

Our Lady of Lourdes • **Divine Mercy Sunday** • April 11, 2010

“I once was dead,



Revelation 1:18

**but now
I am alive forever.”**



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 Catusco

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@ollschoo.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

Welcome...

to Our Lady of Lourdes!

We are so happy to welcome everyone who has come to worship with us today! Whether you have come a long distance or you live locally, we are glad that you have decided to spend some time with us as we worship our Lord together. Please know that your presence today is a blessing to our parish family.

Would you like to know more about our parish family?

All are welcome at Our Lady of Lourdes and we do our best to reach out to everyone.

If you would like more information about our parish or if you would like one of our team to be in touch with you, please fill this form out and place it in any collection or offering basket, mail it to us, or send an email to parishoffice@ollchurch.org

Welcome...

to Our Lady of Lourdes!



I would like information about:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Education of my Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Becoming a Catholic or Adult Confirmation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage or Annulment / Remarriage | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Direction or Counseling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Our Parish Catholic School | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Joining the Parish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptizing my Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

I would prefer to be contacted:

Your Name: _____

Phone at: _____ Email at: _____

Mail at: _____



Movie Night is back!

By popular demand we are watching *"17 Again"* at 7 PM in the Cafeteria on Friday, April 23!

Come in your pajamas and get comfortable with snacks and friends!



First Annual Youth Relief Talent Show Youth Relief 2010!

Friday, April 30 at 7 PM in the All Purpose Room the

OLL Youth Groups are sponsoring the First Annual Youth Relief Talent Show!

Admission to the Talent Show will be \$5 and all proceeds will be donated to a local homeless charity. All are welcome to attend and to show off their talent.

There are prizes to be won! If you sing, dance, act or do something special come down on Friday, April 30 and compete. The first ten acts to show up will get to perform.

This is going to be an annual thing as you can see but it's purpose, besides getting the kids to lead and to help others, is to put youth ministry out there in the church community so it is very important that it gets as much attention as possible. The kids are going to be making posters for the buildings too.



Youth Group

High School students! Youth Group for grades 9-12 has moved from Thursdays to Mondays at OLL! We will still meet at 7 PM in Room 16. For a full list of dates please go to ollchurch.org/youth, email Allegra@ollchurch.org or check the bulletin board in the All Purpose Room!



Divine Mercy Sunday

“Jesus, we trust in You!”

Our parish will be celebrating the feast of **Divine Mercy today, the Sunday following Easter, April 11.**

This feast offers us an opportunity to reflect on the Lord’s mercy, love, and compassion. Jesus told St. Faustina that this Feast of Mercy would be a very special day when "all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened."

Our celebration will begin at the 12:30 PM Mass. Following Mass, all are encouraged and invited to participate in the opportunities offered to: pray, reflect, adore, and reconcile themselves with the Lord on this great feast. Here are the activities planned for this day.

- Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament immediately following the 12:30PM Mass. This will offer time to have quiet reflection, prayer, and adoration of the Lord.
- From 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM, there will be hospitality and a film on the Lord’s Divine Mercy in our Parish Center.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered in the Church from 1:45 PM to 2:45 PM.
- The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed in the Church at 3 PM.
- We will close with the Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament which follows the praying of the Chaplet.

Please come for one or all of our activities planned for this day as we celebrate the Lord’s gift of mercy.

Bereavement Ministry

"no one should have to go through a loss alone"

Our next bereavement support group for all losses will be starting on Wednesday, April 14. We will be meeting for six weeks in the Spiritual Life Center, located in the convent, from 7:30 to 9 PM.

There is no fee to attend and the group is open to people of all faith denominations and parishes. Please call Diane at 631.226.9373 or email dkkkk710@hotmail.com for further information or to reserve a place in this group



Taize-Prayer Around the Cross

Friday, April 23 at 7:30 PM in the Church

Looking for another way to pray?

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 on **Friday, April 23 at 7:30 PM in the Church.**

OLL Music Ministry

This Spring ...SING A NEW SONG...WITH US!

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

The OLL Choir rehearses on Thursday night from 8-10 PM and sings weekly at 11 AM Mass. Adults who are proficient in playing a musical instrument and are interested in playing with the choir at 11 AM Mass are also invited to join.

