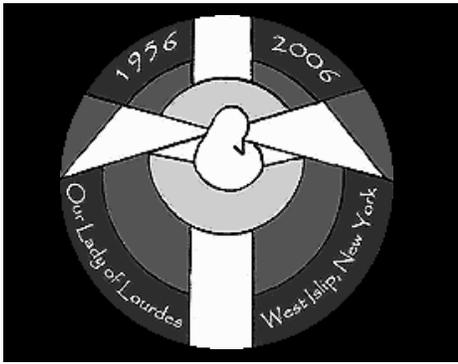


"LOOK THERE!"



***THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY
THE SIN OF THE WORLD."*** JOHN 1:29

***SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OUR LADY OF LOURDES • JANUARY 20, 2008***



Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano
Pastor

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.

Parish Office

661-3224

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Saturday: 9 AM - 3 PM

Sunday: 9 AM - 2 PM

email: ParishOffice@ollchurch.org

fax: 661-7143

website: www.ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes School

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: info@ollschool.org

Religious Education Office

661-5440

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon

1 PM - 5 PM

7 PM - 9 PM

email: ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org

Parish Outreach Office

661-9262

Monday-Friday: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

S.A.G.E.

661-3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth
and Enrichment)

email: Sage@ollchurch.org

Rev. Stanislaus Chukwube

Associate Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback

Associate Pastor

Deacon John DeGuardi

Deacon Jack Meehan

Coordinator of Stewardship

Deacon John Teufel

Dominic Armano

Youth Ministry

Sr. Margaret Bickar

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Sr. Nancy Campkin

Director of Religious Education

Jennifer Gallagher

Children's Choir/Women's Chorale

Summer Program Director

Carol M. Goetz

Parish Music Director

Louise Jane Krol

School Principal

Sr. Diane Liona

Director of Religious Education

Mary McMahon

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Vita Scorcio

Ministry Spiritual Director

John Sureau

Coordinator of Worship

Sr. Betty Toohig

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Anthony Trombino

Business Manager

Pastoral Council

Salomon Acosta

Stacie Baltrusitis

Jane Desthers

Stephen Frodell

William Hurley

Anne Kerrigan

Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)

Deacon Jack Meehan

Vita Scorcio

Doreen Spiller

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Marie Yuliano (*co-chair*)

Parish Staff

Barbara Catusco

Religious Education Office

Mary Anne Lettieri

Parish Office

Debbie Meyer

Bulletin /Parish Office

Rosemary Multer

School Office

Rex Muro

Organist

Rita Spera

Religious Education Office

Lori Walsh

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.*

*Our Lady
of Lourdes*

455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, New York 11795

**Mark your
calendar!**



“The “Directed Prayer Retreat” was an opportunity of learning, praying, and sharing with someone deeply moving spiritually.” -J

Directed Retreat Week

*All Are Welcome to our Third Annual Directed Retreat Week
...right here at OLL!*

Sunday, February 3–Saturday, February 9, 2008

St. Ignatius Retreat House offers the opportunity for the experience of the Directed Retreat to the people of a parish, in their parish surroundings... as they live out their daily lives.

“My experience during the “retreat” was the feeling of renewal. It was a time of reflection and examination of my experiences of faith during my faith life. My spiritual director was wonderful to speak to each day. I found the retreat has enriched my faith journey.” -L

Who can go?

This “Directed Retreat” is for you! Many people cannot go away for a week or a weekend to experience a directed retreat. This is a wonderful taste of what it is like to have spiritual direction and to be on retreat without leaving your home.

“Being part of the “retreat” was a gift I gave to Me - of special prayer time and personal reflection. I found this time to be nourishing, comforting and spiritually invigorating, bringing me to a deeper level of understanding of my faith, family and community.” -D

How does it work?

