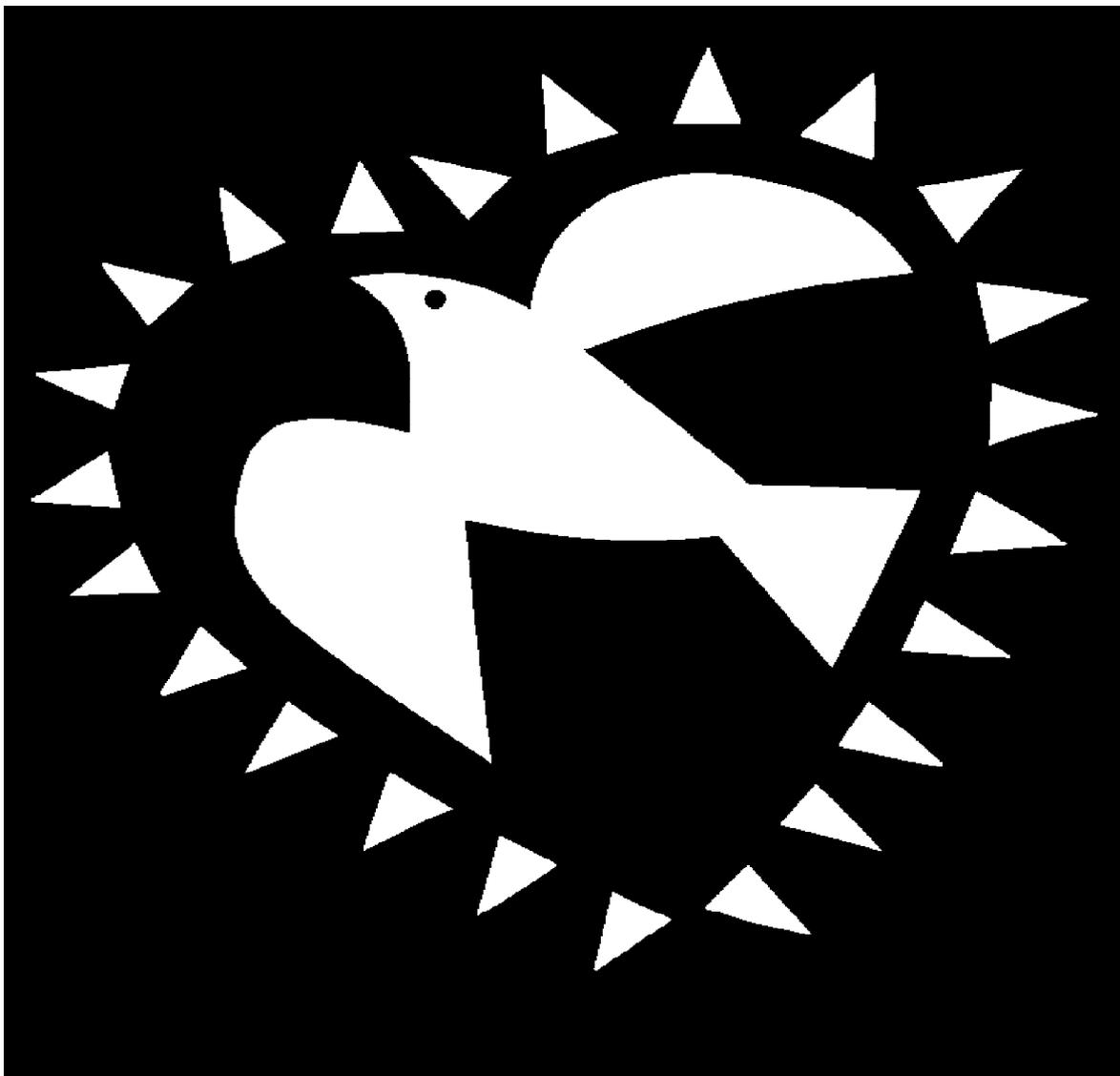


The letter brings death but



the Spirit gives life.

2 Corinthians 3:6

Our Lady of Lourdes

February 26, 2006 • Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Lady of Lourdes

455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, New York 11795

Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano

Pastor

Rev. Stanislaus Chukwube

Associate Pastor

Rev. Nestor Watin

Associate Pastor

Welcome to our Parish Family! New Parishioners are cordially invited to register as members of our parish family. Please call or visit the 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.

