

First Sunday of Lent

Our Lady of Lourdes • February 21, 2010

**“You shall
bow down**



Deuteronomy 26:10

in God’s presence.”



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.

Our Lady of Lourdes

*455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, New York 11795*

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

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

Robin Reynolds-Brennan

Coordinator of Worship

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

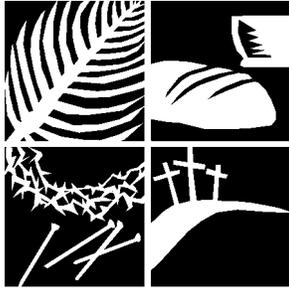
S.A.G.E.

661.3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth
and Enrichment)

email: Sage@ollchurch.org

Family Liturgies during Holy Week 2010



Thursday, April 1

Children's and Family Holy Thursday Service – 4 PM - Church

Friday, April 2

Children's Good Friday Service – 12 Noon -Church

Saturday, April 3

Easter Egg Hunt – 11:30 AM – Great Lawn

We love our children and families here at OLL and want you to be a part of our parish community!

Lent at “The Six”

When is the last time you wrote yourself a letter about the things that really matter to you? Maybe Lent can be a time of self-reflection. Do you have worries and some fears in your life? Do you sometimes wonder about the direction you're headed?

How do you feel about the relationships you have?

Come to “The Six” for each Sunday of Lent. “The Six” committee would like to offer a way to look at ourselves a little closer and more compassionately using the 5 Sundays of Lent.

When do we give ourselves five weeks of anything to make our lives better? All Are Welcome!

Come and Pray this Lent...

All fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth Graders **and** their families are invited to come and pray this Lent at “The Six” -Sunday Mass at 6 PM. Please join “The Six” with your grade on...

March 7	3rd Sunday of Lent	Gr. 5	“ <i>SENT</i> ” to make a difference
March 14	4th Sunday of Lent	Gr. 6	“ <i>CELEBRATE</i> ” Religious Education Week
March 21	5th Sunday of Lent	Gr. 7	“ <i>SERVE</i> ” Service Project Sunday
March 28	Palm Sunday	Gr. 8	“ <i>PRAY</i> ” as Holy Week begins

Come celebrate Lent and be a lector, greeter, presentation of the gifts, and more...

Stations of the Cross

We remember the road to Jesus' death and link his journey to our own as our parish's deacons lead us through this beautiful devotion. Come and pray with us...

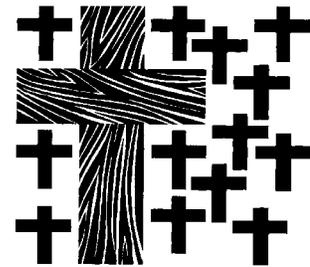
Each Friday during Lent – 12 Noon and 7 PM

Save the date...

Living Stations of the Cross

Good Friday, April 2 at 7:30 PM in the Church

This is a must for your Lenten and Holy Week journey! Our parish community comes together – led by our young people, our Music Ministries and members of our parish community – who share their own personal experiences on this most holy and solemn night. The celebration includes the Veneration of the Cross.



Mark your calendars...

Our own pastor, Fr. Mike Vetrano, will preach our Lenten Mission this year.

Mission 2010-Living Life in God's Friendship will take place Monday to Thursday-March 8 to March 11 at 7:30 PM in the church. Keep those dates open.

Living Life in God's Friendship

Our own pastor, Fr. Mike Vetrano, will preach



Monday through Thursday

March 8th through 11th

All evenings begin at 7:30 PM in our Parish Church

Monday, March 8

A Life in God's Friendship

The first great truth that every Christian must know is that we walk each day in the presence of God and every relationship, every challenge, every moment of joy or sorrow can be filled with God's friendship

Tuesday, March 9

Being at Peace with God and Peace with Oneself

Life is not easy. Things happen. Everyone has moments of failure or has made mistakes. How can we discover a great truth in these moments: God always offers a new beginning.

Reconciliation

Wednesday, March 10

Some things about God that we are not sure about

- or -

If I were God I would run things differently

Why do we die? :: Why do we suffer? :: Why do bad people win lotto?

