at 455 Hunter Ave. (att. Jennifer Gallagher) with all fees by June 30.

#### **Questions?**

Email [jengallagher@ollchurch.org](mailto:jengallagher@ollchurch.org).

#### **Camp Volunteers Needed!**

We need adults and teen volunteers.

If you can spare a week to help out at camp, email [jengallagher@ollchurch.org](mailto:jengallagher@ollchurch.org)

## The Gift of Married Love

This is a workshop on the spirituality of marriage presented by the Office of Faith Formation and is designed for all parish staff and volunteers currently working in marriage ministry, all couples preparing to work in parish marriage preparation programs and individuals teaching in high school and college settings.



Some of these ministries include pre-cana, wedding ministry and music—even those who are currently married and would like to enrich their marriage. All are invited!

The workshop will be held here at **Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Center from 7:30 PM until 9 PM on Wednesdays beginning June 20 through July 25.** The cost is \$25 per person (OLL parishioners attend for free) and includes sandwiches and refreshments beginning at 6:30 PM.

Some of the topics to be discussed include: *Human Sexuality and its Relationship to Marriage, The Sacramentality of Marriage* and so much more. If you have any questions or you would like to register, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

## 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 666.4756 for more information. All are welcome!

## Thank you!

Our Lady of Lourdes School Parents' Club would like to thank all the parishoners who donated to our Phone Raiser. We appreciate your contributions and support! Thank you and God Bless!

## Religious Education

### 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!

## Experiencing the Eucharist More Powerfully

Last week, we provided an excerpt from liturgist Gabe Huck about the power of the Eucharist – and how our celebration of the Eucharist at Mass can help us recognize Jesus' presence more fully.

*Let's continue that this week:*



Holy Communion is obvious just listen to the word “communion” - something we do together. It is communal. And it is deeply personal. But it is not private. It must be clear as can be, that when the invitation is given to the table, the invitation is to the church, to all of us together. Holy Communion must look and sound and feel like that.

*continued from last week...*

*Third:* When receiving the bread and the cup, give your full attention to the minister. There is no hurry now. Listen to what is said: “The body of Christ.” “The blood of Christ.” And respond with your whole being: Amen. As was said long ago: Say Amen to what you are. To what you *are*.

*Fourth:* Do not neglect the cup. Jesus said: Take this, all of you, and eat it. Take this, all of you, and drink it. This is the grace and genius of our Catholic way: we need real bread to eat, real wine to drink. Take this, all of you. Come to know the scarcity in sharing a cup and the abundance in sharing a cup.

*Fifth:* The procession is going on as you move back to your place, and it continues as you stand and sing until all have received Holy Communion. Then there is time to sit in silence and ponder how we are the body and blood of Christ.

If we work at all five of these, little by little, we will be doing the Holy Communion and becoming the Holy Communion. That is what the renewal of the liturgy mandated by the Second Vatican Council intended. It is possible, it is hard work. Little by little we will get it right. Little by little we will take from our Holy Communion the vision of what we are to make of the world's scarcity, the world's abundance.

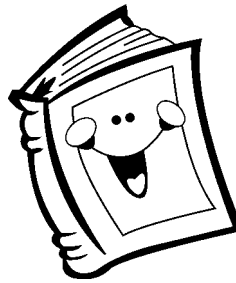
## 5th Annual El Salvador Mission Trip

**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).



### Books for our Sister Parish 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.

**This Week  
and Next!**

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!

## Summer Evening Prayer

**Save the Dates...**

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!

**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***

*Tyler Joseph Belcher*

Lance and Suzanne

*Mackenzie Jane Collin*

Scott and Janet

*Adryana Faith Gaetan*

John and Courtney

*Sasha Alexa Lavrovsky*

Michael and Sarah

*Patrick William Lynam*

Roger and Erin

*Ciaran Joseph Pollard*

Turlough and Diane

*Lorenzo Christian Verito*

Roseann

**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.

**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...

## Monday, June 11

*St. Barnabas, apostle*

8:00 AM Thomas Palaia

## Tuesday, June 12

8:00 AM Pasquale & Joy Perri

## Wednesday, June 13

*St. Anthony of Padua, priest, doctor*

8:00 AM Julia Flynn

## Thursday, June 14

8:00 AM Molly & John Sweeney

## Friday, June 15

*Sacred Heart of Jesus*

8:00 AM Charlotte Quinn

## Saturday, June 16

8:00 AM John Wallace, Peter Reehil, Peter Schreiner,  
Barbara A. Salayka, Cecilia Zere,  
In Honor of Blessed Virgin Mary,  
Kathy Ibaceta, Olga Kuri, Special Intention

