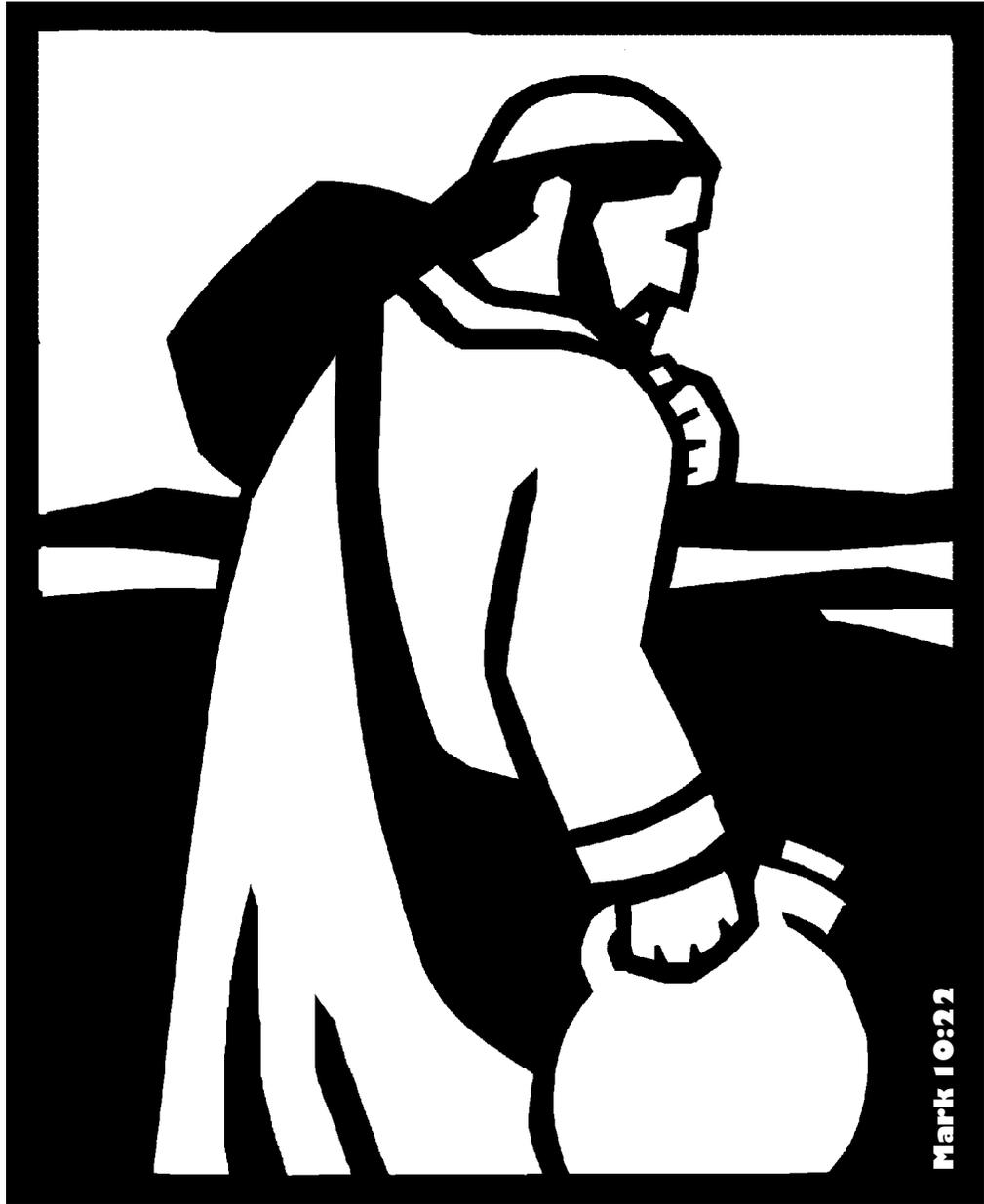


**Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Our Lady of Lourdes • October 11, 2009**

**“The young man
went away sad**



Mark 10:22

**because he had
many possessions.”**

*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.

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.

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

Rev. Patsy Amabile
Associate Pastor

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

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

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

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, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30 AM - 3 PM

S.A.G.E.

661-3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth
and Enrichment)

email: Sage@ollchurch.org



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.

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

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

Serving the Body of Christ....

You are invited to serve the parish as an
Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

What does it take to be an Extraordinary Minister ?