Rev. Robert Scheckenback
In Residence

Deacon Stephen M. Behar
Deacon John DeGuardi
Deacon Jules O. A. Gagnon
Parish Outreach
Deacon Jack Meehan
Coordinator of Stewardship
Deacon John Teufel

Sr. Margaret Bickar
Senior Ministry-SAGE
Sr. Nancy Campkin
Director of Religious Education
Regina Ann Cioffi
School Principal

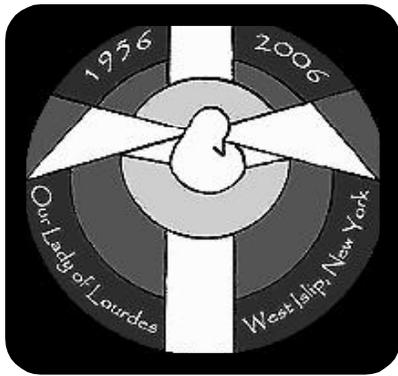
Jennifer Gallagher
Director of Youth Services
Carol M. Goetz
Parish Music Director
Sr. Diane Liona
Director of Religious Education
Vita Scorgia
Ministry Spiritual Director
John Sureau
Coordinator of Worship
Sr. Betty Toohig
Senior Ministry-SAGE
Anthony Trombino
Business Manager

Pastoral Council

Michael Abbruscato
Salomon Acosta
Regina Ann Cioffi
Jane Desthers
Stephen Frodell
Anne Kerrigan
Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)
Mary McMahan
Doreen Spiller
Mary Steck
John Sureau
Fr. Mike Vetrano
Marie Yuliano (*co-chair*)

Parish Staff

Barbara Catuosco
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



Our Jubilee Year 2005-2006

Lenten Evening Prayer

Each Monday during Lent at 7:30 PM in the Church

We unite our prayer with the Sisters of St. Joseph who helped to start our parish community fifty years ago! As their congregation celebrates 150 years of service, members of this community have come to share their wisdom, experience and life with us. This is a great way to remember our parish's roots while gaining and growing as a parish community in this Jubilee Year!

Scheduled preachers include: Sister Jean Amore, CSJ, Sister Clara Santoro, CSJ, Sister Flora Marinelli, CSJ, Sister Elaine Roulet, CSJ and Sister Patsy Lucas, CSJ. Let us listen, learn and bear witness to the message these good and holy women have to share with us!

Empowering Our Minds and Spirits

Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Come with Fr. Mike, Deacon Jack, Deacon John, Sr. Diane, Sr. Nancy and thirty-three friends for our parish pilgrimage. As part of our 50th Anniversary Celebration, we will be making a pilgrimage to Lourdes, **April 17-25, 2006.**

Departure from JFK airport to Provence, France. On our way to Lourdes, we will visit Avignon, the city of Popes. From there we will spend four days in Lourdes. We have room for eight more travelers.

It was February 11, 1858 when Bernadette experienced her first of nineteen apparitions of our Blessed Mother at the grotto in Lourdes. One of the many highlights for us will be to take part in an evening candlelight procession with people from all over the world.

If interested, please call Celestial Voyagers at 800.651.6262 for additional information.

All are welcome to our next **information meeting on Tuesday, February 28 at 7:30 PM in the OLL School library.**

Parish History Project

Join us on **Monday, February 27 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center** for a stroll down memory lane...

As the People of God, we are called through the gift of our Baptism to embrace the invitation to service. As a parish community, we have answered that call wholeheartedly.

We have an opportunity to celebrate fifty years of leadership and ministry with Msgr. Peter Chiara, who will share with us some insights and memories of his own association with Father William Toomey, our founding pastor. Come and discover the inspiration which has given birth to our vibrant and flourishing parish life!

Upcoming Events



Our Lady of Lourdes 50th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration November 17, 2006 Southward Ho Country Club

Beautiful Raffles/ Prizes/ Music/Fellowship

Raffle prizes are needed—please help to make this an unforgettable event! Do you have a vacation home? Would they be willing to donate a week or weekend as a prize? Do you have frequent flier miles to share as a prize? All donations will be considered – be creative, be generous.

