

OUR LADY OF LOURDES
MAY 11, 2008

PENTECOST

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**AND THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT
AND BEGAN TO SPEAK IN DIFFERENT TONGUES,
AS THE SPIRIT ENABLED THEM TO PROCLAIM.**

ACTS 2:4



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: lkrol@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: 9:30 AM - 7:30 PM

Tuesday -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

Childrens' 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 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*)

Deacon 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

“EMPOWERED BY WEEK

This weekend, newly involved parishioners –our parish “Apostles” – share their experiences of getting involved in parish life at Our Lady of Lourdes...

If you ask me why I teach, it is simple. I do it for myself, for my family but mostly I do it for God. I love to see my children and the children I teach come up to me each week for the Holy Eucharist. I have been truly blessed and feel this is one small way in which I can show my appreciation for all of the wonderful things God has provided for me in my forty something years.

When I think about it, giving up some time for God each week is nothing in comparison to what he has given up for us. Who knows when the call will come again, what I do know is that I will always be there to answer it.

-Diane Schlosser



My journey into this faithful community at Our Lady of Lourdes, and to my baptism at the Easter Vigil has been an unexpected but joyful whirlwind. I stepped timidly into the church the first time out of a sense of duty to my daughter and my husband. Immediately, I was caught up in the spirit, the warmth, and the faith. Soon I was invited to join the RCIA group at Our Lady of Lourdes which I gladly accepted. The friendships I have made with the other RCIA participants, the support from faithful members of the parish who participate in the RCIA—Father Mike, Father Bob, Father Stan, Sister Nancy and John Sureau – all have embraced and empowered me on my journey. My call was heard and I am so excited to continue to grow, nurture and to serve this parish community and the Spirit.

-Bronwen Sessa

THE SPIRIT" END

The RCIA process helped me grow as a person, emotionally and spiritually. I looked forward to the RCIA meetings on Sunday after mass and on Monday evening. My wife and children also enjoyed the RCIA process. Why did I do this? I think you need to be called. This is something you have to want to do. My wife was very pleased I decided to do this, I think she was also very shocked. The day I spoke with Father Bob was also the day I spoke with my wife. I wanted to surprise her with my good news. This process has been a life-altering event for me. If anybody is thinking about becoming a Catholic, I strongly recommend going to the RCIA meetings to see what it is all about.

-Michael Flynn



When I asked to join the RCIA, I had known this was my calling to finish what my father and I had always wanted for me, to join in with the Catholic faith. As I helped my daughter with her religion classes, I knew that I wanted to be closer to Our Lady of Lourdes and, of course, Jesus.

After my first meeting with Sister Nancy and Father Bob, I felt right at home. This was going to be a rewarding and fun experience all the while knowing it was to produce something wonderful in my life - finding the church again and gaining my Catholic faith. Throughout this time, I have learned many things and have felt the help and support of all the congregation and of Sister Nancy and all of our leaders within the church.

-Patricia Clarke

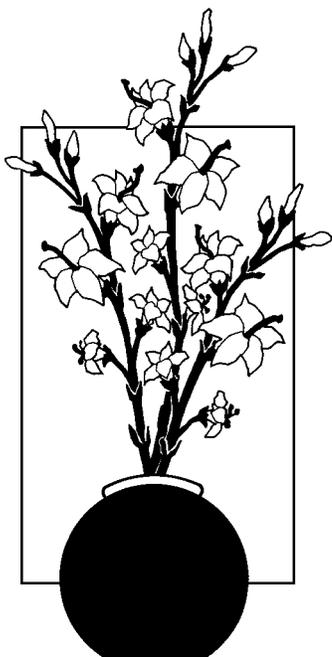
Ministry of Family Healing

What comes to mind when you hear the word hope?

Hope is such a powerful word. Without it, we would be lost. We could not survive. Hope is our spiritual oxygen. We are surrounded by many circles of hope breathing life and spirit into our wounded world.

The Ministry of Family Healing invites you to a night of prayer and reflection on the power of hope. Please join us on **Wednesday, May 21 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

Please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440 to register. Food and fellowship to follow. Please bring a friend.



