

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Our Lady of Lourdes • June 17, 2007



**“Her many sins have been  
forgiven because  
she has shown great love.”**

Luke 7:47



## *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 inserted in the bulletin this week and also available at the school and religious ed. offices. Please drop it off to the Parish Office or mail it to OLL at 455 Hunter Ave. (att. Jennifer Gallagher) with all fees by June 30.

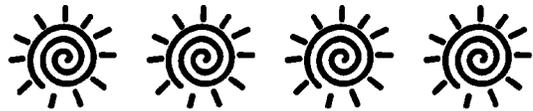
### **Questions?**

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)



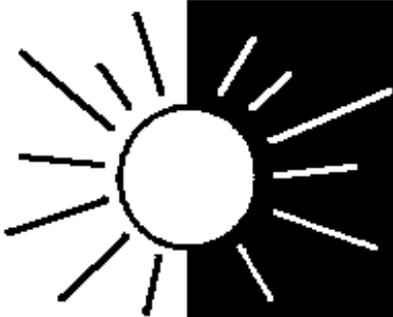
# SUMMER

Evening Prayer

2007

Great speakers!

Great food  
each night!



Monday evenings  
beginning  
July 9  
7:30 PM  
Great Lawn

Great nights for  
families and friends!

beginning July 9 with...

## Monsignor Night!

- We welcome back and honor Msgr. James Vlaun -  
our own Fr. Jim!
- What a great way to begin the summer!
- Family Dinner...  
"Summer Sauce" from Fr. Jim's cookbook  
beginning at 6:30 PM.

Guest speakers, so far, include...

- Sister Mary Alice Piel, Diocesan Director of Faith Formation
- Crossfire, the musical band
- Christian Sullivan, Campus Minister at St. Francis Prep  
High School, Queens
- Michael Chiappone, Social Worker at Hope House Ministries  
....and more!

Around Our Parish

## 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.



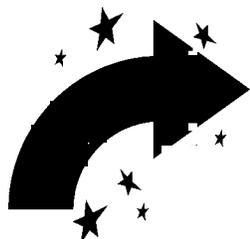
## Wedding Ministry

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!

## Religious Education



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

**This Friday June 22 7:30-9:30 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!**

AND YOU KNOW WHAT...

Hang Out has also been a part of OLL's Parish Social Ministry...

Grade 6, 7 and 8 students have been bringing food and unfood items...

\$1.00 donation each month... they made wreaths for those who share in  
our GIVING TREE at ADVENT... and they contributed hats and  
scarves to St. Joseph the Worker in Patchogue. This past year, we have  
raised nearly \$300.00 for OLL's Parish Social Ministry.

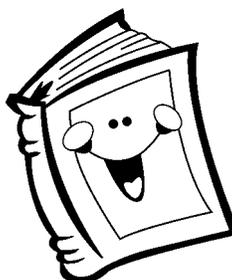
ALSO... GRADES 9 / 10 / 11 / 12

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

## 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 books as we can hold to donate to our sister parish. Our goal is to bring down 327 books.

**This  
Week!**

Members of this year's mission trip will be at each of the masses this weekend - **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!

## Altar Servers

Summer is time for the servers – that means new ones!

We are always looking for new altar servers and are in need of servers at many of our parish masses. Training will begin in July with servers starting August. If you are entering the fourth grade and want to come to our training, please contact John Sureau at 661.3224, extension 135 or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org)

## Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Last Sunday, our parish commissioned two new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. *Raymond Schmitt and Diane Schlosser* will now begin serving at our parish liturgies and distributing Communion to the Sick.

This is such a vital and life-giving ministry in the life of our parish community and a ministry that needs to constantly grow! Our next training will take place in the Fall of 2007. If you are interested please e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org) or call the Parish Office at 661.3224, extension 135.

## Fr. Joe Lukaszewski “Walk of Life”

Preserve your name, or that of a loved one with a personalized brick paver.

There will be two upcoming placements of bricks. The first cutting of bricks will be July 31 with placement of bricks the second week of August. The second cutting of bricks will be September 30 with placement of bricks the second week of October.

Paver size is 4” x 8” and are \$150 per paver.

If you have any questions or are interested in ordering a brick, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 or drop by to pick up an order form.

## Social Action Group

Please join us as we plan two exciting events for the 2007-2008 calendar year .

