

*"One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth
from the mouth of God."*

Matthew 4:4



*First Sunday of Lent
Our Lady of Lourdes · February 10, 2008*



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

Dominic Armano

Youth Ministry

Sr. Margaret Bickar

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Sr. Nancy Campkin

Director of Religious Education

Jennifer Gallagher

Children's Choir/Women's Chorale

Summer Program Director

Carol M. Goetz

Parish Music Director

Louise Jane Krol

School Principal

Sr. Diane Liona

Director of Religious Education

Mary McMahon

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Vita Scorcio

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*)

Deacon Jack Meehan

Vita Scorcio

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

Not sure what to do for Lent?

Are you ready for something new and meaningful?

Let us show you the way!

Come and experience what Isaiah, the prophet, described as a fast that is pleasing to God.

Here is what Isaiah said...

*Would that today you might fast
so as to make your voice heard on high!
Is this the manner of fasting I wish,
of keeping a day of penance:
That a man bow his head like a reed
and lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Do you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
This, rather, is the fasting that I wish:
releasing those bound unjustly,
untying the thongs of the yoke;
Setting free the oppressed,
breaking every yoke;
Sharing your bread with the hungry,
sheltering the oppressed and the homeless;
Clothing the naked when you see them,
and not turning your back on your own.
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your wound shall quickly be healed;
Your vindication shall go before you,
and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear
guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer,
you shall cry for help, and he will say:
Here I am!*

Here is the invitation...

We invite you and your family to take upon yourself a simpler way of life – the life lived by millions who suffer poverty and low income.

We invite you to live on a food stamp budget for one week—a minimal amount barely sufficient for basic needs.

In this way we invite you to experience life as the poor and needy do each day.

Why is it pleasing to God?

We will invite you in your own way and in your own time to use the time, the energy, the money you save to benefit someone who is truly needy through our outreach program.

In this way your fast will be the giving up of what someone else needs.

**Co-sponsored by our Sister Parish Team
and OLL Youth Ministry**

A Fast that is Pleasing to God

Guidelines for OLL Lenten Food Stamp Fast

Sunday, March 2 - Sunday, March 9

All participants will be invited to begin their week of fasting with a blessing at mass on the weekend of **March 1/2**. The blessing will be given at all masses that weekend and will officially begin our week of fasting in solidarity with the poor. We ask that, as much as is possible, you observe the following guidelines. Participating in the fast is symbolic, and we recognize that some may not be able to keep to the guidelines exactly (especially where there are health concerns, etc.) It is the spirit of the fast that is important, rather than how well you adhere to individual guidelines below. Let's spend the week mindful of those who do not have choices as we do.

Participation Guidelines

1. The Food Stamp budget is approximately \$21 per person per week. Since those on food stamps might also receive some other assistance, we will also add:
 - a) a \$40 allotment per family to buy staples only (rice, canned food, etc.) as these are items a needy family would receive from a food pantry or outreach center.
 - b) If there are children in your household add \$10 per child per week since school children often receive a federal free lunch program.
2. All food purchased and eaten during the Challenge week, including fast food and dining out must be included in the total spending.
3. During the Challenge, only eat food that you purchase for the project. Do not eat food that you already own (this does *not* include spices and condiments).
4. Avoid accepting free food from friends, family or at work.
5. Since part of a typical food stamp recipient's week might include a visit to a soup kitchen, you will be invited to a Soup Supper at OLL on Wednesday, March 5 at 6 PM.
6. Please keep track of receipts on food spending and take note of your experiences throughout the week. Whenever you go to a store to buy food bring only the cash that is in your budget. In this way you will not be able to buy more than you are supposed to.

**We will end our fast on Sunday, March 9 with a
“Break-fast” right after the 9:30 AM Mass.**



Catholic Schools Week Thank You

Mrs. Krol, on behalf of the students and faculty of Our Lady of Lourdes School, would like to take the opportunity of Catholic Schools Week to thank both school families and parishioners for over two generations of continued help and support for our wonderful school!

Thank you from all our hearts!

Korean Exchange Students

Our Lady of Lourdes is proud to be part of a global exchange program and happily welcomes our new friends from Seoul, Korea.

School and parish families have opened their homes to students in grades 4 through 8, so they can have a true American experience day and night.

The OLL students are interested in learning about the exchange students' culture, while teaching them about ours. They are also interested in how to speak and spell their names in Korean, as well as what it is like in their country and what games they play at home. It's a wonderful learning experience for everyone involved.