Art & Environment Ministry

As our Church celebrates the feast of Pentecost, a time when we reflect and recognize the great gifts that God has bestowed upon us, the Art & Environment Ministry would like to take this opportunity to thank our Parish family for their prayers and kind words of support throughout the past year! We are so blessed to have such a diverse and gifted group of people willing to share of their time and talents to help decorate our Church. Whether it is sewing, ironing, vacuuming, designing, gardening, cleaning, hauling boxes, you name it...this Ministry does it!

We would also like to send a special thank you to Sister Nancy - for her insightful guidance and support – we couldn't do it without you!

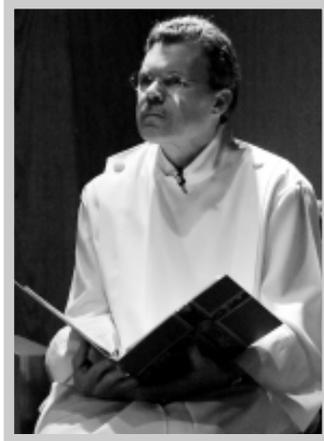
Also, thank you to Lori Walsh, John & Bill from our Maintenance Team and the 6th & 7th Grade Religious Ed classes who helped us throughout the year while completing their Service Projects. In addition, the kids from Grades 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 who also lent a hand to help prepare our Church for Christmas and Easter!

Do you have a special gift?

Are you looking to get involved? If you are crafty, love plants and flowers, or are just looking to get out of the house a couple of times a year...and you can get a little exercise at the same time...this is the Ministry for you! There is no huge commitment...we meet several times a year to transform the Church decor during the different liturgical seasons.

For more information about the Art & Environment Ministry at Our Lady of Lourdes, please send an e-mail to Jerry Esposito at art@ollchurch.org, or call the Parish Office at 661.3224 and leave a message for Jerry.

Celebration of Ordination



**Saturday, May 17
11 AM
St. Agnes Cathedral**

Our parish celebration for Deacon Tom Lucie will be held on Sunday, May 18 at the 12:30 PM Mass. Reception will follow in the Parish Center. All are welcome!

A Loss in Our Community

Our entire parish family joins our Josephite community in mourning the passing of Sister Alice Patricia Dolan, CSJ. Sister Alice has been a part of our parish family for more than 25 years. She is well known as a gifted and prayerful spiritual director who worked for many years at our Seminary in Huntington. May she continue to be with us, pray with us, inspire us!

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Car Raffle

Our friends at Atlantic Hyundai are donating a three year lease for a 2009 Hyundai Sonata. Raffle tickets are \$50 each - buy two and get one free. Raffle will be drawn at the 24th Annual OLL Golf Classic, June 19, 2008 at the Timber Point Golf Club in Great River. Winner need not be present. Winner is responsible for tax, title, and tags.

Tickets are available at the Parish Office, Our Lady of Lourdes School, or see Dan Toomey of Atlantic Hyundai located on the Sunrise Highway Service Road in West Islip.

The car will be on display outside OLL Church the weekend of May 17 and 18 and at the 24th Annual OLL Golf Classic at Timber Point on June 19. *Come and see what can be yours!*

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**Support Groups****Alcoholics Anonymous:**Monday and Tuesday at
8 PM and Saturday at 2 PM
and 7 PM in Lourdes Hall-
convent lower level.**ALANON:**Each Wednesday at
10 AM in Lourdes Hall-
convent lower level.**Rosary/Novena****Rosary:**

Daily after 8 AM Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena:

Monday after 8 AM Mass

Anointing of the Sick

Throughout the liturgical year.

If needed sooner, please call the Parish Office.

Baptism

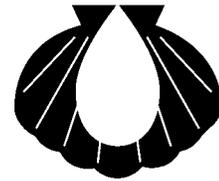
Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

Marriage

Arranged at least six months in advance, please call the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults(RCIA):

A process to be embraced by the Catholic Church. For non-Catholics and for Catholics who have never received formal religious education. If interested, please call the Parish Office.

Upcoming Marriages*Laura Putira, St. Patrick's, Glen Cove and**Michael Walker, OLL**Melissa Hutzmann and**Christopher Rehn, OLL**Christine Winter, OLL and**Joshua Amatuegwu****Baptisms****Morgan Kathryn Bellini*

Michael and Kathryn

Emilie Victoria Ann Bobrowski

James and Angela

Grace Olivia Micali

Paul and Kimberly

Courtney Catherine Rindos

Thomas and Carol

Owen Michael Wall

Michael and Deborah

Remembering...