GREEN FRIDAY: 10/5/07  
PARISH READING CIRCLE

The planning meeting will be **Tuesday, June 19 at 7 PM in the Parish Center.**

If you are unable to attend but would like more information, please phone Mary in the Outreach Office at 661.9262 , ext.4.

*A Special*  
**THANK YOU**

*Thank you to everyone for making my farewell party so special!*

It is very hard to leave a place like OLL after so many years.  
However, I know OLL School is in very capable hands with  
our new principal, Mrs. Louise Krol.

My thirteen years here have been a blessing.  
I thank all of you for your support of  
Our Lady of Lourdes School and of me personally.

How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard!

From my Heart,  
*Regina Cioffi*

## Blood Drive

Be a Life Saver – GIVE BLOOD

Over 800 pints of blood are needed every day to meet the needs of the patients in our Long Island area hospitals. One pint of blood can save five lives because blood is divided into components and can be used for up to five patients with different critical needs. BUT ... We do not collect enough blood in this area to meet this need. Blood that was available to us from Europe is no longer available. Maintaining the blood supply has become a national problem. Only 2 people out of 100 who are able to donate blood are actually doing it!

The need for blood is daily. It must be there when it is needed (think about 9/11). Almost half the blood that is transfused is done on an emergency basis. Blood cannot be stockpiled. Red cells are viable for 35–42 days, but platelets must be used within 5 days.

Please care enough to give blood on **Wednesday, June 27 from 3:30 to 8:30 PM in the Parish Center.** To make an appointment, please call Marie at 669.5837 or just walk in the day of the drive. Your gift of blood may mean another day of life for someone, another birthday, another anniversary, another hug, another smile. Love makes it all worthwhile.

**Daily Mass**

8 AM

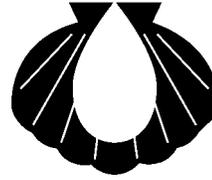
**Weekend Masses**

**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***

*Nicholas Rosario Acquista*  
Joseph and Kimberly

*Kate Mercer Fenlon*  
Thomas and Kim

*Abigail D. Rose Garcia*  
Anthony and Tina

*Olivia Kaye Jaworowski*  
Joseph and Gillian

*Jake Matthew Lella*  
Michael and Jennifer

*Michael James Lella*  
Michael and Jennifer

*Dominic Joseph Meir*  
Michael and Danielle

*Grace Marie Mileski*  
John and Kathleen

*Matthew Angelo Monaco*  
Sal and Gloria

*Brendan Farrell O'Regan*  
James and Patricia

**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, June 18**

**8:00 AM** Edward F. White

**Tuesday, June 19**

*St. Romuald, abbot*

**8:00 AM** Hector Girgenti

**Wednesday, June 20**

**8:00 AM** Lucy Zaccaria and  
Mario Lombardi

**Thursday, June 21**

*St. Aloysius Gonzaga, religious*

**8:00 AM** Celine McKeegan

**Friday, June 22**

*Ss. John Fisher and Thomas More, martyrs*

**8:00 AM** Larry Keller

## Altar Bread & Wine

in loving memory of...

*Frank Monroe and George Shaddock*

## Rest In Peace

*William S. Habel,*

died on June 4 and celebration of the  
Mass of Christian Burial was June 6.

We extend our prayers to his daughter,  
Elizabeth and family.



**Saturday, June 23**

**8:00 AM** In Thanksgiving, Anna Citarrella,  
Joan Reiners, William Habel, Joan Reid,  
Ann Horan, Nicholas Capozzi

**5:00 PM** Robert Beck

*Fr. Ed Dowling*

**Sunday, June 24**

**8:00 AM** Barbara McGarrity

*Fr. Stan Chukwube*

**9:30 AM** Joseph Rizzo

*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

**11:00 AM** Nancy Santoro

*Fr. Stan Chukwube*

**12:30 PM** Joseph DiMola III

*Fr. John Asomugha*

**6:00 PM** People of the Parish, Teresa Wright,  
Maureen Elizabeth Hitchen,  
Ellen Marie Smith, Charles Kolb,  
Joseph Laponte, Robert Jager,  
Christian Bullock, Florence Ferrara

*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

## 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.**

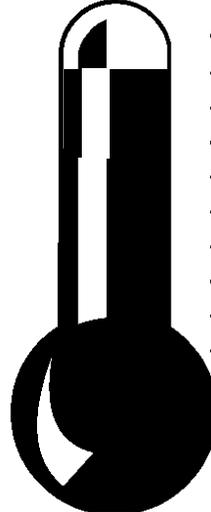
All are welcome to experience singing, praying and fellowship each evening.