- Participation in Sunday Eucharist.
- Commitment to serve two or three times a month.
- Attendance at a Diocesan Training and parish training program.
- Openness to bring Communion to the sick.



What is the commitment?

There is a training offered by the Diocese of Rockville Centre. The next session will be at St. Anne's in Brentwood, October 22, from 7:30 PM. until 10 PM. Other dates will be available in the future, There is a follow up training here at OLL. We try to schedule you based on the Mass you most frequently attend. Ministers sign up to serve on holidays, holy days and special occasions. We also offer opportunities for reflection and prayer that all are invited to be a part of throughout the year.

If you have questions or you are interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister, please contact Mrs. Mary Borgs of our Parish Liturgy Committee at 665.2928 or you can e-mail to FrPat@ollchurch.org

Adult Faith Formation



Top Ten Reasons to be a Catholic: What I Learned in 30 Years of Being a Priest!

Presenter: Fr. Mike Vetrano

Tuesdays-October 13, 20, 27 and November 3, 10

Parish Center

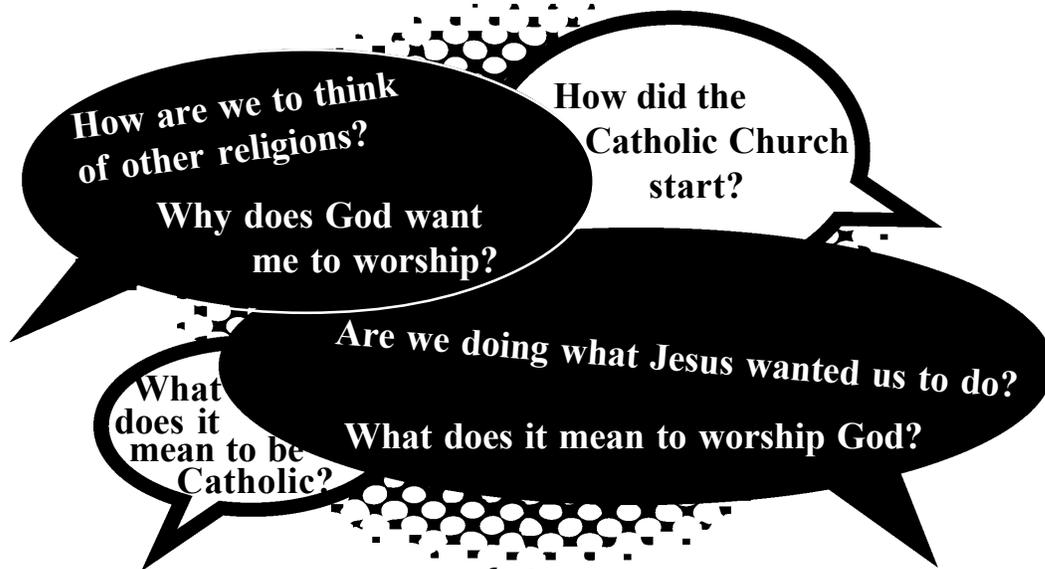
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Being a Catholic is wonderful but not necessarily easy. It is demanding, challenging, and not without its controversy. At its best, it can bring you close to God and at its worst, it can scandalize. The five weeks of this course are designed for either the beginner, the searcher, or the experienced Catholic - it will help you learn what I have learned: how to grow with and deepen your faith.

Week 1

Sunday Mass:

What does God get out of it! A view of Mass from the other side of the altar.



Bring you questions and your answers and let's talk!

There is a \$5 fee for each session. No fee is required for those who have paid the Religious Education Family Fee or Our Lady of Lourdes School tuition.

Registration is necessary and helpful. This will enable us to have enough reading material and refreshments for all those attending. To register, please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option 3 or email to religioused@ollchurch.org.



All Souls Mass of Remembrance

We Remember We Celebrate We Believe

During this past year at Our Lady of Lourdes more than 100 Funeral Masses have been celebrated for members of our parish family who have died. Their families will be invited to participate in a special **Mass of Remembrance and Communion Breakfast on Saturday, November 7 at 10 AM.**

If there is someone you wish to honor whose Funeral Mass was not celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes, please contact the Parish Office at 661.3224 no later than October 31.



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

What's it all about???

