

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OUR LADY OF LOURDES • OCTOBER 18, 2009

**“THROUGH HIS
SUFFERING,**



ISAIAH 53:11

**MY SERVANT
SHALL JUSTIFY
MANY.”**

*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

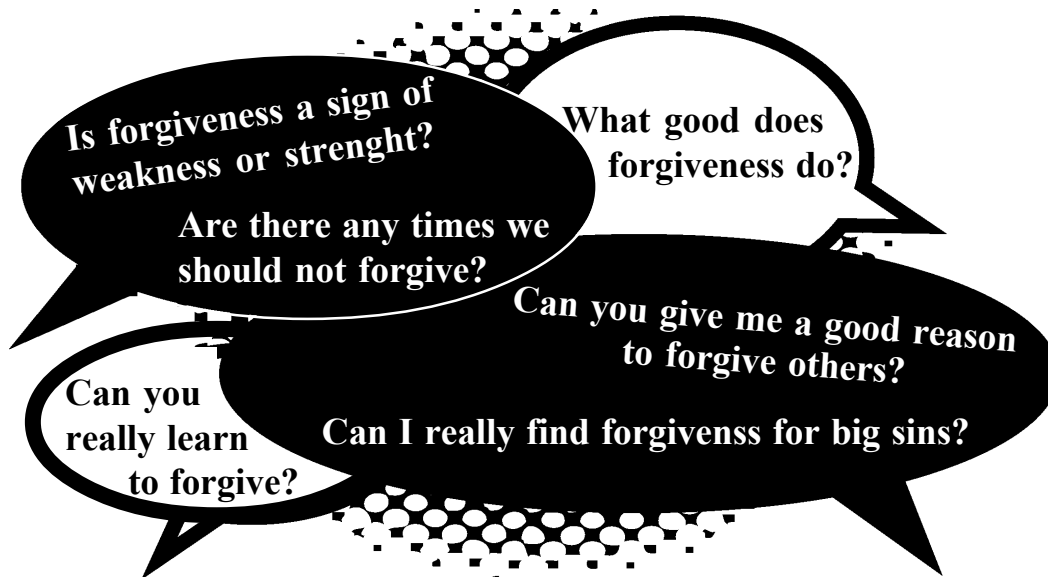
Top Ten Reasons to be a Catholic: What I Learned in 30 Years of Being a Priest!

Presenter: Fr. Mike Vetrano
Tuesdays-thru 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 2: October 20 **Forgiveness**

Is there really any such thing as sin nowadays?



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.

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.

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



detergent
kleenex
paper towels
personal feminine products
shampoo
soap
toilet tissue
toothbrush
toothpaste

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

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.

Square Dance Update

Babysitting is available for those who wish to attend the Parish Outreach Square Dance. High school students and adult chaperones will be hosting a Halloween themed party for children, ages 5-13 during the hours of the Square Dance. Interested parties may sign up for this service when they purchase their tickets. Email Allegra@ollchurch.org with questions or concerns.

“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.**



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.

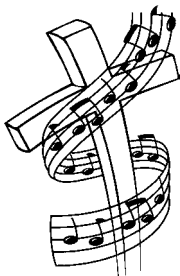
The concert itself is free, and a free-will offering will be taken. I am hoping today that you might be willing to support our youth program by being one of the sponsors of our benefit concert.

- **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: _____

Name to appear in the program: _____

I would like to make a gift of:

_____	\$200
_____	\$100
_____	\$ 50
_____	\$ 25
_____	Other

Open Mic Night

All Hallow's Open Mic Night will be on **October 30 at 7 PM in the school Cafeteria** for all High School students. Come dressed in costume and share your talent for music and poetry with the crowd. Artists are invited to bring their work to be hung up. Email Allegra@ollchurch.org if you would like to help or if you have any questions.

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.

Girl Scouting at Our Lady of Lourdes

The combined Brownie Troop #510 and Junior Troop #2261 meeting at Our Lady of Lourdes School in West Islip took a tour of the West Islip Public Library on September 17.

The troops also toured the 3rd Precinct in the Town of Islip on September 26.



Strings at Our Lady of Lourdes

Our Lady of Lourdes String Program is happy to announce that string lessons are on their way. This year string instructor, Ms. AnnMarie Buonaspina, will be assisted by Mr. Adam Nadler in conducting violin, cello, and guitar classes. Third and fourth grade students are already doing beautifully with their violin playing. The fourth grade students studying the cello are enjoying the new instruments our school purchased this year. Our advanced guitarists are continuing their studies from last year while Ms. Buonaspina promises there will be beginning guitar workshops to be held in January and June. Congratulations to all the great musicians at Our Lady of Lourdes!

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.

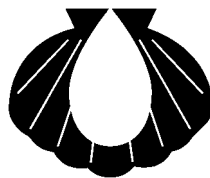


Rest In Peace

Mary F. Mannino died on October 3 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on October 8. We extend our prayers to her husband, Paul, children, grandchildren, and entire family.

George Edward Steinhauer died on October 7 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on October 10. We extend our prayers to his children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Phillip Charron died on October 7 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on October 10. We extend our prayers to his wife, Nicolina, children, grandchildren, and entire family.