If you are able to make a donation or know someone that can please call the Parish Office at 661-3224 and ask for Lori, or email to lori@ollchurch.org

Performing Arts at OLL

Eighteen-year-old, world class pianist Natasha Paremski comes to Our Lady of Lourdes in performance on March 23. Natasha's concert is the latest in the OLL Young Artist's Series and follows the success of the Rachel Barton Pine violin concert last season. Our parish is committed to providing opportunities to celebrate and appreciate the beauty of the arts. Save the date!

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday – March 1, 2006

Invite your friends and loved ones to Church this Lent beginning on this day. Come before work, after work, during the day, at night, whenever.

There's a time and place for everyone at OLL!



On Ash Wednesday, we invite all in our parish family to fast and pray for ourselves and for one another. Lent is a 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. 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.



Nocturnal Adoration

Nocturnal Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament **follows the 5 PM Mass on Saturday, March 4** and will conclude with Benediction at 9:50 PM. Let us prepare our hearts this Lent for the coming of Easter by joining together in prayer for religious men and women in the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

Palm Collection

We ask that you bring last year's palm to Mass any time this week. Last year's palm will be burned and used as the ashes on this **Ash Wednesday-March 1**.

Why do we do this?

It's important to make the connections present during this time of the year as we link last year's celebration of Palm Sunday with this year's celebration of Ash Wednesday!

Our Catholic Faith Through Literature

The Prodigal Son

Tuesdays, March 7, 14 and 21, 2006

presented by Tom Petriano

7:30 - 9:30 PM in the Parish Center

Henri Nouwen's *Return of the Prodigal Son* was written in response to a period of turmoil in his own life. He was inspired to write about Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son through his discovery of Rembrandt's famous interpretative painting of the same parable.

Using both Nouwen's book and Rembrandt's painting as guides, these sessions will involve guided reading, discussion, and reflection on the themes of reconciliation, forgiveness and being claimed as God's beloved.

Henri Nouwen's book, *Return of the Prodigal Son*, will be available at the Religious Education Office at a cost of \$16. It is recommended, but not necessary, to have read Part I before the first evening.

Healthcare Issues in the 21st Century

future classes in the series...

Catholic Thinking on Issues of Life and Death

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

with Father Mike Vetrano

"Praying from the Soul: The Way of Spiritual Journaling"

Have you ever wondered what God's will is for you?

Thursdays, February 16 and March 2, 2006

presented by Pat Leonard

Journaling is a spiritual tool to record and reflect on the movement of Grace in our life. Through observing the unfolding of our journey, we can be more open to hearing and responding to God's desires for us.

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, 9AM – 5PM and 7PM – 9PM, 661-5440 or e-mail to religioused@ollchurch.org.

Fee: \$5 per presentation or \$15 for the series (5 presentations). 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.

OLL Ministry of Family Healing

Time
Talent
Treasure



Treasure
Talent
Time

The Ministry of Family Healing calls us together to share with our God and each other, those times we struggle with our faith.

Aren't there times in our lives when we face difficulties with our faith?



Spring

“A Season of Hope and Renewal”

This Spring we will come together on **May 23 at 7:30 PM** as we pray and meditate on this theme.

As each of us walks the road of life, we encounter moments when our faith is tested. Moments of family crisis, divorce, addiction, loss of a loved one, and illness, challenge us to find Jesus and seek His help. These times may cause us to feel that God is far away, or not there at all. We may feel lonely and depressed. We may think no one else on earth understands our pain. The Ministry of Family Healing calls us to seek God by sharing with each other these down times in our lives. Together we can take the hope and light promised to us in the Gospels and make that hope come alive for each other.

For more information, please contact Marcy Chapuisat or Marge Valenti by leaving a message at the Parish Office at 661.3224.



Here are a few questions to help you reflect on what stewardship means in your own life:

- Am I aware of God's generosity?
- Am I open to the needs of others who are struggling with life's journey?
- Am I willing to put God at the top of my list?

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

Baptisms

Matthew John Edgley
Thomas and Daniella
Kaylee Marie Fleming-Fernandez
Hilario and Nikki
Makayla Ryan Lynam
Roger and Erin
Daniel Kristopher Medrano
Diana
Elizabeth N. Muro
Michael and Dory

Rest In Peace

Mary D. Walsh
Paul Stegemann
Deborah Grillo
Venera Vivo
Alfred F. Spallone



Rosary/Novena

Rosary:
Daily after 8 AM Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena:
Monday after 8 AM Mass

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.

