

Third Sunday of Lent
Our Lady of Lourdes • March 7, 2010

**“Leave it for another
year; then perhaps**



Luke 13:9

it will bear fruit.”



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



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

Ask Detective Steven McDonald

Friday, March 19
7:30 PM
Church

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.

R.C.I.A. – The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The journey of our candidates and catechumens – now called “The Elect” continues...

This Sunday, the Third Sunday of Lent, and continuing on the Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent, at the 11AM Mass, we will celebrate the “*scrutinies*” – times for the candidates and “The Elect” to continue to remain “united with Christ and make progress in their efforts to love God more deeply”.

The Church gives us this public and life-giving process, **during Lent**, so that these good and holy people can be nourished and supported by our parish family. At the same time, we know that when we initiate others, we confront and renew our own identity as members of the Catholic Christian community.

These are important steps in the journey of the R.C.I.A. It's a clear sign to the community that they are coming closer to receiving the Sacraments of Initiation and full communion with the Church at our Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 3.

Please continue to pray for these women and men and our beautiful RCIA team who minister with them each week.

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.

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....*

Parish Lenten Mission 2010

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...

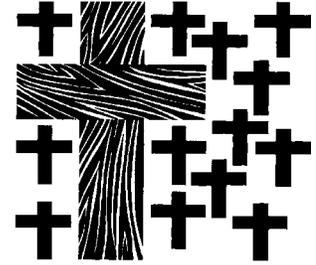
Each Friday during Lent – 12 Noon and 7 PM
(Please Note: March 19 - Stations will be at 6:30 PM.)

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.



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...

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.

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.

A Week of Directed Prayer

Sunday, March 14 thru Saturday, March 20

*What's God like for you? What's praying like for you?
Perhaps taking a week to focus more intently on noticing
God's loving presence in and around you might be just
the way for you...*



For the week of **March 14 – March 20**, a group of spiritual directors affiliated with St. Ignatius Retreat Center, Manhasset will come to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish to offer a one week individually “directed retreat” experience.

What's involved?

- a commitment to spend a half hour a day in prayer – at home, on the train, wherever...
- a commitment to meet at the parish for approximately a half hour; with a spiritual director... your companion on the journey
- an openness to God's love

After an initial small group gathering on **Sunday, March 14**, each retreatant will meet with his/her director at the Parish for approximately a half hour each day, Monday through Friday, at a mutually convenient time.

Are there any special requirements?

- No, this experience is helpful for all – experienced pray-ers, beginners, and all who might be somewhere in-between. **However, the number of participants is limited!**
- Brochures containing applications are available at the Religious Education Office. For more information call Vita Scorgia/Religious Education Office at 661.5440 or email: Religioused@ollchurch.org.

*Sometimes it's nice to be able to “get away” and focus on God. Sometimes it's not possible to get away, but it is still very possible to focus on God, for God is with us everywhere, all the time. A directed retreat week can help us to notice God's presence right in the midst of our everyday lives. And noticing leads to response. Prepare!
Our God is a God of faithfulness and of surprise!*



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WEEK

BELIEVE + BELONG + BECOME

**OLL Parish Family and the
Diocese of Rockville Centre celebrate
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WEEK
Sunday, March 14 – Sunday, March 21, 2010**

Next Sunday, March 14, celebrate Religious Education Week at OLL!
Visit our church website at ollchurch.org and click on Religious Education link.
You can see us on YouTube, too!

During the week, kids in our Parish Family will celebrate each day with prayer, classes, speakers...
Adult Faith formation will have Fr. Pat with “Embrace the Challenge, Embrace the Love” on
Tuesday, March 16 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.!

And then, Sunday, March 21, celebrate Religious Education Week
with the Diocese of Rockville Centre

.....Watch the bulletin for more details

Attention: Boys and Girls-4th grade and up...

Do you want to be an Altar Server?

What a great way to get more involved when we're praying together. It's also a service to the Parish that we really need you for. If you have not thought about it already, please give it some thought now. If you want to sign up for the training sessions contact the Parish office at 661.3224 and leave a message for Mrs. Nancy Kuchler or contact her at nkuchler@ollschool.org.