Thursday, March 11

A celebration of healing and life

*For those who are in need of healing and those who have received it
Illness, grief, loss, emotional pain, depression, desire for children, infirmity....*

Adult Faith Formation

Images of Mercy - Icons of Justice*

**applicable for Advance Certificate*

Presenter: Tom Petriano, St. Joseph's College, Patchogue

Tuesday, February 23, 2010 from 7:30 - 9:30 PM Parish Center

The witness of the lives of prophetic figures from various cultures and traditions can be iconic for us, and studying their lives can be both illuminating and transformative. This course will look specifically at the lives of Mother Teresa, Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin, Mohandas Gandhi, Oscar Romero and the Jesuit martyrs of El Salvador, and Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks as examples of modern day prophets. Their writings, sermons, letters, speeches and the witness of their lives will be examined in order to understand the spirituality and theology that was the source of their prophetic witness.

Mark your calendars...

Embrace the Challenge

Embrace the Love

Something to think, pray and talk about

Fr. Pat Amabile

Tuesdays, March 2, 16, and 23

7:30 - 9:30 PM

Parish Center

This series will lead us to new depth in our spirituality.

Each week we will explore one of the following...

- What do you call God?
- Who is Jesus Christ?
- Living in the Lord.

Why We Pray the Way We Do

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Tuesdays, April 6, 13, 20, 27 and May 4

7:30 - 9:30 PM

Parish Center

What's really happening when we go to Church on Sunday?

Understand the liturgy and its role in your life and the life of the

Church. Does God need the Sacraments? Understand the

sacramental principle of Roman Catholicism and how we believe

God communicates with us.

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 religiously@ollchurch.org.

Taize-Prayer Around the Cross

Take some reflective time this Lent to join us...

Friday, March 26 at 7:45 PM in the Church (*following Stations of the Cross*)

Taize is a form of worship that provides some time in our busy lives where we can stop and focus on the love of God. Together we will share simple chants and prayers that will help guide us as we bring our concerns and hopes to the Lord. Please join us for a Taize Prayer Service.

If you're interested in singing/playing with our Taize Group, please contact Carol Goetz at music@ollchurch.org for further information.

Holiday Choir

If you'd like to sing with our choir for Holy Week services, you're welcome to join us in the Church for our Thursday night rehearsals from 8 PM until 10 PM, beginning on February 25.

For further information, please contact Carol Goetz at music@ollchurch.org

Children's Liturgy of The Word

What is Lent? What happens during this season? Why do we give up the things we like for five weeks? Lent is a precious time for reflection and it is a journey back to our Lord. For our young people, ages 4-9, it is a new experience and Children's Liturgy of the Word is here to teach them the beauty of the season! For families, the 9:30 Mass on Sundays will be the place to bring their little ones during Lent. This year, we are discussing the road to Easter and each week the children will learn a new stop on the road. It is the perfect way to Easter Sunday!

Save the dates...

Directed Retreat

Sunday, March 14 thru Saturday, March 20

*Looking for something to do for **YOURSELF***

during Lent?

RIGHT HERE... in our own parish surroundings...

Vita Scorcio and her team from St. Ignatius Retreat House offers the opportunity to experience a Directed Prayer Retreat to the people of Our Lady of Lourdes, **RIGHT NOW**... as we live out our daily lives. *Details to follow...*



Diocesan Day of Reconciliation

Monday, March 29

3 PM until 9 PM in the Church

Churches throughout the Diocese of Rockville Centre, including Our Lady of Lourdes, will be open between the hours of 3 PM and 9 PM for individual confessions. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a powerful way for our community to celebrate and pray for God's grace and healing. We also celebrate this Sacrament every Saturday from 4 - 4:45 PM in the Church and always by appointment with a priest.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, February 23**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, February 22**, at **12:30 PM in the Parish Center**.

Adult Bowling Night Saturday, March 13

Time to schedule some adult fun! This event is open to the public so pick your crowd and create your own party. Tickets are \$25 a person, the kitchen and bar will be open and ready to serve. Visit the OLL website, click on the "OLL School" link and go to "In the Backpack" for details. Committe Members Needed Contact: kharris@ollschool.org or lkennedy@ollschool.org if you can help.

OLL Golf Outing Coming July 2010

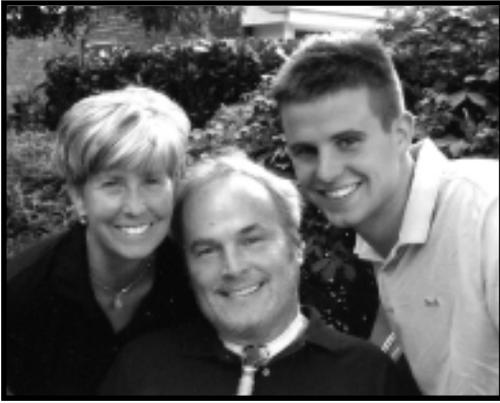
Do you miss the outdoors? Do you miss the warm feeling of sunshine? Join us and swing ahead to summer! We are in need of committee members, volunteers, golfers, and donations (Local Merchants and Materials). For more information contact Rich Maher at rmaher@ollschool.org.

