

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Our Lady of Lourdes • September 28, 2008



**“Christ
emptied himself,
taking the nature of a slave.”**

Philippians 2:7



Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano

Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback

Associate Pastor

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. John Asomugha

In Residence

Rev. Ambrose Cabildo

In Residence

Deacon John DeGuardi

Deacon Tom Lucie

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 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

Stacie Baltrusitis

Jane Desthers

Anne Kerrigan

Deacon Jack Meehan

Vita Scorgia

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Parish Staff

Barbara Catuosco

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.

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.

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

A New Men's Prayer Group is Forming

An Invitation to all men from OLL and beyond...

Come join us on **Thursday, October 16, in the Parish Center after the 8 AM Mass.**

We plan to meet once a month to read and discuss the Scriptures for the following Sunday.

Come with your ideas and suggestions. We'll gather for conversation and fellowship.

Join us in this pioneering experience for MEN ONLY. If you plan to attend, please call Jack at 587.5548.

Visitors Needed for Good Samaritan Hospital

Can you commit to one hour a week as part of a program to visit parishioners in Good Samaritan Hospital? Training will be given. To learn more, contact : sage@ollchurch.org or call 661.3224 x 122. Hurry. Volunteers will be accepted on a first-come-first-chosen basis. **Benefits: out of this world!**



FOUNDER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Fr. Francis Pizzarelli, SMM, LCSW-R, ACSW, DCSW

September 12, 2008

Our Lady of Lourdes R.C. Church
455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, NY 11795

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your most generous gift of \$750.00 (check #37514, dated 08/20/08) to Hope House Ministries.

Know that it is the support of people like yourselves that really makes a difference.

Please be assured that you will be remembered at my daily Eucharist.

Respectfully,

Fr. Francis Pizzarelli, SMM, LCSW-R, ACSW, DCSW
Founder – Executive Director
Hope House Ministries

Outreach Oktoberfest PARTY!

**LAST
CHANCE**



**Saturday, October 4
Hibernian Hall, Babylon
8 PM – Midnight
\$40 per person
includes German buffet
unlimited beer/wine/soda**



**OOMPAH
FUN!**

Music, singing,
dancing, toasting,
food & drink



Proceeds to benefit Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Outreach.
Tickets now on sale in the Outreach Office.

Do You Love to Sing?

Our 9:30 AM Mass Choir needs YOU! Any students in grades K through college are invited to be part of our 9:30 AM Mass choir.

“Junior Choir”, for grades K-8 meets on Thursdays from 7:00-7:45 PM in the Church, and our new “High School/ College Group” will meet once a month following the 9:30 AM Mass.

Both groups sing each week at our 9:30 AM Family Mass.

Questions or more info: email jengallagher@ollchurch.org



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

What's it all about?

IF you are an adult and

- ... you were never Baptized
- ... you were Baptized in another faith and would like to become a baptized Catholic
- ... you never received Holy Communion (Eucharist)
- ... you never received your Confirmation

IF you are an adult and one or all of the circumstances above apply to you...

IF you feel you would like to become a Baptized Catholic or become more fully initiated into your Catholic faith...

Please contact John Sureau, S. Nancy or Fr. Bob at the Parish Office, 661.3224 #1, and we would be happy to help you.

“My journey into this faithful community at Our Lady of Lourdes and to my baptism at the Easter Vigil has been quite an unexpected but joyful whirlwind....I was invited to join the RCIA group at Our Lady of Lourdes which I gladly accepted. The friendships I have made....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, Baptized, Confirmed and Received First Eucharist at the Great Vigil, 2008

New Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist



Extraordinary Ministers distribute communion at Sunday liturgy, weekday Masses and during holy days of obligation. Some ministers also choose to bring Communion to the sick in our parish community.

What's the commitment?

There is a training offered by the Diocese of Rockville Centre in the Fall (October 4 or October 18) and a follow up training here at OLL. We try to schedule you based on the Mass you most frequently attend. Ministers sign up to serve on holidays, holy days and special occasions. We also offer opportunities for reflection and prayer that all are invited to and requested to be a part of throughout the year.

I want more information....

