

*Second Sunday of Lent
Our Lady of Lourdes • February 17, 2008*

*“Christ’s face became as
dazzling as the sun,*



*his clothes as
radiant as light.”*

Matthew 17:2



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

Dominic Armano

Youth Ministry

Sr. Margaret Bickar

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Sr. Nancy Campkin

Director of Religious Education

Jennifer Gallagher

Children's Choir/Women's Chorale

Summer Program Director

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 Scorcio

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*)

Deacon Jack Meehan

Vita Scorcio

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

Not sure what to do for Lent?

Are you ready for something new and meaningful?

Let us show you the way!

Come and experience what Isaiah, the prophet, described as a fast that is pleasing to God.

Here is what Isaiah said...

*Would that today you might fast
so as to make your voice heard on high!
Is this the manner of fasting I wish,
of keeping a day of penance:
That a man bow his head like a reed
and lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Do you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
This, rather, is the fasting that I wish:
releasing those bound unjustly,
untying the thongs of the yoke;
Setting free the oppressed,
breaking every yoke;
Sharing your bread with the hungry,
sheltering the oppressed and the homeless;
Clothing the naked when you see them,
and not turning your back on your own.
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your wound shall quickly be healed;
Your vindication shall go before you,
and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear
guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer,
you shall cry for help, and he will say:
Here I am!*

Here is the invitation...

We invite you and your family to take upon yourself a simpler way of life – the life lived by millions who suffer poverty and low income.

We invite you to live on a food stamp budget for one week—a minimal amount barely sufficient for basic needs.

In this way we invite you to experience life as the poor and needy do each day.

Why is it pleasing to God?

We will invite you in your own way and in your own time to use the time, the energy, the money you save to benefit someone who is truly needy through our outreach program.

In this way your fast will be the giving up of what someone else needs.

**Co-sponsored by our Sister Parish Team
and OLL Youth Ministry**

A Fast that is Pleasing to God

Guidelines for OLL Lenten Food Stamp Fast

Sunday, March 2 - Sunday, March 9

All participants will be invited to begin their week of fasting with a blessing at mass on the weekend of **March 1/2**. The blessing will be given at all masses that weekend and will officially begin our week of fasting in solidarity with the poor. We ask that, as much as is possible, you observe the following guidelines. Participating in the fast is symbolic, and we recognize that some may not be able to keep to the guidelines exactly (especially where there are health concerns, etc.) It is the spirit of the fast that is important, rather than how well you adhere to individual guidelines below. Let's spend the week mindful of those who do not have choices as we do.

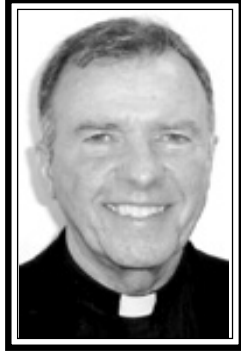
Participation Guidelines

1. The Food Stamp budget is approximately \$21 per person per week. Since those on food stamps might also receive some other assistance, we will also add:
 - a) a \$40 allotment per family to buy staples only (rice, canned food, etc.) as these are items a needy family would receive from a food pantry or outreach center.
 - b) If there are children in your household add \$10 per child per week since school children often receive a federal free lunch program.
2. All food purchased and eaten during the Challenge week, including fast food and dining out must be included in the total spending.
3. During the Challenge, only eat food that you purchase for the project. Do not eat food that you already own (this does *not* include spices and condiments).
4. Avoid accepting free food from friends, family or at work.
5. Since part of a typical food stamp recipient's week might include a visit to a soup kitchen, you will be invited to a Soup Supper at OLL on Wednesday, March 5 at 6 PM.
6. Please keep track of receipts on food spending and take note of your experiences throughout the week. Whenever you go to a store to buy food bring only the cash that is in your budget. In this way you will not be able to buy more than you are supposed to.

**We will end our fast on Sunday, March 9 with a
“Break-fast” right after the 9:30 AM Mass.**

save the dates...

OLL Parish Lenten Retreat



Faith, Hope and Love for the Christian Journey

Monday, **March 3**, Tuesday, **March 4**
and Wednesday, **March 5**

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

7:30 PM

Fr. Bob Lauder

-columnist for The Long Island Catholic and
professor at St. John's University.

Adult Faith Formation

upcoming courses...