IF you are an adult AND

... you were never Baptized

... you were Baptized in another faith and would like to become a baptized Catholic

... you never received Holy Communion (Eucharist)

... you never received your Confirmation

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

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

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



Taize

Prayer Around the Cross

Please join us for a Taize Prayer Service on **Wednesday, October 14 at 7:30PM in the Church**. If you're interested in singing/playing with our Taize Group, please contact Carol Goetz at music@ollchurch.org for further information.

An Evening Retreat with the Deacons of OLL



Walking in the Footsteps of St. Francis

An evening to slow down in our busy lives and come to realize our God that dwells in us following the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.

Deacon John, Deacon Jack M., Deacon Jack T., and Deacon Tom invite you to an Autumn Retreat on **Monday, October 19 at 7:30 PM in the Church**.



Once Again...

Gamblers Take to the Road!

Trip to Yonkers Empire Casino on **Wednesday, October 28**. We will be leaving from Our Lady of Lourdes at 10 AM with an approximate time of return: 6:30 PM.

Cost of Trip is \$30.50 which includes a \$5 coupon for play, a \$5 coupon for food, transportation and FUN!

If interested, or you have any questions, please contact Pat McKeefery at 422.6816.

PARISH OUTREACH **Square**



Dance

Saturday, October 24
7 PM until 11 PM
Hibernian Hall in Babylon

Tickets are \$40 per person.

Tickets are now on sale in the Parish Outreach Office - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - 9:30 AM until 3 PM.

Come join us for a 'swinging good time'

Primo Fiore will be our caller for the evening.

We promise an evening of good food, friends, dancing and prizes!

Parish Outreach

Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:
9:30 AM - 3 PM

Pantry Needs



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

Outreach Assistance

Outreach has received two separate requests for drivers. A gentleman in our Parish requires a ride home from dialysis three mornings a week: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 10:30.

A parishioner, recently discharged from Consolation requires transportation to physical therapy three times a week as she continues to heal from a shoulder fracture.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist either person, please contact the Outreach Office. We will request that each person sign a waiver. if transported in your vehicle.

Outreach Donations- September, 2009

- Outreach has received a donation in memory of *Theresa Bellucci* from the Ambrosino Family.
- The Giuffré Family has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Fr. Brendel*.
- Donations to Outreach have been received in honor of the *50th Wedding Anniversary of Deacon Jack and Betty Teufel* from the DiGuardis, the Scorcias, the Ambrosinos, the Meehans, Grace O'Connor.
- Peter and Regina Mirabella have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Paula Palmer*.

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

“Our Catholic Faith”
in Scripture, Song & Prayer

Donna Cori Gibson
in concert

Our awesome faith, a beautiful voice, brought together to draw you closer to God. Come and sing and “pray twice” with Donna on Friday, November 6 with a concert at 7 PM here at Our Lady of Lourdes. A free-will offering will be taken to support our Youth Ministry Program.



Ms. Gibson has appeared on Catholic television networks like Telecare and EWTN and has performed her prayerful and spiritual music throughout the country. The concert will be both beautiful and a benefit for our new Youth Ministry Program. Under the direction of Allegra D’Alo, our Youth Ministry will have a focus on service, meaning that the main goal will be to involve young people in every part of parish life. From worship, to outreach, to efforts like the St. Bernard League (which assists senior parishioners with snow removal each year), we believe that our young people have a great understanding of the Gospel call to welcome and serve one another. Our Youth Program will also offer opportunities for prayer, reflection, and learning about our faith together.

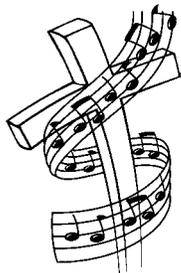
I am hoping today that you might be willing to support our youth program by being one of the sponsors of our benefit concert.

- **For a gift of \$200** you will receive a full page acknowledgement in the program and 4 reserved seats at the concert.
- **For a gift of \$100** you will receive a ½ page acknowledgement in the program and 4 reserved seats at the concert
- **For a gift of \$50** or more you will receive a ¼ page acknowledgement in our program and two seats at the concert.
- **For a gift of \$25** or more you will receive a one line “Friends of OLL Youth Ministry” acknowledgement in the program and 1 reserved seat at the concert

Please join me in supporting this joyful beginning to our youth ministry program.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

FR. Mike



“Our Catholic Faith”
in Scripture, Song & Prayer

Name: _____

Address: _____

I would like to make a gift of \$ _____ Name to appear in the program: _____

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, October 13**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

Follow-up Meeting

All captains and feast volunteers are invited to our Follow-up Meeting on **Thursday, October 15 at 7 PM in Room 16**. All are welcome!

