

**"I AM
THE GOOD SHEPHERD."**

JOHN 10:11



OUR LADY OF LOURDES • FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER • MAY 3, 2009



Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano
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. Robert Scheckenback

Associate Pastor

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 Scorcio

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 Scorcio

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

Welcome...

to Our Lady of Lourdes!

We are so happy to welcome everyone who has come to worship with us today! Whether you have come a long distance or you live locally, we are glad that you have decided to spend some time with us as we worship our Lord together. Please know that your presence today is a blessing to our parish family.

Would you like to know more about our parish family?

All are welcome at Our Lady of Lourdes and we do our best to reach out to everyone.

If you would like more information about our parish or if you would like one of our team to be in touch with you, please fill this form out and place it in any collection or offering basket, mail it to us, or send an email to parishoffice@ollchurch.org

Welcome...

to Our Lady of Lourdes!

455 Hunter Avenue, West Islip, New York 11795



I would like information about:

Religious Education of my Children Becoming a Catholic or Adult Confirmation
 Marriage or Annulment / Remarriage Spiritual Direction or Counseling
 Our Parish Catholic School Adult Education Senior Services
 Joining the Parish Baptizing my Children Other _____

I would prefer to be contacted by:

Phone at: _____ Email at: _____

Mail at: _____

Your Name: _____

April Showers Brings... leaks and a new roof!

It is time for a new roof and skylight replacement. The total cost for roof and skylights is \$50,000- so we will need your support to help keep us dry.



The total amount collected to date is \$16,673!

There's still time. You can contribute toward our roof / skylight project by sending us your gift. Please help us with this important project.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Did you know OLL loves to pray with our children?

Every Sunday at the 9:30 A.M. Mass, we invite young people from age four to about fourth grade to process into the Parish Center. Here, they hear God's word in a powerful and meaningful way for them...and their families get a break, too!

Consider coming to our 9:30 A.M. Mass and inviting others to do the same.

Also – HELP IS NEEDED!

We are looking for musicians and lectors to be part of the Children's Liturgy of the Word in the Parish Center on a Sunday or two a month! If you think you can be a part of it – we'd love to have you!

What's the Rush!?

As we continue to pray so well as a parish community, we are always called to more in our prayer and action.

Part of what the liturgy calls us to is a stepping away from the business and "busy"ness of every day life. For at least one hour, we would pull ourselves away from work, family, commitments, shopping, etc. and give that hour over to prayer. The prayer calls us not only to bring ourselves but to also commit to praying on behalf of the community for the entire Mass.

If you are someone who has gotten into the habit of leaving early at Sunday Mass, please take some time to think, for yourself, what that is about? The community's prayer NEEDS you for the ENTIRE time – from beginning to end, from Entrance Hymn to Closing Hymn! Please give it some thought!

If you have any ideas or thoughts about how we can better address, please contact John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.

First Holy Communion



Beginning on Saturday, April 25 you will see many homes in our parish displaying a paper chalice in their front window, a sign that a child living there has received First Holy Communion this season. We are so grateful for your prayerful support during their time of preparation, and we invite you to rejoice with us as we continue to welcome them at the Table of the Lord each week. This is truly a cause for rejoicing because 280 children have taken another significant step on their journey of faith as members of our parish family.

Come and celebrate our parish's...

May Crowning

Sunday, May 3

9:30 AM Mass

followed by a procession in honor of the Blessed Mother.

This day, our Rosary Christian Mothers and our Family Liturgy Committee invite you to be a part of this annual Catholic tradition. Here, we bring forth the different parts of our parish community for a time of prayer and hospitality.

Of course – all are welcome to stay after for some delicious bagels and juice!

Save the date...

Pentecost Sunday, May 31

Celebrating Our Heritage...

One Faith – Many Traditions

This event will begin with Mass at 12:30 PM on Sunday, May 31 – Pentecost Sunday. Our celebration will continue after Mass in the Cafeteria as we celebrate our many heritages within our parish family.

The celebration will include food, costumes, music and traditional dancing. Join us as we begin our journey arriving in America and experience a favorite “all American” food. We’re asking each parish family to bring a “food item” (enough for a family) according to their family heritage, and bring it to their country’s table. This way, we will have something to share from all the different countries.

Please call Religious Ed Office at 661-5440, option 3 or e-mail to Religioused@ollchurch.org and let us know what you are bringing.



Art and Prayer

Tuesdays, 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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Join us ...

Wednesdays, 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.

Ministry of Family Healing

Celebrate Fun!

