

Our Lady of Lourdes • The Most Holy Body & Blood • June 14, 2009

**“Jesus took a loaf of bread,
and after blessing it
he broke it,
gave it to them, saying,**



**“Take;
this is my body.”**



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

Altar Servers

Serving the Lord with Gladness

We are getting ready to welcome a new group of altar servers. Altar servers help at Sunday liturgy, parish prayer services, funerals and weddings.

-To become a server you only need to be entering fourth grade and be willing to serve with a great spirit!

If you're interested, please contact the Parish Office at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.



Our Lady of Lourdes 25th Annual Golf Classic Monday, July 20, 2009 Island Hills Country Club, Sayville

The Our Lady of Lourdes 25th Annual Golf Outing to Support Catholic Education will be held on July 20, 2009 at the Island Hills Country Club, Sayville.

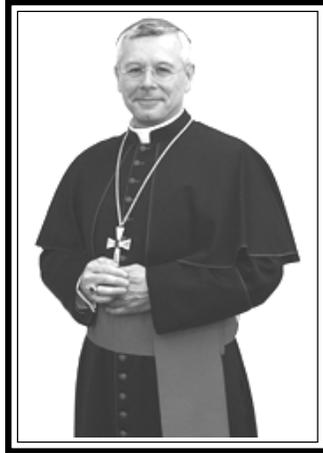
This year we will be honoring **Dom and Mary Anne Lettieri**, who have supported our Golf Outing and our Parish Italian Family Feast for over 25 years. Please mark your calendars and plan to be with us.

Golfing Package includes green fees, golf cart, driving range, continental breakfast, lunch and dinner, all for \$250 per golfer. If you would like to join us for dinner only, \$75 per person. Registration is at 11 AM with a 1:30 PM shot gun tee off. Cocktail hour is 6 - 7 PM with dinner at 7 PM.

For more information please contact Golf Committee member Rich at 661.5478 or Keith at 539.8542.

Summer Evening Prayer

Summer Evening Prayer is a little over a month away and our Summer Evening Prayer Committee has been hard at work to make this a great summer for all of us! Our first evening prayer is



Bishop Libasci Night!

Monday, July 6

7:30 PM

(Dinner for everyone beginning at 6:30 PM)

We are honored to welcome Bishop Peter to kick off our
2009 Summer Evenings of Prayer!

Check the bulletin for more information and for more ways for you to be involved.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, June 17, at 7 PM All are welcome!

Help Save a Life-Give Blood

On **Monday, June 22**, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish will hold a **Blood Drive from 3:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The Drive will be held in the Parish Center.**

All eligible donors are strongly urged to give blood. To donate you must be between the ages of 16 (with parental consent) and 72, in good health, and weigh at least 110 pounds. All donors must show proof of identification and should eat some food before donating. Donating blood is easy and completely safe. The donation includes a mini-health exam, including blood pressure, pulse, temperature and iron count. Free Cholesterol Testing for all blood donors. The donation itself takes about ten minutes, plus time for refreshments.

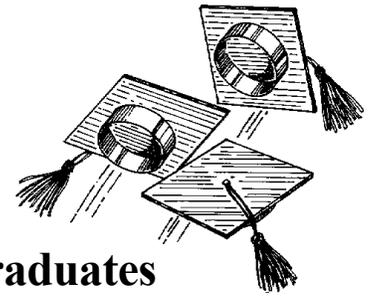
For more information about the Drive or to make an appointment, please call Marie at 669.5837 or just walk in the day of the drive.



Congratulations Graduates! **Our Lady of Lourdes School** **Academy of Arts and Sciences** **Class of 2009**

Michael Sabarese-Valedictorian
Katherine Moeller-Salutatorian

Cassidy Bock
Joshua Borrero
Michael Brogan
Samantha Buonincontri
Matthew Cardali
Michelle DeVito
Alexandra DeVivo
Nicholas Eckhoff
Christie Finn
Sean Fleming
Taylor Greene
Brianna Messina
Katherine Moeller
Devyn Owens
Dylan Owens
Lynn Paz
Mark Ratuszny
Lenny Rovelo
Karla Rovelo
Michael Sabarese
Samantha Salvato
Malik Wallace



