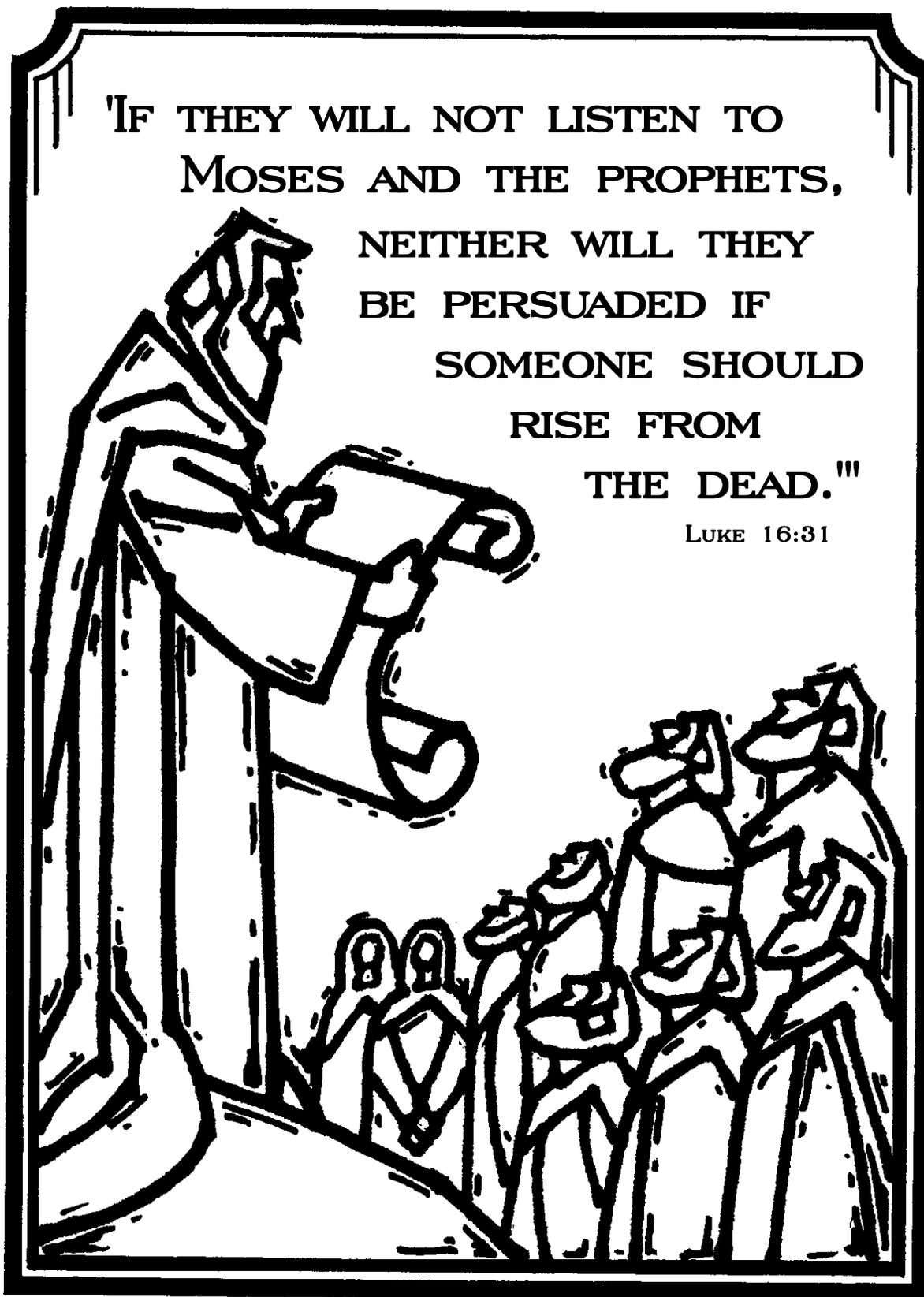


'IF THEY WILL NOT LISTEN TO
MOSES AND THE PROPHETS,
NEITHER WILL THEY
BE PERSUADED IF
SOMEONE SHOULD
RISE FROM
THE DEAD.''''

LUKE 16:31



TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OUR LADY OF LOURDES • SEPTEMBER 30, 2007



Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano
Pastor

Welcome to our Parish Family! New Parishioners are cordially invited to register as members of our parish family. Please call or visit our Parish Office.

Parish Office

661-3224

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Saturday: 9 AM - 3 PM

Sunday: 9 AM - 2 PM

email: ParishOffice@ollchurch.org

fax: 661-7143

website: www.ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes School

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: 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

Parish Outreach Office

661-9262

Monday-Friday: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

S.A.G.E.