The Jubilee Year of St. Paul

Reading Paul's Letters in the Church of Today

Pope Benedict XVI announced a special Jubilee Year dedicated to St. Paul, saying the church needs modern Christians who will imitate the apostles' missionary energy and spirit of sacrifice. As the Church celebrates the missionary zeal and witness of St. Paul...come, let us gather to explore a modern understanding of Christ's missionary mandate and renew our dedication to carrying it out.

Tuesdays, April 22, 29 and May 6

7:30 PM - 9 PM Parish Center

Presenter is Pat Leonard, Instructor- Pastoral Formation Institute

Introduction to Computers and the Internet

Come and join us as we learn and also have some "hands on" experience. Computers will be available. We will cover basic introduction to computers and the internet, basics of word processing, email, useful links and so much more!

Tuesdays, April 1, 8, 22

7:30 PM - 9 PM Room 16

Presenter is Anthony Buonaspina, Consultant, GRQ Innovations, Inc.

Pre-Registration 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, between 9AM – 5 PM at 661.5440 x3, or e-mail to: religioused@ollchurch.org.

Our Lady of Lourdes Talks!

Our Convent and Sisters Need Your Help



Our Convent and Sisters need your help this spring! Home to Sisters Nancy and Diane and five other members of the Sisters of St. Joseph, our Convent is desperately in need of roof repairs. The roof over their Chapel and first floor living area must be replaced to eliminate the many leaks and flooding that have occurred this year.

Our Convent has not only been a home to our Sisters for more than 40 years, it also serves the many ministries and members of our community.

We would like to make improvements to our

Convent Chapel so that it can be a more welcoming and private place for parish support groups, such as our bereavement ministries. We would also like to renovate Lourdes Hall, our convent basement, which is a home to many of our AA and other 12 step support groups.

Our Convent serves both our Sisters and us—and now it needs your help.

HELP US RAISE \$30,000 THIS SPRING BY TAKING THE “CHAPEY CHALLENGE.”

Our Friends at Chapey and Sons Funeral Home have donated a 37” wide screen LCD HDTV to be raffled off in appreciation for all those who help our Convent Project. Our prize winning drawing will be held on March 19, St. Joseph’s Day.

Here is how it works: For each \$25 donation to the project, your name will be entered into the drawing for the HDTV. For each \$100 donated, you will receive 5 entries in the “Chapey Challenge.”

CHAPEY CHALLENGE/CONVENT PROJECT

Yes, I want to help our Convent Project.

Here is my donation of \$ _____ to support our Sisters and our Convent at Our Lady of Lourdes. Drawing will be held on March 19, St. Joseph’s Day.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

You may drop off your donation/entry at the Parish Office, drop your donation/entry in the collection basket or you can mail your entry to: **Convent Project**, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 455 Hunter Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795. You may make copies of this form, but...there is no need to make multiple copies—we will enter you in the contest the correct number of times according to your donation.

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

James Akins died on January 30 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 4. We extend our prayers to his wife Jean, daughter Dawn, son-in-law, grandchildren and entire family.

Joseph Nizzari died on February 2 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 5. We extend our prayers to his sisters and brother.

Vera Filiberto died on February 2 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 5. We extend our prayers to her daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Robert Boyd died on February 3 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 7. We extend our prayers to his wife, Mary Ann and their children.

Elizabeth Koebel died on February 4 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 8. We extend our prayers to her daughter, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Frances Santillo died on February 5 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 8. We extend our prayers to her brother Dominick.

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.

Mass Schedule

Monday, February 18

8:00 AM Virginia Garcia-Torres

Tuesday, February 19

8:00 AM Mary Sniadowski

Wednesday, February 20

8:00 AM Margaret Orandello

Thursday, February 21

St. Peter Damian, bishop, doctor

8:00 AM Tonica Zuvic

Friday, February 22

Chair of St. Peter Damian, apostle

8:00 AM Michael Walsh

Saturday, February 23

8:00 AM Johanna Davis, James Kaste,
Arthur Chalmers, Seymour Zaretz,
In Honor of Blessed Mother,
Ray Gillen, Sam Carino

5:00 PM Michael Sanfilippo, Jr.
Fr. Mike Vetrano

Sunday, February 24

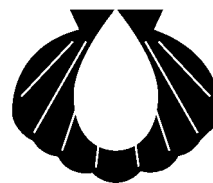
8:00 AM Cornelius J. Guider
Fr. John Asomugha

