

Our Lady of Lourdes • **Sixth Sunday of Easter** • May 9, 2010



Revelation 21:10

**“I saw the holy city,
Jerusalem,
gleaming with
splendor.”**



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 Scorcia

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 Scorcia

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 (option 1)

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 (option 2)

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: lkrol@ollschoo.org

Religious Education Office

661.5440 (option 3)

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon

1 PM - 5 PM

7 PM - 9 PM

email: ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org

Parish Outreach Office

661.9262 (option 4)

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:

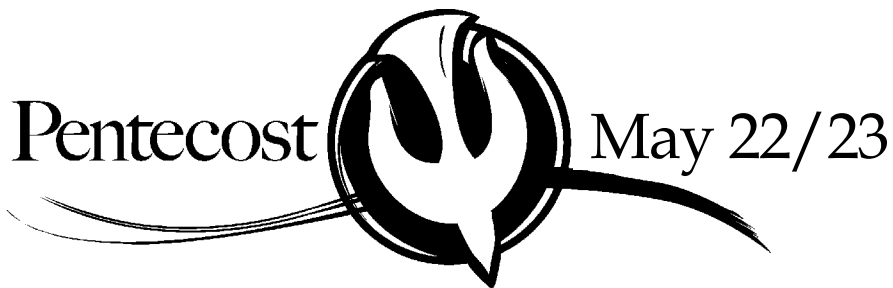
Your Name: _____

Phone at: _____ Email at: _____

Mail at: _____

The Great Ministry Event

Come and See...



Our Lady of Lourdes has so many wonderful and caring Ministries. Every day our parishioners "Make a Difference" by offering gifts of loving service in support of our community. Each of these gifts offered in Christ's name provides a glimpse of our God's love for His people.

On Pentecost Weekend (May 22/23) at and after each of our Masses, we will celebrate by highlighting our many Ministries. This will be an opportunity for each of us to see the breadth and depth of all that happens at OLL.

*You are invited to "Come and See"
-is there a ministry here that calls to you?
Spend some time with us and celebrate
the great works done in our Parish!*

Around Our Parish

OLL Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

April 25 - May 4, 2011

Come and walk in the footsteps of Jesus along with our Pastor Fr. Mike Vetrano.

Consider being with family and friends on a trip of a lifetime!

Walk the streets of Jerusalem and be in the place of our Christian heritage. Come to Bethlehem, visit the Basilica of the Nativity. Be at the Baptism site of Jesus on the Jordan River, sail on the Sea of Galilee and walk in the Garden of Gethsemane. You will visit the room of the Last Supper, walk on the Via Dolorosa "The way of the Cross", and drive through the wilderness of Judea and the mountains of Jerusalem. All this on your trip of a lifetime. For more information, come to our meeting on **Monday, May 24 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, May 11, in the Parish Center at 9 AM.**



Eucharistic Adoration

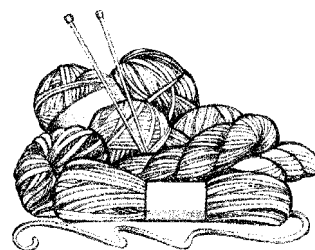
Please come and join us on **Friday, May 14 at 7:30 PM in the Church** for Eucharistic Adoration. All are invited, especially the youth of our parish, to come and adore our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Come and bring a friend.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Join us ...

Wednesday, May 12, 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.



Men's 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, May 20, 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.

Mark your calendars...

Upcoming Youth Ministry Events

Friday, May 14th:

Movie Night in the cafeteria at 7 PM.
We're showing "The Blind Side,"
and snacking of course.

Monday, May 17th:

Middle School Youth Group starts at 6:30 PM in Room 16.

Monday, May 24th:

High School Youth Group starts at 7 p.m. in Room 16.



Youth Group Meeting Schedule

Middle School

May 17
June 7, 21

High School

May 24
June 14, 21

**All meetings will be in Room 16 of the school*



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!

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**.



On Saturday, April 24, the Second Annual Catholic Men's Conference was held again at Holy Trinity High School in Hicksville. There were between 7 to 8 hundred men gathered there. At 8 AM in the parking lot of OLL, a contingent of men from our Parish met to car pool it in. Twenty-three men signed up and 21 of us met up for a day of prayer, music, fellowship and inspirational talks. We had seats-front row and center aisle and right away were on our feet being welcomed by the committee, Fr. Joe Fitzgerald and the Nassau County Police Department Bagpipe Band.