## 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**



— \$86,995  
— Pledged  
— to Date

403 Pledges  
\$216 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).

## 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 *Joyce Petersen*.  
If you would like to help care for our altar needs, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.



## 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, Jason Fisher, Cathy Gries, Kevin Hahn, Samantha Hil, Adam Ippolito, Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang, Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Dot McNamee, Bryan Monahan, Jimmy Murphy, Frieda Perry, Gene Perry, George Prygocki, Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds, Felix Rivera, Jeanne Roccaro, Carol Scheid, Dorothy Schiavone, Dorothy Sullivan, Marie "Amy" Turano, Loretta Vitale, Betty Walsh, Grace Weidner*



## Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

A visitor from a foreign country once said that he was amazed at our country and its system of laws. "How," he said, "can a wonderful country such as yours with its many treasures and opportunities take the 10 laws God gave us to live by and turn those 10 laws into thousands of new laws and rules?" He felt surely that if one truly lives by the Ten Commandments, he or she will surely obey any other law written.

Unfortunately, many of us have a great many things for which to be sorry. It is very hard for us to forget our past, even harder to ask for forgiveness. In today's Gospel reading from Luke, a woman with a sinful past seeks out Jesus in the home of a Pharisee to both honor him and ask for God's forgiveness for her sins. The Pharisee, considering himself above such a common sinner, does neither. Who does Jesus say that God will show mercy upon?

Our sins make our hearts ache with hardness. But the beautiful thing is that there is no sin God cannot forgive provided our repentance is honest and genuine. He gives us the strength to renew our hearts and the ability to realize that we truly hurt God when we sin. (CCC 1432) God gave us Ten Commandments to guide our lives; Jesus told of the great commandment, to love one another. When we truly love, we will be forgiven.

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### Readings for the Week of June 17, 2007

<b>Sunday:</b>	2 Sm 12:7-10, 13/Gal 2:16, 19-21/ Lk 7:36-8:3 or 7:36-50
<b>Monday:</b>	2 Cor 6:1-10/Mt 5:38-42
<b>Tuesday:</b>	2 Cor 8:1-9/Mt 5:43-48
<b>Wednesday:</b>	2 Cor 9:6-11/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
<b>Thursday:</b>	2 Cor 11:1-11/Mt 6:7-15
<b>Friday:</b>	2 Cor 11:18, 21-30/Mt 6:19-23
<b>Saturday:</b>	2 Cor 12:1-10/Mt 6:24-34
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Vigil: Jer 1:4-10/1 Pt 1:8-12/Lk 1:5-17 Day: Is 49:1-6/Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80

## Financial Summary

**June 10, 2007**

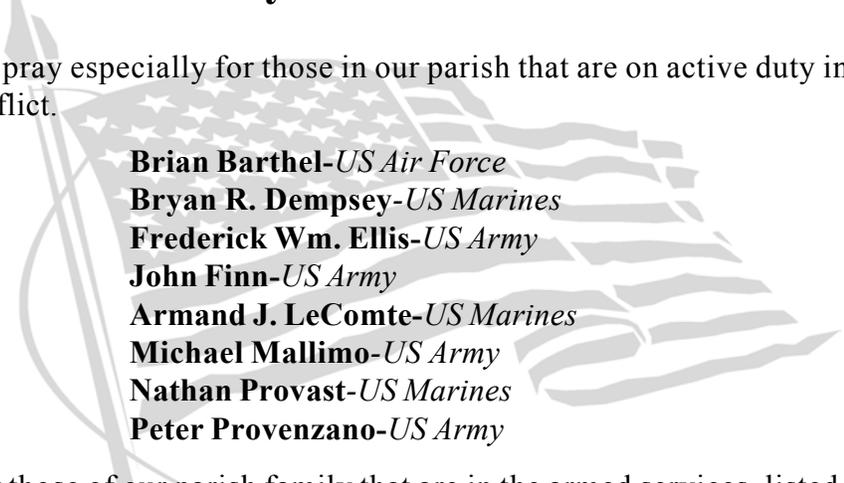
Weekly Collection	\$ 19,764.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (1,236.00)

*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*  
**Nathan Provast**-*US Marines*  
**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:

**"Father's Day Special."**

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.