9:30 AM Gerard Ambrosino
Fr. Mike Vetrano

11:00 AM Michael Worysz & Robert Beck
Fr. Stan Chukwube

12:30 PM Robert Sebor
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Joseph Scuotto (*20 yr. anniv.*),
Thomas Valenti, Mary T. Connaughton, Irene Timpson,
Howard P. Kraus, William L. LeComte, Mrs. Kingston,
T.P. Deliso, Randi Beale
Fr. Bob Scheckenback



Baptisms

Kayla Ruth Slattery
Michael and Christine

Paige Doreen Amoros
Peter and Amy

Stephen Bell II
Stephen and Lorilynn

Taylor Ann Bell
Stephen and Lorilynn

Emily Patricia DeCotis
John and Patricia

Kylie Elizabeth O'Driscoll
Edward and Jennifer

Gianna Marie Savino
Christopher and Jenene

Ellen Hope Sheridan
Brian and Deirdre

Justin David Siaca
Stephen and Lorilynn



Congratulations Dana!

Dana Baltrusitis, with her parents Greg and Stacie, as she was awarded the Girl Scout Gold Award on February 11. Dana is a part of our Sister Parish project and her Gold Award project was to raise the funds and materials necessary to run a vacation bible camp at our Sister Parish in Tacuba, El Salvador. Dana we are proud of you!



You're Invited to Join Us for Our... 6th Annual Mission Awareness Retreat

Attention young people in grades 9 - 12... Our Lady of Lourdes Parish announces our sixth annual **Mission Awareness Retreat from June 28 - July 3 in El Salvador.**

Our information meeting will be on Wednesday, February 27 at 7 PM in the Church.

Would you like to spend a few days this summer living and working with the poor, experiencing another culture? Join Fr. Mike, Jen Gallagher and a team of 20 adults and students as we spend six days in El Salvador on a trip sponsored by the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging. We'll have a tightly planned itinerary led by the CFCA team, we'll visit homes, schools, churches, and workplaces as we experience the culture, spirituality, and simple lifestyle of the Salvadoran people. Accommodations will be safe, simple, and comfortable. We will even be able to run a mini-Vacation Bible Camp in our sister Parish at Tacuba!

If you are interested in hearing about the trip, we invite you to come to an initial planning meeting on Wednesday, February 27 at 7 PM in the Church. Because of the trip costs (approximately \$1200) and the need to do individual fundraising this year, we urge all students who are thinking about the trip to be at this initial meeting. We will talk about all trip details and fundraising possibilities. If you are interested in attending the trip but cannot make the meeting, email Jen Gallagher at jengallagher@ollchurch.org.



**Icons In Our Prayer and Meditation:
An Evening of Prayer and Reflection
Tuesday, February 26
7:30 PM in the Church**

Bring your faith to another level during an evening of prayer in the presence of nine icon images. Experience this rare moment to be with both iconographer Deacon John DeGuardi and nine of his icons guiding you in prayer and contemplation.

Our Christian heritage is vast in both the European and Byzantine images that can inspire deeper levels of prayer. The differences between the Eastern and Western churches are apparent in their art, however, according to the Eastern Church, icons are not art in the general sense, but a method of prayer.

When one looks at an icon, one can have the experience that the image is looking back at the viewer in prayer. The ministry of the icon painter is that of a theologian: first, to know and love God, second: to praise God, and third: to reflect on one's own experience of God from within a community of praise and present that reflection for the community's deeper understanding of its faith.

**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage
Rome, Florence, Assisi and Milan
October 16 - 25, 2008**

Our next information meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 27 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

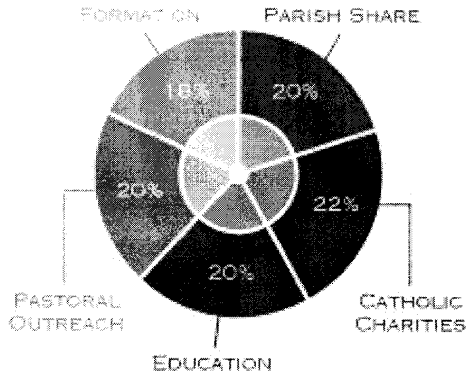
As promised, Italian pastries will be served along with updated travel information.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please call Deacon John at 661.3224, extension 132.

President's Day

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 18 in observance of President's Day. We will reopen Tuesday, February 19 at 9 AM.

