

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Our Lady of Lourdes • August 12, 2007

For where your
treasure is,



there
also
will your
heart be.
Luke 12:35



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: info@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

Jennifer Gallagher

Director of Youth Services

Carol M. Goetz

Parish Music Director

Louise Jane Krol

School Principal

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.

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.*

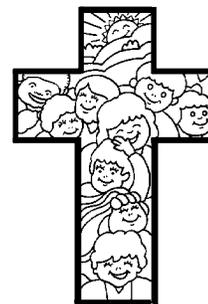
***Acknowledge** we are not complete without the willingness to grow, discern and discover the Spirit who moves and guides us.*

*Our Lady
of Lourdes*

455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, New York 11795

Religious Education

Registration for children in public school entering Grade 1 in September 2007 to be part of Our Lady of Lourdes Religious Education P.E.P. Program...



| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Family Names A – L | Monday, September 24 | 10 AM or 7:30 PM |
| Family Names M – Z | Wednesday, September 26 | 10 AM or 7:30 PM |

Meetings will be held in the Parish Center (*room opposite the playground*) and will begin promptly at the times designated.

Please bring the child's Baptismal Certificate. There is a "Family Fee" of \$115 for families new to the program.

Our Lady of Lourdes Italian Family Feast 2007 September 12 - 16



"Super Raffle"

"Super Raffle" tickets will be on sale at the Church doors before and after all weekend Masses **beginning the weekend of August 11/12**. Each ticket is \$100. Only 200 tickets will be sold! Don't wait – get *your* number early!

Volunteers needed!

Volunteers are always needed and welcomed to support our annual Italian Family Feast 2007. We have our faithful volunteers that come and help year after year-and to them we are very grateful. We need to attract new volunteers to keep our feast the wonderful annual family event that it is!

Can you help?

If you're interested or have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

Captain/Volunteer Meeting

There will be a brief meeting for all Captains and Volunteers on **Thursday, September 6 at 7:30 PM in Room 16**. All are asked to attend.



SUMMER

Evening Prayer

2007

Great speakers!

Great food
each night!



Monday evening
August 13
7:30 PM
Great Lawn

Guest speaker:

Joseph Bruno

Campus Minister at St. Joseph's College

Joe has been a seminarian, teacher, campus minister and so much more!

Let's listen together as Joe talks to us about the challenges
of bringing faith and life together.

Come early

- bring your dinner and be part of Family Game Night -

beginning at 7 PM. This week, we're playing

OLL MATCH GAME!

"OLL celebrities" will serve as our celebrity panel and

this week's contestants could be YOU!

Playing Gene Rayburn will be our own Joanne Maher!

Tonight we ask all parishioners with last names beginning with M-Z

to bring their favorite *International Dessert*

for the sharing table.

Remember...if it rains or there is a heat warning...we will gather in the All Purpose Room!

Altar Servers

Have you ever wondered how Masses come together each week? How it seems that things just happen naturally! It's usually because of the altar servers! WE NEED MANY YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH TO STEP UP AND SERVE as many of our servers have graduated and are moving on to other ministries! Altar servers help to make our Masses and prayer services so great! Also, altar servers go on trips (like Splish Splash, Islanders games, and more!) and do a lot of other fun things. We are always looking for new altar servers and are in need of servers at many of our parish masses. Training will begin in August and September 2007 with servers starting in the Fall.

What's the commitment?

There are five or six altar server training sessions before you can actually serve. Being an altar server is a lot of work so we want to make sure you're prepared. For Sunday Masses, we try to schedule you based on the Mass you most frequently attend. Servers sign up for Masses on holidays, holy days and special occasions. Servers can volunteer to serve at weddings and funerals, too!

I want more information....

Contact Mrs. Kate Newman at bounceusa@aol.com or call John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.

Liturgy Committee

Our Liturgy Committee serves as advisory, planning, organizing, motivating, evangelizing group of individuals familiar with the liturgy of the Church and the parish community here. In working to bring both together, the Liturgy Committee organizes major events, holy days and develops ideas to make our prayer services and Masses more engaging.

