

"Your sins I remember no more."



Isaiah 43:25

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Lady of Lourdes

February 22, 2009



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 -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

Lisa Cantalino

Sonia DaSilva

Nilo DeLeon

Jane Desthers

Jerry Esposito

Deacon Jack Meehan

John Muldoon

Bob Natale

Eileen Rega

Vita Scorgia

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Christine Volk

Parish Staff

Barbara Catuosco

Religious Education Office

Mary Anne Lettieri

Parish Office

Debbie Meyer

Bulletin Editor/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

Fond Farewell

Fr. John Asomugha, who has served this parish community for the past three years, is taking leave of Our Lady of Lourdes on Monday, March 2. He will return home to Nigeria and then report to Zimbabwe to teach in the seminary. Fr. John earned his Ph.D. at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh last Fall.

Our parish has been touched by Fr. John's humility, gentleness, kindness and wonderful smile! So let's give thanks to God for Fr. John at a special...

FAREWELL MASS and CELEBRATION

Sunday, March 1

12:30 PM

Reception to follow

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Ash Wednesday Liturgy

We gather this day, Ash Wednesday, February 25, for prayer as we seek God's healing and support. Masses will be celebrated at 8 AM and 8 PM. Prayer services will be held on every other hour, beginning at 7 AM with the last prayer service beginning at 9 PM.

Stations of the Cross

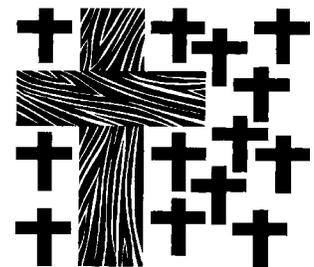
We remember the road to Jesus' death and link his journey to our own as our parish's deacons lead us through this beautiful devotion. Come and pray with us...

Each Friday during Lent – 1 PM and 7 PM

Save the date...

Living Stations of the Cross

Good Friday, April 10 at 7:30 PM in the Church



This is a must for your Lenten and Holy Week journey! Our parish community comes together – led by our young people, our Music Ministries and members of our parish community – who share their own personal experiences on this most holy and solemn night. The celebration includes the Veneration of the Cross.

The Lenten Labyrinth

Labyrinths are about journeys, and so is this holy Lenten season. Come to our Parish Lenten Mission and take a journey through your soul, in your relationship with God and your understanding of self. This week in our parish promises to be something special.

Monday, March 9 - Thursday, March 12

7:30 PM

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Led by Fr. Thomas O'Connor, OSB

Labyrinth

A Brief Introduction

The labyrinth is an ancient spiritual tool that has been used throughout the world for over four thousand years. A labyrinth is a circuitous path with one entrance point that leads through a series of switch-backs to its center. A labyrinth is not a maze. A maze, by contrast, has dead-ends and blind alley ways. Its intention is confusion and mystery. The labyrinth, when followed, leads eventually and without making choices to the center. It is designed for one to find his/her way.



The journey includes...

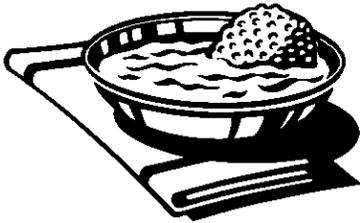
- Monday:** *The Lenten Labyrinth*
- Tuesday:** *Journey to Healing (including the Sacrament of Reconciliation)*
- Wednesday:** *Journeying with joy, lightness and humor*
- Thursday:** *Leaving the Labyrinth – Living the Message (Closing Mass)*



Father Thomas O'Connor, OSB, is a monk of Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham, Massachusetts, a Benedictine Community dedicated to prayer, work and service. Fr. Tom is presently a spiritual director and a member of the retreat team at the Abbey. He will bring to this Lenten Mission a deep spirituality, a wonderful sense of humor and a refreshing sense of balance for those walking life's journey of faith.

Mass Book of Intentions

The 2010 Mass Book of Intentions will be opening on **Tuesday, February 24** at **9 AM in the Parish Office**. As always, we will do our best to accommodate your Mass Intention requests.



Ministry of Family Healing

Jesus invites us to follow his example of humility and love for one another. The Ministry of Family Healing invites you to join in a night of reflection on *“The Basin and the Towel.”*

Come pray with us on **Thursday, March 5 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center**.

Please call the Religious Education Office to register at 661.5440, option 3.

As always, food and fellowship to follow.

Men’s Group

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

Come join us on **Thursday, March 19, in the Parish Center after the 8 AM Mass**.