Upcoming Marriages

Rosaria Bencivenni, St. Patrick, Glen Cove and
Pierre Abizeid, OLL

Financial Summary

February 19, 2006

Weekly Collection	\$ 19,267.65
Weekly Budget	<u>-\$ 21,000.00</u>
+/- for the week	\$ (1,732.35)

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

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 contact
the Parish Office.

Remembering...

Monday, February 27

8:00 AM Edward Cameron III

Tuesday, February 28

8:00 AM Joseph John Zeoli

Wednesday, March 1

Ash Wednesday

8:00 AM Josephine & John Zucco

8:00 PM Patrick McCarthy, John Kelly & Thomas Dowling

Thursday, March 2

8:00 AM Patricia Mathe

Friday, March 3

St. Katharine Drexel, virgin

8:00 AM Helen Luft

Saturday, March 4

8:00 AM Voice of the Faithful, Vincent McCarthy, Nancy Esposito (*5th anniv*),
Maureen A. Parson, John Weiss, Paul DeGuardi, John McHugh,
Margaret Russo, Joseph Pello, Paul Stegemann

5:00 PM John Weiss

Sunday, March 5

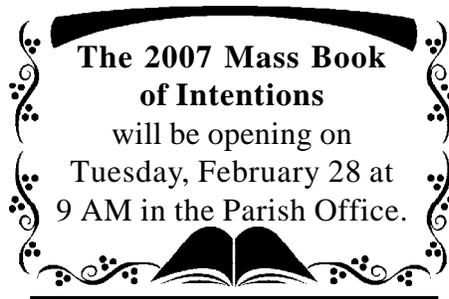
8:00 AM Rose Monroe

9:30 AM Anthony Alfieri

11:00 AM Grace Cavalluzzo

12:30 PM Carmine Isola

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Charlotte Sweeney, Joseph Rizzo, Marie Fettinger,
Veronica Regan, Laura Reilly, Manuella Gaizo, Alan Pauze, Eileen Grim,
Alfred Fanta-Lucia, Bernardo Pistone, Hermina Loring, Nicholas Capozzi, Jr.



Altar Society

Janet Loehr

Communion Calls

Communion brought to those who are homebound.
Contact the Parish Office.

Pastoral Care of the 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.

Pray for Our Sick

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers ...

Mark Barry, Thomas Brennan, Jo Brogan, Christian Bullock, Frank Cambria, Jerry Castonguay, Regina Cranor, Paula Edwards, Christopher Fisco, Jason Fisher, Walter Francis, August Grim, Madeline Hopper, Vincent Liguori, Mike Lorento, Benjy Margulies, Joseph Martucci, Peter McCann, Sr., Arabella Elizabeth McCarthy, Margaret Miller, Nichole O'Connor, Nancy Palazolla, Joe Radosti, Christine Rogers, Rose Serragano, AnneMarie Valentino, Rosemary Van Acker, Loretta Vitale, Norah Williamson

Our Lady of Lourdes School

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: ReginaC@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 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

S.A.G.E.

661-3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth
and Enrichment)

email: Sage@ollchurch.org

2006 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

The 2006 Catholic Ministries Appeal has just begun at Our Lady of Lourdes. This extraordinary endeavor is designed to support the ministries and services of our Parish and Diocese. Your participation provides support to the many programs and services that help further the mission of Jesus Christ here on Long Island.

The funds raised for this most important appeal will support five main areas. One of the areas that receives support is **Pastoral Outreach**.

Reaching out to those in need is a core mission of our Church. Through campus ministry outreach we help develop the whole student. This program helps students recognize the need to remain connected to the Church. Through health care chaplains, we reach out to people when they are most vulnerable and provide much-needed ministry. Ministry to sick people involves taking significant time and we owe this service to these people who are in such great need and full-time hospital chaplains enable us to provide this important service.

Through Pastoral Outreach, we welcome our new Catholic neighbors by involving them in our Church and the wider community which strengthens our Church. We also have our Mission in the Dominican Republic where resources are scarce and we support outreach to those most in need so that these people can have better lives. Lastly, our Respect Life initiatives are critical if we are to protect God's most precious gift at all stages and emphasize a culture of life.