What's the commitment?

There are approximately 6 to 8 meetings per year based on the calendar year and when certain feasts and celebrations take place during the year.

For more information...

If you're interested in joining the Liturgy Committee – please e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org or call the Parish Office at 661.3224, x. 135.

Wedding Ministry

How do you feel when you get to share in the most special days of a couple's life? Excited? Joyful? Blessed? These are words we use to describe our feelings about being a part of the Wedding Ministry. We are there for the couple on the day of their wedding rehearsal to go through the steps of the ceremony and answer any last minute questions they may have. More importantly, we are there to calm, reassure, and offer our support. On the "big day" we are at the Church early to prepare and welcome the couple and their guests to OLL. In the wedding ministry, it is all about the little things. We hope to help make their day as beautiful as they dreamed it would be!

-Theresa Moy

For more information...

Our Wedding Ministry is growing and changing and looking for some new members. If you are interested in finding out how this ministry works and "shadowing" a present wedding ministry member, please contact Linda Kucala at 277.5324 or email lkuchem@optonline.net or contact Ann Munkwitz at 666.4756 for more information. All are welcome!



Our Lady of Lourdes School
44 Toomey Road
West Islip, NY
631.587.7200
email: info@ollschool.org

**We are expanding our
Early Childhood Program
for September 2007!**



"Our Nursery Program"

3 days per week

Monday - Wednesday - Friday

half days: 8:30 AM - 11 AM or 12 noon - 2:30 PM

full days: 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

"Mommy & Me!"

2 days per week

Tuesday - Thursday

9:30 AM - 11 AM or 12:30 PM - 2 PM



We're NOT just daycare, we're Catholic Education!

Louise Jane Krol, Principal

"2007 NYS Preschool Teacher of the Year"

If you are interested in enrollment or you have any questions, please call the School Office at 587.7200 and leave a message-we will return your call.



Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This Wednesday, August 15, is the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - *a holy day of obligation*.

Masses will be celebrated on Tuesday evening, August 14 at 5 PM and Wednesday, August 15 at 8 AM and 7:30 PM.

save the date...

Sunday, August 26

Sunset Beach Mass

“The Six” celebrates the Summer Season at the beach!

Watch the bulletin for further details...

Spiritual Direction

...for those who want the companionship of a director to journey with them in finding God's desire for them in their daily life.

Following is a summary of our exploration and explanation of “Spiritual Direction.”



What is Spiritual Direction?

Spiritual Direction is a specialized ministry in the Church. It is a graced way of serving another believer, helping the other to grow in intimacy with God and to live out the consequences of this intimacy.

Why would I want a Spiritual Director?

The desire for a Spiritual Director comes when one wants to develop a deeper relationship with God, when one's search for God seems to be at a crossroad, or when one wants to explore new methods of prayer, or prayer becomes difficult.

What happens in Spiritual Direction?

The person coming for Spiritual Direction should try to describe to the director one's experiences in their life of faith, hope and love.

What can I expect?

The director helps you to be more aware of who God is for you, to notice God's movement in the events of your life, and in your prayer, to be able to talk about what you are experiencing, to be attentive to God's invitations, urgings, and confirmations and to recognize resistances and roadblocks. The director is not judgmental, but assists the directee to objectify his/her experience.

If you have any questions, or you would like to make arrangements to meet with a Spiritual Director, please call Deacon John DeGuardi at the Parish Office at 661.3224. (It is recommended that you make a three month commitment of one meeting per month.)



The OLL 23rd Annual Duffers Golf Classic

Timber Point Country Club
Great River, New York
Thursday, August 23

The event will start at noon with a 2 PM shot-gun. You can even work a half-day and still join us! We currently have both men and women golfers, as well as non-golfers who are joining us for dinner honoring Mrs. Cioffi for her thirteen years of service to OLL School.

