

**“Come down quickly,
for today I must stay
at your house.”**

Luke 19:5



**Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Our Lady of Lourdes • November 4, 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 McMahon

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Vita Scorgia

Ministry Spiritual Director

John Sureau

Coordinator of Worship

Sr. Betty Toohig

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Anthony Trombino

Business Manager

Pastoral Council

Salomon Acosta

Stacie Baltrusitis

Jane Desthers

Stephen Frodell

William Hurley

Anne Kerrigan

Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)

Jack Meehan

Vita Scorgia

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.*

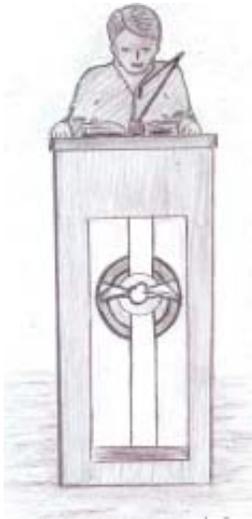
***Respond** to the Gospel in a radical way, inviting and inspiring all to form the Kingdom of God in every moment of life.*

***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

When we love...



Renewing our Support for Our Lady of Lourdes

Dear Parishioners:

Each year, our parish uses the weeks at the end of October and beginning of November to celebrate parish stewardship.

Stewardship is a way of life, an attitude of generosity and faith that allows us to use our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to do the work of the gospel. Our parish community would not exist without the generosity of our members. Please pay special attention to the message of stewardship on these upcoming weekends.

...we serve.

Saturday and Sunday, November 3 and 4 Parish Commitment Weekend

We will be invited, this Sunday, to listen and understand the importance of the stewardship of time, talent, and treasure in our lives. Parishioners will also be invited to make or renew a commitment to support Our Lady of Lourdes. The commitment cards may be put into the collection baskets at this Mass or at Mass over the next several Sundays. In addition, the commitment cards can be dropped off at or mailed to the Parish Office in the Rectory.

Saturday and Sunday, November 10 and 11 Commitment Weekend

Parishioners will be invited to return their commitment cards if they did not do so last weekend. In addition, we will have cards available at the entrances of the Church over the next several weeks for your use. All cards can be returned in the collection baskets at Mass or they can be dropped off at or mailed to the Parish Office in the Rectory.

Financial Summary

October 28, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 16,728.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (4,272.00)

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

How our Parish is Supported

Can you imagine what life would be like in your family household if every time you opened your paycheck the take-home amount was different? How could you plan to take care of your family's needs? That's what it is like for our parish family to operate with weekly collections as our main support. Collections at OLL vary from as little as \$14,550 for some summer weeks to as much as \$20,000 on a few others. The average contribution is \$17,400, but even if we try to count on this there are other unpredictable realities. A weekend snowstorm can set a parish budget back by \$15,000 and it can take months to recover.

Parishioners give to a parish in a variety of ways. Some people decide their weekly contribution well in advance and they never fail to give exactly the amount they plan. If there is a winter snowstorm they make it up the next week. If they take a two week summer vacation they are sure to send in their contributions for the weeks they are away. Without their support, it would be impossible for our parish to plan ahead in any dependable way. This year our parish is planning to offer two new services to our planned contributors. One is automatic payments in which an amount of your choosing can be automatically deducted from your credit card or bank. Another is friendly reminders in which we will keep track of your pledges and remind you if you are behind.

Some parishioners do not plan ahead. They contribute when they are at Mass and they decide at that moment what they will give for the week. If they are not at Mass, even for a good reason like storm, illness, or vacation, there is simply no contribution made that week. While we are grateful for any gift given to the Church, it is a fact that people expect the Church to be reliable and we are reliable. We never close our doors to anyone and we help those who come for education, outreach, weddings, funerals, etc. without fail. But you can probably understand that it is hard to be a reliable friend without reliable supporters.

Some give only occasionally, perhaps only at holidays or special times. And then there are others who do not contribute at all. It is a fact of life that 90% of our parish's support comes from only 1200 of our 6000 families. While some may simply not be able to give because of circumstances in their own lives, it is probably true that most simply do not appreciate how much OLL has to offer and how much we are in need of their support. We hope this year to reach out to these parishioners through mail, school, religious education, and other groups to help spread the word about our parish.