You can ask one of our Extraordinary Ministers you might see at Mass, you can call John Sureau at the Parish Office at 661.3224, x. 135 or you can e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org



Altar Servers

Have you ever wondered how Masses come together each week? How it seems that things just happen naturally! It's usually because of the altar servers! **WE NEED MANY YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH TO STEP UP AND SERVE.** Altar servers help to make our Masses and prayer services so great! Also, altar servers go on trips (like Splish Splash, Islanders games, and more!) and do a lot of other fun things. We are always looking for new altar servers and are in need of servers at many of our parish Masses. Training will begin later this month and you will begin serving in November.

What's the commitment?

There are five or six altar server training sessions before you can actually serve. Being an altar server is a lot of work so we want to make sure you're prepared. For Sunday Masses, we try to schedule you based on the Mass you most frequently attend. Servers sign up for Masses on holidays, holy days and special occasions. Servers can volunteer to serve at weddings and funerals, too!

I want more information....

Contact Mrs. Kate Newman at bounceusa@ollchurch.org or call John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.

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.

(Babysitters available)

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

Jane Keunzig died on September 12 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was September 16. We extend our prayers to her daughters, Kathy and Laura, granddaughters and entire family.

Mark R. Marciano died on September 12 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was September 17. We extend our prayers to his sister and entire family.

Frederick J. McConnell died on September 13 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was September 17. We extend our prayers to his wife, Frances, children, grandchildren and entire family.

James A. Stephen died on September 13 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was September 17. We extend our prayers to his children James, Theresa and Edward, grandchildren, siblings and entire family.

Louis Joseph Weber died on September 15 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was September 19. We extend our prayers to his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and entire family.

Remembering...

Monday, September 29

Ss. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, archangels

8:00 AM Tom Malcolm

Tuesday, September 30

St. Jerome, priest, doctor

8:00 AM William Petersen

Wednesday, October 1

St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, virgin, doctor

8:00 AM Anna Lettieri

Thursday, October 2

Guardian Angels

8:00 AM Jack McGeveran

Friday, October 3

8:00 AM Connie Bertone

Saturday, October 4

8:00 AM Rose & Jean Fabozzi, John R. Hodgkins, Paul Abbate,
Jose Barroso, Doris Catucci, James Loughlin,
Mark Marciano, Mary Jane Lynch, Rose Lucio,
Catherine, Joseph, Sr. & Joseph, Jr. Carola

5:00 PM Jerriann & Louis Ruocco
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

Sunday, October 5

8:00 AM Juliette Perez
Fr. John Asomugha

9:30 AM Jean Herd
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

11:00 AM Louis Caputo
Fr. Mike Vetrano

12:30 PM Carmella Parasole
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Rick Munkwitz, Linda Guardino,
Angelo & Felicia DeLeo, William Kuhlwilm, Carl Campagna,
William McNulty, Walter Paolo, James Stephen
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

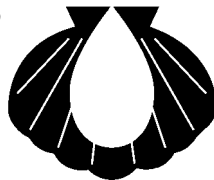
Upcoming Marriages

Megan Goodrich, OLL and

Frank Santanello, Notre Dame, New Hyde Park

Gigi Grillot and

Thomas Lee, both OLL



Baptisms

Emily Josephine Castro
Gustavo and Louise
Marcus Jonathan Duncan
Jonathan and Theresa
Ryan Matthew Halfpenny
Gerard and Christine
JadaLynn Eve Santiago
Robert and Lyndsey

Pantry Needs

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

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

Donations

- The Meehan Family has made a donation to Outreach in gratitude for the recovery of *Marie Ricigliano* and to honor the memory of *James Stephen* and *Maria Fatuzzo*.
- Flo Worysz has made a donation to Outreach to honor the memory of her cousin, *Paul Lucas*.

Be a Life Saver. Give Blood.

2000 pints of blood are needed every day to meet the needs of the patients in our area hospitals. One pint of blood can save five lives because blood is divided into components and can be used for up to five patients with different critical needs.

But ...

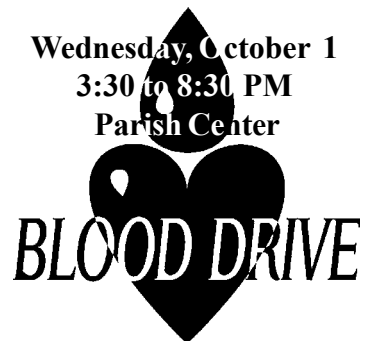
We do not collect enough blood in this area to meet this need. Blood that was available to us from Europe is no longer available. Maintaining the blood supply has become a national problem.