2008 Catholic Ministries Appeal
The Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us



EDUCATION

Supporting our educational programs is an investment in our young people and in their futures. When we speak about their educations, we are speaking about the future of our Church and of our communities. It is critical to our Church's Mission to help nurture our children in the Catholic faith and to help them grow into compassionate and caring adults who will become tomorrow's leaders.

Funds from the Catholic Ministries Appeal support programs for the over 25,800 students enrolled in our 53 elementary schools and 3 Diocesan high schools. Last year we were able to provide these students with a wide range of critical enhancements such as, smart boards for computers, enhanced computer technology, the development and support of extracurricular programs, the support of academic scholarships and funds for student emergencies.

OUR PARISHES

The heart of our Church rests in our local parishes. This is where our faith is developed and nurtured. Last year within our 133 parishes, we celebrated more than 19,000 Baptisms, 19,400 children received their First Communion and 18,177 youngsters were confirmed, and our parish priests performed more than 4,500 marriages.

Because of your generosity, the Catholic Ministries Appeal is able to return 20 percent of the funds raised backed to our parishes.

*For More Information,
 please call 516-379-5210, Ext. 2
 or e-mail us at www.drvc.org/cma.html*

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rockville Centre provides a wide range of services to approximately 60,000 Long Islanders each year, as it strives to bring God's healing love to the poor and vulnerable among us.

These services are designed to help people with many of their most critical needs, such as helping a senior citizen find safe and affordable housing, or providing a disadvantaged family with access to nutritious food and health care, or by developing residential services for children and adolescents who suffer from serious emotional difficulties, or helping a young, frightened, teenaged mother-to-be become prepared and equipped to be a loving and effective parent.

Catholic Charities operates 14 programs of service including more than 60 sites from Elmont to the East End and works closely with more than 100 of our parishes' social ministries, helping them develop their own local programs of service. The Catholic Ministries Appeal provides 22 percent of all dollars raised to ensure the continuation and expansion of these vital services and programs.

PASTORAL OUTREACH

Pastoral Outreach helps connect the Church on Long Island to thousands of people from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. It helps bring together our youth and young adults, and ministers to those who are suffering and alone.

These programs include the Office of Hospital Ministry, where more than 300,000 people are served in our local hospitals every year, as well as the Office of Worship, the Respect Life Office and Prison Ministry. It also encompasses the Office of New Evangelization, whose ministries are designed to welcome, support and help evangelize people from many different backgrounds to our faith. In addition, it supports our young people through campus ministries and supports our adults through Renewal Services with local prayer groups and Healing Masses.

New Evangelization also supports our Mission in the Dominican Republic, which serves the religious, spiritual and health needs of more than 45,000 people. Pastoral Outreach receives 20 percent of all of the funds raised from the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

FORMATION

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

The Office of Faith Formation works closely with our parishes to help support all of their formation programs. As an example, last year 117,000 students from local public schools participated in our religious education programs. The 17,000 catechists who work directly with these youngsters are trained and supported by our Office of Faith Formation.

Within our Seminary, this year there are 42 men in formation to become priest for our Diocese or for the Diocese of Brooklyn. The Seminary also provides programs for the over 50 men enrolled in our deaconate formation program and for the laypersons and priests studying for Masters Degrees in Theology or Pastoral Studies.

Mass Book of Intentions

The 2009 Mass Book of Intentions will be opening on **Tuesday, February 26** at **9 AM in the Parish Office**. As always, we will do our best to accommodate your Mass Intention requests.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Pat Wissing*. 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 ...

Stacie Baltrusitis, Deacon Dick Barry, Pat Bonavita, Joseph Bott, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Howard Campkin, Louis Castellano, Lynn Castellano, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Karen DellaVecchia, TJ Devlin, Josephine DiBenedetto, Charles Diesso, Kim Ecker, Jason Fisher, Samantha Hil, Vincent Iacopelli, Wade Kromhout, Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch, Anthony Lombardo, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., David McCarthy, Helen Menite, Bryan Monahan, Marguerite Mooney, Jimmy Murphy, Joseph Ortiz, Maria Pereira, Arthur Petrino, Joe Radosti, Patricia Salimbene, Dorothy Schiavone, Carolann Sokol, Derek Stahl, Dorothy Sullivan, Diana Marie Taveras, Loretta Vitale



Second Sunday of Lent

In March of 1953, Sir Edmund Hillary and others set up a base camp to attempt to reach the summit of Mount Everest in Nepal. For two months, they battled the conditions as they slowly made their way up the mountain. Finally, in May, Hillary and his Sherpa companion Tenzing Norgay became the first to reach the top of the world's tallest mountain. Sir Edmund left only one object on top of Mount Everest that day - a small crucifix.