We will meet initially on Sunday afternoon at 2 PM at Our Lady of Lourdes. Our first meeting will last about one hour and you will meet your retreat director/prayer guide. The Prayer Guides are a group of spiritual directors, affiliated with St. Ignatius Retreat Center, Manhasset who have been trained in leading prayers and spiritual exercises in the tradition of St. Ignatius.

After this meeting, each retreatant will meet privately with his/her prayer guide at our parish for approximately one-half hour each day, Monday through Friday. During these meetings, the retreatant and prayer guide will reflect together and will examine different ways to pray, including meditation and praying with scripture. Each retreatant commits to set aside a half hour each day for a prayer period on a scripture passage. On Saturday morning at 9:30 AM, there will be a group closing session at Our Lady of Lourdes.

*Brochures containing applications are available at the Religious Education or Parish Office. **Registration deadline is Monday, January 28.** For more information, call the Religious Education Office at 661-5440 or email Religioused@ollchurch.org.*

Adult Faith Formation

Old Testament

Our History...Our Roots...

This five week journey will bring us back to our heritage. As Christians, our faith is deepened when we take this journey which brings us to the beginnings of our faith story.

How are we, as followers of Christ, rooted in the Old Testament scriptures? Come to know more about our roots and traditions through learning, prayer and sharing.

Tuesdays, January 22, 29, February 5, 2008

7:30-9:30 PM

Parish Center

Presenters are Fr. Bob Scheckenback and Deacon Kevin McCormick

Celebrating Life...

Beyond Breast Cancer

An evening to reflect on our journey through breast cancer. How have I been changed or healed physically, emotionally, spiritually?

Tuesday, February 12

7:30-9:30 PM

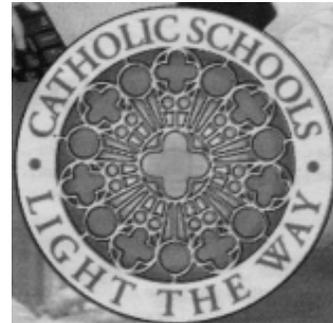
Parish Center

Presenters are Vita Scorcia, OLL Ministry Spiritual Director and Mary McMahon, Director of Parish Social Ministry

Pre-Registration is necessary and helpful. This will enable us to have enough reading material and refreshments for all those attending. Please call the Religious Education Office, Monday-Friday, between 9AM – 5 PM at 661.5440 x3, or e-mail to: religioused@ollchurch.org. Fee: \$25 [No fee is required for those who have paid the Religious Education Family Fee or Our Lady of Lourdes School Tuition. Fees may vary appropriately.]

Catholic Schools Week

Next Sunday, January 27 is the beginning of Catholic Schools Week, the annual celebration of Catholic schools and their contribution to their community and the nation. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools Light the Way," which highlights the mission of Catholic schools to provide a faith-based education that supports the whole child academically and spiritually and prepares students for future success.



Support Catholic Education

Catholic Schools are an important part of the educational mission here at OLL and throughout the diocese. Here are some opportunities for you to support Catholic Education...

January 26 / 27

Next weekend a collection for the support of Our Lady of Lourdes School will be taken. Your generosity in this collection goes directly to the support of our Catholic School.

Special Gifts — Classroom Angels

For a gift of \$1000 from a person or group, you can become a classroom angel for a whole year. Your name or a memorial inscription will be placed over the door of one of our classrooms as a reminder of your generous gift. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office at 661.3224.

Please be as generous as you can. Remember that our children are our future!

mark your calendar...

24th Annual OLL Golf Classic

Timber Point Country Club

Thursday, June 19 at 2:30 PM

This year's honorees are *Sister Nancy and Sister Diane*

- Singles, twosomes and foursomes are welcome
- Sponsorships ranging from \$50 to \$1,500 are now available
- Awards and prizes throughout the day (including a live auction with professional auctioneer)
- Includes barbeque lunch and gourmet dinner
- \$175 for golf and dinner or \$75 for dinner only
- All skill levels are welcome

Last year we had over 120 golfers and/or dinner guests. Please call Joe Macina at 647.7440 or Frank Antonowich at 587.7988 or the school office at 587.7200 for further information. Last year's event was a great success and key fundraiser for the school.