The Ministry of Family Healing invites you to spend a night celebrating laughter and joy with Jesus. Yes, that's right, we did say laughter and joy. Often times, we don't celebrate our joy, especially with Jesus. Come let's celebrate fun, laughter, joy and a few surprises.

Come join us on **Wednesday, May 20 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

Please call the Religious Ed Office at 661-5440, option 3 or e-mail to Religioused@ollchurch.org to register. Please come and bring a friend. As always, food and fellowship to follow.

DISCOVERY Summer Camp

Sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes School

44 Toomey Road, West Islip, NY

Four Week Program

June 29 - July 24, 2009

9AM – 5 PM, Monday thru Friday



Open to all children entering grades K – 7

Registration applications now being accepted!

Registration Fee*:	\$50.00
Deposit*:	\$100.00
Full Course Cost:	\$675.00

*Deposit and registration fee are non-refundable/non-transferable.

No refunds made after May 1, 2009.

For further information contact: Lisa Kennedy: 631.587.7200 ext. 100 or

LKennedy@OLLSchool.org, Check out our website: www.OLLSchool.org

Applications and program descriptions can be found “in the Backpack” section of our website.



SAFARI Camp

Sharing About Faith and Religion

Our Lady of Lourdes

NINTH Annual Vacation Bible Camp

July 27-31, 2009

Don't miss the fun!

The grounds of Our Lady of Lourdes will be transformed into SAFARI Camp! (SAFARI stands for *Sharing About Faith and Religion*) Our campers will participate in lots of fun daily activities: singing super songs, making cool crafts, participating in awesome safari-themed science activities and, learning about God through different Bible adventures! And, of course, there'll be snacks!

Campers should presently be in Pre-K (age 4) through 5th grade. Students in grades 6-12: we need you as volunteer counselors and assistants!! The camp director is Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, a school principal and part-time team member at OLL. She'll be working with a volunteer team of adults and teens from our parish family.

The cost is \$75 per child. The fee includes all materials, snacks, crafts, and an official camp T-shirt! Fill out the registration form (which will be available at the school and religious ed. offices and will be in the bulletin in the beginning of June) and mail it to OLL at 455 Hunter Ave.(att. Jennifer Gallagher) with all fees by June 30. Email JenGallagher@ollchurch.org

Religious Education

What's happening during the Easter Season

Please pray for our Grade 7 Confirmation Candidates and their families as they begin their decision process to choose their Sponsors.

For all in Grade 7 in our Parish Family...

Sponsor/Candidate Enrollment Sunday

Sunday, May 3

6 PM Mass

All seventh graders in our Parish Family choose a Sponsor in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please come and join with all the seventh graders of our parish, their families and their newly chosen Sponsor, as we celebrate this commitment. They look to their Parish Family for prayers and support on their faith journey.

Please pray for our 8th Grade Confirmation Candidates and their Sponsors as they continue to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation in 9th Grade by participating in "RESCUE" (Religious Education Sponsor/Candidate United Effort)

For all in Grade 8 in our Parish Family...

"Rescue Closing"

Sunday, May 17

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.

For all in Grades 6/7/8 in our parish family...

Hang Out Nites continue...

Friday May 15 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Parish Center

Friday June 19 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! Be a part of the Team. High School leaders help with set-up, participating in activities, refreshments, clean-up, etc... and assist Adult Chaperones.

Reminder...

Important Confirmation Meeting

For all Eighth Grade Parents in OLL Parish Family -

Tuesday, May 5 at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria

or Wednesday, May 6 at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria

or Thursday, May 7 at 10 AM in the cafeteria.

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.
(Free babysitting 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

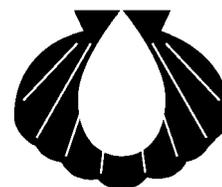
Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

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.



Baptisms

Jayden Jon Baker

Jason and Gina

Joseph John Gorman, Jr.

Joseph and Lana

Giovanna Marie Sales

Brian and Angela

Kevin Aiden Eugene Shannon

Kevin and AnnMarie

Delilah Faith Tomasulo

Stephen and Dawn

Gavin James Watson

Kevin and Tara

Sebastian John Darmiento

Alexander and Jessica

Remembering . . .