Our quest to find the loving light of Jesus in our lives can be likened to a climb up the highest mountain. It isn't easy and it may take much longer than any of us could ever imagine. Still, to reach the top we continue looking toward the summit, never looking back from where we came. And as we come closer and closer to him, we become more and more like him, changing bit by bit until that light shines in us as well.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that Christ's transfiguration serves as strengthening the apostles' (and our) faith in anticipation of his passion. By climbing that high mountain, he has prepared for his most difficult climb up Calvary (CCC 568). Peter, James and John are privileged to make that first climb, rewarded with witnessing the Transfiguration. Consider today your climb of faith, and consider your reward. You will not look back!

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Readings for the Week of February 17, 2008

Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9
Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Mt 20:17-28
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31
Friday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Next Sunday: Ex 17:3-7/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42
or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Financial Summary

February 10, 2007

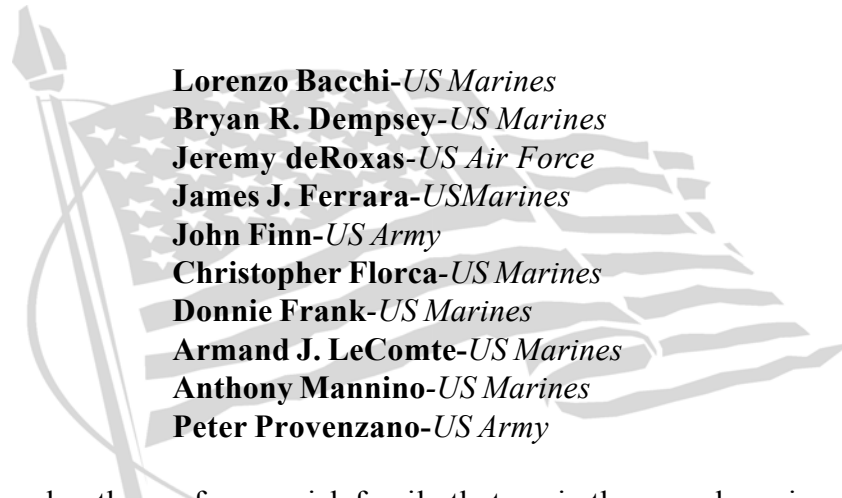
Weekly Collection	\$ 17,639.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (3,361.00)

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

Members in the Military

We ask that you pray especially for those in our parish that are on active duty in the Middle East conflict.

They are:



Lorenzo Bacchi-US Marines

Bryan R. Dempsey-US Marines

Jeremy deRoxas-US Air Force

James J. Ferrara-US Marines

John Finn-US Army

Christopher Florca-US Marines

Donnie Frank-US Marines

Armand J. LeComte-US Marines

Anthony Mannino-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.

Our whole parish family rejoices with the Ellis Family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty. **Frederick Wm. Ellis** -US Army has returned to the United States safe and sound from his tour of duty.

Thank you, Frederick, for your generous service to our country!

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

HUNGRY LONG ISLANDERS... HOW CAN THIS BE?

“Poverty in the United States [and on Long Island] is a wound in the soul of our country [and our region.]”

Poverty in America: A Threat to the Common Good, Catholic Charities USA, 2006

Families Struggling to Pay For Quality Child Care

**This information is published by:
MICAH*: A Campaign to End LI Poverty
(*Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger)**

To learn more about the MICAH campaign, contact Dr. Richard Koubek at Catholic Charities (Koubek.richard@catholiccharities.cc) or Rev. Thomas Goodhue at the LI Council of Churches (LICCHemp@aol.com)

Here is the story of Stephanie, one single mother struggling to find and pay for quality child care (Source: *Child Care Council of Nassau*)

Upon re-entering the workforce, I was a single mother with four beautiful children ranging in age from 8 months to 11 years old. All I wanted to do at this time was find a child care center for my little Danielle and return to work. My older children were attending the Freeport public school district and the after-school program (PAL), so they were set for the time being. It was extremely hard finding someone to care for Danielle because when I started to look for employment, she was about 6 months old. I remember going into the unemployment office and having to take my little one with me everyday. It was so hard, the stares, the looks, because they did not allow children in the areas where potential employees were looking for employment. I made an agreement with Danielle’s dad for the days that I wanted to look for work and find child care that his sister, who lives in Hollis Queens, would care for her. That meant she had to be dropped at least 3-4 days a week in Queens.

