

**Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Our Lady of Lourdes • September 13, 2009**

**“Keep warm  
and eat well,**



**but you do not give them  
the necessities of the  
body, what good is it?”**

*Our Lady  
of Lourdes*

455 Hunter Avenue  
West Islip, New York 11795

## *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.*

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### *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.*

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### *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.

## *Pastoral Team*

**Rev. Michael A. Vetrano**  
Pastor

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**Rev. Patsy Amabile**  
Associate Pastor

**Rev. Robert Scheckenback**  
Associate Pastor

**Rev. Ambrose Cabildo**  
In Residence

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**Deacon John DeGuardi**

**Deacon Tom Lucie**

**Deacon Jack Meehan**

Coordinator of Stewardship

**Deacon John Teufel**

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**Sr. Margaret Bickar**

Senior Ministry-SAGE

**Sr. Nancy Campkin**

Director of Religious Education

**Allegra D'Alo**

Youth Minister/Social Action

**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

**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

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## *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



### **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](mailto:ParishOffice@ollchurch.org)

fax: 661-7143

website: [www.ollchurch.org](http://www.ollchurch.org)

### **Our Lady of Lourdes School**

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: [lkrol@ollschool.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: Sage@ollchurch.org)

# Our Lady of Lourdes Parish



## Italian Family Feast 2009

**September 16 - 20, 2009**

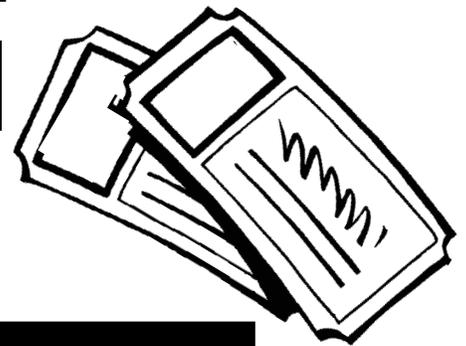
**Opens Wednesday thru Friday at 7 PM**

**Opens Saturday at 6 PM**

**Opens Sunday at 2 PM**

### Pay-One-Price

**Ride *all* rides each day-Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday-for only \$25/day**  
(**\$5 discount with coupon**)  
*purchase Pay-One-Price at the feast*



### Super Raffle

**\$10,000 in Prizes!**

**Super Raffle tickets are \$100 each - only 200 tickets sold!**

**Drawing to be held on Sunday, September 20 at 9 PM**

### Advance Tickets

**Any six rides for \$13 (average discount of over 50%!)**  
**Tickets good for any ride/any day of the Feast!**  
**Purchase "Advance Tickets" at the Parish Office,**  
**Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM.**  
**Advance ticket sales end Monday, September 14.**



# Walk with Mary Feast Mass

**Saturday, September 19**

**Procession at 4 PM - Mass at 5 PM**

**On Saturday, September 19 we celebrate our Feast Mass and Walk with Mary with a procession at 4 PM and Mass at 5 PM. Please plan on joining us as we bless all those who minister here. All those who take part in ministry here at the parish are invited to walk together with others who share that ministry with you.**

## Official Feast Sponsor

**West Islip  
Wines & Liquors, Inc.**

**Munch Landscape Inc.**

## Volunteers Needed

**Volunteers are always needed and welcomed to support our annual Italian Family Feast. We have our faithful volunteers that come and help year after year-and to them we are very grateful. We need to attract new volunteers to keep our feast the wonderful annual family event that it is!**

***Can you help?***

**If you're interested or have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.**

**Clip to Save**

**Family FUN**  
*on the Midway*

**Food!**

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES R.C. CHURCH  
ITALIAN FEAST  
SEPT 16-20**  
School Grounds • Hunter Ave. • West Islip  
**Las Vegas Games  
International Food**

**★ \$5.00 OFF ★**

**PAY-ONE-PRICE RIDES**  
ONE COUPON PER PERSON. GOOD ANY DAY.  
CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNTS.

**NEWTON SHOWS**  
Follow Newton Shows on Twitter  
twitter.com/newtonshows  
www.newtonshows.com  
**Family Friendly Midway**

SPOTLIGHT GRAPHICS • SARASOTA, FL



## El Salvador!

This year's trip to El Salvador was a wonderful success and a beautiful experience for all those who participated. We are all looking forward to next year's trip and in the meantime we aim to help our friends in Central America as much as we can.