Only two people out of one hundred who are able to donate blood are actually doing it!

The need for blood is daily. It must be there when it is needed. Almost half the blood that is transfused is done on an emergency basis.

Blood cannot be stockpiled. Red cells are viable for 35–42 days, but platelets must be used within 5 days. **Please care enough to give blood on Wednesday, October 1, from 3:30 to 8:30 PM in the Parish Center.** To make an appointment, please call Marie at 669-5837 or just walk in the day of the drive.

Your gift of blood may mean another day of life for someone, another birthday, another anniversary, another hug, another smile. Love makes it all worthwhile.



Jesus is the Answer!

What's the Question?

An introductory course on the New Testament for those who want to understand how to read the Gospels and Letters of Saint Paul.



Presenter: Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Tuesdays-September 30, October 7, 14, 21, and 28

7:30 - 9:30 PM

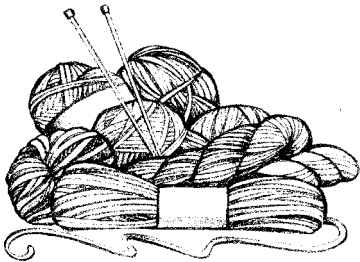
Parish Center

Did people write down what Jesus said? Were the Christian Scriptures really only “canonized” in the 4th Century? Did the early Church “hide” certain teachings? Does the Book of Revelation predict the end of the world? Were Paul’s writings actually letters? What can we know about Jesus from the Gospels? How does God “inspire” the Scripture writers?

Learn about their creation and development. Learn how to read them, hear them, and pray them.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Bring your prayer and creativity together in a gift of love.



Some years ago, a group of women attended a retreat. They spent time in reflection and they prayed for people they loved. After the retreat, they began to get together to continue to pray and while they prayed, they also knit and crocheted simple items like shawls. These simple gifts, created during prayer, became gifts of love to the people for whom they prayed and the Prayer Shawl Ministry was born.

We are beginning just this kind of ministry of prayer, creativity, and love here at Our Lady of Lourdes. There is no special talent or crafts required - just a desire to pray together with other women who will intercede for those they love.

Join us...

Wednesday, October 1 from 9 AM until 11:30 AM in the Parish Center. All you need to bring is scrap yarn, knitting needles or crochet hooks (patterns and instructions will be given to you) and your gifts of love and prayer.

To register or for more information, please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option #3 during office hours (9 AM - 12 Noon and 1 PM - 5 PM.)



26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

There is an old saying that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Actually, quotes from four hundred years ago are cited as saying that hell itself is paved with good intentions. Perhaps both have an air of truth about them! Nothing is easier than failing to follow through on a promise and then expecting a free pass merely by saying "I intended to do that but just didn't get around to it!" Imagine those words coming from a pilot or a surgeon; in the eyes of God, every promise carries the same weight.

Today's Gospel reading from Matthew is a very short parable of two sons. These boys were the recipients of many gifts, including a loving father, a home, food, and a place to work—their father's vineyard. It was this vineyard and its crop that allowed these boys to have their gifts; yet when their father asked them to work in the vineyard, one said no (but later returned and did the work) and the other said yes (but never followed through on his promise). Such is how we live our lives—some eventually giving thanks for their gifts, others meaning to but never getting around to it.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that we are called upon to make promises to God frequently in our lives; in baptism, weddings, confirmation, holy orders, we make promises (CCC 2101). Just as Jesus Christ promised us everlasting peace in the arms of a loving God, our promise to "work in the vineyard"—to live our lives as a sign of gratitude for our many gifts—must be kept. This is a sign not only of love for God but respect. So too must we keep our promises to each other, because the love and respect we show to others we show to God too. The road to heaven is paved with promises fulfilled!

