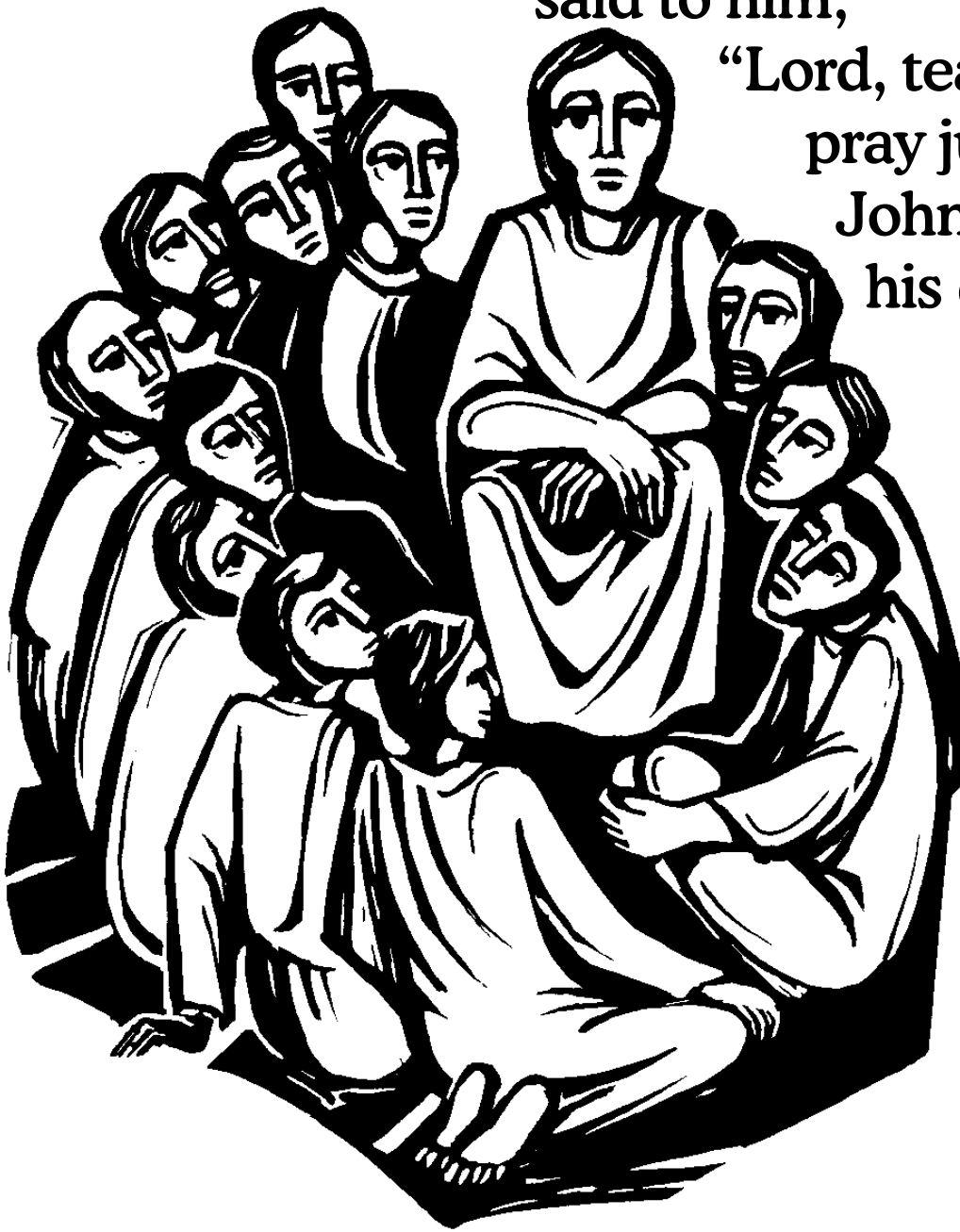


Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him,

“Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.”

