"THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO BREAKING BREAD IN THEIR HOMES."

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
OUR LADY OF LOURDES • MAY 1, 2011
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.

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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.

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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 McMahon
Director of Parish Social Ministry
Robin Reynolds-Brennan
Director of Music and Worship
Vita Scorcia
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 Scorcia
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
As members of the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish family, we are faced with a challenge that only together can be overcome. The projects which are planned for the restoration and renovation of the Parish are important to each and every member of the Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes. It is only by our generosity and reflection for a sacrificial commitment that we will be able to accomplish our objectives. Through the sacrifice and commitment of generosity of those who have come before us, we have been blessed with the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes. Now, in order to build upon the gifts of our predecessors, it is our desire to accomplish the following projects:

**Church Lighting and Electric System**
- Our Church is presently inadequately lit. The lighting must be replaced so that our parish community can worship in an appropriately lit space.
- The electrical system needs to be replace to support the new lighting system in a cost effective easily managed way.

**Narthex Entrance and Church Doors**
- We will restyle our existing entrance to reflect the welcoming spirit of our parish. This will provide an entrance which is attractive, clearly marked, and dignified.
- Our Church doors have served us well over the years and now are in need of replacement.

**Church Pews, Kneelers, and Chairs**
- After twenty-five years of dedicated service, it is time to replace our worn out and broken pews, kneelers, and chairs.

**Parish Center**
- From top to bottom, the Parish Center needs to be refurbished, including: painting, carpeting, cabinets, chairs, and tile.
- The present air conditioning/heating units are twenty-five years old and can no longer be cost effectively repaired. They need to be replaced.
- It is necessary to relocate a central drain which runs through the PC and is prone to untimely and unpleasant backups.

**Parish Grounds**
- Many of our curbs and sidewalks are crumbling and need to be replaced.
- We have many damaged lighting fixtures in the parking lot which require replacement.
- Needed repairs, which will prevent further damage must be made. Following the repairs, the parking lot will be resealed and relined.

**Rectory Office**
- Upgrading the existing Rectory entrance by providing an entrance that is clearly recognizable and accessible, better serving the needs of our parishioners.
- a new grotto dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes would mark the entrance to our Rectory welcoming all to our parish.

Two weeks left to make your pledge!
Thank you to the following parishioners who have made their pledge of sacrifice to our Capital Campaign. Our campaign is off and running, however, we can only meet our goal through the participation of the entire parish. Over the course of the next few months you will be hearing more about our Capital Campaign.

**This listing is updated as of the morning of Wednesday, April 27.** (Should there be any discrepancies, or if you do not wish to have your name listed, please note it on your pledge card or call the Parish Office at 661.3224.)

