



1 Corinthians 1:27

**“God chose the *weak*
of the world
to shame the strong.”**

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 30, 2011 - Our Lady of Lourdes



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

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-Catho-
lics and for Catholics who have
never received formal religious
education. If interested, please call
the Parish Office.

Welcome to our Parish Family!

*New Parishioners are cordially invited to register as
members of our parish family.*

Please call or visit our Parish Office.

Mission Statement

*As stewards of all that God has given us, the Parish Family of
Our Lady of Lourdes serves and ministers to all who come to this place.
Regardless of a person's history, ethnicity, gender, orientation, age or
race, we commit ourselves to open wide the doors of our Parish to provide
a place of welcome and hospitality.*

Vision...

*so that all may know that they are a vital part of the Body of
Christ, we further recommit and challenge ourselves to...*

Live out our Baptismal call passionately by caring for all
of God's people with justice.

Grow in an understanding of God's role in each of our lives.

Respond to the Gospel in a radical way, inviting and
inspiring all to form the Kingdom of God in every
moment of life.

Acknowledge we are not complete without the willingness to
grow, discern and discover the Spirit who moves and guides us.

Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano
Pastor

Rev. Patsy Amabile
Associate Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback
Associate Pastor

Rev. Ambrose Cabildo
In Residence

Deacon John DeGuardi

Deacon Tom Lucie

Deacon Jack Meehan
Coordinator of Stewardship

Deacon John Teufel

Sr. Margaret Bickar

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Sr. Nancy Campkin

Director of Religious Education

Allegra D'Alo

Youth Minister/Social Action

Louise Jane Krol

School Principal

Sr. Diane Liona

Director of Religious Education

Mary McMahan

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Robin Reynolds-Brennan

Director of Music and Worship

Vita Scorgia

Ministry Spiritual Director

Sr. Betty Toohig

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Anthony Trombino

Business Manager

Pastoral Council

Diane Ackerly

Stacie Baltrusitis

Mary Borgs

Lisa Cantalino

Sonia DaSilva

Nilo DeLeon

Jerry Esposito

Trish Frodell

Rosalie Mangels

Maryellen McKee

Deacon Jack Meehan

John Muldoon

Bob Natale

Eileen Rega

Vita Scorgia

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Parish Staff

Jennifer Gallagher

Women's Chorale Director

Mary Anne Lettieri

Parish Office

Debbie Meyer

Bulletin Editor/Parish Office

Rosemary Multer

School Office

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@ollschool.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"/> Joining the Parish | <input type="checkbox"/> Baptizing my Children |
| <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"/> Other _____ |

I would prefer to be contacted by:

Phone at: _____ Email at: _____

Mail at: _____

Your Name: _____

We Have a Dream

One of the most famous speeches in United States history is Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "*I Have a Dream*" Speech. In honor of Martin Luther King Day, the 5th grade and nursery students of Our Lady of Lourdes School, wrote their very own Dream Speech about their own hopes and dreams for a better future.



The students had the opportunity to listen and watch video clips of King's famous speech. They were able to see what a powerful speaker he was and the importance of speaking with passion. The students brainstormed their ideas and got to work. Just as King had presented his speech, the students presented their speeches as well, sharing their dreams with one another.

Honor Roll

Graduates of Our Lady of Lourdes School who are current students at Chaminade High School have recently made the First Trimester Honor Roll. They are: Freshman - *Michael Q. Goldin* and Senior - *Michael P. Pescuma*. Congratulations!

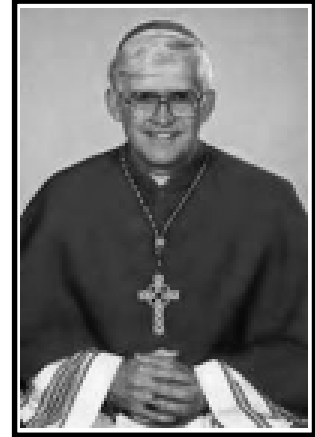
OLL Pilgrimage to the Holy Land Walking in Jesus' Footsteps April 25 - May 4, 2011



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, our next meeting will be on*

Wednesday, February 23, 7:30 in the Parish Center



Pastoral Visit from Bishop Dunne

Bishop John Dunne will be visiting Our Lady of Lourdes during the weekend of February 12 and 13. He will be preaching at all Masses that weekend and meeting with many of our parish groups.