Luke 11:1



**Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Our Lady of Lourdes • July 29, 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: [info@ollschool.org](mailto:info@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

### **Jennifer Gallagher**

Director of Youth Services

### **Carol M. Goetz**

Parish Music Director

### **Louise Jane Krol**

School Principal

### **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.*

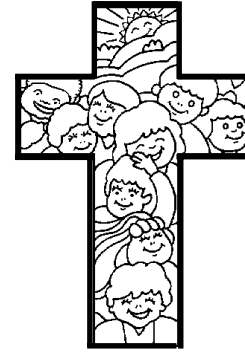
***Grow** in an understanding of God's role in each of our lives.*

***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



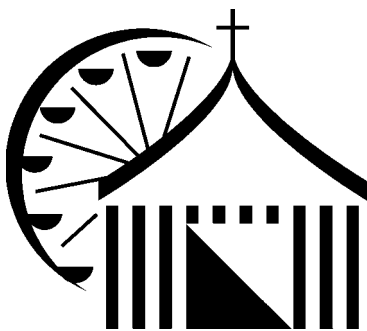
## Religious Education

Registration for children in public school entering Grade 1 in September 2007 to be part of Our Lady of Lourdes Religious Education P.E.P. Program...

<b>Family Names A – L</b>	<b>Monday, September 24</b>	<b>10 AM <i>or</i> 7:30 PM</b>
<b>Family Names M – Z</b>	<b>Wednesday, September 26</b>	<b>10 AM <i>or</i> 7:30 PM</b>

Meetings will be held in the Parish Center (*room opposite the playground*) and will begin promptly at the times designated.

Please bring the child's Baptismal Certificate. There is a "Family Fee" of \$115 for families new to the program.



## Our Lady of Lourdes Italian Family Feast 2007 September 12 - 16

### "Super Raffle"

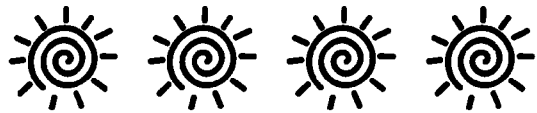
"Super Raffle" tickets will be on sale at the Church doors before and after all weekend Masses beginning the weekend of August 11/12. Each ticket is \$100. Only 200 tickets will be sold! Don't wait – get *your* number early!

### Volunteers needed!

Volunteers are always needed and welcomed to support our annual Italian Family Feast 2007. We have our faithful volunteers that come and help year after year-and to them we are very grateful. We need to attract new volunteers to keep our feast the wonderful annual family event that it is!

*Can you help?*

If you're interested or have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.



# SUMMER

Evening Prayer

2007

Great speakers!

Great food  
each night!



Monday evening  
July 30  
7:30 PM  
Great Lawn

Great nights for  
families and friends!

Guest speaker:

**Sr. Mary Alice Piil**

Director of the Office of Faith Formation and  
co-host of Everyday Faith Live on Telecare!

Sr. Mary Alice will talk to us about the need for faith  
in our own lives and the lives of our families.

Hospitality this week...

It's Italian Ice Night at Summer Evening Prayer -  
there's something for everyone!

Remember...if it rains or there is a heat warning...we will gather in the All Purpose Room!

Around Our Parish



## 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 visit the Parish Office and fill out the order form.

## Summer Evening Prayer

One of the great traditions of the summer season here at OLL is Summer Evening Prayer! These beautiful services don’t just happen but rather are put together by a pretty committed group of people who meet a few times in the Spring and assist at the Evening Prayer Services they can attend. This is a great ministry to get involved in if you feel like you want to “start small”. To be part of this group you have to be able to laugh a lot, have a good time and want to offer a great experience for our parish community.

*I want more information...*

Come early on any Monday night of Evening Prayer this Summer and tell anyone running around that you want to help, or call Carol Paprocky at 666.4312 or e-mail to [dc615@verizon.net](mailto:dc615@verizon.net) or call John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org).

## Cell Phones and more...

Please remember to turn off your cell phones, pagers, beepers etc. when coming to pray here at OLL! These are wonderful creations...but they can easily interfere with our prayer and the prayer of others! Rather than telling your friends and family to call you – tell them to come with you to our parish here at Our Lady of Lourdes!



