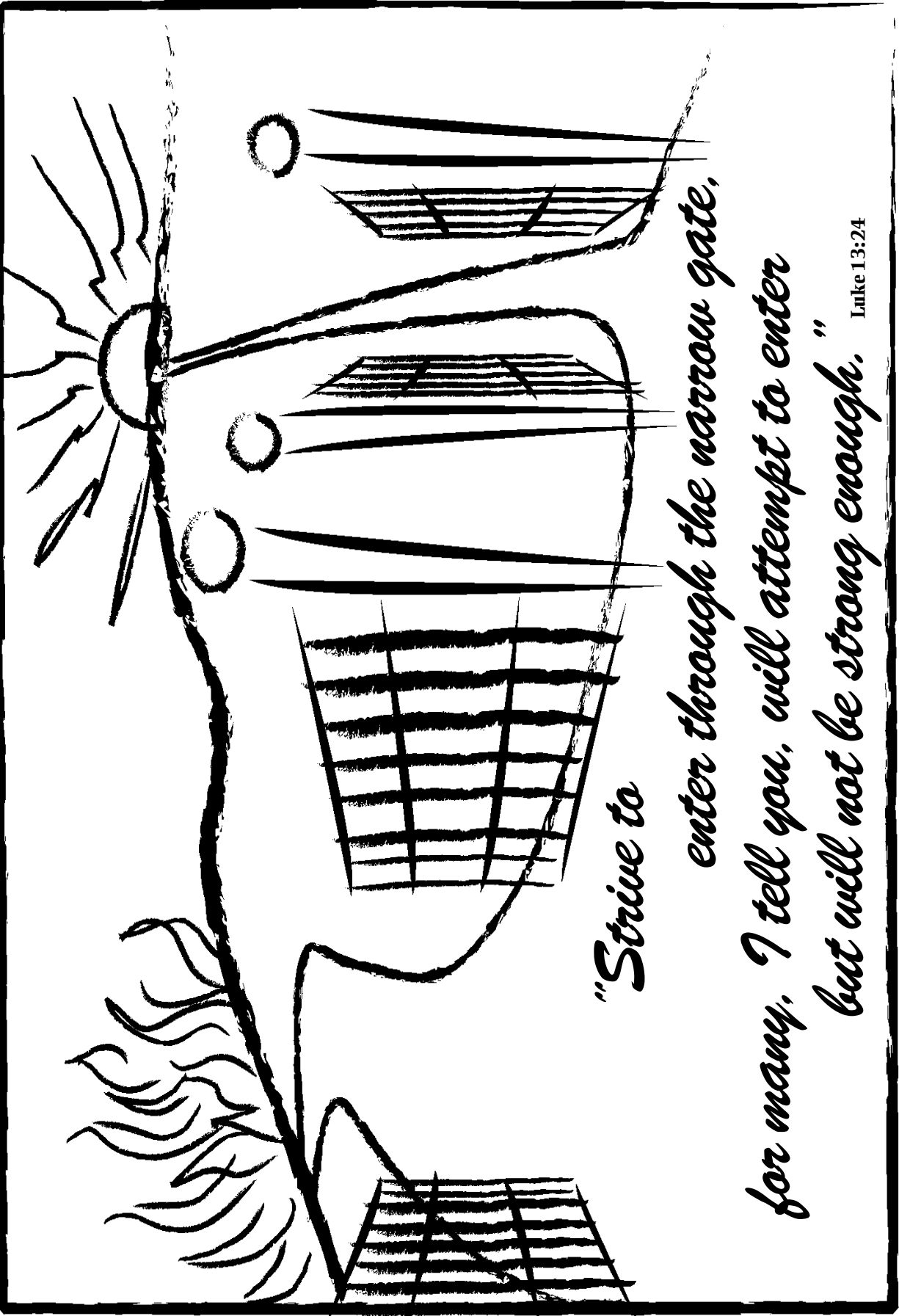


Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Lady of Lourdes · August 26, 2007



"Strive to

enter through the narrow gate,

for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter

but will not be strong enough."

Luke 13:24



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

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish



Italian Family Feast 2007

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.