I am sure you can see that having each of our parishioners become a planned giver is the key to success in supporting all of our parish's programs. Please take a step by making a commitment to planned giving.

We are called by God to be one, a family whose love for His Son is evident in all that we do. As members of the Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes, I / we realize that our parish is our Spiritual Home.

We affirm the good that is accomplished here by our gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure. I / Our family has prayerfully decided to make a regular weekly offering to further the work of our parish.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

I / we pledge an offering of: \$ _____ Weekly ___ Monthly ___ Other ___

- Please check here if you would like us to send periodic reminders for your pledge.
- Please check here if you would like information on options for direct debit or credit card contributions.

Introducing our new

“Someone Special & Me!”

Children from 16 months old and their caregiver.
Tuesday and Thursday from 9 AM until 11 AM.

Our new program immerses children in a learning environment that emphasizes a natural process of emotional and academic enrichment. They are exposed to a wide variety of activities and have opportunities for social interaction with other children that will enrich their ability to learn. These classes will culminate with a natural separation program before nursery school.

Exciting new teacher: Ms. Pat Harty

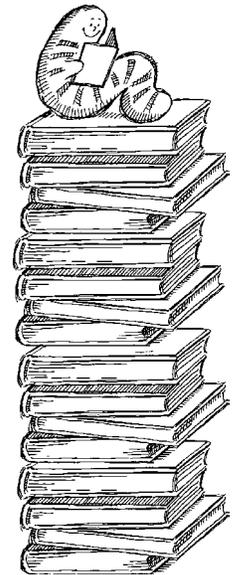
It's not day care, it's Catholic education!

Please call the School Office at 587.7200 for further information and registration.

A Class that Cares

The fourth grade at Our Lady of Lourdes has made it to the Hall of Fame! Mrs. Ciampa's class joined Scholastic's Classroom Cares program at the beginning of the school year. The challenge was to read 100 books and Scholastic would donate 100 books to needy children. The class was determined to get to their goal, and kept reading until they reached it. They read authors such as Judy Blume, Beverly Cleary, and J.K. Rowling. Some of their favorite types of books were the adventure and mystery books, especially the Nancy Drew series. Other students enjoyed history and science books such as the Magic School Bus series.

The top reader in the class was Grant Macina who said his favorite book was the latest Harry Potter. They now hold a spot in Scholastic's Hall of Fame, and their hearts are filled with the thought that they have put books into the hands of underprivileged children.



Our Lady of Lourdes School is growing and improving its academics. OLL needs your help in making an improvement in the way our children learn. In particular, your immediate help is needed in financing our Science Lab. We are very close to our goal, and it will easily be reached if every family contributes. Please keep in mind that many companies will match your donation. Please join our school families and friends in accepting this invitation to make our school 21st century cutting edge! Our hope is that all contributions can be made as soon as possible so that we can meet our installation date by the end of November.

Louise Jane Krol
Principal

HO! HO! HO!
It's that time again!

**Our Lady of Lourdes School
Breakfast With Santa
Sunday, December 9**



Don't miss our delicious Homemade Hot Pancake Breakfast
There will be crafts, prizes, a 50/50 and of course Santa!

Buy your tickets early, seating is limited.
\$5 per person and children 3 and under – FREE
Price includes a photo with Santa

2 Seatings:

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

10:45 AM – 12:45 PM

Any questions please call Rita Vandenburg at 940-5695 or
Trisha Miranda at 586-1143.

Please tear off this portion of the flyer, complete it in full and submit it to our School Office –
Attention: Breakfast With Santa Committee with your check made payable to Our Lady of
Lourdes School. Families will receive a call for ticket pick up arrangements.

Family Name: _____

Phone number: _____

of people in attendance: _____ Number of kids 3 & under: _____

Which seating will you be attending?: 8:30 AM _____ or 10:45 AM _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____



**Breakfast With Santa
Christmas Shopping Spree Raffle**

Who couldn't use some extra cash this Christmas?
Take a chance on our Christmas Shopping Spree Raffle

\$25 a ticket – only 200 tickets will be sold

First Prize - \$1,500 cash

Second Prize - \$750 cash

Third Prize - \$250 cash

Winning tickets will be announced at the second seating of this year's Breakfast With Santa.