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Readings for the Week of September 28, 2008

Sunday:	Ez 18:25-28/Phil 2:1-11 <i>or</i> 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32
Monday:	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 <i>or</i> Rv 12:7-12a/Jn 1:47-51
Tuesday:	Jb 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23/Lk 9:51-56
Wednesday:	Jb 9:1-12, 14-16/Lk 9:57-62
Thursday:	Jb 19:21-27/Mt 18:1-5, 10
Friday:	Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5/Lk 10:13-16
Saturday:	Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17/Lk 10:17-24
Next Sunday:	Is 5:1-7/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-43

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 Sacrament of the Sick.



Pray for Our Sick

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

*Connie Altadonna, Lucas Anderson, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry,
Ben Bellotti, Margaret Bentley, Peter Buccinna, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr.,
Jim Butler, Howard Campkin, Regina Cranor, Karen DellaVecchia,
TJ Devlin, Josephine DiBenedetto, Sandra Dubois, Susan Gigante,
Samantha Hil, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Doris Ingrassia,
Kathleen Kerrigan, Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch, Kara Lobasso,
Anthony Marotta, Margery Marotta, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann,
Peter McCann, Sr., David McCarthy, Eleanor McGee, Dorothy Meloni,
Brenden Muldoon, Jean Muller, Joe Murray, Joseph Ortiz, Arthur Petrino,
Joanne Popper, Joe Radosti, Patricia Salimbene, Dorothy Schiavone,
Joe Shields, Derek Stahl, Joseph D. Sullivan, Diana Marie Taveras,
Charlie Tibbetts, Baby John Tramazzo, Jean Virgilio, Pat Wallace*

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:

Bryan R. Dempsey-US Marines
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.

Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, September 29**, at **12:30 PM in the Parish Center**.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, September 30**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.



Nocturnal Adoration

Nocturnal Adoration will follow the 5 PM Mass on **Saturday, October 4**, ending with Benediction at 9:50 PM. Please come and pray with us. All are invited and welcome! Bring a friend.

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**.

Good Samaritan Prayer Group of L.I.

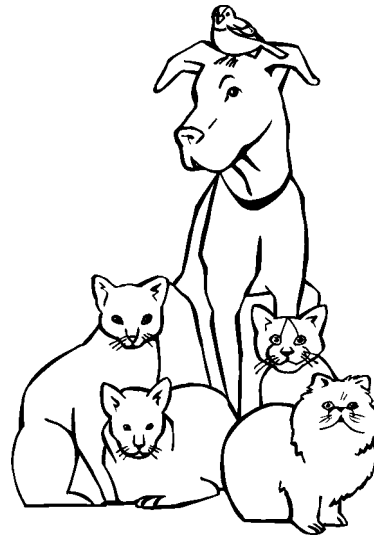
The Good Samaritan Prayer Group of Long Island holds their **meetings every Friday** (*except the first Friday of the month*) **at OLL School in Room 16 from 8 PM until 10 PM**.

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

Feast of St. Francis

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 4 – 12 Noon



The Feast of St. Francis, a saint famous for his kindness to animals, will be celebrated with our annual blessing of the animals!

This year, we'll gather at **12 Noon in the Fr. Joe Garden** (*weather permitting*) 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!)



Confirmation

On **Wednesday, November 5**, Bishop Peter Lobasci, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to the candidates of our parish. These young women and men are the chosen members of this community who have studied, served and prepared for this Sacrament.

During the next few weeks, they will begin the final steps of their journey towards Confirmation and even greater involvement in the life of our Church. The Confirmation Candidates of our parish will participate in "Spirit Nights" with their parents and sponsors. These times together will be an opportunity for them to experience how important it is to be active faith-filled members of the Church community. Each evening will include celebrating Mass with our parish family at "THE SIX".

Please pray for our Confirmation Candidates as they embrace this very important commitment in their faith journey and that they will continue to be strengthened, loved and supported by YOU... their parish family.

How You Can Treat Domestic Workers With Justice

MICAH*: A Campaign to End LI Poverty
(*Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger)

To learn more about the MICAH campaign, contact Rev. Thomas Goodhue at the LI Council of Churches
(LICCHemp@aol.com) or Neelofer Chaudry (LICCMICAH@aol.com)

Sources: Jews for Economic and Racial Justice (JFERJ) and Jobs with Justice Long Island.
For more information see www.jferj.org or contact Vanessa@jwj.org

If you are an employer of a nanny, housecleaner, or elder-care provider, or if your house of worship employs a custodian or cleaning person, please read through these questions and check off those that apply to you. Whatever your employment practices are now, please take one step up! By professionalizing these relationships, we show value for the work and help bring dignity to domestic workers.