We 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 Fitzgerald at 587.5548.

Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month.

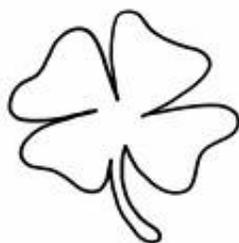
The next meeting will be held on **Monday, February 23, at 12:30 PM in the Parish Center**.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, February 24, in the Parish Center at 9 AM**.

Our Lady of Lourdes 1st Annual St. Patrick's/St. Joseph's Day Celebration

Saturday, March 21
from 8 PM until midnight
in the All-Purpose Room



The evening will include music, dancing,
Italian and Irish buffet,
beer, wine and soda
-all for only \$30 per person.

Dessert Contest

All are eligible to enter, if you wish.
A panel of judges will determine winners
and award prizes.



To reserve tickets, please call
Parish Outreach at 661.9262, option 4.
Space is limited, so get your tickets early!

The event is hosted by the combined efforts of
Our Lady of Lourdes Holy Name Society,
Rosary Christian Mothers and Parish Outreach.
Proceeds will benefit OLL Parish Outreach.

Jesus is the Answer! What's the Question?

Tuesdays - March 3, 17, 24, 31 and April 7

7:30 - 9:30 PM

Parish Center

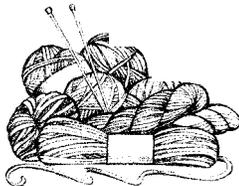
Presenter: Fr. Bob Scheckenback



Jesus of Nazareth in history...the Jesus of the Gospels...the Christ...the Word...the Theological Jesus...the personal/savior/redeemer.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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



Join us ...

Wednesdays, March 25, April 15, May 20, June 10

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.

Art and Prayer

Tuesdays, April 21, 28 and May 5, 12, 19

7:30 - 9:30 PM

Parish Center

Presenter: Joan Woelfel, Staff Associate – St. Ignatius Retreat House, Manhasset, NY

This workshop will explore the relationship between art and journaling in prayer. Participants will create their own art experience using different media as prayer, and continue the prayer experience through journaling.

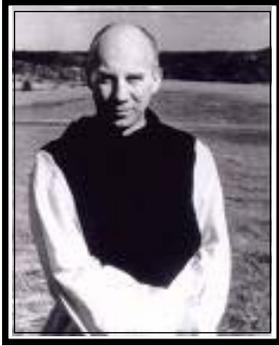
No art experience necessary.

Art materials will be provided. Bring your own journal.

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 Ed Office at 661.5440 (option 3), Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 5 PM and 7 PM – 9 PM or e-mail to: religioused@ollchurch.org.

Heroes & Heroines of Our Faith... *continues*

These friends of God challenge, inspire and deepen our faith. Come join us as we journey with these living witnesses of God's unchanging love.



Thomas Merton

On Being Myself – An Evening with Thomas Merton

Sixth in our series ...

Tuesday, February 24

7:30 - 9:30 PM

Parish Center

Presenter: Tom Petriano

Everyone “*knows of*” Thomas Merton...

BUT does everyone “*really know*” Thomas Merton and who he was? Join us for this evening... as we discover this man of faith

Thomas Merton was born in 1915 and died in 1968. Merton's life was a continual quest for God. After his conversion, he went on to become a Trappist monk, a writer, a poet, an activist for peace and justice, and a spiritual guide respected by people of many faiths and people of no faith.

For Merton, the achievement of holiness occurs in the discovery of the true self. I invite you to share my love for Thomas Merton as we explore his journey and the guideposts it offers for our own quest for God and our own true self.

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 Ed Office at 661.5440 (option 3), Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 5 PM and 7 PM – 9 PM or e-mail to: religioused@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

Victor Lazaro died on February 7 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 13. We extend our prayers to his children, grandchildren and entire family.

Joan Biehayen Tracy died on February 10 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 13. We extend our prayers to her children, grand children, great-grandchildren and entire family.

William R. Survilla died on February 10 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 14. We extend our prayers to his children, William, Helene and Kara, his grandchildren and entire family.

Armand J. Porzio died on February 11 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 14. We extend our prayers to his wife, Sari, son, Peter, granddaughter, Kristen, and entire family.

William M. Heartt died on February 13 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 16. We extend our prayers to his wife, Regina, his children, Denis and Margaret, his brother Robert and entire family.

Remembering . . .

Monday, February 23

St. Polycarp, bishop & martyr

8:00 AM Michael Sanfilippo, Jr.