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.



A Night for the Men of Our Parish **Not Sure if Forgiveness and Mercy are** **Manly Virtues?** **Ask Detective Steven McDonald**

Steven McDonald is the NYPD officer who was questioning three youths in Central Park one hot summer day in 1986 when one of them shot him three times—a brutal attack that he narrowly survived, but which left him paralyzed from the neck down, and dependent on a tracheotomy.

For the past twenty-four years, Steven McDonald, has been preaching the Gospel of Forgiveness. In doing so, Steven has changed his own life, the life of the young man that shot him and the thousands of people that have heard his message. McDonald focuses on his long road to inner and outer recovery - a remarkable journey through anguish and anger to peace, that began with a decision to forgive his attacker.

OLL Men's Spirituality Group invites the men of our parish (*high school age on up*) to **"An Evening of Forgiveness" with Detective Steven McDonald on Friday, March 19 at 7:30 PM in the Church**

Come and experience how evil and violence can be transformed by the liberating power of faith. Please contact Jack Fitzgerald at 631.587.5548 for more information.

St. Bernard League

We need you!

In order to service our many clients, we are in need of more St. Bernards—those who help people in bad weather. We have been lucky enough to gain the support of new volunteers, but we still need more volunteers to meet the needs of our community.

Can you and/or your family shovel, snow blow or clear out another family in need?

If you need service hours, or just want to be a BIG help, sign up to be a St. Bernard! St. Bernard volunteers shovel snow for the elderly and disabled members of our community in the winter. Sign up with Allegra@ollchurch.org and I will sign off on your service hours.



If you have any questions or concerns, please call Allegra at 661.3224, extension 135.

OLL CASA Project Two Homes and Counting!



Through your generous donations, we have been able to fund the building of two complete houses and we are well on our way to completing a third house!
Keep up the good work. Through your donations to the OLL Casa Project we will be able to continue to build homes for those belonging to our sister parishes.

OLL Youth Ministry

Some things you probably didn't know....

- Snapple is the official drink of OLL youth group-we go through gallons of it.
- If you microwave potato chips they taste just French fries.
- The word Calorific means that a food is both delicious and full of calories.
- Elephants have been caught swimming up to two miles off the coast of India in the Indian Ocean.
- We laugh a lot at youth group.

Youth Group Meeting

High School students!

The next youth group meeting is **Thursday, March 4 in Room 16** of the School at 7 PM.

Middle School students!

The next meeting for you is **Monday, March 1 from 6:30 – 7:30 PM in Room 16**. Come join in the fun!

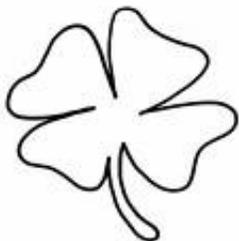


Movie Night is **Friday, February 26 at 7 PM**
in the Parish Center.

We're watching *17 Again* in our pajamas with snacks.
Bring a friend down and hang out!

Our Lady of Lourdes 2nd Annual St. Patrick's/St. Joseph's Day Celebration

Saturday, March 20
from 8 PM until midnight
in the All-Purpose Room



The evening will include music, dancing,
Italian and Irish buffet,
beer, wine and soda
-all for only \$30 per person.

Dessert Contest

All are eligible to enter, if you wish.
A panel of judges will determine winners
and award prizes.



To reserve tickets, please call
Parish Outreach at 661.9262, option 4.
Space is limited, so get your tickets early!

The event is hosted by the combined efforts of
Our Lady of Lourdes Holy Name Society,
Rosary Christian Mothers and Parish Outreach.
Proceeds will benefit OLL Parish Outreach.

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)



Rest In Peace

Frieda Perry died on February 9 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on February 12. We extend our prayers to her husband, Eugene, children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Edna M. Barressa died on February 12 and the Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on February 20. We extend our prayers fo ther son Edward, children, grandchildren, and entire family.