## Hope

I was attending a Social Action meeting on Tuesday night, May 23 and I missed “the find.” “The find” was a small, cracked bird’s egg which my children found under a bush that evening. The next morning, I asked about the small brown box on my potting bench, and Evelina informed me that ‘this was her egg’ which she was taking care of until it hatched.



After breakfast, Evelina retrieved her box; and Edward and I watched as she carefully opened the lid. Inside, wrapped in a half a roll of paper towels “to keep it warm” was indeed, a tiny cracked bird’s egg. The three of us peered at the egg as Evelina, very gently, rolled it on the paper towels. Clearly, to me, there was no life inside that egg-but to Evelina that egg had such potential. “Mom, can I take this with us when we walk the dogs?” Evelina asked. “Why?” I replied. “Well, because the egg needs to be warm if the chick is going to come out” said Evelina.

“Oh, Evelina! I’m sorry, but I don’t think there is a chick in that egg. I think that egg has died. See where it is cracked?” I said. “Mom!” Evelina replied indignantly, “Where is your hope?!” With that, Evelina picked up her brown box and started down the street in search of the sun. Each time a ray of sunshine would hit the street, Evelina would hurry over with her box, open the lid and allow the warmth of the sun to surround her precious egg.

Working in the Outreach Office, one has to harbor hope and celebrate the successes of clients. Recently we learned that two of our longer-term clients had made life-changing decisions. Each had come to Outreach several years before in desperate straits. One client really ravaged by years of drug and alcohol use, had lost custody of her children; the other a single father of two very young children-his wife had walked out. For each client, there were many low points during the years that they came to Outreach for food, for comfort, for support, for hope. If several weeks had passed without seeing these clients, concern was expressed among the staff. Invariably each would show up for food-for laundry soap. We would make calls to try to get the one into a detox program-while we would try to find affordable child care for the other so he could go to work.

Within the last month, we heard that the single dad had completed job training in the health field and had secured a position with the County. That same week we also heard from the substance abuser-she has been clean, has been in a residential program and has started to visit again with her children. She has been clean for several months now and is cautiously optimistic about the potential for her future.

We each need to feel precious, to have someone believe in us when all seems lost. We need to be treated with gentleness and we need to know the warmth of love. And even in the worst situation, when reason would suggest otherwise, we need to always ask ourselves: Where is your hope?

*-Mary McMahon*  
Director of Parish Social Ministry

## Outreach: May

Thanks again to Flo Worysz for compiling the May statistics for Outreach. For the month of May, 2007 Outreach assisted 130 individuals with a total of 235 services. In addition to providing food bags, services offered were advocacy and referrals to other agencies, counseling, and financial assistance. \$470 was distributed in the form of scrip to supermarkets-for purchase of meats and dairy. \$25 was given in scrip to drugstores for diapers and formula. Additionally, two families received scrip totaling \$175 for local clothing stores for purchase of childrens' shoes/underwear, clothing for school ceremonies and for a jacket.

### Donations

Outreach has received a donation in honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Jack and Margaret McHugh. Thank you.

Outreach has also received a donation in memory of Phyllis Conforte. Thank you.

### Angel Network

“Shear Instincts” is a local merchant who contributes financially each month to our Food Pantry and is part of the Angel Network-please remember Shear Instincts when it is time for your next haircut!

## “Outreach Wishes”

We have had requests for two adult bicycles for individuals without transportation. If you happen to be “tooling” around and see one at a garage sale in good condition-or if you have a bicycle taking up space in your garage, would you consider a donation to Outreach?....we would gladly accept it!



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

cereal  
juice boxes  
cookies  
snacks for children  
bottles of juice

## 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.

## Marian Healing Ministry

Come and experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the presence and healing power of our Risen Savior, Lord Jesus Christ and the Intercessions of Mary, the Mother of God. Continuing the Marian Healing Ministry of Fr. Dennis Kelleher, there will be a healing Mass at the Immaculate Conception Center, Douglaston Parkway. Rosary, Mass and healing service will be on Tuesday, June 19 at 7 PM in the main church. The celebrant will be Fr. Augustine Fernando assisted by Deacon John Dennehy and Deacon Joseph Mercolino.