Italian Family Feast 2007

September 12 - 16

Opens Wednesday thru Friday at 7 PM

Opens Saturday at 6 PM

Opens Sunday at 2 PM

Pay-One-Price

**Ride *all* rides on Wednesday, Thursday
and Sunday only \$22**

(\$2 discount with coupon)

purchase Pay-One-Price at the feast



Super Raffle

**Drawing to be held on Sunday evening,
September 16**

**"Super Raffle" tickets will be on sale at the Church doors before
and after all weekend Masses.**

Super Raffle tickets are \$100 each - only 200 tickets sold!

Don't wait – get your number early!

Advance Tickets

Any six rides for \$12 (average discount of over 50%!)

Tickets good for any ride/any day of the Feast!

**Purchase "Advance Tickets" at the Parish Office,
Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM.**

Advance ticket sales end Monday, September 10.



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!

Lectors

Who better to proclaim God's Word than you!? Our lectors prepare and proclaim the Scripture readings at our liturgies and services throughout the year. This is a wonderful ministry because you bring the power of God's word to all who gather in our parish community!

What's the commitment?

If you are interested, we will assign you to work a "veteran" lector. We will try to schedule you based on the Mass you most frequently attend. Lectors sign up to serve on holidays, holy days and special occasions. We also offer opportunities for reflection and prayer that all are invited to and requested to be a part of throughout the year.

I want more information....

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

Ushers

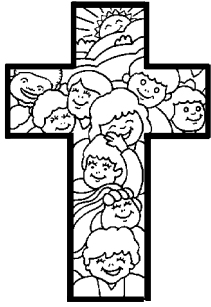
Unsure of where to go? Need help with the seat? Looking for some information about a parish event? Our ushers serve as the eyes and ears of our parish's liturgies and prayer services! They are here before Mass, assist with the collection and the communion procession and usually are around after to make sure everyone has gotten to their cars! This is a wonderful job for you – young or old, male or female – and a wonderful way to welcome and serve God's people here at OLL!

What's the commitment?

If you are interested, we will assign you to work a "veteran" lector. We will try to schedule you based on the Mass you most frequently attend. Lectors sign up to serve on holidays, holy days and special occasions. We also offer opportunities for reflection and prayer that all are invited to and requested to be a part of throughout the year.

I want more information....

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



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.

So You Think You Can Sing?

...then sing with us!

Kick off the Fall season by getting involved in the OLL Music Ministry. If you've always wanted to sing with a choir or play with a music group, now is the perfect time to join. Our groups will begin singing and playing at Masses again after Labor Day.

The Adult Choir rehearses every Thursday night 8 PM - 10 PM and sings weekly at the 11 AM Mass. Our first rehearsal is on September 6, at 8 PM in the Church. Adults who are proficient in playing a musical instrument and are interested in playing with the Adult Choir at the 11 AM Mass are also invited to join us at our first rehearsal.

The Contemporary Group, grade 8 through college age, rehearses on Sunday afternoon 4:30 PM - 6 PM and sings at "The Six." Our first rehearsal will take place on September 9, at 4:30 PM in the Church. Students, we'd love to have you come and sing with us - bring a friend or two with you. Also, if you're proficient at a musical instrument, we would love to have you join our group.

Our Youth Choir, grade 2 through grade 8, rehearses every Thursday 7 PM - 8 PM and sings at the 9:30 AM Mass each Sunday.

Women's Chorale sings at the 11 AM Mass on the first Sunday of each month.

There are also opportunities to sing with many of our groups during holiday seasons. Our **Holiday Choir** requires a limited commitment to a small number of rehearsals before Christmas or Easter.

If you have any questions about the *Youth Choir or Women's Chorale*, please contact Jennifer Gallagher at 661-3224 or jengallagher@ollchurch.org. If you have any questions regarding the *Adult Choir, Contemporary Group or Holiday Choir*, please contact Carol Goetz at 661-3224 or music@ollchurch.org.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, September 9

9:30 AM Mass

Our Family Liturgy Committee welcomes you to the Blessing of Backpacks. We invite all of our young people to come for a special blessing of backpacks and school supplies. Bring your backpacks to Mass as we pray for you and for a happy, healthy and good school year!

Stay after Mass for a light breakfast in the Fr. Joe Garden.