1) Do you communicate clearly and openly?

- Have you clearly defined your employee's responsibilities in the form of a contract or written agreement, to clarify obligations and responsibilities?
- Do you have a defined schedule for evaluation that includes a review of employer and employee expectations?
- Do you revisit the contract regularly, with the option of terminating the contract?
- Have you negotiated a termination notice period, which guarantees two weeks notice prior to terminating employment arrangement?

2) Do you pay fair wages?

- Do you provide semi-annual or annual raises?
- Have you offered the option for your employee to be paid on the books?
- Do you have a plan to pay severance in accordance with number of years worked?
- Do you pay a living wage of \$14/hr (+ \$2 supplement if you do not include health care = \$16/hr)?
- Do you provide overtime pay for every hour over 40 hrs/week (pay and a half)?
- If you employ someone for 4 hours or less per week, do you pay at least \$20/hr?

3) Do you provide benefits, time off, and other provisions of a healthy workplace?

- Do you provide your nanny or elder-care provider petty cash for children's or elder's activities, transit or meals?
- Do you provide your housecleaner protective gear and offer the option of non-toxic supplies?
- Do you provide a mutually agreed upon number of paid sick and/or personal days?
- Do you provide 2 weeks or more of paid vacation days at times chosen by the employee?
- Do you provide paid days off on the standard 8 paid government holidays?
- Do you provide meals and breaks?
- Do you pay your employee regardless if you cancel or if they are sick?

Financial Summary

September 21, 2008

Weekly Collection	\$ 16,495.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (4,505.00)

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

Signing at Mass for Hearing Impaired

We have contracted with sign language interpreters to provide our deaf parishioners with an opportunity for deeper participation in our Sunday liturgies.

They will be signing at the 12:30PM Mass each Sunday.

Please feel free to let anyone know who may benefit from this service.

Men's Retreat

The Men's Retreat this year is scheduled for the weekend of **October 3-5 at the Bishop Molloy Retreat House in Jamaica**. All men of Our Lady of Lourdes are invited to participate in this wonderful weekend which starts at 7 PM dinner on Friday, October 3 and ends at noon lunch on Sunday, October 5.

This will be a weekend that you will remember; it is spiritual, fun, informative and relaxing (your own room with excellent meals.) Come and see. If you are interested, or have any questions, please call Pete Cunningham at 661.0273. If transportation is needed, please call and let Pete know.

Padre Pio Presentation

On **Monday, October 27 at 1 PM** the Senior Circle will host a presentation on Padre Pio **in the Parish Center**. There will be a speaker and video presentation. All parishioners are invited to attend. If you are interested in attending, please contact Vera at 587.1553.

(We would like to know how many people to expect.)

Restlessness on a Friday Night

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Driving me to the airport this summer, my youngest brother told me a story: One Friday afternoon, he and some co-workers were talking about what they would be doing that evening, the beginning of the weekend. Several co-workers shared how they had plans to meet various friends and hit some of the more trendy night-spots in the city. My brother, happily married for twenty years, rather timidly shared that he and his wife planned simply to order in some pizza and watch a movie together.

“That must sound rather boring to you!” He volunteered. “Not at all,” said one of the single women in his office. “We are doing all the things we do (restaurants, nightclubs, and a certain social scene) only that sometime, and God-willing, sooner rather than later, we can be where you are now, content to be at home on a Friday night, with pizza and a movie and someone to make a home with!”

Perhaps that isn't true for everyone but it is, I venture to say, true for most of us. What we want at the end of the day, not to mention the end of the week, is home, ease, quiet, rest, someone to be comfortable with, some place to be comfortable in, a home. We want a place where we can be ourselves and where we don't have to feel the restlessness of thinking that our lives are empty because we are home on a Friday night.

That's not always easy to find. Fault nature and God: We are born into a home and we get to stay there, without having to hit night-spots on a Friday night, until puberty. Puberty is designed by nature and God to drive us out of our homes. And it does. It hits with certain violence and, even though we get to live at home for another 5-8 years, we are no longer at ease there. Every kind of energy inflames and we become too restless to find easy ease in the things that once satisfied us. We are pushed out, beyond the security and comfort of home, to search for someone and something with which to build a home for ourselves.