The training will be in the Church, Saturday, March 13 at 3 PM, Sunday, March 14 at 4 PM, Sunday, Friday, March 19 at 4 PM, Saturday, March 20 at 3 PM, Sunday, March 21 at 4 PM, Friday, March 26 at 4 PM and Saturday, March 27 at 11 PM (including a “graduation” Lunch). New servers need to attend all of these sessions, “old” servers are being asked to attend them all as well (plus, it's a great way to help out the new ones). Hope you say YES to this call.

Learning & Spirituality

Mark your calendars...

Embrace the Challenge

Embrace the Love

Something to think, pray and talk about

Fr. Pat Amabile

Tuesdays, March 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 religioused@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

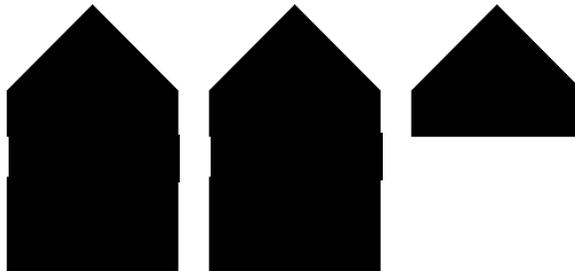
Saturday, April 3

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!



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.

Upcoming Events

Friday, March 12: Open Mic Night in the Cafeteria at 7PM.

Monday, March 15: Middle School Youth Group in the PC at 6:30 PM.

Thursday, March 18: High School Youth Group in the PC at 7 PM.

Young Women's Faith Group

Are you a young woman? Are you finding it hard to keep your faith and spirituality a part of your everyday life? We have just the thing!

Young Women's Faith group has moved its night. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 23 at 7 PM in the Spiritual Life Center** to talk about challenges and to give one another support. Stop by one of our meetings!

St. Bernard League

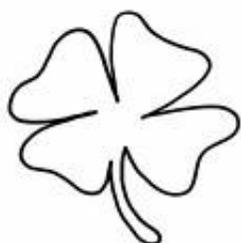
We need you!

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.

Do you live in Bay Shore? How about North Babylon? Then we need you! Many of the folks in our St. Bernard League, who rely on volunteers to shovel their snow in bad storms, live in North Babylon and Bay Shore. We need your help to keep them safe when the weather is bad. If you live in those towns and want to be a BIG help sign up with Allegra@ollchurch.org.

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)

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

Rita T. O'Brien died on February 20 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on February 24.

We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Frank Manzi died on February 21 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on February 25. We extend our prayers to his daughter, Josephine, and entire family.

Rosalie Scarpinito died on February 24 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 1.

We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchild, and entire family.

Lillian Ann Piasecki died on February 22 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on February 26.

We extend our prayers to her son, Bruce, and entire family.

Michael Anthony Grello, Sr. died on February 24 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on February 27.

We extend our prayers to his wife, Marian, children, grandchildren, great-grandchild, and entire family.

Rosalie Scarpinito died on February 24 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 1.

We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchild, and entire family.

Remembering . . .

Monday, March 8

Saint John of God, religious
8:00 AM Armand Porzio

Tuesday, March 9

Saint Frances of Rome, religious
8:00 AM Molly Sweeney

Wednesday, March 10

8:00 AM Carmela & Vincent Stumpo

Thursday, March 11

8:00 AM Nancy Bencivinni

Friday, March 12

8:00 AM Lucille Harsch

Saturday, March 13

8:00 AM Ann Nardone, Robert Baxter, Gustavo Garvalosa,
 Teresa Cohen, Eugene Squillant, James Tretz,
 Rita Shannon

5:00 PM Joseph Calderale, Sr.
Fr. Pat Amabile

Sunday, March 14

8:00 AM The Brennan Family
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

9:30 AM Tony Squeo
Fr. Mike Vetrano

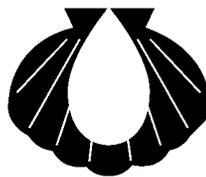
11:00 AM Dec'd. mbrs of McKeefery Family
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

12:30 PM Donald & Patrick Manning
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Lucille LoBue, Lillian Cleary,
 Howard Campkin, Thomas Yacono, Justina Eck,
 Brian Shuffler, Vito Morrione, Hermina Loring, Patricia Heim,
 Anthony Palmieri, Lisa Adames, Dolores Tibbets (*living*)
Fr. Mike Vetrano