5:00 PM Danny & Mike Salegna  
*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

## Sunday, June 17

8:00 AM Anthony Alfieri  
*Fr. John Asomugha*

9:30 AM Consuelo Ball  
*Fr. Stan Chukwube*

11:00 AM Henry Reidemann  
*Fr. Ed Dowling*

12:30 PM Edward & Geraldine Burns  
*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Jean Chapman,  
Rick Munkwitz, William A. Small,  
Douglas Killane, James Esposito,  
Cecilio Rivera, Frank Cafaro,  
Henry (Ski)Kloszewski, Janny Hedden,  
James Finley  
*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

## Rest In Peace

*Lawrence J. Curreri,*  
died on May 26 and celebration of the  
Mass of Christian Burial was May 30.  
We extend our prayers to his son,  
Lawrence and family.

*Joanna M. White,*  
died on May 28 and celebration of the  
Mass of Christian Burial was June 2.  
We extend our prayers to her children  
and family.



## 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

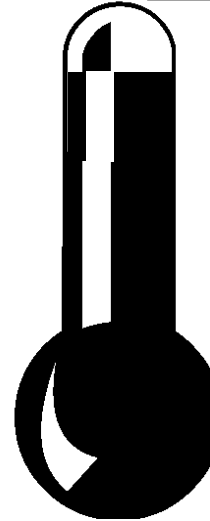
The Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group meets each **Thursday afternoon** in the **Church**. The meeting is from **3 PM until 4 PM** in **front of the Blessed Sacrament**.

## Catholic Ministries Appeal

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.

PARISH GOAL \$103,000



\$ 84,190  
Pledged  
to Date

395 Pledges  
\$213 Avg. Pledge

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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

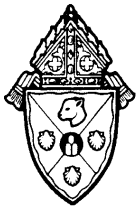
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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**

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

## Altar Society

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

## Signing at Mass for the Hearing Impaired

We have contracted with a sign language interpreter to provide our deaf parishioners with an opportunity for deeper participation in our Sunday liturgies. Her name is Kelly Cardosa. Kelly will be signing at the 11AM Mass on Sundays. Parishioners who will be using this service are asked to use the first few rows near the Baptismal font. Please feel free to contact anyone who may benefit from this service.



## Pastoral Care of Our 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, Christopher Bartley, Kassidy Belcher, Pat Bonavita,  
Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Lynn Castellano, Peggy Cornell,  
Dawn Coughlin, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Edward Doyle,  
Anthony Ferrante, Jason Fisher, Cathy Gries, Kevin Hahn, Samantha Hil,  
Adam Ippolito, 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, Felix Rivera, Jeanne Roccaro, Carol Scheid,  
Dorothy Schiavone, Dorothy Sullivan, Marie "Amy" Turano,  
Loretta Vitale, Betty Walsh, Grace Weidner*



## Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

We're all familiar with the movie "It's A Wonderful Life" which has become a Christmas tradition. From childhood, George Bailey has a dream of leaving Bedford Falls to see the world. Yet every time he's about to leave, someone or something demands his attention, such as his friends, the Depression, World War II, his family. Ultimately, he sacrifices his own needs in order to fulfill the dreams of others.

When faced with demands, how we react is crucial. Jesus and his disciples had gone off alone to pray, only to be followed by 5,000 people seeking his blessings and teachings. At the end of the day, how were they to be fed? Imagine 5,000 people dropping in for dinner, and you don't even have enough to feed your own family! How did Jesus react? He simply told his disciples to "give them something to eat."

At each Mass and especially today, we are fed by the body and blood of Christ. Through the gift of God's Son, we are fed spiritually through our faith. Through the gifts of his abundance on earth, we have the ability to feed the hungry through nothing more than our generosity. (CCC 2402) We must open our eyes and our hearts to the hundreds of millions of people in the world who hunger, both spiritually and physically.