Blessing of Confirmation Candidates

Sunday, September 9

“The Six”

Over two hundred young people are preparing to become more active, faith-filled members of our parish community. These are not only the future of our Church, but individuals who already make a difference. It is our parish community’s job now to pray for and support these women and men.

Come and pray for them in a special way on September 9 as they petition our parish community to receive this Sacrament. Your presence will make a great difference!

Following Mass, we will gather in the Fr. Joe Garden for Italian Ices and hospitality . . . and a special live concert! Be sure to stay and be a part of it!

Sunset Mass at the Beach

Sunday, August 26

6 PMish

Captree State Park

(the same location as our Easter Sunrise Mass)

Let’s give thanks to God for the gift of the summer and seek help and support for the year ahead. Mass will begin around 6:15/6:30 PM. Come early and enjoy some time at the Boat Basin and Boardwalk – maybe even make it a Beach Day at Robert Moses and come to Mass on the way home at Captree. (A small caravan will leave OLL at 5:50 PM if you want to follow along.)

We’ll have an after Mass BBQ for all so don’t miss it! Please bring your own drinks and a small dessert for our sharing table! (Please refrain from bringing any alcoholic beverages.)

If we need to cancel for rain-we will post this on the website by 4 PM.

Signing for Our Hearing Impaired Parishioners

Our interpreter for the hearing impaired of our parish, Kelly Cardoso, has made a change. Kelly will now be signing at the 12:30 PM Mass each Sunday. Parishioners who will be using this service are asked to use the first few rows near the Baptismal font. Please feel free to contact anyone who may benefit from this service.



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



is running
out!

**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

9:00 AM - 11 AM or 12:00 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.

Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous:

Monday and Tuesday at
8 PM and Saturday at 2PM
and 7 PM in Lourdes Hall-
convent lower level.

ALANON:

Each Wednesday at
10 AM in Lourdes Hall-
convent lower level.

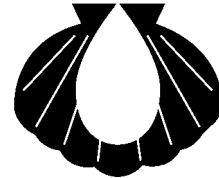
Upcoming Marriages

Christine Patricia Phillips, St. James, Pennington, NJ and

John Peter Fogarty, OLL

Giannina Nicolai, St Kilian's, Farmingdale and

Joseph Laterza, OLL



Baptisms

Mason Brian Nasta

Brian and Lisa

Sophia Anne Virgilio

Joseph and Patrice

Evamaria Nanette Crosley

Steven and Connie

Jordan Christopher Fileti

Christopher and Isadora

Aidan Cooper Kelch

Alexander and Kim

Isabella Licata

Peter and Lorena

Robert Edward Matin II

Robert and Teresa

Ashly-Rose Prefontaine

Richard and Danielle

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.

Remembering...



Rest In Peace

Emma J. Monte,
died on August 10 and celebration of the
Mass of Christian Burial was August 20.
We extend our prayers to her son, John
and family.

Thomas Grunenberg,
died on August 11 and Prayer Service was
held on August 15. We extend our prayers
to his wife, Linda and family.

Monday, August 27

St. Monica

8:00 AM Terrie Kopitsch

Tuesday, August 28

St. Augustine, bishop, doctor

8:00 AM Bill Camuso

Wednesday, August 29

Martyrdom of John the Baptist

8:00 AM George Stone

Thursday, August 30

8:00 AM Louis & Margherita Fortunato

Friday, August 31

8:00 AM Bill Camuso

Saturday, September 1

8:00 AM Vincent McCarthy, Robert Meddis, Rita Stoecher,
Special Intentions

5:00 PM John Lovari

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Sunday, September 2

8:00 AM Henry Michaels

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

9:30 AM Louise Riedemann

Fr. Stan Chukwube

11:00 AM Joseph Rizzo

Fr. Mike Vetrano

12:30 PM Ethel Dixon Isola

Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Joseph Lipari, Joanna White,
Walter Henry, Geraldine Visconti, Florence Kleinfelder

Fr. John Asomugha

Celebrating Sacraments

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.

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 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.

Farmers Market

This time of the summer may find some of our 'local farmers' with an overabundance of tomatoes, cucumbers, string beans and other delicacies from the garden!

Why not donate your surplus to Outreach?

If you have abundant fruits from your crops...you can leave these in the food baskets also...how our customers would love to receive fresh vegetables!!