Tuesday, February 24

8:00 AM Sam Alfieri

Wednesday, February 25

Ash Wednesday

8:00 AM Thomas J. Calogero

8:00 PM Peter Cammalleri

Thursday, February 26

8:00 AM Marguerite Honiker

Friday, February 27

8:00 AM Nicholas Caccavo

Saturday, February 28

8:00 AM James Hill, Mamie Brody, Thomas MacMonigle,
Phyllis Lewis, Frank Sicurella, Jack Verity, Kathleen Useloff,
Sick members of the Deroxas and Ismiph Families,
Robert LoPorcaro, Raymond Brogan, Sr.

5:00 PM Robert Beck

Fr. John Asomugha

Sunday, March 1

8:00 AM Cornelius J. Guider

Fr. Mike Vetrano

9:30 AM Edward Cameron III

Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

11:00 AM Thomas Dowling, Patrick McCarthy, John Kelly

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

12:30 PM Cynthia Ripperger

Fr. Mike Vetrano

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Frances Galletta, Jim Barylski, Earl McLoughlin,
William Fannon, Raymond Brogan, Sr., Victor Lazaro, Gerard O'Brien,
Rose Malone, Carol Marcone-Harneis

Fr. Bob Scheckenback



Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Masses will be celebrated at 8 AM and 8 PM.

Prayer services will be held on every other hour, beginning at 7 AM with the last prayer service beginning at 9 PM.

Welcome to Our New Hospital Visitors

Our parish hospital visitors program has fifteen new members!

In an attempt to plan for the future, a training program was held for those parishioners who came forward last fall when a request was made one Sunday after the Masses.

Since last November after they completed training, at least one visitor goes daily to Good Samaritan Hospital to visit our hospitalized parishioners. Our visitors are now familiar with the hospital world and with the role they have assumed as an OLL visitor to the sick.

They came together in January for their first meeting since they began their visiting. They brought to the meeting suggestions, comments and any problems encountered. Visitors have commented on their experience: many spoke of feeling effective, of receiving much personally as they entered the lives of patients. Patients and families have given positive feedback about their experiences with the visitors. Father Doug Dower, the Director of Pastoral Care, has expressed his appreciation for this ministry.

Due to the privacy law, we have access solely to patients who have specifically identified themselves as OLL parishioners and who have indicated that they are receptive to a visit. OLL patients who have not indicated to hospital staff their parish affiliation are never visited because we are unaware that they are in the hospital.

Our new visitors are:

Bonnie Bisson

Michael Boland

Jay Bowers

Pat Bowers

Rose Contelmo

Debbie Cuniglio

Brigid Kinney

Nancy Kuchler

Olivier Lindor

Nadyne Louis

Betty Martin

Josie Melton

Ann Munkwitz

Ricci Ruocco

Kathleen Wichelns

We thank these wonderful men and women who have compassionately and generously given their time for this important ministry to our ill parishioners. May they be blessed!

Charles Argento

Bonnie Bisson

Michael Boland

Jay Bowers

Pat Bowers

Rose Contelmo

Debbie Cuniglio

Annemarie Flynn

Brigid Kinney

Nancy Kuchler

Olivier Lindor

Nadyne Louis

Betty Martin

Maryellen McKee

Josie Melton

Ann Munkwitz

Ricci Ruocco

Kathleen Wichelns

Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast

Come out and support Cub Scout Pack 330, sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes Church, on **Sunday, March 1**, following the 8 AM, 9:30 AM, and 11 AM Masses.

A hearty breakfast, served by Scouts will include: pancakes, sausage, juice & coffee.

\$5.00 donation (children under 3 Free)

Your support is greatly appreciated.



Save the Dates....

There is much happening in the liturgical and prayer life of our parish community in the days and weeks ahead. Mark your calendars today!

Wednesday, February 25 – Ash Wednesday
Monday, March 9 through – Parish Lenten Retreat
Thursday, March 12

and don't forget...

Our Lady of Lourdes 25th Annual Duffers Classic Monday, July 20, 2009

The Our Lady of Lourdes 25th Annual Golf Outing to Support Catholic Education will be held on July 20, 2009.

This year we will be honoring **Dom and Mary Anne Lettieri**, who have supported our Golf Outing and our Parish Italian Family Feast for over 25 years.

Please mark your calendars and plan to be with us.

For more information about our Golf Outing, please contact the Parish Office.

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.