Bishop Dunne visits our parish every three to four years to help us strengthen our parish life. We look forward to his visit!



The Rosary Christian Mothers are sponsoring a **St. Valentine's Day Dance to be held on Saturday, February 12 in the All-Purpose Room.**

The proceeds from the dance will go towards the "Grotto to Our Lady of Lourdes."

There will be dancing to the music of "Rick," dinner, wine, beer, soda coffee, and dessert - all for only \$35 per person. Don't forget 50/50, raffles and baskets of cheer!

We will be taking reservations for tables of two, four, six, and eight people. For reservations, please call Claire at 669-3178, Angie at 586.2084, Patty at 669.1727, or Angela at 669.7275.

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

We will celebrate the **Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes with Healing Mass / Anointing of the Sick on Friday, February 11 at 7:30 PM.**



Join us at 7:30 PM to celebrate a Healing Mass on this evening, devoted to Mary and the great healing tradition at Lourdes. We invite all to come to celebrate the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

This sacrament may be received by anyone with a desire to receive God's healing in time of sickness, for age and infirmity, for healing of grief, anxiety, and other emotional suffering, for any healing you desire to receive from God.

Adult Faith Formation

Book Discussion:

***The Naked Now* by Richard Rohr**

Presenter: Tom Petriano

Tuesdays - February 1, 8, 15 and March 1

Parish Center

7:30-9:30 PM

Book will be available for purchase in the Religious Education Office. Cost is \$18.

It will be helpful to read Chapter 1 before first session.

The description of Richard Rohr's most recent book, *The Naked Now*, suggests that it was written to:

- *Awaken* your desire for God
- *Free* yourself from the fears that can cripple you
- *Connect* to the joy already within you
- *Transform* yourself
- *Inspire* others to see as the mystics see
- *Live* in full awareness of the Naked Now

Come be a part of lively discussions and interesting presentations. Don't miss it!

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, February 1**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.



Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of July will be on **Wednesday, February 9 from 1- 3 PM**. All are invited and welcome!

Men's Prayer Group-Morning

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, February 17, 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.

Prayer for Divine Mercy

An invitation to all men and women to be part of God's plan.

We invite you to meet in prayer for the world and our nation to put their trust in God. Our hope is that the nations will have a new spirit of morality. Please come with your love and hope for humanity as well as your prayer requests. We gather together every **Thursday at 1:30 PM before the Blessed Sacrament** for about one half hour. For more information, call Charles Argento at 586.8528.

Men's Prayer Group-Evening

A new *evening* men's prayer group! It will be held once a month, on the third Tuesday of each month from **7:30 PM until 8:30 PM in the Spiritual Life Center**.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday night, February 15**. Come with your ideas.

We'll read and discuss the Liturgy for the following Sunday Mass.

For more information, call Bob Natale at 893.3041, Charles Zeiss at 669.7189 or Cliff Proctor at 669.3198.

Children for Children at CLTW

“Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me...”

Throughout the month of January the Children’s Liturgy of the Word Committee will be collecting the following items for Parish Outreach:

Diapers of all sizes

Formula

Baby wipes

Baby Food

Please bring donations to the Outreach pantry bin at the Parish Center on Sundays in January. There are children all over Long Island, and here in West Islip, who need our help which is why CLTW has started “Children for Children.” Christ was a child born to a modest family in a manger and we know his worth. Please help us to celebrate the value of the children in our community who are also members of families who are struggling. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Senior Circle

The next meeting will be held on **Monday, January 31, 2011 at 12:30PM in the Parish Center.**



Nocturnal Adoration

Nocturnal Adoration will follow the 5 PM Mass on **Saturday, February 5,** concluding with Benediction at 9:50 PM. Please come and pray with us. All are invited and welcome! Bring a friend.

Centering Prayer Group

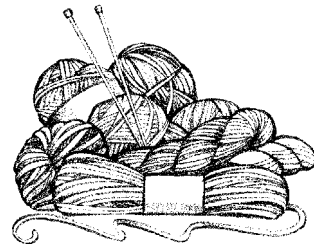
OLL Centering Prayer Group will be meeting in the **Spiritual Life Center** on **Thursday, February 3 at 7:30 PM.** If you have any questions, please contact Diane at 587.0966.