The Contemporary Group, grade 8 through college age and young adult, rehearses on Sunday afternoon 4:30-6 PM and sings at "The Six." Students, we'd love to have you come and sing with us - bring a friend or two with you. Also, if you're proficient at a musical instrument, you're welcome to join our group.

If you can't commit to a weekly rehearsal schedule, consider becoming part of a group that performs less frequently throughout the year.

The Concert Choir performs several times a year and is open to singers with a musical background. This group is by audition only.

Our newly developed Taize Ministry welcomes singers/musicians who are interested in singing/playing at Taize prayer services throughout the liturgical year.

If you have any questions regarding the OLL Choir, Contemporary Group, Concert Choir, Taize Ministry please contact Carol Goetz at 661.3224 or music@ollchurch.org.

Our Youth Choir, sings at 9:30 AM Mass on Sunday and Women's Chorale sings at 11 AM Mass on the first Sunday of the month. If you have any questions about the Youth Choir or Women's Chorale, please contact Jennifer Gallagher at 661.3224 or jengallagher@ollchurch.org.



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

Detective Steven McDonald, NYPD, came to OLL on Friday the 19th of March – the Feast of St. Joseph. The occasion was sponsored by the Men’s Prayer Group of Our Lady of Lourdes. First, he thanked his aids, a nurse of 15 years who sat up front and an NYC Police Officer who stood by his side and helped him.

Steve came from a family of police officers – his dad, too. And he wanted to do the same. His parish is St. Agnes and he went there to have his shield blessed. Steve wanted to move quickly from patrol to drug enforcement and he was given Central Park. His first thinking was that it was only going to be busy for the squirrels. However, he experienced making arrests for drugs and weapons.

It was the summer of 1986 – a day tour. He felt, “Too young, too strong ... nothing could happen to me.” On his way to work, he reflected that he wanted to be a good father to his newborn son and a good husband. He was working anti-crime/plain clothes with a Sergeant King when they spotted three youths that fit a description and who ran into the north end of the park. He and his partner ran in different directions and he saw them hiding in the bushes. They were 13, 14 and 15 years of age. He spoke with them and saw a gun in a sock and then was shot three times. Steven said, “Nothing can prepare you for this.” He was taken quickly to Metropolitan Hospital and the surgeon, after examining him, declared, “He’s not going to make it – notify his family!” However, the police then rushed him to Bellevue Hospital where they saved his life. The bullet in the throat is the one that paralyzed him. A Eucharistic Minister came and brought communion in with all the tubes and pipes in his mouth and throat – she put a portion of the host on his forehead. He felt he was being touched by Jesus and his prayers to live were granted.

It took time for him to let go of the bitterness and anger. Jesus forgave him from the cross and asked him to do the same for the boy who shot him. At OLL this night, there were from 65-100 men in attendance. Fr. Bob represented the Pastor Fr. Mike. Deacons Tom and Jack were there to help it run smoothly. A ramp was built by our maintenance crew a week earlier so that Detective McDonald could be put on the first platform of our altar in front of all of us. Deacon John had copies of his processional resurrection cross to be handed out to all who came by the men from the prayer group who acted as greeters and ushers.

Steve closed with a special prayer – a poem which he read and gave us all a copy. The title is, “You are Special.” He asked us all to say a decade of the rosary with him. In closing he said, “Forgiveness is a strength – not a weakness.” And, “I’m living proof that prayers are answered.”

-Jack Fitzgerald

Learning & Spirituality



Why We Pray the Way We Do

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Tuesdays, April 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.

SAGE

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Bring your prayer and creativity together in a gift of love.

Join us ...Wednesday, April 14 at 9:30 AM in the Parish Center.

All you need to bring is scrap yarn, knitting needles or crochet hooks (patterns and instructions will be given to you) and your gifts of love and prayer.

OLL Men's Prayer Group

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

We invite all men of the parish to meet for prayer and reflection after 8 AM Mass on **Thursday, April 15, in the Parish Center**. We meet once a month to read and discuss the Scriptures for the following Sunday. Come with your ideas and suggestions. We'll gather for conversation and fellowship. Join us in this pioneering experience for men. Call Jack Fitzgerald at 587.5548 for more information.

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.



Annual Spring Plant Sale

OLL School's Annual Spring Plant Sale is coming up on May 1 and May 2. We will be selling plants after Masses on that weekend. This year we are also offering Blooming Ornamental Selections specifically for those looking for Mother's Day gifts!