2007 Honoree



Mrs. Regina Cioffi

Please join us for what will be a fun-filled day! The cost is \$175 for golfers - golf package includes green fees, golf cart, driving range, lunch at crossover and dinner. The cost for dinner only participants is \$75. The outing includes a live auction and raffle prizes, contests-longest drive, most accurate, closest to pin, cocktails and more!

For further information or to make reservations, please contact
Joe Macina at 587.0241, Frank Antonawich at 587.7988
or Rich Maher at 661.5478.

*The OLL Golf Committee will be selling raffle tickets
after each Mass on the weekend of August 18/19.*

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.

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

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

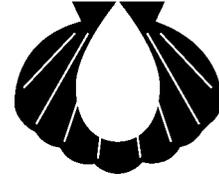
Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

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.



Baptisms

Victoria Antulov

Robert and Patricia

Matthew Robert Montesanto

Joseph and Bridgette

Leah Rose Yeung

Daniel and Johanna



Rest In Peace

Peter S. Santoro,

died on August 1 and celebration of the
Mass of Christian Burial was August 4.

We extend our prayers to his son, Paul
and family.

Remembering...

Monday, August 13

8:00 AM Steven Perone

Tuesday, August 14

St. Maximilian Kolbe, priest, martyr

8:00 AM William Martino

5:00 PM (*Vigil*) Anna Mae Sullivan

Wednesday, August 15

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 AM Asuncion F. Castro, Francisco, Felizberta, Ramon,
& Ruperto Dimaculangan

7:30 PM People of the Parish

Thursday, August 16

St. Stephen of Hungary

8:00 AM MariaLeen Francavilla

Friday, August 17

8:00 AM Luke Galfano

Saturday, August 18

8:00 AM Mary Homann, Peter Reehil, Marie & Charles Edmonds,
Fay Galgano, Joseph Rotolo, Robert Rottman, Dorothy Reddy,
William Magee, Paul Luchynsky

5:00 PM Danny Salegna
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

Sunday, August 19

8:00 AM Robert P. Wilson
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

9:30 AM The Critchley Family
Fr. Stan Chukwube

11:00 AM Joseph Rizzo & Jimmy Morrone
Fr. John Asomugha

12:30 PM John & Mark Nardone
Fr. Ed Dowling

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Ruth Munkwitz, Vincent Addeo,
Michael Walsh, Susan Fornatora, Mary Velsor, Kathleen Regan,
Julia Sanford, Charles Gillis, Matthew Nowicki, Margarite Hordt
Fr. Stan Chukwube

Outreach School Supply Drive

Outreach will be collecting school supplies to donate to families in need. School Supplies we could use include: *glue sticks, marble notebooks, two-pocket folders, soft pencil cases, pink erasers, highlighters, markers, pencil sharpeners (that catch shavings), spiral notebooks, Fiskar scissors, Post-It-Notes, supply box, tennis balls, and of course... the old staple.... CRAYONS!* Donations can be left in the food baskets at the doors of the Church. As always...our thanks for the generous donations of school supplies and food throughout these summer months. Please continue to remember Outreach when shopping for groceries and school supplies.

Donations

Outreach has received a donation of \$100 from an anonymous donor. This donation will be used to purchase sneakers for children as they start the new school year. Thank you for this donation.

Outreach has received a donation of canned food, cereal and other non-perishables from the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 2-located in Babylon. The Ladies Division has been generous to Outreach in the past and continues to remember us when distributing food. We are grateful.

Single Senior Socials

Are you a single Senior?

If you are, then you know that Saturday nights can be difficult.

Join us on **Saturday, September 22 for "Hang - Out Night" for Seniors** immediately following the 5 PM Mass in the Parish Center. This will be the first meeting to determine if there is a need in our Parish for a Single Senior Social Group-a place to plan trips, events, outings and be with others. So, please come and bring a friend!

For more information, call Pat Wallace at 587.4342 or Outreach at 661.9262, option 4.



Food Pantry Needs

Please, please, please continue to donate food to our Food Pantry through the summer months.

We are desperately low on all food items including-coffee, cereal, juice boxes, peanut butter/jelly, pasta sauce, canned vegetables, crackers, small cans of soup... Thanks for your generosity

“Angels fly because they take themselves lightly.”