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, February 22

The Chair of St. Peter, apostle

8:00 AM Carmela & Vincent Stumpo

Tuesday, February 23

St. Polycarp, bishop and martyr

8:00 AM David McCarthy

Wednesday, February 24

8:00 AM Hattie Malcolm

Thursday, February 25

8:00 AM Gerard Ambrosino

Friday, February 26

8:00 AM David McCarthy

Saturday, February 27

8:00 AM Archie Bahruth, Flo Worysz,
Alexander MacGregor III, Angelo Pastore

5:00 PM Tony Squeo
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

Sunday, February 28

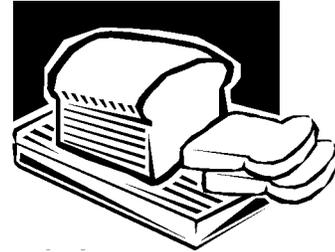
8:00 AM Cornelius Guider
Fr. Mike Vetrano

9:30 AM Edward Cameron, III
Fr. Pat Amabile

11:00 AM Robert Beck
Fr. Mike Vetrano

12:30 PM Mary Smith
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

6:00 PM People of the Parish, John & Tom Rebolz, Rick Munkwitz,
Anna Van Bramer, Paul Smith, Lillian Gerken,
Howard Newberg, Steven Neff, Ann Minadis,
Michael Peter DeVito, Maria Brenece Forcade
Fr. Bob Scheckenback



Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." — Lk 4:1-3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



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1st Sunday of Lent

So what's your temptation? Chocolate ice cream? Gossip? Alcohol? Petty thievery? Pornography? Or just plain ignoring God?

Gratefully, none of us has to stand up in front of the whole assembly and confess the specifics of our sins (just to be clear, chocolate ice cream isn't one!). We simply admit to our sinfulness before we enter into the celebration of the Eucharist, leaving the specific confession of sin to the privacy of the sacrament of penance when we speak individually with a priest.

Sunday's Gospel directs our attention that Jesus truly was a human person just like all of us. He was subjected to temptation, just like we are. In our desire to conform our lives to be more like Christ, we seek to avoid temptation, just like he did.

For those of us who are already baptized, this Lenten season is one of renewal. We are praying more, fasting, and helping others so as to recover our baptismal innocence. These forty days are meant to get us ready for the renewal of our baptismal promises at Easter. In those promises we rejected Satan, his works, and his empty promises. We rejected sin so as to live in the freedom of God. These forty days will test our fortitude, but we don't go into them alone. We are surrounded by an entire community of faith, all of us working together to become even better Christians. Sometime during this season, we'll each confess our sins with a priest. But as we begin Lent, it might not hurt to tell one other person what you're striving for during this season. Ask them to pray for you, and to help you by being ready to ask how your Lent is going on a weekly basis from now until Easter.

2009 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of February 21, 2010

Sunday:	Dt 26:4-10/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13
Monday:	1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday:	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday:	Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Phil 3:17---4:1 or 3:20---4:1/Lk 9:28b-36

Parish Outreach

Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30 AM - 3 PM

In December, I wrote that Outreach had enough food and asked that people stop donating for awhile. Well, the time has come to request assistance again.

Outreach is in need of specific food items:

Pantry Needs

peanut butter
jelly
canned pork and beans
spaghetti sauce
hand soap
hot cocoa
cookies
crackers



Thank you for your ongoing support to Outreach.

Free Food for Those in Need

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program, (C.S.F.P.) funded by USDA, NYSDOH, and administered by Catholic Charities, is offering free food for 6 to 12 month post-partum women, children from the age of 5 and up to their sixth birthday, and seniors age 60 and over who are income eligible.

The food package includes cheese, milk, starches, cereals, juices, canned fruits, vegetables, fish, meats and more. Income guidelines for seniors are as follows:

- gross monthly income is \$1,174 or less for a single senior
- \$1,579 or less for a senior couple.

For further information and income guidelines for women and children in Nassau or Suffolk, please call 631.491.4166 or 631.491.4156.

Financial Summary

February 14, 2010

Weekly Collection	\$ 18,882.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (118.00)

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

Members in the Military

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

They are:

Bryan R. Dempsey-*US Marines*

Christopher Florca-*US Marines*

Michael Mallimo- *US Army*

Anthony Mannino-*US Marines*

JD Montefusco-*US Marines*

Peter Provenzano-*US Army*

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

Mass Book of Intentions

The 2011 Mass Book of Intentions will be opening on **Tuesday, February 23** at **9 AM in the Parish Office.**

As always, we will do our best to accommodate your Mass Intention requests.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Pat Wissing*.

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 ...