Don't miss it...sign up today!

*See what's new
in Catholic Education!*

Visit our classes in session:

Monday, January 28 -
Wednesday, January 30
9 AM - 11 AM

Open House

Sunday, January 27

following Family Liturgy at 9:30 AM
Curriculum Fair 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
in the School Cafeteria

What makes us different?

Come and see...

State of the art, new **Science Lab & Media Center**

The Lourdes Academy of Arts & Sciences-grades 6, 7, 8

Listen to our eighth graders describe their projects
with Stony Brook Medical School

Early Childhood Programs beginning at 2 years old!

Somebody Special & Me! 2 years old

Nursery 3 years old

Pre-K 4 years old

Kindergarten

(three or five days-full or half days available)

2008-09 registration applications
will be accepted beginning
Catholic Schools Week.

Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous:

Monday and Tuesday at 8 PM and Saturday at 2PM and 7 PM in Lourdes Hall-convent lower level.

ALANON:

Each Wednesday at 10 AM in Lourdes Hall-convent lower level.



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

Rosary/Novena

Rosary:

Daily after 8 AM Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena:

Monday after 8 AM Mass

Anointing of the Sick

Throughout the liturgical year.

If needed sooner, please call the Parish Office.

Baptism

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

Marriage

Arranged at least six months in advance, please call the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults(RCIA):

A process to be embraced by the Catholic Church. For non-Catholics and for Catholics who have never received formal religious education. If interested, please call the Parish Office.

Rest In Peace

Sister Rita Marie Mileti, OP died on December 18 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was December 21. Sister Rita dedicated 54 years to religious life as a Sister of St. Dominic. We extend our prayers to her many cousins.

James Francis Kaste died on January 5 and celebration of the Mass of Christian burial was January 9. We extend our prayers to his wife Rosemary and his family.

Robert E. Avella, Jr. died on January 5 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 9. We extend our prayers to his father, Robert his brothers, Christopher and Richard, his grandparents Jane and Michael, aunts and uncle.

Stanley J. Maier, Sr. died on January 6 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 9. We extend our prayers to his wife, Concetta, their children Cathy, Rosemarie, Stanley and Joseph and his entire family.

Mass Schedule

Monday, January 21

St. Agnes, virgin, martyr

8:00 AM Kevin Clyde

Tuesday, January 22

8:00 AM Frank Slade

Wednesday, January 23

8:00 AM Loretta Yankel

Thursday, January 24

St. Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor

8:00 AM Joseph & Amelia Moscarelli

Friday, January 25

Conversion of St. Paul, apostle

8:00 AM Teresa Wright

Saturday, January 26

8:00 AM Dick Ryan, Adam Ippolito, Carmine Maiocco,
Donald Somerville, Andrea Hurst, James Kaste,
Eileen Marcochicco, Andrew Joseph Brennan

5:00 PM James & Charlotte Quinn
Fr. Mike Vetrano

Sunday, January 27

8:00 AM Teresa Wright
Fr. John Asomugha

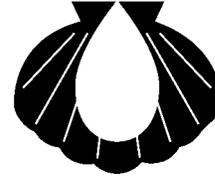
9:30 AM John Howrigan
Fr. Mike Vetrano

11:00 AM Joseph Rizzo
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

12:30 PM James Peter Olsen
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Joseph Sefer, Mary Rouse, Bea Rubano,
Marie Benenati, John McDermott, Thomas LaPierre, Rose Scala,
William Geoghan, Elizabeth J. Padden, Arnold R. Miller,
Eileen Marcochicco, Drew Brennan, James Nicholson
Fr. Stan Chukwube