On **Saturday, September 26, and Sunday, September 27**, participants in our Mission Trip will be sharing their experiences at all Masses. We are also going to ask every parishioner to join us in helping our brothers and sisters in El Salvador.

There are many ways to be involved, but two special projects will be introduced that weekend:

- 1) **Sponsor a child or elderly person in El Salvador through the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA).** Each year, CFCA hosts our trip and shows us the wonderful work they do among the poor in El Salvador. They have sent us photos and profiles of 100 children and elderly from El Salvador who need our help. Sponsorship costs \$30 per month, and helps to provide for basic nutrition, health, and education. We saw firsthand the difference sponsorship makes, and we hope that some of our OLL family will join this important work. We will have sign-up information on the 26th-27th, or you can visit CFCA's website at [www.cfcausa.org](http://www.cfcausa.org).
- 2) **Participate on Our Lady of Lourdes' CASA Project** to build homes for people in our sister parish communities. For only \$1500, a solid and safe home can be constructed in El Salvador. Our goal this year is to build 20 homes as a parish. To fund this project, we will be selling special house-shaped piggy banks, and the "Piggy Back Project" will return to OLL! We will ask our parishioners to return their spare change (not the banks) to our special coin receptacles at the doors on the first Sunday of every month. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could take pictures of the 20 homes we built when we go to El Salvador next year!

Both the sponsorship papers and house banks will be available at all of the masses on **September 26-27**. Just speak with a member of our El Salvador team and you can help in this great way without ever setting foot in JFK! Contact [Allegra@ollchurch.org](mailto:Allegra@ollchurch.org) with any questions

## Young Women's Faith Group Forming

We are Sisters and Mothers and Friends and Wives and Girlfriends and Catholics. As we get a little older each year it sometimes becomes difficult to find our place in the Catholic Church, as young women of faith. Here is that place!

Young Women's Faith Group will have its first meeting on **Thursday, September 24 from 6:30 to 8 in the evening**. The meeting will take place in the new Spiritual Life Center at the Convent. (Please use the entrance between the school and convent.)

Young women and new mothers are welcome to come discuss their faith and their goals as Catholics over coffee and snacks. Contact Allegra D'Alo by email at [Allegra@ollchurch.org](mailto:Allegra@ollchurch.org) or phone at 661.3224 extension 135.



## Peace and Justice Club

Our Lady of Lourdes first Peace and Justice Club meeting will take place on **Wednesday, September 23 at 7 PM in the School Library.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO JOIN!**

We will discuss the concept of social justice in today's world and ways in which we can encourage peace. Refreshments will be served! Contact [Allegra@ollchurch.org](mailto:Allegra@ollchurch.org) with any questions.

## Peace and Justice Spotlight

### – Health Care

We have been inundated with talk shows, commercials, speeches and town halls about health care over the past few months. The Church has taken a strong stand on health care and it'd be helpful for each of us to consider the Church's teaching as form our own opinions at health care reform. Bishop William Murphy, our bishop, is also the Chairperson of the Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. His letter, in the name of all of the bishops, might serve as a good guide for each of us.

*“For decades, the Catholic bishops of the United States have been and continue to be consistent advocates for comprehensive health care reform that leads to health care for all, including the weakest and most vulnerable. The bishops want to support health care reform. We have in the past and we always must insist that health care reform excludes abortion coverage or any other provisions that threaten the sanctity of life.*

*As Congress begins debate on health care reform the Catholic bishops of the United States offer the following criteria for fair and just health care reform. Health care reform needs to reflect basic ethical principles. We offer these as a guide:*

*a truly universal health policy with respect for human life and dignity;  
access for all with a special concern for the poor and inclusion of legal immigrants;  
pursuing the common good and preserving pluralism including freedom of conscience and variety of options; and restraining costs and applying them equitably across the spectrum of payers.”*

Look for information in our bulletin soon about our parish's efforts in the areas of peace and justice with a new group forming soon. If you have ideas or thoughts or are interested in getting involved in issues of peace and justice, contact Allegra D'Alo at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to [allegra@ollchurch.org](mailto:allegra@ollchurch.org).

## Living Liturgy

### *Sacristans Serving Us Well*

There are so many people who work behind the scenes to make life work so smoothly here at OLL! This includes, especially, our sacristans. They have always been women and men who work hard to make our liturgies and services experiences of great prayer and community.

Each year there are always some changes so we thought it might be good for you to meet and to get to know the young women and men who work here as Sacristans...

