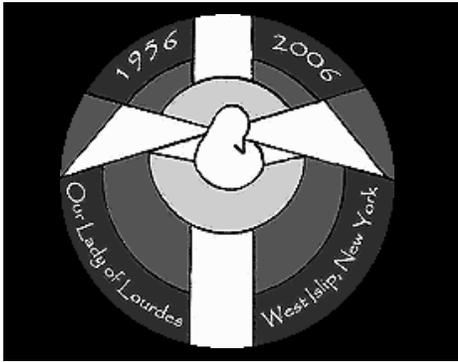


J

Jesus
said,
"Father,
Forgive Them,
For They
Know Not
What They Do."

L U K E 2 3 : 3 4

Our Lady of Lourdes
Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
April 1, 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 Scordia

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.



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

Welcome to Our Lady of Lourdes!

We are so happy to welcome everyone who has come to worship with us today! Whether you have come a long distance or you live locally, we are thrilled that you have decided to spend some time with us as we worship our Lord together. Please know that your presence today is a real blessing to our parish family. We were really looking forward to seeing you!

There's always so much happening here at OLL. We want you to remember that you are always welcome to come and be with us and participate in our ministries, programs, and activities. If you would like more information about our parish family or you are thinking about becoming a member of our parish, please contact the Parish Office at 661.3224 or email jmeehan@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 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 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.

Monday of Holy Week Celebrating God's Reconciling Love

Mass **8 AM**

Daily Readings:

Isaiah 42:1-7/John 12:1-11

Individual Confessions

Today, the Sacrament of Penance will be available in all the churches of the Diocese of Rockville Centre between the hours of 3 PM and 9 PM. Anyone who wishes to take advantage of this opportunity to go to confession, especially anyone who has been away from the sacraments, is most welcome on this Diocesan Day of Reconciliation.

Family Reconciliation Prayer Service

7:30 PM **Parish Center**

Helping our families and young people understand the sacrament of reconciliation

Families of all shapes and sizes are welcome to gather at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center. This service will help each of us to learn about the importance of this sacrament and how to celebrate it in our lives. After the service we will proceed to the Church for individual reconciliation.



Tuesday of Holy Week Preparing for the Great Feast

Mass **8 AM**

Daily Readings:

Isaiah 49:1-6/John 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday of Holy Week Preparing for the Great Feast

Mass **8 AM**

Daily Readings:

Isaiah 50:4-9/Matthew 26:14-25

Holy Thursday

Service and Eucharist: Our Call to Life!

Morning Prayer

8 AM

The Church comes together on this morning to seek God's blessing and to give praise to the Lord! Come and pray as we prepare to enter the Triduum together.

Chrism Mass

11 AM

Celebrate with Bishop William Murphy at this beautiful and holy Mass at St. Agnes Cathedral. The oils blessed at this Mass will be presented to the parish at the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper and used throughout the year.

Children's Holy Thursday Prayer Service

4 PM

All the young people of our parish are invited to experience and understand the Holy Thursday washing of feet. Parents and members of our parish family will wash the feet of the children – a reminder of Jesus' love for his disciples and a parent's love for their child! Please come – regardless of age or family size – and pray with us!

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Mass

7:30 PM

Daily Readings:

Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/1 Cor 11:23-26



This Mass recalls for us the institution of the Sacraments of Eucharist and Holy Orders. It is a wonderful way to begin the Triduum together. During the Mass, the priests of our parish will wash the feet of a number of the members of our parish community. The Washing of the Feet, the Mandatum, is a reminder that each of us - clergy, religious and lay people, young and old – is called to be a servant to one another. It is also a reminder to us of how special our priests

are to our parish and our lives. At the end of Mass, we will process around the parish – led by some of the third graders who received the Eucharist for the first time last year – and place the Eucharist in the Father John Brendel Parish Center. All are invited to come and pray before the Blessed Sacrament until Midnight when we celebrate Night Prayer.

Good Friday

Ours Were the Sufferings He Bore

Morning Prayer

8 AM

Daily Readings:

Isaiah 52:13-53/Heb 4:14-16;5:7-9/John 18:1-19, 42

On this holy and solemn morning, we come together to hear God's Word, pray the psalms and to unite as we prepare to recall the death of Jesus this day.