Please consider supporting this important initiative as it will help us continue to do the work of the Lord here on Long Island. To show your support for your parish and Diocese, please contact our Parish Office at 661.3224 or tear off and return the pledge card below.



*Touching
the lives
of many
through
Diocesan
& Parish
ministries
and services*

2006 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

P 516.379.5210 ext. 2 F 516.379.5043 e-mail: catholicministries@drvc.org

TO PROVIDE FUNDS I/WE AGREE TO MAKE A GIFT OF:

PLEDGE \$ _____ INITIAL PAYMENT \$ _____ BALANCE \$ _____

If you would like to charge your contribution to your credit card, please check here.

SIGNATURE OF DONOR _____

PARISH OF DONOR _____

Please make checks payable to:
Catholic Ministries Appeal. Thank you for your support.



Parish Outreach

Outreach Office Hours

Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM.

For information/assistance call 661.9262.

Scrip is sold in Parish Outreach during office hours.

Home Care

If you need help at home—home companion or child care—please call Parish Outreach at 661.9262.

Our Lady of Lourdes Bereavement

Our parish support group for those who have lost a loved one—If interested, please call the Parish Outreach Office at 661.9262.

Food Pantry

Many of Our Lady of Lourdes Food Pantry clients need our assistance during a time of crisis. Some of our clients need ongoing help. The donations you make allow us to ease the burden for our clients and supply them with nourishment for their families. We at Outreach are grateful for your ongoing support and ask you to continue to help us in our effort to assist our clients.

In order to insure an ample supply of a variety of goods, we have prepared the following “*weekly needs*” lists. Hopefully, this new format will be more informative and helpful to you in understanding our needs. However, you do not need to limit your shopping to the items on the “*weekly needs*” list. There is always a need for items such as toilet paper, toothpaste, detergent, personal hygiene and feminine products. Also, brown paper bags from the super-market are always a welcomed item.

All items can be placed in the baskets at each entry of the Church before or after Mass, in the food bin by Parish Outreach Office or left directly at the Parish Outreach Office during working hours. We are always open to any suggestions or ideas you would like to share with us. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

OLL Parish Outreach Pantry

Week 3

baked beans
boxed potatoes
boxed rice
canned meat
cereal
cookies
crackers
mayonaisse

weekly needs:

coffee/tea
detergent
hot chocolate

Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

ALANON

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

Contemplative Outreach of Long Island/Queens

Two Enrichment Days

Day One: March 11

The Welcoming Prayer presented by Therese Saulnier of Contemplative Outreach of New Jersey

Day Two: April 8

Divine Therapy presented by Anne Mazza of Contemplative Outreach of Long Island/Queens

Each day will include periods of prayer, presentations and group sharing.

Both days will be held at **Christ the King Parish, Commack from**

9:30 AM until 3 PM. Please bring a bag lunch. For further information call Diane at 587.0966.

R.C.I.A.-

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) is a process for those who wish to become Catholic or become fully initiated in the Church. In many ways, the season Lent belongs to these people as they enter the final stage of preparation for reception of the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

This Saturday, February 25 at the 5 PM Mass, we will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance seeking God's blessing on the senses of the candidates and catechumens as they enter into this special time of preparation!

Recognizing their role in the ONE CHURCH, our catechumens – those to be baptized – will they will join with candidates and catechumens in our Diocese for the RITE OF ELECTION at St. Joseph's Church in Ronkonkoma at 7 PM On Sunday, March 5. Here, they will stand before Bishop Murphy and declare their intention to be baptized at the Great Vigil!

If you're free come and pray for and with them.

The Church gives us this public and life-giving process so that our soon to be Elect can be nourished and supported by our parish family. At the same time, we know that when we initiate others, we confront and renew our own identity as members of the Catholic Christian community.

So, let us pray for those in our parish who will be baptized at the Great Vigil this year - Sylvain Chouen and Eileen Hartunk - and those who will be Confirmed and/or received into the Church this year - Sandy Bove, Robert Kuchler, Amanda Lawres, Christopher Lennon and Theresa Lennon. Let us pray for them in a special way throughout this Lenten season!



OUR ELECT



Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Parents of teenagers everywhere will attest to the fact that at a certain point in time, all children attempt to undermine their parents' authority. Admittedly, most parents have "forgotten" that they probably did the same thing when they were young, and find it hard to believe their children would act rebellious. Gradually, parents accept that their kids are becoming adults and are learning to make decisions on their own.