OLL Musicians in County Festival!

Suffolk County Music Educator's Association (SCMEA) will be holding its annual SCMEA Festival Concert on March 8. Several nominated students from Our Lady of Lourdes were chosen to participate. They are: *Jack Paccione, Dorothy Wilkinson and Jacqueline Hahn* were chosen to sing in the Division I Chorus. *Robert Buonaspina and Eva Gallegos* were chosen to play in the Division I Orchestra. The Division II Chorus will include *Danielle King*. *John Tozzi* was chosen to be part of the Division II Orchestra.

These students will join with the best singers and musicians chosen from Suffolk County schools. Congratulations to our SCMEA participants!

mark your calendar...

24th Annual OLL Golf Classic

Timber Point Country Club

Thursday, June 19 at 2:30 PM

This year's honorees are *Sister Nancy and Sister Diane*

- Singles, twosomes and foursomes are welcome
- Sponsorships ranging from \$50 to \$1,500 are now available
- Awards and prizes throughout the day (including a live auction with professional auctioneer)
- Includes barbeque lunch and gourmet dinner
- \$175 for golf and dinner or \$75 for dinner only
- All skill levels are welcome

Last year we had over 120 golfers and/or dinner guests. Please call Joe Macina at 647.7440 or Frank Antonawich at 587.7988 or the school office at 587.7200 for further information. Last year's event was a great success and key fundraiser for the school. Don't miss it...sign up today!



save the date...

Parish Lenten Retreat

Monday, **March 3**, Tuesday, **March 4** and Wednesday, **March 5**

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

7:30 PM

Fr. Bob Lauder – columnist for The Long Island Catholic and professor at St. John's University.

Adult Faith Formation

Celebrating Life...

Beyond Breast Cancer-

a special evening for women who have survived breast cancer

TUMOR...MALIGNANT...CANCER...

Words we all hope never to hear. Words which have the power to instill fear and despair or inspire acts of great courage and faith.

On Tuesday, February 12, Adult Faith Formation is hosting an evening of reflection for all **women who have journeyed through breast cancer**. Please join us from 7:30-9:30 PM in the Parish Center as we explore our unique and very personal responses to Breast Cancer. Be with us as we attempt to move through trauma to transformation.

Tuesday, February 12

7:30-9:30 PM

Parish Center

Presenters are Vita Scorgia, OLL Ministry Spiritual Director and Mary McMahon, Director of Parish Social Ministry

Pre-Registration 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, between 9AM – 5 PM at 661.5440 x3, or e-mail to: religioused@ollchurch.org.

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.



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.

Rest In Peace

Mary Anne Nordhausen died on January 25 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 28. We extend our prayers to her husband James, children, and grandchildren.

Nancy Catalano died on January 25 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 28. We extend our prayers to her husband Joseph, children and grandchildren.

Anthony Ferrante died on January 26 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 29. We extend our prayers to his wife, Veronica, their children, grandchildren and entire family.

Edward Mueller died on January 26 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 29. We extend our prayers to his wife, Robin and their children.

Mass Schedule

Monday, February 11

Our Lady of Lourdes

8:00 AM People of the Parish

Tuesday, February 12

8:00 AM John Flynn

Wednesday, February 13

8:00 AM Elva Isola & Mary Fusco

Thursday, February 14

St. Cyril, monk and St. Methodius, bishop

8:00 AM Steven Perone

Friday, February 15

8:00 AM Theresa Reardon & Carmine Bucherelli

Saturday, February 16

8:00 AM Concetta Petrucci, Jo Brogan (*1st Anniversary*), Rose Carillo, Grace Valda Ambat, Dr. Robert Mercurio, Burton Dunn, Dec'd mbrs of the Woods Family, Barbara McGarrity, Claire Reddie, Carmine Maiocco, Giuseppe Modagno

5:00 PM Margaret Orandello

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Sunday, February 17

8:00 AM Consuelo Ball

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

9:30 AM Joseph & Josephine Zucco

Fr. Stan Chukwube

11:00 AM Jo Brogan

Fr. John Asomugha

12:30 PM Mary D. Walsh

Fr. Stan Chukwube

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Kathleen Bernard, James Francis Kaste, Andrew Brennan, Maria Tortora, Mary Anne Nordhausen, Nancy Catalano, Alexander Ubertini, Warren Hechinger, Rosemary Tiedeman, Jan Jaroszuk

Fr. John Asomugha

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage Rome, Florence, Assisi and Milan October 16 - 25, 2008

Our next information meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 27 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

As promised Italian pastries will be served along with updated travel information. If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please call Deacon John at 661.3224, extension 132.