*Alex Carlin*, our newest Sacristan, is a student at West Islip High School and has been involved in our parish as a lector and a regular volunteer.

*Matthew Carlin*, a senior at West Islip High School, is a great example of the great diversity of talents and gifts that we are each given. Matt is a talented student, an accomplished musician and one who often seeks to be present in a variety of ways. Matt also attends the Julliard School in Manhattan.

*Joseph Goldin* is a sophomore at Regis High School. Joe also helps to coordinate our parish's altar servers. He has been actively involved at OLL for many years and brings so many gifts to this work as Sacristan.

*Kaila Munkwitz* is a junior St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School. She is also part of our Contemporary Music Group and involved in many activities her high school. She's an accomplished dancer.

*John Pannachione* is a sophomore at St. John's. He also helps to coordinate our altar servers. John has been actively involved here for many years in addition to now being involved in the community at St. John's.

*Sean Smith* is a senior at St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School. Sean is an accomplished athlete and involved in a whole range of activities in high school as well as in our parish community.

*Patrick Turner*, a senior at West Islip High School, is a young man who bears witness by his own presence. He brings a great perspective to parish life and even shared a little of his story with our parish community at Stations last year on Good Friday.

Be sure to say hello to them as you see them working and serving us!

This year, we bid farewell to four young men who take leave of our parish for the collegiate life!

*Patrick Gordon*, a graduate of St. John the Baptist, will be attending St. John's University,

*Michael McCormack*, a graduate of West Islip High School, will be attending Yale University,

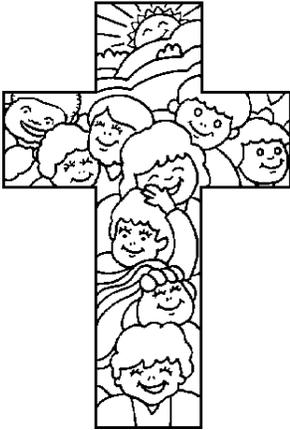
*Michael Prate*, a graduate of Chaminade High School, will be attending Fordham University,

*Patrick Ramsbotham*, a graduate of West Islip High School, will be attending SUNY Maritime.

As our parish focus its stewardship on young people, we give thanks to God for the witness already shown in the lives of these women and men.

# Religious Education Registration

for children in Public School, Grade 1, September 2009



## Information Meeting & Registration

Meetings will take place in the Parish Center. (room opposite the playground on Hunter Ave)

*Please note: Baptismal Certificates required for any child being registered in PEP 1.*

<b>Wednesday, September 23</b>	<b>10:00 am or 7:30 pm</b>
<b>Thursday, September 24</b>	<b>10:00 am or 7:30 pm</b>
<b>Wednesday, September 30</b>	<b>10:00 am or 7:30 pm</b>
<b>Saturday, October 3</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>

If this is your *first child in our program*, the registration fee (Family Fee) is \$160 and textbooks are \$20 (if needed.) Details will be provided at the meeting.

## OLL Music Ministry

After Labor Day, the CHOIRS are Back !!! JOIN US!!!

There are so many ways to become involved in the OLL Music Ministry. If you've always wanted to sing with a choir or play with a music group, now is the perfect time to join.

### Adult Ministries

**The OLL Choir** rehearses on Thursday night from 8-10 PM and sings at the 11AM mass and once each month at the 5. Adults who are proficient in playing a musical instrument are also needed and welcome.

Can't make a weekly commitment? Consider one of these options:

Come to a **OLL Choir** rehearsal on a Thursday and sing just the following Sunday.

Join our **Holiday Choir**, attend these special rehearsals and sing for Christmas or Easter.

Join our **Concert Choir** and audition to sing at special events

Join our **Women's Chorale** which sings at the 11 am mass on the first Sunday of the month.

### For Youth

**The Contemporary Group**, middle school through young adult, rehearses on Sunday afternoon 4:30-6 PM and sings at "The Six." Musicians as well as singers are welcome and needed and remember that this choir counts for community service.

**Our Youth Choir**, sings each week at the 9:30 AM Mass. The junior members of our group, Grades K-8 meet on Thursdays from 7 to 7:45 PM for rehearsal, and our senior helpers (high school and college) meet once a month for rehearsal after the 9:30 AM Mass.

For information about the OLL Choir, Holiday Choir, Concert Choir, Contemporary Group and Taize Ministry contact Carol Goetz at 661-3224 or [music@ollchurch.org](mailto:music@ollchurch.org).