## 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)

## Vendors Needed

Vendors are needed for the 25th Annual Our Lady of Perpetual Help International Feast, So. Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst - July 11 to July 15, 2007 and the OLPH International Street Fair, Wellwood Avenue from West Gates to Hoffman Avenues on Sunday, July 15, 2007. Limited space available at the feast! Call Rich 631-539-4942 or visit us online at [OLPHLindenhurst.org](http://OLPHLindenhurst.org).

## 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.

## Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

### Telephone Reassurance Program

If you live alone and would **like a daily phone** call from a volunteer, just call the **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program** at 631.979.9490.

### Friendly Visitor Program

If you live alone and would **like a visit** from a volunteer, just call the **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program** at 631.979.9490.

If you are 55+ and would like to volunteer to call and/or visit a homebound senior, call the **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program** at 631.979.9490.

## 40th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving

**St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School 40th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving and BBQ honoring former faculty and staff on Sunday, June 24-Feast of St. John the Baptist at 12 noon.**

We come together to remember, thanking God for their presence in our school community! We come together to celebrate, sharing faith and a meal as students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends of this community. We come together in belief, seeking God's blessing on this community and summer season. Please come and be part of this beautiful celebration! RSVP to 631.587.8000 extension 116 or email to [campusministry@sjbdhs.org](mailto:campusministry@sjbdhs.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. "Building a Vibrant Bereavement Program in Your Parish" will be held on Tuesday, June 19 at Emmanuel Retreat House at Kellenberg High School, Uniondale from 7 until 9 PM with Elaine Stillwell, M.A., M.S. The workshop has a \$10 fee. Call Diane to register at 516.334.7990, extension 119.

## 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.

## The Struggle for Sincerity

*Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI*

We live with two great desires. Beyond our desire for intimacy we also want sincerity. But, like intimacy, this too is rather elusive. It's not easy to be sincere.

I was reminded of this recently while having a conversation with a friend who'd just become a father. "Now that I have a child," he told me, "I want to grow up, finally grow up. I'm tired of the way I am, of being bounced around by every fad and politically-correct thing to think, say, or do. I'm sick of not knowing what I really stand for deep down. I have to find a way to move beyond that or I'll never grow up. But it's hard. How do I know what's true within me? How do I really know my own truth?" This man was already in his late thirties, into mid-life, and still unsure of how much of what he said, did, or thought was really coming from his true centre.

I point this out with sympathy. He was longing for sincerity, which he identified with "finally growing up" and was finding that for the most part it was evading him. He was struggling to contact his own soul, to think his own thoughts, and was finding more false layers there than he'd ever imagined. He was discovering, in the words of Iris Murdoch, that it's not easy to get out of a muddle. Much as the desire for sincerity haunts us, it's still difficult to be sincere. Why?

Because too many things get between us and our real centre. What things? The mind-set of our culture, fads, ideology, group-think, rationalizations, old wounds, present hurts, body chemistry, infatuations, private fantasies, among other things, help block us off from our real thoughts and feelings. Who, for example, really has his or her own opinion on Mel Gibson's, *The Passion of Christ*? What do we really think about this movie? Did we, liberals and conservatives alike, really watch this movie or did we watch each other watch it?

What do I really think about anything? What's me as opposed to some prescribed value, feeling, opinion, bias, or ideology that I've drunk in from my circle of friends, family, church, or culture? What does it mean to be sincere? Dictionaries offer two versions of the root of the word and both interpretations shed light on its meaning. Some dictionaries suggest that sincere comes from two Latin words: sine (without) and caries (decay). Hence, to be sincere means to be "without corruption". Other commentators suggest that

its root is: sine (without) and cero (to smear, to coat with wax). In this view, to be sincere means "to be uncovered, to have a certain transparency of soul", to not have a coat of anything covering over you.

Certainly both are true. To be sincere is to be uncorrupted. To be sincere is also to be bare, uncoated, transparent, truly yourself, not covered with pretence, whim, fad, political correctness, posturing, or acting out. To be sincere is to be without false props, without a mask, without anything that's not really you.