Young Women's Faith Group

The next Young Women's Faith Group will meet **October 15 at 7 PM in the Spiritual Life Center**. *(please use the entrance between the school and convent)*

Come and join us as the young women of Our Lady of Lourdes discuss life's challenges together. Programming for the year will include yoga and movie nights for some relaxation! Take some time out for you and your faith. Contact Allegra at Allegra@ollchurch.org for more information.

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.

Men's Group

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

Come join us on **Thursday, October 15, 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**.

Daily Mass

8 AM

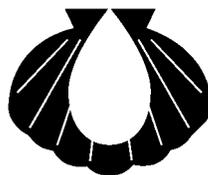
Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5 PM

Sunday: 8 AM, 9:30 AM,
11 AM, 12:30 PM and 6 PM

Reconciliation

Saturday: 4 PM - 4:45 PM



Baptisms

Braelyn Taylor Webber

Brian and Susan

Nathaniel James Annabel-Burgos

Matthew and Samantha

Madelyn Rose Mileo

Vito and Jennifer

Support Groups

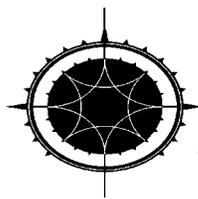
Alcoholics Anonymous:

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)



The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, October 12** in observance of Columbus Day. The Parish Office will reopen on Tuesday, October 13 at 9 AM.

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.

Remembering . . .

Monday, October 12

8:00 AM LaRocca & Sweeney Family

Tuesday, October 13

8:00 AM Carmella Parasole

Wednesday, October 14

St. Callistus I, pope & martyr

8:00 AM Erna Schmid

Thursday, October 15

St. Teresa of Jesus, virgin & doctor

8:00 AM Sal & Nancy Fico

Friday, October 16

St. Hedwig, religious

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, virgin

8:00 AM Nichoals Caccavo

Saturday, October 17

8:00 AM Virginia Samu, Frank Carbone, Michael J. Podhany,
Frank Capoccia, Daniel T. Buscemi, Teresa Stallone,
Frank Bonasera

5:00 PM Barbara McGarrity

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Sunday, October 18

8:00 AM Joseph & Christina Kollmer

Fr. Pat Amabile

9:30 AM Mark Marciano

Fr. Mike Vetrano

11:00 AM Jason Agliato

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

12:30 PM Alfred Isola

Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Mary Occhiuzzo, Virginia Samu,
Joseph Badamo, Rick Munkwitz, Ellen Clohisey, Jack Crean,
In Thanksgiving to Blessed Trinity, Blessed Mother, St. Anne & St. Jude

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Rest In Peace

Peter Gross died on September 29 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebration in Charlotte, North Carolina. We extend our prayers to his wife Anne, his children, and entire family.





©LPI

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

It is said, quite probably a bit too often, that we live a materialistic existence. How sad it is that we don't seek God with such zeal as we seek that new car, TV, clothing, or computer! What among those offers the greatest reward? Which on that list will bring us peace of mind, love of heart, and compassion for our fellow human beings? Is it envy that leads us to greed? Why can't we see the joy in the eyes and words of those who share a bond with God and live their lives in his service? Take a look around you; attempt to see someone truly happy who couldn't care less about his or her possessions.

A man comes to Jesus, begging for the "keys to the kingdom." He is desperate to know what he can do to receive eternal life. As it turns out, he has acquired quite a bit of wealth over the years, yet somehow has realized eternal life is the one thing he cannot count among his possessions. It's very simple, Jesus tells him; give up all you have and follow me, and your salvation is assured. Sadly, it is too high a price to pay for the man, and he leaves knowing he will never have it all. Do you know of anyone who truly "has it all"?

We are called to live in God's love. This Christian beatitude is explained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "[this beatitude] invites us to purify our hearts of bad instincts and to seek the love of God above all else. It teaches us that true happiness is not found in riches or well-being, in human fame or power, or in any human achievement-however beneficial it may be-such as science, technology, and art, or indeed in any creature, but in God alone, the source of every good and of all love" (CCC 1723). Your greatest wealth is yours for the taking!

