

the wild flowers grow.”

“Learn from the way



Matthew 6:28

**February 27, 2011 - Our Lady of Lourdes
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



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

It's time for

FAT TUESDAY!



Outreach is hosting the

Third Annual

MARDI GRAS

Sunday, March 6

3 PM - 5:30 PM

All-Purpose Room



FOOD ~ GAMES ~ PRIZES

HOT DOGS ~ ICE CREAM

and FUN! FUN! FUN!

Admission is \$5 per person - includes all

Raffle Tickets \$5 for 25

Proceeds to benefit Outreach.



Walking with the Word

**Our parish Lenten Retreat will be given on
Monday, March 14 through Thursday, March 17
by Dominican preachers
Fr. Ron Henerey and Fr. Bob Vaughan.**

The vision of this parish retreat is that of awakening faith and trust in God's prodigal care for human beings. The parish community is the place where people experience the visible signs of God's graciousness through Word and Sacrament.

Monday, March 14

8:00 AM	Morning Eucharist	How Christians See Reality
7:30 PM	Vespers Prayer Service	People of the Book: Entering into the Story

Tuesday, March 15

8:00 AM	Morning Eucharist	Encountering God in Unexpected Places: Twelve Step Spirituality
7:30 PM	Vespers Prayer Service <i>(a penance service)</i>	God's Forgiveness: Closing the Gates on the Past

Wednesday, March 16

8:00 AM	Morning Eucharist	Prayer: Being Attentive to God
7:30 PM	Evening Prayer Service	Everything Belongs: Living in the Great Compassion

Thursday, March 17

8:00 AM	Morning Eucharist	Eye-Opening Experiences
7:30 PM	Evening Prayer Service <i>(a healing service)</i>	If I Could Only Touch His Garment: God's Healing Love

The parish retreat is scripturally oriented, bringing the Word of God into perspective with people's lived experience. The preaching is practical and contemporary, with the use of poignant examples, humor and inspiration to call forth a response of faith and trust in the God who has promised to be with us always.



LENT 2011

Burning of the Palms

We are actively preparing for the season of Lent at OLL and we need your help!

Ash Wednesday, March 9, begins the Lenten season and the signing of ashes is a powerful reminder to us of this time of reflection, reconciliation and renewal.

The ashes come from burned palm – preferably the palm distributed last Palm Sunday. Please bring back any palm you have at home and place it in the baskets at the doors of the Church. This palm will be burned during the weekend of March 5/6.

The purpose of this action is twofold. First, it actively involves each of us in the celebration of Ash Wednesday and Lent. Second, it demonstrates the continuous work of our liturgical cycle/year. By connecting last Palm Sunday with this year's Ash Wednesday, we are reminded of the dying and rising of Christ – the Paschal Mystery - which the liturgy invites us to experience.

OLL 27th Annual Golf Classic

Are you tired of all the snow, ice and unbearable cold weather?

Then why not think of warmer climate, good company and a day of golf.

This year's outing will be held on **Monday, July 18, 2011 at the Southward Ho Country Club.**

Who is our honoree?

Let me give you a few hints... He is an amateur photographer, who likes to hike in the mountains. He has graced the hallowed grounds of Our Lady of Lourdes for close to eleven years. He himself is an avid golfer. He is considered by many to be the number one fan of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Do you think you know who it is? Well mark your calendars for July 18th, and look for further information (including our honoree) in upcoming bulletins.

It's Time for Mass

Friday, March 11

5:30 PM



Help John Sureau become a priest and be a movie star – PART III.

OK – we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism, we've celebrated the Sacrament of Matrimony – NOW it's time for the Mass!

As I finish up my fourth year Theology classes at the Seminary, I now need to celebrate a “mock” Mass and video it as part of my classes here at the Seminary! Once again....

I NEED YOUR HELP!

On Friday, March 11, we will celebrate this “mock” Mass at 5:30 PM in the Church. For this we need as many people as possible to “play a role” – we need servers, sacristans, ushers, music ministers, extraordinary ministers, lectors, greeters – and, most importantly, an active and lively assembly!

How great it would be if you can come and bring friends! E-mail me to jsureau@optonline.net or call at 631.423.0483, x. 528. It's a help to know if you're coming because there might be a small “happy” hour after our “holy” hour!

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.

Adult Faith Formation

Book Discussion:

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

Presenter: Tom Petriano

Tuesdays - March 1

Spiritual Life 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.