Baptisms



Niamh Patricia Clarke
Michael and Patricia
Caden William Crandell
Jason and Kimberly
Samuel Elliott Jude Hardy
Kristopher and Jennifer
Olivia Grace Locrotondo
Philip and Jennifer
Timothy Richard Marshall
Timothy and Christine
Angelina Martinez
Anthony and Ruth



**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage
Rome, Florence, Assisi and Milan
October 16 - 25, 2008**

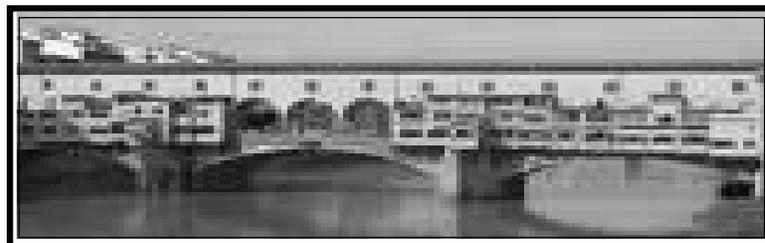
Come and join us for this opportunity to journey with Fr. Mike and members of our Parish Family to Italy in October 2008.

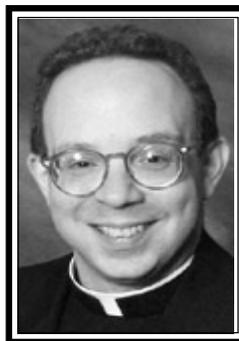
Imagine yourself in St. Peter's Basilica, the Sistine Chapel and strolling through the streets of Florence, the center of the Renaissance and the heart of Tuscany. You will find yourself walking in the footsteps of St. Francis in Assisi and being in the presence of da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper.

Our departure date is Thursday, October 16 on a direct flight to Milan and return on Saturday, October 25 on a direct flight home from Rome.

Information concerning booking your flight accommodations will be discussed at our next meeting scheduled for **Monday, January 28 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please call Deacon John at 661.3224, extension 132.





Liturgical Minister Night of Reflection
Tuesday, January 22
7:30 PM – Church

Our Liturgy Committee welcomes Fr. Joseph DeGrocco, professor of Liturgy at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, columnist in The Long Island Catholic and host of Telecare’s “Divine Intervention”. Fr. Joe joins us on Tuesday, January 22 for a night of reflection with our parish’s liturgical ministers. Our lectors, ushers, sacristans, music ministers, servers, Extraordinary Ministers, presiders, deacons and all who help to prepare our liturgy are invited! You might be saying...I don’t do anything...why should I come? Well you do! You are a part of the assembly – a vital and essential part of our prayer. So, come on Tuesday, January 22! We would love you to come listen, learn, laugh and share life with our parish community. This is all part of our Liturgy Committee’s work to renew and reenergize our parish’s prayer and participation. Look for more info soon!

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, January 22**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

M a r t i n The Parish Office will be closed on Monday,
L u t h e r January 21 in observance of Martin Luther
K i n g J r. King, Jr. Day. We will reopen on Tuesday,
D a y January 22 at 9 AM.

Come to The Six!

Hate getting up early? Need a more casual Mass? Need some music to shake you up a little bit? Want to get a little praying in before a busy school and work week?

The 6 PM Mass is our Sunday night Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes. Our Six Committee and Contemporary Music Group work hard to make this an interactive, exciting and meaningful for our young people, their families and people of all ages.

This month, each week, we are praying with our parish’s 8th graders who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation and next month plans are already in the works for Lent 2008!

Also, our Music Group is looking for middle school, high school and young adults who would love to sing at The Six. Practices take place before the Mass. If you’re interested contact Carol Goetz at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to music@ollchurch.org

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 6

Invite your friends and loved ones to come back to Church this Lent beginning on this day. Come before work, after work, during work, during the day, at night, whenever!
There's a time and place for everyone at OLL!