I finally got a break when an organization hired me. I still needed to find child care for Danielle. I decided to start to look for a program that would be best for my daughter and me. I wanted to look for an affordable program that had the highest reliability and excellence, staff who would provide quality care for my child and a program where I would be comfortable leaving Danielle in their care.

I finally found a program that met my definition of good, quality childcare. One of the things that I have learned is that quality child care costs a lot of money. In order to keep Danielle in this wonderful program and to be able to pay my bills and take care of my other children as well, I took on another job. After working from 9 to 5 each day, I would pick up my daughter, make arrangements with family and friends to care for all of my children and then head off to my second job, working from 6 until midnight, fall into bed exhausted and then get up and do it again the next day.



Food Pantry Needs

detergent
kleenex
paper towels
personal feminine products
shampoo
soap
toilet tissue
toothbrush
toothpaste

Parish Outreach

Outreach Office Hours

Monday from 9:30 AM until 7:30 PM and
Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM.
For information/assistance call 661.9262.



Holy Name Society

The OLL Holy Name Society would like to thank all who participated in their Annual Christmas visit to Consolation Nursing Home and Good Samaritan Hospital-Children's Ward.
Rumor has it that the participants receive more than they give in the true spirit of the Christmas Season!

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**.

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.

Moral Intelligence

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

There are different ways of being intelligent, of being awake. Not everyone is bright in the same way.

Some people are gifted mathematically and philosophically. That's the intelligence of an Albert Einstein, an Alfred North Whitehead, a Bill Gates. Some others are gifted with emotional intelligence. You see this, for instance, in the great novelists, the Iris Murdochs, the Anne Byatts, the John Steinbecks, and the Alice Munroes, who possess an emotional grasp of things that the greatest psychologists in the world can only envy.

Then there is something that might be called practical intelligence. I saw this in some of my high school friends, young men who couldn't pass enough courses to graduate, but who are wonderfully gifted with life-skills and are the ones the rest of us lean on whenever we need to sort out our plumbing, our automobile woes, our leaking roofs, and the thousand other things that mathematics, philosophy, and literature don't equip us to handle.

There is too a certain aesthetic intelligence, that unique brightness of the artist which sometimes combines with the emotional or even the mathematical (especially in the case of music) but is often an intelligence all to itself.

Finally, there is still another kind of intelligence, moral intelligence. What is this? Sometimes we call it depth or wisdom or character. Whatever its name, moral intelligence is a sensitivity to the deeper contours within life. It is a certain grasp of those things which hold life together at its root and which must be respected so that life doesn't go sour, unravel, disintegrate, and turn against us. Moral intelligence intuits the imperatives innate within the DNA of life itself. It grasps the things we have to do, and not just the things we like to do. It lays bare the hard-wiring inside the mystery of life and love.

Where does it come from? Like other forms of intelligence, it is perhaps mainly a natural endowment, a temperament, a grace given by God as a gift to the world. But, I suspect, in most cases it is also the product of something else, namely, a certain kind of suffering and humiliation. What do I mean by that?

If we look at our lives and ask ourselves: What has made us deep? What has helped us to understand the deeper things in life? If we are honest, we will have to admit that what made us deep were not our successes or achievements. These brought us glory, but not depth of character.

What brought us depth and character are the very things we are often ashamed to talk about, namely, our inferiorities - getting picked last on the school team, being bullied on the playground, some physical inadequacy, our mother's weight problem, our dad's alcoholism, an abuse inflicted upon us that we were powerless to stop, a slow-wittedness that perpetually left us out of the inner circle, our failure to achieve what we'd like to in life, a pain about our sexual orientation, an addiction we can't master, and many, many other small and big wounds and bruises that helped shape our souls.

James Hillman, our generation's maverick intellectual, speaks eloquently on this. Depth, he suggests, never comes out of our successes, but only out of our inferiorities and failures. And this, he says, gives us character: Our scars are like huge stones in a riverbed; they may do nothing but stay still and hold their ground, but the river has to take them into account and alter its flow because of them and it's precisely this which gives a river (and a face) some character.