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, March 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.

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, March 8**. 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.



Nocturnal Adoration

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

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.



Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of March will be on **Wednesday, March 9 from 1- 3 PM**.

All are invited and welcome!



Calling our CLTW kids!

This Lent we are working on a brand new project in CLTW each Sunday, but to be a part of it, kids have to get their special prayer box!

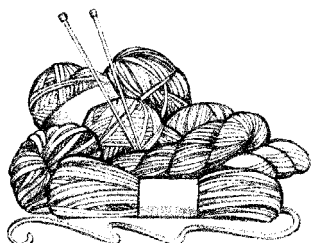
Families are invited to the **Parish Center after the 9:30 AM Mass on Sunday, March 6** to decorate their Lenten boxes.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, March 1**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, February 28**, at **12:30 PM in the Parish Center**.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Join us ...

Wednesday, March 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.

Ministry of Family Healing

Your Faith is all it takes, and you can walk on water too!

Troubles may surround us, pull us down, but Jesus calls us to step out in faith.

He tells us to come, He will fill us with courage, He tells us to fear not.

He says He will save us from lack of faith, so that we too can walk on water.



The Ministry of Family Healing is inviting you to a night of prayer and reflection on the courage it will take for us all to walk on water **Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center**. Please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option 3, to register. Please bring a friend and as always, food and fellowship to follow.

Baptisms



Aidan James Miller

Roy and Samantha

Christopher Joseph Anello, Jr.

Christopher and Phyllis

Lillian Kathryn Engle

Joshua and Elena

Kristina Marie Gambuzza

Anthony and Jeannine

Kyle Joseph Lopilato

Louis and Kimberly

Daniella Masciana

Daniel and Karina

Welcome

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

Minnie Dellmaria

Elaine DeMeo

Rita Petsch

Geraldine Reilly

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

Serving the Body of Christ-

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

What does it take to be an Extraordinary Minister?

- _ Participation in Sunday Eucharist
- _ Commitment to serve two or three times a month
- _ Attendance at a Diocesan Training and parish training
- _ Openness to bring Communion to the Sick

If you have other questions or are interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister, please contact Mrs. Mary J. Borgs of our Parish Liturgy Committee at 665.2928 or you can email to FrPat@ollchurch.org.

Please respond by March 14 to be registered in the upcoming Spring Diocesan Training Session.

New Translation

A new translation of the prayers we use at Mass will begin on the First Sunday of Advent 2011. This new translation is for English speaking countries and you can preview the new prayers by visiting the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

www.usccb.org/romanmissal

You will be receiving more information about this in The Long Island Catholic, our diocesan website, and on our parish website. Stay tuned.

Remembering...

Monday, February 28

8:00 AM Edward Cameron III

Tuesday, March 1

8:00 AM Thomas E. Dowling, and
Patrick McCarthy and
John Kelly

Wednesday, March 2

8:00 AM John Lovari

Thursday, March 3

Saint Katharine Drexel, virgin

8:00 AM Hazel Ann Ashley

Friday, March 4

Saint Casimir

8:00 AM Grace Accardi (*2nd Anniversary*)

Saturday, March 5

8:00 AM Ross Goldin (*1st Anniversary*), Bill Best,
John & Mamie Carbone, Gloria Gorski,
Joseph Netska, Anthony Vassallo

5:00 PM Josephine Sabella

Sunday, March 6

8:00 AM John & Margaret Kopitsch

9:30 AM Rose Monroe

11:00 AM Charlotte Sweeney

12:30 PM Irene Olsen

6:00 PM People of the Parish, June Murphy, George Brady,
Catherine Gerard, Richard Schmitt, Ronald Malone,
Helen Luckey, Domenick Murano, Charles Tibbetts,
Thomas Colleran, Anthony Valenti, Steffa Dziedzic



Rest In Peace

Thomas Monks died on January 27 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 31 at St. Hugh of Lincoln Church, Huntington. We extend our prayers to his sister, Pat Wissing, and entire family.

Salvatoe LoVerde died on February 13 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 17. We extend our prayers to his wife, Jean, children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Celebrating Sacraments



"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 February 19

Our campaign to Renew our Spiritual Home is well underway now and you will be hearing more information soon.

