



Peace

I leave with you;

My Peace

Peace

I give you.



John 14:27

Our Lady of Lourdes

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 13, 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](mailto:ParishOffice@ollchurch.org)  
fax: 661-7143  
website: [www.ollchurch.org](http://www.ollchurch.org)

### **Our Lady of Lourdes School**

587-7200  
Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM  
email: [rcioffi@ollschool.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 McMahon**

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 McMahon  
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.*

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## *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

## 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 Beauvre, 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.



**LAST CALL**

There are only six places left! Hurry and reserve your place with us for this fabulous trip. Our next travel **meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 21 at 7:30 PM in Room 16.**

If you would like to receive the travel itinerary and make a reservation, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

## Ministry of Family Healing

I AM NOT A HERO...

I AM NOT AN ANGEL...

I AM JUST A MAN...

*Can you hear St. Joseph saying these words to Mary?*

*We don't know much about St. Joseph, he is rarely mentioned in Scriptures.*

Come and join the Ministry of Family Healing for a night of prayer and reflection on St. Joseph.

Join us as we listen to our fellow parishioners: *Sal Acosta, Deacon John DeGuardi,*

*Bill Kuchler and Deacon Jack Meehan* share their reflections on St. Joseph.

We will be meeting on **Wednesday, May 23, at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

Please call the Religious Ed Office to register at 661-5440, option 3. As always, food and fellowship to follow. We hope to see you on May 23 and, please, bring a friend.

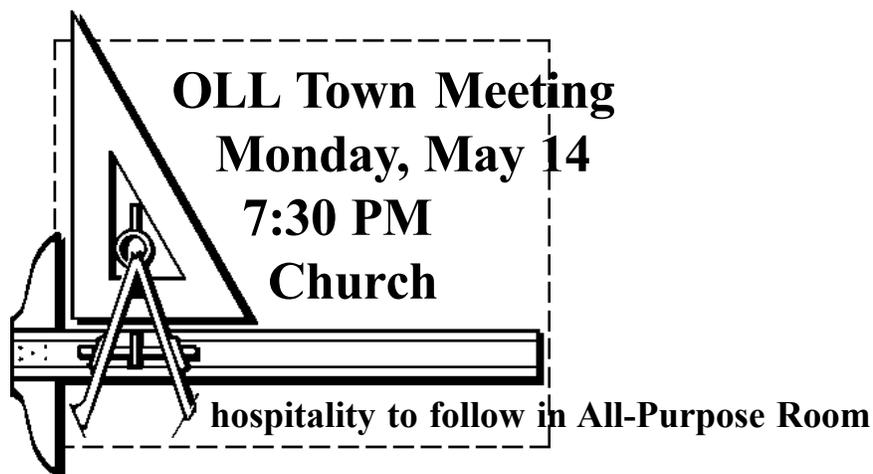
## OLL's Ongoing Concert Series

If you've loved listening to our violinist, Mr. Eddie Venegas, play at our special Holy Week services, here's your chance to enjoy his playing in a concert setting. Mr. Venegas is the violinist for the *Sweet Plantain String Quartet*. They will be performing at OLL at a special concert to be given on **June 1 at 7:30PM in the Church.**

*Sweet Plantain* is a string quartet with a contemporary voice whose mission is the performance and promotion of Latino music. Its repertoire, however, is diverse and includes all genres of music. Join us on June 1 and enjoy an evening of musical diversity and creativity.

Tickets are only \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Sponsorships are available for \$200. You may purchase your tickets in the Parish Office beginning this weekend-May 12/13. Remember to keep June 1 open for a wonderful musical experience! For more information and insight into the "Sweet Plantains String Quartet," be sure to visit their website at [www.sweetplantain.com](http://www.sweetplantain.com)!

# What Might Our Lady Of Lourdes Look Like 5 Years From Now?



***Come to our Town Meeting on May 14 and find out.***

Since last Easter, almost 600 of our parishioners attended more than forty listening sessions to contribute their ideas about the future of our parish buildings and grounds. The results were compiled by the design team from the University of Detroit Mercy. They brought our ideas together with their expertise in design and architecture to present us a plan for the future.