Our Lady of Lourdes School  
44 Toomey Road  
West Islip, NY  
631.587.7200  
email: [info@ollschool.org](mailto:info@ollschool.org)

**We are expanding our  
Early Childhood Program  
for September 2007!**



## **"Our Nursery Program"**

3 days per week

Monday - Wednesday - Friday

half days: 8:30 AM - 11 AM or 12 noon - 2:30 PM

full days: 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

## **"Mommy & Me!"**

2 days per week

Tuesday - Thursday

9:30 AM - 11 AM or 12:30 PM - 2 PM



**We're NOT just daycare, we're Catholic Education!**

**Louise Jane Krol, Principal**

**"2007 NYS Preschool Teacher of the Year"**

If you are interested in enrollment or you have any questions, please call the School Office at 587.7200 and leave a message-we will return your call.

## Wedding Ministry

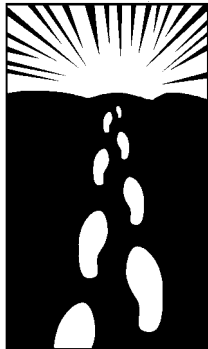
How do you feel when you get to share in the most special days of a couple's life? Excited? Joyful? Blessed? These are words we use to describe our feelings about being a part of the Wedding Ministry. We are there for the couple on the day of their wedding rehearsal to go through the steps of the ceremony 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*

*For more information...*

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 contact Ann Munkwitz at 666.4756 for more information.

All are welcome!



## Spiritual Direction

*...for those who want the companionship of a director to journey with them in finding God's desire for them in their daily life.*

Follow these articles each week, for the next several weeks, as we explore and explain "Spiritual Direction."

### *What can I expect?*

The director helps you to be more aware of who God is for you, to notice God's movement in the events of your life, and in your prayer, to be able to talk about what you are experiencing, to be attentive to God's invitations, urgings, and confirmations and to recognize resistances and roadblocks.

The director is not judgmental, but assists the directee to objectify his/her experience. The director can assist the directee by asking appropriate questions, helping the directee to get insight into oneself by trying to speak and objectify the experience and to reverence and savor your experiences of God. The director will keep the focus on the directee's relationship with God. Contemporary direction presumes that God communicates through ordinary human experience and in that experience are found God's invitations and urgings and confirmations. The director is a companion on life's journey—asking reflective questions and pointing out resources.

If you have any questions, or you would like to make arrangements to meet with a Spiritual Director, please call Deacon John DeGuardi at the Parish Office at 661.3224.

(It is recommended that you make a three month commitment of one meeting per month.)





## **The OLL 23rd Annual Duffers Golf Classic**

**Timber Point Country Club  
Great River, New York  
Thursday, August 23**

The event will start at noon with a 2 PM shot-gun. You can even work a half-day and still join us! We currently have both men and women golfers, as well as non-golfers who are joining us for dinner honoring Mrs. Cioffi for her thirteen years of service to OLL School.

### **2007 Honoree**



**Mrs. Regina Cioffi**

Please join us for what will be a fun-filled day! The cost is \$175 for golfers - golf package includes green fees, golf cart, driving range, lunch at crossover and dinner. The cost for dinner only participants is \$75. The outing includes a live auction and raffle prizes, contests-longest drive, most accurate, closest to pin, cocktails and more!

For further information or to make reservations, please contact  
Joe Macina at 587.0241, Frank Antonawich at 587.7988  
or Rich Maher at 661.5478.

*The OLL Golf Committee will be selling raffle tickets after each Mass this weekend.*

## **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***

*Alissa Thorman* and  
*Shawn Rush*, both OLL

### **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

### **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.

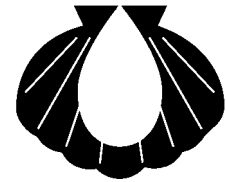
#### **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults(RCIA):**

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.

## ***Altar Bread & Wine***

in loving memory of...