©LPI

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

At the Rosecrance Rehabilitation Center in Rockford, Illinois, both adolescents and adults come to be treated for serious addictions to drugs and alcohol. For many, their families have brought them there, no longer able to understand, control, or live with a disease which threatens to take their loved one's life if allowed to continue. Caring counselors combine physiological and psychological treatment, but also impart to the residents the need for a spiritual awakening, a need to renew their faith, lift themselves up from their addiction and walk away. It's through the faith of others that they can do this.

The crowds are banging on the door; Jesus is literally being kept from his teachings by the very people he is trying to reach. So overwhelming are they that they climb onto the roof of his house, and tearing a hole in it, they lower down a man paralyzed, begging Jesus to cure him. And he does, but the Gospel of Mark specifically says, "When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Child, your sins are forgiven.'" It is through the faith of those around the paralyzed man that his illness is relieved, and he is able to stand up and walk away.

From its beginning through death, human life is surrounded by guardians, those whose watchful eyes offer care and intercession (CCC 336). No one is forgotten, no one is cast aside even though it seems no one cares. Even as Christ walked to Calvary and those who had followed him now turned their back on him, a woman steps forward to wipe the sweat and blood from his face, a man steps forward to carry his cross when he no longer can. Through the faith of others, we are never alone.

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Readings for the Week of February 22, 2009

Sunday:	Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25/2 Cor 1:18-22/Mk 2:1-12
Monday:	Sir 1:1-10/Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday:	Sir 2:1-11/Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday:	Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20---6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday:	Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25
Friday:	Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday:	Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday:	Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Nancy Trujillo*.
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 ...

*Lucas Anderson, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Deacon Steve Behar,
Ray Berthold, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Howard Campkin, Jean Cilluffo,
Michael Ciotkosz, Regina Cranor, Karen DellaVecchia, Marge Flem,
James, Jr. & Julia Florio (infants), Susan Gigante, Alice Hallahan,
Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Veronica Hopland, Kathleen Kerrigan,
Kara Lobasso, Baby Josephine Mahan, Robert Mariani, Vicky Massaro,
Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., David McCarthy, Eleanor McGee,
Dorothy Meloni, Brenden Muldoon, Frances Parine, Arthur Petrino,
Joanne Popper, Joe Radosti, James Randazzo, Patricia Salimbene,
Patricia Santangelo, Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Roy Sorrese,
Derek Stahl, Mary Clair Stephen, Diana Marie Taveras,
Charlie Tibbetts, Baby John Tramazzo, Jean Virgilio,
Pat Wallace, Flo Worysz, Rosemarie Wurmser*

Health is Wealth - but not for Those who Can't Afford Medical Care

MICAH*: An Interfaith Campaign to End Poverty on Long Island

(*Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger)

"Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God." Micah, 6:8

46 million Americans are uninsured and have trouble accessing needed health care. Nearly half of personal bankruptcies are due to the fallout from illness and high medical bills. Almost 70% of uninsured people come from families with at least one full-time worker. What can be done in the near future to repair a health system that is not working?

During his campaign, President Obama pledged to help the uninsured and control costs. Congressional leaders in the new Obama administration have identified health care as a 2009 priority. During the transition phase- the last two weeks of December 2008, then president-elect and nominee for Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Daschle, invited citizens across the nation to share their ideas about how they would fix our ailing health care system. Two groups from Long Island, from Nassau and Suffolk counties, responded to this call- nurses, doctors, information specialists, hospital chiefs, advocates, and health care policy experts all came together to make recommendations that have been submitted as a report to the new president. In the meantime, as reported in the Jan./Feb. 2009 AARP Bulletin, our new leaders are considering the following prospects for change:

Covering Children: The push to insure more children through the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) is the reform that observers say is most likely to succeed in 2009. (Without action the program will expire March 31.) President Obama and Congress have made expansion a priority.

Covering the Uninsured: In addition to covering more people in SCHIP and Medicaid, the President would require employers to provide coverage for workers or contribute to the cost of a public insurance program open to individuals without access to other coverage. Senator from Montana & Chairman of Senate Committee on Finance, Max Baucus supports a "health insurance exchange," a government-run program open to those without employer coverage. Both he and President Obama would provide premium subsidies for lower-income people. Senator Baucus' blueprint calls for allowing uninsured people ages 55 to 64 to buy into Medicare early. Not surprisingly, the biggest obstacle is money. The President has said he would pay the estimated \$50- \$65 billion cost of covering the uninsured by allowing tax cuts for those making more than \$250,000 annually to expire.