Fr. Brian Barr gave credit to his dad, as a man who led by example-a man who couldn't compromise his values. Dr. Kevin Kulik cautioned us about mediocrity and complacency. How? Do the Corporal Works of Mercy and by doing them you'll find your passion. He said it takes prayer and discipline-advertising doesn't work-it's one on one.

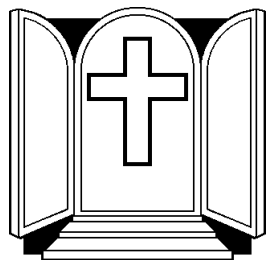
At lunch break, we the fellowship, Pete, John, Norman, Greg, Bob, Cliff and Rich-all agreed it's one on one. Coach Rich Donnelly's passionate plea to be real men, fathers, brothers, was to hug and kiss our wives, daughters and sisters.

Todd Lemieux encouraged us to develop our personal goodness-"Our talents will die-love the truth, it leads to beauty." Not to settle for mediocrity in our spiritual lives. Mass was celebrated by Bishop Murphy with several other priests and deacons from the Diocese. The Bishop was so happy to be with us and he, "Bill Murphy," as he referred to himself, was even more joyful to be one of us, one of the guys-not perfect, but here for us also as our Bishop.

Lou Carnesecca was a sight to behold-sweater and all. He looked great as he quipped, "as King Henry said to his 8 wives-I won't keep you long." He didn't! Lou said a couple of things upset him. One was when the portrait of Mary was desecrated by elephant dung and second when people out in California desecrated Holy Communion. He said, "We can't accept that, we must make a statement. We've been silent too long." He challenged us to follow this up! Non-violently in our own way "Knock those doors down!" We gave him a standing ovation!

Fr. Joe then introduced Msgr. Jim Lisante-who said he's 1/2 Italian and 1/2 Irish-as his mom is an O'Neil! He recommended a DVD that's great called "Fireproof." I'd heard about it from others but didn't see it-now I can rent it. He said sex should be celebrated-addressed in church. Porn about strangers-not! They're someone's daughters and granddaughters being exploited. He reminded me that love is a commitment as I learned in M.E. The abortion issue is ours-own it! He said "the kids will grow away from us unless we keep the dialogue going." Msgr. gave us three penances: 1. Commit to life, 2. Love and 3. Sex-tell them you love them-speak the words!

Lunch was shared by two men in my prayer group, my three sons, and several guys from programs I'm in. We shared our self-doubts, and we were encouraged by one another's presence and honesty with each other. After lunch, we came back to hear Mark Bavaro who claimed he was not a great speaker like Lou or the Msgr., in fact, he wrote his talk. He said he really didn't know why he was asked to speak here and he didn't really want to come! That fact alone endeared him to me and to one of my sons who had a struggle to come. Mark shared his journey in faith through his being injured in football and how he was supposed to be rehabbing early in the morning but chose to go to Mass every day, therefore, he was hating coming to rehab. After a while, the coach, Bill Parcels, called him in and instead of chewing him out, and berating him, simply asked him, "What is your job?" After thinking about it for a while, he realized what his real job was-to be there on time, to recover quickly, and give the team and the coach the best you can do! He said today his faith is still not great, but he knows God wants him to be a husband, father, provider, teacher, and role model-he's learning responsibility. Your faith may not be great either, he said, "Hang on to the rope that was thrown to you," fundamentally, the Church is solid!" Forgiveness is always there!" Imagine God as Bill Parcels and when you have doubts about your faith; ask yourself, "What is your job?" *-Jack Fitzgerald*



Open Wide the Door!

Let the Spirit In!

A Spiritual Evening for Women

Presenter: Sister Joy Castiglione, OP

Tuesday, May 18

7:30 - 9:30 PM

Parish Center

As women, we are always great with hospitality. Did you ever wonder what it would be like to welcome Jesus into your heart and entertain him there?

During our evening of prayer we will reflect on “opening the door” of our heart to have Jesus feel “at home” and how can we grow in a more intimate relationship with him.

As part of the evening, we will have group discussion, sharing, and a guided meditation.

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.

Good Grief...

We are sure that when you think of that phrase, you immediately think of “Good Grief, Charlie Brown.” Not exactly what we had in mind.