| Anonymous (31) | Roberto and Susanna Bouza | Gloria and Lawrence Cuzzi |
| Mike and Margaret Abizeid | Ronald & Anita Bova | JoAnn D’Angelo |
| Diane Ackerly | James and Patricia Bowers | Dom and Laura D’Achille |
| Salomon and Arlene Acosta | Peter and Mary Boyle | Paula Dannhauser |
| Florence Adinolfi | Frank and Diane Bronkhurst | Richard and Cathleen Danowski |
| Tom and Peg Ahern | Pietro and Elena Bruno | Lee & Liz DaSilva & Family |
| Joseph Albanese | Helen Bukowski | Davidson Family |
| Ray and Patricia Alicea | Michelle Buonincontri | Charles and Lynn Dean |
| John and matilda Allocca | Warren Busching | Peter and Sadie DeBlasi |
| Paul and Mary Alotta | Butler and Dare Families | Beverly DeCanio |
| Philip and Concetta Ambrosino | Josephine Catozzo | Deacon John and Anne DeGuardi |
| Jon and Cathy Anne Amdur | Pedro and Michele Calves | John and Elizabeth Delaney |
| Nancy Anderson | Douglas and Doris Cameron | Jamie and Janice DelColle |
| Giovanni and Christina Andriola | Ronald and Rose Marie Campisi | Kristina DeLeon |
| William and Frances Angeloro | Loretta Cannon | Luis and Sylvia DeLeon |
| Francis and Lynn Marie Antonovich | Donald and Lisa Cantalino | Nilo and Estrellita DeLeon |
| Frank and Tina Aparo | Barry and Mary Caputo | Margaret DeLuca |
| Charles Argento | Joe and Angie Carpenter | Yolanda DeMilo |
| Louis and Barbara Argento | Michael and Eleanor Carrano | Pedro and Lordes DeRoxas |
| Frank and Evelyn Arena | Eugene and Eileen Carroll | Mark and Elizabeth DeSantis |
| Linda Azato | Francisco Castiller | Richard and Phyllis Devilla |
| Catherine Badalamenti | Susan Castonguay | Lillian Devlin |
| Gregory and Stacie Baltrusitis | Kenneth and Marcy Chapuisat | Patricia AnnDevlin |
| Thomas and Joanne Barraga | Paul Charbonneau | Stephen and Helen Diamond |
| Richard and Marilyn Barthel | Vincent and Marie Cirone | Andrew and Dorothy DiBlasi |
| Anne Basso | Carole Civile – Timothy Keegan | Phyllis Diesio |
| Mary Jane Beck | Lawrence and Phyllis Clyde | Dominick and Elaine DiPietranantonio |
| Thomas and Regina Beisner | Philip and Gloria Colletti | Jim and Jean Dobson |
| Larry and ProviAnn Bennett | Patrick and Dorothy Collins | John and Elisabeth Dolan |
| Robert Bennett & Geralyn Athenas | Anthony and Angela Conti | Gladys Donat |
| Barbara Bertine | Gregg and Barbara Corrigan | Kathryn Donat & Karen Lonergan |
| Bonnie Bisson | Richard and Carolyn Criscuolo | Kevina and Lisa Donohue |
| John and Janice Bochicchio | Edward and Angela Critchley | Donald Dunne |
| Donald and Ellen Bolin | Patrick and Joan Crowley | Charles and Vilma Ecker |
| Anne Bolin | Michael and Debbie Cuniglio | Franklin and Paula Edwards |
| Sylvester Bonacci | Clarence and Mary Cunningham | Jerry Esposito |
| William & Josephine Bonsignore | Lawrence and Eileen Curreri | Louis and Virginia Esposito |
| Mary Borgs | Francis Curry | William and Lynn Ann Estelle |
| Borsilli Family | Pat and Marie Cuttonaro | Marc and Marie Eugene |

