

“His father was filled with compassion.”

Luke 15:20



Our Lady of Lourdes

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 18, 2007



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: rcioffi@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

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

Mary McMahan

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Vita Scorcia

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
Jen Gallagher
Anne Kerrigan
Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)
Mary McMahan
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.

Fourth Sunday
in
Lent

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.

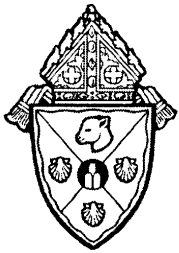
Grow in an understanding of God's role in each of our lives.

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



2007 Catholic Ministries Appeal

The Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us

Commonly Asked Questions & Answers

What is the Catholic Ministries Appeal?

The *Catholic Ministries Appeal* is the Diocese of Rockville Centre's annual drive to help fund a variety of programs and services found throughout our communities. It provides the means necessary to continue to carry out the mission Christ has entrusted to us and to ensure the quality of Catholic life in the future.

Will this appeal fund only the programs in the brochure?

Yes. All the money raised will meet the basic funding needed to support the ministries explained in the brochure.

How will parishioners be contacted during the Appeal?

It is intended that each and every Catholic household within the diocese be presented with the needs of the appeal and learn how their gifts benefit our communities. This will be achieved through a series of presentation talks by the Pastor and lay people from the pulpit along with pulpit announcements, newsletters, and mailings.

How much should I give to the Appeal?

Each family is asked to consider a sacrificial gift to the appeal in the spirit of Christian Stewardship. Pledges can be paid in either monthly installments or on a schedule most suited for your family. All gifts are greatly appreciated and accepted to the appeal.

Why are pledges encouraged, instead of one-time donations?

While one-time donations are greatly appreciated, pledges provide parishioners with the opportunity to make a more sacrificial gift to the mission of the Church by spreading their intentions over a ten-month period that will help raise the necessary funds.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL • DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
PO Box 4000 • ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11571-4000 • 516-379-5210 EXT 2 • www.drvc.org/cma.html

2007 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL
Supporting the Community Around Us

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

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

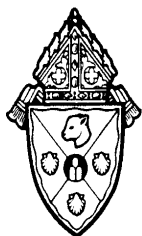
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PARISH OF DONOR _____

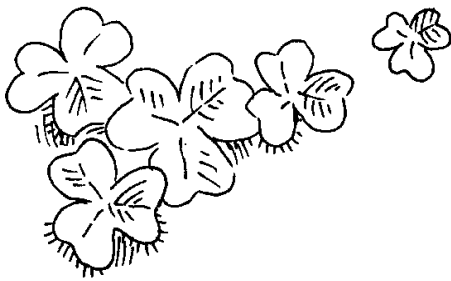
SIGNATURE OF DONOR _____



A GUIDE TO GIVING	
PLEDGE	10 PAYMENTS
\$5,000	\$500
2,500	250
1,500	150
1,000	100
500	50
300	30
150	15
OTHER \$ _____	
EVERY GIFT COUNTS!	

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

For More Information, please call 516-379-5210, Ext.2
or e-mail us at www.drvc.org/cma.html



A Festival of Irish Music

Don't let your St. Patrick's Day celebration end on March 17. ...
let it continue here at Our Lady of Lourdes.

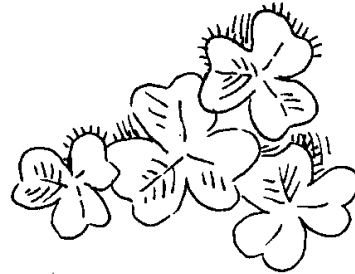
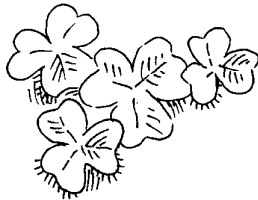
The Ancient Order of Hibernians Festival Singers are coming to OLL!
This fantastic choir has just finished their standing-ovation performance at Carnegie Hall!

The concert is scheduled for **Saturday, March 24 at 8 PM in the Church**. Their repertoire of Irish songs and variety of popular hits will have you tapping your feet and dancing "The Irish Jig."

Included among the "Festival Singers" are OLL's own *Bill Best, Kathy Sullivan* and *John Sullivan*! Tickets are only \$10 and are available at the Parish Office.
What a great opportunity to enjoy the songs of the season.

Tickets are now on sale—and going fast!

