



ANYONE
WHO
DOES
NOT

CARRY HIS
CROSS &
FOLLOW ME
CANNOT BE
MY DISCIPLE.

LUKE 14:27

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OUR LADY OF LOURDES • SEPTEMBER 9, 2007



Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano
Pastor

Welcome to our Parish Family! New Parishioners are cordially invited to register as members of our parish family. Please call or visit our Parish Office.

Parish Office

661-3224

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Saturday: 9 AM - 3 PM

Sunday: 9 AM - 2 PM

email: ParishOffice@ollchurch.org

fax: 661-7143

website: www.ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes School

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: 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.*

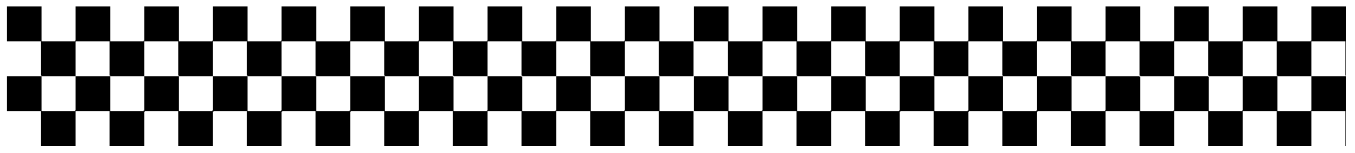
***Grow** in an understanding of God's role in each of our lives.*

***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



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!

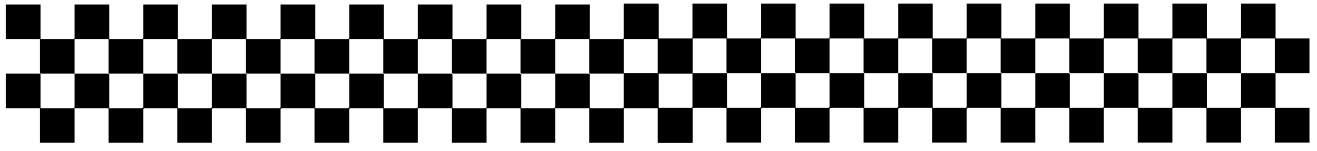
Purchase "Advance Tickets" at the Parish Office,

Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM.

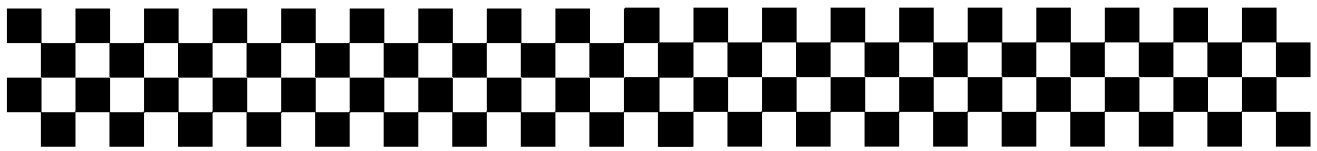
Advance ticket sales end Monday, September 10.



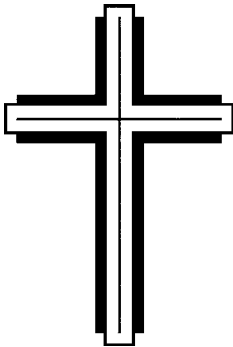
Our Lady of Lourdes



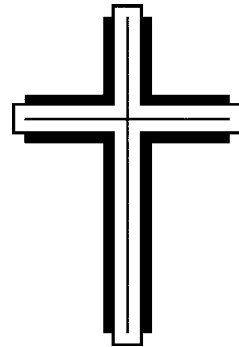
Italian Family Feast 2007



Parish Feast Mass



**Saturday
September 15
5 PM Mass**



Let us come together in prayer to thank God for the blessings of our parish as we celebrate the Feast. May our prayer on this night strengthen us in the year of service and ministry ahead...

Mass to include:

- ***Blessing and sending forth for Parish Ministers, including your ministry!***
- ***Our Music ministries***
- ***Our Priests and deacons***
- ***Opening of the Saturday night Feast***
- ***and most importantly...YOU!***

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.