Two weeks left to make your pledge!
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<th>Name</th>
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Vol. 7
Mary Meyer
Paul Mezzacappa
Jeffrey and Andrea Miller
Elaine Missack
Angela Montesanto
Angela Moore
Dennis and Ann Marie Morgan
Martin and Laureen Moses
Mugavero Family
Philip Muhr
John and Christine Muldoon
John and Bernadette Mullins
Frank Munafò
Paul and Diane Munch
Kevin and Lisa Murphy
William and Sarah Murphy
Zhigniew and Anna Musial
Andrew and Margaret Nangano
Deborah and Edward Nikl
John and Maria Ninivaggi
James O'Brien & Evelyn Wessels
Kenneth and Grace O'Connor
Joseph T. O'Dea
Beatrice O'Hara
Robert and Adele O'Shea
Josephine O'Malley
Eugene P. Olsen
Robert and Maureen Olsen
Adam and Carey Okurowski
Raymond Okurowski
Steven and Margaret Okurowski
Robert PalumboGerard and
Antoinette Panebianco
Nicholas and Donna Papocchia
David and Carolyn Paprocky
Frank and Gloria Parrinello
Andreq and Karen Pellicane
Dorothy Perdue
Bob and Joyce Petersen
Robert and Lorraine Petito
Thomas and Barbara Petrizze
Ralph and Rosanne Perone
Vincent and Anne Pizzonia
George and Ann Poletti
Michael and Lois Anne Popp
Nannette Proscia
Josephine Prygocki
George and Joan Puchta
Paul and Michelle Quigley
Jill Radesky
John Radosti
Robert and Patricia Raimondi
Vincent Rainone
Ralph and Dolores Rapecis
James and Teresa Reilly
William and Maureen Reilly
Robert and June Reutlinger
Joseph and Catherine Roccaro
Anthony and Geraldine Ricciotti
Marie Ricigliano
Thomas and Marie Robinson
Mark Rodriguez
Melissa Rogan
Lorraine Romanello
Peter and Elaine Romeo
Paul and Jeannette Rudolph
Domenica Ruocco
John and Terri Ryan
Georgia Sabatino
Theresa Saldiveri
Robert and Antonia Salomone
Tom Sammut
William and Veronica Schaefer
Victor Schaller
Norman and Diane Schlosser
Margaret Schreiner
Marion Schreiner
Raymond and Lila Schmitt
Ted and Vita Scorzia
William and Elizabeth Seward
Pasquale and Anna Sgambati
Lorraine Shillitto
Rose Small
Corazon Smith
Eileen Smith
Sparby Family
Mark and Barbara Spencer
John and Mary Doreen Spiller
Mary Steck
John and Phyllis Stehling
Jim and Louise Stephenson
Jean Stoltenborg
Donald and Dorothy Sullivan
Doris Sullivan
John and Kathleen Sullivan
Loretta Sullivan and Lyn Marczyk
John and Margaret Sureau
April 30/May 1
Eileen Symmons and Roy Ippolito
John and Maryann Tammaro
Timothy and Christine Tamney
Carmine and Connie Telesca
Mary Agnes Templeton
Joe and Donna Tessitore
Deacon Jack and Betty Teufel
William and Claire Thomson
James and Diana Tobin
Christopher Toy and Marilyn Duffy
Pat and Theresa Tracey
Traynor Family
Joan Troiano
Steven and Diane Troiano
Ralph and Margaret Turri
Donald, Nancy,Deirdre & Chris Twoney
Rosemary Van Acker
Mark and Rita Vandenbarg
Michael and Dolores DellaVecchia
Vincent and Elizabeth Vela
Salvatore and Anna Veneziano
Rev. Michael Vetran
Barbara Vianmonte
Joseph and Elvera Vieni
Henry and Patricia Villafana
Thomas and Karen Volk
Ralph Votta
Karen Walker
Neil and Jeanne Weingarten
Rosemary Wells
George and Rosalie West
Ted and Carolyn White
Rose Marie Wiley
Ralph and Patricia Wilkinson
Wilma Willis
Margaret (Peg) Wilson
Marie Wilson
Paul and Jacqueline Wilson
Harold and Patricia Wissing
Janusz and Alicja Wlodkowski
Robert and Donna-Marie Wolley
Robert and Doreen Yagarich
William and Patricia Young
Robert Zahir
John and Leslie Zimmerly
Brian and Patrice Zitani
Joseph and Cecelia Zito
Ida Zocchia
#439•Our Lady of Lourdes•7
Religious Education

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

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

Sponsor/Candidate Enrollment Sunday
Sunday, May 15
6 PM Mass
All seventh graders in our Parish Family choose a Sponsor in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please come and join with all the seventh graders of our parish, their families and their newly chosen Sponsor, as we celebrate this commitment. They look to their Parish Family for prayers and support on their faith journey.

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

“Rescue Closing”
Sunday, May 22
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…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 20</td>
<td>7:30 PM - 9:30 PM</td>
<td>Parish Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, June 10</td>
<td>7:30 PM - 9:30 PM</td>
<td>Parish Center</td>
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Don’t forget…there’s something for everyone!
All 6th / 7th / 8th graders of our Parish Family- come play volleyball, basketball.
We have Guitar Hero 2, free raffles, music and more. DON’T MISS IT!

also…

Grades 9/10/11/12
ALL ARE WELCOME! Be a part of the Team. High School leaders help with set-up, participating in activities, refreshments, clean-up, etc... and assist Adult Chaperones. For more information, call 661.5440, option 3 or email religioused@ollchurch.org.