661-3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth
and Enrichment)

email: Sage@ollchurch.org

Rev. Stanislaus Chukwube

Associate Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback

Associate Pastor

Deacon John DeGuardi

Deacon Jack Meehan

Coordinator of Stewardship

Deacon John Teufel

Sr. Margaret Bickar

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Sr. Nancy Campkin

Director of Religious Education

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 Scorgia

Ministry Spiritual Director

John Sureau

Coordinator of Worship

Sr. Betty Toohig

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Anthony Trombino

Business Manager

Pastoral Council

Salomon Acosta

Stacie Baltrusitis

Jane Desthers

Stephen Frodell

William Hurley

Anne Kerrigan

Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)

Jack Meehan

Vita Scorgia

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

Living Liturgy

It ain't over 'til it's over!

As we reflect on the power of the liturgy, some are missing out on one of the most important parts. The Concluding Rite of Mass sends us forth to go out to bring justice and peace to the world. To leave after receiving Communion is to rob yourself (and the community you're praying with) of that opportunity to receive God's blessing!

The Liturgy – and every Mass you attend- needs you! If you are finding yourself leaving earlier and earlier, please make an effort to join us in the Closing Prayer, Final Blessing and Concluding Hymn. It's just not the same without you!

Liturgy Committee

Our next **Liturgy Committee meeting is Monday, October 15 at 7:30 PM in the Library.** If you're interested in joining the Liturgy Committee – please e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org or call the Parish Office at 661.3224, x. 135.

Summer Evening Prayer

This past summer, we gathered for seven weeks to hear some powerful messages of prayer and challenge! Let us give thanks to God for our...

Homilists: Msgr. James Vlaun, Michael Chiappone and the young men from Hope House Ministries, Christian Sullivan, Sister Mary Alice Piil, Sister Diane Capuano, Joseph Bruno and Dr. Joanne O'Brien.

Sponsors and Friends: Shear Instincts, Newton and Sons, West Islip Orthodontics, Munch Landscape, Inc., South Bay Cardiovascular Associates, Parker Hannifin ESD, Uniondale Chemists.

Music Ministry, cantors, Presiders and "game show" participants....

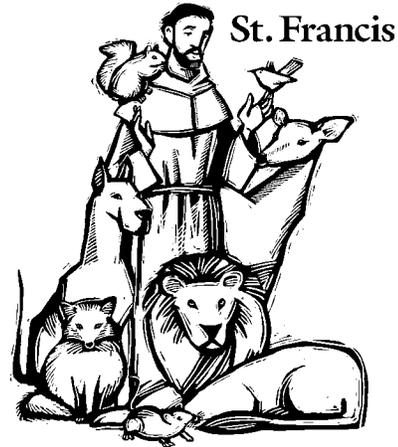
Summer Evening Prayer Committee: Kerri Ackerly, Diane Ackerly, Regina Beisner, Mary J. Borgs, Tony Buonaspina, Lisa Cantalino, Marc Cantalino, Patricia Cunn, Rosemary Feliney, Carl Franckowski, Trish Frodell, Carol Goetz, Kathleen Goldin, Thomas Gordon, Jr., Carol Gordon, Patrick Gordon, Jean Ann Gottsch, Patricia A. Kelley, Joanne Maher, Lisa Marie Maher, Theresa Moy, Maryanne Oross, Carolyn Paprocky, Fr. Bob Scheckenback, Barbara Stevens, Laura Walsh and all who helped to make our Evening Prayer Services so special.

And, of course, **YOU!!** This past summer, we saw many new faces along with many who have come to pray from year to year! Let's hope, pray and wish for even more in 2008!

If you're interested in working to plan and develop Summer Evening Prayer services for 2008, it's not too early to sign up! Our next meeting is in May, 2008. Contact John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail jsureau@ollchurch.org or Carol Paprocky at dc615@verizon.net.

Feast of St. Francis
Blessing of the Animals
Thursday, October 4
7 PM All-Purpose Room

The Feast of St. Francis will be celebrated with our annual blessing of the animals! Bring your animal friends, large and small, to our annual Blessing of the Animals in honor of St. Francis of Assisi's feast on **October 4 at 7 PM in our All Purpose Room**. We will gather for a beautiful prayer service followed by food and fun for all (including our four legged friends, those that crawl, those that swim and even those that fly!).



Single Senior Social

The first meeting of the Single Senior Social Group was Saturday, September 22. The meeting was very successful, with seventy-five people attending and at least ten phoned to be included in our file for future meetings. Plans are in the works for trips to Yonkers Raceway, New York City during the Christmas Holiday, Atlantic City, a Broadway show and dinner. We are also looking into a cruise in the Spring or Summer. Future meetings will include the OLL Football Wedding, a Christmas party and Line Dancing.