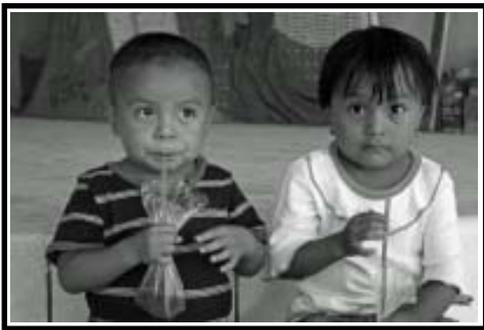
Prayer for Graduates

God of our beginnings,
We thank you for the gifts of these graduates;
their excitement, their awesome wonder and curiosity,
their open speech and encouraging words.
Their contributions have blessed and challenged us,
and we have become a richer
and more diverse community because of them.
As they step forward into the world that awaits,
comfort their fears with the full knowledge
of your divine presence.
Strengthen their resolve
to walk in the footsteps of Jesus
as modern-day disciples in
a world that needs their spirit.
Guide their feet as they move through life,
protecting them from
the pitfalls of darkness
while they help to lead future generations
into the warmth
and promise of your light.
We ask this blessing upon each of them,
In the name of the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Awareness Trip 2009

Help the Children of Our Sister Parish in El Salvador Art Supplies and School Supplies Needed!



From June 26-July 2, members of our parish community will be traveling to our Sister Parish in El Salvador. We will spend time praying and working among the poor. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

We would like to bring down art supplies and school supplies for the children of our sister parish in Tacuba! The school there has very limited supplies for children's projects, and we know that our OLL Family will be generous in sharing as always!

Next weekend., the weekend of **June 20-21**, members of our Sister Parish Mission Trip will be at all Masses to collect art supplies and school supplies. We need:

Construction paper

Crayons

Pencils

Pens

Notebooks

Stickers

Spanish children's books or coloring books

Scotch Tape and masking tape

Glitter glue

Yarn

Looseleaf paper and graph paper

Small calculators

Colored Pipe Cleaners

Bins for items collected will be in the Narthex, and members of our Mission Trip will be there as well.

At the 6 PM Mass on June 21, we will send our travelers forth with a blessing.

All are welcome to come and show your support!

Please pray for the success of our trip, and follow our progress on the parish website:

www.ollchurch.org.



SAFARI Camp
 Sharing About Faith and Religion
 Our Lady of Lourdes Vacation Bible Camp '09
 July 27-31, 2009
 9 AM - 12:30 PM daily

Camp Registration Form

*Return to OLL Parish Office along with fees
 (\$75 per child) before July 6.*

Please make checks payable to Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

We'll journey on an exciting safari of faith and fun as we learn about God, hear stories from the Bible, share cool science activities, and make crafts. And of course, we'll end our camp each day with our famous OLL camp sing-along!!

Please list below the names and present grade levels of the children in your family who will attend camp. Camp is for Nursery (age 4) through Grade 5.
 (Students entering grade 6 and up are volunteer counselors and assistants and do not need to pay any fee.)

Child's First & Last Name	Grade Level in Sept. '08
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Full Names of Parents/Guardians: _____

Family Address (Street, Town, Zip): _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

Cell and/or Business Phone(s): _____

Name of Emergency Contact and Phone #: _____

Please indicate below any health problems, food allergies, or special situations that it might be helpful for the camp staff to know about your child.

You will receive a letter with your child's group name and all important camp information around July 15th. We need adult and teen volunteers! If anyone in your family (teens and/or adults) would be willing to help out at the camp, please list their names and ages.

We will hold a meeting for all volunteers in mid-July.

Religious Education

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

Hang Out Nites continue...

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.



With Gratitude

Ken O'Connor, a long time parishioner and choir member for almost thirty years, will be retiring from the OLL Adult Choir. Ken has been a faithful member, lending his melodious tenor voice for Sunday and Holy Day celebrations.

The choir, along with the whole parish, wish Ken a fond farewell and ...Trusting in Him, to whom we all pray, may song fill your heart, every step of the way!

Good Luck Ken, in all you do!

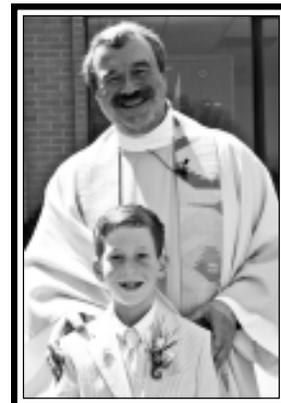
Roving Photographer

Did you get any great pictures of our first communion class?