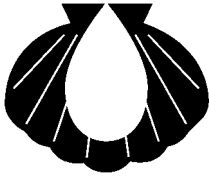
Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Join us ...

Wednesday, February 16 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.





Baptisms

Annabelle Grace Alvarez
Andrew and Kathleen
Matthew Aanthony Iehle
Lee and Melissa
Samantha Denise Ostroff
Russell and Desiree
Sophia Shelia Santaniello
Christian and Sarah
Charlotte Joan Siele
John and Denise

Altar Bread & Wine

Ross Goldin

Upcoming Marriages

Patricia Lagana, OLL and
George Fellows



Rest In Peace

Letterio "Leo" Beni died on January 15 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 20. We extend our prayers to his wife, Patricia, children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Joseph Netska died on January 16 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 20. We extend our prayers to his wife, Elizabeth, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and entire family.

Margaret LaChapelle died on January 17 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 22. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Remembering...

Monday, January 31

Saint John Bosco, priest

8:00 AM Roberta Arnold

Tuesday, February 1

8:00 AM Mark Polito

Wednesday, February 2

The Presentation of the Lord

8:00 AM John & Elizabeth Meditz

Thursday, February 3

Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr

8:00 AM Emma Cameron

Friday, February 4

8:00 AM John Lovari

Saturday, February 5

8:00 AM Marie Fabbri, Baby Ruthie Kudrle,
Louisa Rodriguez, Anthony Gorgone,
Tilly Dellefemine, Florence Rode, Anthony DeVivo

5:00 PM Florence & Michael Worysz

Sunday, February 6

8:00 AM Dec'd mbrs of Zucco Family

9:30 AM Matthew O'Kane

11:00 AM Elinor Shaddock

12:30 PM Thomas Marchelewski

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Dorothy Wantanbe,
Patricia Murphy, Stephen Straub,
Katherine Comer-Kanzler, Anthony DeVivo,
Genevieve Lorraine Reidlinger, Margaret LaChapelle,
Lorraine Barba

Welcome

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all newly registered members of our parish family...

Joshua and Elena Engle and family

Leonard and Christine Lucarelli and family

Geri Cavanaugh

Curtis and Mara D'Amico and family

...we are truly blessed by your presence among us!

O.L.L. Week-at-a-Glance

Week of	Church	Parish Center	Spiritual Life Center
Monday January 31	8 AM Mass Miraculous Medal Novena after 8 AM Mass	12:30 PM Senior Circle	7:30 PM Bereavement Support Group 8 PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH
Tuesday February 1	8 AM Mass 7:30 PM Cantor Rehearsal	9 AM SAGE 7:30 PM AFF- <i>The Naked Now</i>	8 PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH
Wednesday February 2	8 AM Mass 7:30 PM Women's Chorale	10 AM AAnon 10 AM PEP 2-FHC Meeting 7:30 PM PEP 2-FHC Meeting	7:30 PM Bereavement Support Group
Thursday February 3	8 AM Mass 5 PM Youth Choir 8 PM Adult Choir	10 AM Gr. 5 Parent Meeting 7:30 PM Gr. 5 Parent Meeting	6 PM RCIA 7:30 PM Centering Prayer SLC
Friday February 4	8 AM Mass		
Saturday February 5	8 AM Mass 4-4:45 Confessions 5 PM Mass 6 PM Nocturnal Adoration		2 PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH 7 PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH
Sunday February 6	8 AM Mass 9:30 AM Mass-CLTW 11 AM Mass, 12:30 PM Mass 6 PM Mass Contemporary		11 AM RCIA



"Renewing Our Spiritual Home"

Projects that need to be addressed...

- Church lighting and electrical
- Narthex entrance
- Church pews, kneelers, chairs, and doors
- Parking lot refurbishment
- Parish Center air conditioner unit
- Parish Center repair and remodel

Update January 28:

As I told you last week, our project has now been officially approved by the Diocese to enter the campaign phase. Our Diocesan Finance Office suggested that because of increasing costs and contingencies we should set our goal at 1,000,000 dollars. This seems to be a wise decision, and will make sure that if we strive for this goal, we will have enough to complete all our projects.

Last week and this week, our Campaign Committee will be meeting with advisors to determine the best way to conduct our campaign. If you would like to be part of the team for this fundraising effort, please contact Fr. Mike Vetrano or Deacon Jack Meehan at the Rectory.

