

**"NOR DO I
CONDEMN YOU."** *John 8:11*



**OUR LADY OF LOURDES
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 25, 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.

L Fifth 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



Art & Environment

The Art & Environment Ministry invites you to share in the joy of Jesus' resurrection by decorating a butterfly that will be used to beautify our worship spaces this Easter season.

The butterfly reminds us that Jesus, who died and was buried, left his dark tomb and is still alive. It also reminds us that we become like new people when we decide to follow Jesus.

Please be sure to pick one up after Mass today!
All decorated butterflies should be returned to the available baskets by Good Friday, April 6.

Adult Faith Formation

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: \$5 [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.]

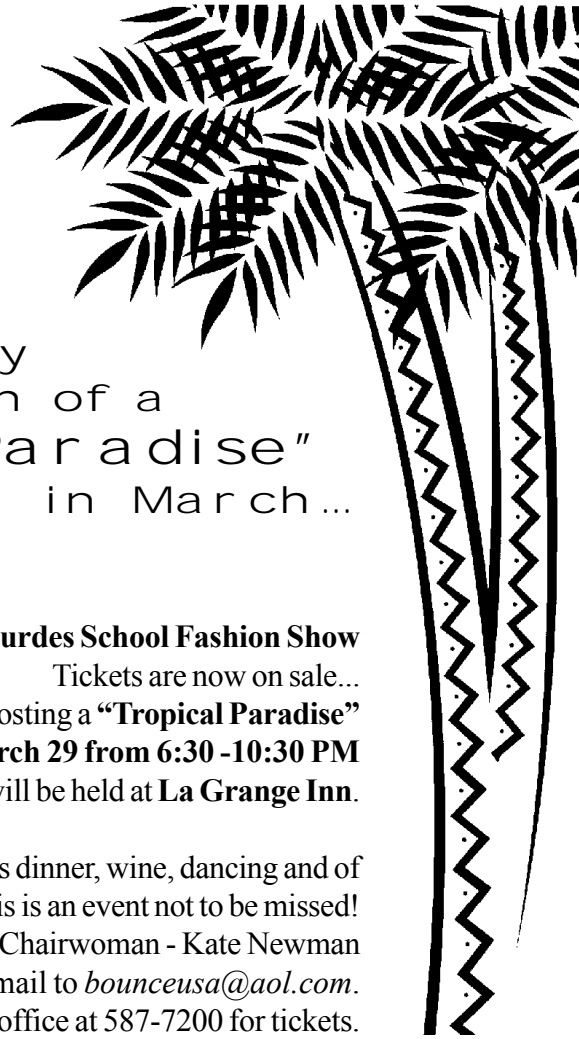
Senior Circle

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.

School News



Around Our Parish

Come and enjoy
the warmth of a
"Tropical Paradise"
in March...

Our Lady of Lourdes School Fashion Show

Tickets are now on sale...

Our Lady of Lourdes School will be hosting a "**Tropical Paradise**"
Fashion Show on Thursday, March 29 from 6:30 -10:30 PM
that will be held at **La Grange Inn**.

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!
To reserve your seat please contact 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.

School Mass

The School Mass for the month of March will be celebrated on
Monday, March 26, at 9 AM. All are invited and welcome!

Religious Education

always doing more...

"THE SIX"

Sunday, 6 PM Mass - All 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Graders and their Families...

5th Sunday of Lent, March 25 - Grade 9

"FORGIVE"...ONE ANOTHER

Palm Sunday, April 1 - Grade 8

"PRAY"...AS HOLY WEEK BEGINS

Holy Week 2007

Palm Sunday

April 1

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

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.)