Cocteau

We are thick into the ‘dog days’ of summer. Hard to get cool, let alone keep your cool. . . particularly when things don’t turn out as you think they should.

Woman comes into the Outreach office two weeks ago. Actually, the office had ‘officially’ closed. Door was locked, but I was sitting at the desk with two volunteers re-hashing the day. It was the type of day you need to review before you leave the office or else the day will haunt you at home all night. Fourteen clients, five of whom were new. Policy is to engage each person in conversation-determine if anything significant has changed since the last visit. With new clients, I like a sit-down before we give food. We were very busy that day; so, I was somewhat chagrined when I heard the bell ring at 3:45 PM and looked up to see yet, another new client.

Woman asks for \$300-just like that. “I need \$300 for rent.” Don’t know her name, don’t know where she lives-she just needs the money or she will be evicted that night. Through tears, she tells us she has a 5 month old son who was born prematurely with health issues. She is renting a room for \$150 a week and she is behind on the rent. The landlord will evict her this very evening if she can’t pay the rent. (Can you hear me sighing-because, truthfully, at that moment I was!)

The situation may sound bad-and indeed, it did seem heartbreaking. However, I happen to know that if she were to be evicted, as she claimed, Department of Social Services would have to find her emergency shelter-so I know she wouldn’t be homeless. While emergency shelters leave much to be desired-at least she wouldn’t be walking the streets with the baby. The woman did appear somewhat volatile-her voice was loud, she cried a lot, shoved papers from DSS at me. Not too pleasant. Good thing a volunteer stayed with me because we played “Good Cop –Bad Cop.” While the volunteer extended sympathy, I asked the questions to determine what assistance we could offer. The best we could do, at that moment, was formula for the baby, diapers, bags of food and the strong suggestion that she phone for emergency housing if she was in fact evicted. No money! I don’t know; call me crazy-I just did not have a good feeling about this! And yes, I was ‘haunted’ all night about this case.

Over the course of two weeks, this woman returns to the office at least six times. Each time we meet, her story

becomes more elaborate, more convoluted. We continued to play “Good Cop /Bad Cop” as I insisted that no one meet with her alone. Her mood was still volatile, and sometimes her mood just didn’t match the content of her story. I still didn’t have a warm feeling about her. I was beginning to doubt there was a baby-until we asked her to bring the baby in, the baby was absolutely adorable and did appear well cared for. We continued to offer food, diapers, formula and even scrip-but still, I didn’t think we should give her money. She did accept our offer of a crib for the baby. She needed to keep appointments with the Department of Social Services before we would even consider giving her financial assistance. (By now, I was not the only one in the office being ‘haunted’ by the story).

“Good Cop/Bad Cop” continued into the second week. The baby needed a second set of vaccinations and we found a clinic where she could take him. She needed a copy of his health records and in order to get this, she signed a release allowing me to contact the pediatric group she used in Nassau County so the records could be faxed here. She signed the release. She left the office with food bags, formula, diapers and this time we did give her \$20 for gas. That was the last time we saw her.

Here’s the problem-I contacted the pediatric group and did receive the health records on this child. The baby is lucky to be alive. Born addicted to crack/cocaine, among other problems, his mother was right; her baby had a lot of medical issues. He was in the NICU unit after birth, there were respiratory and cardiac issues, maybe even neurological issues-but according to the reports, it was too early to tell. The child would need to be followed by specialists.

We have phoned the mother daily-no answer. We have driven by the home she was allegedly staying in-locked up tight. It is as if she has dropped off the face of the earth.

I phoned the authorities. A week has gone by still nothing. Don’t know if anyone followed up on the report I phoned in. I have left several messages on voice-mail with the reporting office.

What we do know is this. . . somewhere there is an innocent baby who is potentially at risk for neglect, maybe even abuse. A child who was born with the odds stacked against him. Authorities have been notified. There is nothing else we can do. . . except pray.

It is hard, in these ‘dog days’ of August to keep your cool. . . especially when things don’t turn out as you think they should.