I would like to thank Father Mike for providing the food for our first meeting. I would also like to thank Higbie Heros for keeping our costs affordable. Thanks also to *Marie Ricigliano, Rosemary Dowling, Pat Falco, Ruth Hiller, Artie Petrino, John Giesler, Sister Nancy and Sister Diane and the Bereavement Group*. The support and help from all from setting up to cleaning up was so appreciated.

A special thank you to the *Sage Sisters and Mary McMahon* for helping me turn this from idea to a reality.

Our next meeting will be October 27 after the 5 PM Mass.

The meeting will be Game Night-so bring the game of your choice.

Dinner will be pizza, salad and dessert! This group is open to all single seniors!

Please feel free to join us for fun and companionship!

-Pat Wallace
Outreach Volunteer



The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, October 8** in observance of Columbus Day. The Parish Office will reopen on Tuesday, October 9 at 9 AM.

El Salvador Mission News

Each year the members of the Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Awareness Team share the experiences they have in El Salvador during our week long trip with the parish as often as possible. We also try to keep you informed about ways we are building a relationship with our sister parish in Tacuba. To better help us in this effort, the team has decided to publish a monthly newsletter, so that we can all share in the mission of helping and learning from our sisters and brothers in Central America. We hope that you enjoy learning about El Salvador and the experiences of our team members. We would also like to encourage any parishioner who either sponsors a child or has worked in any way with our mission team to share their reflections as well.

Thank you!
OLL Mission Awareness Team

Katie's Corner

By: Katie Olsen



Every month this year, while hearing about our friends and sister parish in El Salvador, we will remind ourselves of the ten Catholic Social Teachings, which will help us follow the Gospel in our daily lives.

Dignity of the Human Person

People are made in God's image—we are all God's children and inherit our dignity from God.

The basic foundation for the Catholic Social Teachings is that human life is sacred, and the dignity of the human person is the starting point for a moral vision for society. Dignity for the human person means that every boy and girl, no matter what their race, religion or nationality, can live a fully human life, with access to food, clothing, housing, education, work, and free-will. Dignity means the poor man Lazarus can sit down at the same table with the rich man.

A New Bridge in Esquipulas!

One of the most exciting parts of our trip this year was visiting the community of Esquipulas. Two years ago we were informed that the community was in desperate need of a footbridge to connect their village with the larger city where many work. This bridge would also connect them to necessary supplies and emergency medical care. The commute was very dangerous because of a river they needed to cross that rose significantly in the winter months. In fact, last year a child in the community had broken her arm the day before we arrived and they had to wait until we came for one of our trucks to drive her down the mountain to the hospital.

We brought this need back to the OLL and the parishioners were generous with their contributions, especially to our handicraft and holiday sales. The money we raised was sent down to assist the community members in building this bridge. Our mission trip members were able to visit and cross the new bridge that is now an invaluable part of this community's life.

As Fr. Mike said while blessing the bridge, this is more than just a footbridge; it is a bridge between our parish families that we hope will continue to grow!



If you would like to contribute to our newsletter by sharing your trip or sponsorship experience, please email Michelle at mbudion@optonline.net.

Adult Faith Formation

...coming in October



Gospel of Matthew

Tuesdays - October 23 November 6, 13, 20, 27
with Fr. Bob
7:30 PM until 9 :30 PM
Parish Center

Invitation to trust in God's presence...challenge to live as true disciples

Matthew's Gospel excites us with the news that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel. During these five weeks, we will explore the Jesus of Matthew's Gospel from the perspective of this year's Sunday readings...our Liturgical Cycle.

...coming in December

Apparitions of Mary Visits of the Mother of God

Tuesday - December 4
with Deacon Jack Meehan
7:30 PM until 9 :30 PM
Parish Center



What are the implications of her messages for all of us?

Together we will explore many of the well known apparitions of the Blessed Mother, including Lourdes, Fatima, Garabandal, and Medjugorje. Emphasis will be given to the time, context, and content of the messages.

Gentle Reminder: Preregistration is necessary and helpful This will enable us to have enough reading material and refreshments for all those attending. Please call the Religious Education Office Monday-Friday from 9 AM until 5 PM at 661.5440, extension 3 or email to religioused@ollchurch.org. Fee is \$25 and may vary with each class. No fee is required for those who have paid Religious Education Family Fee or Our Lady of Lourdes School tuition.