Something new! We are taking pre-orders through April 21.

The Plant Sale flyer can be found at school website www.ollschool.org, under "In The Backpack", 2010 Plant Sale flyer.

Pick-up **OR** delivery, whichever you prefer, will also be on May 1/2.

Skype

The students at Our Lady of Lourdes in West Islip have taken a new step in the era of technology. One of our 5th grade students had surgery on his ankle in late February. Kevin Cunningham was not able to return to school and it was important that he heal while at home. Kevin did not want to miss weeks of school so his fellow student, Jack Natale carried around a laptop from class to class and Kevin was able to attend classes from home. Kevin was able to participate and interact through Skype with his classmates and loved every minute of it!



Shown is Jack Natale (l.) and Kevin Cunningham (r.)



OLL Golf Outing

Monday, July 19, 2010

Island Hills Country Club, Sayville

Do you miss the outdoors? Do you miss the warm feeling of sunshine? Join us and swing ahead to summer!

This year we will be honoring:

Deacon John and Anne DeGuardi

Paul and Diane Munch

For more information contact Rich Maher at rmaher@ollschool.org

Religious Education

at Our Lady of Lourdes during the Easter Season...

For all in Grade 7 in our Parish Family...

Sponsor/Candidate Enrollment Sunday

Sunday, May 2

6 PM Mass

All seventh graders in our Parish Family choose a Sponsor in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please come and join with all the seventh graders of our parish, their families and their newly chosen Sponsor, as we celebrate this commitment. They look to their Parish Family for prayers and support on their faith journey.

For all in Grade 8 in our Parish Family...

“Rescue Closing”

Sunday, May 16

6 PM Mass

All eighth graders in our Parish Family, their Sponsors and parents share in celebrating their time together. The eighth graders and their Sponsors have been getting together and doing service for others.

For all in Grades 6/7/8 in our parish family...

Hang Out Nites continue...

Friday April 16	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Parish Center
Friday May 21	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Parish Center
Friday June 18	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Parish Center

Don't forget... there's something for everyone !

All 6th / 7th / 8th graders of our Parish Family- come play volleyball, basketball.

We have Guitar Hero 2, free raffles, music and more. DON'T MISS IT !

also...

Grades 9/10/11/12

ALL ARE WELCOME! Be a part of the Team. High School leaders help with set-up, participating in activities, refreshments, clean-up, etc... and assist Adult Chaperones. For more information, call 661.5440, option 3 or email religioused@ollchurch.org.

Reminder...

Important Confirmation Meeting

For all Eighth Grade Parents in OLL Parish Family -

Wednesday, May 5 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center

or

Thursday, May 6 at 10 AM in the Parish Center

or

Thursday, May 6 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center

Did you know?

You can go to “eChalk” at www.ollreled.org to link and follow your “own” grade to find new and exciting activities, important parent info, and view our OLL Religious Education Calendar.

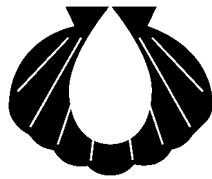
Support Groups

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.)



Baptisms

Tatianna Nunez

Adriel and Nichole

Giuliana Marie Taylor

Thomas and Jennifer

Cassidy Noel Strauss

Ronald and Jennifer

Logan Angelo Reany

John and Bridget

Altar Bread and Wine

In memory of

Jean DeFeo

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.

Upcoming Marriages

Lee-Ann Capozzi and

Justin Puccia, both OLL

Remembering...

Monday, April 12

8:00 AM LaRocca & Sweeney Families

Tuesday, April 13

Saint Martin I, pope and martyr

8:00 AM Lucy & Edward Regina

Wednesday, April 14

8:00 AM John Trojcek

Thursday, April 15

8:00 AM Bonaventura & Laura Cafaro

Friday, April 16

8:00 AM Louis & Margaret Fortunato

Saturday, April 17

8:00 AM Mr. Garay, Veronica Kenny,
Greg Leonard, Lucio Bartolata,
Linda Kelly (*living*)

5:00 PM Maria Manganus
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Sunday, April 18

8:00 AM Assunta Maggi
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

9:30 AM Loreto & Ben Fantauzzi
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