Monday, May 12

Ss. Nereus and Achilleus, martyrs

St. Pancras, martyr

8:00 AM Louise Riedemann and
Sadie Melchiore

Tuesday, May 13

Our Lady of Fatima

8:00 AM George Earley

Wednesday, May 14

St. Matthias, apostle

8:00 AM Lydia Ann Olsen

Thursday, May 15

St. Isidore

8:00 AM Richard Zocchia

Friday, May 16

8:00 AM Barbara McGarrity

Saturday, May 17

8:00 AM Maria Pereira, Vincent McCarthy, Albert Vazquez,
Georgianna Parlo, Grace E. Okuska, John Difilippo

5:00 PM Danny Salegna

Sunday, May 18

8:00 AM Irma Stabile

9:30 AM Tony Squeo

11:00 AM John, Mark Nardone & Mary Mirabella

12:30 PM Joseph Rizzo & Audrey Cullen

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Bill Mace, JoAnna White,
Rick & Ruth Munkwitz, Anna VanBramer, Robert Maur,
Jennie Quigley, Mary Laino, Joseph Cook, Rose Lucio (L),
Lucille Abbate (L) *90th Birthday*, Malachy Ryan, Gerri DeChico



Rest In Peace

Joseph Bownes died on April 27 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was April 30. We extend our prayers to his daughter Jeanne, son Vincent and grandchildren.

Grace Okuska died on May 1 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was May 5. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and brother.

Irene Marchetta died on May 1 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was May 5. We extend our prayers to her sister, Helen and niece, Claudia.



Taize - Prayer Around the Cross

Save the date...

Tuesday, May 13

7:30 PM

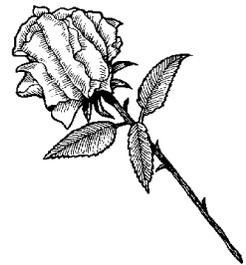
Church

sponsored by OLL's Evangelization Ministry

Looking for another way to pray? Something that will allow you to “escape” for a short time and just be with your thoughts - and with God? Taize is a form of worship that provides us some time in our busy lives where we can stop and focus on the love of God revealed in the Cross and in those gathered with us. Taize consists of simple chants and prayers which are used to help guide our personal prayer and meditation as we bring our concerns and hopes to the Lord.

Please join us this night as we gather, along with the Taize Prayer Group from Our Lady of Grace in West Babylon, to bring this special prayer experience to Our Lady of Lourdes.

Mother's Day / Father's Day Mass for parents who have lost a child



Mother's Day and Father's Day can be difficult times for parents who have lost a child. Whether you have lost a child in childhood or adulthood, to stillbirth or miscarriage, this Mass will be celebrated to bring you God's peace and consolation.

We would like to invite any parent who has lost a child to a special **Mass on Saturday, June 7 at 10 AM.**

Mass will be followed by hospitality in our Parish Center. Please feel free to invite family or friends with you. For more information, or to let us know you will be able to attend, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

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
Co-Directors OLL Religious Education

- 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

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 a key fundraiser for the school.

Don't miss it...sign up today!

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

An old saying has it that all roads lead to Rome, and within Rome, all roads lead to St. Peter's Square. Day after day, the Piazza San Pietro is a stage for the entire world. In every season of the year, the piazza is alive in a way encountered nowhere else. St. Peter's Square is a meeting place for all Christianity, sacred space for those who journey from all corners of the world.

Our next information meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 10 at 7:30 PM in Room 16 of OLL School**. There are forty-five parishioners who have reserved their place for our parish pilgrimage. We have reached capacity and can no longer accept new travelers. However, if you are interested, please call the Parish Office and we will place your name on a waiting list.

OLL Seventh Annual Vacation Bible Camp SURF Camp!! Summer Understanding Real Faith (and Fun!)

July 28 - August 1---Save the date!