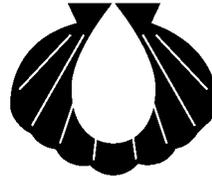
Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous:

Monday and Tuesday at
8 PM and Saturday at 2PM
and 7 PM in Lourdes Hall-
convent lower level.

ALANON:

Each Wednesday at
10 AM in Lourdes Hall-
convent lower level.



Baptisms

Mia Rose Biondo

Vincent and Donna

Sarah Elizabeth Lennon

Christopher and Danielle

Madison Olivia Madonia

Thomas and Kelly

Thomas Andrew Muller

Thomas and Kelly

Kenneth Thomas Nappe

Thomas and Kathleen

Upcoming Marriages

Colleen Quigley, St. Patrick's, Smithtown and

Scott Morgan, OLL

Deborah Rondinella, OLL and

David Sobel, St. Mary's, East Islip

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.

Mass Schedule

Monday, October 1

St. Therese of the Child Jesus, virgin, doctor

8:00 AM Eugene Clark

Tuesday, October 2

Guardian Angels

8:00 AM George Bukowski

Wednesday, October 3

8:00 AM Edward Wernikowski

Thursday, October 4

St. Francis of Assisi

8:00 AM Lydia & Gene Olsen

Friday, October 5

8:00 AM Angelo & Felicia DeLeo

Saturday, October 6

8:00 AM Rose Fabozzi (*1st Anniv.*), Vincent McCarthy, Peter Reilly, Thomas Grunenberg, Carol Schied, Salvatore DeMeo, Richard Zocchia, Helen DeMarco, In Thanks to Sacred Heart of Jesus, Catherine, Joseph, Jr. & Joseph, Sr. Carola

5:00 PM John Lovari

Sunday, October 7

8:00 AM Peggy Michaels

9:30 AM Richard Joseph Shaddock

11:00 AM Joseph Rizzo & Joseph Morrone

12:30 PM Mary D. Walsh

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Brian Bogart, Frank & Rose Lauria, Jean Herd, Anna Cortina, Santina Chillemi, Richard Zocchia, May McKieran, Rita Scott, Joseph Sullivan, Carol Russo

Rest In Peace

Victor Arcoleo, died on September 18 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was September 21. We extend our prayers to his sister, Stella, niece Rosalia and entire family.

Anthony Paul Caputo died on September 14 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was September 22. We extend our prayers to his mother and father, Susan and Ronald and his brothers Jay and Ronald, Jr.



Fabulous 50's

Football Wedding

with music by the notable
* Dominick and the Vel-tones

Saturday, November 10

7:30 PM - 11 PM

Old School Cafeteria

donation of \$25 per person
includes food and soda (byob)
proceeds to benefit
Our Lady of Lourdes
Parish Outreach

tickets now on sale at
Outreach Office
10 AM - 3:30 PM
661-9262

Green Alert:

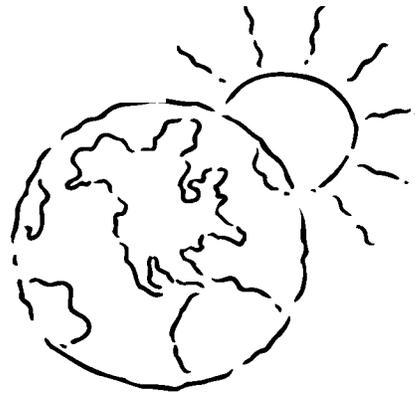
Green Friday

Please join us on **Friday, October 5**

7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Parish Center and Church

for a presentation of "*An Inconvenient Truth*" for adults. "*An Inconvenient Truth*" offers a passionate and inspirational look at one man's fervent crusade to halt global warming's deadly progress in its tracks by exposing the myths and misconceptions that surround it. That man is former Vice President Al Gore.