On May 14 at 7:30 PM in the Church, the plan will be presented to our parish.

Join us that evening to:

- Meet the team from Detroit Mercy
- See the results of all our listening sessions
- Hear the plan described in detail
- Discuss the plan with the design team, our pastoral team, and pastoral council.

Please join us for hospitality in the All-Purpose Room following the presentation.

## School News

### Phoneraiser Fundraiser

*Support our school, painlessly!      Protect the environment!      Donate your used cell phones!*

Our Lady of Lourdes School Parents Club is conducting a fundraiser. There's nothing to buy. We are simply asking you to donate your used cell phones (no earpieces or charges needed). Your donation will help protect the environment. If improperly disposed of, one cell phone can pollute up to 132,000 liters of drinking water. Your unwanted cell phones will be recycled in accordance with EPA regulations or refurbished and recycled.

And, depending on the value of the items you donate, your donation may be tax deductible. All of the proceeds from the items we collect will help fund school events for our children. We greatly appreciate your support! Please drop all used cell phones in the box located in the Narthex of the Church.

### Big Bucks Raffle!

We will be having a Big Bucks Raffle on June 5. First prize will be \$5,000 and each raffle will cost \$100. Raffle tickets can be picked up at the OLL school office.

## Showing Our Respect for the Eucharist

Throughout the Easter Season, our parish's second graders will be receiving the Eucharist for the first time. Their catechists and families have worked so hard to give them a good foundation about this most beautiful and life giving sacrament! It is probably a good time for each of us to do a little Communion "Check-Up" for ourselves and how we prepare to receive the Eucharist each Sunday!



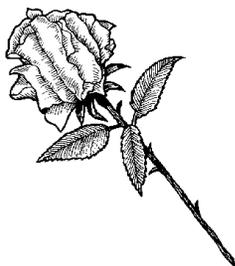
### *Check Up Point #4: Dressing the Part!*

Any among us who may be serious athletes know the importance of dressing the part! If we're hockey players or lacrosse players and we dressed in a suit and tie – it could get a little ugly! The reality of our lives is that how we dress can speak of what we think is important.

There are times in our lives – for sure – where life can get a little out of control. We're rushing and there is just so much going on!

Maybe more than focusing on what we wear, maybe we can work to keep it in mind and be more aware, particularly as the summer months approach!

As we seek to be models to those receiving First Holy Communion, let's remember we are always on a journey – seeking to grow closer to the God we hope to imitate in every moment of our lives.



## Mother's Day / Father's Day Mass for parents who have lost a child

We would like to invite any parent who has lost a child to a special **Mass on Saturday, June 2 at 10 AM.**

Mother's Day and Father's Day can be difficult times for parents who have lost a child. Whether you have lost a child in childhood or adulthood, to stillbirth or miscarriage, this Mass will be celebrated to bring you God's peace and consolation.

Mass will be followed by hospitality in our Parish Center. Please feel free to invite family or friends with you. For more information, or to let us know you will be able to attend, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

## Religious Education

*There is...*

### **"Rescue Closing"**

**Sunday, May 20-6 PM Mass**

All 8th graders in our Parish Family, their Sponsors and parents share in celebrating their time together. The eighth graders and their Sponsors have been getting together and doing service for others.

*and... of course*

### **Grade 6/7/8 Hang Out Nites continue...**

Friday May 18            7:30 PM - 9:30 PM            Parish Center

Friday June 22            7:30 PM - 9:30 PM            Parish Center

Don't forget...there's something for everyone !

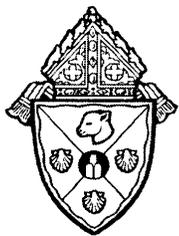
All 6th / 7th / 8th graders of our Parish Family... come play volleyball, basketball.

We have Guitar Hero 2, Dance Revolution, music and more... **DON'T MISS IT !**

*also...*

### **Grades 9/10/11/12**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!** High School Chaperones help with set-up, participate in activities, refreshments, clean-up, etc., and assist the Adult Chaperones.