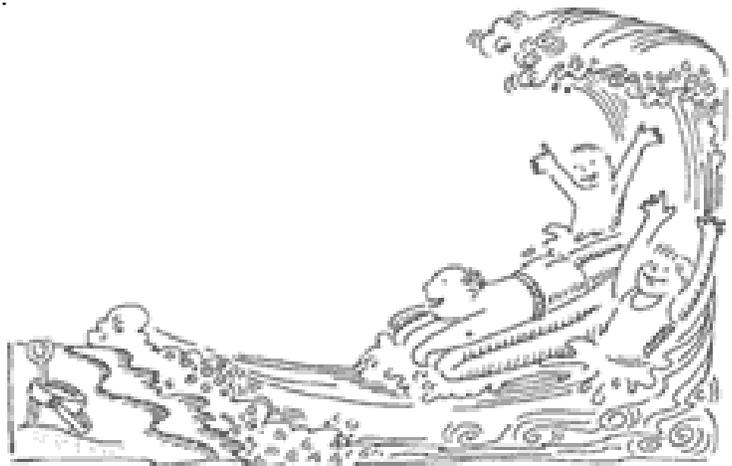
We'll hop on our surfboards and catch the waves of faith and fun as we learn about God, hear stories from the Bible, share cool science activities, and make crafts.

And of course, we'll end our camp each day with our famous OLL camp sing-along!!

Look for camp registration forms in the bulletin during the first week in June. Campers can be pre-school to grade five.

Helpers must be at least in sixth grade, and counselors need to be in grade seven through twelve. Adult volunteers are also needed!

Watch future bulletins for details.



Summer Evening Prayer

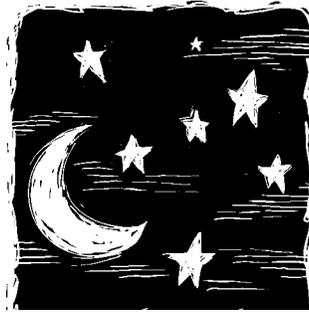
OLL always celebrates summer with a great spirit of prayer and excitement...but it doesn't come without some good planning and hard work.

This year, as always, we are looking for volunteers to be part of our planning committee. Would you be interested? Would you be willing to think about it?

There are about 3 or 4 meetings and then presence at Evening Prayer when you're able.

Could this be the year for you?

If so, call John Sureau at 631.661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.



Religious Education

Our eighth grade Confirmation Candidates and their Sponsors continue to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation in ninth Grade by participating in "RESCUE" (Religious Education Sponsor/Candidate United Effort)

"Rescue Closing" - Sunday, May 18 - 6 PM Mass

All eighth graders in our Parish Family, their Sponsors and parents share in celebrating their time together. The eighth graders and their Sponsors have been getting together and doing service for others.

and... of course

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

Friday, May 16	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Parish Center
Friday, June 20	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Parish Center

Don't forget...there's something for everyone!

All 6th / 7th / 8th graders of our Parish Family... come play volleyball, basketball.

We have Guitar Hero 2, Dance Revolution, music and more... DON'T MISS IT!

also...

Grades 9/10/11/12

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

Reminder...

Important Confirmation Meeting

All Eighth Grade Parents in OLL Parish Family -

Tuesday, May 6 at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria *or* **Wednesday, May 7** at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria
or **Thursday, May 8** at 10 AM in the cafeteria.



Pentecost

The teenage daughter yells at her dad, exclaiming how he just doesn't understand her. She storms off to her room, slams the door and locks it behind her. He tries several approaches, but nothing works. Finally, exhausted, he says, "No, honey, I really don't understand you. But I do know one thing-I love you very much." For a moment, there is silence. Then, he hears the door unlock.

A locked door. Behind it, sadness, anger, and fear. On this Pentecost Sunday, John's brief but powerful narration tells of Jesus appearing to his disciples in that locked room. He calms their fears, softens their anger, and relieves their sadness with joy. He has brought with him the gift he had promised-the gift of the Holy Spirit. "He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"

In a certain way, Pentecost can be referred to as the birth of the Church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that after the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples, the Church was "openly displayed" and the preaching of the Gospels to all of the nations begun (CCC 767). We, too, are part of this missionary Church, blessed with the Holy Spirit and charged with carrying the word just as Jesus charged his disciples that beautiful first day.

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Readings for the Week of May 11, 2008

Sunday: *Vigil:* Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b
 or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39
Day: Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23

Monday: Jas 1:1-11/Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18/Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Jn 15:9-17

Thursday: Jas 2:1-9/Mk 8:27-33

Friday: Jas 2:14-24, 26/Mk 8:34-9:1

Saturday: Jas 3:1-10/Mk 9:2-13

Next Sunday: Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9/2 Cor 13:11-13/Jn 3:16-18

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.
- would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick.