Monday, May 4

8:00 AM Lydia Ann Olsen

Tuesday, May 5

8:00 AM Donald Bolin

Wednesday, May 6

8:00 AM Anthony LaRocca

Thursday, May 7

8:00 AM Paula & Franklin Edwards (L)
Wedding Anniversary

Friday, May 8

8:00 AM Erna Schmid

Saturday, May 9

8:00 AM Gerald Cunningham, Ann Fusco, Marie D. Turano,
Anne Foote, Joseph Lavelle, Rosemaria Russo,
Rosemary Scheidel, Carmela Mincieli

5:00 PM Mickey Salegna & Lillian Daley
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Sunday, May 10

8:00 AM Colin & Yankel Family and Kay Sullo
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

9:30 AM Louise Riedemann & Sadie Melchiorre
Fr. Mike Vetrano

11:00 AM Theresa Reardon
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

12:30 PM Carmella Parasole
Fr. Mike Vetrano

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Victor Lazaro, Vincent Maccone,
Daniel DiMonda, Jean Virgilio, Frances Cannizzaro,
Donald Driscoll, Mary Esposito, John Lonergan, Vincent Severino
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

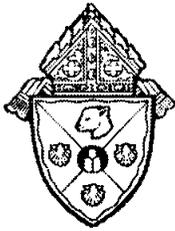
Rest In Peace

James J. Shields died on April 21 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was April 23. We extend our prayers to his wife, Theresa, daughter, Christine and entire family.

Rocco John Panaro died on April 22 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was April 25. We extend our prayers to his children, grandchildren, great-grandchild and entire family.



Celebrating Sacraments



Catholic Ministries Appeal

UPDATE

Thank You to all those who have responded!

We are at **67%** of our goal, our parish has over **\$67,000** in pledges. *Father Mike* and the CMA leadership team would like to thank the **265** families who have made a sacrifice to help those in need. Our parish will also benefit from these gifts as we reach our goal.

We can't do it without you!

We all know what is happening in the world around us. Today families that are struggling will be hurting even more. As the hard times continue, more and more families will look to our parish for help. Because of you, our parish has always been there for those less fortunate and we will continue to do what we can with what we have. If you have not already given we are asking those families who have not responded will prayerfully consider making a sacrifice to continue helping those who come to our doors. As the doors of Christ are always open, so to our hearts.

Your gift together with gifts from thousands of other Catholics can be a wonderful force to help those families that are looking to our Church for hope. Please consider joining with those who have made a sacrifice to assist those families in need by making a gift to the Appeal today. Please accept our deepest thanks from those lives that will be changed because of your gift.

Parish Goal	\$101,839
Amount Pledged	\$ 67,105
# of Donors	265
Average Pledge	\$ 253

Please consider what you can do to make this campaign successful.

catholic ministries appeal • diocese of rockville centre
 po box 4000 • rockville centre, new york 11571-4000 • www.drvc.org/cma.html

2009 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 _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____

A Guide To Giving

Pledge	8 Payments
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	\$125.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 500	62.50
<input type="checkbox"/> 250	31.25
<input type="checkbox"/> 150	18.75

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
Matchina gifts: if you qualify for a matchina gift from your employer. please forward to the cma office.

Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of May will be on **Wednesday, May 6 from 1- 3 PM**. All are invited and welcome! We will be praying for our children, our country, our men and women in the military and our clergy.



Rosary Christian Mothers

The Rosary Christian Mothers meet on the first Monday evening of each month. The next meeting will be **Monday, May 4**. We will begin with the **Rosary at 7:45 PM in the Church** followed by our **meeting at 8 PM in the Parish Center**.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, May 5**, 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 10**. 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**.

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.

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.



©LPI

4th Sunday of Easter

There is a phrase that has become popular if not overused in the business world today. It is "thinking outside the box." What this means is to be more creative, to do away with traditional thinking. It is most often used in the world of advertising, where companies attempt to come up with new and innovative ways to get consumers to notice them. Unfortunately, this type of thinking all too often leads to being outside the boundaries of good taste, as well. Like a shepherd's fence, perhaps the box was created for a very good reason to begin with!

Today's Gospel reading from John relates Jesus' narrative of being the Good Shepherd. He states adamantly that he will lay down his life for his flock, but he also says he will think outside of the box when he says: "I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd." The Good Shepherd fights for our very lives against the evils of the world, so much so that he sacrificed himself so that we might be saved. It is the least we can do to call others who have strayed from the shepherd's flock.

A traditional shepherd keeps his flock close to him, builds a fence to keep them safe. Should one stray, he uses his crook to bring it home. The Good Shepherd provides us with the sacrament of penance, our way of returning to the flock. The priest is the sign and instrument of God's merciful love and forgiveness for our straying (CCC 1465). On this Fourth Sunday of Easter, we would do well to listen to the Good Shepherd, who invites us to return the flock.