And so we enter our more restless years, those years exactly where we can't sit at home comfortably on a Friday night with pizza and a movie. We're driven out, literally, to search for what can take us back home. So we hit the phone and the night-spots, searching, available, seeing, being seen. For some people, the point behind it all is clear: We are searching for a soul-mate, like the heart-sick lover in the Song of Songs and my brother's co-worker. For others, it's more diffusive, inchoate:

We're just restless, looking for action, for the right place to be, the right crowd to be with.

Initially there is no sense of desperation, we are young and the years still stretch endlessly ahead. But eventually a certain panic and desperation set in. Restlessness can be punishing, a merciless bully, robbing us of the simple capacity to rest.

And we feel it most cruelly on weekends, Friday nights, when it seems everyone in the whole world is doing something exciting except us, and then around holidays (Christmas, Thanksgiving, birthdays) when the season itself seems to demand that we not be alone.

Some years ago, teaching a class at a state-run University, I assigned as reading material Christopher de Vinck's book, *Only the Heart Knows How to Find Them: Precious Memories for a Faithless Time*. The book is a series of wonderful, quite idealistic, essays on marriage and family life. The essays articulate precisely the richness of being comfortably at home with a spouse and family on any night, perhaps especially on a Friday night. A young woman, about thirty years of age, walked into my office one day with de Vinck's book in hand and tears in her eyes. She told me: “Father, I've lived a hot-blooded youth and have slept my way through a couple of states, always thinking that's where life is. But, what I really want is what this man has! A home, a spouse, a place of that kind of comfort!”

A place of comfort! God-willing, may we all eventually find exactly that. Perhaps you are one of the lucky ones who have already found it, in a soul-mate who has taken you home. But it can also be found in vocation, in a service, in a faith, in an ideal, in friends, inside of ourselves in a deeper confidence that lets us feel complete and worthwhile even when we are home alone on a Friday night, and especially in a God, who is our ultimate soul-mate and with whom, with or without trendy night-spots or pizza and a movie, we are always at home.

Henri Nouwen used to say: “We are not restless persons who occasionally get restless; but rather restless persons who occasionally find rest.” That's true for all of us, this side of eternity, perhaps especially on a Friday night.

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.



2009 Respect Life Contest

The Diocesan Office of Respect Life is pleased to announce the 2009 Respect Life Youth Contest. This year's theme is "We are Wonderfully Made by God."

All Catholic youngsters in grades 7 - 12 who live in the Rockville Centre Diocese and attend Catholic elementary and high schools or parish religious education programs, are invited to participate in any of the following categories: Poetry, Bookmark Design, Essay, Music and Photography.

Winners will receive monetary awards in support of their future education. For further information, contact the Parish Office at 661.3224. Registration forms may be downloaded from the diocesan website at www.drvc.org.

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.

Open Houses present students and parents with a special opportunity to gain information about the programs, faculty, and facilities of the Catholic High Schools on Long Island. Administrators, faculty members, staff, and students are available to describe school programs and to answer questions at the Open House events. For additional information on particular schools, plan to attend one or more of the Open House.

Open House Schedule

Sunday, September 14	10 AM - 1 PM	St. Anthony's High School
Saturday, September 20	11 AM - 1:30 PM	Our Lady of Mercy Academy
Sunday, September 21	1 PM - 4 PM	St. Dominic High School
Sunday, September 28	12 PM - 2:30 PM	Holy Trinity High School
	2 PM - 4:30 PM	St. Mary's College Prep. High School
Saturday, October 4	9 AM - 12 PM	Sacred Heart Academy
	10 AM - 1 PM	Kellenberg Memorial H. S.
	2 PM - 4 PM	Chaminade H. S.
Saturday, October 18	10 AM - 1 PM	McGann-Mercy D.H. S.
	12 PM - 2 PM	Academy of St. Joseph
Sunday, October 19	10:30 AM - 2 PM	St. John the Baptist D.H.S.

The Catholic High School Entrance Exam is scheduled for Saturday, October 25 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.