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### Readings for the Week of June 10, 2007

<b>Sunday:</b>	Gn 14:18-20/1 Cor 11:23-26/Lk 9:11b-17
<b>Monday:</b>	Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3/Mt 5:1-12
<b>Tuesday:</b>	2 Cor 1:18-22/Mt 5:13-16
<b>Wednesday:</b>	2 Cor 3:4-11/Mt 5:17-19
<b>Thursday:</b>	2 Cor 3:15-4:1, 3-6/Mt 5:20-26
<b>Friday:</b>	Ez 34:11-16/Rom 5:5b-11/Lk 15:3-7
<b>Saturday:</b>	2 Cor 5:14-21/Lk 2:41-51
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	2 Sm 12:7-10, 13/Gal 2:16, 19-21/Lk 7:36-8:3 or 7:36-50

## Financial Summary

**June 3, 2007**

Weekly Collection	\$ 14,010.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (6,990.00)

**Religious Retirement** \$ 6,988.00

*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 Msgr. 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:  
**"Having Possessions."**  
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 TELE CARE, channel 29, on Mondays and Fridays at 9:45 AM; Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 7:45 PM; Sundays at 8 PM.



## Apartment Needed

Single, working mother with two children, is looking for apartment in West Islip. Children attend day care /school during day. If you know of an apartment, please call Mary in Outreach at 661.9262, option 4.

*As we approach Summer, our food pantry is in need of:*

- cereal
- juice boxes
- cookies
- snacks for children
- bottles of juice

## Feed the Hungry

**FACT:** Food is necessary to sustain life.

**FACT:** Hungry people come to Outreach and receive food.

**FACT:** Many of our clients do receive food stamps and continue to require food assistance.

**FACT:** 26 million Americans rely on food stamps each month-this includes children, the elderly and the infirm.

**FACT:** The average food stamp allotment for one person is \$28.00 a week.

Prices in local supermarkets this past week:

1 gallon whole milk:	\$3.59
1 dozen eggs:	\$2.19
1 loaf bread:	\$2.49
1 lb. American cheese:	\$4.39
1 box generic cereal:	\$3.79
1 box pasta:	\$ .99
1 can generic soup:	\$1.29
1 jar peanut butter:	\$1.79
1 jar jelly:	\$1.79
TOTAL:	\$22.31
BALANCE:	\$ 5.69

If we take American Cheese off the list, we could purchase some fresh fruit and vegetables.

Bananas: .54 lb., Apples: \$1.49 lb., Tomatoes: \$1.49 -1.99 lb, Lettuce: \$1.49-1.99 lb, Bag of Oranges: \$5.99. But, we still haven't purchased any meat: Chop Meat: \$1.79 lb., Chicken Thighs: .99 lb., Whole Chicken: \$1.69lb. Not on the list is coffee, tea, juice boxes or ice cream for the kids. Food stamps will not pay for any paper products, cleaning supplies or personal care items.

In mid-May, Reps. Jim McGovern (D-Mass.) and JoAnn Emerson (R-Mo), co-chairs of the Congressional Hunger Caucus issued the "Food-Stamp Challenge" -"do what millions of Americans are expected to do each week-live off the groceries purchased with food stamps." Politicians across the nation have participated in this challenge, raising their awareness of how difficult it is to live on a food stamp budget.

At the end of May, Congress begins debate on the 2007 Farm Bill. Hopefully, the experience of the politicians who took on the Food Stamp Challenge will spur them to institute new measures and initiatives for the food stamp program-specifically increase funding for food stamps and allow access to nutritious food choices for families who must rely on food stamps.

*-Mary & Jane*

## Mother-Daughter Tea

The Diocesan Respect for Life Office is sponsoring a Mother-Daughter Tea on **Saturday, June 30 from 11:30 – 2:30 at St. Agnes Cathedral**, 29 Quealy Place, Rockville Centre. Topics to be discussed are: The Virtue of Chastity, Physical and Emotional Development, God's Gift of Fertility and The Importance of the Mother-Daughter Relationship. Tickets are \$15 for each family. If interested, please call the Respect for Life Office: 516.379.8292: ext. 915 or [respectlife@drvc.org](mailto:respectlife@drvc.org)

## 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 "Caring for Yourself as You Care for Others in Their Grief" will be held on Tuesday, June 12 at Emmanuel Retreat House at Kellenberg High School, Uniondale from 7 until 9 PM. Also, "Meeting the Pain of Guilt, Anger and Forgiveness" with Patricia Jones at St. Matthew Parish Center, Dix Hills on Friday, June 15 from 9:30 AM until noon. Each workshop has a \$10 fee. Call Diane to register at 516.334.7990, extension 119.