11:00 AM Harry Hogan
Fr. Pat Amabile

12:30 PM Frances Cannizzaro
Fr. Mike Vetrano

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Kenneth Baker, Richard J. Munkwitz, Sr.,
Rick Munkwitz, Patricia Oleaga, Arthur Burns, Frank Ferro,
Judith Tasso, Richard Kenny, Mary Forte, Souls in Purgatory,
Eugene Wickey, Rose Pardo Hernandez, Dominick Sorrentino,
Patricia Mazzilli, John Wenninger, Sr.
Fr. Mike Vetrano



Rest In Peace

Thomas Joseph Courtney died on March 20 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 24. We extend our prayers to his wife, Constance, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and entire family.

Gloria DeLuca died on March 20 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 24. We extend our prayers to her sister, Loretta, her many nieces and nephews, and entire family.

Mary C. Fannon died on March 23 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 25. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Janet M. Eifler died on March 21 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 26. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, and entire family.



2nd Sunday of Easter

During the Easter season this year, we will read from the Book of Revelation as the second reading. Revelation uses apocalyptic language, rich in symbolism, to describe experiences of the early Christian community near the end of the first century. In a time of persecution and distress, hyperbole was used as a literary convention to express the difficulties seen by the author, as brother turned against brother in the face of pressure to turn from the faith. The language of apocalyptic writing—so popular in the first century—was used to convey the extreme circumstances in which the church found itself. While the selections chosen for the Easter season provide a vision of hope, it is good to recognize that the hope they convey comes out of a book written at a time when Christians found themselves under siege and threatened by Jewish leaders who were expelling them from the synagogues and Roman officials who were persecuting them as apostates.

And so, we begin today with a testimony from a man named John, incarcerated in a Roman penal colony, the island of Patmos. Biblical scholars tell us that this John is not the same person as the author of the fourth Gospel because the grammar and style of writing are so different. He may have been a disciple of John the Evangelist, or someone who was familiar with his work through the Johannine communities in Syria.

In today's Gospel, Jesus appears to the disciples who had sequestered themselves behind closed doors out of fear. He comes to give them hope. Though by a different author, the Book of Revelation presents the same theme: Jesus appears in order to give hope, to remind the faithful that he lives—an Easter message for today as well.

Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of April 11, 2010

Sunday:	Acts 5:12-16/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31
Monday:	Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday:	Acts 4:32-37/Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday:	Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21
Thursday:	Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36
Friday:	Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15
Saturday:	Acts 6:1-7/Jn 6:16-21
Next Sunday:	Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