- **Prayer Services** on the hour as we pray together as a parish family:
7 AM, 9 AM, 10 AM, 11 AM, 12 Noon, 1 PM, 2 PM, 3 PM, 4 PM, 5 PM, 6 PM, 7 PM and 9 PM.
- **Mass** will be celebrated at 8 AM and 8 PM.
- On Ash Wednesday, we invite all in our parish family to fast and pray for ourselves and for one another. Lent is such a powerful time for us to celebrate God's healing love for us – we can do that in prayer.
 - Our Church will be open all day for you to come and pray privately.
 - The Scripture readings for the day speak to us of the challenges and benefits of this season....Joel 2:12-18
2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:2
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18
 - We are challenged to fast, limiting food to one full meal with minimal food at the other two meal times and abstain from meat. (This is required of all adults from ages 18-59 and only of those whose health would not be at risk by doing so.) We fast and abstain - not as punishment - but to focus our prayer, unite with the less fortunate, and reflect on the ways God's love can change our hearts.

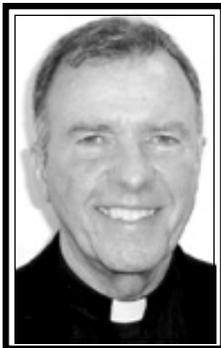
save the date...

Parish Lenten Retreat

Monday, **March 3**, Tuesday, **March 4** and Wednesday, **March 5**

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

7:30 PM



Fr. Bob Lauder

Columnist for The Long Island Catholic and professor at St. John's University.

Look in the bulletin and our parish web site for more information!



Happy Anniversary!

Congratulations to Florence and Francis McLoughlin who celebrated their **65th Wedding Anniversary** on January 17, 2008!

The parish family of Our Lady of Lourdes along with the entire McLoughlin family- 9 children, 17 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren- extend prayers and best wishes to Florence and Francis.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Janet Loehr*.
If you would like to help care for our altar needs, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.



Pastoral Care of Our Sick

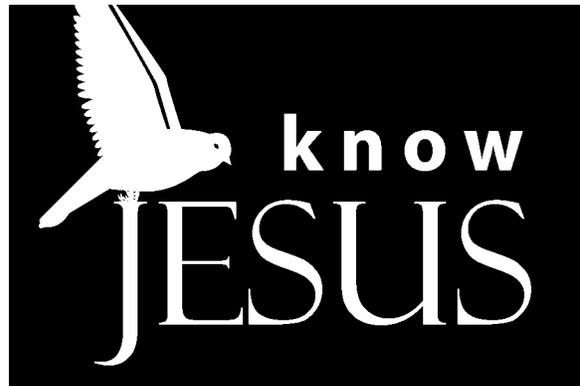
Please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 to leave the names of parishioners who:

- 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 sacred anointing.

Pray for Our Sick

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

Susan Aviza, Stacie Baltrusitis, Deacon Dick Barry, Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Howard Campkin, Josephine Carrano, Lynn Castellano, Laura Christman, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Karen DellaVecchia, TJ Devlin, Josephine DiBenedetto, Charles Diesso, Jean Dobson, Jason Fisher, Samantha Hil, Vincent Iacopelli, Kathleen Kerrigan, Wade Kromhout, Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch, Anthony Lombardo, Peter Lynch, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Bryan Monahan, Marguerite Mooney, Jimmy Murphy, Joseph Ortiz, Arthur Petrino, Baby Conner Pietras, Louise Posanti, Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds, Dorothy Schiavone, Derek Stahl, Dorothy Sullivan, Loretta Vitale



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Have you ever said hello to someone you thought you recognized, only realizing too late that this was a complete stranger? Or, as in the case of my daughter, sat down next to a familiar face on a train, reminiscing and trying to make small talk, only to find out that the person only looked like your best friend's boyfriend? All too often, we feel we know someone, when in reality they are perfect strangers.