Fr. Mike



©LPI

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

One of the units in junior high social studies curriculum is learning how a bill becomes a law. Basic governmental literacy rests on an understanding of the process, from the bill's introduction, through amendments and votes, to its final disposition for a signing or veto. We can all probably picture the chart that was in our textbook with the arrows that led the bill on different paths depending on the result of each step in the process. Even then, that chart was a simplified version of how things actually take place in the present legislative process.

The laws we're presented with in today's Gospel have very little in common with the laws that are enacted through legislation. The lawgiver in today's text is Jesus. He presents the beatitudes (and other laws, which we'll hear in the coming weeks) in the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew presents Jesus as the new teacher and lawgiver, now standing in the place of Moses who brought the tablets of the law—the Ten Commandments—down from Mt. Sinai. Jesus now gives the Eight Beatitudes as the law for the Christian life, a way of acting in the world. You'll hear a lot of people talk about the Ten Commandments as a basis for law. Even some Christian preachers will speak out about the necessity of having them posted in public places. Yet the New Testament, in Matthew's Gospel, makes it clear that there is a new law, a new dispensation, ushered in by Jesus who begins his own catalogue of commands with, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 5:3).

Like the recollection of that chart from junior high social studies, I suspect that most of us could get through reciting the Ten Commandments, at least by naming the subject of each one even if we couldn't recite them word for word. But how many of us can recite the Christian law: the Eight Beatitudes?

2010 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of January 30, 2011

Sunday:	Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a
Monday:	Heb 11:32-40/Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday:	Heb 12:1-4/Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday:	Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Thursday:	Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Mk 6:7-13
Friday:	Heb 13:1-8/Mk 6:14-29
Saturday:	Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Mk 6:30-34
Next Sunday:	Is 58:7-10/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16

Mass Book of Intentions

The 2012 Mass Book of Intentions will be opening on **Tuesday, February 15** at **9 AM** in the Parish Office.

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

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Joyce Petersen*.
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 ...

Giovanni Andriola, Susan Aviza, Viola Callanan, Grace Ciccarello, Virginia Crescini, Lucilia DaTorre, Beverly DeCanio, Jeanne DellaRagione, Tony Drexler, Debbie Eichen, Jerry Fabozzi, Ann Farrell, Jake Feldman, Patricia Ferrara, Zana Gashi, Kathleen Kerrigan, Robyn Kerrigan, Eric Lee, Ann Losee, Louise Malcuit, John McNevin, Vincent Meade, Frances Miranda, Julio Miranda, Michael Montesanto, John Mordente, Ruth Murray, Evelyn Nonnon, Philomena Owens, Karen Parpounas, Gertrude Parine, Mary Phelan, Fran Pizzani, Joe Radosti, Dorothy Schiavone, AnnMarie Schiraldi, Brian Schweibert, Baby Isabella Shaw, Derek Stahl, Lindsay Stahl, Linda Starr, Kay Steveson, Patrick Tardo, Nancy Turano, Bunny Vilim, Patricia Wallace, Joe Yezek

Financial Summary

January 23, 2011

Weekly Collection	\$ 16,765.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (2,235.00)

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:



Stephen Cochran-*US Marines*
Bryan R. Dempsey-*US Marines*
Christopher Florca-*US Marines*
Anthony Mannino-*US Marines*
JD Montefusco-*US Marines*
Joshua Tyrrell-*US Army*

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

“Reach Out” Program



“Some people live their entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world...”

Ronald Regan

Please contact the Outreach office if someone you love is serving on active duty overseas. Outreach will be starting a “Reach Out” Program offering support to men and women on active duty in any branch of the Military.

Parish Outreach

Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30 AM - 3 PM

Outreach Donations

If you would like to make a donation to Parish Outreach in memory of a loved one, please call Mary McMahon, Director of Parish Social Ministry at 661.3224, option 4.



Mark the date...

Family Mardi Gras

Sunday, March 6

4 PM - 6 PM

Games...Prizes....Dancing...and Fun! Fun! Fun!

Tickets go on sale soon...watch the bulletin for further details!

THE ANSWER:

The St. Patrick/St. Joseph Dance

THE QUESTION:

*What is the most celebrated event at OLL
(with the exception of The Feast, of course!)*

Saturday, March 19

7:30 PM– 11:30 PM

Tickets go on sale Monday, February 28

Details to follow...