Parish Outreach

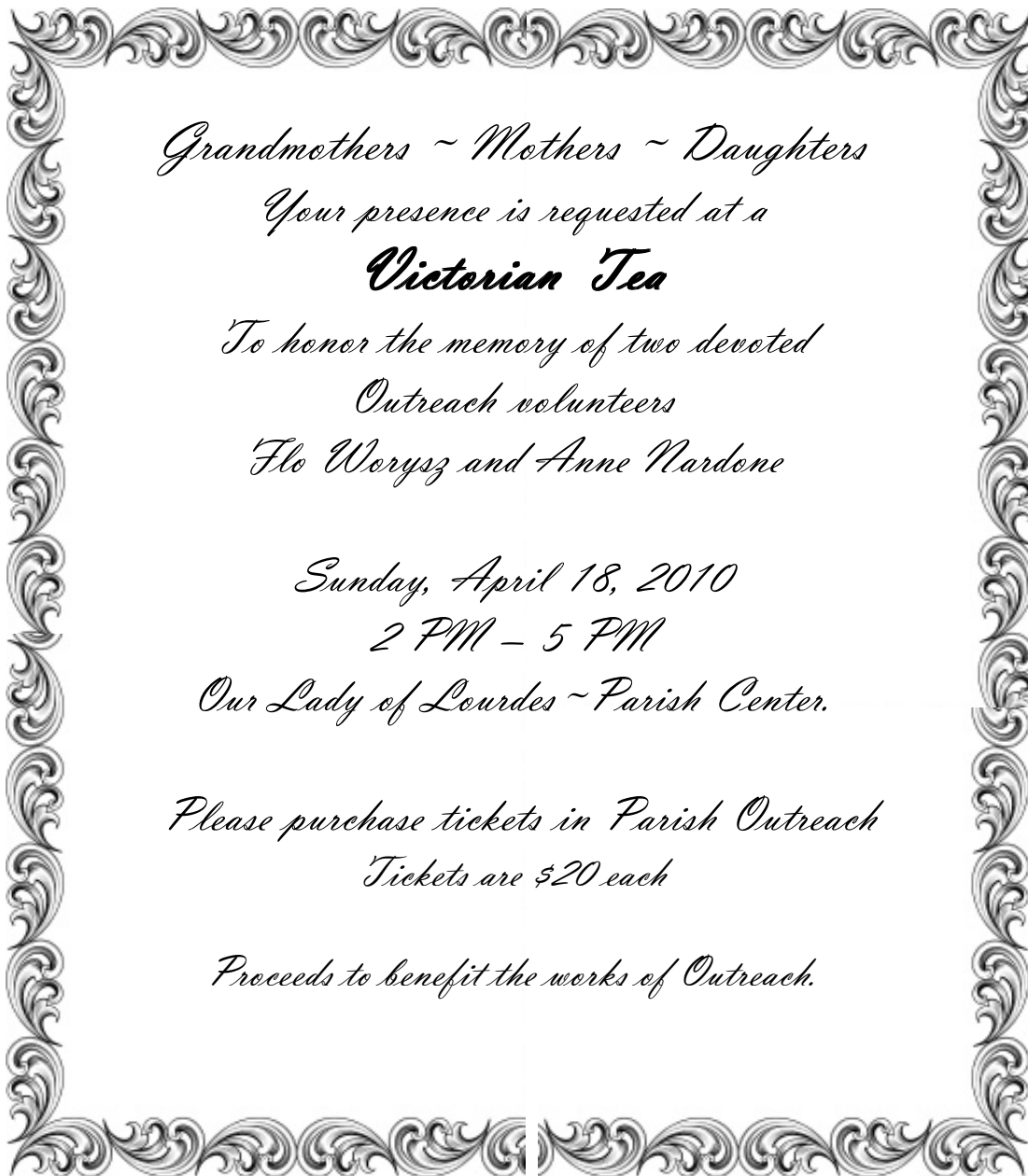
Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30 AM - 3 PM



Donations

If you would like to donate an item that you have received and are considering as a 'regift' to some unsuspecting soul-Outreach is collecting these items to be used at the Victorian Tea and...

if you attend the Tea please do feign surprise and delight if you are re-gifted your own gift!

Financial Summary

Palm Sunday-March 28, 2010

Weekly Collection	\$ 21,319.44
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 2,319.44

Easter Sunday-April 4, 2010

Easter Collection	\$ 42,072.41
Ministry Collection	+\$ 8,602.00
Easter/Ministry 2010	\$ 50,674.41
Easter/Ministry 2009	\$ 50,523.00

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 *Marie Cirone*.
If you would like to help care for our altar needs,
please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

Pastoral Care of Our Sick

Please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 to leave the names
of parishioners who:



- are homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist
- are in Good Samaritan Hospital and would like to be visited by a member of our Pastoral Care Ministry.
- would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick.

Pray for Our Sick

Please remember to keep in your thoughts and prayers ...

Roy Anderson, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Ben Bellotti, Antoinette Bongiorno, Theresa Buffa, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Jerry Castonguay, Nicholas Cibelli, Michael Ciotkosz, Donald L. Coffey, Regina Cranor, Jeanne DellaRagione, Ann Donlon, Debbie Eichen, Edward Herger, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Max Illiano, Diana Kaehne, Mary Kaval, Kathleen Kerrigan, Josephine Kosiczky, Joseph Lehmann, S. Diane Liona, Kara Lobasso, Charlie Maccio, Louise Malcuit, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Donie McDermott, Margaret McHugh, Dorothy Meloni, Matthew Mirabella, Rick Mirabella, Rae Morris, Brenden Muldoon, Ruth Murray, Evelyn Nonnon, John O'Brien, Arthur Petrino, Helen Pitkowitz, Joanne Popper, Laura Prichard, Joe Radosti, Carol Randazzo-Hopkins, Baby Skyler Rene, Reneida Rivera, 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, Kyle Williams, Geraldine Wloszczyna, Joe Yezek

Hatred and True Religion

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

There is a statement, generally attributed to G.K. Chesterton, which runs something like this: Catholicism is the most hated of all religions, that's why I know that it's the right one. That's an intriguing comment, but it needs a lot of qualification.