John the Baptist's excitement in today's Gospel reading from John can hardly be contained. "Behold!" he shouts excitedly to all who would hear. "The Lamb of God!" he exclaims. John also says, "I did not know him?" This is not to be taken literally; of course John knew Jesus, but until the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus, John did not truly know him as the long-awaited Savior, the paschal lamb who would shed his own blood for our sins.

We know of Jesus, but how do we "know Jesus?" Through our baptism we are made one with Jesus, but to really know him we must go down to the water with him, fully immerse ourselves in the cleansing waters of new life and be reborn with the Holy Spirit (CCC 537). Walk with Jesus; talk with him. Fulfill the righteousness he spoke of, and never be afraid to speak of his unending love for each and every one of us.

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Readings for the Week of January 20, 2008

Sunday:	Is 49:3, 5-6/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34
Monday:	1 Sm 15:16-23/Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday:	1 Sm 16:1-13/Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday:	1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Mk 3:1-6
Thursday:	1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Mk 3:7-12
Friday:	Acts 22:3-16 <i>or</i> Acts 9:1-22/Mk 16:15-18
Saturday:	2 Tm 1:1-8* <i>or</i> Ti 1:1-5*/Mk 3:20-21
Next Sunday:	Is 8:23-9:3/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 <i>or</i> 4:12-17

Financial Summary

January 13, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 17,763.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (3,237.00)

The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs and salaries is \$21,000.

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:



Lorenzo Bacchi-US Marines
Bryan R. Dempsey-US Marines
Jeremy deRoxas-US Air Force
Frederick Wm. Ellis-US Army
James J. Ferrara-US Marines
John Finn-US Army
Christopher Florca-US Marines
Donnie Frank-US Marines
Armand J. LeComte-US Marines
Anthony Mannino-US Marines
Peter Provenzano-US Army

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

MICAH: A Campaign to End LI Poverty

(Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger)

“Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.”

Micah 6:8

Suffering Without Health Insurance



They came to the St. Ignatius Parish Outreach Center in Hicksville because they were desperate. Hispanic parents, both legal immigrants, both working, she as a house cleaner, he as a landscaper, their children would qualify for Medicaid except for the fact that their working parents earn too much money for them to be eligible. The family has no health insurance.

Since their six-year old son was running a high fever due to the flu, the parents took him to the emergency room of the Nassau University Medical Center. Hospital emergency rooms are required to treat patients without health insurance or any other way to pay their medical bills. ERs are among the most expensive forms of health care, and often the treatment of last resort for the uninsured. The ER staff did treat the boy, and prescribed an antibiotic to fight the infection.

But, emergency rooms do not pay for prescriptions. And so, unable to afford the prescription, the family sought help at St. Ignatius, which they received in two forms. One was cash to pay for the prescription. The other was an application for Child Health Plus, a government health insurance program for the children of uninsured parents.

Many Long Islanders who do not have health insurance work for small businesses that either choose not to provide or cannot afford to provide health insurance to their employees. The stories behind the numbers are chilling.

To learn more about the MICAH campaign, contact Dr. Richard Koubek at Catholic Charities at Koubek.richard@catholiccharities.cc

Parish Outreach

Outreach Office Hours

Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM.
For information/assistance call 661.9262.



Our pantry is low on the following items...
coffee, soup and tea.

detergent
kleenex
paper towels
personal feminine products
shampoo
soap
toilet tissue
toothbrush
toothpaste

Donations

Outreach has received a donation *“in gratitude for prayers answered.”*

Outreach received donations in memory of:

Jack Gallo

Bob Kehoe

Robert ‘Bobby’ Herr

Adam Ippolito

Outreach has received a donation in honor of *Linda Knockenhauer* on the occasion of her birthday-with wishes for many blessings on another year!

“May no human life end without a holy Amen to affirm all that God designed and crafted through each human life. May we say Amen to God’s ongoing Mystery revealed.”

Good Samaritan Prayer Group of L.I.