-Mary McMahon

Director of Parish Social Ministry

#439•Our Lady of Lourdes•13



Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We once had a young pup that needed surgery. The veterinary school near us would do the operation as a teaching procedure; our only requirement was to leave her there for a few days while in recovery. The night we dropped her off, I noticed a sign above the receptionist's desk that read "Be as faithful and responsible a person as your dog thinks you are!"

We are a society of procrastinators. Whether we just don't want to do the difficult things in life or we are afraid of failure, we have a tendency to say "I'll do it later." What, if anything, could be more easy or guaranteed successful than to love the Lord with all of our heart for all of our lives? Today's Gospel again reminds us that of all that we are given in knowledge, we do not know when we will be called to account for our lives.

We may be troubled with the sins of our past, which may prevent us from turning to God in preparation for the final hour. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that in the grand scheme, God is needful of our true repentance, for which all will be forgiven and we will be welcomed into the Kingdom of Heaven. (CCC 1847)
There is nothing more urgent in your life today than to cleanse your heart and pray for God's forgiveness.

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Readings for the Week of August 12, 2007

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Sunday: | Wis 18:6-9/Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12/ Lk 12:32-48 or 12:35-40 |
| Monday: | Dt 10:12-22/Mt 17:22-27 |
| Tuesday: | Dt 31:1-8/Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14 |
| Wednesday: | <i>Vigil:</i> 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2/1 Cor 15:54b-57/Lk 11:27-28 <i>Day:</i> Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56 |
| Thursday: | Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17/Mt 18:21-19:1 |
| Friday: | Jos 24:1-13/Mt 19:3-12 |
| Saturday: | Jos 24:14-29/Mt 19:13-15 |
| Next Sunday: | Jer 38:4-6, 8-10/Heb 12:1-4/Lk 12:49-53 |

Financial Summary

August 5, 2007

Weekly Collection \$ 18,705.00
 Weekly Budget -\$ 21,000.00
 +/- for the week \$ (2,295.00)

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

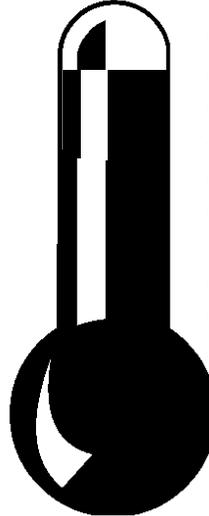
Catholic Ministries Appeal

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.

**88%
to goal!**

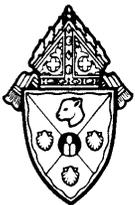
PARISH GOAL \$103,000



____ \$91,020
 ____ Pledged
 ____ to Date

420 Pledges
 \$217 Avg. Pledge

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, extension 2 or email to www.drvc.org/cma.html.

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**.

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*

Nathan Provast-*US Marines*

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 Msgr. 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:

"Relationship with God."

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.

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.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, August 14, in the Parish Center at 9 AM.**

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Elizabeth Netska*.

If you would like to help care for our altar needs, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.



Pastoral Care of Our 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, Joseph Calderale, Sr., Howard Campkin, Lynn Castellano, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, TJ Devlin, Edward Doyle, Jason Fisher, Pam Gagliano, Jeremiah Gimblet, Samantha Hil, Adam Ippolito, Wade Kromhout, Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch, Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Joseph Menite, Bryan Monahan, Jean Muller, Jimmy Murphy, Joseph Ortiz, Gertrude Parine, Frieda Perry, Gene Perry, Arthur Petrino, Baby Conner Pietras, Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds, Carol Scheid, Dorothy Schiavone, Dorothy Sullivan, Marie "Amy" Turano, Loretta Vitale

Graced Journey

The Cenacle in Ronkonkoma offers a program called "Graced Journey." It is designed especially for persons who have begun a journey with God and who desire to find ways to let God enter their lives more fully. For more information and/or a descriptive brochure, please call Sister Mary Spratt at the Ronkonkoma Cenacle at 631.588.8366.