So, what’s so good about grief? Come together as we share the many losses in our lives. Together, with Jesus, we can mend broken hearts. The Ministry of Family Healing invites you to a night of prayer on **Thursday, May 20 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center**. Call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option 3, to register. Please, bring a friend and, as always, food and fellowship to follow.

A Night in the Garden

An Evening of Prayer and Reflection

Tuesday, May 18

7 – 8 PM

Spiritual Life Center



What does Christ’s experience in the Garden mean for all of us as we try to understand:

- The importance of prayer
- The role of friends and angels in our lives
- The connection between our suffering and the suffering of Jesus
- Our struggle to live and accept the words– “Thy Will Be Done”

Presented by: Students of the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception - Seminarian John Sureau (remember him?!), Donna Spoto, John Mc Mahon and Deacon Tom Reilly. This presentation is part of a final group project for an elective class entitled, Passion Narratives. Help John Sureau and his classmates get an A!

Hospitality will follow the presentation.

Discovery Camp



Sponsored by
Our Lady of Lourdes 44 Toomey Road, West Islip

Registration Now Being Accepted*

June 28th – August 6th
9am – 5pm, Monday - Friday

A full time day camp program for students entering grades K – 7 beginning with an academic based morning and a fun-filled afternoon of sports provided by F.A.S.T. Athletics.

Program choices include:

- K – 1 "Under the Sea" or "Bugs Galore"
- 2 – 4 "Rain Forest" or "Space Camp"
- 5 – 7 "Mind Games" or "Teen Spirit"

Before / After Care and School Provided Lunch Available for an Additional Fee. For More Information Contact:

Lisa Kennedy, Director

lkennedy@ollschoool.org 631.587.7200 ext.100

*non-refundable/non-transferable

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@ollschoool.org



Deacon John and Anne DeGuardi



Paul and Diane Munch

Religious Education

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

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 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.

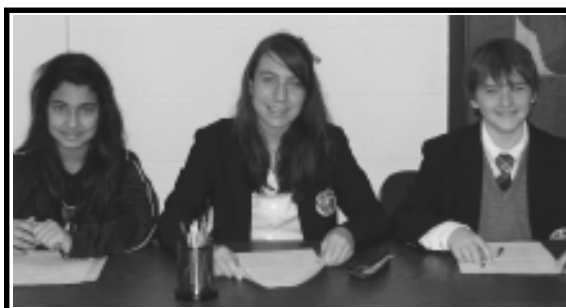
Did you know?

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.

Breaking News!

Our Lady of Lourdes in West Islip, already a front runner in the world of educational technology in the local circles, has recently moved into yet another new domain with “On the Air” morning school announcements and prayers. These are being broadcast by our student government leaders to the classrooms within our school---

LIVE! The old method of listening to the loudspeaker for daily information and updates has gone by the wayside. Instead, inside our classrooms students can now SEE and HEAR the students who are broadcasting the daily school news live on our in-school television network. Look out professional newscasters everywhere! Our Lady of Lourdes students are grooming to become your replacements!



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-9:30 AM beginners meeting 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

James Winthrop died on April 15 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was April 24. We extend our prayers to his wife, Susan, and entire family.

Eda Rutkowski died on April 25 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was April 28. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Joseph DiPalma, Jr. died on April 23 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was April 28. We extend our prayers to his wife, Debra, his children, and entire family.

John F. Moore died on April 25 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was April 28. We extend our prayers to his wife, Angela, his children, and entire family.

Ronald R. Dia died on April 27 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was May 1. We extend our prayers to his wife, Jeanette, his children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Artemesia Delli-Paoli died on April 27 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was May 3. We extend our prayers to her husband, Frank, her daughter, Paula, grandchildren, and entire family.

William F. Kern died on April 27 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was May 3. We extend our prayers to his wife, Eleanor, children, and entire family.

Harry Rieman died on April 28 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was May 3. We extend our prayers to his wife, Joanne, children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Vincent S. Grabinsky died on April 29 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was May 3. We extend our prayers to his wife, Elizabeth, children, and entire family.

Remembering...