## Tumblin Toddlers

Early Discoveries Center is offering a **free** class for toddlers (ages 18-36 months) and their parents. "Tumblin Toddlers" will take place Tuesdays-June 12, 19 and 26 or Wednesdays-June 13, 20 and 27. The locations are Ronkonkoma at 11:30 AM or Port Jefferson at 2 PM. To register at Ronkonkoma please call 631.585.2020 or to register at Port Jefferson please call 631.476.9698.

## Retrouvaille

YOU can help your marriage now! Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue? Have you just stopped talking to each other? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing all types of marital difficulties. For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, or to register for the upcoming weekend beginning on Friday, June 22 please call 1.800.470.2230.

## 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.

## Eucharist as God's Physical Embrace

*Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI*

There's a story told of a young Jewish boy named Mortakai who refused to go to school. When he was six years old, his mother took him to school, but he cried and protested all the way and, immediately after she left, ran back home. She brought him back to school and this scenario played itself out for several days. He refused to stay in school. His parents tried to reason with him, arguing that he, like all children, must now go to school. To no avail. His parents then tried the age-old trick of applying an appropriate combination of bribes and threats. This too had no effect.

Finally, in desperation they went to their Rabbi and explained the situation to him. For his part, the Rabbi simply said: "If the boy won't listen to words, bring him to me." They brought him into the Rabbi's study. The Rabbi said not a word. He simply picked up the boy and held him to his heart for a long time. Then, still without a word, he set him down. What words couldn't accomplish, a silent embrace did. Mortakai not only began willingly to go to school, he went on to become a great scholar and a Rabbi.

What that parable wonderfully expresses is how the Eucharist works. In it, God physically embraces us. Indeed that is what all sacraments are, God's physical embrace. Words, as we know, have a relative power. In critical situations they often fail us. When this happens, we have still another language, the language of ritual. The most ancient and primal ritual of all is the ritual of physical embrace. It can say and do what words cannot.

Jesus acted on this. For most of his ministry, he used words. Through words, he tried to bring us God's consolation, challenge, and strength. His words, like all words, had a certain power. Indeed, his words stirred hearts, healed people, and affected conversions. But at a time, powerful though they were, they too became inadequate. Something more was needed. So on the night before he death, having exhausted what he could do with words, Jesus went beyond them. He gave us the Eucharist, his physical embrace, his kiss, a ritual within which he holds us to his heart.

To my mind, that is the best understanding there is of Eucharist. Within both my undergraduate and graduate theological training, I took long courses on the Eucharist. In the end, these didn't explain the Eucharist to me, not because they weren't good, but because the Eucharist, like a kiss, needs no explanation and has no explanation. If anyone were to write a four hundred page book entitled, *The Metaphysics*

of a Kiss, it would be not deserve a readership. Kisses just work, their inner dynamics need no metaphysical elaboration.

The Eucharist is God's kiss. Andre Dubos, the Cajun novelist, used to say: "Without the Eucharist, God becomes a monologue." He's right. A couple of years ago, Brenda Peterson, in a remarkable little essay entitled, *In Praise of Skin*, describes how she once was inflicted by a skin-rash that no medicine could effectively soothe. She tried every kind of doctor and medicine. To no avail. Finally she turned to her grandmother, remembering how, as a little girl, her grandmother used to massage her skin whenever she had rashes, bruises, or was otherwise ill. The ancient remedy worked again. Her grandmother massaged her skin, over and over again, and the rash that seemingly couldn't be eradicated disappeared. Skin needs to be touched. This is what happens in the Eucharist and that is why the Eucharist, and every other Christian sacrament, always has some very tangible physical element to it - a laying on of hands, a consuming of bread and wine, an immersion into water, an anointing with oil. An embrace needs to be physical, not only something imagined.