# 2007 Catholic Ministries Appeal

*The Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us*

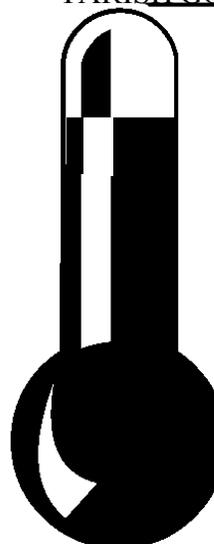
The key ingredient to the success of our appeal is participation. In order to reach our goal, we need to have every family participate in the appeal to the best of their ability. If you have not had an opportunity to make a gift to the appeal or have been waiting to make a pledge, please complete the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

## Formation

Formation encompasses those ministries, which are dedicated to the critical faith formation of our children and our adults. It includes the Office of Faith formation, the Office of Deacons and the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception.

The Office of Faith Formation works closely with our parishes to help support all of their formation programs. As an example, last year 117,000 students from local public schools participated in our religious education programs. The 17,000 catechists who work directly with these youngsters are trained and supported by our Office of Faith Formation. Within our Seminary, this year there are 42 men in formation to become priests for our Diocese or for the Diocese of Brooklyn. The Seminary also provides programs for the over 50 men enrolled in our diaconate formation program and for the laypersons and priests studying for Masters Degrees in Theology or Pastoral Studies.

PARISH GOAL \$103,000



365 Pledges  
\$220 Avg. Pledge

For more information, please call 516.379.5210, extension 2 or email to [www.drvc.org/cma.html](http://www.drvc.org/cma.html).

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](http://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**

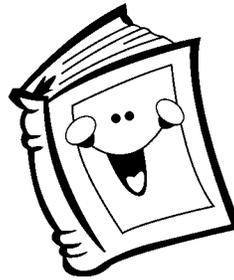
## 5th Annual El Salvador Mission Trip

**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](mailto:jengallagher@ollchurch.org).



## Project READ

### OLL Mission Awareness Trip El Salvador 2007

Do you have a favorite children's book from when you were growing up? For so many children in our sister parish of Tacuba, El Salvador, they do not have access to the books we all loved to read growing up. This year, our group of missionaries would like to go down to Tacuba with suitcases full of books for the children in the town. We would like to ask your help in doing this.

We will be collecting donations of Spanish children's books (new or very gently used!), gift certificates to local book stores or monetary donations so that we can purchase as many children's book as we can hold to donate to our sister parish. Our goal is to bring down 327 books.

Members of this year's mission trip will be at each of the masses the weekends of June 10 and June 17 to collect your donations.

Thank you so much for helping to bring the joy of reading to the children in our sister parish!

## 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!

**Daily Mass**

8 AM

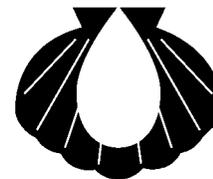
**Weekend Masses**

**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***

*Andrew Joseph Blind*

Gary and Francine

*Ryan Matthew Deegan*

Robert and Gina

*Gavin Gaetano DeVito*

Justin and Melissa

*Gabrielle LaDonna*

Louis and LeeAnn

*Abigail Brynn Miller*

Elijah and Heather

*Emily Grace Sherman*

Michael and Grace

*Gabrielle Gloria White*

James and Kristi

**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.

**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.

# Remembering...

**Monday, May 14**

**8:00 AM** Mary & Michael Healy

**Tuesday, May 15**

**8:00 AM** Gregory Hallahan, Sr.

**Wednesday, May 16**

**8:00 AM** LaRocca & Sweeney Family

*Vigil of the Ascension*

**5:00 PM** Josephine Cariati

**Thursday, May 17**

*Ascension of the Lord*

**8:00 AM** Barbara McGarrity

**7:30 PM** People of the Parish

**Friday, May 18**

**8:00 AM** Dominic Carrano

**Saturday, May 19**

**8:00 AM** Lily Turano, Bill Mace, Peter Reehil, Blessed Mother, Michael Davis, Chris Cardinale, Raymond Baessler, Jack Morales, Frank P. Olesczuk, Joseph Parro