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

Memorial Liturgy

Monday – August 27 at 7:30 PM

Please be with Outreach as we join in prayer for the repose of the soul of Cathy Gries.

Outreach Update

It was my expectation that Outreach would slow down during the months of July and August, with this being summer and the heat and humidity being high. I don't know, I just assumed we would hit the wall for a few days. I was wrong. In June, we serviced 136 individuals-July figures are at 162. Food was again the priority.

As “stewards” of all that has been given to us, we are called to share freely of our time, talent and resources. Some families do this by tithing a certain percent of their income back to the Church each year. I encourage my children to “give back” to the Church and community one-third of their allowance each week. To keep it simple for them and for us, we usually dole out \$3.00 to both children on Friday afternoon. They put \$1.00 in the bank, \$1.00 in the jar to help others, and they keep \$1.00 to spend or save for something they might want. Edward desperately wanted the sneakers ‘with the check.’ He informed me that he ‘had to have them!’ He carried on so, you would think it was a matter of life and death. While I certainly could empathize with Edward, the cost of the sneakers “with the check” was not in the budget I had allotted for new sneakers. I explained this to Edward and told him he could save his allowance to make up the difference-in fact, I would buy him the sneakers now, but I told him, he couldn't get that \$1.00 each Friday until December, at least. This just did not seem fair to Edward-he had all this money for the poor and he was “poor in sneakers”-why, he asked, couldn't he just take that money?

It probably would have been easier to buy Edward the sneakers ‘with the check’ rather than put up with the whining and pouting and complaining about how unfair Dan and I are. I try to be a responsible parent by word and example. Dan and I have stressed with Evelina and Edward the responsibility of “Blessing”- that when you have been blessed and receive -the right (responsible) behavior is to give back so that others can be blessed too. Some lessons are easier to learn than others-in our consumer society this lesson is especially difficult to impart-and if we don't impress this now, when the children are young, when will we?

A very special thanks to Handyman Ed-who gave freely of his time and talents to help a parishioner in need of some repair work in her home. Ed, thanks for the reminder of our call to Stewardship!

Outreach received a donation from Doris Cameron in memory of Gary Cornell. This donation was used to assist a woman who has been a victim of domestic abuse.

I also received a very encouraging and supportive letter thanking Outreach for the ‘wonderful job’ we are doing. The letter contained a donation which will be used to buy sneakers for children returning to school. Thanks.

Finally: a very BELATED THANK YOU to Todd Costello from PC Richards. Todd was also one of the people responsible for the refrigerator we received in July! What a blessing the refrigerator has been-we have been able to offer meats, dairy and the occasional ice pop to children when their families come for food! Thank you for your generosity!

-Mary McMahon

Director Parish Social Ministry



©LPI

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

When you are presented with a group of tasks, how do you prioritize which to do first? By difficulty or by convenience? Some of us choose the easy tasks first, because it gives us some sense of accomplishment to finish something, but if we are honest with ourselves, nothing is more satisfying than taking on a difficult task, working hard at it for as long as it takes, and completing it.

In today's Gospel reading from Luke, Jesus is again given one of those questions which require an answer other than what the questioner was seeking: "Will those who are saved be few?" This had to be frustrating to Jesus; remember the shepherd who leaves his flock to find the one lost lamb. To God, even one lost soul will be too many! Jesus' time on earth to proclaim salvation was short, but his Word lives on in us to help fulfill his promise.

There is perhaps no more difficult task than prayer. All of our earthly concerns are merely distractions which, when pushed aside for truly honest prayer, attempt to push themselves back into our consciousness. (CCC 2732) Are we guilty of attempting to deal with those concerns first because they may be easier than true and honest prayer? Do not speak to God as a last resort; pray first, and you will be amazed how many of those earthly concerns disappear!