Today's Gospel reading from Mark describes what seems to be Jesus undermining the authority of Jewish laws of the time. While all around them are fasting, Jesus and his disciples do not. The Pharisees, who seem to be watching every move Jesus makes, question him about this obvious violation of the law. He patiently explains with analogies that if a person has Christ in his or her heart, there is no need to fast for he fills every need.

The fourth precept of the church, in which we are instructed to observe fasting and abstinence in accordance with liturgical feasts, helps us to not only serve a penance reminiscent of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, but to become more in control of our instincts and to experience more room and freedom for love in our hearts. (CCC 2043) This in turn leads us to live a moral life, where our nourishment is derived by a closer association with the Word and Eucharist of the Lord.

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Readings for the Week of February 26, 2006

Sunday: Hos 2:16b, 17b, 21-22/ 2 Cor 3:1b-6/ Mk 2:18-22
Monday: 1 Pt 1:3-9/ Mk 10:17-27
Tuesday: 1 Pt 1:10-16/ Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/ 2 Cor 5:20-6:2/ Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/ Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a/ Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/ Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/ 1 Pt 3:18-22/ Mk 1:12-15

SAGE

The SAGE Group (**S**enior **A**dvocates for **G**rowth and **E**nrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, February 28 in the Parish Center at 9 AM**. All older parishioners are welcome.

Senior Circle

The **Senior Circle** meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, February 27 at 12:30 PM** in the **Parish Center**.

Senior Circle

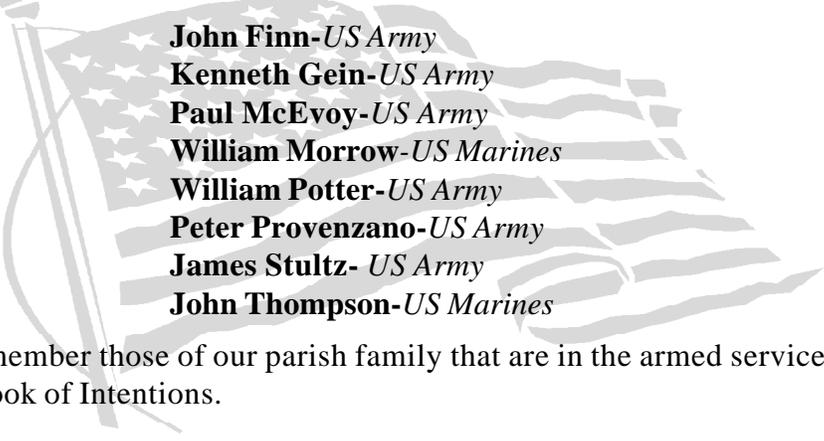
Atlantic City Trip

Come join the Senior Circle for a trip to the Tropicana Casino on **Wednesday, March 22**. The bus will leave the OLL parking lot at 9:30 AM sharp. The cost is \$20 with \$5 back. For reservations call Vera at 587.1553. Seating will be on a first come first served basis.

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:



John Finn-US Army
Kenneth Gein-US Army
Paul McEvoy-US Army
William Morrow-US Marines
William Potter-US Army
Peter Provenzano-US Army
James Stultz- US Army
John Thompson-US Marines

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

Our whole parish family rejoices with the Rothwell family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty. **Jonathan Rothwell-US Army** has returned to the United States from Iraq safe and sound. We thank you, Jonathan, for your generous service to our country. The Rothwell family would like to thank our parish family for their prayers.

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**.

Divorce and Beyond

Ten week program for the divorced or those going through the divorce process. Facilitated by Ed Urbanowski and Maureen O'Rourke at St. James Parish Center, Seaford. Beginning on Wednesday, March 1 from 7:30 PM until 9 PM. \$20 includes registration fee, book and notebook. To register contact Parish Outreach at 516.735.8690.

Fun and Faith Day

Attention Cub Scouts

Attend the Cub Scout Fun and Faith Day on Saturday, March 11 from 9 AM until 2 PM at St. Joseph's School in Ronkonkoma. A special day of prayer, song, games and craft are planned. Cub Scouts, dens and packs are all welcome. For further information contact the Catholic Scouting Office at 516.678.5800, ext 245 or email to scouting@drvc.org.