For information about Youth Choir and Women's Chorale contact Jen Gallagher at 661-3224 or [jengallagher@ollchurch.org](mailto:jengallagher@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.  
(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***

*Nicholas Tornabene* died on August 31 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was September 4 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lindenhurst. Nick was a dedicated employee here at OLL for many years. We extend our prayers to his wife, children, grandchildren, and entire family.

*Doris Ingrassia* died on September 2 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was September 4. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, and entire family.

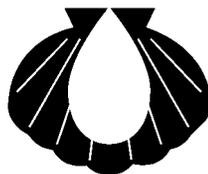
*William McLaughlin* died on September 3 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was September 5. We extend our prayers to his sister, Tara and entire family.

# Remembering . . .

## Monday, September 14

*Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

8:00 AM Gertrude Goerlitz



## Tuesday, September 15

*Our Lady of Sorrows*

8:00 AM AnnaMaria Cavagliere

## Wednesday, September 16

*Ss. Cornelius, pope & martyr, & Cyprian, bishop, martyr*

8:00 AM Margaret Homann

## Thursday, September 17

*St. Robert Bellamine, bishop & doctor*

8:00 AM Thomas Dixon Kelliher

## Friday, September 18

8:00 AM Edward J. Manno and  
Helen Alice Frankie

## Saturday, September 19

8:00 AM Peter Reehil, Buddy Brody, Fred Ball, Palmira Adamo,  
John Maggi, Maria Chiuchiolo, Joseph Giangiobbe,  
Michael Conroy, Michael J. Podhany, In Thanksgiving to St. Rita

5:00 PM Peter, Anna, Dan Mancuso

## Sunday, September 20

8:00 AM Baby Shaddock

9:30 AM John J., Sr. and Joan Goode

11:00 AM Marie, Emma and Walter Lehmann

12:30 PM Patricia Basile

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Michael Lennon, Joseph DiGangi,  
JoAnne Rigney, Linda DeLuca, Michael Castellano,  
Michael Podhany, Rose LaFemina

## Baptisms

*Taylor Marie DeSimone*

Joseph and Danielle

*Gavin Shea Pollock*

Jason and Erica

*Sophia Noelle Vedra*

Jairo and Michelle

*Darrell Lamant Horn*

Robert and Michele

*Justin James Horn*

Robert and Michele

**Dosado!**



*Save the date...*

*Swing yer partners!*

## **Parish Outreach Square Dance**

**Saturday, October 24**

**8 PM until Midnight**

Come join us for what will be an evening of great fun and laughs! Watch upcoming bulletins for more information.

**Promendae!**

## **Men's Group**

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

Come join us on **Thursday, September 17, 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.

## **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.**

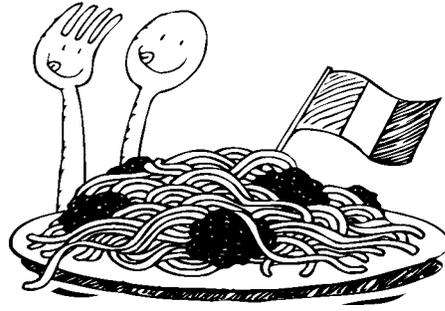
The Good Samaritan Prayer Group of Long Island holds their **meetings every Friday (except the first Friday of the month) at OLL School in Room 16 from 8 PM until 10 PM**.

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

## Pasta Night!

Our Lady of Lourdes presents Pasta Night on Tuesday, September 15 from 5 PM until 9 PM \$8 per person, reserved seating.

Discounted Parish Feast Pay-One-Price bracelets are available with every meal ticket purchased. No waiting - you can pick up Pay-One-Price bracelets at VIP window any night of the Feast or pick them up at the School Office on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 3 PM to 6 PM. For further information, please call the school at 587.7200, ext 100.



## Men of the Parish-Relax

When was the last time you stopped to relax? Spend a weekend of meaningful time together. Make a retreat at Bishop Molly Passionist Retreat House in Jamaica Estates the weekend of October 2 -4, from 6:30 PM Friday until noon Sunday. (*Transportation can be arranged if needed.*) Stroll the beautiful Monastery Garden and enjoy your time to rest, reflect on life, and renew your relationship with God. If you have any questions or for further information call Jack Gordon at 661.4147, Ed Hawkins at 666.7284, or Pete Cunningham at 661.0273.