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Readings for the Week of August 26, 2007

Sunday:	Is 66:18-21/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30
Monday:	1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday:	1 Thes 2:1-8/Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday:	1 Thes 2:9-13/Mk 6:17-29
Thursday:	1 Thes 3:7-13/Mt 24:42-51
Friday:	1 Thes 4:1-8/Mt 25:1-13
Saturday:	1 Thes 4:9-11/Mt 25:14-30
Next Sunday:	Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a Lk 14:1, 7-14

Financial Summary

August 19, 2007

Weekly Collection \$ 16,059.50
 Weekly Budget -\$ 21,000.00
 +/- for the week \$ (4,940.50)

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

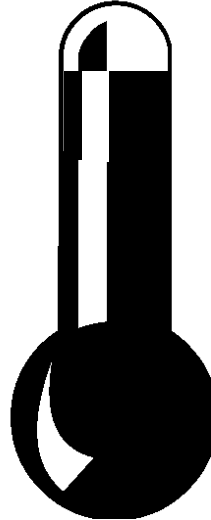
Catholic Ministries Appeal

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



— \$ 91,060
 — Pledged
 — to Date
 —
 —
 —
 —
 —
 —

421 Pledges
 \$216 Avg. Pledge

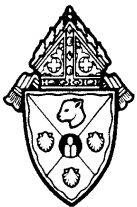
CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL • DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
 PO Box 4000 • ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11571-4000 • 516-379-5210 EXT 2 • www.drvc.org/cma.html

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.



Nocturnal Adoration

Nocturnal Adoration will **follow the 5 PM Mass on Saturday, September 1**, followed by Benediction at 9:50 PM. Please come and pray with us. All are invited and welcome! Bring a friend.

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**.

Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, August 27 at 12:30 PM in the Parish Center**.

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: **"Finding Peace."** Don't forget to tune in! Visit "Religion & Rock" on the web, 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.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, August 28**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

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.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Janet Loehr*. If you would like to help care for our altar needs, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.



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.
- would like to receive the sacred anointing.

Pray for Our Sick

Please remember to keep in your thoughts and prayers ...

Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Howard Campkin, Lynn Castellano, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, TJ Devlin, Jason Fisher, Samantha Hil, Adam Ippolito, Wade Kromhout, Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang, 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

Christian Concert

On Monday, September 10 at 7 PM, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Patchogue will be hosting a concert with John Michael Talbot. This is the 50th album release of this internationally known number one selling Christian recording artist. His trademark solo guitar and voice are an experience meant to touch your hearts. For more information and tickets, please call 475.4739.

You Can Help Your Marriage Now!

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Does talking about it only make it worse or- Have you just stopped talking to each other?

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages.

For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, or to register for the upcoming weekend beginning on Friday, September 7, please call 1.800.470.2230.

Vendors Wanted

St. Joseph's Parish in Babylon is having their Holiday Fair on Saturday, November 17. They are looking for vendors for their craft sale and flea market. For information, call Terry at 669.0198 or Valerie at 236.2222.

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**. 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.

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.

Gennesaret Retreat

A retreat especially designed for persons who live with a serious illness is planned for September 21 - 23 at the Montfort Spiritual Center in Bay shore. This retreat offers a respite, a quiet time, an oasis to enable one to continue their journey. The retreat focuses on God's love, forgiveness and faithfulness. To register or receive more information about this weekend, please call Sister Sally Ryan or Colette Fanelli at 631.665.7052.

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.

Living with Criticism

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Nobody goes through life without facing criticism, opposition, misunderstanding, suspicion, and, at some point, having to experience hatred.

This is one of the great pains, perhaps the greatest, inside family, church, and community. Eventually we are subject to criticism, our motives and integrity are questioned, and we have to live with the bitterness of those judgements, a bitterness that can rob our lives of joy and us of any self-confidence. The real pain though is not when these negative judgements come from outside, when the big world out there questions our integrity, but precisely when it comes from inside, from persons with whom we are meant to share family and faith.

Experiencing hated, bitterness, and being accused of hypocrisy are not an easy thing to cope with. How do we not question our own essential goodness in the face of criticism and judgement? How do we not put our own truth up for grabs when it's bitterly questioned? And how do we sustain ourselves in community and resist the urge to walk away in the face of criticism?

I've often wondered how Jesus coped with this because certainly he had to face it. He moved around Palestine preaching love, joy, community, and vulnerability, even as people called him a blasphemer (the ultimate accusation of egoism) and hated him enough to kill him. How did he stay joyful in the face of this anger? How did he let himself be vulnerable when others were attacking him? How did he continue to be self-confident in his mission when he was accused of being hypocritical and self-deluded? How did he handle this?