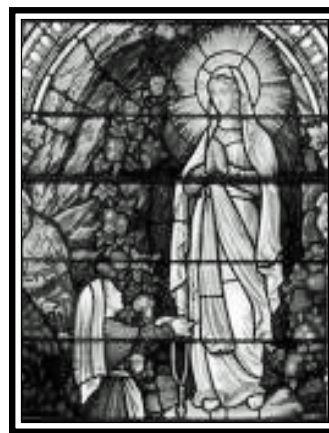
You're Invited to Join Us for Our... 6th Annual Mission Awareness Retreat

Attention young people in grades 9 - 12... Our Lady of Lourdes Parish announces our sixth annual **Mission Awareness Retreat from June 28 - July 3 in El Salvador.**

Our information meeting will be on Wednesday, February 27 at 7 PM in the Church. Would you like to spend a few days this summer living and working with the poor, experiencing another culture? Join Fr. Mike, Jen Gallagher and a team of 20 adults and students as we spend six days in El Salvador on a trip sponsored by the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging. We'll have a tightly planned itinerary led by the CFCA team, we'll visit homes, schools, churches, and workplaces as we experience the culture, spirituality, and simple lifestyle of the Salvadoran people. Accommodations will be safe, simple, and comfortable. We will even be able to run a mini-Vacation Bible Camp in our sister Parish at Tacuba!

If you are interested in hearing about the trip, we invite you to come to an initial planning meeting on Wednesday, February 27 at 7 PM in the Church. Because of the trip costs (approximately \$1200) and the need to do individual fundraising this year, we urge all students who are thinking about the trip to be at this initial meeting. We will talk about all trip details and fundraising possibilities. If you are interested in attending the trip but cannot make the meeting, email Jen Gallagher at jengallagher@ollchurch.org.

150th Anniversary of Lourdes Apparition Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes



Please join us for a special dedication this weekend at all Masses. We will have a rededication of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in honor of the 150th Anniversary of Lourdes Apparition.

We will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on Monday, February 11 at the 8 AM Mass. All are invited to join us at this Mass. We will have fellowship and a bagel breakfast in the Parish Center following Mass.



Icons In Our Prayer and Meditation: An Evening of Prayer and Reflection Tuesday, February 26 7:30 PM in the Church

Bring your faith to another level during an evening of prayer in the presence of nine icon images. Experience this rare moment to be with both iconographer Deacon John DeGuardi and nine of his icons guiding you in prayer and contemplation.

Our Christian heritage is vast in both the European and Byzantine images that can inspire deeper levels of prayer. The differences between the Eastern and Western churches are apparent in their art, however, according to the Eastern Church, icons are not art in the general sense, but a method of prayer.

When one looks at an icon, one can have the experience that the image is looking back at the viewer in prayer. The ministry of the icon painter is that of a theologian: first, to know and love God, second: to praise God, and third: to reflect on one's own experience of God from within a community of praise and present that reflection for the community's deeper understanding of its faith.

2008 Catholic Ministries Appeal

The Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us

The Catholic Ministries Appeal Kicks Off

As the 50th anniversary of the Diocese of Rockville Centre continues the 2008 Catholic Ministries Appeal also continues the tradition of helping all those in our community who look to our Church to be the beacon of hope. Our appeal helps to fund the different ministries and agencies throughout Long Island that provide the much needed assistance to those families who seek help. As stewards of God's gifts, you are invited to respond by sharing those gifts to help those in need in our communities.

A Letter from Bishop Murphy

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

Every year there are more than 500,000 people within our Long Island community who turn to our Catholic Church for help. Because of the generosity of more than 44,000 donors who support the Catholic Ministries Appeal, we are able to answer their calls, and provide critical assistance to them and to their families. It is a great privilege for me to serve as your Bishop and work together with you on their behalf.

Every day, because of your commitment to share your gifts from God with others, we are able to be "the Hands of Christ Supporting the Community Around Us" as we provide food, housing, and assistance to the elderly and fragile; as we support people with disabilities; and as we help educate our youngsters and encourage and help form their life-long love of God and His people. The Catholic Ministries Appeal also supports the critical formation studies of our seminarians and deacons; helps welcome and evangelize people from many different backgrounds to our faith; and answers the religious, spiritual and health needs of more than 45,000 people in our Mission in the Dominican Republic. All of this would not be possible without your generosity.