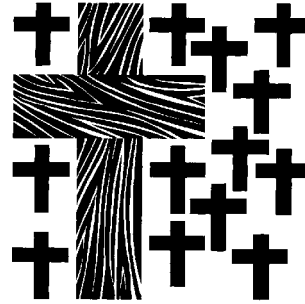


Stations of the Cross

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**



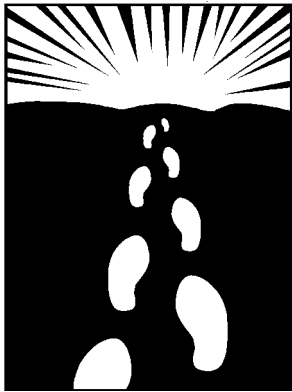
Living Stations of the Cross

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

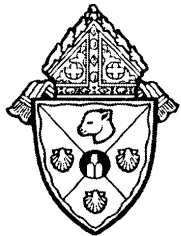
Children's and Family Holy Thursday Service – 4 PM – Church

Friday, April 6

Children's Good Friday Service – 12 Noon – Church

Saturday, April 7

Easter Egg Hunt – 11:30 AM – Great Lawn



2007 Catholic Ministries Appeal

The Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us

The key ingredient to the success of our appeal is participation. In order to reach our need we need to have every family participate in the appeal to the best of their ability. If you have not had an opportunity to make a gift to the appeal or have been waiting to make a pledge, please complete the pledge card below and place it in the collection basket.

WHAT ARE YOU ASKED TO DO?

As a parishioner in your parish and a member of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, we ask you to help us meet the challenge we now face. To succeed in accomplishing the needs of this appeal, we ask each of our Catholic families to consider a sacrificial pledge to the Catholic Ministries Appeal to the best of their financial ability. The specific amount to be donated is a decision that each family is asked to make after prayerful consideration.

To assist you in making your decision, a series of Suggested Gift Plans has been prepared for your consideration. Keep in mind that while no pledge is too small or too large, it should have some relationship to your own standard of living and how generous God has been to you and your family. Our ultimate need in this appeal is 100% participation! We thank you in advance for your generosity and support in this very important endeavor.

Suggested Gift Plans		
Can You Sacrifice?	Total Pledge	10 Monthly Payments
\$3.33/day	\$1,000	\$100
\$2.50/day	\$750	\$75
\$1.60/day	\$500	\$50
\$1.33/day	\$400	\$40
\$1.20/day	\$360	\$36
\$.83/day	\$250	\$25
\$.67/day	\$200	\$20
\$.50/day	\$150	\$15

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



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.

Holy Week 2007

We need you!

The holy liturgies of the Triduum - Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday - mark who we are as a faith community! Come and be a part of them...starting with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 PM on Holy Thursday.

Terri Hunter, of our parish liturgy committee, took some time to share her thoughts about why Holy Thursday Mass is important to her...

"Because....it is the most moving mass I have ever gone to. From the presentation of oils in the beginning, to the the washing of the feet in the middle to the pilgrimage to the parish center at the end....The first communion children are adorable and the music is fantastic. The mass helps to remind me why I want to be like Jesus and ending in the darkened parish center sends me out proud to be Catholic. It is the way I want my Easter weekend to begin. Come experience it for yourself."

Parish Pilgrimage 2007

Travel this summer to Montreal and Quebec. Experience a pilgrimage that brings a wonderful fellowship among us. Travel dates are scheduled for July 9 - July 16, 2007.

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, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

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

Daniel Joseph Carter

Thomas and Vickie

Ashley Rae Cornibert

Gary and Danielle

Kira Felicia Cornibert

Gary and Danielle

Michael Paul Mauro

Joseph and Ruth

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 26

Annunciation of the Lord

8:00 AM John Steffens

Tuesday, March 27

8:00 AM Susan Maresco

Wednesday, March 28

8:00 AM Edward Wernikowski

Thursday, March 29

8:00 AM Carolyn Timmer

Friday, March 30

8:00 AM Angelo Manuzzi

Saturday, March 31

8:00 AM Elizabeth Homann, Dolores Betsch, Jo Brogan,
Sacred Heart, Douglas Killane, Vito Toscano,
Gabrielle Azzarelli, William Hayes, Scott Peterson,
Vincent McCarthy, David Moreale