Why not share them!

Send a digital picture of your first communicant to us and you just might see it here in the bulletin or on the web. Send your picture to firstcommunion@ollchurch.org

We are proud of all those who received First Holy Communion!



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.

Rest In Peace



Theresa Marino died on June 2 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was June 5. We extend our prayers to her husband, Lawrence, children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Arthur Cook died on June 3 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was June 8. We extend our prayers to his wife, Margaret, daughter, Margaret, grandchildren, and entire family.

Marion Jane Belcher died on June 3 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was June 8. We extend our prayers to her husband, Thomas, children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Rose D'Angelo died on June 4 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was June 8. We extend our prayers to her daughter, Jo Ann, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and entire family.

Remembering . . .

Monday, June 15

8:00 AM Donald Bolin

Tuesday, June 16

8:00 AM John Wallace

Wednesday, June 17

8:00 AM Lucy Zaccaria & Mario Lombardi

Thursday, June 18

8:00 AM Mary Homann

Friday, June 19

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

8:00 AM Mary Laino

Saturday, June 20

8:00 AM Vincent & David McCarthy, Patrick Corrigan,
Grace Peshkur, Mary DeFreitas, Rita Brembs,
Christian Kohler, Bob Woods, Joseph Specht

5:00 PM John & Mark Nardone

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Sunday, June 21

8:00 AM Robert & Ray Colin and Joseph Yankel

Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

9:30 AM Tony Squeo

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

11:00 AM Henry Riedemann

Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

12:30 PM Danny & Mike Salegna

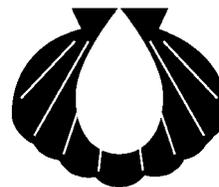
Fr. Mike Vetrano

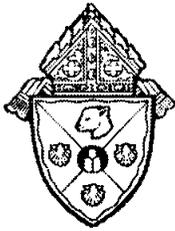
6:00 PM People of the Parish, Peter Reehil, Nicholas Caldarola,
Frank Cerny, Joseph Chianese, Robert Herr,
Maria Luz Atienza, Arthur Cook

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Baptisms

Zachary Brian Ronayne
Robert and Joyce





Catholic Ministries Appeal

“Supporting the Community Around Us”

Parish Goal	\$101,839
Amount Pledged	\$ 80,993
# of Donors	336
Average Pledge	\$ 241

Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us

It's Not Too Late to make a difference in our community by supporting the **Catholic Ministries Appeal**.

No Gift is Too Small. *Every gift changes lives.*

Your gift can help buy gas for a van that delivers food to a homebound senior or help a struggling family pay their electric bill.

Thank YOU for helping us to serve over 500,000 people in our Long Island Community.

Pledge cards are available in the back of our Church or you can donate online at www.drvc.org or call 516-379-5210 ext. 2



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
Matching gifts: if you qualify for a matching gift from your employer, please forward to the cma office.

Financial Summary

June 7, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 18,358.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 642.00

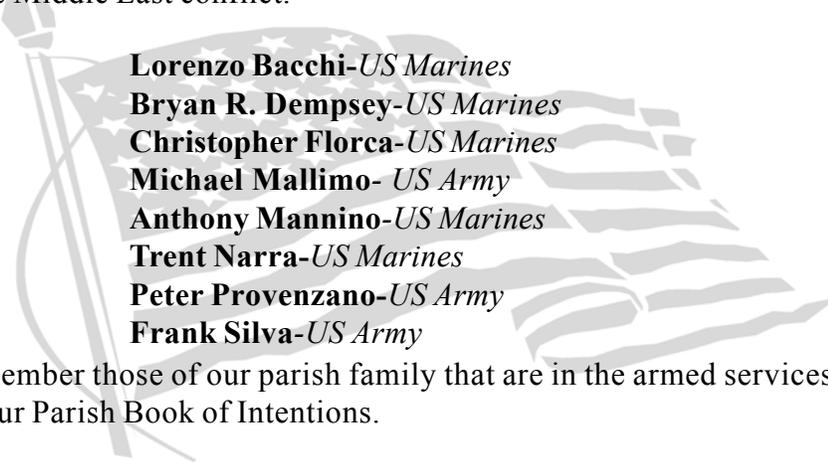
Religious Retirement \$ 5,703.00

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:



Lorenzo Bacchi-US Marines
Bryan R. Dempsey-US Marines
Christopher Florca-US Marines
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.