Pray for Our Sick

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

*Laura Abela, Connie Altadonna, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Pat Bonavita,
Howard Campkin, Lynn Castellano, Peggy Cornell, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo,
Maureen Darrell, Karen DellaVecchia, TJ Devlin, Josephine DiBenedetto, Jason Fisher,
Anne Foote, Susan Gigante, Samantha Hil, Kathleen Kerrigan, Richard Lang,
Nancy Letsch, Anthony Lombardo, Rose Lucio, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr.,
David McCarthy, Dorothy Meloni, Bryan Monahan, Jimmy Murphy, Ginger O'Keefe,
Joseph Ortiz, Rocco Panaro, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Dorothy C. Proctor,
Joe Radosti, Martha Reichel, Patricia Salimbene, Dorothy Schiavone, Derek Stahl,
Alison Stemkowski, Diana Marie Taveras, Baby John Tramazzo, Jean Virgilio,
Pat Wallace, Flo Worysz*

Financial Summary

May 4, 2008

Weekly Collection	\$ 17,599.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (3,401.00)

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

2008 Catholic Ministries Appeal

Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us

OLL CMA

May 6, 2008

Amount Pledged	\$88,345
Number of Pledges	367
Average Pledge	\$241

Thank you to all those who have responded!

Our Lady of Lourdes and the Diocese of Rockville Centre would like to thank all those who have made a sacrifice by making a gift to the *2008 Catholic Ministries Appeal*. 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.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL • DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
PO BOX 4000 • ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11571-4000 • www.drvc.org/cma.html



2008 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Supporting the Community Around Us

TO PROVIDE FUNDS I/WE AGREE TO MAKE A GIFT OF:

PLEDGE \$ _____ INITIAL PAYMENT \$ _____ BALANCE \$ _____

If you would like to charge your contribution to your credit card, please check here and see reverse side of this form.

SIGNATURE OF DONOR _____

PARISH OF DONOR _____

A GUIDE TO GIVING	
PLEDGE	10 PAYMENTS
\$ 1,000	\$ 100
\$ 500	\$ 50
\$ 350	\$ 35
\$ 250	\$ 25
Other \$ _____	
EVERY GIFT COUNTS!	

Please make checks payable to:
Catholic Ministries Appeal
Thank you for your support

FOR GIFTS OF SECURITIES, PLEASE CALL THE APPEAL OFFICE FOR INSTRUCTIONS. 516.379.5210, EXT. 2
MATCHING GIFTS: IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A MATCHING GIFT FROM YOUR EMPLOYER, PLEASE FORWARD TO THE CMA OFFICE.



detergent
kleenex
paper towels
personal feminine products
shampoo
soap
toilet tissue
toothbrush
toothpaste

Parish Outreach

Office telephone: 661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

Monday: 9:30 AM - 7:30 PM

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

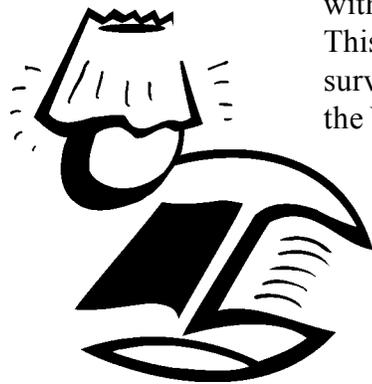
Please Note:

In order to service our clients better, Parish Outreach now has extended hours on Mondays, until 7:30 PM.

Social Action

Reading Circle

The purest acts of Justice come from an enlightened mind and heart~!



The Social Action Committee invites you to join us as we journey with the book: ***“Left To Tell”*** by Immaculee Ilibagiza.

This is a most powerful story of hope and forgiveness written by a survivor of the genocide in Rawanda. *“Left to Tell”* is available in the West Islip Library or to purchase at Barnes & Noble.

Our ‘Reading Circle’ will meet on **Thursday, May 15 and again on Thursday, May 29 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

If you plan to join us, please call Outreach at 661.9262, x.4 to register.