Reminder...

Important Confirmation Meeting
For all Eighth Grade Parents in OLL Parish Family -

Wednesday, May 18 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center
or
Thursday, May 19 at 10 AM in the Parish Center
or
Thursday, May 19 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center

Did you know?
You can go to “eChalk” at www.ollreled.org to link and follow your “own” grade to find new and exciting activities, important parent info, and view our OLL Religious Education Calendar.
A Step Toward Priesthood  
*John Sureau to be ordained a Deacon*

On Saturday May 21, John Sureau will be ordained to the diaconate – an important step on the journey to priesthood. John will be with us to assist in and preach at his **first Mass as a Deacon on Sunday, May 22 at 11 AM.**

The Mass will be followed by a celebration in the Fr. Joe Garden.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

This weekend Fr. Mike and Deacon John Deguardi are in the Holy Land with 30 members of our parish family. Share their journey and experiences on our website or just go to [www.ollchurch.org/holyland](http://www.ollchurch.org/holyland)

You can also join Fr. Mike on May 17 to hear about this journey and see pictures from the pilgrimage.

Divine Mercy Sunday

*“Jesus, we trust in You!”*

Our parish will be celebrating the feast of **Divine Mercy on Sunday, May 1.** This feast offers us an opportunity to reflect on the Lord’s mercy, love, and compassion. Our celebration will begin at the 12:30 PM Mass. Following Mass, all are encouraged and invited to participate in the opportunities offered to: pray, reflect, adore, and reconcile themselves with the Lord on this great feast. Here are the activities planned for this day:

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

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

OLL School Plant Sales

**Mother’s Day Weekend after Mass on Sunday, May 8.**

Get a blooming gift for Mom for Mother's Day. We will have beautiful blooming hanging baskets and plants available for purchase.

**OLL School Spring Annuals & Veggies Plant Sale**

Preorder form at [www.ollschoo](http://www.ollschoo).org- “In The Backpack”. Orders are due Tuesday, May 17 in the school office. Pick up will be Saturday, May 21 from 1 - 4 PM. If you have any questions, contact Bronwen at bsessa@ollschoo.org
Nocturnal Adoration
Nocturnal Adoration will follow the 5 PM Mass on Saturday, May 7, concluding with Benediction at 9:50 PM. Please come and pray with us. All are invited and welcome! Bring a friend.

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

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.

Rosary Christian Mothers
The Rosary Christian Mothers meet on the first Monday evening of each month. The next meeting will be Monday, May 2. We will begin with Rosary at 7:45 PM in the Spiritual Life Center followed by meeting at 8 PM, also in the Spiritual Life Center.

SAGE
The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on Tuesday, May 3 in the Parish Center at 9 AM.
A Journey in the Footsteps of Jesus
The Holy Land through the pictures of Fr. Mike
Tuesday, May 17
7:30 PM
Parish Center
Presenter: Fr. Mike Vetrano

On April 25, thirty parishioners of OLL are making a journey to the Holy Land with Fr. Mike and Deacon John DeGuardi. They will be visiting many of the sites we hear of in the Gospels each week—the Mount of the Beatitudes, the Sea of Galilee, the Garden of Gethsemane, and many famous churches erected in the places which celebrate important events in Jesus life. Fr. Mike will be sharing this journey with us through pictures and stories of this first OLL Pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

The Work of the Holy Spirit
Tuesdays, May 3 and May 10
7:30 PM
Parish Center
Presenter: Fr. Bob Scheckenback

“Fill the Hearts of the faithful; enkindle in them the fire of your love”
There are 50 days between Easter and Pentecost; Called the Mystagogia. What do we expect to happen? Come learn about the work of the Spirit. What is Pentecost? Confirmation? Who is this third person of the Trinity? Two nights to look at different aspects of the Holy Spirit, and how that Spirit works in your life.