**5:00 PM** Danny Salegna

*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

**Sunday, May 20**

**8:00 AM** Casertano & Galbo Families

*Fr. Stan Chukwube*

**9:30 AM** Tony Squeo

*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

**11:00 AM** Louis Caputo

*Fr. John Asomugha*

**12:30 PM** Joseph Rizzo & Mothers

*Fr. Ed Dowling*

**6:00 PM** People of the Parish, Teresa Wright, Frank Barba, Katherine Maguire, Anthony Loffredo, Jean Triolo, Virginia Adamo, Josephine McGinley, Louise Tucker, Robert Malloy, Jennie Quigley, Dominick Algeri, Maryann Donandio, Josefa Rivera, Thanksgiving to Sacred Heart, Blessed Mother & St. Jude

*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

*Altar Bread & Wine*

*Rose Monroe & Elinor Shaddock*

**Celebrating Sacraments**

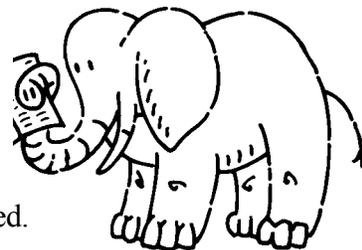
## SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, May 15**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

## Spring Cleaning

Please remember The Rosary Christian Mothers- we are sponsoring a **“White Elephant Sale”** on **Saturday, June 9 from 10:30 AM until 6 PM**.

Any gently used or new items would be greatly appreciated. Please call 669.3178 for donations.



## Senior Circle

*Wouldn't you like to join us ...*

We are a spiritual and charitable organization. We are a group of men & women fifty-five and over. We meet on the last Monday of each month throughout the year in the Parish Center at 12:30 PM.

Our activities consist of socials, trips, informative speakers, special Christmas celebrations, shows & dinners and, last but not least, you will experience enjoyable and lasting relationships with each other. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please feel free to call Wilma at 669-4728.

## 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**.



## Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Carol Grillo*.  
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, Baby Drew Brust, Christian Bullock,  
Lynn Castellano, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Anthony Ferrante,  
Jason Fisher, William Fortcher, Samantha Hil, Adam Ippolito, Brigid Kinney,  
Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang, Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento, Diego Marino,  
Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Adam McFarland, Bryan Monahan,  
Jimmy Murphy, John O'Grady, Frieda Perry, Gene Perry, Joe Radosti,  
Delphine Reynolds, Carol Scheid, Dorothy Schiavone, Dorothy Sullivan,  
Marie "Amy" Turano, Loretta Vitale, Terry Whalley, Maureen Wright*



## Sixth Sunday of Easter

A popular nationally-syndicated radio talk show host has adopted the line "Let not your hearts be troubled" when discussing politics on his show. He professes to be a faithful Catholic, and perhaps feels he is exhibiting his faith by quoting Jesus in his daily discussions. Unfortunately, most of the content of his show is spent criticizing others for their political opinions. Is he being selective in his faith? What does he say of the new commandment to love one another?

Today's Gospel reading from John allows us to remember Jesus' declaration of love for us and his promise that if we love him, he and God will "make our house with" us. But he also tells us that we will receive the Holy Spirit, whom he refers to as counselor and teacher. When Jesus says "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you," he wants us to have the peace of knowledge that having the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in our lives, we will need nothing else.

The ability to believe, the very concept of faith, is not knowledge that has been passed on by word of mouth like a radio talk show. The knowledge of faith is possible only in the Holy Spirit: to be in touch with Christ, we must first have been touched by the Holy Spirit (CCC 683). Today, give thanks for the peace in our lives, peace that originated with God, is offered to us in Jesus, and is taught through the Holy Spirit.