5:00 PM Robert D. Colin

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Sunday, April 1

8:00 AM Rose Monroe

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

9:30 AM Francis Durante

Fr. Mike Vetrano

11:00 AM Frances & Vincent Bivona

Fr. Ed Dowling

12:30 PM John Lovari

Fr. Stan Chukwube

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Jo Brogan, Nancy Maggiore,
Linda Francavilla, Larry Buffalino, Raymond Stone,
Douglas Killane, Molly Izzarone, Laura May,
Vincent Courtney, Brian Bogart, Francis Grunenberg

Fr. Bob Scheckenback



Rest In Peace

Barbara Notine

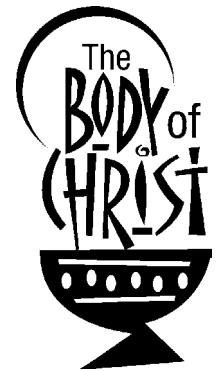
Anthony Loffredo

Celebrating Sacraments

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 a 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."

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, March 27**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, April 1-Palm Sunday**. We will begin with the **Rosary at 7:40 AM in the Church** and the **meeting will follow the 8 AM Mass at 9 AM in Room 16**.

Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, March 26**, at **12:30 PM in the Parish Center**.

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 11 AM Mass this Sunday.

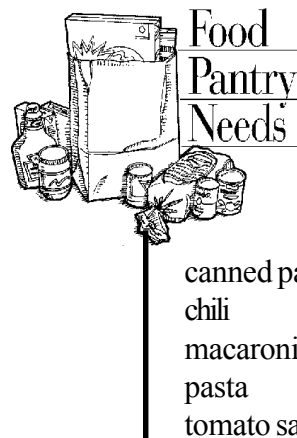


LENTEN SCRUTINIES

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.



Food Pantry:

On a recent Tuesday morning, I ventured into the Parish Center as a SAGE meeting was concluding. Two women approached me and inquired about volunteering in Outreach. I explained that a volunteer usually commits to a certain number of hours one day a week. Volunteers begin as office workers, answering the phones and helping with the paperwork.

In the course of our conversation, I mentioned our food pantry and was surprised to learn that neither woman had ever seen our pantry. Though both contributed food weekly, they had never thought of asking to see the pantry. Not wanting to pass up the opportunity to offer a “guided tour,” I quickly retrieved the key and escorted these two to the site of all the food donations. Now, I must warn you, the food pantry pales in comparison to Stop’N Shop-not in variety of food offerings, mind you...but in terms of size.

I opened the door to the pantry and the three of us stepped inside. To the left and to the right were shelves stocked with canned foods, cereals, peanut butter, jelly, pasta. In front of us were several trays of day old bread. Hanging off the shelves were the plastic bags used for food bags. And there was silence. I turned to the women and started to say, “Here it is,” but stopped mid-sentence. Both women were crying. This was a sacred moment.

“How beautiful, that we can help and feed the hungry. Thank you.”

And they left...I don’t know their names-but to these two I say, “Thank You!” Thank you for reminding me how blessed we all are. Thank you for the gentle reminder that we are to be People of Compassion giving to those in need.

-Mary McMahan

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 *Terri Ryan*.
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, 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, Doris Patterson, Frieda Perry,
Gene Perry, Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds, Dorothy Schiavone, Dorothy Sullivan,
Loretta Vitale*

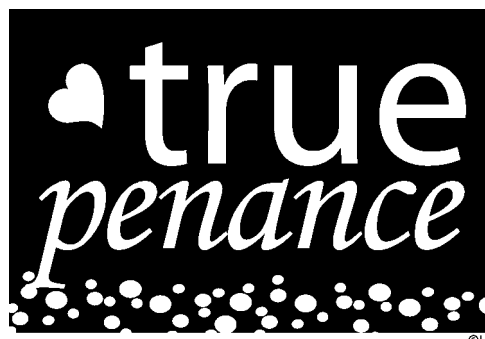
Good Samaritan Prayer Group of L.I.