## Blessing of the Backpacks

**Sunday, September 13**

**9:30 AM Family Mass**

All are welcome!

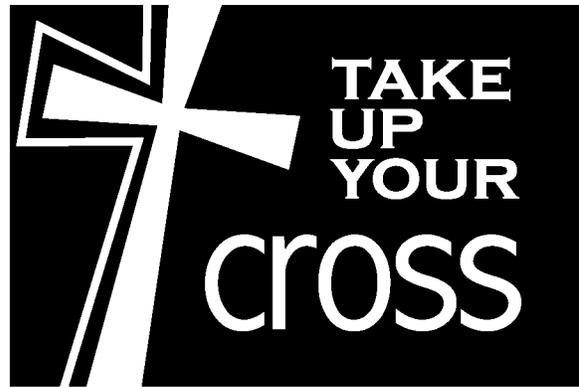
It's that most wonderful time of the year — BACK TO SCHOOL!

Join us at the 9:30 AM Mass on Sunday September 13 when all our students are invited to a blessing of the new school year.

Bring your backpack — we will bless it — and you!

## Bereavement Support Group

You are invited to join our next Bereavement Support Group. This is a wonderful opportunity to be supported in a small discussion group with people who have also suffered a loss. The group will meet on **Wednesdays for six weeks starting on September 23, from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM**. Please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 to register. The meeting will be held in the Spiritual Life Center, located in the Convent at 50 Toomey Road (please use the entrance between the school and convent.)



## 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

It is not uncommon, when talking to a friend about all of the challenges we are facing in our day-to-day lives, to have that friend tell us, "We all have our crosses to bear." It seems, however, that linking the symbol of the world's greatest sacrifice to a pile of past-due bills on the table is rather simplistic and misses the point of bearing our own cross. What are our real challenges, anyway? Is it harder to navigate this life's worldly difficulties, or to proclaim proudly our undying love of Jesus Christ to any and all who will listen?

Today's Gospel reading from Mark offers the memorable question from Jesus to his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" Their answers are varied, but his follow-up question is more important: "But who do you say that I am?" They have had the opportunity to be closest to him, witness his miracles and enjoy his private teachings. And it is at this point that Jesus offers them yet another insight into everlasting life: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." The cross he is referring to is our willingness never to deny him as the one true savior, even if it means giving our lives in his name.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines the cross as "the unique sacrifice of Christ, the 'one mediator between God and men.'" In telling his disciples-and us-that in order to follow him we must take up our own crosses, we are offered the possibility of being made partners in the paschal mystery (CCC 618). In a way, when a friend offers that "we all have our crosses to bear," as followers of Jesus we can be assured that yes, but it is only one, and it really isn't very heavy at all!

2009 Liturgical Publications Inc

### Readings for the Week of September 13, 2009

<b>Sunday:</b>	Is 50:5-9a/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35
<b>Monday:</b>	Nm 21:4b-9/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
<b>Tuesday:</b>	1 Tm 3:1-13/Jn 19:25-27 <i>or</i> Lk 2:33-35
<b>Wednesday:</b>	1 Tm 3:14-16/Lk 7:31-35
<b>Thursday:</b>	1 Tm 4:12-16/Lk 7:36-50
<b>Friday:</b>	1 Tm 6:2c-12/Lk 8:1-3
<b>Saturday:</b>	1 Tm 6:13-16/Lk 8:4-15
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Wis 2:12, 17-20/Jas 3:16---4:3/Mk 9:30-37

## Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Marie Cirone*.  
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 ...

*Andrew Albert, Christine Ausiello, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Ben Bellotti,  
Anne Bolin, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Howard Campkin, Nicholas Cibelli, Michael Ciotkosz,  
Regina Cranor, Jeanne Della Ragion, Ann Donlon, Andrea Flathman, Marge Flem,  
Edward Herger, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Mary Kaval, Veronica Kenny,  
Kathleen Kerrigan, Kara Lobasso, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr.,  
Dorothy Meloni, Rick Mirabella, Brenden Muldoon, Evelyn Nonnon, John O'Brien,  
Gertrude Parine, Jacqueline Patwell, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Laura Prichard,  
Santa Quevedo, Joe Radosti, Carol Randazzo-Hopkins, Michael A. Savino,  
Jayna Schmidt, Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Albina Sipplak, Derek Stahl,  
Mary Clair Stephen, Stephen Straub, Sr., Baby John Tramazzo, Vera Vieni, Flo Worysz*

## Financial Summary

### September 6, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 21,119.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 2,119.00

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

## St. Pius X Enriched Living Facility Fund

*"Caring for those who cared for us"*

During the weekend of September 19 / 20, we will conduct our inaugural special collection for the retired priests of our Diocese who are residing at St. Pius X Enriched Living Facility in Amityville. The collection aims to fill the gap in the budget for St. Pius X, a new special care facility for retired priests of our Diocese.