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### Readings for the Week of May 13, 2007

<b>Sunday:</b>	Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Rv 21:10-14, 22-23 or Rv 22:12-14, 16-17, 20/Jn 14:23-29 or Jn 17:20-26
<b>Monday:</b>	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Jn 15:9-17
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Acts 16:22-34/Jn 16:5-11
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Acts 17:15, 22-18:1/Jn 16:12-15
<b>Thursday:</b>	( <i>Easter Weekday</i> ) Acts 18:1-8/Jn 16:16-20
<b>Friday:</b>	Acts 18:9-18/Jn 16:20-23
<b>Saturday:</b>	Acts 18:23-28/Jn 16:23b-28
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	<i>Ascension of the Lord:</i> Acts 1:1-11/Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28, 10:19-23/Lk 24:46-53

## Financial Summary

**May 6, 2007**

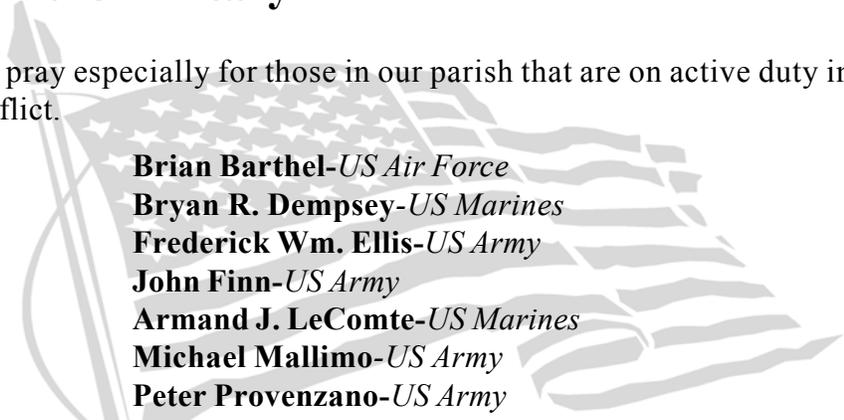
Weekly Collection	\$ 20,115.50
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (884.50)

*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:



**Brian Barthel**-*US Air Force*  
**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:

**"Mother's Day/Parents."**

Don't forget to tune in!

Visit "Religion & Rock" on the web, [www.religionandrock.com](http://www.religionandrock.com).

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

## 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)

### *When Rational Argument Fails...Love Can Be Lost*

Source: *Pathway to the Holy*, by Richard Koubek and Connie Loos, published by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Rockville Centre, Lent, 2004

*The Church ...through rational argument ... has to reawaken the spiritual energy without which justice, which always demands sacrifice, cannot prevail and prosper.*

Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*.

Labor Day 1981 had all the ingredients of a family feud for two Long Island brothers, “Peter” and “Paul.” Peter – a Grumman engineer – invited Paul – an American history teacher – out on his sailboat. Ronald Reagan’s Administration was in its ninth month and there was much talk about a major increase in military spending. As a Grumman engineer, Peter was pleased that military contracts would again flow to Long Island. That summer, Paul was conducting house meetings to explain why America’s Catholic bishops called on the U.S. to stop its military support for the government of El Salvador which was implicated in the murder of four Catholic church women and the Archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar Romero.

During a lull in the conversation, Paul, the reformer asked Peter, “Why is the U.S. backing a military government that murders its own people, American nuns and an archbishop?” And, he added, “Why is the President calling for billions of dollars in military spending that will provoke an arms race, if not a war, with the Soviet Union?”

Peter, the engineer, had seen too many of his Grumman colleagues laid off during the 1970s. The Reagan military buildup would end this agony and improve U.S. security against a heavily-armed Soviet Union. “You need to live in the real world” Peter, the engineer, told Paul, the reformer. “You need to understand the immorality of this country’s foreign and military policies” Paul angrily responded. Rational argument for the common good had been frustrated by self interest.

On Labor Day, 1981, Peter and Paul spoke at each other, not to each other. There was no room for rational argument, for disagreement or for understanding; there was no place for forgiveness. And love, at that moment, was lost between the brothers.

*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](mailto:Koubek.richard@catholiccharities.cc)*



## The Importance of Communication - Speaking Your Concerns

*Michael J. Bland, Psy. D., D. Min., L.C.P.C.*

Child sexual abuse is a reality in our society and within our Church. While we may not be able to eliminate this reality from our society, as caring adults we have the opportunity to recognize questionable behaviors and to identify possible symptoms or behaviors displayed by children who may have been sexually abused.