Children's Good Friday Prayer Service

12 Noon

The children of our parish lead us in prayer as we recall Jesus' death and are reminded of his great love for us! During this service, we'll listen to the story of the Passion as led by our parish's third graders. We'll receive Holy Communion. Then, we will come forward and touch (or venerate) the cross. Children, who have been part of our Children's Liturgy of the Word, are asked to bring back their hearts that have been filled throughout this Lent.

Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

3 PM

This solemn service brings us to the Passion of Jesus through the Word. We'll listen to some of the most profound readings of the Church year. We pray for the Church, the world and for ourselves. We'll gather around the Table to receive the Eucharist. Finally, we will bring forth the cross and venerate it. Let's pray that this service can bring each of us to a greater reality of Jesus' love for every one of us.

Following this service, all are invited to remain in the Church for times of prayer and reflection. The cross will be placed in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Living Stations of the Cross

7:30 PM

Ours Were the Sufferings He Bore

Our parish's youth and music ministries come together and lead us in this most powerful and beautiful service. We'll pray through song and Word. We will hear the reflections of our brothers and sisters in the parish as they seek to unite their journey and ours with the cross of Christ. Please come and pray for them!



Holy Saturday

The Cross - A Reason to Hope!

Morning Prayer

8 AM

On this holy and solemn morning, we come together to hear God's Word, pray the psalms and to unite as we wait in joyful hope for the celebration of Resurrection.

Easter Egg Hunt

11:30 AM

Following this service, we will head out to the Great Lawn for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt! Please come and bring your family and friends.

Blessing of the Easter Foods

12 Noon

We invite all to bring their food for this special prayer service and blessing in the Church.

The Great Vigil

7:30 PM

We will gather together at 7:30 PM outside of the Narthex and bless the new fire and Paschal Candle. We will be led by the light of the Paschal candle (*the symbol of the Risen Christ*) into the darkened Church spreading among us the Light of Christ. (If you do not wish to be part of the procession, we ask that you remain in the Church so you can participate by hearing.)

The Easter Vigil is one of the most beautiful ceremonies of the entire liturgical year. During the Vigil, we celebrate the Paschal Mystery – Jesus Christ has gone through death to new life – in a most prayerful and spirit-filled way! The Easter Vigil is much more than just “Easter Mass” – it is the heart of who we are as the people of God. We are renewed because we hear God's Word, renew our Baptismal vows, celebrate the Easter sacraments with women and men of the R.C.I.A., process to the font, and share in the gift of the Eucharist. Come and pray with our parish family.



Following the Great Vigil – we'll have light refreshments in the Parish Center as we celebrate with those who have been baptized and confirmed.

Easter Sunday



**HE IS
RISEN!**

6:15 AM* Sunrise Mass at Captree Overlook

8:00 AM Mass in the Church

9:30 AM Mass in the Church

9:30 AM Mass in the cafeteria

11:00 AM Mass in the Church

11:00 AM Mass in the cafeteria

12:30 PM Mass in the Church

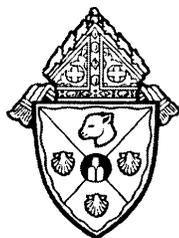
No 6:00 PM on Easter Sunday.

* We will gather at Our Lady of Lourdes at 5:45 AM and caravan to Captree Overlook for this special celebration of the Eucharist! If the weather is not in our favor, we will gather in the Church for Mass – so come rain or shine! (Please bring your own chair for the beach.)

Additional Parking

Remember we are fortunate to be able to use the parking lot of Manetuck Elementary School during busy feast days like Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

You can enter the driveway off of Hunter Avenue - the driveway entrance is on the west side of the Rectory. This will save you some time and stress during the holy days.



2007 Catholic Ministries Appeal

The Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us

Thank you to all those who have responded!

The Diocese of Rockville Centre would like to thank all those who have made a sacrifice by making a gift to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. 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 return it to the Parish Office or to any collection basket.

Have you Responded?

One of our goals is to have every family participate in this Appeal by responding with a YES or a NO. We are hopeful that every family in our parish and diocese has responded to this call for sacrifice. Our goal had been based on every family making an equal sacrifice, not an equal gift. Look at what God has given to you and your family and consider the gift you can give to help those in need here on Long Island. Only you can decide what that gift will be. If you have not yet responded, please consider what you can do to the best of your ability to help our parish and diocese reach a successful conclusion.