This new collection is not to be confused with the Diocesan-wide second collection for retired religious held annually in June. That important collection exclusively supports the retirement needs of religious brothers and sisters who have lovingly served our Diocese. It does not provide support to the retirement needs of our Diocesan priests.

Please come prepared next week to assist our retired priests with a gift, as generous as your means will allow. Your gift may be placed in the collection basket on September 19 / 20. If you prefer, you can mail a donation by using postage-paid envelopes available in church. Brochures describing this appeal are also available in church, and some parishioners may have received one at home. On behalf of all of the priests who serve our Diocese, thank you for your generosity.

## Confirmation



On Thursday, October 29, Bishop William Murphy, Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to the candidates of our parish. These young women and men are the chosen members of this community who have studied, served and prepared for this Sacrament.

This Sunday, September 13, all our Confirmation Candidates, Sponsors and Parents are invited to attend "The Six" as the Candidates petition for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

## 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

## SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, September 15**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

## Outreach Memorial Donations

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

- Outreach has received a donation in memory of *Bill Heim*.
- Margaret Cook has made a donation to Outreach in memory of her husband, *Arthur*.
- A donation to Outreach has been made in memory of *Agnes Hallahan*.

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.

# The Problem of Suffering and Evil

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

How can there be an all-loving and an all-powerful God if there is so much suffering and evil in our world?

Perhaps that is the most difficult religious question of all time. Why does God not act in the face of suffering? Why do bad things happen with seemingly no response from God? In a famous book, *After Auschwitz*, Richard Rubenstein asks how it is even possible for a Jew to believe in God after the holocaust. How can we believe in God in the face of God's seeming inaction in the face of suffering and evil?

There have been countless attempts to answer this question, not least inside the tortured experience of those who are suffering. There have also been many attempts at offering some kind of acceptable theoretical explanation.

For example, Harold Kushner (*When Bad Things Happen to Good People*), writing as a Jewish rabbi, tries to answer the question by defending God's love and goodness at the expense of his power. Essentially, God would help us if He could, Kushner believes, but God isn't all-powerful. Innocent suffering exists not because God cannot stop it.

Inside of Christian theology, Peter Kreeft, C.S. Lewis, and Teilhard de Chardin, among others, have written insightful books on this question. Christians believe that what is ultimately at stake is human freedom and God's respect for it. God gives us freedom and (unlike most everyone else) refuses to violate it, even when it would seem beneficial to do so. That leaves us in a lot of pain at times, but, as Jesus reveals, God is not so much a rescuing God as a redeeming one. God does not protect us from pain, but instead enters it and ultimately redeems it. That might sound simplistic in the face of real death and evil, but it is not. We see a powerful illustration of this in Jesus' reaction to the death of Lazarus. In essence, this is how the Gospels tell that story:

The sisters of Lazarus, Martha and Mary, send a message to Jesus telling him that "the man you love" is gravely ill. Curiously though Jesus does not immediately rush off to see Lazarus. Instead he stays where he is for two more days, until Lazarus is dead, and then sets off to see him. When he arrives near the house, he is met by Martha who says to him: "If you had been here, my brother would not have died!" Basically her question is: "Where were you? Why didn't you come and heal him?"

Jesus does not answer her question but instead assures her that Lazarus will live in some deeper way.

Martha then goes and calls her sister, Mary. When Mary arrives she repeats the identical words to Jesus that Martha had spoken: "If you had been here my brother would not have died!" However, coming out of Mary's mouth, these words mean something else, something deeper. Mary is asking the universal, timeless question about suffering and God's seeming absence. Her query ("Where were you when my brother died?") asks that question for everyone: Where is God when innocent people suffer? Where was God during the holocaust? Where is God when anyone's brother dies?

But, curiously, Jesus does not engage the question in theory; instead he becomes distressed and asks: "Where have you put him?" And when they offer to show him, he begins to weep. His answer to suffering: He enters into peoples' helplessness and pain. Afterwards, he raises Lazarus from the dead.