Through your gift the Catholic Ministries Appeal helps enrich the communities we live in. It provides each of us with a way to share our blessings from God with our neighbors as a sign of gratitude for all that we have been given.

As the Diocese of Rockville Centre enters its second 50 years, may I ask you to take a moment to review the materials that have been included with this letter. We hope these materials clearly express my thanks and appreciation as well as help introduce you to some of the very special people whose lives you have helped. Please know that the donations that you have provided are working every minute of every day to support the ministries of our Diocese.

We are so deeply grateful for the sacrifices that you have made to support the work of the Catholic Church here on Long Island. Your generosity and commitment to our Church family fills me with confidence that many wonderful things will continue to take place in our Diocese.

Thank you for all that you have done for our Diocese, and for your consideration of the call to, once again, act as the "Hands of Christ" supporting the community around us

*Sincerely yours in Christ,
William Murphy
Bishop of Rockville Centre*

For More Information, please call 516-379-5210, Ext. 2 or e-mail us at www.drvc.org/cma.html

Mass Book of Intentions

The 2009 Mass Book of Intentions will be opening on **Tuesday, February 26** at **9 AM in the Parish Office**. As always, we will do our best to accommodate your Mass Intention requests.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Angela Mac Dermott*. 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 ...

Susan Aviza, Stacie Baltrusitis, Deacon Dick Barry, Pat Bonavita, Joseph Bott, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Howard Campkin, Josephine Carrano, Louis Castellano, Lynn Castellano, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Karen DellaVecchia, TJ Devlin, Josephine DiBenedetto, Charles Diesso, Kim Ecker, Jason Fisher, Samantha Hil, Vincent Iacopelli, Wade Kromhout, Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch, Anthony Lombardo, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., David McCarthy, Helen Menite, Bryan Monahan, Marguerite Mooney, Jimmy Murphy, Joseph Ortiz, Maria Pereira, Arthur Petrino, Joe Radosti, Patricia Salimbene, Dorothy Schiavone, Carolann Sokol, Derek Stahl, Dorothy Sullivan, Loretta Vitale



ready to
endure

©LPI

First Sunday of Lent

Every October, approximately 40,000 people fill the street just outside of Grant Park in Chicago for the running of the Chicago Marathon. They nervously stretch in anticipation of the race ahead of them; they have trained for months for this day. With a horn's loud blare, they are off, a sea of humanity following a path to a finish line. Throughout the race, perfect strangers offer encouragement to those slowing down: "Don't give up!"

Jesus had known in his heart of the path on which his heavenly Father had placed him. And now, as he began his journey, he was immediately offered an opportunity to give up, to take the easy way out. By submitting to the temptations of Satan, he could easily achieve a wealthy, pain-free earthly life. But he knew his path and the ultimate goal, and nothing would stray him from his mission.

Are we ready to endure the long race? On this first Sunday of Lent, we must draw deeply upon the moral virtue of fortitude, which enables us to resist temptations and to overcome obstacles in the moral life (CCC 1808). The race is long, it is hard, it will present us with difficult challenges, and yet the finish line never moves. Eternal rest in the kingdom of heaven for a life well led will be your greatest reward. Don't give up!

©2007 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of February 10, 2008

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Rom 5:12-19
or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

Financial Summary

February 3, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 22,110.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 1,110.00

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:



Lorenzo Bacchi-*US Marines*
Bryan R. Dempsey-*US Marines*
Jeremy deRoxas-*US Air Force*
James J. Ferrara-*US Marines*
John Finn-*US Army*
Christopher Florca-*US Marines*
Donnie Frank-*US Marines*
Armand J. LeComte-*US Marines*
Anthony Mannino-*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.

Our whole parish family rejoices with the Ellis Family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty. **Frederick Wm. Ellis** -*US Army* has returned to the United States safe and sound from his tour of duty. Thank you, Frederick, for your generous service to our country! The Ellis Family would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family for all of their prayers.



- baked beans
- boxed potatoes
- boxed rice
- canned meat
- cookies
- crackers
- hot chocolate
- mayonnaise

Parish Outreach

Outreach Office Hours

Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM.

For information/assistance call 661.9262.