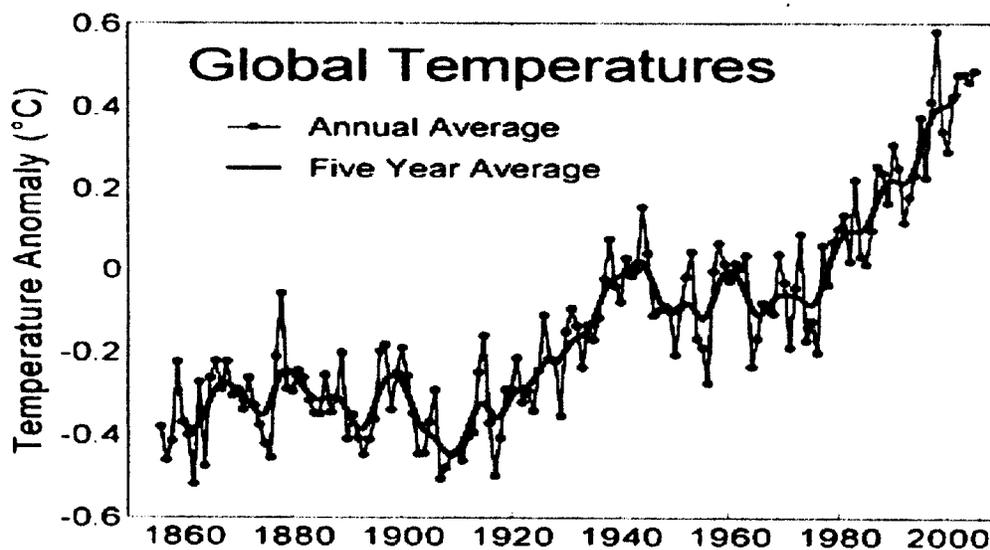


...and there will be "*Happy Feet*" and popcorn for the children. After the movies, there will be "Green Hospitality" and "Green Giveaways."

During the summer, the Social Action Committee started discussions about issues related to ecology and the environment. The result of these discussions is our offering the movie "*An Inconvenient Truth*."

**We realize we do not own the earth -
we are stewards of the planet, entrusted with it's care.**

"*An Inconvenient Truth*" offers information on the issues of Global Warming - sure to be a topic in the 2008 elections. The evening will be an opportunity to understand the implications of Global Warming so we can make educated choices. Any doubt that Global Warming is a reality? Come see the film.



Here are some "Green" websites for you to visit www.greenergood.com,
www.liveearth.org and www.thegreenguide.com.

p.s. Please recycle your weekly bulletin to keep our Earth green.

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.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Pat Wissing*.

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.
- would like to receive the sacred anointing.

Pray for Our Sick

Please remember to keep in your thoughts and prayers ...

Cathy Badalmenti, Pat Bonavita, Carol Brander, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Howard Campkin, Lynn Castellano, Thomas Courtney, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Frank Curcio, Karen DellaVecchia, TJ Devlin, Josephine DiBenedetto, Anthony Ferrante, Jason Fisher, John Green, Marie Harris, Samantha Hil, Ed Hill, 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, Christine Neal, Joseph Ortiz, Arthur Petrino, Baby Conner Pietras, Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds, Dorothy Schiavone, Joe Shields, Derek Stahl, Dorothy Sullivan, Loretta Vitale

17th Year Anniversary of the

Nocturnal Adoration Society

Come and pray with us on Saturday, October 6 from 6 PM until 10 PM in the Church. Our Lady of Lourdes Nocturnal Adoration Society celebrates seventeen years of service to our parish. On this special evening, we will hold the annual enrollment for members. The only requirement for installation is a loving heart for Jesus.

If you are interested, please call Eileen Carroll at 321.7153 so that we can have enough NAS pins and booklets. All are invited and welcome!



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**.

50th Year Anniversary of the

Rosary Christian Mothers

The Rosary Christian Mothers meet on the first Monday evening of each month. The next meeting will be **Monday, October 1**.

We will begin with **Rosary at 7:45 PM in the Parish Center** followed by **meeting at 8 PM also in the Parish Center**.



Past and present members of the Rosary Christian Mothers are celebrating our **50th Anniversary November 18**.

We will begin with the celebration of Mass at 9:30 AM and brunch to follow at the Marconi Manor, Islip. Tickets are \$35. Members and families are welcome.

If interested, please call Claire at 669.3178, Patty at 669.1727, Angie at 586.2084 or Angela at 669.7275.



26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In many upscale neighborhoods across this country, there are housing developments called "gated communities." Behind these gates can be found the wealthiest people living in the finest homes. Without proper identification or permission, outsiders are prohibited from entering into these neighborhoods. One must consider the question of who is really separated from whom, though; do the wealthy keep the world out, or does the world keep the wealthy confined?

In today's Gospel reading from Luke, Jesus paints a graphic picture of life on earth versus life in heaven. Whatever we are lacking or suffering from in this existence will be rewarded, provided we are faithful to God's teachings. Just as Lazarus' painful life was relieved, so, too, was the rich man's selfishness rewarded. Whatever compassion he did not have or show, he was repaid in kind. In the end, the beggar received his reward, and the wealthy became a beggar for mercy.

We are taught in the Catechism of the Catholic Church that human misery is the obvious sign of human frailty and the need for salvation. (CCC 2448) Jesus Christ did not spend his ministry in the presence of the wise and the wealthy; rather, he sought to minister to the poor, the sick, and the sinners. Today, look inward and see if you have erected a gate around your heart, open that gate and free your mercy and compassion for others!