And what we see here will occur in the same way between Jesus and his Father. The Father does not save Jesus from death on the cross even when he is jeered and mocked there. Instead the Father allows him to die on the cross and then raises him up afterwards.

The lesson in both these deaths and raisings might be put this way: The God we believe in doesn't necessarily intervene and rescue us from suffering and death (although we are invited to pray for that). Instead he redeems our suffering afterwards.

God's seeming indifference to suffering is not so much a mystery that leaves the mind befuddled as a mystery that makes sense only if you give yourself over in a certain level of trust. Forgiveness and faith work the same. You have to roll the dice in trust. Nothing else can give you an answer.

And I do not say this glibly. I know too many people who have been hurt, brutally and unfairly, in ways that make it difficult for them to accept that there is an all-powerful God who cares.

But sometimes the only answer to the question of suffering and evil is the one Jesus gave to Mary and Martha - shared helplessness, shared distress, and shared tears, with no attempt to try to explain God's seeming absence, but rather a trusting that, because God is all-loving and all-powerful, in the end all will be well and our pain will someday be redeemed in God's embrace.

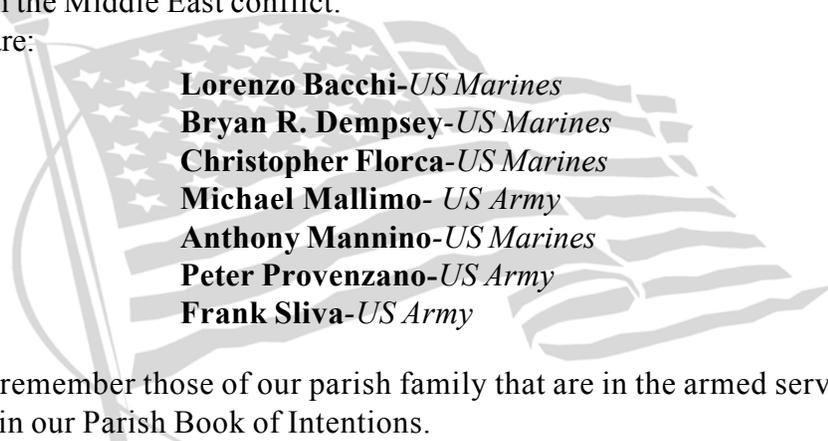
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*Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Father Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author and is currently the President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his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

## 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*  
**Peter Provenzano**-*US Army*  
**Frank Sliva**-*US Army*

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

## Education of a Lifetime

A Catholic High School education offers young people a challenging, value-centered liberal arts education. It also affords each student an opportunity to test abilities, add skills, build confidence and develop an understanding of faith, while preparing for college and for life.

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

### Open House Schedule

<b>Saturday, September 19</b>	11 AM - 1:30 PM	Our Lady of Mercy Academy
<b>Sunday, September 20</b>	10 AM - 1 PM	St. Anthony's High School
	1 PM - 4 PM	St. Dominic High School
<b>Sunday, September 27</b>	12 PM - 2:30 PM	Holy Trinity D.H.S.
	2 PM - 4:30 PM	St. Mary's College Prep. High School
<b>Saturday, October 3</b>	9 AM - 12 PM	Sacred Heart Academy
	10 AM - 1 PM	Kellenberg Memorial H. S.
	2 PM - 4 PM	Chaminade H. S.
<b>Saturday, October 17</b>	10 AM - 1 PM	McGann-Mercy D.H. S.
<b>Sunday, October 19</b>	10:30 AM - 2 PM	St. John the Baptist D.H.S.

The Catholic High School Entrance Exam is scheduled for Saturday, October 3. Applications for the Catholic High School entrance exam are available at the Religious Education Office and the OLL School Office.

If you have any questions, please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option #3 or the OLL School Office at 661.7200, option #2.

## Spiritual Care Companion

### *Pastoral Care Volunteer*

Are you looking for an avenue to volunteer your time with others? Come learn more about sharing your gift of time and presence as a Spiritual Care Companion (Pastoral Care Volunteer) with those that are hospitalized or living in a nursing home or homebound.

Catholic Health Services of Long Island sponsors this free six-week training, for volunteers of all faiths, with basic pastoral care skills and information to become a caring, attentive, listening presence. Spiritual Care Companions will attend this evening training from mid-October to Mid-November.