Monday, May 10

8:00 AM Louise Riedemann and
Sadie Melchione

Tuesday, May 11

8:00 AM Christopher Clyde

Wednesday, May 12

Saint Nereus and Saint Achilleus, martyrs
Saint Pancras, martyr

8:00 AM Kenneth Ross
5:30 PM (vigil) Mary and Anthony Sabala

Thursday, May 13

The Ascension of th Lord
8:00 AM Laura and Charles Abela
7:30 PM Matilda Buturla

Friday, May 14

Saint Matthias, apostle
8:00 AM Angelina Primavera

Saturday, May 15

8:00 AM Joseph C. Walsh, Mary Fannon, Helene Puerling,
James Boyle, Phyllis Ann Mahon, Dorothy Radigan, Linda Kelly (living)

5:00 PM Daniel Salegna
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Sunday, May 16

8:00 AM Edward Wernikowski
Fr. Mike Vetrano

9:30 AM Harry Hogan
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

11:00 AM Patricia Santangelo
Fr. Mike Vetrano

12:30 PM Steph Garcia
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Kathleen McNamara, Catherine McNamara, Jan Mohr,
Eileen & Charles McIvor-Cole, Catherine Lipari, Richard K. Stamer, Vincent Gatto,
Joseph F. Quigg, Josephine Harrington, Bryan Monahan, Andrew Basil, Elizabeth Wilkes
Fr. Pat Amabile

"Why are your looking up to heaven?"

Acts 1:11



Ascension Thursday

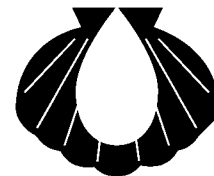
The Ascension of the Lord, Thursday, May 13, is a holy day of obligation. Mass will be celebrated on:

Wednesday, May 12

5 PM *vigil* Mass

Thursday, May 13

8 AM Mass
7:30 PM Mass



Baptisms

Kristian Francis Burnett
Richard and Susan

Olivia Mary Burnett
Richard and Susan

Justin Tyler Tanasy
Alexander and Michelle

Derek Michael Turcios
Salvador and Lisa



©LPI

6th Sunday of Easter

The old spiritual, "Twelve Gates to the City," takes the image of today's second reading from the Book of Revelation and celebrates it in song. The symbolism of a new Jerusalem, in which everyone is welcome, was first proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah. The author of the Book of Revelation reiterates this at the end of his apocalyptic vision. The spiritual builds on this theme, emphasizing, "Oh, what a beautiful city, hallelujah."

As the author of Revelation makes clear in today's selection, there is no temple or sun or moon in this new Jerusalem. The Lord is the temple and the glory of God is the city's light. This is God's dwelling among his people.

The Gospel of John for today makes the presence of the Lord even clearer. Jesus tells his disciples, "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him" (Jn 14:23). Through baptism God dwells in us—an amazing truth that may escape us in the midst of daily life.

We want to be with God. We try to live our lives in such a way that we will come at last to the heavenly city, the new and eternal Jerusalem. And that end-of-life focus is good. We need to be prepared for our final day. But God already dwells among us, as Jesus told his disciples as they were gathered in the upper room for the Last Supper. The Lord is here in our midst, now. We are no longer only hoping for a final dwelling with God in heaven. If God is already dwelling in our midst, then every baptized person that stands before us is Christ. If that is the case, then we are no longer just being nice to someone because that is the polite thing to do. Instead, we are giving honor and glory to God by the respect we show.

2010 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of May 9, 2010

Sunday:	Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Rv 21:10-14, 22-23/Jn 14:23-29
Monday:	Acts 16:11-15/Jn 15:26---16:4a
Tuesday:	Acts 16:22-34/Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday:	Acts 17:15, 22---18:1/Jn 16:12-15
Thursday:	Acts 18:1-8/Jn 16:16-20
Friday:	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Jn 15:9-17
Saturday:	Acts 18:23-28/Jn 16:23b-28
Next Sunday:	Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23/Lk 24:46-53

Our Lady of Lourdes

Fr. Joe Lukaszewski

“Walk of Life”

In Loving
Memory of
Mary Jones

Peter Jacobs
Baptized
January 2002

In Gratitude
Jean & John
Reilly

God Bless the
Smith Family

Johnson's
Married
Sept. 20, '99

Preserve your name, or that of a loved one, well into the
next millennium, with a personalized brick paver.

Order Information:

Name	
Address	
City	State
Phone	

Paver size 4" x 8"

\$150.00 per Brick

Maximum of 13 characters per line. NOTE: Spaces are considered a character.