MICAH: A Campaign to End LI Poverty

(Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger)

Inadequate Government Funding for Child Care

Child care makes it possible for thousands of Long Island parents to work; it is essential to the economic survival of working poor parents. On Long Island, child care is a \$612 million dollar industry that has been estimated to generate almost \$2 in total additional sales for every dollar spent on child care. The quality and funding of child care is determined by a mix of market forces and government policies. The State government determines, county by county, market rates for child care services. For example, the current market rate for Nassau and Suffolk County children, ages 3-5, in regulated child care (family/group family and center-based care) is \$250 a week. The government provides child care subsidies for working poor families. But, because federal and State funding for child care falls short of the need, low-income parents must pay a Family Share (co-payment) for their child care. In Suffolk County, for example, with a current 25% Family Share, a family earning \$40,000 a year would have to pay \$93.26 a week toward the \$250 cost of child care, or \$373 a month. Take a look at this monthly budget for a family of four earning \$40,000 year. Where can they reduce or eliminate spending in order to find \$373 to pay their Family Share of child care? Will they have to choose between buying food and paying for child care? Will they seek help at a food pantry?

(Note: One option is to use an unregulated, possibly unsafe, illegal provider who may be cheaper)

Budget Item	Monthly Expenditure
Food	\$420
Rent (2 bedroom apartment, with utilities)	\$1,304
Telephone	\$65
Auto maintenance: gas, insurance, repairs, loan	\$434
Clothes	\$140
Miscellaneous: household, personal hygiene, bedding, etc.	\$350
Federal/state taxes	\$670
Monthly Total:	\$3,333

Sources: *The Child Care Industry: An Integral Part of Long Island's Economy*, Rauch Foundation, 2004, Pp 3,4. NYS Office of Children & Family Services *Child Care Market Rates Notification*, September 26, 2007. *Suffolk County 2007-09 CFS Plan, Appendix G-3*.

To learn more about the MICAH campaign, contact Dr. Richard Koubek at Catholic Charities at Koubek.richard@catholiccharities.cc

Positive Interactions

The Role of Role Models in Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Sharon Womack Doty, J.D., M.H.R.

Consultant to the VIRTUS® Programs

According to one online resource, the term “role model” was first used by noted sociologist, Robert K. Merton to describe the way that people compare themselves with others who do things people aspire to or want to do well. Its general use has come to mean a “person who serves as an example of a positive behavior.”

If asked, most of us could identify one or more role models who made a difference in our lives when we were growing up. We looked up to them. Our interactions with them taught us how to function in life with self-respect, or common sense, or integrity or all three. These were people who served as an example of positive behavior that we wanted to emulate.

Each of us wants to be a positive role model for the people in our lives. The Protecting God’s Children® program provides us with an opportunity to fulfill that wish. Becoming an expert at identifying the warning signs of possible child molesters and taking the action to intervene in risky situations is a role we can assume that allows us to model appropriate behavior for others.

What does it take to be a positive “role model” for those around us? The first thing to remember is to be positive and confident. Learn the warning signs, pay close attention to the behavior of adults in the environment, and act confidently when you see something that causes you concern.

The second thing to remember is that taking action may not be the most comfortable thing to do, or the ordinary thing to do, but it is the right thing to do. Being willing to go against the grain and speak up when you see something that causes concern or something that seems inappropriate may not be the easy thing to do, but taking action can save children and being someone who puts the welfare of children ahead of a concern for what others will think is the right and the Christian thing to do. Remember that Jesus stood for what was right and, while some

followed Him, others jeered and scoffed at Him and conspired to stop Him. But, ultimately, those who were against Him were the catalyst for God’s promise of redemption and eternal life being fulfilled for us all.

Another thing to think about is that a positive role model operates with kindness and concern for others. Noticing and communicating about the inappropriate or disquieting behavior of adults in your child’s environment does not equal being mean and/or vindictive to those around you. Speak up with compassion and concern. Be assertive without being accusatory. Give others a chance to change.

A positive role model also learns how to communicate effectively and honestly without compromising the commitment to interrupt risky behavior. Take the time to learn how to let others know about risky or inappropriate behaviors without creating undue upset or anger. Become an effective communicator and you will be a very positive role model for many in your life.

Finally, pay attention to your own interactions with others—particularly children and young people. Apply the same standards of behavior to your own work and ministry that you expect from others. Listen to the concerns of others and take action to correct any behavior or address any concerns they have about how you interact with children and young people. Let others see you respond with grace and a genuine commitment to address the concern quickly and openly.