Phil Ambrosino, Roy Anderson, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Ben Bellotti, Antoinette Bongiorno, Theresa Buffa, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Nicholas Cibelli, Michael Ciotkosz, Donald L. Coffey, Regina Cranor, Catherine Dare, Jeanne DellaRagione, Ann Donlon, Debbie Eichen, Edward Herger, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Max Illiano, Mary Kaval, Veronica Kenny, Kathleen Kerrigan, Joseph Lehmann, Kara Lobasso, Louise Malcuit, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Dorothy Meloni, Rick Mirabella, Rae Morris, Brenden Muldoon, Ruth Murray, Evelyn Nonnon, John O'Brien, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Laura Prichard, Joe Radosti, Carol Randazzo-Hopkins, Michael Savino, Ann Marie Schiraldi, Jayna Schmidt, Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Derek Stahl, Mary Clair Stephen, Stephen Straub, Sr., John Tramazzo, Nancy Turano, Vera Vieni, Pat Wallace, Joseph Walsh, Sr., Kyle Williams

Entering Lent

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Sometimes the etymology of a word can be helpful. Linguistically, lent is derived from an old English word meaning springtime. In Latin, lente means slowly. Etymologically, then, lent points to the coming of spring and it invites us to slow down our lives so as to be able to take stock of ourselves.

That does capture some of the traditional meaning, though the popular mindset. It understands lent mostly as a season within which we are asked to fast from certain normal, healthy pleasures so as to better ready ourselves for the feast of Easter.

One of the images for this is the biblical idea of the Desert. Jesus, we are told, in order to prepare for his public ministry, went into the desert for forty days and forty nights during which time he fasted and, as the Gospel of Mark tells us, was put to the test by Satan, was with the wild animals, and was looked after by the angels.

Lent has always been understood as a time of us to imitate this, to metaphorically spend forty days in the desert like Jesus, unprotected by normal nourishment so as to have to face “Satan” and the “wild animals” and see whether the “angels” will indeed come and look after us when we reach that point where we can no longer look after ourselves.

For us, “Satan” and “wild animals” refer particularly to the chaos inside of us that normally we either deny or simply refuse to face - our paranoia, our anger, our jealousies, our distance from others, our fantasies, our grandiosity, our addictions, our unresolved hurts, our sexual complexity, our incapacity to really pray, our faith doubts, and our moral secrets. The normal food that we eat, distracted ordinary life, works to shield us from the deeper chaos that lurks beneath the surface of our lives.

Lent invites us to stop eating whatever protects us from having to face the desert that is inside of us. It invites us to feel our smallness, to feel our vulnerability, to feel our fears, and to open ourselves up the chaos of the desert so that we can finally give the angels a chance to feed us. That’s the Christian ideal of lent, to face one’s chaos.

To supplement this, I would like to offer three rich mythical images, each of which helps explain one aspect of lent and fasting:

In every culture, there are ancient stories, myths, which teach that all of us, at times, have to sit in the

ashes. We all know, for example, the story of Cinderella. The name itself literally means, the little girl (puella) who sits in the ashes (cinders). The moral of the story is clear: Before you get to be beautiful, before you get to marry the prince or princess, before you get to go to the great feast, you must first spend some lonely time in the ashes, humbled, smudged, tending to duty and the unglamorous, waiting. Lent is that season, a time to sit in the ashes. It is not incidental that we begin lent by marking our foreheads with ashes.

The second mythical image is that of sitting under Saturn, of being a child of Saturn. The ancients believed that Saturn was the star of sadness, of heaviness, of melancholy. Accordingly they weren’t always taken aback when someone fell under its spell, namely, when someone felt sad or depressed. Indeed they believed that everyone had to spend certain seasons of his or her life being a child of Saturn, that is, sitting in heaviness, sitting in sadness, waiting patiently while some important inner thing worked itself out inside the soul. Sometimes elders or saints would put themselves voluntarily under Saturn, namely, like Jesus going into the desert, they would sit in a self-induced heaviness, in the hope that this melancholy would be means to reach some new depth of soul. That too is the function of lent.

Finally there is the rich image, found in some ancient mythologies, of letting our tears reconnect us with the flow of the water of life, of letting our tears reconnect us to the origins of life. Tears, as we know, are salt-water. That is not without deep significance. The oceans too are salt water and, as we know too, all life takes its origins there. Hence, we get the mystic and poetic idea that tears reconnect us to the origins of life, that tears regenerate us, that tears cleanse us in a life-giving way, and that tears deepen the soul by letting it literally taste the origins of life. Given the truth of that, and we have all experienced its truth, tears too are a desert to be entered into as a Lenten practice, a vehicle to reach new depths of soul.