Children's Liturgy of the Word/Family Liturgy Committee

Our Lady of Lourdes wants young people and their families to know they are a vital and active member of the Church community! These two exciting ministries work closely together to help that happen.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Each Sunday at the 9:30 AM Mass, we invite young people from age four to about fourth grade to share God's Word in a special way. Children leave Mass and process to the Parish Center to hear the Sunday readings in a way designed for them. Teams of adults and teenagers work together to plan out each Sunday to include unique homilies, creative activities, music and ideas for parents. We are always looking for new Team members for each of our teams. Each team presents approximately once a month. For more information, contact Mrs. Joanne Maher at 661.5478 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.

Family Liturgy: This group meets monthly, along with the members of Children's Liturgy of the Word teams, to create events and opportunities for families to come together for social, spiritual and fun activities. This group helps to plan events like the Blessing of the Animals, Children's Liturgy services, and much, much more! This group meets only about eight times a year after the 9:30 AM Mass.

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 with a "veteran" usher. We will try to schedule you based on the Mass you most frequently attend. Ushers 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 John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.

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 this weekend.



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. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Goetz at 661.3224 or music@ollchurch.org.

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. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Goetz at 661.3224 or music@ollchurch.org.

OLL Youth Choir needs you! Our 9:30 AM Mass Youth Choir begins a new year and we would LOVE lots of new members! Students in grade 1 through high school are welcome. You don't have to have a great voice; you just need to love singing and having fun! For more info, email jengallagher@ollchurch.org, or call 661.3224, and leave your name and number. All are welcome!

OLL Women's Chorale is for really busy people who love to sing! Do you love to sing, but just can't commit to weekly choir rehearsals? OLL's Women's Chorale is for you! We sing and rehearse just once a month. New members are always welcome! Questions? Email jengallagher@ollchurch.org.

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, please contact Carol Goetz at 661.3224 or music@ollchurch.org.

Adult Faith Formation

...coming in September

Stepping Stones

Building Family Communication Celebrating Family Faith

A five-week workshop designed for parents, grandparents, catechists with pre-school and early elementary school aged children. Our time together will promote Catholic family identity through ritual, traditions, prayer, media resources and small group sharing. Participants will gain resources and learn how to share the holy in the ordinary lived experiences with their families and in the classroom.

Tuesdays

September 18, 25 October 2, 9, 16

7:30 PM until 9 :30 PM

Parish Center

If you have any questions or to register, please call Corinne Lok of the Office of Faith Formation at 516.678.5800, extension 508.

...coming in October

Gospel of Matthew

Invitation to trust in God's presence...challenge to live as true disciples

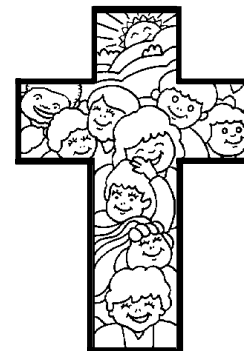
Matthew's Gospel excites us with the news that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel. During these five weeks, we will explore the Jesus of Matthew's Gospel from the perspective of this year's Sunday readings...our Liturgical Cycle.