Our whole parish family rejoices with the Kelly Family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty. **Edward A. Kelly, IV**-US Air Force has returned to the United States safe and sound from his second tour of duty in Iraq. Thank you, *Edward*, for your most generous service to our country!

The Kelly Family would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family for all of their prayers.



The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Recently, we attended the wake of a dear friend who had succumbed to cancer. She was in her early 70s, and had three grown children, all married. Over the years, the family had grown distant; the siblings were leading their lives with problems of their own and had little contact with their mother. Yet at the wake, they seemed to come together, realizing that everything they were, all of their traits and values and loves and struggles, were given to them by their mother. In her death, they came to know that they were given the greatest gift, the gift of life.

Today, we celebrate the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. We are called to reflect and renew our faith in the saving nourishment of the Eucharist. At the Last Supper, Jesus broke the bread and poured the wine, instructing his disciples not only to eat and drink in his memory, but to do so with others who would believe. All that he was, he wanted to give to the world. And as he foretold in the distribution of the loaves and fishes, each of us who receives him is to give him as well.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines the Eucharist this way: "The Eucharist is a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Father, a blessing by which the Church expresses her gratitude to God for all his benefits, for all that he has accomplished through creation, redemption, and sanctification. Eucharist means first of all 'thanksgiving'" (CCC 1360). As we approach the altar prepared to receive the body and blood of Christ, perhaps we would do well to remember the sacrifice he gave for us—his very life. In doing so, we realize that sense of thanksgiving that embodies the Eucharist.

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Readings for the Week of June 14, 2009

Sunday:	Ex 24:3-8/Heb 9:11-15/Mk 14:12-16, 22-26
Monday:	2 Cor 6:1-10/Mt 5:38-42
Tuesday:	2 Cor 8:1-9/Mt 5:43-48
Wednesday:	2 Cor 9:6-11/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday:	2 Cor 11:1-11/Mt 6:7-15
Friday:	Hos 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9/Eph 3:8-12, 14-19/Jn 19:31-37
Saturday:	2 Cor 12:1-10/Lk 2:41-51
Next Sunday:	Jb 38:1, 8-11/2 Cor 5:14-17/Mk 4:35-41

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Joyce Petersen*.
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, Brian Barthel,
Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Howard Campkin, Nicholas Cibelli, Michael Ciotkosz,
Regina Cranor, Ann Donlon, Marge Flem, Susan Gigante, Brian Hinkelman,
Lili Hinkelman, Kathleen Kerrigan, Kara Lobasso, Baby Josephine Mahan,
Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Joan Melville, Dorothy Meloni,
Rae Morris, Brenden Muldoon, John O'Brien, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper,
Laura Prichard, Joe Radosti, Carol Randazzo-Hopkins, James Reilly,
Michael A. Savino, Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Derek Stahl, Mary Clair Stephen,
Gerry Sullivan, Diana Marie Taveras, Baby John Tramazzo, Pat Wallace, Flo Worysz*

HUNGRY LONG ISLANDERS...HOW CAN THIS BE?

Can We Afford to Call Long Island Home?

MICAH*: An Interfaith Advocacy Campaign to End Hunger & Poverty on Long Island
(*Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger)

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

PROBLEM:

- Too many of our young people have been priced out of Long Island’s housing market. This has made it difficult for employers to attract the best and brightest to Long Island and it has hurt parents whose children have relocated to other parts of the country where housing is more affordable.
- Long Island is experiencing a **BRAIN DRAIN** of younger workers. High prices prevent companies from recruiting/retaining workers and business owners say the lack of decent, affordable & safe housing is the #1 obstacle to Long Island’s economic growth.
- Long Island has the lowest proportion of rental housing in the country.
- Long Island does not have enough kinds of housing that younger single people, middle class families, empty-nesters and many seniors need.
- Thousands of young Long Islanders are living at home with their parents or living in illegal apartments. Thousands of empty nesters and seniors are looking for a way to leave their single-family house and still stay on Long Island. And why shouldn’t your grandmother be able to live with you?
- Teachers, nurses, firefighters, police officers, returning U.S. soldiers, construction workers, clerical personnel, recent college graduates, senior citizens, young families and professionals just starting out. These are the faces of the workforce who in many cases have been born on Long Island, they live and serve in our communities, but they are leaving Long Island in record numbers.