In our present world, extremist Islam (not to be identified with mainstream Islam) is probably the most hated of all religions. But is that a criterion of authenticity?

Hatred is not all of one piece. We hate for different reasons. Moreover, hatred, as we know, is not the opposite of love, indifference is. Hatred is love gone sour, love grown jealous. We can only hate someone whom we love.

Jesus was hated and was the object of bitter jealousy. He was crucified because of that. But why was he hated? Why were people jealous of him?

Jesus was hated because of his inclusivity, because of the indiscriminate, seemingly careless, character of his embrace. He reached out and embraced sinners and those deemed unworthy and he cleansed the temple in a way that was meant to show that people no longer had to go through the established intermediaries to get to God. He made God and his love as accessible as the nearest water tap and took control of that away from the established political, social, and religious authorities. He was hated because he challenged the normal exclusivities that surround God and religion.

And people were jealous of him because of his goodness, because of his virtue, because he radiated the kind of love that, paradoxically but invariably, spawns envy and jealousy until the person carrying it has either died or been killed. They were jealous of Jesus because he was good and could find it in his heart to love everyone.

Extremist Islam is hated for mostly the opposite reasons. It is hated for its exclusivity, for the narrow character of its embrace, for the rigid boundaries it sets around God and religion, and for the seeming ease with which, in God's name, it can bracket love, goodness, and human compassion in favor of violence and lack of mercy. Like Jesus, it is hated, but for different reasons.

So we must be careful not to uncritically lean on Chesterton's little axiom when we find ourselves hated or the object of jealousy, especially if we are hated because

of our religion or our moral stance on some issue. Saints are often hated, but so too are dictators and mean-spirited people. But saints are hated in a different way than are dictators, just as authentic religion is hated in a different way than is false religion.

The hatred directed at a saint is real, real enough sometimes to lead to murder and crucifixion, as it did in Jesus' case and in the case of many martyrs. But once the object of that hatred has died or been killed, once the hatred has had its cathartic release, the spirit that flows out of the person who was once hated often changes the hearts of the very persons who did the crucifixion: They looked upon the one whom they had pierced. This happened after Jesus' death and it happens in less dramatic ways in our own lives.

Have you ever had the experience of knowing a person who for all kinds of reasons irritated you and triggered a certain inchoate mix of irritation, frustration, hate, and envy inside of you which you had difficulty both in describing and accepting; then, after that person dies, in the light of her going away, the irritation, hate, and envy wash clean and you are left with a clear sense of the goodness and integrity of her life, along with a certain sorrow and regret about how you reacted to her during her life? Your hatred and envy have turned into respect and you realize you are a better person for having known this person you once hated.

After the death of every person, we receive his or her spirit in a way that was not possible before he or she died. This was true too of Jesus, and that is why he tells us that he must first go away before he can send the Holy Spirit. Only after Jesus died did his followers understand fully who he was - as did some of the people who crucified him. The spirit that we receive after the death of someone clarifies the quality of his or her life in a way that we were never able to perceive before he or she died, when for every kind of reason, we reacted to him or her with admiration or irritation, graciousness or frustration, love or hatred, or various combinations of all of these.

It's the same with the resistance and hatred that people sometimes feel towards us as they look at our religious and moral lives. Their feeling towards us, hatred or admiration, doesn't determine whether we are good or bad, saint or fanatic. Only the spirit we leave behind will eventually determine that.

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 that 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.

2010 Catholic Men's Conference - Diocese of Rockville Centre

Saturday, April 24 at Holy Trinity High School, Hicksville

Your life is a journey. It is a journey of family, of work, of play, and of faith. It is our hope that this men's conference will serve to enrich your faith so that family, work and play will be filled with more joy than ever before. For additional information, visit the conference website at www.catholicmensministry.net or call 516.678.5000, extension 1234. Contact Jack Fitzgerald at 587.5548 if you plan to attend.

Healing Mass

A very special Healing Mass and Service to be celebrated by Fr. Richard McAlear (OMI), on Thursday, April 15 in Msgr. Nolan Hall, St. Joseph Church, Babylon. We will begin at 7:30 PM with the Liturgical Mass of the day, followed by the Healing Service. For further information, contact Tony Fescina at veneel17@yahoo.com of the Parish Office at 631.669.0068.