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.



Fifth Sunday of Lent

A newspaper writer filed a report about a particularly violent event he had heard about in a foreign country. He convinced his editors that the story was worthy of the front page along with the headline “Where’s the outrage?” He was distraught that more people weren’t as upset about this event; what he failed to realize was that the same event takes place on the streets of our cities every day with little or no sign of stopping. Where is his outrage here?

Today’s Gospel reading from John carries two admonitions from Jesus. A woman is brought before him, charged with a crime punishable by stoning according to Jewish law. Having her fate in his hands, Jesus first tells the scribes and Pharisees to carry out their punishment only if they are free from sin themselves, which they could not do. Secondly, he admonishes the woman to end her sinful ways, for only she can turn her life around.

The Catechism of the Church clearly states that there is no offense, no matter how serious the sin, that Christ cannot forgive (CCC 981). This, of course, is only possible if our penance is true and honest. Even the scribes and the Pharisees were honest in the self-admission that they had sinned. Today, give thanks to God for the gift of forgiveness, which gives us all hope for everlasting freedom.

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Readings for the Week of March 25, 2007

Sunday:	Is 43:16-21/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11
Monday:	Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Nm 21:4-9/Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday:	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Jn 8:31-42
Thursday:	Gn 17:3-9/Jn 8:51-59
Friday:	Jer 20:10-13/Jn 10:31-42
Saturday:	Ez 37:21-28/Jn 11:45-56
Next Sunday:	Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14-23:56 or 23:1-49

Financial Summary

March 18, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 15,899.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (5,101.00)

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:



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:

"Commitment."

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)

The Call to Justice...Deep Within Us

Source: Pathway to the Holy, by Richard Koubek and Connie Loos, published by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Rockville Centre, Autumn, 2001

*Love – caritas – will always prove necessary,
even in the most just society.*

-Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*.

Maria Armini was only 19 when she stepped off the ship *Italia* on November 23, 1896, with her brothers Eugenio and Cesare. Ellis Island was an intimidating place for these young Sicilian immigrants who fled poverty to make a new life in America. WOPS the Italians were derisively called – Without Papers. They lived in isolated ghettos.

Over a century later, Maria Armini’s successful grandchildren live on Long Island and remember the needlepoint pillow she made, showing the American and Italian flags intertwined, which showed her gratitude for all that America gave her and her children. Along with this sense of gratitude, she gave her children a strong sense of caritas – love – and justice for the poor.

Today, almost as many immigrants are arriving in the United States as when Maria Armini came in 1896. Virtually all are working; some of them do the landscaping and the contracting work on the Long Island homes of her grandchildren. Many already own their own homes on Long Island. But, like Maria, today’s immigrants are often isolated, viewed as aliens and strangers.

But some believe that today’s immigrants can help resurrect once cherished American values to care for the poor and each other. Sociologist Alan Wolfe found that many suburbanites welcome immigrants because “immigrants . . . remind them of the importance of values they are increasingly spurning” such as family, faith and hard work. And, Msgr. Lorenzo Albacante observed that many immigrants have a strong sense, drawn from their Catholic social tradition, that the community should care for its poor.

*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.

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.

Pastoral Formation Institute

The Pastoral Formation Institute offers an exciting, integrated approach to discipleship through instruction, prayer, faith sharing and the development of leadership skills. Weekly sessions prepare the lay Catholic adult to enter more fully into the life of the Church. In addition to weekly sessions, formation weekends at the Seminary enrich the PFI process. Watch upcoming bulletins for information on registration for Fall 2007 classes and upcoming information meetings.

For Your Information

All 9/11 workers and volunteers who did rescue, recovery or cleanup work...

If you are not currently sick, the possibility exists that you may become sick in the future because of having been exposed to toxic air after 9/11. Therefore, you must register with the Worker's Compensation Board by August 14, 2007 to protect your right to file a claim if you do become sick. For registration form and instructions, please call 1.866.WTC.2556.