We are now in the process of putting together our fund raising booklet and materials. On the project side, now that we know what our fixtures should be like we are meeting with lighting engineers to design lighting for our sanctuary, tabernacle, ambo, baptism font, and narthex!

We are also gathering information on the proper controls and new wiring to support these improvements.

Please stay tuned for more information!

Fr. Mike

OLL Week-at-a-Glance

Week of	Church	Parish Center	Spiritual Life Center
Monday February 28	8 AM Mass after 8 AM Mass Miraculous Medal Novena	12:30 PM Senior Circle	7:30 PM C.H.A.P.S. Bereavement SLC 8 PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH
Tuesday March 1	8 AM Mass 7:30 PM Cantor Rehearsal	9 AM SAGE 7:30 PM <i>Naked Now</i> SLC	7:30 PM Campaign 2011 8 PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH
Wednesday March 2	8 AM Mass 7:30 PM Women's Chorale	10 AM PEP 1 Parent Meeting 7:30 PM PEP 1 Parent Meeting	10 AM AIAnon LH 7 PM Liturgy Meeting LH
Thursday March 3	8 AM Mass 1:30 PM Prayer for Divine Mercy 5 PM Youth Choir 7 PM Adult Choir	7 PM Ministry of Family Healing	6 PM RCIA SLC
Friday March 4	8 AM Mass 4:30 PM PEP Activity	4:30 PM PEP Activity	
Saturday March 5	8 AM Mass 4-4:45 PM Confessions 5 PM Mass 6 PM Nocturnal Adoration		2 PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH 7 PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH
Sunday March 6	8 AM Mass 9:30 AM Mass-CLTW 11 AM Mass, 12:30 PM Mass 6 PM Mass Contemporary		11 AM RCIA



©LPi

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

It has been a difficult couple of years for many because of the downturn in the economy. People have lost their jobs, their savings, and their homes. The recovery has been very slow. Stories about people employing a variety of strategies to survive are regular fare on local news broadcasts and in the newspaper. The effects have been felt across the economic spectrum. Even with a variety of government relief efforts (stimulus spending, extended unemployment benefits, etc.) households are suffering. The questions posed in today's Gospel, "What are we to eat?" "What are we to drink?" "What are we to wear?" are very real ones for a large group of the distressed populace.

St. Francis loved this passage from Matthew's Gospel that we read today. His absolute trust in God led him to strip off his clothing in the city square of Assisi and renounce all his possessions. As a beggar, he went out and founded a community of brothers whose hallmark was that they would own nothing. But even Francis' charismatic interpretation of the Gospel ended up being modified by reality. Franciscans needed places to stay and food to eat. One can't survive by shedding all of one's clothes in a North American winter!

So what do we do with today's Gospel about the lilies of the field that neither work nor spin and yet are more beautiful than all Solomon's splendor? Is Jesus spinning a fairytale with no real world meaning? That is certainly one way to look at the text: that the simple words of the Bible just cannot apply to the complicated economics of the modern day. But another interpretation may also have merit. These difficult times could be the invitation we need to trust in God even more-whether we are personally suffering or whether we feel secure. The temptation to despair may be great. The call to hope, even in darkness, comes from God.

2010 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of February 27, 2011

Sunday:	Is 49:14-15/1 Cor 4:1-5/Mt 6:24-34
Monday:	Sir 17:20-24/Mk 10:17-27
Tuesday:	Sir 35:1-12/Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday:	Sir 36:1, 4-5a, 10-17/Mk 10:32-45
Thursday:	Sir 42:15-25/Mk 10:46-52
Friday:	Sir 44:1, 9-13/Mk 11:11-26
Saturday:	Sir 51:12c-20/Mk 11:27-33
Next Sunday:	Dt 11:18, 26-28, 32/Rom 3:21-25, 28/Mt 7:21-27

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 ...