HEC-Handicapped Encounter Christ

Each year, HEC holds a retreat weekend designed for men and women (18 years or older) who are physically or mentally challenged. It is a weekend of prayer, song, discussion, fellowship and community building.

The retreat is held at Camp Alvernia in Centerport, NY. Adults with special needs, who would like to attend the retreat, and individuals or organizations looking to volunteer in any capacity, please contact Deacon Frank and Michele Barone at 516.420.1207 or email mrbarone@verizon.net.

Dominican Village

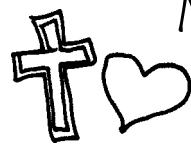
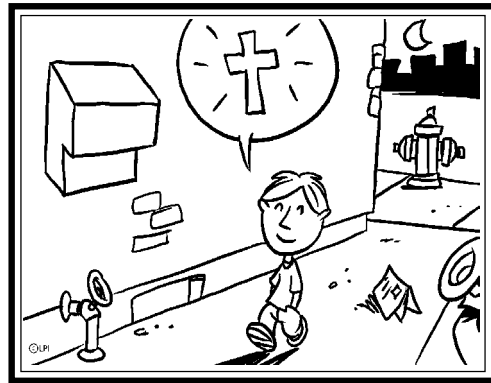
Please join us for an Open House on Saturday, April 17, from 1 PM until 3 PM. Dominican Village is an independent retirement community that offers assisted living and respite care, outstanding programs, all-inclusive services and bountiful amenities. For more information, or to schedule a tour at your convenience, call 631.842.6091.

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 **"The Issues in Life."** 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

After Jesus died on the cross, the disciples were afraid people would want to hurt them, too. They stayed together in a room and locked the door. Then Jesus came to his friends, to show them he was really alive again. Jesus changed their fear into gladness. Have you ever been so afraid that you just wanted to hide? Remember that Jesus is with you when you are afraid, too.



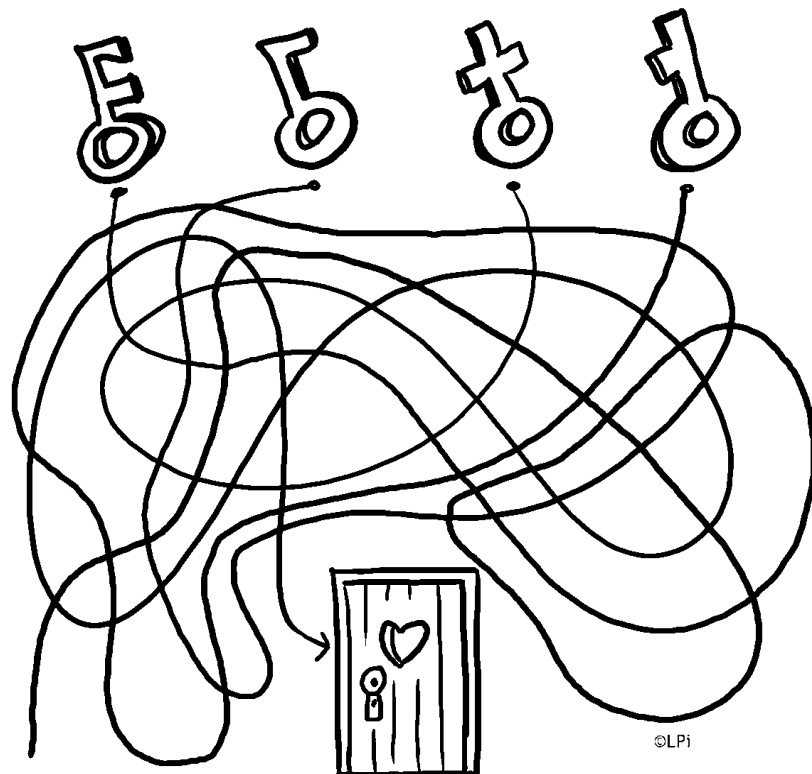
Mission for the Week

I will talk to God whenever I am afraid.



Puzzle

Which key can unlock the Door?



Prayer



Dear God,
 thank you for
 being with me when I
 am afraid.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of
 Jesus next to you
 when you are afraid.