Winner does not need to be present to win.

200 tickets must be sold to receive prizes listed above. If 200 tickets are not sold, prizes will be pro-rated.

Any questions please call Rita Vandenburg at 940-5695 or Trisha Miranda at 586-1143.

Breakfast with Santa

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.

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

Janine DeRosa, and

Kenneth Violetto, both OLL

Shayna Winters, St. Joseph's Babylon and

Richard Meyer, OLL

Lauren McDevitt and

Carlo Pace, both OLL



Rest In Peace

Olga R. Michaluk died on October 19 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was October 23. We extend our prayers to her son Paul and her entire family.

Florence Denig died on October 19 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was October 23. We extend our prayers to her daughter, Carol and her entire family including her grandson, Fr. Bob Scheckenback.

Anna Morreale died on October 22 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was October 25. We extend our prayers to her husband Charles, their children and her entire family.

Mass Schedule

Monday, November 5

8:00 AM Frank Monroe

Tuesday, November 6

8:00 AM Cornelius J. Peterson

Wednesday, November 7

8:00 AM George Bukowski

Thursday, November 8

8:00 AM Kristina Gagliano

Friday, November 9

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

8:00 AM Phyllis Russo

Saturday, November 10

8:00 AM Connie Celiberti, Anna Lauria, John Lauria,
Dick Ryan, Tony Parisi, Bobby Evans,
Thomas Phelan, Madelyn Latimer, Brendan Foley,
Joseph Biasi, Henry King, Jr.

5:00 PM Connie Celiberti

Sunday, November 11

8:00 AM Dec'd. mbrs of the Holy Name Society

9:30 AM The Brennan Family

11:00 AM Fred Morrone

12:30 PM Nicola & Anna Santa Andriola

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Carol Karniewicz, Nancy Borchick,
Stanley F. Glica, Thomas McInerney, Joseph Sullivan,
Paul Schult, Mary McGowan, James Cody,
Santiago Fernandez

Baptisms

James Joseph Powers III

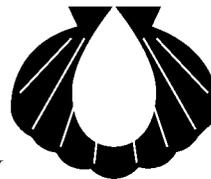
James and Lisa

Christopher Andrew Barone

Frank and Theresa

Anna Marie Matvya

Mark and Beth



Adult Faith Formation

...this month



Gospel of Matthew

**Tuesdays - November 6, 13, 20, 27
with Fr. Bob
7:30 PM until 9:30 PM
Parish Center**

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.

...coming in December

Apparitions of Mary- Visits of the Mother of God

**Tuesday - December 4
with Deacon Jack Meehan
7:30 PM until 9:30 PM
Parish Center**



What are the implications of her messages for all of us?

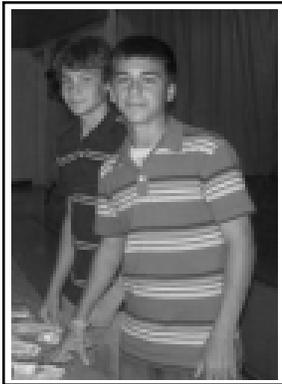
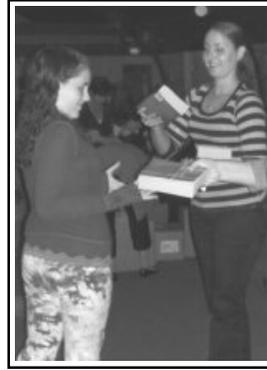
Together we will explore many of the well known apparitions of the Blessed Mother, including Lourdes, Fatima, Garabandal, and Medjugorje. Emphasis will be given to the time, context, and content of the messages.

Gentle Reminder: Preregistration is necessary and helpful. This will enable us to have enough reading material and refreshments for all those attending. Please call the Religious Education Office Monday-Friday from 9 AM until 5 PM at 661.5440, option 3 or email to religioused@ollchurch.org. Fee is \$25 and may vary with each class. No fee is required for those who have paid Religious Education Family Fee or Our Lady of Lourdes School tuition.