YOUR GIFT - is like any other gift to a loved one. What we give to our parish is a gift given without reservation or condition.

THANKSGIVING - our offering is a grateful response to the immense Love and Blessings God has shown for us. It is a testimony that God is first in our lives.

PLANNED GIFT - a decision that requires thought and time. We don't give merely what we happen to have left over in our wallet or purse when the collection basket comes.

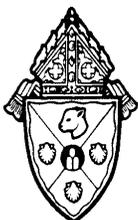
CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL • DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
 PO Box 4000 • ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11571-4000 • 516-379-5210 EXT 2 • www.drvc.org/cma.html

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

FOR GIFTS OF SECURITIES, PLEASE CALL THE APPEAL OFFICE FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

or e-mail us at www.drvc.org/cma.html

MATCHING GIFTS: IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A MATCHING GIFT FROM YOUR EMPLOYER, PLEASE FORWARD TO THE CMA OFFICE

Remembering...

Monday, April 2

8:00 AM John Darcey

Tuesday, April 3

8:00 AM Edward DeMatteo

Wednesday, April 4

8:00 AM Marietta Greco

Altar Bread & Wine

Baby & Richard Joseph Shaddock

Thursday, April 5

8:00 AM Morning Prayer

7:30 PM Joseph Rizzo

Baptisms

Andrew Julian Schiano

Andrew and Jennifer

Friday, April 6

8:00 AM Morning Prayer

Saturday, April 7

8:00 AM Morning Prayer

7:30 PM People of the Parish

Rest In Peace

Anthony Caramanica

William R. Wicks

Sunday, April 8

8:00 AM Anthony LaRocca

9:30 AM All Souls of the Bruno Family

cafeteria People of the Parish

11:00 AM Danny, Mickey & Mike Salegna

cafeteria People of the Parish

12:30 PM Valerie Moscarelli

6:00 PM No 6 PM Mass Scheduled

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.

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

5th Annual El Salvador Mission Trip

June 30-July 5, 2007: Join us for a week-long retreat among the poor! This experience, which is especially geared for teens ages 12-18, will enable you to share your faith, culture, and hospitality with the people of our Sister Parish of Tacuba, El Salvador.

We will spend a week walking with the people, learning about their lives, and running a mini-vacation Bible camp for the children there!

The cost of the trip will be approximately \$850. For more information, email jengallagher@ollchurch.org or come to our first trip meeting on Thursday, April 19 at 8 PM in the Parish Center.

Sixth Annual OLL Vacation Bible Camp

Save the dates: July 23-27. This year's theme is FLIGHT Camp!!

(Fun-Learning-In-God's-Holy-Time) and rumor has it that OLL will be visited by all kinds of FLYING things that week!

Vacation Bible Camp is for students in nursery - grade 5 and runs daily from 9 AM-12:30 PM.

Campers learn through interactive Bible stories, arts and crafts, games, super science center, and lots of those crazy camp songs! Students in sixth grade or older can serve as volunteer counselors.

Camp registration forms will run in the bulletin beginning the first week in June. Be sure to save the dates and plan to join us for a fun week! Up, up, and away!

Adult Faith Formation

upcoming course...

Acts of the Apostles...The Sequel to the Gospel of Luke

Take a journey of discovery with the apostles and the early Church community. The people, places, events shaping the future.

- The birth of the church-uncovering the meaning of Pentecost
- spreading the Good News-becoming missionaries
- Internal and external struggles-acceptance and rejection inside the new community and in the world.

Take a journey of discovery with the Church in our time. The people, places, events shaping our time and our future.

- What is the meaning of Pentecost for our time?
- What is our mission today?
- What do the struggles of the early Church teach us for our time?

This course is scheduled to be held on Tuesdays beginning April 17 from 7:30 PM until 9:30 PM in the Parish Center. Our presenter is Claire Stiglic, MA, former Assistant Director of the Pastoral Formation Institute.

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: religious@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.]

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.

Rosary Christian Mothers

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

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 Frontenac. 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.



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.



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 McMahon

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 *Joyce Petersen*.
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, Frieda Perry, Gene Perry,
Louise Posanti, 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.



Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

A dear friend told me that her son had recently turned 18 and in doing so announced that he would no longer listen to her; in fact, he was leaving and moving in with his father, whom my friend had divorced years before because of his drug abuse. She was deeply hurt that her son had rejected the love she had given him over the years, and only asked that we pray for her and for her son's return.

Throughout the Gospels, we are given brief glimpses into Jesus' humanity: his rage in the temple; his joy at welcoming innocent children to his side; his tears for his friend Lazarus. As he sat with his disciples at that final Passover meal, one cannot help but wonder if he felt the very human pain of rejection, not only from the crowds who would soon call for his death, but also from one of the 12 he had chosen to carry on after him.

On this Palm Sunday, we are reminded that God will bring good from the consequences of evil caused by his creatures (CCC 312). Joseph's brothers may have meant to kill him, but instead he saved many. So, too, did the rejection and death of Jesus Christ enable his glorification and our redemption. We are called to live as Jesus did, and if need be, freely offer our lives in his name, as salvation will erase all our fears. ©2007 Liturgical Publications Inc.

Readings for the Week of April 1, 2007

- Sunday:** Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14—23:56
or 23:1-49
- Monday:** Is 42:1-7/Jn 12:1-11
- Tuesday:** Is 49:1-6/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
- Wednesday:** Is 50:4-9a/Mt 26:14-25
- Thursday:** **Chrism Mass:** Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/
1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15
- Friday:** Is 52:13—53:12/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42
- Saturday:** **Vigil:** Gn 1:1—2:2 *or* 1:1, 2631a/Gn 22:118
or 22:12, 9a, 1013, 1518/Ex 14:15—15:1/Is 54:514/Is 55:111/
Bar 3:915, 32—4:4/Ez 36:16-17a, 1828/Rom 6:311/Lk 24:1-12
- Next Sunday:** Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col 3:1-4
or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 *or* Lk 24:1-12

Financial Summary

March 25, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 20,534.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (466.00)

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:

"Enemies."

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 Power of Parish Outreach

By Richard Koubek, Administrator, Public Policy Education Network, Catholic Charities

Love is therefore the service that the Church carries out in order to attend constantly to man’s needs, including material needs.

-Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*.

“Don’t you think New York City is putting alcoholics on the train and sending them out to us?” Senator Kenneth LaValle asked Linda Vanella, Coordinator of Infant Jesus Parish Social Ministry in Port Jefferson. “No Senator,” Linda answered respectfully, “I have been doing this work for 20 years and my experience is that the people I serve are from the community.” She added, “Just this morning, I was late to this meeting because I had an alcoholic at my door at 9:00 AM.... He’s from our community.” Just as respectfully, Senator LaValle, who is a member of Infant Jesus parish, responded, “That’s good to know.” The meeting ended with Senator LaValle making an appointment to visit Linda’s center.

This meeting was one of several that Catholic Charities’ Public Policy Education Network (PPEN) organized in 2006 with New York State senators about the need for more government funding for programs that support poor and vulnerable people. Outreach coordinators and volunteers were invaluable participants in these meetings. Linda’s Vanella’s personal and professional experience was a reality check which gave pause to everyone in the room.

In another meeting, this one with Senator Owen Johnson, the Senator’s aide complained about understaffing at the Suffolk County Department of Social Services (DSS) which results in many poor people calling their office for help. Everyone present agreed that services for the poor are not a high priority for either voters or elected officials. Mary Allen, Coordinator of Gerald Ryan Outreach Center at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church in Wyandanch spoke movingly of the 600 families she helps every month, many of whom fall through the cracks at DSS. She also pointed out that every client receives a voter registration form and is encouraged to vote. Mary’s experience helped all at the meeting see that state and county funding for DSS often falls short of their staffing needs.

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.

Gennesaret Retreat

A unique opportunity for persons facing serious illness. The weekend retreat takes place on May 4 - 6 at Montfort Spiritual Center, Bay Shore. Several OLL parishioners have enjoyed this retreat in the past. There is no cost for the retreat. Volunteer health care professionals are available for the entire weekend. There are a limited number of places and the retreat fills up very quickly since it is so popular. Please call Collette Fanelli at 665 - 7052

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 Christ's Descent into Hell

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

There's a curious line in our creed which says that, immediately following his death, Jesus "descended into hell". What, possibly, can that mean?