Giovanni Andriola, Susan Aviza, Antoinette Baier, Deacon Dick Barry, Viola Callanan, Edith Caputo, Nicole Cerny, Grace Ciccarello, Katherine Colleran, Edward Cronin, Beverly DeCanio, Jeanne DellaRagione, Tony Drexler, Debbie Eichen, Jerry Fabozzi, Jake Feldman, Mike Gaffney, Winifred Hanrahan, Kathleen Kerrigan, Marty Kerrigan, Robyn Kerrigan, Frank Larkin, Eric Lee, Ann Losee, Louise Malcuit, Jerome Marino, John McNevin, Vincent Meade, Jerry Mirabella, Frances Miranda, Julio Miranda, John Mordente, Ruth Murray, Evelyn Nonnon, Philomena Owens, Karen Parpounas, Gertrude Parine, Dorothy Proctor, Joe Radosti, Mary Rizzo, Dennis Ryan, Dorothy Schiavone, AnnMarie Schiraldi, Brian Schweibert, Baby Isabella Shaw, Derek Stahl, Lindsay Stahl, Patrick Tardo, Paul Trupia, Nancy Turano, Joe Yezek

Financial Summary

February 20, 2011

Weekly Collection	\$ 17,454.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (1,546.00)

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 Cochrane-US Marines
Bryan R. Dempsey-US Marines
Christopher Florea-US Marines
Cari Kelly- US Air Force
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.

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.



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!)



“Reach Out” Program

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

Ronald Reagan

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.

Taking Pain to the Heart

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Writing in his journal during a time of bitter heartbreak, Henri Nouwen wrote these words:

The great challenge is living your wounds through instead of thinking them through. It is better to cry than to worry, better to feel your wounds than to understand them, better to let them enter into your silence than to talk about them. The choice you face constantly is whether you are taking your wounds to your head or your heart.

Part of us understands exactly what he is saying here, even as another part of us congenitally resists his advice: There's a place in us that doesn't want to cry, doesn't want to feel our hurt, doesn't want to take our pain to a place of silence, and doesn't want to take our wounds to our heart. And so instead, in our heartaches and wounds, we grow anxious and obsessive, we struggle to understand, we talk endlessly to others, and we try to sort things out with our heads rather than letting ourselves simply feel them with our hearts.

And that isn't always a bad thing. Nouwen's counsel, for all its wisdom, needs some qualification: It is important that we also take our wounds to our heads. Our hearts and heads need to be in sync. But what Nouwen points to here is something that he, a man blessed with an extraordinary sensitivity to the things of the heart, learned only through crushing heartache and breakdown, namely, that we more easily take things to the head than to the heart, even when we think we aren't doing this.

The way we take pain to our heads and block healing tears in our hearts is by denial, by rationalization, by blaming, by not simply and honestly admitting and owning our own pain, our own helplessness, our own weakness, and our own inadequacy.

And we all have plenty of occasions to do this: The more alive and sensitive we are the more we will experience excruciating heartaches. The more honest we are the more we will be aware of our own limits and inadequacies. And the more generous and pure we are the more we will be aware of our own sin and betrayals. And so Nouwen's counsel contains a healthy challenge: When we are brought to our knees by heartache and pain, we shouldn't try to deny that pain, deny its bitter strength, or deny our helplessness in dealing with it. To do so is to

risk becoming hard and bitter. But if we give our deep pains and heartaches their honest due they will induce the kind of tears that soften and stretch the heart. It is helpful to remember that tears are salt-water, of one substance with the waters of the original oceans from which we sprung. Tears connect us to our origins and allow the primal water of life to again flow through us.

Moreover, when we take our pain to our hearts, when we honestly admit our weaknesses and helplessness, God can finally begin to fill us with strength. Why? Because it is only when we are brought to our knees in utter helplessness, only when we finally give up on our own strength, that God can send an angel to strengthen us, like God send an angel to strengthen Jesus during his agony in the garden.

One night, some months before his death, Martin Luther King received a death-threat on the phone. It had happened before but, on this particular night, it left him frightened and weakened to the core. All his fears came down on him at once. Here are his words as to what happened next:

I got out of bed and began to walk the floor. Finally I went to the kitchen and heated a pot of coffee. I was ready to give up. With my cup of coffee sitting untouched before me, I tried to think of a way to move out of the picture without appearing a coward. In this state of exhaustion, when my courage had all but gone, I decided to take my problem to God. With my head in my hands, I bowed over the kitchen table and prayed aloud. The words I spoke to God that midnight are still vivid in my memory.

"I am here taking a stand for what I believe is right. But now I am afraid. The people are looking to me for leadership and if stand before them without strength and courage, they too will falter. I am at the end of my powers. I have nothing left. I have come to the point where I can't face it alone." At that moment I experienced the presence of the Divine as I had never experienced Him before.

It is only after the desert has done its work on us, says Trevor Herriot, that an angel can come and strengthen us. That is why it is better to feel our wounds than to understand them and why it is better to cry than to worry.

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.