But this isn't easy. Parker Palmer, the renowned American Educator, once commented that while he was doing his graduate degree in theology at a Christian seminary, despite all the good and sincere people he met there and all the valuable insights that passed through the classrooms, there was little in the way of genuine sincerity at one level. Classrooms themselves, he suggests, almost ex officio, militate against sincerity. I paraphrase his comments: During all those years, in all those classes, with all those good people, I doubt that there was ever truly one sincere question asked. There was a lot of posturing, some pretence, a lot of asking of the right things, a lot of political correctness, but not really a question that laid bare a heart, that spoke truly for someone's soul, that issued forth from a genuine curiosity.

A generation earlier, C.S. Lewis made a similar statement. In his book, *The Great Divorce*, Lewis, arguing against a professor of theology who no longer believes in a Transcendent God, outlines the anatomy of a lost faith, suggesting that, at root, it takes its base in insincerity: "Let us be frank. Our opinions were not honestly come by. We simply found ourselves in contact with a certain current of ideas and plunged into it because it seemed modern and successful. At College, you know, we just started automatically writing the kind of essays that got good marks and saying the kind of things that won applause. When, in our whole lives, did we honestly face, in solitude, the one question on which all turned: whether after all the Supernatural might not in fact occur? When did we put up one moment's resistance to the loss of faith."

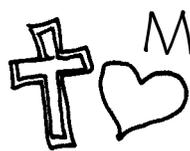
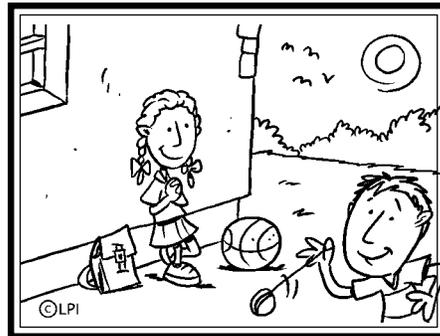
Sincerity is what truly lays bare the heart, genuinely speaks for the soul, and makes for honest curiosity. My friend was right to identify it with the struggle to "finally grow up".

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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 woman in today's Gospel was not well-liked in her town. She had made some pretty bad choices, and everybody knew it. In her heart she knew she had really messed up, and she was truly sorry. With a broken heart, she found Jesus. When Jesus saw the faith in her heart, he forgave her. He gave her the freedom to live a better life.



## Mission for the Week

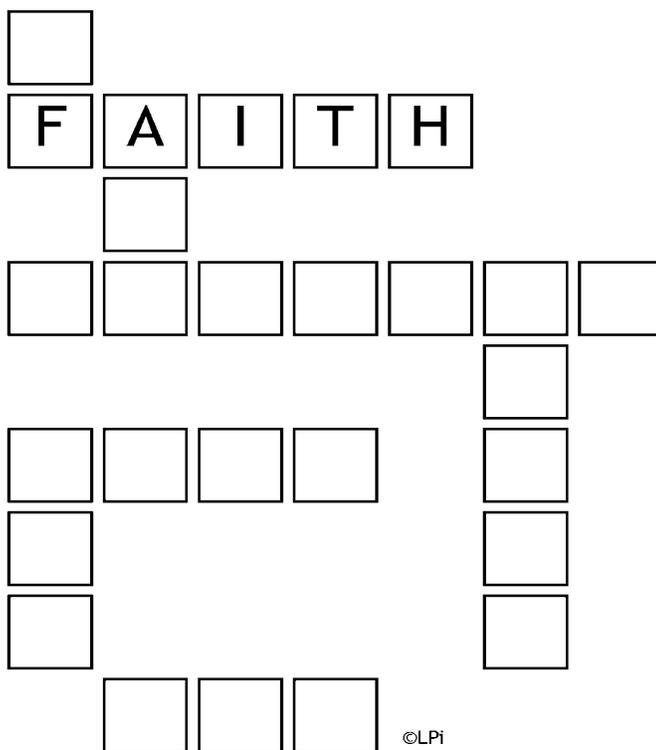
If there is someone in your class who is not well-liked, show God's love by being kind.



### Puzzle

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

**Because of your faith, you are now saved.**



©LPI

### Prayer



Dear God, help me to be truly sorry for my sins.

### Something to Draw



Draw a picture of yourself crying because you made a bad choice.