Preexisting Conditions: President Obama and Senator Baucus would forbid insurers from denying coverage because of an applicant's health status. America's Health Insurance Plans, the industry trade group, in November announced its support of such a ban if all individuals were required to join an insurance plan.

Controlling Costs: President Obama has said improving health information technology (IT) could lower costs. He views this as an economic stimulus, noting that helping health providers set up electronic medical records would greatly reduce medical errors. In 10 years, improvements in health IT could save \$88 billion.

In addressing root causes of hunger and poverty on Long Island, MICAH has identified access to health care issues among the vulnerable and uninsured, as one of its priorities, while pushing for universal health coverage. In support of families in poverty, what is one thing you can do to address health issues in your neighborhood?

To learn more about the MICAH campaign, contact Rev. Thomas Goodhue at the L.I. Council of Churches (tomgoodhue@optonline.net) or LICC Advocacy Director Neelofer Chaudry (nchaudry@aol.com)

Parish Outreach

Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

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

Pantry Needs



canned fruit
canned vegetables
jelly
peanut butter
pudding/jello
soup

Outreach Memorial Donations

Parish Outreach has received many donations in memory of loved ones.

If you would like to make a donation to Parish Outreach in memory of a loved one, please call Mary McMahan, Director of Parish Social Ministry at 661.3224, option 4.



FAMILY MARDI GRAS



TODAY!

SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 22

3 PM

ending with Mass at 6 PM

Our Lady of Lourdes All Purpose Room

\$7.00 per person includes all

(plus 5 raffle tickets!)

Proceeds to benefit Outreach.

Deeper Thing Under the Surface

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

We connect to each other at different levels.

How we do that through words is one thing, but that isn't the only thing or often even the most important thing. We talk and have conversations, but what's really important is mostly growing under the surface, silent, unobserved, though solid and ultimately the glue that binds us together or the wedge that drives us apart. We have ordinary conversations about trivialities and then one day we realize that we love or hate each other, that we're fast friends or have nothing in common. How does it happen?

Imagine you live in proximity to your mother and you make a commitment to visit her three times a week. In the course of a year, that means you will be visiting her about 150 times. How many times, among all those times, will you have a deep conversation with her? A dozen times? Five times? A couple of times?

Mostly, as we know, the conversation won't be deep, but will revolve around the ordinary business of living: "The kids are fine!" "Steve dropped in last week!" "Mum, your food really is bland, how can you stand all that jello?" "No, we didn't get much rain, just a sprinkle!" "Yes, I'll be sure to pass your greetings on to Martha; she always asks about you!"

You will talk about the weather, about your siblings, about diets, about who's moving away, and about whom you saw at the mall. And, given that you're busy and preoccupied with many pressures in your own life, it will be natural that occasionally you will furtively glance at your watch, to see how much longer you need to stay before you can politely leave and go back to many things pressing in your own life.

But there will be exceptions, perhaps five or six times a year, when something will trigger a deeper conversation and your mother will turn to you and say: "I want to tell you about when I first met your father!" "I need to tell you about something that happened when I was pregnant with you!" "I always wanted to share this with you, but couldn't!" And then, for that visit, you won't be sneaking glances at your watch and you won't be talking about the weather, jello, and trivialities.

You will be hearing something that touches your soul and, driving home, you'll feel that you've made a deeper connection and have something special (an insight, a bit of history, a token of intimacy, an expression of trust) that you can treasure. That'll be special, but, in the end,

it won't be the real fruit of your regular visits with your mother.

The real fruit will be what was happening under the surface - unobserved, silent, but solid - all those other times when you were talking about the weather, diets, and trivialities. Simply put, if you visit your mother 150 times a year and spend an hour or so each time, you will, through all of that, develop a bond with her that goes far beyond what gets said on any given day, deep or superficial. That bond will grow because you're having regular contact. You'll get to know her and will be connected in a way that can only happen between people who sit down with each other three times a week.

Ordinary chitchat is not the stuff of intimacy, but regular contact is because, as the chitchat is going on, something deeper is happening (for good or for bad) under the surface.

This is also true of our prayer lives and our relationship with God. If we make a commitment to sit in private prayer every day for half an hour, how many times might we expect that we'll feel a deep movement of soul, a stunning insight, or an affirmation that really warms us? A dozen times a year? Five or six times a year? Perhaps.

Most of the time though our prayer time will be a lot like those visits we make regularly to our mothers. We'll be absorbed with the weather, diets, and with whom we saw at the mall, even as we sneak the occasional glance at our wristwatches. We will treasure those times when something special breaks through, but those times will not be what's really important.