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Readings for the week of May 3, 2009

Sunday:	Acts 4:8-12/1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18
Monday:	Acts 11:1-18/Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday:	Acts 11:19-26/Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday:	Acts 12:24---13:5a/Jn 12:44-50
Thursday:	Acts 13:13-25/Jn 13:16-20
Friday:	Acts 13:26-33/Jn 14:1-6
Saturday:	Acts 13:44-52/Jn 14:7-14
Next Sunday:	Acts 9:26-31/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

Summer Evening Prayer

It's almost summer... and time for Summer Evening Prayer! OLL annual tradition of gather for Evening Prayer on the "Great Lawn" will continue in 2009 and we need to get working on new ideas, activities and events to make our 2009 celebration the best ever! This group only meets a few times in May and June so it's not a "forever" commitment. Think about it – maybe something for you!



If you're interested in joining contact the Parish Office at 661.3224 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org. We'd love to have you!

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, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Howard Campkin, Nicholas Cibelli, Michael Ciotkosz, Marion Coletto, Regina Cranor, Ann Donlon, Claire Donovan, Anita Ferruggiari, Marge Flem, James, Jr. & Julia Florio (infants), Susan Gigante, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Kathleen Kerrigan, Kara Lobasso, Baby Josephine Mahan, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Dorothy Meloni, Rae Morris, Brenden Muldoon, John O'Brien, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Joe Radosti, Carol Randazzo-Hopkins, Anthony Rao, James Reilly, Connor Serio, Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Derek Stahl, Mary Clair Stephen, Diana Marie Taveras, Baby John Tramazzo, Vera Vieni, Pat Wallace, Flo Worysz

2009 Men's Catholic Conference *"You Have What It Takes"*



A reflection...

The Inaugural 2009 Catholic Men's Conference of the Diocese of Rockville Centre was held on Saturday, April 25. Fr. Joe Fitzgerald, and a handful of leaders from the Long Island Catholic Mens' Ministry, felt that the men of Long Island were ready! Over one thousand men filled the auditorium to be welcomed and challenged. We spoke of the challenges that men are faced with as husbands, fathers, workers and students-struggles of every kind.

Some of the speakers included *Mark Bavaro*, former New York Giants All-Star and author of *Rough and Tumble*, *Msgr. James Lisante*, Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Massapequa Park, *Lou Carnesecca*, former St. John's University Basketball coach and *Steven McDonald*, NYPD Detective.

Steven McDonald beamed when he was wheeled on stage and said, "How proud I am to be a Catholic looking at all of you!" He simply told his story of being hurt and how his faith has given him the courage to survive all these 23 years. I was able to speak with Steven and told him of our Men's Prayer Group here at Our Lady of Lourdes. I asked him if he would possibly come to our parish to share his story and he said, "Yes." (*more details to follow*)

The Conference was an unforgettable experience with 1000 men sharing their spirituality. I would like to personally invite you to continue your faith journey with our Men's Prayer Group that meets once a month on a Thursday, after the 8 AM Mass.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 28. Come and join us!

-Jack Fitzgerald

MICAH* (**Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger*)

An Interfaith Advocacy Campaign to End Poverty on Long Island

The National Association of Letter Carrier's Union And MICAH
URGE YOU TO HELP STAMP OUT HUNGER!

It's simple. Place non-perishable food items next to your mailbox for your letter carrier to pick up, or bring food donations to your local post office on Saturday, May 9, 2009.

This annual food collection by the Letter Carrier's union helps stock Long Island food pantries through the summer months.

Be part of the solution: make your donation to feed a hungry neighbor.

Interested in becoming a food drive sponsor or volunteer to sort or pack food?

Please visit <http://www.stampouthungerli.com> or call Island Harvest, at 516.294.8528, ext. 21 or Long Island Cares at 631.582.3663 (FOOD) x120

Parish Outreach

Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

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

Pantry Needs



canned pasta, ravioli, etc.
chili
macaroni & cheese
pasta
tomato sauce

Outreach Memorial Donations

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

- A donation has been made to Outreach in memory of *Jack Manning* from Barbara Catusco.
- Diane Ackerly has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Rosemarie Wurmser* and *Marie Turano*.
- Doris and Richard Shaddock have made a Mother's Day Donation to Outreach in memory of their mothers, *Rose Monroe and Elinor Shaddock*.

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.