Good Samaritan Hospital Needs You!

Good Samaritan invites Eucharistic Ministers to bring Communion to patients in our hospital. The days of greatest need are Wednesdays and Sundays. The gift of your presence once a week or once a month would mean a great deal to our Catholic patients. If interested, please call 631.376.4103.

Peer Support Group

St Mary's Parish Social Ministry offers an 8 week peer support group for children (ages K – through 8th grade) and their parents who are coping with the effects of separation and divorce in their families.

This program begins on **Tuesdays, March 1st from 6:30 – 7:30 PM** and registration is required for all new participants. No walk-ins will be accepted!

For additional information and/or registration, please contact the Parish Social Ministry Office @ (631) 581-7070, x-129 *as soon as possible*.

The Beginning Experience

Help for the heartache of divorce, separation, and widowhood.

A weekend away for a lifetime of change. **The next weekend is March 4-6, at the Montfort Spiritual Center in Bay Shore.**

For information and reservations, call John at 516.822.0635, Jim at 718.474.3779, or Karen at 201.736.8200.

Volunteers needed for Annual HEC #27 Weekend

Handicapped Encounter Christ (HEC) is in need of volunteers for its annual retreat which will be held **Thursday, April 28 through Sunday, May 1 at Camp Alvernia in Centerport, NY.**

HEC is a retreat weekend for persons 18 years and older with special needs. Each candidate has a team member with them throughout the weekend. It is a prayerful experience of song, talks, sharing, Eucharist and many other joyful moments.

There are many roles to be filled. We are in need of team members, kitchen help, setting up and taking down the camp, as well as drivers or our candidates.

If interested, or you have any questions, please call Deacon Frank & Michele Barone at 516.420.1207 or email at Mrbarone@verizon.net.

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.

Golden Wedding Anniversary

On Sunday, April 3, 2011, couples married 50 years or more are invited to a special Mass to be celebrated by Bishop William Murphy at **St. Lawrence the Martyr in Sayville at 2:30 PM.**

Please pick up your registration card at the Parish Office, fill it out and return it to the Parish Office *no later than March 17.* Approximately one week before the ceremony, information regarding the day will be mailed to you. If you have any questions, you may call 516.678.5800, extension 583.

Writings of St. Paul

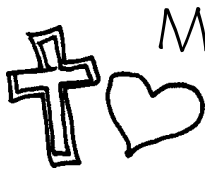
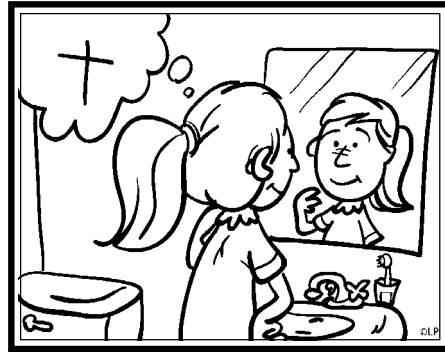
This four week course develops four themes Fr. James McNamara identified while on sabbatical, studying the writings of St. Paul. -Paul's Personal Journey -Justification through Faith -Eschatology (The end times and eternal Life) -Church. Each evening will consist of a presentation followed by a question and answer segment. The course will be held, **Tuesdays, March 29, April 5, 12 and 19 at St. Joseph's Church, Babylon from 8 PM until 9:30 PM.** The course is offered free of charge, but you must RSVP to reserve your seat. Please contact Jane at 669.0068, extension 159 or email stewardship@stjosephsbabylon.org.

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 "**Forgiveness.**" 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 Channel 29/137 or Verizon FIOS 296 for the Best in Catholic Television!

Sharing the Gospel

God wants you to have clothes to wear. He wants you to have food to eat, too. But God does not want you to waste time worrying about your food or clothes. "Put God's work first in your mind. Learn what God wants you to do. Be kind. Be helpful. God will take care of you.



Mission for the Week

Spend time together with your family reading a Bible story book.

Puzzle

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

serve	worry	faith
God	food	heaven
money	clothes	first

srvee	<u>s</u> <u>e</u> <u>r</u> <u>v</u> <u>e</u>
fodo	_____
hevnea	_____
Gdo	_____
clestho	_____
frits	_____
wroyr	_____
fahit	_____
meyon	_____

Prayer



God,
help me to trust
that you will give me
what I need.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of
three flowers and
birds that God
takes care of.