We all know that children and young people need positive role models. Adults need role models too, particularly when the role is an entirely new one. Being a protector of children is not a new role but being at the forefront of the effort to create safe environments and protect children from sexual abuse is new for most of us. We can provide that model. We can be the ones that inspire others to step up and take action to protect children. All it takes is commitment and action. It is up to you!

Getting and Not Getting the Secret

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

What's life's deep secret? Do we ever really understand life? Do we ever really get things right? What lies at the center of life?

These are the deeper questions that gnaw away inside of us and we are never really sure how to answer them.. Do we ever really understand what our lives are all about?

Yes and no! I suspect that most of us go through life bouncing back and forth between knowing and not knowing, between feeling steady and feeling insecure, between having days when we feel we're getting things right and having days when everything seems out of sorts.

As the Sufi mystic Rumi, once put it, we live "with a secret we sometimes know, and then not know."

I suspect we all know what that feels like. Some days, it seems, we know the secret to living and feel we are inside of things, at their heart. This may not necessarily be something we are consciously aware of, but something sensed at some deeper level. There are times when our lives make sense in a way Vaclav Havel once described. Steadiness, he suggests, lies "not in the conviction that something will turn out well, but in the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out." There are days when we know the truth of that.

But there are also days when we aren't sure exactly what we know, when we feel outside of things, when the circle of life seems to exclude us, and we walk round the edges of love and meaning, unsure, unsteady, feeling some inexplicable guilt because we have the sense that somehow we are doing things wrongly and are not where we should be.

And so we live with a secret we sometimes know, and then not. We feel steady and then unsure, strong and then vulnerable, moral and then guilty; loveable and then unworthy; we sense that we know the secret to life and then suddenly we feel we don't. Sometimes we stand inside of things and sometimes we stand outside of them.

I've always been struck by a very poignant expression in the Gospel of Mark. He tells us that Peter betrayed Jesus at his trial, ultimately cursing him in order to save himself. After that betrayal, Mark (in a stunningly cryptic statement) says simply: "Peter went outside!"

Outside of what? Obviously he is referring to much more than Peter simply stepping outside of a door and

leaving a room or a courtyard. In betraying Jesus, and in betraying himself, Peter "went outside" of something else, namely, outside all that's best inside of himself, outside of the community of life, and outside the secret of life itself.

And what is the secret of life itself?

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus says: "To you is given the secret of the Kingdom of God, but to those outside, everything is in riddles." To whom is he referring? Who is "you"? What is the secret? What puts you inside? What puts you outside and makes the Gospel a riddle?

In Mark's Gospel, the answers to these questions are clear: You are "inside" or "outside" the true circle of understanding, not on the basis of being Jew or Gentile, of being man or woman, or of going or not going to church. Rather you are inside or outside the circle of true understanding on the basis of "getting" or "not getting" the secret. And what is the secret?

In essence, the secret to life is the cross of Christ or, as various scripture scholars and spiritual writers put it, the brokenness of Jesus on the cross, the wisdom of the cross, the invitation that lies inside the cross, and the willingness to live out the demands of the cross.

It's not easy to try to summarize all that this means. To do that, one would have to summarize all the deepest challenges within revelation, theology, and spirituality: God's unconditional love and forgiveness, God's loving presence inside of human twistedness, vulnerability as the path to intimacy, God's identification with the poor and the excluded, the necessary connection between suffering and glory, the paradoxical nature of love and life (which can only be received by giving them away), the centrality of self-sacrifice as the key to love and fidelity, and the importance of giving our lives over without resentment (of not sending the bill whenever we carry someone's cross).

There's a lot inside this secret! And when we are at our best, when we let the demands of love, truth, and fidelity take us to where we would rather not go, we know its truth and live inside of it. On those days, we know the secret of the kingdom and the Gospels make sense. But then there are days that, like Peter when he betrayed Jesus, we "go outside", outside of truth and what's best inside of us, and from that perspective life, love, truth, Jesus, and the Gospels all look like an empty riddle.

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.

In Gratitude

We are grateful to all who gave so generously to our church in our time of need. The fire was devastating to all who worship and work here. With God's help, we will rise from the ashes as we continue in our commitment to help the poor in Wyandanch.