Young Widows

A six week bereavement support group for those 50 years old and younger. Being held at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, West Hempstead beginning on Wednesday, March 8 fro 7:30 PM until 9 PM. For registration and more information please call Sue Mione, R.N. at 516.483.6851.

Bishop Murphy's Lenten Vocation Retreat Weekend

March 10-12

We all have a vocation in life. Some are called to be married, and some are called to be single. Others are called to a special vocation, which involves serving the Lord in a special way. They can be called to the Priesthood. To decide what your vocation in life is, it is helpful to pray to the Holy Spirit for discernment. If you are a man, mature high school age or older, interested in a priestly vocation, Bishop William Murphy, along with priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Rockville Centre invite you to join in this weekend retreat. Arrival will be at **5 PM on Friday, March 10 and the retreat will conclude after Mass at noon on Sunday, March 12**. This weekend will offer time for prayer, Mass and socializing along with open discussions of the priesthood. There is no fee to attend but pre-registration is required. For further information or to register, please contact the Vocation Office at 631.424.9888 or email to Vocations@drvc.org.

Religion & Rock

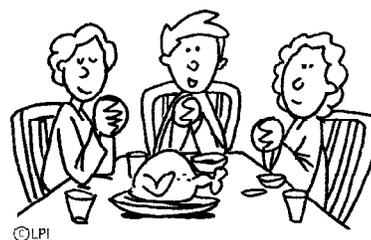
Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Fr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. Next Sunday's theme is: **"Forgiveness."**

Don't forget to tune in!

Visit "Religion & Rock" on the web, www.religionandrock.com. Also watch "Good News with Father Jim" on TELE CARE, channel 29, on Mondays and Fridays at 9:45 AM; Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 7:45 PM; Sundays at 8 PM.

Sharing the Gospel

What are some things you do, if you want to feel closer to God? Do you sing songs about him? Do you read Bible stories? Do you pray?



In today's Gospel reading, some people would try to feel closer to God by doing something different—they went without eating for a whole day. Jesus' followers never missed a meal. Because they spent so much time with Jesus, they always felt close to God.

Prayer



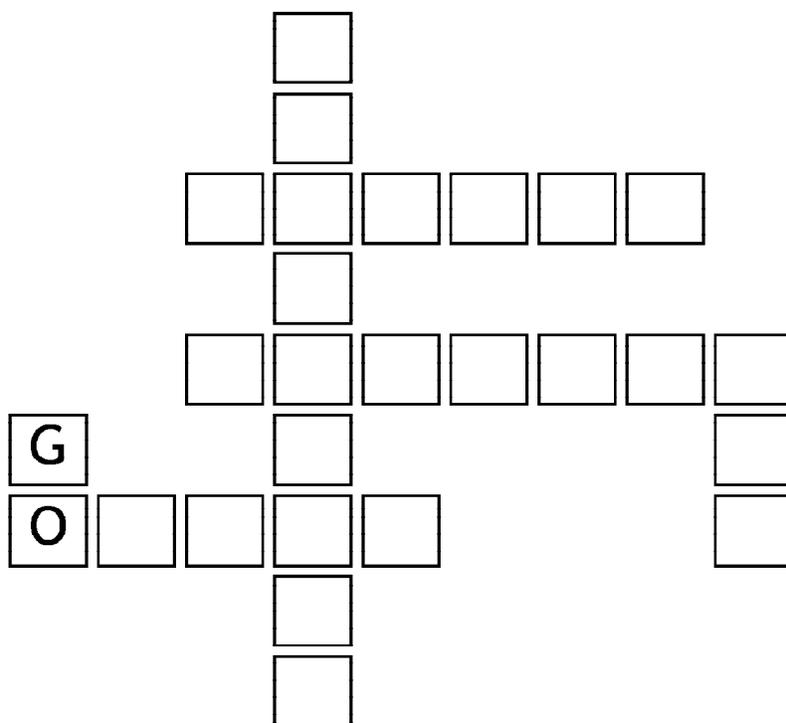
Dear God,
 help me to always find ways to stay close to you.
 In Jesus' name, Amen.



Empty Squares

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

The Pharisees often go without eating.



Mission for the Week

When you eat dinner tonight, talk about ways that you can stay close to God together as a family.