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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Bring your prayer and creativity together in a gift of love.
Join us ...
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. Please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option 3, for upcoming dates.
Baptisms

Kaylee Jeanne Davies
   Daniel and Denise
Isabella Hokulani Heckmann
   John and Shana
Kolton John Heyman
   Keith and Kelly
Madeline Chase Rauh
   John and Kristine
Gavin James Sandoval
   Jorge and Sue
Avery Elizabeth Sofia
   Michael and Jennifer

Rest In Peace

Frank E. Keppeler, Jr. died on April 10 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was April 15. We extend our prayers to his daughter, Kristina, grandchildren, and entire family.

Lucile Murphy died on April 13 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was April 16. We extend our prayers to her son, Russell, and entire family.

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.
Remembering...

Monday, May 2  
*St. Athanasius, bishop and doctor of the Church*  
8:00 AM  Vito Mastrorocco

Tuesday, May 3  
*Saint Philip and Saint James, apostles*  
8:00 AM  John Lovari

Wednesday, May 4  
8:00 AM  Charles Abela

Thursday, May 5  
8:00 AM  Robert Vint, Sr.

Friday, May 6  
8:00 AM  Patrick Greene

Saturday, May 7  
8:00 AM  Nicholas Kremenec, Mateo Petrera, Deacon Dick Barry, Tommy Karlic, Robert C. Burke, Jr., Alyssa Aquafredda, Steven Daunt
5:00 PM  Nicholas Cibelli  
*Fr. Pat Amabile*

Sunday, May 8  
8:00 AM  Anthony & Mary Sabala  
*Fr. Mike Vetrano*
9:30 AM  Louise Riedemann & Sadie Melchione  
*Fr.*
11:00 AM  Theresa Reardon  
*Fr. Mike Vetrano*
12:30 PM  Frances Torina  
*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*
6:00 PM  People of the Parish, Patricia Beyerbach, Salvatore LoVerde, Dorothy Simmons, Gertrude Parine, Catherine Ward, Catherine Russo, Barbara Arnold, Lucy Feriod, Gemma M. Hall  
*Fr. Pat Amabile*
2nd Sunday of Easter

It is pretty likely that while growing up many of us knew a set of twins. In North America roughly one out of every eighty live births is a set of twins. And we are familiar with the similarities and differences between identical and fraternal twins. Social scientists and medical researchers love to study twins because they can ferret out key data with fewer variables that need explanation. What is often most intriguing to researchers is the parallelism that may occur in following a set of twins until a certain event or experience sets the individuals off on different paths.

Twin studies have proved valuable over the years in areas such as drug dependence, learning disabilities, geriatric medicine, and depression.

We may miss it in the reading of today's Gospel, but Thomas, the protagonist of the story, is a twin. The Greek word "Didymus" and the Aramaic "Thomas" both mean twin. So where is the other half? We are never introduced to Thomas' brother (or sister for that matter) in John's Gospel. Did he (or she) die? Was he (or she) a follower of Jesus? The fact is, we just don't know.

What is clear in the Thomas story is that the appearance of Jesus after his resurrection shows the two faces of believers, categories that are a matched set just like a pair of twins. There are the believers who have seen the risen Lord: Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter and the rest of the Twelve, and of course, Thomas. And then, like Thomas' unknown twin, there are all the rest of the believers who have never seen the risen Lord. We, and every generation of Christians since the apostles, fall into that group. We have not seen, but we still believe. And, according to Jesus, we are just as blessed and just as much a part of the family as those who have seen and touched the One who is risen from the dead.

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Come follow me and I will make you...