Gala Dinner Dance and Auction

The Sisters of Saint Joseph of Brentwood will honor Joseph K. Collins, President/CEO Collins Building Services, William J. Forrester, Exec. VP/COO Goodwill Industries, Sister Elizabeth Mullane, CSJ, Assoc. Dir., St. Vincent Services, Medical & Special Services, St. Vincent Services at their Gala Dinner Dance and Auction to be held at the **Garden City Hotel on Thursday, October 23**. For further information, call 631.273.1187, extension 25.

Dominican Village

Please join us for an Open House on Thursday, October 2 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.

Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary

All alumnae of schools, colleges and universities founded or staffed by the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary are invited to The Third Annual RSHM Alumnae and Friends Benefit Luncheon on Thursday, October 23 at the New York Athletic club. Proceeds from the luncheon will benefit the elderly and infirm RSHM sisters. For more information, please call 914.631.4407.

Bereavement Support Groups

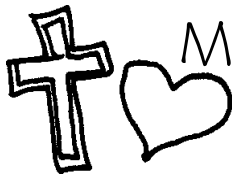
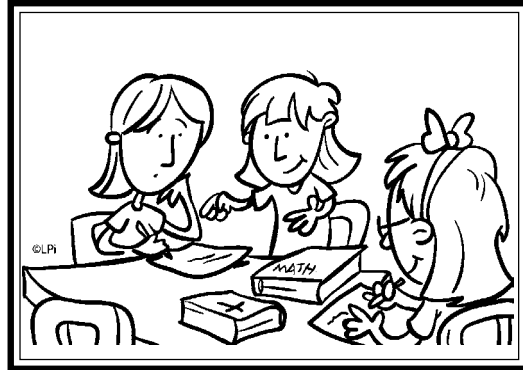
A variety of Bereavement Support Programs are available in Nassau and Suffolk Counties for all losses, including adults and children. You will find groups that meet 6 or 8 weeks, weekly and monthly groups, special programs, masses and retreats for the bereaved. Simply check the website of Catholic Cemeteries, Diocese of Rockville Centre at www.holyroodcemetery.org.

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 Long Island's East End. The show is also available on Sirius Radio, Channel 159 at 11 PM on Saturday nights. Next Sunday's theme is: **"Doing & Being."** Don't miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding Religion and Rock, go to www.ReligionandRock.com. Don't forget to tune into TELE CARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 271 for the best in Catholic television!

Sharing the Gospel

Maybe you have heard that actions speak louder than words. It means that the things you do are more important than the things you say. Show kindness to others. Trust God. He wants what is best for you, so find out how to work for God. Then do what he asks.



Mission for the Week

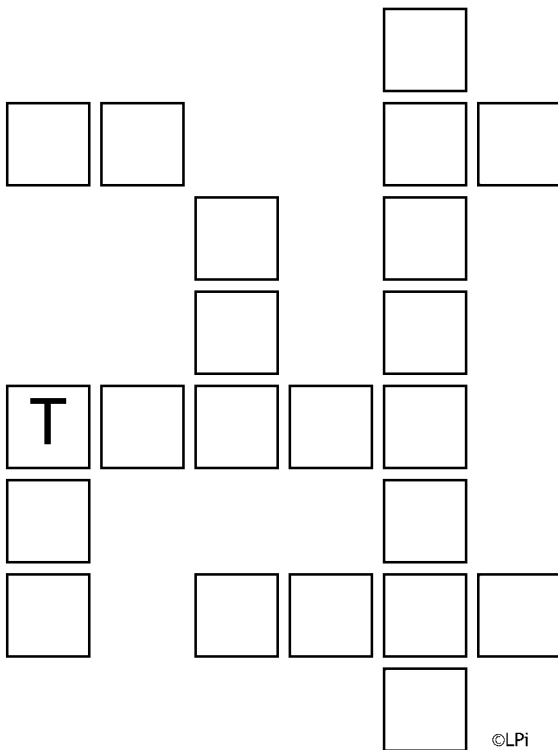
Show kindness to a friend. Help someone pick up a mess they made, just because you love Jesus.



Puzzle

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

Go and work today in the vineyard.



Prayer



God, I want to show you that I love you.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of yourself washing the dishes.