Tuesday, September 22            9:30 - 11:30 AM            Our Lady of Consolation, West Islip

Thursday, September 24        6:45 - 8:45 PM            St. Catherine's Nursing Home, Smithtown

For more information, please call Peggy at 631-587-1600, ext. 8236 or Carol at 516-705-3714.

## Gennesaret Retreat

*...for those facing serious illness.*

A retreat, especially designed for persons who live with a serious illness, is planned for

**September 25 -27, 2009 at Montfort Spirituality Center on Saxon Avenue in Bay Shore.**

This retreat offers a respite, a quiet time, an oasis, to enable one to continue the journey. The retreat focuses on God's love, God's forgiveness and God's faithfulness. To register or to receive more information about this weekend, please call: Colette Fanelli 631.665.7052.

## Golden Wedding Jubilee

On **Sunday, October 18, 2009** couples married 50 years or more are invited to a special mass to be celebrated by Bishop Paul Walsh at **Christ the King, Commack at 2:30 PM**. Please pick up your registration card at the Parish Office, fill it out and return it no later than September 28. If you have any questions, you may call 516.678.5800, extension 242.

## Pastoral Formation Institute

The Diocese of Rockville Centre celebrates the 20th Anniversary of the Pastoral Formation Institute. You are invited to the celebration! **Saturday, November 7 at St. Agnes Cathedral**. Liturgy begins at 6:30 PM, Bishop William Murphy presiding, followed by cocktail hour, dinner and dancing. Limited seating so reserve your tables early! Tickets are \$55 per person. Ticket purchase includes cocktail hour, full course buffet dinner, dessert, wine, beer and soft drinks. Please make check payable to "Pastoral Formation Alumni Association" and mail to Diocese of Rockville Centre, Office of Faith Formation, P.O. Box 9023, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-9023, Attn.: Patricia Schreck.

## Religion & Rock

Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. Listen on Saturdays at 11 PM on Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and at 11 PM on XM Satellite, channel 117. Next Sunday's theme is "**Knowing the Issues.**" Don't miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go to [www.religionandrock.com](http://www.religionandrock.com) or at "Religion & Rock" on ITUNES. Don't forget to tune into TELECARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 271 for the Best in Catholic Television!

# Sharing the Gospel

Jesus was the king, the Messiah that God's people had been waiting for. In today's Gospel reading, the disciples were confused. If Jesus was the king, why was he saying he would die soon? Jesus' friends did not understand yet that by dying on the cross, Jesus would save them from their sins.



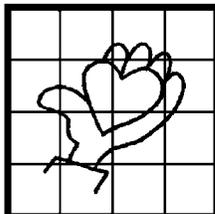
## Prayer



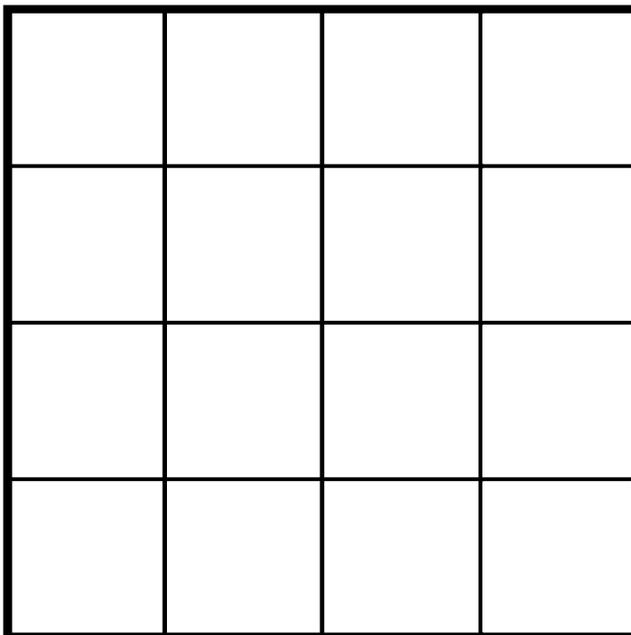
Dear God,  
thank you for coming to save me from my sins.



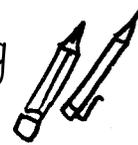
## Puzzle



Enlarge the picture square by square.



## Something to Draw



Draw a picture of Jesus carrying his cross.

## Mission for the Week



With your family, talk about what you would enjoy if you were a king or queen. Tell how Jesus was different from other kings.