*Ignacia Cajigal*



## ***Baptisms***

*Gianna Marie Ameri*

Robert and Maria

*William Robert Benjamin*

Adam and Nicole

*Hazel Rose Bivona*

Timothy & Christina

*Tejore Nino Garcia*

Pedro and Maria

*Ariana Leilani Heckmann*

John and Shana

*Christopher Mark Militello*

Mark and Terri

*April Rose Allegretto*

Philip and Janine

*Mary Margaret Crowe*

John & Margaret

*Daniel Joseph Gorman*

Joseph and Lana

*Peter Rich Krulder*

Daniel and Michelle

*Logan Howard Swicord*

Robert and Elzbieta

# Remembering...

## Monday, July 30

*St. Peter Chrysologus, bishop, doctor*

**8:00 AM** Fortunato & Carmela Maggi

## Tuesday, July 31

*St. Ignatius of Loyola*

**8:00 AM** Lillian LaRocca

## Wednesday, August 1

*St. Alphonsus Liguori, bishop, doctor*

**8:00 AM** Eugene Luneau

## Thursday, August 2

**8:00 AM** Leo Sullivan

## Friday, August 3

**8:00 AM** Mary & Walter Sullivan

## Saturday, August 4

**8:00 AM** Vincent & Grace Capanzano, AnnMarie Cornelia,  
Grace McCarthy, Carmela Winski, Epimaco Watin,  
In Honor of Blessed Mother, Stephanie & Salvatore Gattuso,  
Diane Juratovac

**5:00 PM** John Lovari

*Fr. Stan Chukwube*

## Sunday, August 5

**8:00 AM** Asuncion F. Castro, Francisco, Felizberta, Ramon,  
& Ruperto Dimaculangan

*Fr. Stan Chukwube*

**9:30 AM** Patrick McCarthy

*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

**11:00 AM** Dec'd mbrs of McKeefery Family

*Fr. John Asomugha*

**12:30 PM** Nicola & Anna Santa Andriola

*Fr. Ed Dowling*

**6:00 PM** People of the Parish, Harold Christophersen, Rick Munkwitz,  
William Conrad, William Mace, Caruba Family, Joseph Basso,  
Lizbeth McCarty, Lillian McLoughlin, Brian Bogart,  
Margaret Polidoro

*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

## Rest In Peace

*Angelina Rinaldi-Danna,*  
died on July 16 and celebration of the  
Mass of Christian Burial was July 20.  
We extend our prayers to her brother, John  
and family.

*Linda Carol Seymour,*  
died on July 6 and celebration of the  
Mass of Christian burial was July 21.  
We extend our prayers to her son, John and family.





## Outreach School Supply Drive

Outreach will be collecting school supplies to donate to families in need. School Supplies we could use include:

- \*Glue Sticks
- \* Marble Notebooks
- \*Two Pocket Folders
- \* Soft Pencil Cases
- \* Pink Erasers
- \* Highlighters
- \* Markers
- \*Pencil Sharpeners that catch shavings
- \*Spiral Notebooks
- \*Fiskar scissors
- \*Post-It-Notes
- \*Supply box
- \*Tennis Balls

And of course...the old staple....CRAYONS!!!

Donations can be left in the food baskets at the doors of the Church....as always....our Thanks!

*Mary*

## “Green Alert”

•*Pesky squirrels eating from your birdfeeders?*

Try sprinkling some cayenne pepper into the birdfood the next time you fill your feeders.

Squirrels hate the red pepper and it doesn't seem to bother the birds.

•*Weeds taking over your garden?*

Before planting, cover the ground with old newspapers. Hose the newspapers with water then put your decorative mulch on top. The newspapers provide a natural barrier to weeds and add nutrients back to the soil as they decompose.

•*And you thought exercise was only for humans!*

Did you know that if you shake your evergreens gently from side to side you not only rid them of old needles and 'dandruff' but you also help the tree grow taller, fuller and wider.

*Have any green tips you'd like to share? Drop them off at the Outreach Office and we'll include them in an upcoming bulletin!*

## Outreach Update – June 2007

Again, thanks to Flo Worysz for pulling together the figures for June...

Our numbers were a bit lower in June-136 people received food bags. Financial assistance was given for utility payments and scrip for food totaling \$876.33. We did have several requests for apartments/housing, unfortunately we were unable to offer any referrals for housing.