Fishers of Men

On Saturday, April 16, twenty men represented Our Lady of Lourdes at the Third Annual Catholic Men’s Conference, held at Holy Trinity High School, Hicksville. The most moving message of love, mercy, and forgiveness, was delivered by Deacon Frank Bice and Det. Steven McDonald. Deacon Frank Bice of St. Mary’s, Manhasset, became paralyzed as a result of an injury while playing for Siena College in 1980—which began a journey towards religious life and he has become an inspiring speaker and dedicated Deacon. Steven McDonald is the most seriously injured NYPD officer to have survived his injuries. a parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes, Malverne, he has become one of the world’s most inspirational voices of hope and forgiveness. Together, both in wheelchairs, they delivered messages of hope, that no matter what difficulty you may experience, Our Lord is sure to be walking right along side of you.

Then we were treated to a grassroots type talk from the director of Grassroots Films, Joe Campo. Joe is also the director of St. Francis House, Brooklyn, where young men who are looking for a fresh start in life, may come to call St. Francis House their home. Grassroots Films produced the film, “The Human Experience” a great film that I’ve seen at work, with my family, and will be showing to the Men’s Prayer Groups.

Bishop Murphy’s homily was upbeat, talking about the upcoming beatification of Pope John Paul II, reminding me of his famous talk that started out, “Do no be afraid…”, which I had posted on my door to my counselling office at St. Anthony’s High School. The Bishop spoke of Ezekiel’s drybones prophesy that is all around us today— “No Spirit.” But we here, on the other hand, he said, have left our nets and have come to follow Him today and to live the Gospel. He closed his homily with the call to “Open your hearts, come follow me, bring my message of life to others,” and promising us with “I will be with you always, even until the end of time.”

The Holy Trinity High School chorus was awesome, singing “Your Amazing Love—to die for me—I honor you Jesus, you are my King, it’s my joy to honor you—in all I do.”

After lunch, jawboning with the guys, we were back to the conference where the panel spoke to the fact that if there isn’t a Men’s Group in your parish, go find it elsewhere. That made us feel pretty good about having a successful group, now almost three years old, and a new one at night, just getting started.

Brian Caulfield, from the Knights of Columbus, plugged confession, saying, the most important words we’ll hear today will be “I absolve you of your sins.” His topic covered the three themes or principles of the Knights of Columbus-charity, unity and brotherhood. Charity—love, not just those I know, but those I don’t, Unity—universal—all faiths are the Body of Christ, and Brotherhood—into action-serving others—bring it home—and we did.

Respectfully,

Jack Fitzgerald
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 Florca- 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.
Altar Society
Altar linens this week will be cared for by Angela MacDermott. 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...
Forgiving Our Differences
by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

In her first volume of her autobiography, Under My Skin, Doris Lessing, shares this story: During her marriage to Gottfried Lessing, it became evident to both of them at a point that they were simply incompatible as a married couple and that they would eventually have to seek a divorce. However, for practical reasons, they decided to live together, as friends, until they could both move to England, at which time they would file for a divorce. Their marriage was finished but unexpectedly their friendship began to grow. They had accepted their incompatibility as a fact and as something that didn't call for resentment from either of them. Why be angry at someone just because she feels and thinks differently than we do?

One night, lying in their separate beds in the same room, both smoking and unable to sleep, Gottfried said to her: This kind of incompatibility is more of a misfortune than a crime. That's a mature insight: It's not a crime or a sin to be incompatible, it's only unfortunate.

Would that in our daily lives we could appropriate that truth because there is an important emotional, intellectual, moral, and religious challenge contained in it. We spend too much time and energy angry and frustrated with each other over something that basically we cannot control or change. Our differences, however much they may frustrate us and tax our patience at times, are not a crime, a sin, or indeed (most times) even anyone's fault. We don't need to blame someone, be angry at someone, or resent someone because he or she is different than we are, no matter how much those differences separate us, frustrate us, and try our patience and understanding.