Liturgy

Goin’ Green

This year, our Liturgy Committee has made a concerted effort to do what we can to recycle and to reduce paper waste. Each week, we are in need of volunteers to take a box of paper home to place in your WRAP can or recycle bin. If you’re able to help – please let John Sureau know by calling the Parish Office at 661.3224, x 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org

Needed: A New Maturity to Match Our Freedom *by Ron Rolheiser, OMI*

We are the freest people to ever walk this planet, at least in terms of opportunity. Our freedom is so great that, at times, it is almost a burden, an over-choice. We often find it difficult to commit ourselves to marriage, to a vocation, to a career, and to a friendship precisely because we are so free and have so many choices.

Freedom is a great gift. But it's easily misused and easily becomes a destructive thing. We've all hurt others and ourselves through the misuse of our freedom.

But something doesn't become bad just because it's misused. Food remains a good thing, even when we over-eat. It's the same with freedom. It remains always the greatest gift that God has given us, even though we don't always use it maturely. Jesus came to bring us freedom. But it's easy to lose that perspective and, today, it's not uncommon to hear sincere, good-hearted, religious people speak out against freedom, as if it were an enemy, something that should be restricted in the name of God, church, and morality.

While that's sincere, it's also misguided. What's needed today is not less freedom but more maturity. We don't need to roll back freedom in the name of God and morality: we need raise the level of our maturity to match the level of our freedom. Simply put, we are often too immature to carry properly the great gift of freedom that God has given us. The answer to that is not to denigrate freedom in the name of God and morality, but to invite a deeper maturity so as to more properly honour the great gift that we have been given.

Our model here is Jesus, himself. Nobody has walked this earth as freely as he did. But he also had the maturity to carry such great freedom without ever misusing it. If we can believe the gospels, Jesus wasn't afraid of anything - satan, temptation, tax-collectors, prostitutes, street people, rich people, poor people, church people, non-church people, moral people, and immoral people. He went into the singles' bars of his time, but he didn't sin.

And in that lies the challenge: To walk in freedom, but not compromise ourselves in doing so. Not an easy thing to do. There is always a double danger: On the one hand, we can be too timid and too frightened to use our freedom to take God's presence and grace into places that are morally threatening, like Jesus did. That's often where we, as church people, sell ourselves and our freedom short. We are so afraid of seemingly godless places that we simply stay away from them, fearing for our own safety.

18•Our Lady of Lourdes•#439

That's sometimes a very prudent thing to do; it isn't always an imitation of Jesus. He wasn't afraid to go into godless places.

As well, there's the opposite danger, namely, that we go into morally dangerous places and lose ourselves there. Like Jesus, we eat and drink with sinners, but, unlike him, we sin because we don't have the maturity and moral strength to be in dangerous situations without falling.

But, dangers notwithstanding, the great challenge is to become mature enough to walk in the freedom of Jesus without compromising. Whenever we are able to do that, we become missionaries in the true sense, namely, we take God's love and light into places that are devoid of them. But that's not easy to do. We need models to help us.

Someone who can help mentor us on this, I believe, is Henri Nouwen. One of his great gifts was his honesty about his own moral and emotional struggles and the capacity to share that in a way that helps us in our own struggles.

Nouwen was searingly honest in admitting that he struggled. He shared that, even if you are sincere, prayerful, morally honest, and trying your best, it doesn't mean that you won't, at the same time, also be weak, complex, tempted, torn, discouraged, forever at war with certain parts of yourself, sinful, and subject to obsessions, addictions, and pathologies. Our desires are deep, complex, unyielding, wild horses, bent on their own path - and all of this co-exists with what's healthy, good, and best in us. So it's not easy to be whole, mature, and to walk into morally dangerous places and not sin.

Nouwen was so honest and humble about this that there were seasons in his life when he wouldn't travel by himself, but always took along a companion, because he recognized that there are a lot more moral dangers travelling alone than there are when we have family, companions, and community along with us.

We aren't all as mature and as strong as Jesus. Like Nouwen, we need to be honest and humble about our weaknesses, sometimes we simply don't have the maturity to walk into dark places alone. We're wise to take someone with us so that, in the strength given by family and community, our maturity can measure up to our freedom.

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.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, May 13**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, May 11**. We will begin with the **Rosary at 7:40 AM in the Church** and the **meeting will follow the 8 AM Mass at 9 AM in Room 16**.

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:



Lorenzo Bacchi-*US Marines*
Bryan R. Dempsey-*US Marines*
Jeremy deRoxas-*US Air Force*
James J. Ferrara-*US Marines*
Thomas W. Ferrara - *US Air Force*
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.