2009 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of October 11, 2009

Sunday:	Wis 7:7-11/Heb 4:12-13/Mk 10:17-30 <i>or</i> 10:17-27
Monday:	Rom 1:1-7/Lk 11:29-32
Tuesday:	Rom 1:16-25/Lk 11:37-41
Wednesday:	Rom 2:1-11/Lk 11:42-46
Thursday:	Rom 3:21-30/Lk 11:47-54
Friday:	Rom 4:1-8/Lk 12:1-7
Saturday:	Rom 4:13, 16-18/Lk 12:8-12
Next Sunday:	Is 53:10-11/Heb 4:14-16/Mk 10:35-45 <i>or</i> 10:42-45

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Carol Grillo*.

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 ...

*Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Ben Bellotti, Bill Best, Antoinette Bongiorno,
Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Howard Campkin, Phil Charron, Nicholas Cibelli,
Michael Ciotkosz, Beverly DeCanio, Ann Donlon, Sal Ferrante, Marge Flem,
Edward Herger, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Mary Kaval, Veronica Kenny,
Kathleen Kerrigan, Kara Lobasso, Vicky Massaro, Charles Matushefske, Michele McCann,
Peter McCann, Sr., Dorothy Meloni, Rick Mirabella, Brenden Muldoon, John O'Brien,
Frances Parine, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Laura Prichard, Santa Quevedo,
Joe Radosti, Frank Raimo, Carol Randazzo-Hopkins, Michael Savino, Jayna Schmidt,
Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Albina Sipplak, Derek Stahl, Mary Clair Stephen,
Stephen Straub, Sr., Baby John Tramazzo, Nancy Turano, Vera Vieni, Flo Worysz*

2009 Catholic Ministries Appeal

Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us

Thank you to all those who have responded!

Our Lady of Lourdes and the Diocese of Rockville Centre would like to thank all those who have made a sacrifice by making a gift to the *2009 Catholic Ministries Appeal*.

OLL CMA

September 15, 2009

Parish Goal	\$101,839.00
Amount Pledged	\$111,537.00
Total Paid	\$ 94,486.50
Number of Pledges	457
Average Pledge	\$244

As you can see, we have reached our parish goal in the amount pledged. However, we do not see the benefits of reaching our goal until the total paid has met or exceeded our parish goal amount. Therefore, our work is not done yet!

Please continue to make your annual pledge. If you have not already done so, please fill out the pledge card below and return to the Parish Office or place in the collection basket at Mass.

Thank you for your continued generosity.



CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL • DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
PO BOX 4000 • ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11571-4000 • www.drvc.org/cma.html

2008 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 _____

PARISH OF DONOR _____

A GUIDE TO GIVING

PLEDGE	10 PAYMENTS
\$ 1,000	\$ 100
\$ 500	\$ 50
\$ 350	\$ 35
\$ 250	\$ 25

Other \$ _____

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

October 4, 2009

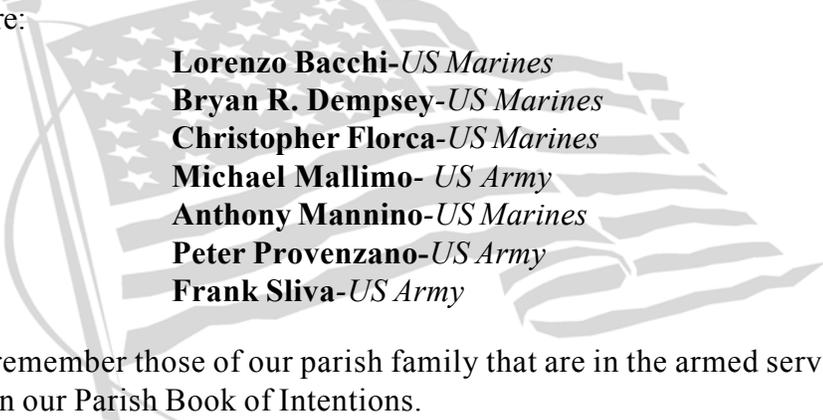
Weekly Collection	\$ 20,566.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (1,566.00)

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
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.

Seton Award Recipient

Our own Mary McMahon, Director of Parish Social Ministry, is going to be honored by the Sisters of Charity - our SAGE Sisters' and Sister Barbara Lynch's Congregation!

At their annual luncheon at the Milleridge Inn, Mary will receive the Seton Award. Anyone who knows Mary, or who works with her at Outreach, will immediately understand why she has been selected to receive the award. Mary certainly epitomizes the qualities of Saint Elizabeth Seton, foundress of the Sisters of Charity.