Tuesdays

October 23 November 6, 13, 20, 27 with Fr. Bob

7:30 PM until 9 :30 PM

Parish Center



Religious Education

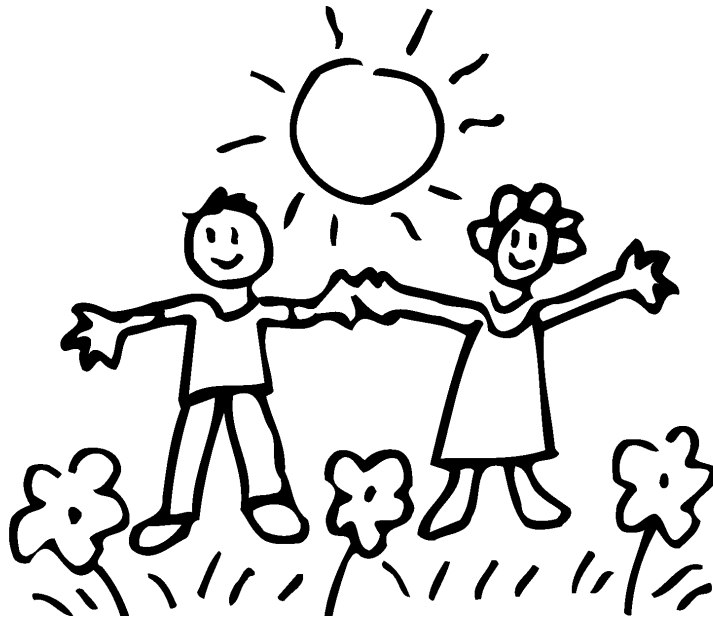
Registration for children in public school **entering Grade 1 in September 2007** to be part of Our Lady of Lourdes Religious Education P.E.P. Program...

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 School
44 Toomey Road
West Islip, NY
631.587.7200
email: *info@ollschool.org*

Look what's growing in OLL School!



"Mommy & Me!"

2 days per week

"Nursery"

Half or full days
3 days per week

"Pre-K"

Half or full days
3 or 5 days a week

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

Hurry!

There's still time!

Call us!

If you are interested in enrollment or you have any questions,
please call the School Office at 587.7200.

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.



Rest In Peace

Kenneth R. Marnane,
died on August 23 and celebration of the
Mass of Christian Burial was August 27.
We extend our prayers to his daughter, Barbara
and family.

Carol Karniewicz,
died on August 29 and celebration of the
Mass of Christian Burial was August 31.
We extend our prayers to her daughter, Karen
and family.

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.

Upcoming Marriages

*Giannina Nicolia, St Kilian's, Farmingdale and
Joseph Laterza, OLL*

Mass Schedule

Monday, September 10

8:00 AM Philip Puleio

Tuesday, September 11

8:00 AM 9/11 Victims

Wednesday, September 12

Holy Name of Mary

8:00 AM Robert D. Colin

Thursday, September 13

St. John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor

8:00 AM John Sweeney

Friday, September 14

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:00 AM Emelio Ceribelli

Saturday, September 15

8:00 AM Salvatore Carrano, Sr. Mary Imelda Buetow,
Special Intentions, Gloria Schumann, Josephine Razzano,
In Thanks to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Jessie Cartolaso,
Emma Monte

5:00 PM Barbara McGarrity
Fr. Mike Vetrano

Sunday, September 16

8:00 AM Salvatore Carrano & James Celiberti
Fr. Stan Chukwube

9:30 AM Ascrizzi Family
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

11:00 AM Rachel DiRico
Fr. Mike Vetrano

12:30 PM Domenico Andriola
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Mary Ellen Azzurro, William Berry,
Nancy Lopez, Elizabeth Duchman, Richard M. Pokallus,
Emma Goehringer, Luigi Ingnaldi, Chang Hi Suk,
Tracy Meinhold, Virginia Kelly
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

Green Friday

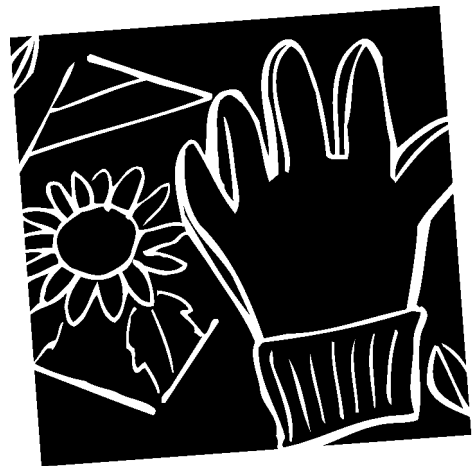
October 5 Social Action will be hosting “*An Inconvenient Truth*” for adults. “*An Inconvenient Truth*” offers a passionate and inspirational look at one man's fervent crusade to halt global warming's deadly progress in its tracks by exposing the myths and misconceptions that surround it. That man is former Vice President Al Gore.