Make check payable with order form:
Our Lady of Lourdes-Dedication
455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, NY 11795
Mail or Drop off at Rectory

Financial Summary

May 2, 2010

Weekly Collection	\$ 21,570.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 2,570.00

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.

Donations to Outreach

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

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.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Nancy Trujillo*.
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, Alicia Atteniese, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Ben Bellotti, Antoinette Bongiorno, Theresa Buffa, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Nicholas Cibelli, Michael Ciotkosz, Donald L. Coffey, Anthony Colitti, Regina Cranor, Jeanne DellaRagione, Ann Donlon, Tony Drexler, Debbie Eichen, John Fallon, Jack Hartz, Edward Herger, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Max Illiano, Herb Jaggi, Diana Kaehne, Mary Kaval, Kathleen Kerrigan, Josephine Kosiczky, Charles LaSala, Joseph Lehmann, S. Diane Liona, Kara Lobasso, Charlie Maccio, Louise Malcuit, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Dorothy Meloni, Rick Mirabella, Rae Morris, Brenden Muldoon, Ruth Murray, Evelyn Nonnon, John O'Brien, Joyce Petersen, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Laura Prichard, Joe Radosti, Carol Randazzo-Hopkins, Baby Skyler Rene, 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

Creativity as One Answer to Violence

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

In his novel, *Anil's Ghost*, Michael Ondaatje creates a character named Ananda. Ananda's wife had been murdered in the civil war in Sri Lanka and Ananda is trying to save himself from insanity and suicide in the face of this. How does he retain his sanity? Through art, creativity, by creating something.

Near the end of the story, Ondaatje has him refurbishing a smashed statue of a Buddha. Ananda deliberately changes the eyes of the statue to make them look like the eyes of a human being, not of a god: He looked at the eyes that had once belonged to a god. This is what he felt: As an artificer now he did not celebrate the greatness of a faith. But he knew if he did not remain an artificer he would become a demon. The war around him was to do with demons, specters of retaliation.??

We are either creative or we give ourselves over to some kind of brutality. Either we become artists of some kind or we become demons. For Ondaatje, this is our only choice. Is he right?

A good theology of grace, I believe, agrees with him. Why? Because we cannot will ourselves into being good people. We can't just decide that we will be loving and happy any more so than we can decide never again to be angry, bitter, or jealous. Willpower alone hasn't got that kind of power. Only an influx into our souls of something that is not anger, bitterness, or jealousy can do that for us. We call this grace and it, not willpower, is what ultimately empowers us to live loving lives.

Creativity, both in what it spawns within the artist and the artifact, can be a vital source of that grace.

But is this true? Are artists and creative persons less violent than others? Do we see any special grace operative there? Generally speaking, yes. Whatever their other faults, rarely are artists war-makers. Why? Because violence despoils the very aesthetic order which artists value so much and, more importantly, because creating beauty of any sort helps mellow the spirit inside of the person who is creating it.

Simply put, when we are creative, we get to feel a bit of what God must have felt at the original creation and at the baptism of Jesus, when, looking at the young earth spinning itself out of chaos and the head of Jesus emerging from the waters, there was the spontaneous utterance: "It is good, very good!" "This is my beloved child in whom I am well-pleased."

Being creative can give us that same feeling. The experience of being creative can help instill in us the gaze of admiration, appreciative consciousness, divine satisfaction.

Obviously too there is a real danger in this. Feeling like God is also the greatest narcotic there is, as many artists and performers and athletes, tragically, have learned. In the experience of creativity, it is all too easy to identify with the energy, to feel that we are God or that art and creativity are themselves divine and an end in themselves. The greater the achievement, the harder it is to properly disassociate ourselves, to not identify ourselves or the artifact with God. Creativity comes fraught with danger. But, that risk notwithstanding, we need, every one of us, to be creative or else we will, as Ondaatje warns, grow bitter and violent in some way.

Moreover we need to understand creativity correctly. We tend to be intimidated by the concept and to see ourselves as not having what it takes to be creative. Why?

Because we tend to identify creativity only with outstanding achievement and public recognition. Whom do we judge to be creative? Only those who have had their songs recorded, their poems published, their dances performed on Broadway, their achievements publicly noted, and their talents talked about on the TV talk shows.