Religious Education

Something's coming...
Something's cool...
Something's great...

DON'T WAIT...BE A PART OF A SPECIAL WEEK...



OLL Parish Family and the Diocese of Rockville Centre C E L E B R A T E

Religious Education Week

Sunday, November 11 – Monday, November 19

- Kids in our Parish Family celebrate each day with prayer, games, food and fun
- Catechists have a “Special Appreciation Day” next Sunday, November 11
- Religious Education says Thanks to our Parish Family

watch the bulletin for more details...



Confirmation 2007

The Sacrament of Confirmation held on Thursday, October 25, administered by Bishop Paul Walsh empowers our 277 9th Grade Students and some 10th Grade Students to greater responsibility in the Church. Many of those who received Confirmation are already actively involved in many ministries including our Religious Education Program, during the week, on Saturday mornings, and Grade 6/7/8 Hang Out Nights and in Music Ministry, Altar Servers, Lectors, Ushers, Parish Outreach, Stewardship, Feast, and Art & Environment. They have grown in many ways and continue to grow in their love of God, the Church and in all humanity

...they feel they BELONG.

Ministry of Family Healing

We welcome you to the 2007-2008 Ministry of Family Healing nights of prayer and reflection.

Our first night will be **Wednesday, November 7 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

The theme for the night will be Grace and Gratitude. Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home and a stranger into a friend. Please join us by calling the Religious Education Office at 661-5440 to register and please bring a friend. Food and fellowship to follow. In the spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving, please bring a non perishable food item for our food pantry.

Rosary Christian Mothers

The Rosary Christian Mothers meet on the first Monday evening of each month. The next meeting will be **Monday, November 5.**

We will begin with **Rosary at 7:45 PM in the Church** followed by **meeting at 8 PM in the Parish Center.**

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:

Bryan R. Dempsey-*US Marines*

Frederick Wm. Ellis-*US Army*

James J. Ferrara-*US Marines*

John Finn-*US Army*

Donnie Frank-*US Marines*

Armand J. LeComte-*US Marines*

Michael Mallimo-*US Army*

Peter Provenzano-*US Army*

...and remember those of our parish family that are in the armed services, listed in our Parish Book of Intentions.

Our whole parish family rejoices with the Barthel Family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty. **Brian Barthel** -*US Air Force* has returned to the United States safe and sound. Thank you, Brian, for your generous service to our country!

The Barthel Family would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family for all of their prayers.

Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of November will be on **Wednesday, November 7 from 1- 3 PM**. All are invited and welcome! We will be praying for our children, our country, our men and women in the military and our clergy.



Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, November 11**. We will begin with the **Rosary at 7:40 AM in the Church** and the meeting will follow the **8 AM Mass at 9 AM in Room 16**.

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 ...

Rocco Altieri, Cathy Badalmenti, Stacie Baltrusitis, Deacon Dick Barry, Carol Booth, Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Howard Campkin, Lynn Castellano, Joseph Chirichella, Erin Corcoran, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Frank Curcio, Karen DellaVecchia, TJ Devlin, Josephine DiBenedetto, Jason Fisher, Frank Freudenberg, Samantha Hil, Adam Ippolito, Wade Kromhout, Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch, Anthony Lombardo, Mike Loreto, Robert Lubeck, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Theresa McPhail, Bryan Monahan, Jimmy Murphy, Christine Neal, Joseph Ortiz, Eleanor Pavia, Arthur Petrino, Baby Conner Pietras, Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds, Dorothy Schiavone, Joan Sephton, Derek Stahl, Dorothy Sullivan, Sam Viola, Loretta Vitale

“So don't be all upset, always concerned about what you will eat and drink. For the pagans of this world are always concerned about these things. Your Father knows that you need these things. Instead be concerned about the Kingdom, and he will provide you with these things.”

-Luke 12: 29-31

A truth of Outreach Work: it is never about 'self' - and always about witnessing to our Faith. Let our actions point to that which is greater, for when 'ego' recedes-we are humbled by how powerful the presence of the Spirit is in all we do.