...and there will be “*Happy Feet*” and popcorn for the children.

Tips for a Healthy Garden

Composting:

Soil is a complex mixture of diverse ingredients, containing all the nutrients that sustain life on earth. Organic material derived from animals and plants breaks down in the soil to a dark substance called Humus. It has also been referred to as Black Gold. One of nature's most efficient ways of recycling is composting. This process of decomposition occurs constantly and gradually in nature.



Composting offers a great benefit to the environment.

By making compost, gardeners create a source of high-quality nutrition for their gardens. Compost improves the soil structure, adds moisture retention and can actually protect plants from certain diseases.

Inside a compost pile, billions of decay organisms feed, grow, reproduce and die, recycling household and garden wastes into an excellent organic fertilizer and soil conditioner.

Compost is a pile made from a series of layers like an Italian cake with such ingredients as organic wastes, fallen leaves, grass clippings, ashes, sawdust, kitchen scraps and garden wastes. As much as $\frac{3}{4}$ of a household's waste is compostable. When you build a compost pile you intervene with nature by speeding up the process and creating a valuable soil amendment.

There are a number of ways to contain the compost, such as the three bin process, garbage cans or wire mesh boxes. Water is critical to the decay process as well as air circulation. The decay process is boosted by occasionally turning the pile. During hot summer months, the entire process can be over in six weeks, but in cooler or cold weather, patience is needed.

Nothing in nature goes to waste!

Margaret O'Connor

Master Gardener



Upcoming Events

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.

Parish Reading Circle

Social Action is forming a Parish Reading Circle in the Fall.

Our first book selection is “*Left To Tell*” by Immaculee Ilibagiza and will be available for purchase starting in September.

...look in future bulletins for more details.

It's not too early to save the date...

Saturday, November 10

Fabulous Fifties Football Wedding Reception!

Parish Outreach invites you to the Fabulous Fifties Football Wedding Reception at 7:30 PM.

Tickets will be \$25 per person and proceeds will benefit the efforts of Outreach. More details to follow in upcoming bulletins.

Members Welcome

If you would like to become a member of the Social Action Committee, please phone Mary in Outreach at 661.9262 x.4



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The late comedian Jack Benny crafted his on-stage persona as a bit of a miser. One famous bit from his radio show had him being held up at gunpoint by a robber. "Your money or your life!" the bad guy snarls. Benny just stands there, not saying a word, pausing for dramatic effect. "Well?" the robber demands. "I'm thinking, I'm thinking," Benny replies. What would you be willing to give up if asked?

Throughout most of the Gospels, Jesus is very subtle in his words and teachings and parables. He hopes that we will all see the truth through our own eyes of understanding. In today's reading from Luke, however, Jesus is as clear and as forthright as he can be. If we are not willing to give up everything, our parents, our spouses, our children, even our own lives, we cannot truly consider ourselves disciples of Christ.

It may be difficult at first to imagine being willing to sacrifice a loved one for something you believe in. But is that not exactly what God did for us? He gave his only son to sinners to be sacrificed for our reconciliation with him. (CCC 614) We are promised the glory of heaven and everlasting life, but Jesus is very clear on this point: In order to attain all, we must be willing to give all, even those we hold nearest our hearts.

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Readings for the Week of September 9, 2007

Sunday:	Wis 9:13-18b/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33
Monday:	Col 1:24-2:3/Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday:	Col 2:6-15/Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday:	Col 3:1-11/Lk 6:20-26
Thursday:	Col 3:12-17/Lk 6:27-38
Friday:	Nm 21:4b-9/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
Saturday:	1 Tm 1:15-17/Jn 19:25-27 <i>or</i> Lk 2:33-35
Next Sunday:	Ex 32:7-11, 13-14/1 Tm 1:12-17/Lk 15:1-32 <i>or</i> 15:1-10

Catholic Ministries Appeal

**88%
to goal!**

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.