By always taking his real identity from God and not from himself or from the opinions others had of him.

As Jesus moved about doing his mission, he met every kind of reaction: Sometimes the crowds loved him and tried to make him king, other times the same people hollered for his head, "Crucify him!". He was both loved and hated and always there were some who stood, sincerely no doubt, in bitter opposition and accused him of being the ultimate egoist and blasphemer.

What's important to notice is that Jesus never took his identity from these reactions, good or bad, feeling confident when the crowds supported him and feeling insecure when he faced opposition. He took his truth and identity from elsewhere. Where?

"I do the will of my father." His identity, his truth, his courage to act, and his joy were all rooted in

something beyond the affirmations or criticisms of the moment, beyond public opinion, beyond the judgement of those who hated him.

Looking at Jesus, we see that, in the face of criticism and hatred, his key questions weren't: "Can I live with this criticism? Do I let another's negative judgement intimidate me from the truth and mission I feel called to? Do I let someone's hatred of me destroy my energy and joy?"

Looking at Jesus, we see that the key questions are: "Can I live with myself? Can I be centred and patient enough to let God, history, and truth be my judge? Can I be sensitive to how I'm seen and judged by others, even as I take my identity from a reality deeper than public opinion and the view of those who dislike me? Can I, by casting my eyes more towards heaven, continue to sustain myself in energy and joy, even in the face of bitterness and hatred?"

Jesus shows us the way here, albeit it's far, far from an easy one. This gate too is narrow. It's not easy to not be intimidated from doing what we are called to do because we experience opposition. There will always be opposition. Not just because darkness perennially resists light, but because it's impossible to live for any length of time inside of any kind of closeness, family or community, without irritating and hurting each other. We have different personalities, different histories, different perspectives, and we all arrive on the scene carrying wounds from elsewhere. Community isn't automatic and it isn't easy, but we must not let our truth and our joy die in the face of opposition.

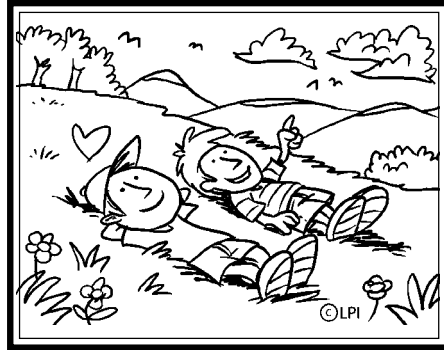
Though a caution needs to be added: There is always a danger of self-delusion when we discern our truth. In the face of criticism, opposition, and hatred, we should always seek spiritual direction, from the wise and from the good. Wisdom and goodness are the great principles of discernment. Hence, go to those within the community who are wise and go to those within the community who are good. Ask them how they see you and how they see those particular actions of yours that are so upsetting to your critics.

And know and accept that always there will be criticism, anger, and sometimes even hatred. Jesus experienced this and, in the end, it killed him. He warned that, for us, it will be no different. Hell will always try to blackmail heaven, but that's to be resisted.

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

Heaven will be wonderful. People from all over the world will be there to enjoy God's friendship. No matter how small you feel now, you will always be important to God in heaven. Once you accept the gift of love from Jesus, you will want to change your life. You will want to spend time with God, and you will want to show love to other people. Then you can look forward to heaven.



Mission for the Week

Pray to God with your family, and ask God to change your hearts so that you love him more than anything else.

Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

JESUS
TAUGHT
SAVED

NARROW
LOCKS
KNOCK

DOOR
FEAST
KINGDOM

J	U	E	S	W	A	O	N	I	H	W
A	K	N	O	C	K	Y	S	O	J	E
R	I	U	A	L	F	E	A	S	T	M
H	N	E	T	N	A	U	V	G	A	H
T	G	P	L	A	I	T	E	H	U	T
W	D	O	O	R	N	S	D	A	G	N
I	O	V	L	R	A	L	G	E	H	S
S	M	E	N	O	S	O	K	D	T	H
H	L	O	R	W	D	C	A	R	O	E
N	Y	A	F	G	O	K	I	N	G	T
O	B	J	E	S	U	S	E	S	A	V

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Prayer



Dear God,
help me to do
all that I can to
grow closer
to you.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture
of yourself
standing next to
Jesus in heaven.