We have some very special children (and parents) among us. Kaylee Martin, a third grader in Forest Ave. School donated over \$100.00 to Outreach in September. Kaylee earned the money selling lemonade over three days. The money Kaylee donated was used to purchase baby supplies and shampoos for some of the children whose families come to Outreach. Jennifer Collins is a second grade Religious Education student who collected over two cases of canned food for Outreach from her neighbors. Jennifer brought the canned food to our Pantry and helped stack the shelves. Lydia Sobonski is another second grade Religious Ed. student. Lydia was celebrating her birthday and in place of gifts, Lydia asked that a donation in the form of scrip be given to Outreach. These donations all came at a time when Outreach was in great need due to the increased services we were offering.

- In September-Outreach offered over 300 services-including food to 276 individuals, counseling and referrals, financial assistance totaling \$315 in the form of scrip to CVS and Pathmark.

There were days in September when we couldn't bag food quickly enough. The pantry shelves were so low, that one Sunday; we even had to ask for additional help-requesting that everyone bring one item of canned food the following week. True to form, your generosity the following week allowed us to re-stock our shelves. And so, we continue to help those in need among us-hoping that as we do so, our actions reflect the larger Truths.

- Last week Outreach received a phone call from Stop 'n' Shop on Union Blvd. We were selected to be the benefactor of their paper Turkey donations. All the money collected during this drive will be given to Outreach at the end of November.
- Outreach recently was granted status with Long Island Cares making us eligible to receive food twice monthly from the donations which Long Island Cares receives from excess stocks from local supermarkets. To qualify, the Outreach office was audited, our intake process was reviewed and our pantry and refrigerator were inspected to make sure we passed health code requirements.
- Outreach received a donation of a used car this month. This car was given to a family with a terminally ill child who was using public transportation to get to Stony Brook University.
- Outreach will be working with Kate Russell, a Social Worker at the Massera Learning Center. We will be partnering with Kate's students in organizing a food drive for Outreach. The students will bring the food to Outreach and help in the food pantry for a day.

Finally, as you may be aware-Outreach is hosting the Fabulous Fifties Football Wedding on November 10! This event was sold out soon after the tickets went on sale. In addition to all the hours of work from the Outreach Volunteers, we have received numerous donations in the form of financial contributions and raffle items. Several of our benefactors to date include, Chapey's Funeral Home, Lang-Tobia DiPalma Funeral Home, Ginamarie's Bakery. More updates and pictures follow. To all those who purchased tickets-we look forward to celebrating with you on November 10th. To those who can't be with us...don't worry, we have some great ideas for our next event!

Help Save a Life – GIVE BLOOD

On Friday, November 9, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish will hold a BLOOD DRIVE from 3:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The Drive will be held in the Parish Center.

All eligible donors are strongly urged to give blood.

About 50 percent of the population can donate, yet less than five percent actually do. If you live to the age of 76 in the United States, there is a 95% chance that you will need blood. The only way there will be an adequate supply of blood is if each and every member of the community does his/her part. Take a moment to think of the miracle you can accomplish and the many lives your one donation can affect. Your donation can help at least 5 patients.

Blood donors are Quiet Heros. Be One.

For more information about the Drive or to make an appointment, please call Marie at 669-5837.



The correct date for Thanksgiving Day meal pickup is **Monday, November 19.**
Please watch the bulletin for further details ...

Thanksgiving at OLL

It's November...

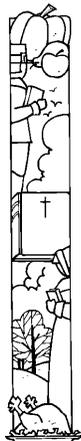
and Thanksgiving is fast approaching.

Once again, we ask our generous parish family and friends to help those less fortunate of our parish by making a donation to OLL Parish Outreach-Adopt-A-Family.



We would like to suggest that when you are shopping for your Thanksgiving dinner, simply buy a duplicate dinner for one of our needy families and bring it to Parish Outreach for distribution.

If shopping is not in your schedule, we will gladly accept food certificates or financial donations. We ask that you bring your **donations to the Parish Center on Monday, November 19 between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM.**



Thanksgiving at OLL

I will be happy to donate a Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixins' for a family of _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone # _____

Adopt-a-Family



31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

If your house is like mine, many hours if not days are spent by my loving wife preparing for a family gathering. The vacuuming, the dusting, the shopping, the food preparation, and everything else connected take a great deal of her time and effort. Though often no one will comment on how nice the preparation is, I notice how she has prepared a comfortable, loving environment for everyone.