SOLUTION:

- We need a better variety of housing we can all afford. The solution is to change the mix of housing types by building more affordable apartments and townhouse communities. We, as Long Islanders will have to demand our local zoning authorities to permit new kinds of housing to be built. This is about building studio, one bedroom and two bedroom apartments for ourselves, our friends, relatives, neighbors and colleagues. It is about vibrant **SMART GROWTH** communities in which citizens can walk, bike, work, shop & enjoy their downtown areas while preserving community character & the environment, and strengthening local economies.

ACTION:

- We have to solve this critical social need. Now is the time: tell your town supervisor or village mayor that we want our kids to be able to live here and to allow more types of housing to be built.
- Stand up and say, “Yes, we want housing we can afford!”

This information was provided by LI Jobs with Justice. For more information, contact JwJ-LI Director Vanessa Crilly at vanessac@jwj.org or Dr. Richard Koubek, rkmicahli@gmail.com. To learn how you can get involved, or make a donation to the MICAH campaign, contact Rev. Thomas Goodhue at LI Council of Churches (licchemp@aol.com) or LICC Advocacy Director Neelofer Chaudry (liccmicah@aol.com).

Parish Outreach

Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

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

Pantry Needs

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

Outreach Memorial Donations

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

•Outreach has received a donation in memory of *John Hodgkins* from Frances Hodgkins.

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.

Social Action Group

Social Action Committee will be meeting Thursday, June 18 at 7:30 PM in the Outreach Office.

All are Welcome to join us.

Give Kids a Healthy Smile

Free Dental Screening & Cleaning Ages 1-17 yrs. Tuesday, July 14 from 9 AM until 3 PM at Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine. Please call to register at 632.8889 on June 29, 30 and July 1,2,3.

Single Seniors

Next meeting of the Single Senior Group will be Saturday, June 27 after the 5 PM Liturgy.

REMEMBER TO BRING A GAME!

Pizza & Salad will be served! See you there!

Our Inner Garment

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Many things divide us: language, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, politics, ideology, culture, personal history, temperament, private wounds, moral judgments. It is hard, in the face of all this, to see people who are different from us as brothers and sisters, as equally important citizens of this world, and as loved and valued by God in the same way we are.

And so we often live in a certain distrust of each other. Sadly too we often demonize each other, seeing danger where there is only difference. We then either actively oppose someone or simply steer clear of him or her and caution our loved ones to stay clear as well.

Consequently we live in a world in which various groups stay away from each other: liberals and conservatives, Protestants and Catholics, Jews and Arabs, Arabs and Christians, Muslims and Buddhists, black and white races, pro-life and pro-choice groups, feminists and traditionalists, among others.

What we fail to realize is that these differences are really our outer garments, things that in the end are accidental and incidental to our real selves. What's meant by this?

We wear more than physical clothing to cover our naked selves; we cover our nakedness too with a specific ethnicity, language, religious identity, culture, political affiliation, ideology, set of moral judgements, and a whole gamut of private wounds and indignation. These are in essence our outer garments.

But we also possess a deeper inner garment. Our real substance, identity, and capacity to act with larger hearts, lies underneath. What lies beneath our outer garments?

In the Gospel of John, at the Last Supper when he is describing Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, (in a carefully worded passage) John uses these words: "Jesus knowing that the Father had put everything into his hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God, got up from the table, took off his outer garments and, taking a towel, wrapped it around his waist; he then poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel he was wearing." (John 13, 2-5)

When John is describing Jesus "taking off his outer garment" he means more than just the stripping off of some physical clothing, some outer sash that might have gotten in the way of his stooping down and washing someone's feet. In order to let go of the pride that blocks all human beings

from stooping down to wash the feet of someone different than oneself, Jesus had to strip off a lot of outer things (pride, moral judgments, superiority, ideology, and personal dignity) so as to wear only his inner garment.

What was his inner garment? As John poetically describes it, his inner garment was precisely his knowledge that he had come from God, was going back to God, and that therefore all things were possible for him, including his washing the feet of someone whom he already knew had betrayed him.