Please join us after the concert for fellowship. Hospitality will include Irish soda bread, tea and scones. Come share your "gift of gab" and socialize with your parish family after the concert.

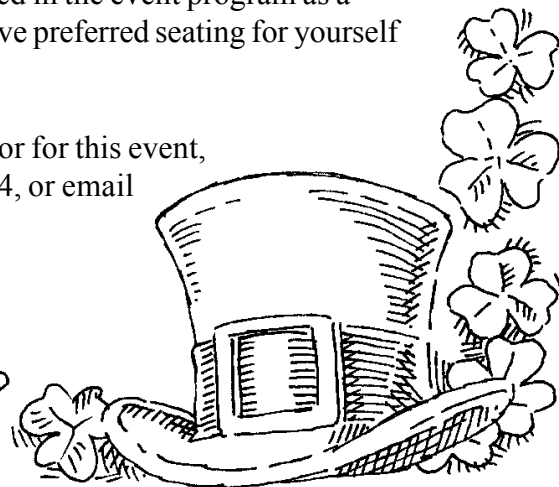
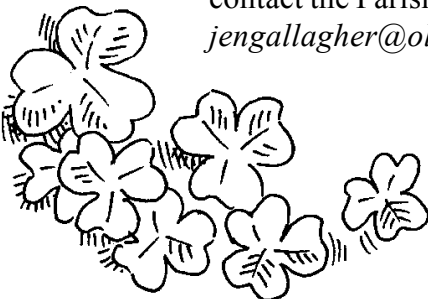


Would you like to be an event sponsor?

For \$100, your name will be published in the event program as a contributing sponsor, and you will have preferred seating for yourself and your guests.



If you are interested in being a sponsor for this event, contact the Parish Office at 661-3224, or email jengallagher@ollchurch.org.



Holy Week 2007

Palm Sunday

April 1

8 AM, 9:30 AM, 11 AM, 12:30 PM, 6 PM

5 PM – Special Palm Sunday Procession

Monday of Holy Week

April 2

Diocesan Day of Reconciliation

3 PM – 9 PM

Family Reconciliation Service – 7:30 PM – Church

Holy Thursday

April 5

Morning Prayer – 8 AM

Children's and Family Service – 4 PM

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7:30 PM

Night Prayer – 12 Midnight

Good Friday

April 6

Morning Prayer – 8 AM

Children's Service – 12 Noon

Solemn Liturgy – 3 PM

Living Stations of the Cross – 7:30 PM

Holy Saturday

April 7

Morning Prayer – 8 AM

Easter Egg Hunt – 11:30 AM

Blessing of the Easter Foods – 12 Noon

Great Vigil - 7:30 PM



Easter Sunday

April 8

Sunrise Mass – 6:15 AM – Captree State Park

8 AM, 9:30 AM, 11 AM, 12:30 PM

(No 6 PM Mass on Easter Mass.)

Easter Sunrise Mass

We are in need of volunteers to prepare and plan our Easter Sunrise Service. Last year we gathered at Captree State Park and what a beautiful celebration it was!

If you are interested please e-mail jsureau@ollchurch.org or call at 661.3224.

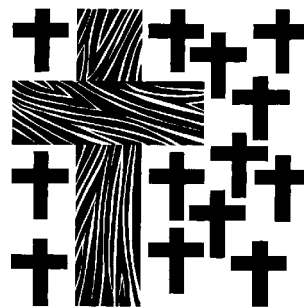
We need you to help make this year's service as beautiful as last year. Invite a friend.

Stations of the Cross

We remember the road to Jesus' death and link his journey to our own as our parish deacons lead us through this beautiful devotion.

Come and pray with us...

**Each Friday during Lent
1 PM and 7:00 PM**



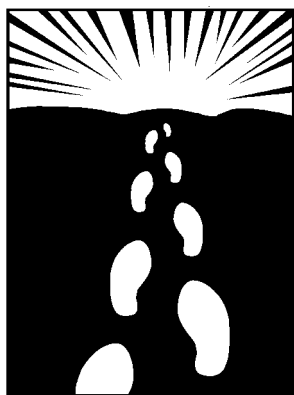
Living Stations of the Cross

Good Friday, April 6 at 7:30 PM in the Church

This is a must for your Lenten and Holy Week journey!

Our parish community comes together – led by our young people, our Music Ministries and members of our parish community – who share their own personal experiences on this most holy and solemn night. The celebration includes Veneration of the Cross.