Within the popular Christian mindset we have the conception that, as a consequence of original sin, the gates of heaven were closed so that, from the time of Adam and Eve until the moment of Jesus' death, nobody could enter paradise. Only a divine act of reparation could again give human beings access to heaven and that act of reparation was Jesus' death which "paid the debt of sin" and so opened the gates of heaven.

In this view of things, all the just who had died from the time of Adam and Eve until Jesus' death were asleep somewhere, in a Hades of sorts. Immediately following his death, Jesus descends to that underworld and awakens these souls and then triumphantly leads them into paradise. That descent to the underworld to wake the souls of the dead and take them to heaven is what is understood as "the descent into hell". The image of this is wonderfully captured in an ancient homily that the church now uses as one of its readings for the hour of vigils on Holy Saturday.

But that's an image, something that captures, as might an icon, a deeper reality. It's not a video-tape of an actual happening. How is it to be interpreted? How did Jesus descend into hell?

Let me try to explain this by combining three images:

The first is a story, a tragic one: Some years ago some family friends of mine lost a daughter to suicide. She was in her early twenties and away from home when she made her first attempt to kill herself. The family rushed to her, flew her home, surrounded her with loving solicitude, took her to doctors of every kind, and generally tried every possible way to love and coax her out of her deadly depression. In the end, they failed. She killed herself, despite their efforts. All the loving effort and professional resources they could muster could not break through and bring her out of the private hell into which she had descended. Strong as human love can be, sometimes it stands helpless, exhausted, before a door it can't open.

My second image is taken from John's Gospel: After Jesus rises from the dead, he appears to the disciples who, as John describes, are huddled together in

a room, in fear, with the doors locked. Jesus comes right through the locked doors, stands inside the middle of their fear, and breathes out peace. A week later, he does it again.

A third image: When I was a young boy, my mother gave me a holy card, an adaptation of a famous painting by Holman Hunt ("The Christ Who Knocks") In the version my mother gave me, we see, behind a locked door, a man huddled and paralysed by a fear and darkness of some kind. Outside the door stands Jesus, with a lantern, knocking, ready to relieve the man of his burden. But there's a hitch, the door only has a knob on the inside. Jesus cannot enter, unless the man first unlocks the door. There's the implication that God cannot help unless we first let God in. Fair enough? Not exactly.

What the cross of Christ reveals is that when we are so paralysed by fear and overcome by darkness that we can no longer help ourselves, when we have reached the stage where we can no longer open the door to let light and life in, God can still come through our locked doors, stand inside our fear and paralysis, and breathe out peace. The love that is revealed in Jesus' suffering and death, a love that is so other-centred that it can fully forgive and embrace its executioners, can precisely pass through locked doors, melt frozen hearts, penetrate the walls of fear, and descend into our private hells and, there, breathe out peace.

In the case of the young woman who committed suicide, she had reached a point where she was frozen inside of a private hell, behind doors that her family's love and professional doctors could no longer open. They stood outside of her locked doors, like Jesus in Holman Hunt's painting, knocking, begging for a response that she could no longer give. I have no doubt though that when she awoke on the other side she found Christ standing inside her fear and darkness, breathing out peace.

The doctrine of the "descent into hell" is singularly the most consoling of all doctrines, in any religion. As that ancient homily on Holy Saturday so wonderfully puts it, the love that Christ reveals in the cross is so strong that it can descend into any hell we can create, thaw out our frozen souls, and lead us into the light and peace of paradise, despite our fears and weaknesses. The cross of Christ does not stand helpless before a locked door.

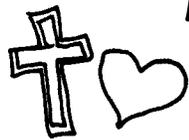
Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Father Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author and is currently the President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com.

Sharing the Gospel

One night when Jesus prayed, Jesus showed Peter, James and John what he would look like in heaven. Jesus' face changed and his clothes glowed brightly. Jesus even talked to Moses and Elijah, who had gone to heaven many years earlier. Jesus was different. He was from God!



Mission for the Week



Find something that glows in the dark. As you see it in a dark room, imagine how brightly Jesus must have glowed.

Puzzle

Help Jesus find the way to his tent.



Prayer



Dear Jesus,
I can hardly wait
to see
what you really
look like in
heaven.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of
Jesus with bright,
glowing clothes.