That is also our true inner garment, the reality that lies deeper beneath our race, gender, religion, language, politics, ideology, and personal history (with all its wounds and false pride). What is most real is that deep down, beneath these other, outer, things we nurse the dark memory, the imprint, the brand of love and truth, the inchoate knowledge that, like Jesus, we too have come from God, are returning to God, and therefore are capable of doing anything, including loving and washing the feet of someone very different from ourselves. Our inner garment is the image and likeness of God inside of us.

It is only if we realize this that our world can really change because it is only then that liberals and conservatives, pro-life and pro-choice, Catholics and Protestants, Jews and Arabs, Arabs and Christians, black people and white people, men and women, and people wounded in different ways can begin to stop demonizing each other, begin to reach across to each other, begin to feel sympathy for each other, and begin, together, to build for a common good beyond our wounds and differences.

Sometimes in our better moments we already do that. Unfortunately, generally to have one of our better moments it usually takes a great sadness, a tragedy, or a death. Mostly it is only in the face of mutual helplessness and sorrow, at funeral, that we are capable of forgetting our differences, putting away our outer garments, and seeing each other as brothers and sisters.

It seems it has never been much different. In the biblical story of Job, we see that it is only when Job is completely down and out, when he is shorn of every outer thing that he can cling to, that he finally sheds his outer garment and utters the timeless line: "Naked I came from mother's womb, and naked I go back!" We need to be careful what kind of clothing we put on so that the pain of Job is not required to remove it.

Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Father Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author and is currently the President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website-www.ronrolheiser.com.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, June 16**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.



Men's Group

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

Come join us on **Thursday, June 18**, in the **Parish Center following 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.

Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, June 14**. 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.

Upcoming Retreats

St. Ignatius Retreat House
 251 Seasingtown Road
 Manhasset, NY
 516.621.8300

June 25 - July 31

Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola

Thirty-day retreat. For details/application, contact Karen Doyle, SSJ, 516.621.8300, extension 25. (Enrollment limited.)

July 5 - 12; July 15 - 22; July 24 - 31

Directed Retreats (silent)

Register for a week or any part of the days listed. Call for all details: 516.621.8300, extension 15

Families Anonymous

Are you concerned about a family member who appears to have an alcohol, drug, or behavioral problem? We can help. Meetings are held every Saturday at 9:30 AM room 115 and every Wednesday at 8 PM Room 116 at Our Lady of Grace School, West Babylon.

For information, contact Donna at 631.589.3790 or Julia at 631.587.5921.

Centering Prayer Retreat

Centering Prayer Weekend will be at St Ignatius Retreat House in Manhasset, NY on June 26-28. The weekend is sponsored by Contemplative Outreach of LI/Queens. If you have any questions or for further information call Diane at 631.587.0966.

Dominican Village

Please join us for an Open House on Thursday, June 18, 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 **"Thingdom vs. Kingdom."** Don't miss it! To listen on-line or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go to www.religionandrock.com.

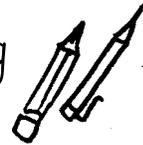
Don't forget to tune into TELE CARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 271 for the Best in Catholic Television!

Sharing the Gospel

Ever since the night Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, God's people remembered that special night with the Passover meal. They ate flat bread, just as the Israelites did the night they left Egypt. They drank wine, remembering the lamb's blood that saved the Israelites from the Angel of Death. Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples. As they ate, Jesus taught his disciples that, under God's new



Something to Draw



Draw a picture of Jesus serving wine and flat bread to his disciples. (Flat bread looks a little bit like pita bread.)

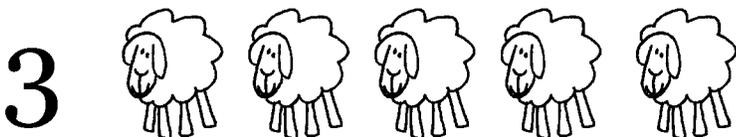
Prayer

Dear God,
help me to be truly thankful for the way Jesus gave up his own body and blood to save me from my sins. Amen.



Puzzle

Count the objects in each group. Draw lines to match the groups with the right number. Then color in all the pictures.



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Mission for the Week

Using the concordance found at the back of your Bible, look up the word "Passover." As a family, write down the verses, find them in your Bible, and read them out loud. Sometimes Jesus is referred to as the Lamb of God, or the Lamb sacrificed for our sins. Talk about how Jesus took our sins away when he died on the cross.