Children's Liturgy of the Word



Following the Footsteps of Jesus

This Lent, our children are making use of the Little Purple Book – a day by day book for them to walk through the Lenten season. Each week we're going to look at the ways we can "*follow in the footsteps*" of Jesus by listening to His Word and being more like Him each day!

We love our children and families here at OLL and want you to be a part of our parish community! Save the following dates for Holy Week 2007...

Monday, April 2

Family Reconciliation Service – 7:30 PM – Parish Center

Thursday, April 5

Children's and Family Holy Thursday Service – 4 P M – Church

Friday, April 6

Children's Good Friday Service – 12 Noon – Church

Saturday, April 7

Easter Egg Hunt – 11:30 AM – Great Lawn

Pancake Breakfast

OLL's chartered organization Cub Scout Pack 330 will be having its pancake fundraiser on **Sunday, March 18 between the hours of 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM**. The cost is \$5 which includes a plate of pancakes & sausage along with juice and coffee. This fundraiser will help support our scouting program for the boys in our pack. We appreciate your help in making this year's fundraiser a huge success.

Parish Pilgrimage 2007

Travel this summer to Montreal and Quebec. Experience a pilgrimage that brings a wonderful fellowship among us.

In Montreal: enjoy Montreal Harbor, the Basilica of Notre Dame, Botanical Gardens, the famous Oratory of St. Joseph.

In Quebec: experience the largest French speaking city in North America. Visit the Basilica of St. Anne de Beaupre, stroll down world known St. Catherine Street and experience the Chateau Frantenac. As we travel, we will have occasions to celebrate Mass with our own Father Bob presiding and Deacon John assisting and our fellow travelers will have the opportunity to serve as Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors.



For more information, come to Our Lady of Lourdes **Faculty Room on Monday, March 19 at 7:30 PM**. This will be the last opportunity for accepting deposits. Please call the Parish Office to receive a copy of the travel itinerary.

Religious Education

always doing more...

"THE SIX"

Sunday, 6 PM Mass - All 6th, 7th and 8th Graders and their Families...

4th Sunday of Lent, March 18 - Grade 6 "LISTEN"...TO GOD'S WORD

Palm Sunday, April 1 - Grade 8 "PRAY"...AS HOLY WEEK BEGINS

Senior Circle

OLL Senior Circle is sponsoring a day trip to the **National Center for Padre Pio in Barto, Pennsylvania. The trip is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18**. The cost of the trip is \$40 and includes a video, a tour of the museum, prayer time, a visit to the gift shop and a late lunch. The bus will leave the OLL parking lot at 8 AM. For further information and reservations, please call Vera at 587.1553. Reservations are on a first come, first served basis.

Adult Faith Formation

American Mystics: Thomas Merton and Jessica Powers

One night only...

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

7:30 PM until 9:30 PM

Parish Center

Our presenter is Kathleen Reid, MA, Director of Religious Education, St. Philip Neri R.C. Church.

We all need good role models! Here we will explore the life, legacy, and writings of these two 20th century Catholics and Mystics. Through presentation, discussion, and reflection... we will see what wisdom we can receive from these fascinating, creative, and gifted people.

The Eucharist: Gift and Call

One night only...

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

7:30 PM until 9:30 PM

Parish Center

Our presenter is S. Barbara Regan r.c. MA in Theology, Staff of Cenacle Retreat Center.

Each week, thousands come to receive the Eucharist at Our Lady of Lourdes...but are we going through the motions or do we really understand the awesome gift God gives us and how it can change our lives? As we look at the history of the Eucharist and understand its role in our lives, let's find out!



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 and 7PM – 9PM, 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.]

School News

Keep Smiles Brighter!

Congratulations to *Richard Wilkinson*, an 8th grader at OLL. Richard was chosen as a finalist in the Suffolk County Dental Society's "Keeping Smiles Brighter" Contest. His entry will be sent to the New York State Dental Association for further judging with the hope of a possible state prize. Way to go, Richard!

Our Lady of Lourdes School Fashion Show

Tickets are now on sale...Our Lady of Lourdes School will be hosting a **Fashion Show on Thursday, March 29 from 6:30 -10:30 PM** and will be held at **La Grange Inn, West Islip**. The cost is \$50 per person. Your ticket includes dinner, wine, dancing and of course many prizes and raffles – this is an event not to be missed! Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis. To reserve your seat please contact the Fashion Show Chairwoman - Kate Newman at 587.6948 or e-mail to bounceusa@aol.com. You can also contact the school office at 587-7200 for tickets. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you at this wonderful event!