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Readings for the Week of September 30, 2007

Sunday:	Am 6:1a, 4-7/1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31
Monday:	Zec 8:1-8/Lk 9:46-50
Tuesday:	Zec 8:20-23/Mt 18:1-5, 10
Wednesday:	Neh 2:1-8/Lk 9:57-62
Thursday:	Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12/Lk 10:1-12
Friday:	Bar 1:15-22/Lk 10:13-16
Saturday:	Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Lk 10:17-24
Next Sunday:	Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4/2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14/Lk 17:5-10

Financial Summary

September 23, 2007

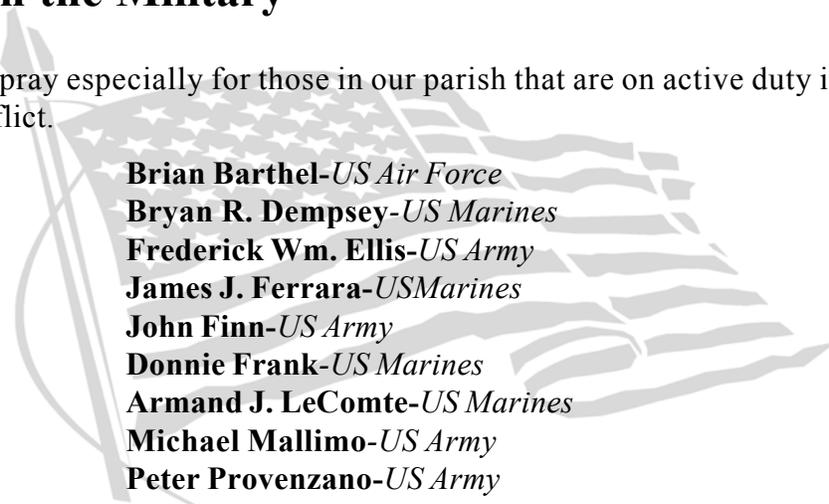
Weekly Collection	\$ 17,315.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (3,685.00)

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*
James J. Ferrara-*US Marines*
John Finn-*US Army*
Donnie Frank-*US Marines*
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.

Our whole parish family rejoices with the Provast Family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty. **Nathan Provast** -*US Marines* has returned to the United States safe and sound. Thank you, Nathan, for your generous service to our country!

The Provast Family would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family for all of their prayers.

A Day of Reflection...

on the Root Causes of Poverty and the Issue of Human Trafficking sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Globalization, poverty, and human trafficking are part of the same complex phenomenon. Many perspectives compete with that of the Gospel of Jesus to confound and confuse us as we struggle to understand them. We invite you to a day of reflection whose goal is to de-mystify these very issues in the context of prayer. Join us on Saturday, November 3 at St. John's University from 9 AM until 4 PM. If you have any questions or to register please call 718.651.1685.

Sisters of St. Joseph

Are you looking for a way to deepen your relationship with God and with others of like mind? The Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood, New York invite you to consider joining the CSJ Associates:

“Catholic women and men who associate themselves with the Sisters of St. Joseph in their mission to bring about the reign of God as they strive to live simply and work for a more just and peaceful world.”

For further information contact the co-directors: S. Phyllis Esposito, CSJ at 631.589.0540 or Liz Tully at etully2003@optonline.net.

Life Center of Long Island

Fourteenth Annual Dinner Dance with guest speaker, Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life. The Dinner Dance will be held on Thursday, October 11 at 7 PM at the Woodbury Country Club. \$100 per person includes cocktail hour, dinner and dancing, and hearing one of the most prominent pro-life speakers in the world. For further information call 516.798.9100.

Help Feed the Hungry

The Mercy Inn Soup Kitchen of Wyandanch is in need of a volunteer to help prepare and cook food on Wednesdays. The hours are 8:30 AM until 1:45 PM. If you can help, call Kathy at 631.422.1420.

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: **“Doing & Being.”** Don't forget to tune in! Visit “Religion & Rock” on the web, 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.

Extend Your Sunday Worship

Stand up for Life

October is Respect Life Month

Sunday, October 7 from 2 PM until 3:30 PM (rain or shine) on Route 110 and Route 25 in Huntington. Signs will be distributed at the site. You will be participating in one of 1200 similar events in the United States and Canada.

Spiritual Care Companion Program

Are you looking for an avenue to volunteer your time with others? Come and learn more about sharing your gift of time and presence as a Spiritual Care Companion with those that are hospitalized or living in the nursing home. Spiritual Care Companions will attend a free six-week training program from early October through mid November covering such topics as: -goals of ministry to the sick, -how to be a good listener and serve as a spiritual companion, -how to respond to crisis and grief. For more information, please call Mary T. O'Neill at 631.474.5663 or Peg Nixdorf at 631.587.1600.