G.K. Chesterton once wrote: "There comes a time, usually late in the afternoon, when the little child tires of playing policeman and robbers. It's then that he begins to torment the cat!" Mothers, with young children, are only too familiar with this late afternoon hour and its particular dynamic. There comes an hour, usually just before supper, when a child's energy is low, when it is tired and whining, and when the mother has exhausted both her patience and her repertoire of warnings: "Leave that alone! Don't do that!" The child, tense and miserable, is clinging to her leg. At that point, she knows what to do. She picks up the child. Touch, not word, is what's needed. In her arms, the child grows calm and tension leaves its body.

That's an image for the Eucharist. We are that tense, over-wrought child, perennially tormenting the cat. There comes a point, even with God, when words aren't enough. God has to pick us up, like a mother her child. Physical embrace is what's needed. Skin needs to be touched. God knows that. It's why Jesus gave us the Eucharist.

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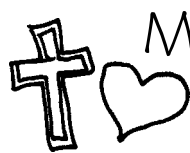
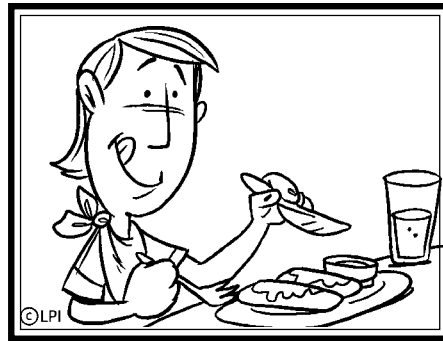
*Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Father Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author and is currently the President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website [www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com).*



# Sharing the Gospel

Jesus told his friends to give a whole crowd of people something to eat. All they had was a little fish and bread. How could they possibly feed all those people with so little food?

God gave them what they needed to help other people. When you want to help other people, trust God to give you what you need.

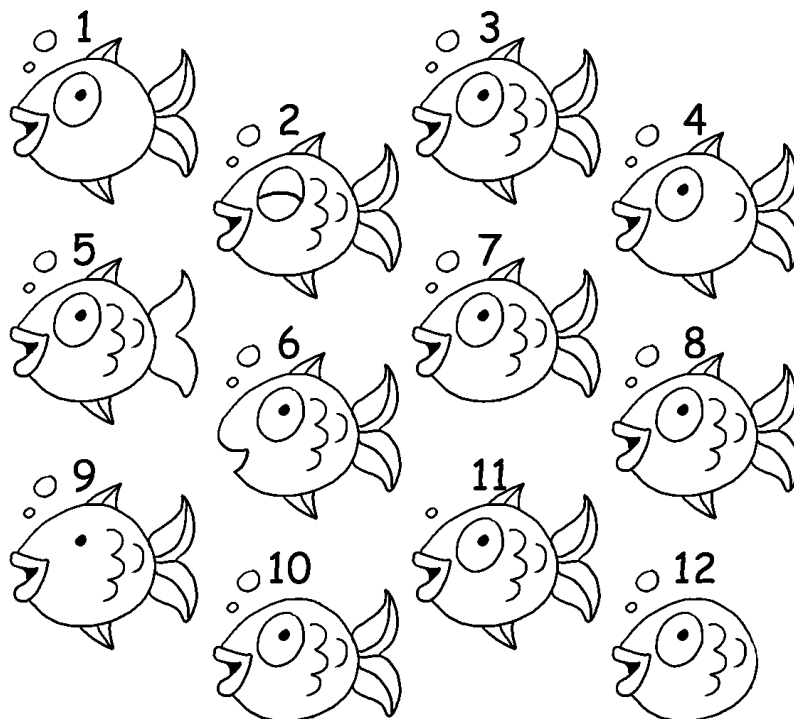


## Mission for the Week

If God has blessed your family with plenty of food to eat, make sure you also give food to people who are hungry.

### Puzzle

Find the identical fish!



©LPi

ANSWER IS NUMBER THREE AND NUMBER EIGHT

### Prayer



Dear God,  
with your  
power I can  
really help  
other people.

### Something to Draw



Draw a picture  
of yourself  
sharing your lunch  
with a friend.