Outreach received \$75 in donations from parishioners. In addition, we received money for food/ scrip from our Angel Network: Shear Instincts, West Islip Wines and Liquors, an anonymous merchant and Forerunner Telecom in Bohemia.

## Tales from the Fridge

As noted in a previous bulletin, Outreach now has a refrigerator thanks to the generosity of West Islip Wines and Liquors. We are grateful to Rob and Rich DiStefano for their donation.



*Here is a story:*

A woman in her early 40's has been coming to Outreach for a few years. A single mother of three, diagnosed with MS, she is not able to work full-time. Maybe twice a month she comes to Outreach for food. On Thursday, she came in for food. She took the customary two bags, and then we offered her hot dogs, eggs, butter, orange juice and some chop meat. I wish I had the words to describe how her face lit up. "You have meat! My kids will be so excited! We haven't had orange juice or chop meat in a long time! Thank you so much!"

*Thank you Rob and Rich, thank you so much!*

-Mary McMahon  
Director, Parish Social Ministry



## Food Pantry Needs

Please, please, please continue to donate food to our Food Pantry through the summer months.

We are desperately low on all food items including-coffee, cereal, juice boxes, peanut butter/jelly, pasta sauce, canned vegetables, crackers, small cans of soup... Thanks for your generosity



## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

I have been a catechist to a young man with autism for the past 10 years. He has on rare occasions drawn pictures for me and signs them "Dan," most often the extent of his writing. Last fall, however, I showed him a typed version of the Our Father. Without being told, he copied it word for word on two large pieces of paper and gave it to me. A prized possession, it now hangs on my office wall, a reminder that God is in all of our hearts.

In today's Gospel reading from Luke, we are given the gift of reassurance that God is truly all-knowing; the prayer we call the Our Father or the Lord's Prayer allows us to ask for what we truly need - food, protection, and forgiveness. It is a prayer to be said with confidence, truth and humility. But we must always remember that God indeed does answer our prayers in ways that will keep him first and foremost in our lives.

"Lord, teach us to pray," the disciples ask of Jesus. By asking, they - and we - receive the very words of God, petitions with which to both honor God and ask for his blessings. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, however, that although we teach our children by repetition, the Lord's Prayer is to be learned and internalized, to become in us spirit and life. (CCC 2766)

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### Readings for the Week of July 29, 2007

<b>Sunday:</b>	Gn 18:20-32/Col 2:12-14/Lk 11:1-13
<b>Monday:</b>	Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Mt 13:31-35
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Mt 13:36-43
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Ex 34:29-35/Mt 13:44-46
<b>Thursday:</b>	Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Mt 13:47-53
<b>Friday:</b>	Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Mt 13:54-58
<b>Saturday:</b>	Lv 25:1, 8-17/Mt 14:1-12
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23/Col 3:1-5, 9-11/Lk 12:13-21

## Financial Summary

**July 22, 2007**

Weekly Collection           \$ 16,130.00  
 Weekly Budget             -\$ 21,000.00  
 +/- for the week           \$ (4,870.00)

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

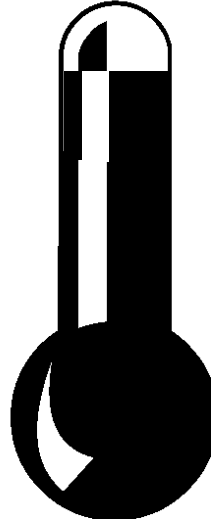
## Catholic Ministries Appeal

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.

**87%  
to goal!**

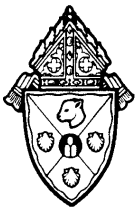
PARISH GOAL \$103,000



\_\_\_\_ \$89,335  
 \_\_\_\_ Pledged  
 \_\_\_\_ to Date  
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 \_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_

413 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).

## **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**.

## **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:

**"Remaining Positive."**

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.



## Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Carol Grillo*.  
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 ...

*Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Joseph Calderale, Sr.,  
Howard Campkin, Lynn Castellano, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo,  
TJ Devlin, Edward Doyle, Jason Fisher, Pam Gagliano, Jeremiah Gimblet,  
Samantha Hil, Adam Ippolito, Wade Kromhout, Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang,  
Nancy Letsch, Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento, Diego Marino, Michele McCann,  
Peter McCann, Sr., Bryan Monahan, Jimmy Murphy, Joseph Ortiz, Gertrude Parine,  
Frieda Perry, Gene Perry, Arthur Petrino, Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds,  
Carol Scheid, Dorothy Schiavone, Dorothy Sullivan, Marie "Amy" Turano,  
Mary Visconti, Loretta Vitale*

## SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will  
meet on **Tuesday, July 31**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

## Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month.  
The next meeting will be held on **Monday, July 30**, at **12:30 PM in  
the Parish Center**.

## The Beginning Experience

Help for the heartache of divorce, separation and widowhood. A weekend away for a lifetime of change. The next weekend is August 10 - 12. For information and reservations, call Connie at 516.735.1720 or Mike at 516.812.6417.

## Direct Care Counselors

Catholic Charities is seeking Direct Care Counselors who are committed to our mission of "Care with Dignity, Life with Hope" in working with developmentally disabled adults in group homes. Full time, part time and per diem hours are available. Valid NYS driver's license and HS Diploma/GED required. Please email resume to [heimann.linda@catholiccharities.cc](mailto:heimann.linda@catholiccharities.cc) or fax resume to 516.733.7038 or call 516.733.7009.

## Help Wanted

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Deer Park is looking for a part-time receptionist. If interested, please contact Deacon Phil Mills, Administrator at 667.4044, ext. 110.

## 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.

## 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.

## **Sisters of Charity-Halifax**

Tickets are now on sale for the **7th Annual Sisters of Charity-Halifax Golf Outing to be held on Monday, August 6 at the Cherry Valley Club in Garden City**. The day includes brunch, links fees, evening reception and dinner. Tickets for dinner only are available. For further information or to make reservations, please contact Adam Szczepanski at 718.424.1813 or email to [aszczepanski@schalifax.org](mailto:aszczepanski@schalifax.org).

## **2nd Annual Car Wash**

**OLL Cub Scout Pack 330** is having its **2nd Annual Car Wash on Sunday, July 29 from 10 AM until 3 PM**. (Rain date is the following Sunday, August 5)

The location is at the West Islip Senior Citizen Center on Higbie Lane in West Islip just north of the W.I. High School. The cost is \$5 for cars and \$10 for SUVs/Vans. All proceeds benefit the Cub Scout Program. As always, thank you for your continued support.

## **Dominican Village**

*We would love to show you our home...*

Please join us for one of our upcoming Open Houses.

Dominican Village is a rental retirement community that offers quality of life in a secure environment. The next Open House will be on **Saturday, August 11 from 1 PM until 3 PM**. An Upcoming Open House will also be held on August 26. We have a Summer Special - If you sign your lease by Labor Day, your first month's rent is free! For more information, please call 631.842.6091 or visit us at [www.dominicanvillage.org](http://www.dominicanvillage.org).

## **Sisters of the Good Shepherd**

HandCrafting Justice is a non-profit, Fair Trade, project of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. They partner with women struggling with poverty and injustice in eighteen developing countries. You can help support our mission by visiting our website and shop for fair trade goods, contact us about volunteer opportunities or donate to the continuation of their mission. Visit their website at [www.handcraftingjustice.org](http://www.handcraftingjustice.org) or call at 718.204.0909.

## The Struggle to Understand Suicide

*Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI*

Every year I write a column on suicide because, among all forms of death, it's still the one we struggle with the most. How can suicide happen? What makes a person take his or her own life?

Suicide, no doubt, is the most misunderstood of all deaths and leaves behind a residue of questions, guilt, anger, second-guessing, and anxiety which, at least initially, is almost impossible to digest. Even though we know better, we're still haunted by the feeling that suicide is the ultimate act of despair, a deed that somehow puts one outside the family of humanity, the mercy of God, and (in the past) the church's burial grounds.

When someone close to us commits suicide we feel both pain and shame. That's why suicides are often not reported publicly. An obituary is more likely to say that this person "died suddenly", without specifying the cause of death. This reticence to admit how our loved one died speaks deeply about both the pain and shame that we are left with after the suicide of a loved one. To lose a loved one to death is painful, to lose a loved one to suicide is also disorienting.