Financial Summary

August 26, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 17,654.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (3,346.00)

September 2, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 18,203.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (2,797.00)

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

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.**

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*

James J. Ferrara-*US Marines*

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: **"Routine in Our Lives."** 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.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, September 11**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Dottie Collins*.
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, Carol Brander, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Howard Campkin, Lynn Castellano, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, TJ Devlin, Jason Fisher, John Green, Marie Harris, Samantha Hil, Ed Hill, 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, Arthur Petrino, Baby Conner Pietras, Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds, Carol Scheid, Dorothy Schiavone, Dorothy Sullivan, Loretta Vitale

American Sign Language

Clery School for the Deaf is offering evening Adult Education classes in American Sign Language. The Fall session runs from September 17 through November 19. Call Carolyn Kelly at 631.588.0530 or email ASL4CK@CS.com for more information.

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.

Country Fair

West Islip Country Fair is coming! This year the fair will be held on **Sunday, September 23** on the grounds of the West Islip Public Library. For your convenience there will be a jitney service along Udall Rd./Higbie Lane. There will be a jitney stop here at Our Lady of Lourdes on Hunter Avenue. Look for the signs for pick-up locations.

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.

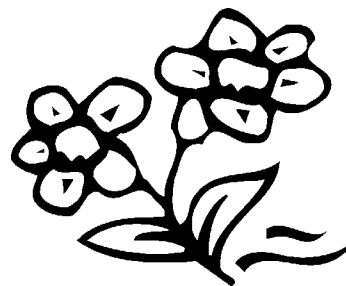
Friendly Visitor Program

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.

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.



Cornerstone Conference 2007

"living lives that are true"

Saturday, September 22

8:30 AM until 4:30 pm

St. John the Baptist High School, West Islip

Cornerstone Conference 2007 will address the far reaching and complex issues of Family Ministry. It is designed as an enrichment day for parish staff members, parish volunteers and all those interested in examining the multifaceted question, "What is Family Ministry?"

The day will begin with the celebration of Mass with Bishop Murphy followed by a keynote address by Dr. John Grabowski on "The Spirituality of the Family in the 21st Century." There will be the opportunity to attend workshops on a variety of topics that affect families in the ages and stages of family life.

For further information, please contact the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option 3 or email to religioused@ollchurch.org.

19th Annual Mass for Deceased Children

The Annual Mass for Deceased Children will be at **St. Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre on Saturday, September 15 at 11:30 AM**. Mass will be celebrated by Rev. William Koenig. Come early to inscribe child's name in the "Book of Families." For information, call 516.764.0681.

Bereavement Support Groups

Church of St. Joseph, Babylon will host an eight week Bereavement Support Group for widows and widowers starting September 18 at 8 PM in the Parish Center. For information call Valerie at 631.236.2222.

St. Mary's Parish, East Islip is offering a free eight week support group for adults who are struggling with the death of a loved one. The group begins Wednesday, September 19 from 7 PM until 9 PM. For information and/or registration, please call the Parish Rectory at 631.581.4266, extension 100.

Beauty as God's Language

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

In the movie, *The English Patient*, there's a wonderful scene, stunning in its lesson:

A number of people from various countries are thrown together by circumstance in an abandoned villa in post-war Italy. Among them are a young nurse, attending to an English pilot who's been badly burned in an air-crash, and a young Asian man whose job it is to find and defuse land-mines. The young man and the nurse become friends and, one day, he announces he has a special surprise for her.

He takes her to an abandoned church within which he has set up a series of ropes and pulleys that will lift her to the ceiling where, hidden in darkness, there are some beautiful mosaics and other wonderful works of art that cannot be seen from the floor. He gives her a torch as a light and pulls her up through a series of ropes so that she swings, almost like an angel with wings, high above the floor and is able to shine her torch on a number of beautiful masterpieces hidden in the dark.

The experience is that of sheer exhilaration, she has the sensation of flying and of seeing wonderful beauty all at the same time. When she's finally lowered back to the floor she's flushed with excitement and gratitude and covers the young man's face with kisses, saying over and over again: "Thank you, thank you, thank for showing this to me!"