Contemplative Outreach of Long Island/Queens

Contemplative Outreach of Long Island/Queens will be hosting a Welcoming Prayer Retreat on October 26-28 at Our Lady of Grace Retreat House in Manhasset. For further information, please call Diane Garretson at 631.587.0966

What God arranges for us to experience at each moment is the best and holiest thing that could happen to us.

-Jean-Piere de Caussard

Hospice Volunteer Training Program

Hospice volunteers are a special gift to those overwhelmed with the responsibility of caring for someone who is terminally ill. Visiting Nurse Service and Hospice of Suffolk is offering a Volunteer Training Program every Tuesday and Thursday night for three weeks from 7 PM until 9 PM starting October 9. The class will be held at the Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk County, Northport. For more information, please call Pat Quigley at 631.930.9317.

Financial Planning Workshop

Be prepared. New laws, new retirement trends and the explosion of the baby-boomer retirees will greatly impact our future. See why and how you can protect yourself in an educational workshop on **Thursday, October 4 at St. Patrick Church from 7:30 PM until 9:30 PM**. For registration and/or information, please call Catherine Dennis at St. Pat's Outreach at 631.665.7216.

11th Annual Baby/Child Equipment & Toy Sale

Saturday, October 13 from 9 AM - 1 PM (rain or shine)

Our Lady of Queen of Martyrs Church, Centerport

Vendors Wanted: Do you want to reclaim space in your home but don't want to have a garage sale? Do you have baby or child related items such as strollers, car seats, cribs, toys that you no longer need? Be a vendor at our group Baby/Child Equipment & Toy Sale! We'll help you free up that space while you make some money. We'll do all of the advertising and bring in the customers, all you have to do is price and sell your items. There is a fee of \$10 to reserve your table plus OLQM Parish Outreach receives 10% commission of your total sales.

Donations Wanted: Do you want to clean out your basement and attic, but don't want to be a vendor at the sale? You can donate your gently used baby/child equipment and toys to us. Items for donation can be dropped off in the Community Room on Friday, October 12 from noon until 7 PM. No clothing please. For information please call 631.4787.3142 or email to olqmbabysale@hotmail.com. All proceeds benefit OLQM Parish Outreach.

Free Help for Job Helpers

Established, nonsectarian guidance program for anyone seeking employment-new college grads, first-time job hunters, returnees, recently terminated. Experienced counselors help you sharpen your search skills. Consecutive Monday evening sessions cover career assessment, planning and researching, resume writing, networking and interviewing. First session is

Monday, October 1 at 7 PM. Advanced registration is required. Call 631.754.9045

Golden Wedding Anniversary

On **Sunday, November 18, 2007** couples married 50 years or more are invited to a special Mass to be celebrated by Bishop John Dunne at **Christ the King, Commack at 4 PM.**

Please pick up and fill out your registration card at the Parish Office no later than October 29. Approximately one week before the ceremony information regarding the celebration will be mailed to you. If you have any questions you may call 516.678.5800, extension 242.

Education of a Lifetime

A Catholic High School education offers young people a challenging, value-centered liberal arts education. It also affords each student an opportunity to test abilities, add skills, build confidence and develop an understanding of faith, while preparing for college and for life. Learn more about each school by attending its Open House. For more information, contact the individual High School or the Catholic Secondary School Administration at 516.739.5030.

Open House Schedule

Sunday, September 16	10 AM - 1 PM	St. Anthony's High School
Saturday, September 22	11 AM - 1:30 PM	Our Lady of Mercy Academy
Sunday, September 23	1 PM - 4 PM	St. Dominic High School
Sunday, September 30	12 PM - 2:30 PM	Holy Trinity High School
	2 PM - 4:30 PM	St. Mary's College Prep. High School
Saturday, October 13	9:30 AM - 12 PM	Sacred Heart Academy
	10 AM - 1 PM	Kellenberg Memorial H. S.
	2 PM - 4 PM	Chaminade H. S.
Sunday, October 14	10:30 AM - 2 PM	St. John the Baptist D.H.S.
Saturday, October 20	12 PM - 2 PM	Academy of St. Joseph
Sunday, October 21	10 AM - 1 PM	McGann-Mercy D.H. S.

The Catholic High School Entrance Exam is scheduled for Saturday, October 27 and will be held at several locations. Applications for the Catholic High School entrance exam are available at the Religious Education Office and the OLL School Office. If you have any questions, please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option #3 or the OLL School Office at 661.7200, option #2.