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.

The Cross as Revealing God's Presence in the Poor

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Several years ago, in Canada's prairies, not far from where I was born and raised, a man named Robert Latimer killed his severely-handicapped daughter, Tracy. He put her into the family truck, hooked a tube to the exhaust-emission, sealed the windows and doors, and let her fall asleep. He wasn't malicious in intent. He loved his daughter. In his mind, this was an act of mercy. He couldn't bear to see her suffer any longer. Nobody doubted his sincerity. His daughter was almost totally disabled physically and mentally, lived in constant pain, and there was no favourable prognosis in terms of her ever getting better or of her pain ever lessening. So he, in as humane a way as possible, ended her life.

Her death became a huge national story, a drawn-out court-battle that lasted for years, ending up in the Supreme Court of Canada, and a country-wide moral and religious debate that has bitterly divided families and communities. The death of this young girl, Tracy Latimer, raises an issue we can't agree on today: What's the value of a human life that is severely disabled?

What's the value of a life such as Tracy Latimer's? Biblically, the answer is clear: When someone is deemed expendable, for whatever reason, at that moment she or he becomes the most important person, spiritually, in the community: The stone that is rejected by the builders is the cornerstone for the building. This means that the Tracy Latimers within our lives are a privileged place where the rest of us can experience God.

One of the central revelations of the cross is that there is a very privileged presence of God in the one who is excluded, in the one of whom society says: "better that she should die for the people." Scripture is clear on this: Already in the Jewish scriptures, we see that the prophets emphasize the idea that God has special sympathy for "orphans, widows, and strangers." At that time, these particular groups had the least status, the least power, and were deemed the most expendable. They could be left to die so that society could get on with its more urgent business. The prophets' message was revolutionary: God has a special sympathy for those whom society deems least important and how we treat those persons is the litmus test of our faith, morals, and religiosity.

Jesus takes this a notch further: In his teaching, not only does God have special sympathy for those whom

society deems least important and most expendable, but God's very presence is identified with them: "Whatsoever you do to the least of these, you do to me!" Jesus identifies God's presence with the outcasts, with the excluded ones, and he tells us that we have a privileged experience of God in our contact with them.

Nowhere is this stated more clearly than in Jesus' death on the cross: The crucified one is the stone rejected by the builders, the one deemed expendable so that normal life will not be disrupted. But the crucified one is also God and there is a special intimacy with God that can be had only in standing, as did Mary and John, near the cross, in solidarity with the crucified one, the one who is being excluded.

Sometimes that's hard to see and accept because, unlike Jesus, the excluded ones in our culture are not always innocent and loving. For example, the Oklahoma-bomber, Timothy McVeigh, was executed last summer. Our society, like the high priest of old, had pronounced its judgement: "Better that one man should die for the people!" But, unlike Jesus, Timothy McVeigh didn't radiate innocence, love, moral integrity, repentance, nor most anything else that speaks of God's presence. So how is he the cornerstone for our building?

By his exclusion, by his being deemed expendable, by being the one executed. At the precise moment when his executioners spread his arms and lashed them to a table and the lethal injection was brought in, Timothy McVeigh became the Christ-figure: a man helplessly stretched out, unanimity-minus-one, better off dead for the benefit of others, grist for those who need a scapegoat, the focus for moral reflection, the central figure in the community, and the one who, for that moment and in that situation, becomes a privileged presence of God because, as the cross makes plain, God is specially present in the excluded one.

Many of us are familiar with an incident recorded by Elie Wiesel. In one of the Nazi death camps, a prisoner had escaped and, in retaliation, the Nazis took a young boy, hanged him publicly, and forced everyone to watch this horrific spectacle. As the young boy dangled on a rope in front of them, one man cursed bitterly: "Where is God now?" Another man answered: "There, on that rope. That's God!"

One of the revelations of the cross is precisely that, in the crucified one is the presence of God.

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.