A Prodigal God

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

A couple of years ago, Barbara Kingsolver wrote a book entitled *Prodigal Summer*. It tells the story of young woman who got pregnant during a summer within which everything seemed to be dangerously fertile. From the plants, through the insects, through the animals, to the people, everything seemed to be teeming with fecundity, overactive, overabundant in seed. Life seemed to be bursting forth everywhere. The title of the book is good metaphor for what she describes, a summer overabundant in fertility.

Nature is like that, teeming with everything, prodigal, fertile, overabundant, wasteful. Why else do we have 90% more brain cells than we need and why else is nature scattering billions of seeds, of virtually everything, all over the planet every second?

And if life is so prodigal, what does this say about God, its author?

God, as we see in both nature and in scripture (and know from experience), is over-generous, over-lavish, over-extravagant, over-prodigious, over-rich, and over-patient. If nature, scripture, and experience are to be believed, God is the absolute antithesis of everything that is stingy, miserly, frugal, narrowly calculating, or sparing in what it doles out. God is prodigal.

Dictionaries define “prodigal” as “wastefully extravagant and lavishly abundant.” That certainly describes the God that Jesus incarnates and reveals.

We see this in the parable of the Sower. God, the sower, goes out to sow and he scatters his seed generously, almost wastefully, everywhere - on the road, among the rocks, among the thorns, on bad soil, and on rich soil. No farmer would ever do this. Who would waste seed on soil that can never produce a harvest? God, it seems, doesn't ask that question but simply keeps scattering his seed everywhere, over-generously, without calculating whether it is a good investment or not in terms of return. And, it seems, God has an infinite number of seeds to scatter, perpetually, everywhere. God is prodigious beyond imagination.

Among other things, this speaks of God's infinite riches, love, and patience. For us, there is both a huge challenge and a huge consolation in that. The challenge, of course, is to respond to the infinite number of invitations that God scatters on our path from minute to minute.

The consolation is that, no matter how many of God's invitations we ignore, there will always be an infinite number of others. No matter how many we've already ignored or turned down, there are new ones awaiting us each minute. When we've gone through 39 days of Lent without praying or changing our lives, there's still a 40th day to respond. When we've ignored a thousand invitations, there's still another one waiting. God is prodigal, so are the chances God gives us.

Sr. Margaret Halaska once captured this wonderfully in a poem she entitled, *Covenant*:

The Father knocks at my door, seeking a home for his son:

Rent is cheap, I say

I don't want to rent. I want to buy, says God.

I'm not sure I want to sell, /but you might come in to look around.

I think I will, says God.

I might let you have a room or two.

I like it, says God. I'll take the two.

You might decide to give me more some day.

I can wait, says God.

I'd like to give you more,

but it's a bit difficult. I need some space for me.

I know, says God, but I'll wait. I like what I see.

Hm, maybe I can let you have another room.

I really don't need that much.

Thanks, says God, I'll take it. I like what I see.

I'd like to give you the whole house

but I'm not sure -

Think on it, says God. I wouldn't put you out.

Your house would be mine and my son would live in it.

You'd have more space than you'd ever had before.

I don't understand at all.

I know, says God, but I can't tell you about that.

You'll have to discover it for yourself.

That can only happen if you let him have the whole house.

A bit risky, I say.

Yes, says God, but try me.

I'm not sure -

I'll let you know.

I can wait, says God. I like what I see.

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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

April 26, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 16,621.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (2,379.00)

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

Members in the Military

We ask that you pray especially for those in our parish that are on active duty in the Middle East conflict.

They are:

Bryan R. Dempsey-US Marines

James J. Ferrara-US Marines

John Finn-US Army

Christopher Florca-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

Frank Silva-US Army

...and remember those of our parish family that are in the armed services, listed in our Parish Book of Intentions.

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A Prodigal God

If we look back on our lives and are truly honest, we have to admit that of all the invitations that God has sent us, we've probably accepted and acted on only a fraction of them. There have been countless times we've turned away from an invitation. For every invitation to maturity we've accepted, we've probably turned down a hundred. But that's the beauty and wonder of God's richness. God is not a petty creator and creation, itself, is not a cheap machine with barely enough energy and resources to keep it going. God and nature are prodigal. That's plain everywhere. Millions and millions of life-giving seeds blow everywhere in the world and we need only to pick up a few to become pregnant, fecund, capable of newness, maturity, and of producing life.