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

Christine Noelle Marie Lombardi

Michael and AnnMarie

Sarah Ann Desthers

John and Kimberly

Nikki Elizabeth Isolano

Nicholas and Joni

Morghan Nikole Mackey

Donald and Jessica

Kelsey Ryanne Mueller

Ryan and Susanne

Marissa Mary Terranova

Vincent and Shannon

Sydney Anna Anderson

Kenneth and Catalina

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.

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.

Remembering...

Monday, March 19

St. Joseph, husband of Mary

8:00 AM LaRocca & Sweeney Family

Tuesday, March 20

8:00 AM Thomas E. Dowling

Wednesday, March 21

8:00 AM Frank Cafaro



Thursday, March 22

8:00 AM Louise Riedemann

Rest In Peace

Vincent Courtney

Friday, March 23

8:00 AM John Varley

Saturday, March 24

8:00 AM Frank Barba, Pauline Corace, Jo Brogan, Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mary Panicola, Robert LaPolla, Bill Hayes, Barbara Grice,
Alexandrea Montouri-Cheney, Michael Michilini

5:00 PM Patricia Heartt

Fr. Ed Dowling

Sunday, March 25

8:00 AM Kevin Clyde

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

9:30 AM Tony Squeo

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

11:00 AM Daniel Thompson

Fr. Mike Vetrano

12:30 PM Kenneth Ross

Fr. Stan Chukwube

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Nicholas Caiozzo, Casertano & Galbo Family,
Thomas Izzo, Vicki Jansack, Ralph Marotta, Charles Van Manen,
Jack Martinico, Antoinette Martino, Judy Nicholson, William Hayes,
Frank & Margaret Riggio, Molly Izzarone, Rose Rutkowski,
Brian Bogart, Francis Grunenberg

Fr. Stan Chukwube

Celebrating Sacraments



Prayer Service for Peace

Monday, March 19

7:00 PM Rosary for Peace

led by our Rosary Christian Mothers

7:30 PM Prayer Service

On the 4th Anniversary of the beginning of the war in Iraq...

How can I be a good citizen, want an end to the war and still pray for military service women and men? What are the challenges? What is my Church, my faith calling me to?

Let's gather together on this holy night – the Feast of St. Joseph – for some time away in prayer for peace. Hospitality – including delicious St. Joseph pastry- will be hosted by our Social Action Group!

We hope to have a special reading of names of military service women and men serving in Iraq and the military throughout the world. Please bring the name of a loved one to the service or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Throughout Lent, we will celebrate the “scrutinies” – times for the candidates and catechumens to “bring out and strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good” in them – at the 9:30 AM Mass this Sunday and 11 AM Mass next Sunday.



LENTEN SCRUTINIES

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.

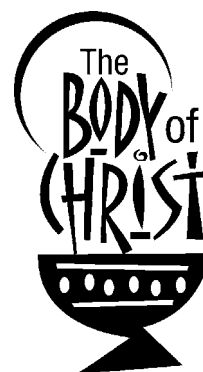
Please pray for the **Elect** in our parish community – *Jenna Anderson, Jason Cohen, Jessica Dienstag, Katharine Farrell* and our parish **candidates** - *Angela Cirulnick, Stephen DeLise, Roseanne Hicks, Thomas Hicks and Andrea Jones*.

If you or a loved one are interested in receiving becoming a part of the R.C.I.A., please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 or e-mail to fatherstan@ollchurch.org, snancy@ollchurch.org, jengallagher@ollchurch.org or jsureau@ollchurch.org.

Living Liturgy

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Are you interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister at Our Lady of Lourdes? This is such a wonderful and life giving ministry in our parish. Special training sessions are offered by the Diocese of Rockville Centre this Spring. If you are interested, contact the Parish Office at 661.3224 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org



The Communion Bow

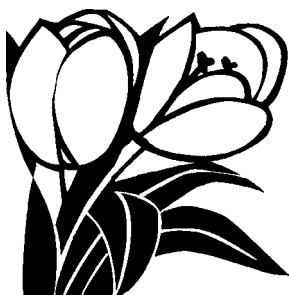
The procession to receive communion is a clear sign of our willingness to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Remember that we are called to make a slight bow of the head before receiving the Body and the Blood of Christ.