But 99% of creativity hasn't anything to do with that. Creativity is not ultimately about public recognition or outstanding achievement. It's about self-expression, about nurturing something into life, and about the satisfaction this brings with it.

Creativity can be as simple (and as wonderful) as gardening, growing flowers, sewing, raising children, baking bread, collecting stamps, keeping a journal, writing secret poems, being a teacher, being cub-scout leader, coaching a team, collecting baseball cards, doing secret dances in the privacy of your own room, fixing old cars, or building a deck off the porch. It doesn't have to be recognized and you don't need to get published. You only have to love doing it.

William Stafford, the American poet, suggests that we should all write a poem every morning. How is that possible, someone once asked him, when we don't feel creative? His reply: "Lower your standards!"

"Publish or perish!" God never gave us that dictum. The academic world did. God's rules for creativity are different. Jesus expressed them in the parable of the talents: "Be an artificer of some sort or you will surely become a demon!"

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.

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Charity in the City

Attention, women, ages 18 -30:

If you're out of work or out of school and will be free from June 1-13, join the two-week volunteer option, "Charity in the City" service program, sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of New York. (Think of it as a short-term Peace Corp.)

Live and work with the Sisters and their associates in their ministries to the poor, especially women and children, new immigrants and the homeless. No experience needed, just a desire to help and a willingness to live simply. Apply by May 15. Details and application are available on line at <http://www.scny.org> or contact mkhamm@scny.org.

Get in shape and stay in shape!

Our Lady of Consolation is offering free opportunities to exercise every morning from 10 - 11:30 AM. Come and help transport wheelchair residents to and from Mass any day that you're free.

Call the Pastoral Care Department at 587.1600, extension 8297.

You can help your marriage now!

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue or have you just stopped talking to each other?

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, or to register for the upcoming weekend that begins Friday, May 21 at the Montfort Retreat House in Bay Shore, please call 1.800.470.2230 and you will be connected to a couple who can help.

Fatima Day

Thursday, May 13 at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island, Manorville. Beginning with stations at 10 AM and ending with Benediction. Day to include rosary, Holy Mass at 11:30 PM, lunch, and guest speaker, Anthony Fuina, Padre Pio miracle, at 1:30 PM.

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 "Parents." 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 wants you to love him so much that you will always do what he asks. Jesus knows that if you put God first, you will have peace. Instead of wanting more toys, you will be happy to share them. Instead of wanting to get your own way, you will enjoy taking turns. You will feel good helping other people.



Mission for the Week

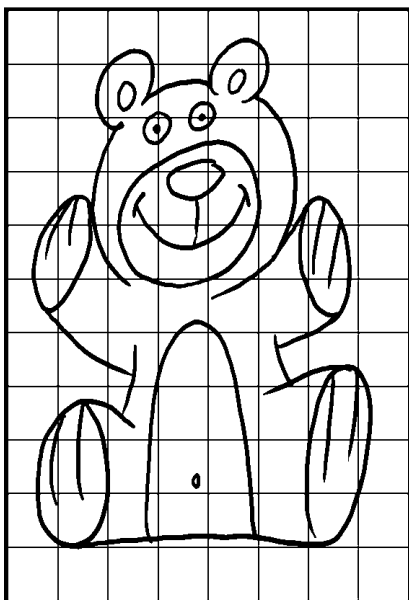


I will invite a friend over to play.

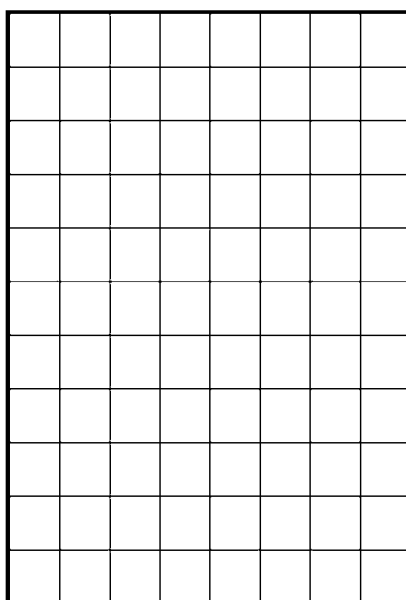
I will share and take turns.

Puzzle

Copy the picture square by square.



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Prayer



Dear God,
change my heart so
that I want to put
you and other
people first.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of
yourself giving one of
your own toys to a
child who has none.