The Good Samaritan Prayer Group of Long Island holds their **meetings every Friday (except the first Friday of the month) at OLL School in Room 16 from 8 PM until 10 PM.**

All are welcome to experience singing, praying and fellowship each evening.

Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group

The Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group meets each **Thursday afternoon** in the **Church**. The meeting is from **3 PM until 4 PM** in **front of the Blessed Sacrament**.

The Language of Silence

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

“Nothing resembles the language of God so much as does silence.”

Meister Eckhard wrote those words. What do they mean? Among other things, they speak of a deep mystery.

What language will we speak in heaven? We don't know, but we have some inkling of it in the deep experiences of intimacy we have on earth. In our deepest experiences of intimacy and communion, we come together beyond words, in a silence that isn't empty but is too full for words. In heaven, I suspect, just as in our deepest experiences of intimacy here, there won't be a need for words. We will know and be known in a language beyond ordinary words, in the language of intimacy and the language of God.

We already experience this somewhat. Sometimes, for instance, we understand someone or feel understood by someone intuitively, beyond words, beyond anything we've ever spoken to each other, and often this understanding is deeper than the understanding we come to through normal conversation.

The same is true for intimacy within community. I remember doing a 30-day Ignatian retreat some years ago. About sixty of us were on the retreat and we arrived there as total strangers. The thirty days were spent in silence, except for celebrating Eucharist together each day in the chapel. We ate our meals in silence, never recreated with each other, and never, except for two very brief occasions early on in the retreat, had any conversations with each other at all. Yet, when the retreat ended we had the feeling that we knew each other more deeply than we would have had we socialized and talked during those days. The silence was a powerful language, stronger than words, and it brought us into community in a way that words often cannot.

I've experienced this too inside of religious community. I am a member of a missionary order, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and one of the things our founder, St. Eugene de Mazenod, mandated for us was that, each day, we should sit together as a community in chapel for a long period of silence. My experience has been that whenever we do this, something akin to a "Quaker silence", the silent time spent together does more to bind us into community than do any number of community meetings. Silence is a special language.

But that doesn't put silence in opposition to words. Silence and words need each other. Words take on greater power when they issue forth from silence, just as they begin to lose their force when they are constant and never-ending. Conversely silence is more powerful after we have already come to know each other through words. There are things that we can only know through silence, just as there are things we can only know through conversations inside of a community.

That is why solitude is such paradox: Solitude, as we know, is not defined as being alone, but as being at peace, as being restful rather than restless. And we all know the strange anomalies that can happen here: Sometimes we are at a celebration with others, but we are too restless to enjoy the occasion or even to be present to it. Socializing with others paradoxically serves to heighten our restlessness and disquiet. Conversely, sometimes we are alone, away from others, but are restful, comfortable, and at peace inside of our own lives. Being alone paradoxically works to still our disquiet and silence is what brings us into community.

And so it is important that we try to learn the language of silence, just as we also try to learn the words that can help us know each other. There is a huge silence undergirding us and inside of us that is trying to draw us into itself. To enter that silence is to enter the reality of God and the reality of our real communion with each other. For this reason, all great religious traditions and all great spiritual writers emphasize the need for silence at times in our lives.

Sadly, we are too often afraid of silence, afraid of being alone, afraid of what we might meet there. Too often silence speaks to us of loneliness, of missing out on life, of being disconnected, of a being a tomb of non-life. And so we cling to each other and look for conversations, amusements, and distractions that can fill in the silent spaces in our lives. Ultimately this running away from silence is founded unconsciously on the fear that, deep down, something is missing, both inside of the world and inside ourselves and we are best to cling to whatever can protect us from that painful truth.

But that fear is unfounded. As Thomas Merton put it, there is a hidden wholeness at the heart of things and that hidden wholeness can only be discovered if we get to the deepest level of things. And the language we need to get there is the language of silence - the language of God and the language of intimacy.

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.