This bow should take place *as the person in front of you* is receiving Communion. This act is good personal reminder to us of what we are about to receive (and hopefully become) and to those who are praying for us while we are processing.

New Liturgical Norms

You may have read in *The Long Island Catholic* or in your own readings about liturgy about Bishop Murphy's request that all parishes in our Diocese follow the latest directives from the Vatican. This will not mean much in terms of our regular prayer life in the parish. Our priests and deacons will now purify all of the vessels after Mass in the Sacristy. Our sacristans will then clean them after they have been purified.

Bishop Murphy, in his letter to the priests and deacons, is clear in saying that this is not a knock on the "laity" concluding his letter by saying, "This does not mean that anyone is 'unworthy' to purify vessels....it is simply another way to emphasize that we are blessed to be involved with the most precious gift the Lord left us on the night before He died: His Body and Blood in the Sacrament of the Eucharist."



Easter Flowers

The work of planning our parish's environment is not an easy one! Already our Art and Environment crew is working hard to make our celebration of the Triduum and the Vigil a great one! If you would like to remember a loved one in a special way, please return one of our Easter Flower Offering envelopes found at all the doors of the Church. Your loved one's name will be listed in an upcoming issue of the bulletin. What a wonderful way to remember our loved ones during the season of hope and resurrection!

Easter Flower Offerings

Easter Flower offerings received by Sunday, March 18 will be published in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

Outreach

In the family of Our Lady of Lourdes, “Outreach is a familiar word. There are many ministries which come under the title “Outreach”, but the one that is the most necessary and important is the “outreach” to those less fortunate than we. It is this “hands on” reaching out to others which I consider a vocation.

In our small and unassuming office, we reach out to our brothers and sisters who have nowhere else to go or have no one else to talk to. This presence requires compassion, understanding, a large heart and a good sense of humor! To be able to say, “You are not alone” or “I’ve been there” from a place of personal truth eases the burden a client may feel. The Ministry of Outreach is both material and spiritual. Many times we just

listen to the cries of a lost soul—people who have been forgotten by both society and their families. And, many times we carry their stories with us. Some days, it is difficult to leave their stories at the office. When days pass and we have had no word from a client, we share our concerns with the other workers. Often we reach out to them with a phone call and a reassuring word.

Those who minister from our little office are either Core Workers or office workers. Core Workers have taken courses in working directly with the client. The Core Worker gives the one-on-one assistance and partners with the client in working through the crisis. The office workers do the secretarial work which is equally important as the first contact a client has with our office is the person answering the phone. These volunteers help set the tone for the client, reassuring them and telling them what documents are required for their first meeting with the Core Worker. The office staff keep the office running day-to-day. We try to keep our office a sanctuary—where people are treated with dignity and their problems remain confidential.

During the holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas, the team in Outreach grows. Each parishioner who contributes to the Thanksgiving and Christmas Drives becomes a member of our Outreach Team. Through your generosity the spiritual is manifested by the material. You, the parishioner, see to it that the birth of Jesus is celebrated again, every year in our community of West Islip.

There is so much more that can be said—and will be shared with you in the coming weeks. I’m inviting you to stop in and see what Outreach is all about. And remember, as Fulton Sheen once said, “Life is worth living, when you are giving!”

-Jane Desthers



Food Pantry Needs

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

Friendly Visitor Program

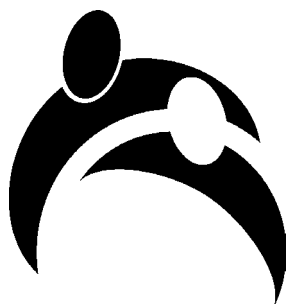
Outreach is looking for a few friendly volunteers! If you are interested in becoming a “Visitor” to one of our elderly or infirm parishioners, Outreach would love to have you. This is a wonderful way to extend “community” to those who are unable to leave their homes due to age or illness. The visitor Program will involve visiting an elderly or infirm parishioner in their home once a week. Training will be offered for you here at OLL. If interested, please call the Outreach Office and speak with Mary for more details. You can reach her at the Outreach Office at 661.9262, option 4.

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.

Communion Calls

Communion brought to those who are homebound.
Contact the Parish Office at 661.3224.



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 to keep in your thoughts and prayers ...

*Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan, Christian Bullock, Lynn Castellano, Regina Cranor,
Joseph Cristallo, Millie Durkin-Barrera, Jason Fisher, Jimmy Grillo, Samantha Hil,
Adam Ippolito, Monica Jasinski, Brigid Kinney, Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento,
Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Bryan Monahan, Anna Nieroda,
Doris Patterson, Frieda Perry, Gene Perry, Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds,
Dorothy Schiavone, Rose Serragano, Dorothy Sullivan, Loretta Vitale*

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.



Fourth Sunday of Lent

Many parents of older teenagers are no doubt sitting in the pews of their parishes today without their children by their side. There are a host of reasons, but all too frequently the kids have argued that they are “bored” or they don’t get anything out of going to Mass. We worry; will they turn their backs on God forever? How will God ever forgive them for doing such a thing?

The parable of the prodigal son, from today’s Gospel reading from Luke, illustrates to us that no matter the sin, no matter the time away, God will always welcome us into the kingdom of heaven. Jesus even went so far as to illustrate that the father in the parable didn’t wait for his son to beg for forgiveness; instead, he ran to greet him and began a great celebration of his return. God’s love is patient and forgiving.

The prodigal son illustrated what the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches as Jesus’ call to interior conversion and penance (CCC 1430-32). In other words, unless our hardened hearts are softened with the acceptance that we have been given the strength to renew our belief in God, outward signs of penance will be meaningless. The light and love of the Lord in your heart will remove the darkness of sin if only you let it. Turn to God, and God will greet you sooner than you expect!

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Readings for the Week of March 18, 2007

Sunday:	Jos 5:9a, 10-12/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Monday:	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Tuesday:	Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday:	Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30
Thursday:	Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47
Friday:	Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday:	Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53
Next Sunday:	Is 43:16-21/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11

Financial Summary

March 11, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 18,284.50
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (2,715.50)

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:



Daniel D'Arienzo-US Army
Bryan R. Dempsey-US Marines
Frederick Wm. Ellis-US Army
John Finn-US Army
Armand J. LeComte-US Marines
Michael Mallimo-US Army
Peter Provenzano-US Army

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

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:

"Spring."

Don't forget to tune in!

Visit "Religion & Rock" on the web, www.religionandrock.com.

Also watch "Good News with Father Jim" on TELECARE, channel 29, on Mondays and Fridays at 9:45 AM; Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 7:45 PM; Sundays at 8 PM.

Here Politics and Faith Meet: Long Islanders Seeking Justice

How Catholic citizens “work for a just ordering of society” as called for in Pope Benedict XVI’s encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love)

Quietly Serving “Outcasts”

Source: *Pathway to the Holy*, by Richard Koubek and Connie Loos, published by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Rockville Centre, Lent, 2002

*There will always be suffering which cries for consolation and help.
There will always be loneliness.*

-Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*.

“I spent my entire life in and out of foster homes. Thanksgiving means nothing to me.” This is why one 19 year old inmate in the Nassau County jail’s education program refused to participate in a class Thanksgiving activity. Clad in their bright orange prison uniforms, some 15 male students, ages 16 to 18, spend three hours each morning with their teacher, Gerry Schehr. (Mr. S is what they call him).

Mr. S spoke movingly of his students.

These kids are voices of despair. They are today’s outcasts. For many of them, prison is a revolving door. They are without hope. Their role models are in the streets. Their future is in the streets. Many are the victims of physical abuse. Almost all have been seriously neglected

Each day, over 100,000 juveniles are in US jails. The Nassau County Correctional Facility or jail, located in East Meadow, segregates youthful offenders from adults. The jail also makes a strong effort to educate the young prisoners. Again, Gerry Schehr expressed the pain of his students.

Trust. Attention. Affection. These are their needs. The content I teach, even the GED exam prep, is incidental. They are very demanding of my time and my attention. And I give it to them. Most of these young men really hope they can get back into society without getting back into the problem that brought them into prison. My job is to give them that hope.

Mr. S worries about his students. While there are some fine educational programs in the jail to give them basic skills, he is concerned that there is little support waiting for them when they leave the jail because of a lack of funding for programs to help ex-offenders. “They need to be mentored. Someone has to meet with them after their release and stay with them as they adjust to their new life. Otherwise, they come back all too soon.”