Baptisms

Leah Rose Chiaravalloti
Joseph and Nicole

Ryan Patrick Gaffney
Kevin and Teri

Dylan Ann Green
Mark and Alison

Cassidy Rose Pescatore
Louis and Deirdre

Declan Merak Munkwitz
Ryan and Anne

Giovanni Antonio Palmisano
Robert and GERALYN

Robert Joseph Palmisano
Robert and GERALYN

Remembering . . .

Monday, October 19

*St. John de Brébeuf & Isaac Jogues, priests & martyrs
& their companions, martyrs*

8:00 AM Lillina Scuderi Calogero

Tuesday, October 20

St. Paul of the Cross, priest

8:00 AM Charles Homann

Wednesday, October 21

8:00 AM Edward Cameron III

Thursday, October 22

8:00 AM Andrew "Al" Velten

Friday, October 23

St. John of Capistrano, priest

8:00 AM Elizabeth Golden

Saturday, October 24

8:00 AM Vincent & David McCarthy, Andrea Grippi, Theresa Gili,
Peter Gross, Rose Noto, Phillip Charron,
In Thanksgiving to St. Rita

5:00 PM William Kopsky, Sr. and William Kopsky, Jr.
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Sunday, October 25

8:00 AM Mary Daly
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

9:30 AM Jo Ann Croci
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

11:00 AM John Gennuso
Fr. Pat Amabile

12:30 PM William Kuhlwilm
Fr. Mike Vetrano

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Joseph Badamo, Placido Raffo,
Gloria Petrizze, Lucy Raimo, Jack Crean, Mary Receschi,
Michele Kenney, Jean Loughlin, Lorraine Winberry
Fr. Mike Vetrano



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A teenage boy completes his driver's education course and with his new license in his hand goes to see his dad. "Dad," he says, quite proud of himself, "I'm ready to drive, so I'd like you to get me a car." The father smiles and the two of them hop into the family sedan. But instead of going to the local new car dealership, the father takes his son to a junkyard. "Here you go, son. Take your pick; if you can get it repaired and running, you can drive it." The son didn't realize the responsibility of driving a car was squarely on his shoulders alone. If he was to realize his reward, it was solely up to him.

Sometimes, one has to wonder about the disciples of Jesus. In today's reading from Mark, James and John seem to be feeling quite proud of themselves, and ask Jesus to promise them something without telling him what it is they want. Now, we realize that Jesus knew what they would ask, but he let them continue anyway. Basically, they wanted a guaranteed seat in heaven on either side of God's throne. Jesus gently tells them that not even he can promise something like that; he can only show them the path, how they choose to get there is up to them.

Within the teachings of Jesus and the beatitudes lies the strength of Christian hope. The beatitudes give us the hope of heaven as the new Promised Land. Just as James and John came to realize that their hope for a place in heaven relied on them, we are given hope. Hope is expressed in prayer, especially in the Lord's Prayer (CCC 1820). As disciples of Jesus Christ, we must be willing to sacrifice on a daily basis all that we have in his name. We must be willing to do whatever it takes to follow the path to heaven that Jesus has given us.

2009 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of October 18, 2009

Sunday:	Is 53:10-11/Heb 4:14-16/Mk 10:35-45 <i>or</i> 10:42-45
Monday:	Rom 4:20-25/Lk 12:13-21
Tuesday:	Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21/Lk 12:35-38
Wednesday:	Rom 6:12-18/Lk 12:39-48
Thursday:	Rom 6:19-23/Lk 12:49-53
Friday:	Rom 7:18-25a/Lk 12:54-59
Saturday:	Rom 8:1-11/Lk 13:1-9
Next Sunday:	Jer 31:7-9/Heb 5:1-6/Mk 10:46-52

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Monenna Kennedy*.
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, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Howard Campkin,
Nicholas Cibelli, Michael Ciotkosz, Grace Cunneen, Beverly DeCanio, Ann Donlon,
Sal Ferrante, 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, 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., Jack Timmer, Baby John Tramazzo,
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 11, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 17,911.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (1,089.00)

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.

Evangelizing the Religious Imagination

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

A novel is meant to be, first of all, a work of art. That is why it is always risky to try to use a novel to try to promote, however subtly, any political or religious idea. Apologetics, of any kind, usually does not make for good literature, irrespective of how good the cause might be.

William Young, in a recent, best-selling novel, *The Shack*, (Windblown Media, Los Angeles, 2007) takes that risk. The son of missionary parents, Young has written a novel which invites its reader to meet God, not just in the abstract, but specifically in how God is revealed in Christianity, as Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Without wanting to give away too much of the plot, here is the main story line: Mack, his hero, suffers a great personal tragedy that leaves him religiously numb, with a lot of unresolved questions. Through a series of circumstances, he ends up spending a weekend within which he is privileged to have heart-to-heart conversations with the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. In those conversations, some of the heart of humanity and the heart of God are laid open.