Pancake Breakfast

Boy Scout Troop 179 of West Islip, sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes Church is having its annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 10 following the 8 AM, 9:30 AM and 11 AM Masses in the OLL school cafeteria. The hearty breakfast served by the Scouts will include pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee. There will be a donation of \$5, children under 3 are free. Please come and enjoy a great breakfast and support Troop 179!

Annulment Information Meeting

“The Church’s annulment process offers the divorced person a vehicle for healing and closure of what is, many times, a painful period in one’s life.”

Presenter Fr. James Pereda, Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Rockville Centre will explain the annulment process and will follow that with a question and answer period—some of the questions to be addressed are: How long does the process take?, How much does an annulment cost?, How do I go about getting started?.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 29 at St. Joseph’s Parish, Kings Park at 7:30 PM. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information please contact Kathleen Logan, Associate Director of Family Ministry at 516.678.580, extension 236 or email klogan@drvc.org.

Telecare Telethon

Lights, Camera, Action!

The Telecare Telethon is the weekend of January 19 from 2 PM until 10 PM and January 20 from 12 PM until 10 PM. Please tune in to Cablevision channel 29 or 73 or Verizon FiOS 271 to support our Diocesan Television station.

It will be eighteen hours filled with many guest “stars” including many of the clergy, religious, and dedicated lay people of our diocese. Join Msgr. Jim Vlaun, Fr. Joe DeGrocco, and Fr. Frank Nelson for the 17th Annual Telecare Telethon and consider making a donation.

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 Satellite Radio, Channel 159, or the Catholic Channel*. This week’s theme is: **“Unity.”** You can visit us anytime to listen or download a show at www.religionandrock.com.

For more information about our television shows go to www.TelecareTV.org.

Contemplative Outreach of Long Island/Queens

A Day with Fr. Carl Arico...

Fr. Carl will speak about Thomas Merton on Saturday, January 26 from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM in the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Center. Coffee and fellowship will begin at 9:30 AM. Please bring a bag lunch. Donation \$30

This is Fr. Carl's annual visit for Contemplative Outreach of Long Island/Queens.

For further information, please call Diane Garretson at 587.0966.

Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille is a peer ministry. Couples who have had problems in their own marriages and have recovered from those problems, share their experiences with troubled couples in the hope that they too will see that their marriage can be saved.

For more information about the upcoming Retrouvaille weekend that begins on Friday, February 1 at the Montfort Retreat Center, Bay Shore, please call 1.800.470.2230 and you will be connected to a couple that can help.

Did you know?

Every Catholic household in the Diocese of Rockville Centre is entitled to receive a subscription to The Long Island Catholic, the diocesan newspaper.

The parish pays for subscriptions for our parishioners, with discounts based on the number of subscribers. We thank all the parishioners who contributed to last week's Long Island Catholic Sunday collection.

If you missed the collection, it's not too late. You can drop your Long Island Catholic envelope at the Parish Office. All contributions will help defray the cost of the parish subscriptions to our diocesan newspaper.

If you are not receiving The Long Island Catholic, write your name and address on the back of the envelope and we'll add your name to the subscription list. To add or change an address call 516.594.1000, extension 32.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

In today's Gospel, Jesus calls us to leave behind our earthly worries and follow Him.

Let go of your worries and responsibilities for one weekend to enrich and renew your marriage and bring Christ into the center of your marriage. Please visit the website at www.wvme.org to find out the next scheduled Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend.

Sharing the Gospel

John the Baptist told everyone that Jesus was the Son of God. He told them the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus and remained on him as the Scriptures said. Jesus taught his disciples and others. He healed people to show his power as the Son of God. God wants you to be his disciple. He wants you to be a good example of a loving child of God.



Mission for the Week

I will ask someone to read the Bible to me every day.

Puzzle

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

I testify that this is the Son of God.

			T	H	I	S			

Prayer



Lord,
I will be a good disciple by learning and sharing your words.

Something to Draw



Draw John pointing out Jesus as the Son of God.