Oktoberfest

Knights of Columbus Council 11968 invite you to a night of fun, food and dancing at Oktoberfest on **Friday, October 5 7:30 PM - 11 PM at Our Lady of Grace, West Babylon-Fr. Shanahan Hall.** Tickets are \$25 per person. For ticket information call Tom at 631.888.2965 or 631.957.2835.

Binding and Loosing

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Gabriel Marcel once said: "To love someone is to say to that person, you at least will not die!"

He's right. To cherish another person is to give him or her a meaning and permanence that accident and death cannot take away. But there's a deeper meaning too: To love someone is to hold a place in heaven for him or her. What's meant by that? It sounds fanciful.

This idea is present inside the Christian scriptures, but it's also something we intuit in our hearts. Like Job, without the benefit of a belief in life after death but still knowing in his gut that ultimately love triumphs, we too know in the recesses of our hearts that love's bonds are salvific. In the end, we won't be separated from our loved ones, even if we walk different paths in life, except if the other positively chooses to be separated. We make places for each other in heaven through love.

What does this mean?

Jesus said: "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Too often we understand this simplistically, taking it to mean that Jesus placed special power inside scripture, the sacraments, and the institutional church. True. But there's more.

At another level, in saying that we can bind and loose, Jesus is saying what Gabriel Marcel is saying, namely, that to love another person is to assure him or her a place (if he or she wants it) in heaven. How does this work?

When Jesus walked the roads of Palestine for three years, a wondrous grace came to all who touched him. To touch Jesus, in love and sincerity, was to be healed, converted, made to walk upright, made to hear, and made to praise God. It also gave that person a place inside the community of life. To touch Jesus or to be touched by him was salvation.

But Jesus didn't take this grace away when he ascended. He left it with the community of believers, the community of the sincere, which is now his body on earth. In fact he promised that we, his body, could do "even greater things" than he did.

And his body is not just the historical church in its scriptures, sacraments, church gatherings, institutional structures, and hierarchy. Rather, all of us together, and each one of us individually, make up the body of Christ on earth. Therefore when we touch someone or

someone touches us in love and sincerity, if we are in inside the community of faith and sincerity, that other person is touching the body of Christ just as surely as people at the time of Jesus were able to touch him.

We are the body of Christ on earth and, like Jesus, have the power to bind and loose. Among other things, this means that when our loved ones (spouses, children, family, friends, colleagues) no longer walk the path of explicit faith and church with us, we can connect them to the faith, the church, the body of Christ, and heaven itself simply by remaining bonded with them in love and community. By being connected with us, they are connected to the church (since we are the church). Moreover, when we forgive them anything, including their non-church going, they are forgiven by the church and forgiven too, Jesus assures us, in heaven.

One of the marvels of the incarnation is that, if we want, our heaven will include our loved ones. In 1995, when Quebec was holding a referendum to decide whether or not to remain part of Canada, a popular slogan across Canada read: "My Canada includes Quebec!" We can say the same thing about our loved ones, even when they don't go to church with us: "My heaven includes my children, my spouse, this particular friend!" Heaven will back that up. That's Jesus' promise.

Partly this is mystical, partly it's simply the dynamics of love and family. What binds us together as family is much deeper and wider than simply who is at table with us on a given Sunday.

That's one side of equation, the church side, but this also works the other way: Sometimes we, the church-goers (with our own moral and spiritual blind spots), are held inside the body of Christ, the community of the sincere, by those who love us (and don't go to church with us), but who are at God's table in some areas where we are not.

This idea is so wild and wonderful that it's hard to believe. It's always been this way. It's not easy to believe that heaven is as accessible as the nearest water tap, or the nearest friend. When Pope Pius XII was giving the instruction for his Encyclical on the Body of Christ, *Mystici Corporis*, he told educators and preachers: "When you are teaching about the Body of Christ, don't be afraid to exaggerate, because it is impossible to exaggerate so great a mystery!" What an apt description of the incarnation!

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

Sharing the Gospel

Today Jesus told a story about a selfish rich man who ignored God and refused to share with other people. All his money did him no good when he died. He didn't go to heaven. He had his whole life to learn about God, and he could have helped many people with his money. Instead, he forgot about God. He wasted his riches and bought a lot of nice things for himself. Learn from the rich man. Live for God, not for money.



Mission for the Week

Use four jars to save your money, and label them GOD, GIVE, SAVE, and SPEND. Use the money from the first two jars to share with God and others. Use the money in the last two jars for yourself.

Puzzle

Copy the picture square by square.

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Prayer



Dear God, help me to share the things you have given me. I love you more than money.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of yourself using some money you saved to buy peanut butter for a poor family.