Do you want to work for justice? Contact Dr. Richard Koubek at Catholic Charities’ Public Policy Education Network, 516.733.7077 or by e-mail: Koubek.richard@catholiccharities.cc

Golden Wedding Jubilee

On **Sunday, April 29, 2007** couples married 50 years or more are invited to a special Mass to be celebrated by Bishop William Murphy at **St. Lawrence the Martyr, Sayville at 3 PM**. Please pick up your registration card at the OLL Parish Office no later than Monday, April 9.

Renew My Spirit

Bereavement conference March 24 from 9:30 AM until 4 PM at Kellenberg Memorial High School. Keynote address will be given by Fr. Charles and Laurie Mangano followed by discussion sessions with a professional staff of presiders that will address: Grief is a Family Affair, Men and Grief, The Grief of Children, Secondary Trauma: Helping the Helpers and more.

Registration is \$60. Please make your check payable to Catholic Cemeteries and mail to Diocese of Rockville Centre, P.O. Box 182, Westbury, NY 11590

Bereaved Support Group

St. Brigid's Church in Westbury will be starting its spring support groups for the newly bereaved. A group for newly widowed and a second group for individuals who have lost a family member other than a spouse will be starting on Wednesday, March 21. Each group will meet for 10 sessions from 7:15 until 8:30 PM. The cost of registration is \$20. Please contact Adriana at 516.334.0021 for additional information.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome

As part of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of our diocese, Bishop William Murphy invites you to join him on a pilgrimage to Rome November 4-12, 2007. He has asked Msgr. Jim McNamara, the pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Nesconset, to be the spiritual leader.

If you wish further information or to book online, please visit www.pilgrimages.com/rvcd or call toll free 1.800.206.8687 for a brochure.

Maria Regina Residence

Maria Regina Residence is a skilled long term care facility located on the property of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Brentwood. It provides Adult Day Health Services offering a wonderful day program including transportation and meals, as well as a loving atmosphere provided by an inclusive staff. If interested, or for further information, please contact Veronica Anderson, Director at 631.299.3045.

Help Wanted

A position is open for a **Rectory Cook** for five priests at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Rectory for Saturday nights. Possible coverage of vacations and sick times. Please call business manager at 631.667.4044, extension 110.

Part time secretary position available at Mary Immaculate Church, Bellport. Duties include office work, telephones, and weekly bulletin-three days per week. Must be computer literate. Please call 286.0154 if interested.

The Cross as Revealing the True Cost of Love

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

One of the best-selling books in England at present is a novel by Tony Parson, *Man and Boy*. In it, Parson reflects upon some of the strengths and weaknesses of today's young adults, Generation X.

His hero is a young man who has just celebrated his 30th birthday. Like so many people of his generation, he has a lot of admirable qualities: He's sincere, genuine, likeable, humble enough, generally honest, and essentially moral. He wants all the right things, but, all this good-will notwithstanding, his life takes a painful twist. Happily-enough married and the father of a young son whom he much loves, our bungling hero unthinkingly sleeps with one of his co-workers on the night of his 30th birthday. The action itself, he feels, is meaningless. He doesn't love the woman, nor she him. For him, it's an episodic act, pure and simple, one night of irrationality.

His wife, though, takes a different view. She finds out and, for her, it is anything but meaningless. Having been betrayed before by significant men in her life, her father included, she is unwilling to accept and forgive this. She moves out and eventually divorces our hero who is left wondering why an act of such, seeming, little significance has so great a consequence. Slowly, painfully, he begins to see that actions have far-reaching consequences, whether we intend that or not. What he learns too through this bitter lesson is that love costs something, demands hard choices, and asks us to sweat blood at times. It cannot be had without paying a price.

There's a real price to be paid for love. The cross tells us this. The language we use to speak about the cross might sometimes not give that impression. We speak of Jesus' suffering on the cross "as paying a debt", "as washing us clean with blood", "as making expiation for sin" and "as breaking the power of satan." These expressions, metaphors essentially, might give the impression that Jesus suffers on the cross as part of some divinely-scripted plan and that the purpose of his sufferings is to pay off a debt within the divine realm. What has all of this got to do with us?

What Jesus' suffered on the cross and what he suffered just prior in the Garden of Gethsemane, is not something that is too much in the realm of divine mystery to be understood. It's something we are asked to imitate. What Jesus' suffering on the cross reveals, among other

things, is that real love costs and costs dearly. If we want sustained, faithful, and life-giving love in our lives, the kind of pain that Jesus suffered on the cross is, at a point, its price-tag.