What's really important will be what's growing under the surface, namely, a bond and an intimacy that's based upon a familiarity that can only develop and sustain itself by regular contact, by actually sharing life on a day-to-day basis.

In describing one of the deep movements within mature prayer, John of the Cross writes: "At this point, God does not communicate himself through the senses as he did before, by means of discursive analysis and the synthesis of ideas, but begins to communicate himself through pure spirit in an act of simple contemplation in which there is no discursive succession of thought."

Think about that the next time you are talking trivialities with your mother - or get bored in prayer.

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.

Financial Summary

February 15, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 15,680.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (3,320.00)

The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs and salaries is \$19,000.

Mass Attendance

	February 15
5 PM	387
8 AM	168
9:30 AM	408
11 AM	312
12:30 PM	318
"The Six"	167
TOTAL	1760
2008	1855

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
Danielle DiLapi-US Army
James J. Ferrara-US Marines
John Finn-US Army
Christopher Florca-US Marines
Donnie Frank-US Marines
Edward A. Kelly, IV-US Air Force
Michael Mallimo- US Army
Anthony Mannino-US Marines
Trent Narra-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.

Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ

This 1925 classic film, *Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ* will be presented with live pipe organ accompaniment in Chamindae High School Darby Auditorium on Sunday, March 1 at 3 PM. This is an ideal family film for Lent-it shows the nativity and Crucifixion of Christ along with scenes from His life.

Holy Family DHS

Class of '79 is holding its 30th year reunion at the Smithtown Sheraton, July 18, 2009. Please send your contact info, and any other classmate's info you might have, to info@reunionsofamerica.com or call (631) 266-1836. Feel free to chat with your former classmates on facebook.com; *Holy Family High School Class of 1979*.

Ronan Tynan in Concert

St. Michael's Church (4th Ave., Brooklyn) is hosting a Benefit concert with the famous Irish Tenor-Ronan Tynan. Please join us on **March 15 at 4 PM**. Tickets for the concert are \$50 and all proceeds to benefit Firefighter Daniel Pujdak Memorial Fund and St. Michael's Church. For reservations and information, please call 718.768.6065.

"Fill My Heart with Peace" Bereavement Conference

For the bereaved and those ministering to them – all faiths welcome.

Sponsored by Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Rockville Centre on **Saturday, March 21** from 8:30 AM until 5:30 PM at Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale. The day features an opening keynote by Antoinette Bosco, Ph.D., award winning syndicated columnist and author, bereaved mother of three children, conference bookstore and closing Eucharistic Celebration. For registration and further information, please call 516.334.7990, extension 120 or 122.

St. Ignatius Retreat House

Films That Speak to the Spirit

Come for an evening of enjoyment and enrichment as we look at some thought-provoking movies that touch upon many themes of Ignatian Spirituality. This month: "*On Golden Pond*," Tuesday, February 24 from 6:45 until 9 PM at the Retreat House, Manhasset. Facilitators are Fr. Damien Halligan, SJ and Fr. Marc Roselli, SJ. Offering \$15

Religion & Rock

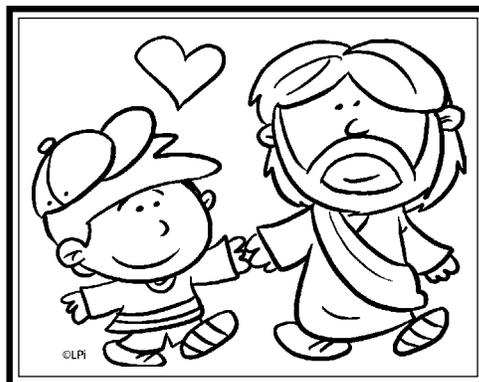
Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. The show is also available on Sirius Radio, Channel 159 at 11 PM on Saturday.

Next Sunday's theme is "**Forgiveness**." Don't miss it!

To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & 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

"I forgive you." Those are small words that make a huge difference. If a friend accidentally broke one of your toys, you would have a choice to make. You could get angry at your friend, or you could forgive her. Your toy will stay broken. Don't break your friendship, too. In today's Gospel, Jesus taught the importance of friendship and forgiveness.



Mission for the Week



Jesus forgives you every day. Make sure you forgive other people, too.

Puzzle

Find 8 differences.



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Prayer



Jesus,
thank you for
teaching me to
forgive others, just
as you forgive me.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture
of a friend
forgiving you.