Fr. Bill Brisotti, Pastor

*The Staff at Gerald Ryan Outreach and
The Staff and Parishioners of
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish*

American Sign Language Classes

Cleary School for the Deaf is offering evening American sign Language classes, levels 1 - 5. The Spring session begins on March 3. Call Carolyn Kelly at 631.588.0530 for more information.

Girl Scout Silver Award

Save the date: March 14

Are you interested in helping to feed those less fortunate than you are, right here in our own neighborhood? Please come and help two independent West Islip Girl Scouts, Marissa DeMarzo and Caitlin Dolan, earn their Silver Award by attending a concert right here at Our Lady of Lourdes Church that the girls will be hosting. The cost of admission is either a monetary donation or a non-perishable item, all of which will benefit the OLL food pantry.

Help Wanted

Dominican Village is looking for Community Relations Associate-part time/weekends included and an Activities Assistant for Saturdays from 9 AM until 2 PM. Dominican Village is an independent retirement community. Our staff is dedicated to providing quality service to the residents who call Dominican Village their home. If you are interested in joining our team, please call Human Resources at 631.842.6762 for more information.

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. Listen on Saturdays at 11 PM on *Sirius Satellite Radio, Channel 159, or the Catholic Channel.*

This week's theme is: **"Relationships."**

You can visit us anytime to listen or download a show at www.religionandrock.com.

For more information about our television shows go to www.TelecareTV.org.

Comfort My Heart

The 2008 Diocesan Bereavement Conference will be held on **Saturday, March 8 at Kellenberg Memorial High School from 8:30 Am until 5:30 PM**. The day features an opening keynote by Catherine O'Connor, CSB, Ph.D, workshops for all losses and closing eucharistic Celebration. Breakfast, lunch and conference folder are included in the registration fee. Advance registration is requested by calling 516.334.7990, extension 120.

Valentine Evening for Married Couples

Come and spend a romantic evening celebrating the gift of love with a candlelight dinner and renewal of vows in the context of the Eucharist. The Valentine Evening will be on **Thursday, February 14 at the Ronkonkoma Cenacle**. Registration begins at 5:30 PM and dinner will be at 6:30 PM. The program will conclude by 10 PM. The presenters are Marcia and Brant Johnson. For further information, please call The Cenacle at 588.8366.

Pasta Night

Our Lady of Grace Columbiettes will be hosting a Pasta Night on **Friday, February 15 from 7 PM until 10 PM at Our Lady of Grace Church, Fr. Shanahan Hall, West Babylon**. Tickets are \$10 per person and include pasta, salad, soda, dessert, coffee and tea. For tickets, please call Tina at 671.9492.

Charismatic Renewal Center

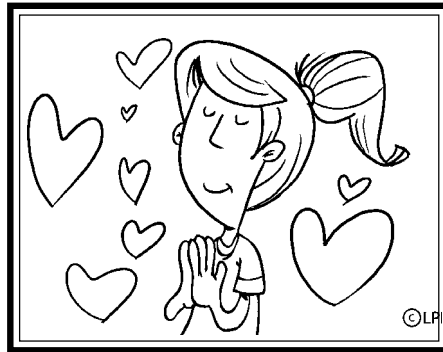
Charismatic Prayer Groups in Nassau County will sponsor an evening of Prayer and Praise on **Monday, February 18 beginning at 8 PM in the St. Barnabas Holy Family Chapel, Bellmore**. After a period of Praise and Worship we will have a Youth Witness given by Anthony Gentile. Anthony and his wife Crystal head up a Totus Tuus Ministry. Everyone is welcome. For information call Charismatic Prayer Groups in Nassau County at 516.785.0054.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Are you living the beatitudes in today's Gospel in your marriage? Learn how to live the way God wants you to in your marriage. Let go of your worries and responsibilities for one weekend to enrich and renew your marriage and bring Christ into the center of your marriage. Please visit the website at www.wmme.org to find out the next scheduled Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend.

Sharing the Gospel

It may be hard to find the star in the east, but God will always show you how to find him. Bow before the altar of God and give the baby Jesus three presents of your own. For gold, share your goodness with others. For frankincense, send your prayers up to God for yourself, your family, and your friends. For myrrh, follow God's words like a sweet perfume.



Mission for the Week

I will remember that each day of my life is a gift.

Puzzle

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.

	O					
	N					
	L					
	Y					
	G					
	O					
	D					

©LPI

Prayer



Lord,
I offer you my words, my actions, and my thoughts.

Something to Draw



Draw three wise men bringing presents to Jesus.