"Love is a harsh thing," Fyodor Dostoevsky once said, costing "not less than everything," T.S. Eliot adds. That's one of the messages of the cross. Simply put, the cross says: "If you want real love beyond romantic daydreams, if you want to keep any commitment you have ever made in marriage, parenting, friendship, or religious vocation, you can do so only if you are willing to sweat blood and die to yourself at times. There is no other route. Love costs. What you see when you look at the cross of Jesus is what committed love asks of us."

This is not something our culture is keen to hear. Today we have many strengths, but sweating blood and dying to self in order to remain faithful within our commitments is not something at which we are very good. We find it very difficult to make choices and then to do the hard things that need to be done in order to stick with those choices. Our problem is not ill-will or ill-intention. Like Parson's bungling hero, we are sincere, likeable, and moral. We want the right things, but every choice is a renunciation and we would love to have what we have without excluding some other things.

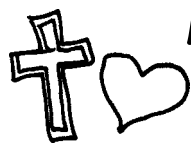
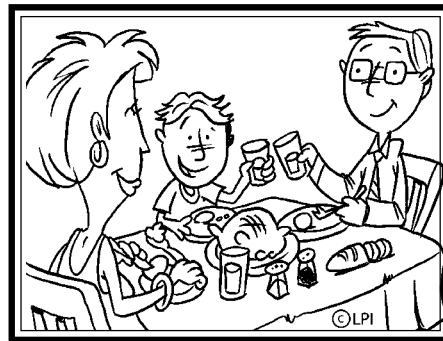
We want to be saints, but we don't want to miss out on any sensation that sinners experience. We want fidelity in our marriages, but we want to flirt with every attractive person who comes round; we want to be good parents, but we don't want to make the sacrifice this demands, especially in terms of our careers; we want deep roots, but we don't want to forego the intoxication that comes with new stimulus; we want stable friendship, but we don't want duties or obligations that tie us down. In short, we want love, but not at the cost of "obedience unto death."

And yet that is the message of the cross. Love costs, costs everything. To love beyond romantic daydreams means to "sweat blood" and "to be obedient unto death". The cross invites us to look at the choices we made in love, see how they narrow our options, and, in that pain, say: "Not my will, but yours, be done."

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.

Sharing the Gospel

Everything you have is a gift from God -- your body, your mind, your food, your clothes -- everything! Sometimes people become proud, and they think they have earned God's gifts. Sometimes people run away from God, and they waste God's gifts. Just remember, it is never too late to run back to God. Every good gift comes from God.



Mission for the Week

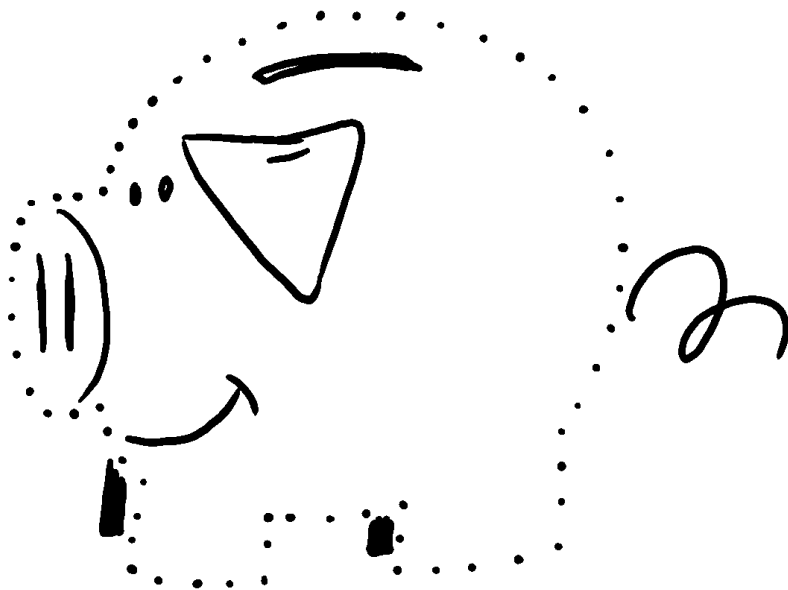
Name three good things God has given you.

Say "thank you" to God for those gifts in a prayer.



Puzzle

Trace the dotted line and color



©LPI

Prayer



Dear God,

help me to be truly thankful for all the gifts you have given me.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of Jesus hugging you.