The need for lent is experienced everywhere: Without sublimation we can never attain what is sublime. To truly enter a feast there must first be a fast. To come properly to Easter there must first be a time of desert, ashes, heaviness, and tears.

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.

2010 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

One Faith, One Hope,
Many Gifts.

A Letter from Bishop William Murphy

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Our Holy Father asks us to “act as beacons of hope, casting the light of Christ upon the world.” The Catholic Ministries Appeal is an opportunity for us to respond to that call; to be Disciples of Christ and share our *one faith, one hope and many gifts* with others.

The Catholic Ministries Appeal is one of the ways that our Church can “cast the light of Christ upon the world” as we provide critical support to so many programs and ministries.

Last year it enabled us to bring religious education to more than 100,000 public school children, it helped us prepare 4,000 couples for the sacrament of marriage, 36,000 parents to be fully prepared to have their children baptized and 18,000 adolescents ready and eager to be confirmed in our faith. It also enabled us to serve or deliver more than 500,000 meals to people in need, provided support to our parishes and supported our men in formation to become priests and deacons.

This year we hope that you and your family will join us to support these critical services. It will enable us to continue to do God’s work, casting the light of Christ to more places, touching more people than I can mention in this brief note.

May we prayerfully ask you to consider joining with your fellow parishioners in making a contribution to the 2010 Catholic Ministries Appeal? Whatever the amount, every gift is deeply appreciated and 100% of every dollar raised goes to support the five critical ministries of our Appeal.

With gratitude and prayers, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Bishop of Rockville Centre

You can make a difference in your parish and in the lives of those around us by making a gift to this year’s appeal. Visit the CMA Web Site at www.CatholicMinistriesAppeal.org for more information, or to view the video.

Spiritual Care Companions

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

Catholic Health Services of Long Island will sponsor a free, six week training to provide basic pastoral care skills and information to become a caring, attentive, listening presence. Spiritual Care Companions will attend afternoon OR evening training sessions during April and May.

For further information, please call: Carol Cella at 516-705-3714, Trish Luvin at 516-705-2763, or Peggy Nixdorf at 631-587-1600 x8236.

Dominican Village

Please join us for an Open House on Saturday, February 27, 2010 from 1 PM until 3 PM. Dominican Village is an independent retirement community that offers assisted living and respite care, outstanding programs, all-inclusive services and bountiful amenities. For more information, or to schedule a tour at your convenience, call 631.842.6091.

FISH (Friends In Service Helping)

Could you spare just one day a month to help those in our local communities who do not or cannot drive and therefore are not able to get to medical appointments or treatments on their own?

FISH (Friends In Service Helping) is an all volunteer organization that has been serving residents of Babylon Village, North and West Babylon, West Islip and Lindenhurst in this way for 35 years!

We are currently in need of additional drivers and telephone coordinators—retirees are welcome!

All we ask is your time one day a month on a day that is convenient for you. If you are interested in helping, please call Linda at 631.587.5133 or the FISH number at 631.669.3733 and leave a message. Thank You.

Godspell

St. Joseph's College Clare Rose Playhouse, Patchogue, presents Godspell, a musical based upon the Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

The dates are February 26, 27 and March 5, 6 at 8 PM, February 28 and March 7 at 3 PM. For reservations, call 631.654.0199.

General admission is \$15, students and seniors are \$12.

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.

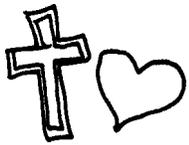
Next Sunday's theme is "**Leadership.**" Don't miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go to www.religionandrock.com or at "Religion & Rock" on ITUNES. Don't forget to tune into TELECARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 296 for the Best in Catholic Television!

Sharing the Gospel

Jesus was powerful, and the devil knew it. Jesus could have used the power he had selfishly, to get whatever he wanted - food, land to rule, or even angels to come running. Instead, Jesus chose to save his power to do what God wanted.



Mission for the Week



God has given you special talents to share with others. If you enjoy drawing, make a picture for someone else. If you enjoy singing, sing songs that make God smile.

Puzzle

Help Jesus to avoid the devil by staying on the path that leads to God!



Prayer



Dear God,
help me not to
be selfish. Help me to
be more like Jesus.

Something to Draw



Draw Jesus praying to
God in the desert.