The book has been both highly praised and severely criticized across denominational lines. Its critics struggle with its audacity (What nerve for a mere human to attempt to speak for God!) and for the way it in which it conceives of God (as too gentle and non-demanding).

Personally, I do not agree with its critics. In my view, this is an excellent book that presents a wonderfully positive and healthy theology of God. I heartily recommend it.

I should perhaps qualify that with this comment: I read for essence more than for detail. No doubt there are parts of this book that would need more qualification, more theological nuance, but that is true for all theology, especially when it speaks about the ineffable, God. It took the apostolic community and the early church some 300 years to agree upon even a few basic concepts about God. So, no doubt, anyone who risks 250 pages in trying to give this a contemporary interpretation will not always and everywhere be perfect, nor to everyone's theological taste. But this effort has to be judged in its essence, not on the basis of some detail that might need more nuance. The book is not perfect, but it is excellent overall.

What Young gives us in *The Shack* is a very healthy theology of God and an insight into the Trinitarian nature of God. Like Pope Benedict's first Encyclical, this book might too be entitled: *God is Love*. It is a good corrective to many popular and intellectual images of God that conceive of God as cold,

distant, impersonal, and needlessly judgmental. The God that you meet in *The Shack* is personal, warm-hearted, invitational, loving, understanding, with a sense of humor; and He is closer to the God that Jesus preached, the God who embraces the weakness of the prodigal son and the anger of his older brother, who washes the feet of his servants, and who lets his sun shine on the bad as well as the good, than is the God that is often met in popular theology and ecclesiology. The God you meet in *The Shack* will walk with you, no matter what your journey, and, like the God of Jesus, wants more than anything else that we forgive each other. Judgment, this God says, is not about punishment or destruction, but about setting things right and ultimately about reconciliation and forgiveness.

How does the God we meet in *The Shack* answer the question of evil? Pretty much like Jesus at the death of Lazarus, when he is asked: Where is God when bad things happen to good people? God, Jesus tells us there, does not necessarily rescue us from suffering and death. Rather He enters into them with us and ultimately, though not immediately, redeems them.

Asked if he could have prevented Mack's daughter's death, God answers: Yes. First, by not creating at all. ... Or secondly, I could have chosen to actively interfere in her circumstance. The first was never a consideration and the latter was not an option for purposes you cannot possibly understand now.

So what is God's answer to the problem of evil? The God we meet in *The Shack* replies: At this point all I have to offer you as an answer is my love and goodness, and my relationship with you; essentially what Jesus offers us in the Gospels, not an intellectual answer but a relationship.

The real task of evangelization today is very much that of trying to evangelize the imagination, of trying to put healthy, life-giving images of God into the popular imagination. We have libraries full of scriptural and theological books that are solid and orthodox. These are important because without a solid grounding we soon go astray, but they need to be supplemented. By what? By attempts like this one by William Young which try to evangelize the popular imagination.

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 18	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.

Holiday Gift and Craft Fair

On **Sunday, November 1**, **St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School** will host its Annual Holiday Gift and Craft Fair from 10 AM until 4 PM. Join us for a fun-filled holiday shopping experience with over 100 gift and craft vendors! There is great food, raffle prizes and plenty of parking. If you have any questions, please call Linda or Susan at 631.422.5150 or 631.661.2928.

World March for Peace and Nonviolence

You are invited to be in solidarity with the World Community. Come and join us for an Interfaith Prayer Service for Peace and Nonviolence on **Sunday, October 18 at 2 PM at the Sacred Heart Chapel at the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Brentwood**. If you have any questions, please call 631.273.4531.

Model Train and Toy Show

St. Vincent's famous Model Train and Toy show will be held on **Sunday, October 25 between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elmont**. Featured are Lionel, LGB and American Flyer trains and accessories with an extensive array of toys, crafts, and matchbox miniatures. There will be over 200 dealers with merchandise on display. For more information, please call 516.352.2127.

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 "**Autumn Changes**." 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 TELE CARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 271 for the Best in Catholic Television!

Sharing the Gospel

Do you ever catch yourself being bossy? That is a mistake grown-ups make, too. It is no fun to work or play with bossy people. They don't honor God when they order people around. In today's Gospel, Jesus told his friends to be kind, not bossy. God wants us to help and serve other people.



Prayer



Dear God,

when I want to get my own way, help me to stop.
Show me ways I can help other people instead.



Word Search

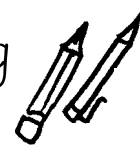
Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

JESUS	LEADERS	SERVANT
DISCIPLES	POWER	FIRST
PEOPLE	GREAT	RESCUE

H E D A S F I R S T
 G H I O L D S E K N
 R E S C U E A D T S
 E Y C A N R M U O E
 A T I D S H A J D R
 T S P E O P L E H V
 O U L R K O N S D A
 J V E M T W H U I N
 I K S N O E F S O T
 L E A D E R S H E B

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Something to Draw



Draw a picture of yourself being bossy. Then draw a picture of yourself being helpful.

Mission for the Week



Invite a friend over to visit, and think of ways to serve her. Hang up her jacket, offer her something to eat, and ask her what she would like to do. Share your best toys with her, and let her have the first turn.