We shouldn't blame and resent each other for being different. Yet that is what we invariably do. We resent others, especially those closest to us in our families, in our churches, and in our places of work, because they are different than we are, as if they were to blame for those differences. Funny, how we rarely reverse that and blame ourselves. But generally we blame someone or something. Incompatibility within families, church circles, and professional circles, rarely helps produce respect and friendship, as it did between Gottfried and Doris Lessing. The opposite is true. Our differences generally become a source of division, anger, resentment, bitterness, and recrimination. We positively blame the other person for the incompatibility as if it was a moral fault or a willful separation.

Of course, sometimes, that can be the case. Infidelity or even simple laziness and lack of effort in a relationship can also eat away at harmony and insert insurmountable obstacles to understanding and compatibility. An affair with someone who isn't your partner can help trigger incompatibility in a marriage pretty quickly. In such a case, it wouldn't be as true to say: "This is just a misfortune." There is someone to blame. However most of the differences that separate us are, in the words of Gottfried Lessing, mostly just a misfortune, not a crime.

Who is to blame? Who's at fault? If anyone is to be blamed, let's blame nature and God.

We can blame nature for its prodigal character, for its overwhelming abundance, for its staggering variety, for its billions of species, for its bewildering differences within the same species, and for its proclivity to give us novelty and color beyond imagination. We can also blame God for placing us in a universe whose magnitude, diversity, and complexity befuddles both the intellect and the imagination. Our universe is still growing both in size and in variation, with change as it's only constant.

God and nature, it would appear, do not believe in simplicity, uniformity, blandness, and sameness. We aren't born into this world off conveyor-belts like cars coming off a factory line. The infinite combination of accidents, circumstance, chance, and providence that conspire to make up our specific and individual DNA is too complex to ever be calculated or even concretely imagined.

But blame isn't the proper verb here, even if in our frustrations with our differences we feel that we need to blame someone. God and nature shouldn't be blamed for providing us with so much richness, for setting us into a world with so much color and variety, and for making our own personalities so deep and complex. How boring life would be if we weren't forever confronted with novelty, variety, and difference. How boring the world would be if everything were the same color, if all flowers were of one kind, and if all personalities were the same as ours. We would pay a high price for the easy peace and understanding that would come from that uniformity.

Gottfried Lessing was an agnostic and a Marxist, not an easy friend to Christianity. But we (who vow ourselves by our baptism to understanding, empathy, forgiveness, and peace-making) should be strongly and healthily challenged by his insight and understanding: It's not a sin or a crime to be incompatible, it's only unfortunate!

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.
Our Lady of Lourdes
27th Annual Golf Classic
Monday, July 18, 2011
Southward Ho Country Club
Bay Shore

So you know Father Mike was a hiker, an amateur photographer, and answered a higher calling, but did you know he once had a pilot’s license? Father Mike is this year’s Golf Outing Honoree for so many reasons. Keep reading the bulletin for more fascinating facts about our Pastor.

The Golf Committee is looking for more volunteers to help with our outing. For more information, please contact Golf Committee member Rich Maher at 661.5478 or Frank Antonawich at 587.7988.

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 lace.

(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!)

Discovery Summer Camp
Sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes
June 27 - August 5
9 AM - 5 PM
Monday - Friday

A full-time day camp program for students entering grades Pre-K - 7, beginning with an academic based morning and a fun-filled afternoon of sports. Choose from the four or six week program. Before/After Care and school provided lunch available for an additional fee. Registration now being accepted. For further information, or to register, please contact Lisa Kennedy, director at 631.587.7200, extension 101 or email to l kennedy@olls school.org.
Sharing the Gospel

The disciples must have been very surprised when they saw Jesus alive again. They got to see him, listen to him, and touch him. We don’t get to see “him like the disciples did after Easter. But Jesus calls us blessed when we believe in him. One day we’ll see him again in heaven.

Mission for the Week
Tell a friend why Jesus is special to you.

Puzzle
Copy the picture square by square.

Prayer
Jesus, I can hardly wait to see you in heaven.

Something to Draw
Draw a picture of Jesus smiling at you from heaven.