The luncheon will take place on Sunday, November 8, from 3PM to 6 PM. Tickets for the luncheon are \$65 and they can be obtained by picking up a form at the Parish Office, calling Lauren Manning at 718.424. 1813 or e-mailing lmanning@schalifax.ca. If you have any questions, just ask our SAGE Sisters or Sister Barbara.

Beset By Weakness

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Some years ago, Michael Buckley, a Jesuit theologian of exceptional insight, delivered a homily at the first mass of a young man who had just been ordained. His approach was paradoxical. Instead of asking the young man: "Are you strong enough to be a priest?" he asked him: "Are you weak enough to be a priest?"

That's a curious reversal that needs to be understood: The "weakness" to which he is challenging this young man (and the rest of us) is not the weakness of moral failure or sin, but the weakness that Scripture attributes to Jesus when it says that he was "beset by weakness" in every way, except sin.

How was Jesus weak and how are we meant to be weak?

Buckley explains this by comparing Jesus to Socrates in terms of human excellence (as this is often judged). Here is his comparison:

There is a classic comparison running through contemporary philosophy between Socrates and Christ, a judgement between them in human excellence. Socrates went to his death with calmness and poise. He accepted the judgement of the court, discoursed on the alternatives suggested by death and on the dialectical indications of immortality, found no cause for fear, drank the poison, and died. Jesus - how much to the contrary. Jesus was almost hysterical with terror and fear; 'with loud cries and tears to him who was able to save him from death.' He looked repeatedly to his friends for comfort and prayed for an escape from death, and he found neither. Finally he established control over himself and moved into his death in silence and lonely isolation, even into the terrible interior suffering of the hidden divinity, the absence of God.

I once thought that this was because Socrates and Jesus suffered different deaths, the one so much more terrible than the other, the pain and agony of the cross so overshadowing the release of the hemlock. But now I think this explanation, though correct as far as it runs, is superficial and secondary. Now I believe that Jesus was a more profoundly weak man than Socrates, more liable to physical pain and weariness, more sensitive to human rejection and contempt, more affected by love and hate. Socrates never wept over Athens. Socrates never expressed sorrow and pain over the betrayal of friends. He was possessed and integral, never overextended,

convinced that the just person could never suffer genuine hurt. And for this reason, Socrates - one of the greatest and most heroic people who has ever existed, a paradigm of what humanity can achieve within the individual - was a philosopher. And for the same reason, Jesus of Nazareth was a priest - ambiguous, suffering, mysterious, and salvific.

Jesus was weak in that his sensitivity and love prevented him from protecting himself against pain. Because he loved deeply he felt things deeply, both joy and pain. Sensitive people suffer more than others because their sensitivity leaves them vulnerable and unable to seal themselves off against pain - their own, that of their loved ones, and that of the world. As Iris Murdoch once put it, "A common soldier dies without fear, whereas Jesus died afraid." That shouldn't surprise us. Sensitivity leaves you open to pain.

When we are insensitive we sleep well, even when others are suffering and we may have contributed to that; when we are insensitive we have less fear, especially of hurting others; and when we are insensitive we are, from many points of view, stronger because we are more able to insulate ourselves against pain and humiliation. In the arena of athletics, we admire the player who can absorb a hard hit without apparent effect. To be hard and tough is admirable. That isn't as true in the arena of the soul.

John of the Cross, the great doctor of mysticism, uses the question - How vulnerable and weak are we? - as an important criterion to judge whether or not we are on the right path in following Christ.

We enter more deeply into life, he submits, when we try to imitate the motivation of Christ. But how do we know whether we are doing that or are simply deluding ourselves?

His answer: We know whether or not we are imitating Christ or simply rationalizing our own desires by what begins to flow into our lives. If I am truly imitating Christ, I can expect to experience in my life the things that Jesus experienced in his, namely, a certain vulnerability that leaves me existentially incapable of protecting myself against certain kinds of pain. When I am genuinely imitating Christ, I will find myself "weak" in the same ways that Jesus was weak - more liable to physical pain and weariness, more sensitive to human rejection and contempt, more affected by love and hate, more pained over the state of things, more overextended, more prone to humiliation.

Proper sensitivity lays bare the heart and leaves it vulnerable. That doesn't always make you look good, but that's okay. The best people in the world don't always look good!

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.

Wanted: Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist who have been commissioned by the Diocese are needed to bring the Eucharist to patients at Good Samaritan Hospital.