What needs to be said about suicide? A number of things need to be re-iterated over and over again:

First, that suicide, at least in most cases, is a sickness, a disease, a terminal illness that takes a person out of life, as does any terminal illness, against his or her will. In essence, suicide is death through emotional cancer, emotional heart attack, emotional stroke. That's why it's apt to say that someone is "a victim of suicide". Suicide is a desperate, if misguided, attempt to end unendurable pain at any cost, akin to throwing oneself through a window and falling to one's death because one's clothing is on fire. Suicide is an illness, not a sin.

Next, those left behind when a loved one commits suicide should not unduly second-guess themselves, anxiously examining over and over again what they might have done differently, why they weren't more present, or how they somehow failed the one who committed suicide. Part of the anatomy of the disease is precisely the pathology of distancing oneself from one's loved ones so that they cannot be present to the illness. When a loved one commits suicide we can't help but ask ourselves: "If only I had been there! Why was I absent just on that morning?" But we weren't there precisely because the person committing suicide did not what us to

be there and picked the moment, the venue, and the means precisely with that in mind.

Besides, we're human beings, not God. People die from accidents and illnesses every day and all the love and attentiveness in the world sometimes cannot prevent someone we love from dying. Suicide is a sickness and, like cancer, sometimes cannot be cured by any amount of love and care. Knowing this isn't an excuse to rationalize our failures, but it can give us some consolation in knowing that it wasn't our neglect or inattentiveness on a given day that led someone we love to suicide.

Finally, we should not have undue worry and anxiety over the eternal fate of our loved ones who commit suicide. Why not?

First, in most cases, as we know, suicide victims have cancerous problems precisely because they are over-sensitive, wounded, too-bruised to be touched, and too raw to have the normal resiliency needed to deal with life. Their problem is not one of pride and strength, but rather of shame and weakness. What drives them to do this act is not the arrogance of a Hitler, but the weakness of an illness.

That's why we can make a distinction between "falling victim to suicide" and "killing oneself". The former is done out of illness, the latter is done out of pride. On the surface they might look the same, but there's an infinite moral distance between being too bruised to continue to touch life and being too arrogant to continue to take one's place within it.

And God, more than anyone else, understands this. God's understanding and compassion are much deeper than ours and God's hands are infinitely gentler than our own. If we, in our imperfect love and limited understanding, have some grasp of this, shouldn't we be trusting that God, who is perfect love and understanding, is up to the task and that our loved ones are safe in God's hands and God's understanding?

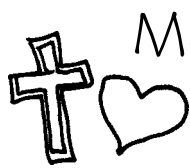
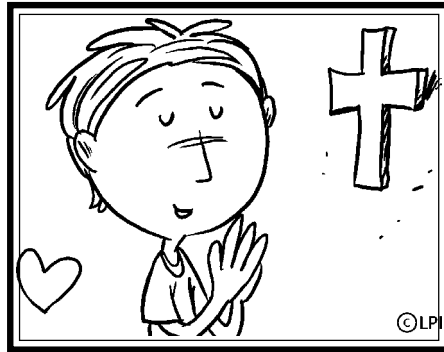
Any faith that connects itself to a God worth believing in doesn't have undue anxiety as to what will happen when God, finally, face to face, meets a bruised, gentle, over-sensitive, wounded, ill, struggling soul. Indeed, we have many scriptural references as to what happens, namely, God, who can descend into any hell we can create, goes straight through our locked doors, enters into the hell of our paranoia, illness, and fear, and gently breathes out peace.

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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

Do you know how to pray? All you need to do is talk to God. He is your loving Father. Tell him how you would like to make him happy. Ask him to give you the things you really need. Ask him to help you forgive other people, just like he forgives you. God loves you, so talk to him often.



## Mission for the Week

Make time to pray every day this week.



### Puzzle

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

**You are not ashamed to keep on asking.**

	A	S	K	I	N	G

### Prayer



Dear God,  
thank you for  
loving me and  
listening to me.

### Something to Draw



Draw a picture of  
your favorite place  
to talk to God.