Never too early to prepare for Spring!

Victorian Tea

Sunday, May 22

“The English Parlour Room”

Do polish your silver and air your linens. There will be no excuse deemed acceptable for those attending in less than their finest of Victorian fashion and lac (Advance tickets are not yet on sale-but do mark your calendars as we have no tolerance for weeping if your request for tickets is denied!)



An Open Letter to those who don't go to Church

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Dear Fellow Pilgrim:

I greet you as someone who is looking for meaning and happiness, as we all are. I know you're sincere or you wouldn't be reading this letter. Know this first of all: We miss you at church. There's not a Sunday goes by when your absence isn't felt. You're missed. Join us.

Yes, I know this isn't a simple thing. The heart has its reasons, Pascal said. Well the church too has its complexities. Perhaps it is precisely one of these complexities that make it difficult for you to walk regularly through a church door. So I won't try to sugarcoat the church. It is a far-from-perfect expression of God's love and mercy and it is a far-from-perfect expression of God's universal salvific will for everyone. Sometimes the church blocks God's love as much as it reveals it. It has been, and remains, a vehicle both of grace and sin. How do we get past its dark side?

Carlo Carretto, the renowned Italian spiritual writer, in his old age, wrote this Ode to the church:

How much I must criticize you, my church, and yet how much I love you!

You have made me suffer more than anyone and yet I owe more to you than to anyone.

I should like to see you destroyed and yet I need your presence.

You have given me much scandal and yet you alone have made me understand holiness.

Never in this world have I seen anything more compromised, more false, and yet I have never touched anything more pure, more generous or more beautiful.

Countless times I have felt like slamming the door of my soul in your face-and yet, every night, I have prayed that I might die in your sure arms!

No, I cannot be free of you, for I am one with you, even if not completely you.

Then too-where would I go?

To build another church?

But I could not build one without the same defects, for they are my defects. And again, if I were to build another church, it would be my church, not Christ's church.

No, I am old enough. I know better!

That's a mature description of the church, expressing both love and realism. It's an honest description too. The church has a long history, both of grace and of sin and we who make up the church on earth don't do God very well. Nobody does. We need to admit that.

I can only guess at your reasons for not coming to church regularly or for not coming to church at all: Perhaps you have been hurt by the church, by the institution itself or by one of its priests or ministers. Perhaps you have been one of those who have experienced it as callous, as insensitive, as denigrating you in some way. Or perhaps you are intellectually disenchanted with the church, unable to square its claims with your own sane grip on life and its mysteries. Or perhaps you have found what you are looking for elsewhere, outside the doors of the church you attended when you were little. Or perhaps you have just drifted away and don't think about church very much at all. Perhaps you don't feel a need for church in your life. Or, perhaps you are convinced that Jesus and his teachings are in fact tainted by the church, that Jesus never wanted to found a church, but wanted only that people take his teachings to heart and live in love and graciousness. There are many reasons why people don't go to church. I can only guess at yours.

But your reason for not going is not important for this letter. I don't want to defend the church here, make some kind of apologetics for it, or argue against any of the reasons that people give for not coming to church. And I don't want to try to show you reasons why, I think, it is important to go to church. This I not an apologetics, but a plea, an invitation:

Come back! Try us again! Or, if you have never belonged to the church, try us!

Maybe this time you will find life in the church and be able to drink in some of its graces. Maybe this time you will find it in you to forgive the church for its faults, see those faults are your own faults, and see why Jesus picked such an imperfect vehicle to carry on his presence. Maybe this time you will be able to see in the church what Jesus saw in it - an imperfect body made up of men and women like you and me, full of sin, full of ourselves, petty, small-hearted, less-than-sincere, miserly, and tainted, but also full of grace, full of Christ, big-hearted, sincere, generous, and pure, a group of men and women worth dying for - and belonging to. Come be with us!

A fellow pilgrim and a flawed church member.

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.

2011 Catholic Ministries Appeal One Faith, One Hope, Many Gifts

A Letter from Bishop Murphy

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I give thanks for the privilege of serving as your Bishop for ten years, I am mindful of so many blessings, especially your inspiring faith, caring spirit, and generosity.

I see every day your love and generosity expressed through ministries that you have supported through your gifts to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. Because of that support we are able to provide critical funding that enables the Church on Long Island to form our youth and adults in the faith, promote the dignity of life, provide quality education to our young people, feed the hungry, and foster vocations to the priesthood.