Awareness and education can be a major step in identifying potential abuse and identifying the short-term effects of sexual abuse. Such awareness and education can help ease the long-term effects of sexual abuse.

All adults are needed to protect children and youth, but it is those who interact with children and youth who become the core of the prevention effort within each parish or community; this makes sense because those who have regular contact with children and youth are central individuals who watch over and protect them.

The main goal of the VIRTUS® program is to assist the Church, and other organizations, in creating a safe haven for children by educating and uniting caring adults who are willing to be aware of the reality of sexual abuse. Those who know the warning signs of abuse, control access to children, monitor all programs, and speak their concerns are the caring adults who influence the safety of children and young people. By developing awareness, people within a community are able to discuss the reality of child sexual abuse openly. Breaking the silence about child sexual abuse is an essential part of education, prevention, and healing.

The Protecting God's Children® program attempts to help caring adults become part of the solution in raising a "healthy suspicion" about something or someone in their environment. Such a "healthy suspicion" can assist adults in protecting all children, youth, and vulnerable adults from the risk of being abused. Identifying grooming behaviors that can lead to abuse requires that all adults be aware of the warning signs and be willing to speak their concerns.

Child molesters do not only "groom" a potential victim; they also groom parents and others in the adult community. Molesters can often masterfully desensitize a potential victim as well parents, adults, and others to their grooming behaviors. By desensitizing the community a molester can deceive and lead them to believe that he or she has special insight into children and is someone who can be trusted.

Community grooming, or grooming the adults around a child, enables the molester to present himself or herself to other adults as a generous, kind person who genuinely likes children and cares about their best interest. The molester may even develop a deep rapport with the parents of the victim to gain their confidence as well as further access. While on the surface, these activities may seem innocent enough, they can be the prelude to a sexual contact with the child. It is important to note that in some cases the molester does not go beyond the grooming behaviors, but the risk remains. Creating a safe environment demands watching for the warning behaviors and speaking your concern regarding grooming behavior or potential abuse before it happens.

Communicating your concerns means telling someone when you are uncomfortable with a situation or questionable behavior. It means paying attention to your intuition and speaking up—not waiting until it is too late. Speaking your concerns means discussing suspected abuse with the appropriate people such as:

- Talk to the person involved
- Speak to their supervisor
- Notify a church official
- Call the child abuse hot line
- Call the police

And document each step. Keep a journal of your concerns, with the date and time of your actions, and who you contacted. Some states consider all residents to be mandated reporters of abuse; you are legally obligated to report your suspicion to the police or child protective services if you suspect or know about abuse. If you are not legally obliged (a mandated reporter) to report your concern or suspicion, that does not mean that you are not morally responsible to communicate your concerns to the proper authorities.

If you do not voice your concerns, your passive presence can be interpreted as permission and approval. It is difficult to speak our concerns, but it is even more difficult for a child to speak about their confusion and painful experience. Even if abuse is not occurring, it is still important to let others know when you have concerns. Only by communicating concerns can we use our knowledge to protect children and youth.

## Bereavement Group

Consolation Nursing Facility is offering a Bereavement Group.

This is an 8 week group which will meet every Monday, from 7:30-9 PM starting on June 4.

If you are interested, please phone Peggy Nixdorf at 587.1600, extension 8297.

## Balance Screening Workshop

A free **Balance Screening Workshop** sponsored by *Panetta Physical Therapy Training and Wellness* will be held at St. Patrick's, Bay Shore, Msgr. Purick Hall on **Wednesday, May 16 from 10 AM until 12 Noon**.

All are welcome, however, to accommodate all participants attending the free workshop, pre-registration would be helpful. For pre-registration, please call Catherine at 631.665.7216.

## School Reunions

**Our Lady of Peace School, Lynbrook** is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a reunion on **Saturday, May 19 at 8 PM at the school**. A fun evening gathering old friends and classmates is being planned.

If you attended OLP or sent your children to OLP, please come and share in the celebration. Tickets are \$30 per person. For further information, please contact Jennifer at 516.887.6768 or Kristan at 516.599.3847.