In today's Gospel reading from Luke, we hear the story of how Jesus chose a sinner such as Zacchaeus to share his evening meal at this tax collector's home. Considered a sinner by others, Zacchaeus immediately recognized that he needed to make restitution for his past. By opening his home to share a meal with Jesus, he was making room and preparing his heart for accepting the love of the Lord.

What is a virtue? As we are taught in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of themselves. (CCC 1803) Zacchaeus, despite a life of sin, found virtue simply by allowing himself to live in the loving arms of the Lord. Every minute of every day, we are given that same opportunity. It is never too late to prepare ourselves and our hearts for the greatest loving environment of all!

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Readings for the Week of November 4, 2007

Sunday:	Wis 11:22-12:2/2 Thes 1:11-2:2/Lk 19:1-10
Monday:	Rom 11:29-36/Lk 14:12-14
Tuesday:	Rom 12:5-16b/Lk 14:15-24
Wednesday:	Rom 13:8-10/Lk 14:25-33
Thursday:	Rom 14:7-12/Lk 15:1-10
Friday:	Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22
Saturday:	Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27/Lk 16:9-15
Next Sunday:	2 Mc 7:1-2, 9-14/2 Thes 2:16-3:5/Lk 20:27-38 or 20:27, 34-38



El Salvador Quick Facts

By: Jamie Schmidt

Capital: San Salvador

Population: 6,948,073

Climate: May-October is the rainy season and November-April is the dry season. The weather is tropical on the coast and temperate in the highlands.

Terrain- Mostly mountainous with a narrow coastal belt and a central plateau

Geography- Located in Central America, bordering the North Pacific Ocean, between Guatemala and Honduras

National Holiday- Independence Day, September 15 (1821)

Natural Hazards- Known as the Land of Volcanoes, there are frequent and sometimes destructive earthquakes and volcanic activity; extremely susceptible to hurricanes

Katie's Corner

By: Katie Olsen



Common Good and Community:

People are social—we like to spend time with family and friends. To get along with others, we should treat people the way we would like to be treated.

As children of God, we all have the right to dignity: food, clothes, housing, education, and our ability to make our own decisions. Our decisions affect others, and we are obligated to “love our neighbor.” Human dignity can only be realized and protected when our government and our people face their responsibility to contribute to the good of the whole society, to the common good.

Friends Making a Difference

BY: Jack McKee

When I went to El Salvador this summer for my first time, it changed my life. While I was there, I met a little boy named Antonio; he loved to play sports and he loved to read. When we arrived at Cerro Verde, a park surrounded by several volcanoes, Antonio's sponsor had given him two baseball mitts and a baseball. He was looking for someone to play with and when he came over to me and asked me, I felt so important that I couldn't resist. I played baseball with him and for someone who is only about 9 years old, he was really good! Then we played some soccer; no surprise here....he was incredible at that, too!

On the way back to San Salvador, he took his backpack that his mother was holding and took out a book that was wrapped up in plastic. He was so excited about it; this was amazing to me because when I get a new book at my house I usually just sigh, say thanks and put it in my closet. It really says a lot about how much the littlest thing makes a huge difference in their lives. Chris and I read the book to him in Spanish, quite badly, and he just laughed and kept laughing at us. If I were him, I would have been laughing at us, too.!

I am definitely going back next summer because for the first time in my life, I felt like what I was doing truly made a difference in some of the kindest peoples' lives. Also, I want to see how Antonio is doing. I especially want to see if he remembers me, because there's no way I will ever forget him.

If you would like to contribute to our newsletter by sharing your trip or sponsorship experience, please email Michelle at mbudion@optonline.net.

The Communion of Saints

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Growing up, as part of our family prayer, we used to pray for a happy death.

I pictured that this way: you died cradled in the loving arms of family, friends, and church, fully at peace with God and everyone around you.