And, from her expression, you know she's saying thank you for two things: "Thank you for showing me something, that I could never have come to on my own; and, thank you for trusting me enough to think that I would understand this, that I would get it!"

I'm grateful to Barbara Nicolosi, from Act One, an Institute for Christian writers in Hollywood, for showing this film-clip and challenging all of us at the Suenens Institute in Chicago this past summer to learn its lesson. What is that lesson?

That the church needs to do for the world exactly what this young man did for his nurse friend, namely, (in terms of a metaphor) to point to where beauty is hidden in darkness, be that in the darkness of old churches, ancient creeds, abandoned liturgies, old-fashioned devotions, or two thousand year-old practices of community, charity, justice, and forgiveness; or be that in the hidden riches within nature, physical

beauty, health, youth, art, and science. There are treasures of great beauty hidden all over, including in forgotten places inside our churches. Our task is to point these out to the world.

And part of that task, like the young man in the *English Patient*, is to trust that people will understand and to trust as well that they are worth all the effort we must make to point out where these treasures are hidden.

Beauty has a power to transform the soul and instill gratitude in a way that few things have. Confucius understood this and suggested that beauty is the greatest of all teachers. People can doubt almost anything, except beauty.

Why can't beauty be doubted? Because beauty, like oneness, truth, and goodness is a transcendental property of being itself. "All being is one, true, good, and beautiful," states classical philosophy. Thus, beauty needs no justification beyond itself. Beauty can be solely for beauty's sake. Moreover, as a transcendental property of being, beauty shows us something of God. To experience beauty is to see some of God's colour, to become homesick for heaven.

But, as Barbara Nicolosi also pointed out, beauty isn't always pretty. It can be revealed in the perfection of a Michelangelo sculpture but it can also be seen in the wrinkles and limp of an old woman or in a cup of water given to an old man on the street.

Today, a number of writers, Nicolosi among them, are suggesting that our neglect of the importance of beauty is one of the major reasons why less people are interested in the church. Already a generation ago, Hans Urs Von Baltasar had emphasized beauty as a key component both in how God speaks to us and how we are meant to speak about God to the world. More recently, writers such as Robert Barron, Kathleen Norris, and Andrew Greeley, among others, have echoed those sentiments. We must, as Barron puts it, "stop building beige churches". Nicolosi is clearer still. We must, she says, stop "the uglification" of Catholicism.

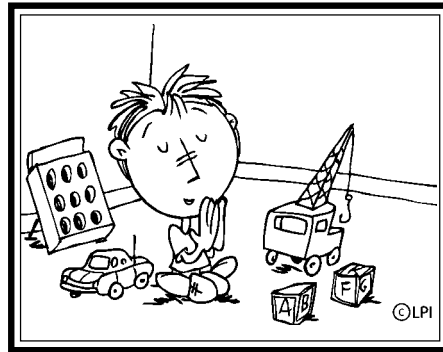
In the face of brutality, what's needed is tenderness; in the face of hype and ideology, what's needed is truth; in the face of bitterness and curses, what's needed are graciousness and blessing; in the face of hatred and murder, what's needed are love and forgiveness; and, in the face all the ugliness and vulgarity that so pervades our world and the evening news, what's needed is beauty.

God speaks through beauty and so must we - and we must believe enough in people's sensitivity and intelligence to trust that they will understand.

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

Living God's way can be very hard for some people. Name the people in your family. Can you love God more than you love your family? Name some of your friends. Can you love God more than you love your friends? Name your favorite books, movies or toys. Can you love God more than those things? It is OK to love your family, have good friends, and enjoy the gifts God has given you. Just remember to love God first.



Prayer



Dear God, help me to love you more than anyone or anything else.

Mission for the Week



Say a special prayer to God today. Thank him for your family, your friends, and for all the things God has given you to enjoy.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of a heart. Inside the heart, draw all the people and things you love.



Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

DISCIPLE
FATHER
MOTHER

WIFE
CHILDREN
BROTHER

SISTER
LIFE
CROSS

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