Bereavement Support Group

St. Patrick Parish Outreach, Bay Shore is offering a free seven week Bereavement Support Group for those who have suffered the death of a loved one. Group meetings begin on Wednesday, August 15 from 7 PM until 9 PM. For more information or to register, please call Catherine Dennis at 665.7216. Registration is on a first come - first served basis, seating is limited.

Quest for Truth

Vacation Bible School will be held at the Westminster United Presbyterian Church, Udall Road, West Islip from August 13 through August 17 from 6 PM until 8:30 PM. Class size is limited for children entering kindergarten through sixth grade. Family dinner will be served at 6 PM sharp! Call 661.6740 to register. A free will offering will be accepted for dinner.

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

Telephone Reassurance Program

If you live alone and would like a daily phone call from a volunteer, just call the **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program** at 631.979.9490.

Friendly Visitor Program

If you live alone and would like a visit from a volunteer, just call the **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program** at 631.979.9490.

If you are 55+ and would like to volunteer to call and/or visit a homebound senior, call the **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program** at 631.979.9490.

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.

Dominican Commercial High School

The former students and staff of Dominican Commercial High School are invited to attend a special celebration at the Queen of the Rosary Motherhouse in Amityville on **Sunday, September 23**. Please call Benincasa Family Services at 631.842.6000, ext. 351 if you would like to receive an invitation.

Dominican Village

We would love to show you our home...

Please join us for one of our upcoming Open Houses.

Dominican Village is a rental retirement community that offers quality of life in a secure environment. The next Open House will be on **Sunday, August 26 from 1 PM until 3 PM**. An Upcoming Open House will also be held on August 26. We have a Summer Special - If you sign your lease by Labor Day, your first month's rent is free! For more information, please call 631.842.6091 or visit us at www.dominicanvillage.org.

Healing Mass

Marian Healing Ministry will have a Healing Mass on Wednesday, August 15 at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston. The Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Augustine Fernando with Deacon John Dennehy and Deacon Joseph Mercolino assisting. This Mass will be a special healing for couples having difficulty conceiving. Come and experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and healing power of our Savior.

Looking for Volunteers

Catholic Daughters-Court Bishop McDonnell #1403, Babylon is looking for two women to help serve coffee and desserts Wednesday afternoons from noon until 2:30 PM to senior citizens starting in September. If you can help, please call Regent Kathy at 279.0614 for further information.

Sisters of the Good Shepherd

HandCrafting Justice is a non-profit, Fair Trade, project of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. They partner with women struggling with poverty and injustice in eighteen developing countries. You can help support our mission by visiting our website and shop for fair trade goods, contact us about volunteer opportunities or donate to the continuation of their mission. Visit their website at www.handcraftingjustice.org or call at 718.204.0909.

Struggling with Being Blessed

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Rock star, Janis Joplin, was once asked, "What's it like being a pop idol?" Her answer: "It can be awful sometimes. You have no idea how hard it is to go out on stage and make love to 20,000 people and then go home and have to sleep alone!"

That's a remarkable comment. What she's describing is not simply the rarefied angst of a famous pop star, but a pain that, deep down, afflicts every one of us by the very nature of our being specially blessed by God.

And specially blessed we are. All great religious traditions have the idea that human beings carry a special, almost god-like, dignity. The Judeo-Christian scriptures call this "the image and likeness of God in us" and tell us that, because of it, we are special, unique, creative, blessed.

But this is often imagined in a way that's dangerously simple. What exactly does it mean that we've been made in the image and likeness of God?

We tend to be overly-romantic about this, simplistically imagining that somewhere deep inside us there is stamped, like a beautiful Russian icon, some imprint of God which then gives each of us a wonderful dignity that may never be violated, endows us with a marvelous creativity, and makes us, among all the creatures of the universe, special. Because we are in the image and likeness of God we are specially called, loved, and blessed.