That's a good picture, the ideal, but not everyone gets to die that way. Randomness, contingency, and accidents too often have us die in broken, compromised, and cold situations: bitter, unforgiving, unforgiven, not fully reconciled, alienated from someone, not going to church, angry, drunk, dead by drug overdose, a victim of suicide. Death, not infrequently, catches some of us before we've had time to say the things we should have said or do the things we should have done. Too often we die with unfinished business, too much of it. As the old confiteor says: we need forgiveness for what we've done and left undone.

To give a few examples: I was once counselling a man, a priest in his fifties, who was still unable to forgive himself because when he was a young, shy, and frightened boy of seven, and his mother lay dying, he was too afraid to give her a hug when she asked for it. More than forty years later, he still nursed guilt and a deep regret for this unfinished business with his long-dead mother.

In another case, I officiated at the funeral of a man who had been quite happily married for 35 years. One afternoon he had a bitter argument with his wife over some minor thing, rushed out of the house in anger, and was killed in an accident minutes later. What terrible timing for one's death!

Many of us can empathize with these examples. Who among us doesn't have unfinished business with someone whom death has taken away? Perhaps we had hurt that person, or he or she had hurt us, and it was never fully reconciled. Or we feel guilt because, while that person was alive, we should have given more of ourselves to him or her, but were too busy with our own lives to reach out. Worse still, perhaps someone has died for whom we had felt hatred and we should have made some gesture of reconciliation and we never did. Now it's too late! Death has separated us and some painful bitterness now lies irrevocably unresolved and we live with the guilt, wishing we had done something before it was too late.

But it's not too late. It's never too late if we take seriously the Christian doctrine of the communion of saints. This doctrine, so central and important that's enshrined in our creed, asks us to believe that we are still in real community of life and communication with those who have died.

To believe in the communion of saints is to believe that those who have died are still alive and are linked to us in such a way that we can continue to talk with them, that our relationship with them can continue to grow, and that the reconciliation that wasn't possible before their deaths can now occur.

Why can this happen now, when it seemed so impossible before?

Because our communication with them is now privileged. Death washes some things clean. This is not the stuff of fantasy, but of solid dogma. We know its truth because we experience it.

How often in a family, a friendship, a community, or in any human network, do we experience a tension, a misunderstanding, an anger, a frustration, an irreconcilable difference, a selfishness, or a hurt that can't be undone, and then everything changes because someone dies? The death brings a peace, a clarity, and a charity, that were not possible before.

Why? It's not simply because the death changed the chemistry and took someone out of the family, the office, or the circle of friends, or even, as may sometimes seem the case, the source of the tension is the one who died. It happens because, as Luke's account of Jesus on the cross teaches, death washes things clean.

"Today you will be with me in paradise!" Jesus speaks those words to the good thief on the cross and they're meant for every one of us who dies without yet fully being a saint and without having had the time and opportunity to make all the amends and speak all the apologies that we owe to others. There is still time after death, on both sides, for reconciliation and healing to happen because inside the communion of saints we have privileged access to each other and there we can finally speak all of those words that we couldn't speak before. We can reach across death's divide.

It can be a great consolation to die a happy death, snug and reconciled in the arms of love, with no unfinished business. But, happily, there's time still after death for this to happen for those of us who aren't so lucky and who end up dying with some bitterness, anger, wound, and frustration still gnawing away.

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.

Sisters of Charity-Halifax Luncheon

Tickets are on sale now for the **8th Annual Sisters of Charity-Halifax Luncheon to be held Sunday, November 11 at the Milleridge Cottage at the Milleridge Inn, Jericho.** This year's Elizabeth Seton Award recipients are *Patricia Holahan and Sister Maureen Murphy SC.* Tickets for the Luncheon are available for \$55. For further information or to make reservations, please contact Adam Szczepanski at 718.424.1813 or email to aszczepanski@schalifax.org.

Holiday Craft and Gift Fair

The annual R.C. Church of the Resurrection Chinese Auction will be held on Wednesday evening, November 7. Admission is \$7 and includes 50 tickets and coffee and cake. Doors open at 6 PM. For more information or advanced ticket purchase, please call Rosemarie at 631.696.0270, extension 25.