Each Parish operating on its own can only do so much, but when parishes join together, linking all the people of our Diocese together, we can realize our unlimited potential. We can become God's instrument of mercy and love. We can come together as one body and become ever more deeply one, belonging ever more deeply to the Lord and to one another.

Because the needs of our community continue to grow each year, I humbly request that you, once again, prayerfully consider a gift in support of the 2011 Catholic Ministries Appeal. Such a gift will be a true blessing, and will touch the lives of untold numbers of people who depend on our Catholic Church for aid and support.

Thank you for considering this request and please pray for the continued success of our efforts to serve the people of God.

With my prayers and gratitude, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Bishop William Murphy*

Bishop of Rockville Centre

For more information about the Catholic Ministries Appeal, to view the video, or to donate, please visit www.CatholicMinistriesAppeal.org or call 516-379-5210 ext. 229.

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.

American Sign Language Class

Cleary School for the Deaf is offering evening Adult Education classes in American Sign Language, levels 1, 2, 3, and Intermediate/Advanced. **The Spring session is February 2 - May 4.** For more information, please call Carolyn Kelly at 631.588.0530 or email ClearyASL@hotmail.com.

Furry Friends Need Our Help

At Our Lady of Lourdes in West Islip the Cadette/Senior Girl Scout Troop 1082 is working on their community service project and is asking for donations to help the Islip Animal Shelter. Due to hard economic times many people are not able to afford to keep their four-legged friends and the Animal Shelter is in desperate need of supplies to care for them. Things needed are food, towels, blankets, toys, pet care brushes and shampoos, bedding, etc. There will be boxes located in the lobby of our school at 44 Toomey



Road to collect much-needed donations. **Please bring all donations in by February 4,** as we are planning to deliver the items to the Shelter that weekend. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Pictured are Cadette/Senior Girl Scout Troop Members: *Jaclyn Hahn, Stephanie Francis, Theresa Maher, Christina Natale, Lisa DeMotta, Krysta Flareau, Alicia Flareau, Allison Brown, Lynsey Gramer, Jordan Makowski.*

All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner

Boy Scout Troop 179, Chartered by Our Lady of Lourdes Church, is hosting and All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on **Saturday, February 19, from 4 PM – 7:30 PM in the OLL School Cafeteria.** The cost is \$5 per person (all you can eat). There will be raffle tickets for sale at the door and you need not be present to win. Some of the great prizes include a ski trip, brunch at the Danford Inn, passes to Medieval Times, Atlantis Marine World, among others.

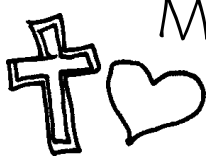
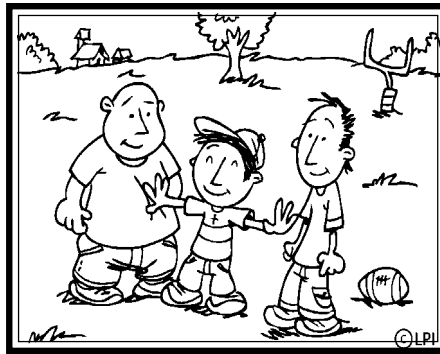
Religion & Rock

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 **“Remaining Excited.”** 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 Channel 29/137 or Verizon FIOS 296 for the Best in Catholic Television!

Sharing the Gospel

God sees the loving things you do. When you show kindness to others, especially when they don't deserve it, your kindness will come back to you.

When you see others fighting, and you help them get along, you show that you are God's child. When you are gentle, not bossy, you make God smile. Even when it is hard, keep on doing what's right. One day in heaven God will reward you for the good choices you make.



Mission for the Week

God loves peacemakers. The next time you are tempted to argue with someone, think of ways to get along instead.



Puzzle

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

blessed
meek
filled

mercy
pure
peace

kingdom
reward
heaven

bsedles	<u> b </u> <u> l </u> <u> e </u> <u> s </u> <u> s </u> <u> e </u> <u> d </u>
pacee	_____
meke	_____
kidomng	_____
filedl	_____
reardw	_____
mecyr	_____
hevena	_____
peur	_____

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Prayer



Dear God,

help me love other people the way you want me to.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of yourself helping a child who was mean to you.