All of that is true, but something else is true as well. To walk this planet in God's image and likeness isn't just a question of standing before the world, feeling a great dignity, bursting with creativity, and saying: "Look at how wonderful, unique, and talented I am!" It's also, and equally, a question of carrying the burden of all that creativity and divinity. God, as scripture assures us, isn't an icon, but a fire that can never be tamed, and we carry that fire inside us, both in the marvel of our positive energies and in the punishing madness, restlessness, and jealousies that rage inside our frustrations. It's not easy, and sometimes far, far from romantic, to walk the earth as gods and goddesses. That we are blessed also makes for deep struggles.

Why? Why do we struggle with what's highest in us?

Here's the algebra: Deep down, all of us know we're special, that we're not just accidental, meaningless little chips of energy falling off the conveyor-belt of cosmic evolution, indistinguishable from billions of others. We know we're unique, precious, have meaning, and are

made for a special destiny. We know too we're lying if we deny it.

But, and this is the point, this sense of being special doesn't just set off holy and altruistic energies inside us. It also inflames us with narcissism, grandiosity, a sense of entitlement, jealousy, rage, boredom, restlessness, and (ironically) the sense that God does not exist.

Put into simple language, there's something inside us that says: "If I'm in the image of God then I too have a right to be the centre of the universe, I too have a right to be an object of supreme adoration, and I too am entitled to drink in everything, own everything, and sleep with everyone. Everything is mine by right! And, if I'm nearly a god myself, why do I need to believe in any God beyond me?"

We all struggle with this, whether we admit it or not. In fact it's when we don't admit it that we become most bitter in life. When we're most enraged it's precisely because what's divine in us is not being recognized, acknowledged, and properly honoured by others and, not least, by ourselves.

We get a privileged glance into this struggle when we look at the lives of many artists, pop stars, intellectuals, and other high-achievers. Often what's evident in the life of such a person is that, first, he or she is highly attuned to creative energy, to what's divine inside the world. However, often times by the same token, he or she is also a person who has to struggle, and mightily sometimes, simply to fit into the flow and the discipline of everyday life, to be "normal". The person who is highly sensitive to creative energy is often too, by that exact same energy, driven towards addictions, sexual entitlement, jealousy, pathological disquiet, deadly boredom, the rejection of God, and sometimes, sadly, towards self-destruction.

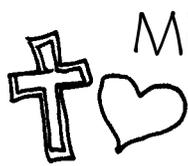
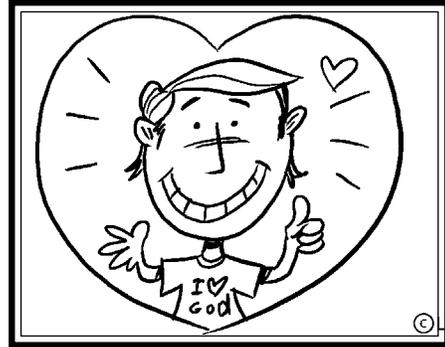
And this kind of struggle should not be seen simplistically, as is often the case, as the result of somebody being a spoiled brat, a child-deity in a high-chair, who's never had to discipline himself or herself to fit in with the rest of the human race. What's illustrated rather is a universal struggle, just more clearly choreographed, to live out the fact that we're made in God's image and likeness.

We're born into this world with divine fires inside us. Inside those fires lie seeds of every kind, both for self-destruction or for greatness.

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 day Jesus will come back from heaven. He could come back any day now - nobody knows when. So, you and I need to be ready. Put God first in your life. Love God with your whole heart. Live every day in a way that will make Jesus smile. Be ready to go to heaven!



Mission for the Week

Every day I will read, play, and listen to things that make God happy.



Puzzle

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

| | | |
|----------|---------|--------|
| ready | master | home |
| lamps | night | thief |
| servants | morning | coming |

| | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| reday | <u> r e a d y </u> |
| cmonig | _____ |
| hmeo | _____ |
| nithg | _____ |
| srevnast | _____ |
| thefi | _____ |
| mronnig | _____ |
| msatre | _____ |
| lmasp | _____ |

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Prayer



Dear God,
help me
to stay close to
Jesus.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture
of Jesus coming
back in the
clouds.