St. Matthew's Church, Dix Hills is having their Annual Holiday Craft Fair on Sunday, November 11 from 9 AM until 4 PM. There will be raffles, prizes and over 50 vendors! For information, call Louise at 586.4515.

Help Wanted

Ss. Philip and James Parish in St. James is in need of a part-time bookkeeper. The position calls for someone with knowledge of general bookkeeping and payroll. The individual would work three days a week for six hours per day. For more information, please contact Bob Balla, Business Manager at 631.584.5454, extension 102.

St. Kilian's Church, Farmingdale is in need of a Rectory Cook. The position is full-time with benefits. For information, please call 516.249.0127.

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: **"Prioritizing 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.

Religious Fundamentalism

James Carroll, op-ed columnist for the Boston Globe, will speak at the **Unitarian Universalist Congregation at 48 Shelter Rock Road in Manhasset on Thursday, November 15, at 7:30 PM.** His topic will be Religious Fundamentalism: War and Terrorism.

Introduction to Centering Prayer

"Be still and know that I am God."

Psalm 46

St. Brigid's Parish, Westbury on Saturday, November 10 from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM. There will be a six week follow-up session. For further information, call Diane Garretson at 587-0966.

MICAH

Catholic Charities and the LI Council of Churches, along with several other faith organizations, are spearheading MICAH . . . A Campaign to End LI Poverty. MICAH – *Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger* - is a call to serve people in need and to advocate for public policies that relieve the causes of their suffering.

This is incredibly difficult work that can wear us down. And so, MICAH invites you to a unique retreat, Nurturing Your Soul in Service to Others on Monday, November 12 from 10 AM until 4 PM at the Church of St. Elizabeth in Melville. The retreat director is Jean Kelly, Executive Director of the Interfaith Nutrition Network (The INN.) Jean is renowned for her retreats that are designed to renew and refresh people in service to others.

Please call 516.733.7077 by November 6 to register.

Spiritual Care Companion Program

Are you looking for an avenue to volunteer your time with others? Come and learn more about sharing your gift of time and presence as a Spiritual Care Companion with those that are hospitalized or living in a nursing home.

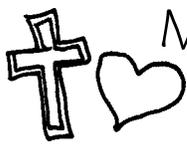
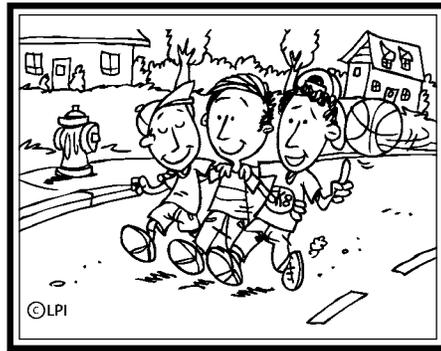
Spiritual Care Companions will attend a free six-week training program from early October through mid November covering such topics as: -goals of ministry to the sick, -how to be a good listener and serve as a spiritual companion, -how to respond to crisis and grief. For more information, please call Mary T. O'Neill at 631.474.5663 or Peg Nixdorf at 631.587.1600.

Alumni Party

St. Ignatius Loyola School, Hicksville is celebrating 100 years of Catholic Education. As part of its celebration, an Alumni Cocktail Party will be held on Friday, November 23 from 7 PM until 10 PM at Msgr. Tarrant Hall. The cost is \$25 per person. Please RSVP by November 20 by mail to St. Ignatius Rectory, 129 Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801 ATTN:Cocktail Party.

Sharing the Gospel

Zacchaeus had gotten very rich by taking money from his neighbors, so nobody liked him. He was very lonely and sad. When Jesus talked to him, Zacchaeus felt special. When Jesus ate dinner with Zacchaeus, Jesus showed that he was a real friend. When Zacchaeus felt God's love, he was truly happy for the first time. Jesus gave him what he really wanted - friendship - so he gave extra money back to his neighbors.



Mission for the Week

Read today's Gospel with your family. Write down three things you can do each day to spend more time with Jesus as your friend.



Puzzle

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

I want to stay with you today.

W	A	N	T		

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Prayer



Dear God, help me to see that real happiness comes from loving Jesus, not money.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of Zacchaeus happily giving money back to his neighbors.