Altar Bread and Wine

In memory of
Charles Tibbets

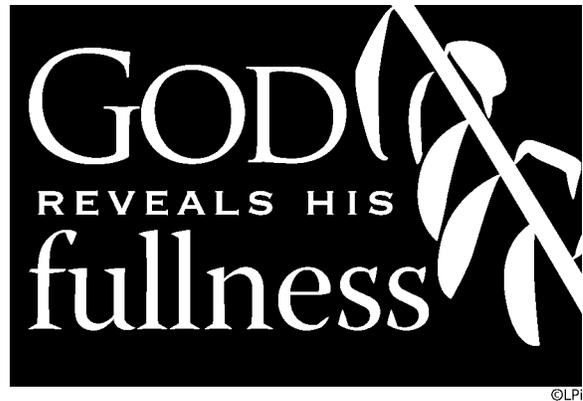


Baptisms

Riley Jean Laflare
 Ryan and Danielle

Upcoming Marriages

Jennifer DeBlase, OLL, Massapequa Park and
Anthony Carbone, St. Francis de Chantal, Wantagh



3rd Sunday of Lent

The account of Moses and the burning bush that is not consumed is one of the early Bible stories that we learn as children. By the third or fourth grade a child can recite the story that is often illustrated in religious education textbooks. So well-known is the encounter between God and Moses that the name has even been given to a common landscape shrub. Euonymous alata is known as "Burning Bush" to gardeners throughout the country, because its leaves turn fiery red in the fall.

But the story in Exodus 3 is less about a bush that is not consumed and more about God's revelation of God's self. God speaks the sacred name to Moses in response to his question: "When I go to the Israelites? if they ask me, 'What is his name?' what am I to tell them?"

God tells Moses, "I am who am." The Hebrew word is indefinite in its meaning. It could also be translated, "I will be who I will be," or "I am going to be who I am," or even "I am who I will be." In other words, it is hard to pin God down. As limited creatures, we will never exhaust the fullness of the Creator of all.

Those of us who have been baptized for a while may sometimes think that we understand all about God, and that we have settled into our relationship with him. As parishes prepare men and women for baptism at the Easter Vigil, those of us who are long-baptized may want to listen to those who are coming new to the faith. They may have some insights about God or some stories of conversion that can help us on our own pilgrim way to the kingdom. Even after all these years, God is still doing something new!

2010 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of March 7, 2010

Sunday:	Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9
Monday:	2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday:	Dn 3:25, 34-43/Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday:	Dt 4:1, 5-9/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday:	Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday:	Hos 6:1-6/Lk 18:9-14
Next Sunday:	Jos 5:9a, 10-12/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Parish Outreach

Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

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

Outreach Memorial Donations

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

- Suzanne Fasano has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Anthony Alfieri* on the anniversary of his birth.
- Karen Mullen-Ehly has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Justina Eck*.
- Leroy and Doris Hellberg have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Edna Millie Barrera*.

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.

SAGE

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

Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, March 14**. We will begin with the **Rosary at 7:40 AM in the Church** and the meeting will follow the **8 AM Mass at 9 AM in Room 16**.



Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of July will be on **Wednesday, March 10 from 1-3 PM**. All are invited and welcome! We will be praying for our children, our country, our men and women in the military and our clergy.

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.

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**.

Financial Summary

February 28, 2010

Weekly Collection	\$ 17,866.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (1,134.00)

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*

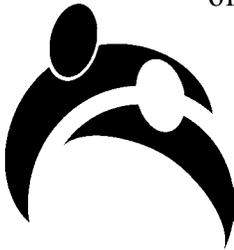
...and remember those of our parish family that are in the armed services, listed in our Parish Book of Intentions.

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 ...