The graduates of **Queen of the Rosary Academy, Class of '57**, will celebrate their **50th Anniversary Reunion in September 2007**. For more information, contact Debbie at 516.764.4331.

## 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.

## Marriage Encounter

*Spring has sprung...*

So why not put the spring back in your marriage. Don't you and your spouse deserve a beautiful, romantic weekend away together? If you agree then you'll want to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next weekend is scheduled for June 1-3. Registration is limited. For more information or to register, call 1.866.499.6354. Please visit our local website at [www.wmeli.org](http://www.wmeli.org).

## Be a Part of Divine Intervention

Your are invited to be a part of our new season of “Divine Intervention,” Telecare’s hit game show. We are looking for people to be a contestant or a member of the studio audience. Tapings will take place during the first two weeks in June. Contestants will have the opportunity to win fabulous prizes! Audience members will be asked to stay for the taping of three shows, from 9 AM until 1 PM. Snacks will be provided. To be a contestant or to make a booking to be in the audience, call the Divine Intervention hotline at 516.538.8704, extension 159 for contestants or extension 104 for audience.

## Jubilee Concert

Celebrating 150 years, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, NY Province, are hosting a concert featuring Ciaran Sheehan and Gay Willis, Broadway performers and soloists Eily O’Grady Patterson accompanist, with The Gaelic Harpists on **Friday, May 18 at 8:15 PM at the Immaculate Conception Diocesan Center, Douglaston**. For tickets, \$50 per person, call Toni Palamar at 718.380.3270.

## 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.

*Upcoming PFI Information Meetings are as follows:*

**Tuesday, May 15 at 7:30 PM at St. Anthony de Padua, E. Northport.**

For more information, call Marion Morrica at 631.368.0137.

PFI Fall sessions: Thursdays, 7:30 to 9:30 PM.

## Lead Me Lord

The Risen, Glorified Lord ascends to the Father with the promise to send the Advocate. This is Pentecost-the birth of the Church. This session will be on Monday, May 21 and runs from 7:30 PM until 9:30 PM at St. Patrick’s Church in Bay Shore in the lower level of the Religious Education building. The session will be presented by Patricia Leonard who is an adjunct professor of Theology at St. Joseph’s College and St. John’s University. We ask that you please register so there will be enough materials and refreshments. You can register by email to [susan@delucamaisto.com](mailto:susan@delucamaisto.com) or call 665.4911.

## Not Our Own Children

*Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI*

Towards the end of Margaret Laurence's novel, *A Jest of God*, there is a particularly moving dialogue: Rachel, the story's main character, an aging, spinster teacher, is more than a little frustrated with her state in life, teaching other people's children rather than having her own. Lamenting to another woman, who is a mother, she complains how painful it is for her as a teacher to, year after year, intimately work with and get to know the young children in her classroom only to have them soon move on to other classrooms and to grow away from her. She expresses an honest envy of women who have their own children.

The mother to whom she is speaking says in reply: "It's not so different for a parent. You also get to have young children only for a short time. They move on and grow away from you. They have their own lives. They don't belong to you. In the end, even for parents, your kids are never really your own!"

There are a number of lessons in this: The children we have are never really ours. They are given to us, in trust, for a time, a short time really, and we are asked to be mothers and fathers, stewards, mentors, guardians, teachers, priests, ministers, and friends to them, but they are never really our children. They belong to somebody else, God, and to themselves more than they ever belong to us.

There is both a deep challenge and a deep consolation in understanding and accepting that.

The challenge is more obvious. If we accept this, we will be less inclined to act as "owners" of our children and we will be less prone to manipulate our children for our own ends, to see them as satellites within our own orbits, and more inclined to love, cajole, challenge, and correct, even while giving them their freedom.

The consolation is not as obvious, but it is my focus here: When we realize, in the healthy sense, that our children are not really ours, we also realize that we are not alone in raising and caring for them. We are, in a manner of speaking, only foster parents. God is the real parent and God's love, care, aid, and presence to our children is always in excess of our own. God's anxiety for our children is also deeper than our own.