Family Festival 2008

St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School will have its annual **Family Festival** from **Wednesday, May 14 through Sunday, May 18** at St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School grounds.

The hours are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 6 PM until 10 PM, Saturday from 1 PM until 10 PM and Sunday from 1 PM until 5 PM. Food, games, rides, raffles and more! Chances available to win the \$10,000 Super Raffle. For further information please call 631.587.8000, extension 116.

Dominican Village

Please join us for an Open House on Tuesday, May 20 from 2 PM until 4 PM. Dominican Village is an independent retirement community that offers assisted living and respite care, outstanding programs, all-inclusive services and bountiful amenities. For more information, or to schedule a tour at your convenience, call 631.842.6091.

Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille is a peer ministry. Couples who have had problems in their own marriages and have recovered from those problems, share their experiences with troubled couples in the hope that they too will see that their marriage can be saved. For more information about the upcoming **Retrouvaille weekend that begins on Friday, May 16 at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston, Queens**, please call 1.800.470.2230 and you will be confidentially connected to a couple from Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille who can help.

The Rosary-Mysteries of Light

Each Tuesday in May - May 13, 20 and 27 - there will be Reconciliation, Conference, Rosary and Eucharist at the Montfort Spiritual Center, Bay Shore. Reconciliation will be from 6:30 PM until 7:15 PM, Conference and Rosary will be at 7:15 PM and Eucharist at 8:15 PM. There is no registration, but a free will offering. If you have any questions, please call the Montfort Spiritual Center at 631.666.7500.

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.*

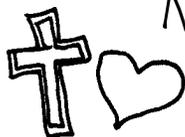
This week's theme is: **"Parents."** You can visit us anytime to listen or download a show at www.religionandrock.com. For more information about our television shows go to www.TelecareTV.org.

Sharing the Gospel

The apostles were given the power to forgive sins. When you tell the priest your sins, he has the power to remind you of God's forgiveness. Jesus died on the cross so your sins can be forgiven. Because God forgives you, he wants you to forgive others. Forgiving those who hurt you is very hard when you are angry and hurt. Ask God to fill you with love and make you strong enough to say, "I forgive you."



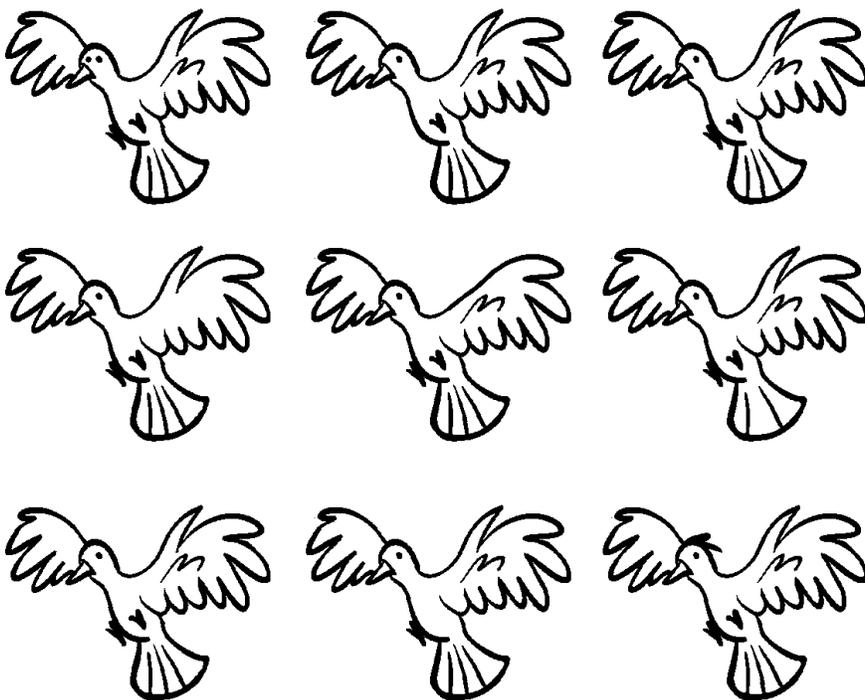
Mission for the Week



When I hurt others, I will say, "I'm sorry. Will you forgive me?"

Puzzle

Circle the two identical doves!



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Prayer



God, help me admit it when I am wrong.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of the apostles traveling and baptizing children all over the world.