Roy Anderson, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Andrew Bartlett, Ben Bellotti, Antoinette Bongiorno, Theresa Buffa, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Nicholas Cibelli, Michael Ciotkosz, Donald L. Coffey, Thomas Courtney, Regina Cranor, Catherine Dare, Jeanne DellaRagione, Ann Donlon, Debbie Eichen, Suzanne Ferguson, Edward Herger, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Max Illiano, Diana Kaehne, Mary Kaval, Veronica Kenny, Kathleen Kerrigan, Joseph Lehmann, Kara Lobasso, Charlie Maccio, Louise Malcuit, Vicky Massaro, Philip Matzen, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Margaret McHugh, Dorothy Meloni, Matthew Mirabella, Rick Mirabella, Rae Morris, Brenden Muldoon, Evelyn Nonnon, John O'Brien, Arthur Petrino, Helen Pitkowitz, 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, Geraldine Wloszczyna

Wishful Drinking and Moral Resiliency

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Daniel Berrigan once suggested, half-jokingly, that if Jesus came back today he would go into every psychologist's office in the Western World and, using the whips and cords he used on the money-changers in the temple, drive out both the doctors and their clients with the words: "Take up your couch and walk! I've given you skin, you don't need to be that sensitive!" That may be over-stated, but he has a point. Human beings are built to be resilient and resiliency is a moral obligation. We owe our resurrections to each other. Hence, I recommend a book to you.

Sometimes I hesitate to recommend a book or movie because, though overall its thrust may be moral and uplifting, individual parts of it might upset those who see parts rather than essences.

Such is the case with Carrie Fisher's new book, *Wishful Drinking*. I recommend it with that cautionary note. Overall it is a moral book, uplifting and hope-filled, even if it sometimes plays fast and loose with certain things. Normally I shun books written by celebrities, particularly Hollywood celebrities, but I make some exceptions and Carrie Fisher is one of those. She has a moral intelligence and a wit that set her apart and she flashes both in this book.

The book is in essence an autobiography, the story of someone who grows up in Hollywood as the child of Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher, with an absent womanizing father and a fairly-absent though loving mother. She achieves world-wide celebrity and becomes an icon by playing Princess Leia in *Star Wars*, has a failed marriage with Paul Simon, journeys through alcohol and drugs and mental illness, and lands on her feet with enough resilience, empathy, and humor to make us envious.

And she chronicles this with a color and wit that can blind you to her deeper insights into life and its meaning. Like Christina Crawford's books, *Mommy Dearest* and *Survivor*, this too is a story of surviving a Hollywood upbringing, though in Carrie Fisher's case there is more sympathy for Hollywood than in Crawford's. Fisher never leaves Hollywood; she just gains enough perspective so that she doesn't need to leave it.

I say the book is both moral and uplifting despite the fact that, at first glance, her treatment of religion, drugs, and sex can appear to be careless, casual, and amoral. (Note, I say amoral, not immoral, there's a difference.) So what is moral about the book?

Well, I'm not recommending the amoral parts and, I suspect, Carrie Fisher (who is incapable of writing a line on anything without inserting something witty and light-hearted) wouldn't recommend those parts either as a moral ideal. She simply tells her story, without suggesting that her views on anything should be a moral compass. But there is something inside of her story that, I submit, should be morally normative, namely, her willingness to take up her couch and walk.

She suffered her share of hard-knocks, as her story makes clear: an absent father, little religious or moral guidance as a child, a dangerous early iconic fame, relational failure, and a bi-polar disorder. Yet where there might be self-pity there is empathy. Where there might be bitterness there is a mellow heart. Where there might be anger there is forgiveness. Where there might be resignation there is resilience. Where there might be despair there is a healthy zest. And where the lights might have gone out there is wonderful buoyancy. That's morality too, not exactly the way classical moral manuals always explain it, but in a way that Jesus would recognize.

I was struck by the book and recommend it because what you see in her story is the opposite of so much of what we see in the world and in the church today, where everyone too easily takes permission to be bitter and angry and then blames someone else for his or her unhappiness. There is something refreshing and morally challenging in seeing someone with problems who doesn't need to blame those problems on God, on the church, on her family, on liberals, on conservatives, or on anyone else. It is healthy and moral too to see someone who can keep a sense of humor against all odds because sometimes it is humor, and humor alone, that can deflate our pompous, over-serious egos.

The second question in our old Catechisms was: Why did God make you? The answer: To know, love, and serve Him in this world and to be happy with him in the next. There's real wisdom in that, but existentially something might be added: Why did God make you? Because he thought you might enjoy it! Carrie Fisher gives us that answer, and it is a moral one.