Spring Fair

West Islip Spring Fair is scheduled for **Saturday, May 9 from 10 AM until 4 PM at the Westminster United Presbyterian Church, Udall Road, West Islip. (rain date is Saturday, May 16)**
For information, please call the Church Office at 661.6740.

Beauty and the Beast

James Street Players proudly presents Disney's Beauty and the Beast beginning on Friday, May 8 at 8 PM at the United Methodist Church, Babylon. Other showtimes are Tuesday, May 12 at 8 PM, Friday, May 15 at 8 PM and Saturday, May 9 and May 16 at 2 PM and 8 PM. All tickets are \$15. For tickets and information call 1.866.811.4111.

Elizabeth T. McNamee Memorial 5K Run

The 11th Annual Elizabeth T. McNamee Memorial 5K Run is set for **Sunday, May 10 at 9 AM**. For applications and information, please call 321.0806 or register on-line at ACTIVE.com.

Fatima Day

Fatima Day will be held at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island, Manorville, NY on **Wednesday, May 13**. Guest speaker will be renowned author Immaculée Ilibagiza of NY Times best-seller *Left to Tell*. Immaculée lost her entire family in the Rwandan holocaust of 1994, caused by ethnic hatred. She forgave her family's killers and teaches us all the power of mercy and forgiveness! The day begins with Stations of the Cross at 10 AM and closes with Benediction at 3 PM.

Dominican Village

Please join us for an Open House on Thursday, May 7 from 1 PM until 3 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.

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 "**Outdoor Experience.**" Don't miss it!

To listen on-line or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go to www.religionandrock.com. Don't forget to tune into TELECare, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 271 for the Best in Catholic Television!

Sharing the Gospel

Without a good shepherd to lead them, sheep would get lost. Without a good shepherd to protect them, sheep would get hurt. A good shepherd would even die, just to keep his sheep safe. Jesus is your good shepherd, and you are his precious little lamb. When you get lost, Jesus comes to find you. When you are in danger, Jesus comes to comfort you.

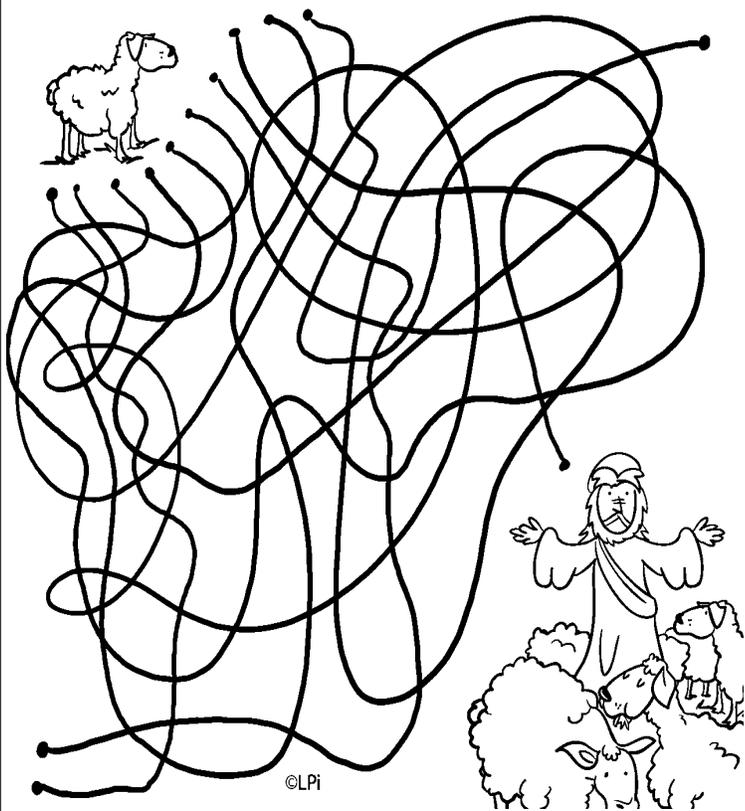
Listen to the voice of Jesus. Spend time reading the Bible every day. He wants to lead you to life with God. He wants to protect you from sin. Jesus gave up his life just to save you. Jesus is your good shepherd.



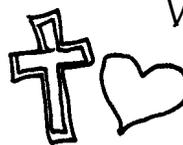
Prayer  God, help me to always follow Jesus, my good shepherd.

Puzzle

Help this lamb find his way into the sheep pen with Jesus.



Mission for the Week



Learn as much as you can about Jesus, so you can follow him. Read a Bible story with your family every night before bed.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of yourself as a little lamb and Jesus as your good shepherd.