You may schedule whatever mornings are convenient for you. Even one day per month will help a great deal.

If interested, please contact Father Doug Dower, Director of Pastoral Care at 631.376.4103.

Seminary Benefit Concert

On **Sunday, October 25**, the Friends of the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception will host their **Annual Fall Concert** and Reception at the Seminary in Huntington. The Concert, a major fundraiser for the Seminary, will honor Most Reverend Thomas V. Daily, D.D., Bishop Emeritus of Brooklyn, and Reverend Monsignor James M. McDonald, pastor of St. Aidan in Williston Park and former rector of the Seminary.

For information please contact the Seminary Development Office, 631.423.0483, x 102.

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

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

The Catholic High School Entrance Exam is scheduled for Saturday, October 31. 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.

Fatima Day

Come and celebrate Our Lady's special apparitions to her children on **Fatima Day, Tuesday, October 13 at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island, Manorville.** Stations of the Cross begin at 10:30 AM with Mass and rosary to follow. If you have any questions, please call 631.325.0661.

Help Feed the Hungry

The Mercy INN Soup Kitchen in Wyandanch is in need of a person to pick up food in the West Islip area early on Thursday mornings. If you can help, please call Kathy at 422.1420.

A Day of Silence and Solitude

This day offers the opportunity to withdraw from daily activities to pray, and to reflect on your relationship with God in an atmosphere of silence and solitude. The day will be **Sunday, October 18 at the Maude Adams House at the Cencale in Ronkonkoma.** The offering for the day is \$35. Please bring a bag lunch. For more information, please call 631.588.8366.

Rebuilding Together

Volunteers are needed any time, Mondays to Fridays. Rebuilding together Long Island is a volunteer group that performs free repairs to low-income seniors and handicapped homeowners in both Nassau and Suffolk. Volunteers with minor skills are needed. Come join us and feel the joy of helping other in an atmosphere of fun. Call 516.541.7322.

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 **"Discovery (Columbus Day)."** Don't miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go to 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

The man in today's Gospel reading thought he was pretty good. He had been careful to obey most of God's rules. But he forgot the most important rule of all-love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. When Jesus asked the man to give away all he owned, the man went away sad. He loved money more than he loved God.



Prayer



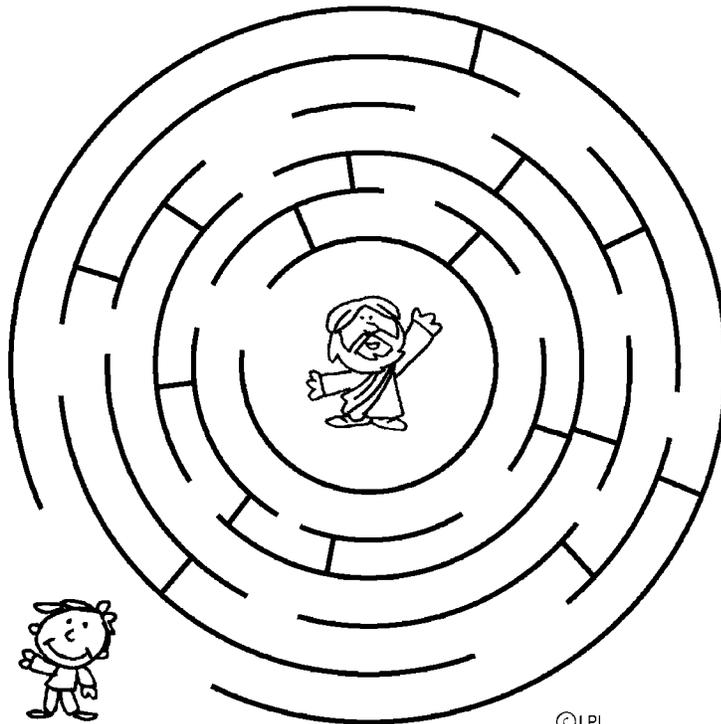
Dear God,

help me to love you more than all the gifts you have given to me.

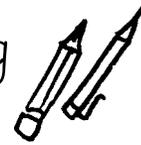


Puzzle

Help this child find Jesus.



Something to Draw



Draw a picture of things that are very special to you.

Mission for the Week



Make a list of things that are special to you. If God asked you to give away your favorite toy or game to someone who's poor, could you do it? Be honest with God, and ask him to help you love him more than anything.