Jesus once challenged the church-people of his time by saying that it seems that the children of this world are sometimes more astute than are the children of light. *Wishful Drinking* would suggest that sometimes too they have a better sense of humor!

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

CMA 2010

One Faith, One Hope,
Many Gifts.

100% of all money raised by the Catholic Ministries Appeal goes to support the five critical ministries of the Appeal.

Every year, through the support and commitment of individuals and organizations, we serve more than 500,000 people in our Long Island community. This support enables our children to continue to receive the gift of spiritual formation, sacramental preparation, and quality education. It allows seminarians, deacons, and lay leaders to fulfill their calling to serve their community. With your support Catholic Charities can maintain its services for the poor and disadvantaged, and we can continue to reach out to our young people and others to find the best ways to guide and pass on our faith from generation to generation.

Did you know that last year because of the Catholic Ministries Appeal?

- We delivered or served more than 500,000 meals to senior citizens and families.
- Parish outreach centers, including our food pantries, have seen a 25% increase in demand, and provided direct services to more than 17,000 individuals and families every month.
- Our Office of Hospital Ministry served more than 300,000 people in local hospitals.
- 17,000 volunteer Catechists taught religious education to more than 110,000 of our children in public schools.
- In our 133 Parishes there were more than 17,000 Baptisms, 17,000 First Communions, 19,000 Confirmations and 3,000 weddings.
- Over the past two years, 17 men were ordained to the priesthood after attending the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington.
- We provide safe and affordable housing to people in our community with 15 senior housing facilities with more than 1,200 affordable apartments.
- 99% of all our diocesan high school graduates went on to college

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.

Working Toward Wellness

You are invited to a FREE health screening and education for a healthier community on **Saturday, March 13 from 10 AM until 3 PM at the Central Islip Recreation Center, 555 Clayton Street.** There will be screenings for blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol, and glaucoma, among others. There are education opportunities for mental health, nutrition/diet, disease management and more.

For more information. Call 631.235.5281.

Golden Wedding Anniversary

On Sunday, April 18, 2010, couples married 50 years or more are invited to a special Mass to be celebrated by Bishop John Dunne at St. Lawrence the Martyr in Sayville at 3 PM. Please pick up your registration card at the Parish Office, fill it out and return it to the Parish Office no later than March 28. Approximately one week before the ceremony, information regarding the day will be mailed to you. If you have any questions, you may call 516.678.5800, extension 583.

Dominican Village

Please join us for an Open House on Saturday, March 13, 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.

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.

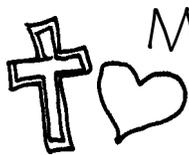
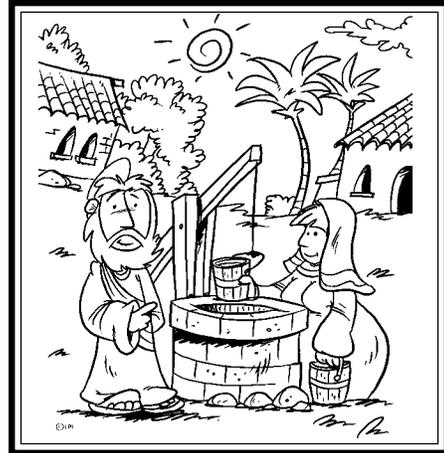
Religion & Rock

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 "**Sacrifice.**" 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 296 for the Best in Catholic Television!

Sharing the Gospel

Jews didn't usually like the people from Samaria, let alone visit one of their towns or talk to any of them. Men didn't usually talk to women back then, either. When Jesus talked to the woman at the well, Jesus broke those silly rules. Jesus saw into the woman's heart and knew that she needed God in her life. Jesus came to rescue her from her sin. She was so happy that she invited everyone in her town to meet Jesus, too.



Mission for the Week

Ask God to open your heart so that you will be friends with other kids, no matter what they look like.

Puzzle

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

Sychar	well	truth
woman	worship	faith
drink	Father	Savior

Scyhra S y c h a r

wroshpi _____

fatih _____

wmoan _____

Fethar _____

Svairo _____

wlel _____

turth _____

dirkn _____

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Prayer



Dear God,
thank you for caring about me, no matter where I live, and no matter what I have done wrong.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus talking to you at the grocery store.