Ultimately, you are never a single parent, even when you don't have a human spouse to help you. God,

like you, is also worrying, struggling, involved, crying tears of solicitousness, trying to awaken love. What is consoling is that God can touch, challenge, soften, and inspire at levels inside of a child that you cannot reach.

Moreover, your children cannot, ultimately, turn their backs on God. They can refuse to listen to you, walk away from you, spit on your values, but there is still another parent from whom they can never walk away, whom they carry inside. Not many people, I suspect, would ever have the courage to be a parent without realizing this.

That we aren't alone in our task of parenting needs emphasis today for lots of reasons: More and more, very sincere couples are opting not to have children for fear of the world into which they would be bringing those children. They look at the world, at themselves, their inadequacy, and are frightened at what they see: "Do we really want to bring children into a world like this? We are powerless to guarantee them health, safety, security, love. It's an unfair risk to the child!"

Persons who think like this are right in their feeling of powerlessness and in their sense that they cannot guarantee health, safety, love, and security to a child. But they are wrong in their feeling that they alone are responsible for effecting and guaranteeing these. God is also there and can redeem our children and make them whole beyond any tragedy that might befall them. We can risk having children since God risks it.

Finally, and perhaps most consoling of all, realizing this can do more than a little to bring some peace and joy into the hearts of those who have lost children tragically - to accidents, but especially to suicide, drug and alcohol related deaths, and other such things that make parents second-guess, worry about their failures and betrayals, and worry about all the things they should have done. Again, we are being asked to not forget that we are not the only parents here. When this child died, in whatever circumstance, he or she was received by hands far gentler than our own. They left our foster care and our powerlessness to fully embrace them to live with a parent who can fully embrace them and bring them to joy and wholeness that we could never quite give.

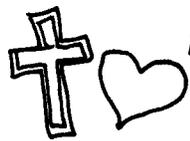
Fear not you are inadequate! You can live with that. You're only a foster parent. God is the real parent.

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*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](http://www.ronrolheiser.com).*

# Sharing the Gospel

Jesus wants you to love him so much that you will always do what he asks. Jesus knows that if you put God first, you will have peace. Instead of wanting more toys, you will be happy to share them. Instead of wanting to get your own way, you will enjoy taking turns. You will feel good helping other people.



## Mission for the Week

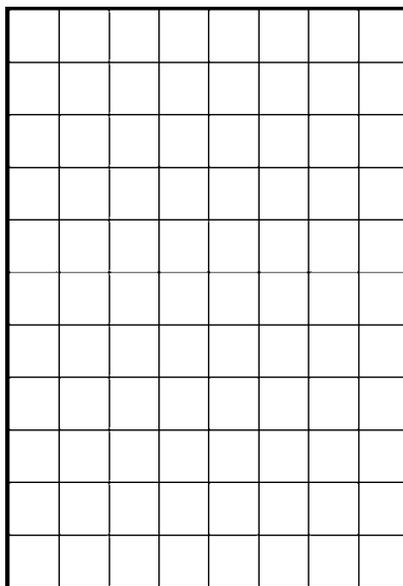
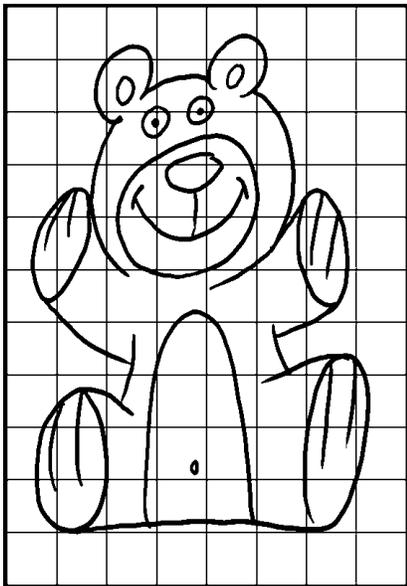
I will invite a friend over to play.

I will share and take turns.



## Puzzle

Copy the picture square by square.



©LPI

## Prayer



Dear God,  
change my heart  
so that I want to  
put you and other  
people first.

## Something to Draw



Draw a picture  
of yourself giving  
one of your own  
toys to a child  
who has none.