This truth lies at the very heart of Jesus' life and message. When the disciples can't fathom or accept the crucifixion, he asks them: "Wasn't it necessary?" Isn't there a necessary connection between the humiliation of Good Friday and the glory of Easter Sunday? Isn't there an intrinsic connection between going through a certain kind of suffering and reaching a certain kind of depth?

Indeed, Jesus' struggle in the Garden of Gethsemane, his asking God three times to spare him from the pain and humiliation of being crucified, was precisely his own reluctance to accept that a certain kind of depth can only be arrived at by journeying through a certain kind of humiliation. And, in his case, he wasn't just going to be picked on by the playground bully, he was going to be hung naked before the whole world. But that was the only route to Easter Sunday and he had the moral intelligence to see it.

And what the crucifixion produced is moral wisdom. That's why the cross of Christ, as Rene Girard puts it, is the single most revolutionary moral event that has ever happened on this planet. What the cross of Christ does, as the gospels tell us, is rip away the veil that separates us from seeing inside the holy of holies.

And our own crosses and humiliations can do that for us too. They can rip away a blindness and wake us up morally.

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.

Girl Scout Silver Award

Save the date: March 14

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

8 PM

Are you interested in helping to feed those less fortunate than you are, right here in our own neighborhood? Please come and help two independent West Islip Girl Scouts, Marissa DeMarzo and Caitlin Dolan, earn their Silver Award by attending a concert right here at Our Lady of Lourdes Church that the girls will be hosting. The cost of admission is either a monetary donation or a non-perishable item, all of which will benefit the OLL food pantry.

American Sign Language Classes

Cleary School for the Deaf is offering evening American sign Language classes, levels 1 - 5. The Spring session begins on March 3. Call Carolyn Kelly at 631.588.0530 for more information.

Women in Art in the Bible

Ageless Visions form Soul to Canvas

See the beauty of Rachel. The spirit of Ruth, the rescue of Dinah, the face of Mary, the finding of Moses and the strength of Mary Magdalene. This unique and unforgettable program is a celebration of lives, lived deeply through laughter, tears, passion and hardships of Biblical times. Find yourself among the great women in the history of our Church. You will ponder, reflect and even giggle at times. You are welcome to join the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Bishop McDonnell #1403 for the Annual Communion breakfast following the 9 AM Mass at St. Joseph's Church, Babylon, Saturday March 1. Tickets are \$25 per person. Please call Trish for tickets at 669.0068

Help Wanted

Dominican Village is looking for Community Relations Associate-part time/ weekends included and an Activities Assistant for Saturdays from 9 AM until 2 PM. Dominican Village is an independent retirement community. Our staff is dedicated to providing quality service to the residents who call Dominican Village their home. If you are interested in joining our team, please call Human Resources at 631.842.6762 for more information.

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. Listen on Saturdays at 11 PM on *Sirius Satellite Radio, Channel 159, or the Catholic Channel.*

This week's theme is: **"Leadership."**

You can visit us anytime to listen or download a show at www.religionandrock.com.

For more information about our television shows go to www.TelecareTV.org.

Helping Our Neighbors

Benefit concert for Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, **Wednesday, February 27** at the **Nag's Head Ale House in Huntington**. This parish, which is the unofficial "head-quarters" of MICAH, suffered a devastating fire on December 30 that destroyed their outreach center.

Looking for Retired CYO Participants...

CYO Nassau Suffolk is celebrating 50 years of serving Long Island's youth.

Did you participate in CYO? Do you have a photograph or a story you would like to share?

As part of our celebration we want to print your pictures and memories in our commemorative journal which will be given out at our annual Role Model Awards Dinner on April 1. The deadline to submit your photos and stories is March 1. You can e-mail them to maryellen@cyons.org, or fax them to 516.433.1238 or mail them to CYO Nassau Suffolk, 20 E. Cherry Street, Hicksville, NY 11801 - Attention Maryellen.

You can also check our website www.cyons.org for more information. If you need photographs returned, please include your name and address on the back. Thank you.

Comfort My Heart

The 2008 Diocesan Bereavement Conference will be held on **Saturday, March 8 at Kellenberg Memorial High School from 8:30 AM until 5:30 PM**. The day features an opening keynote by Catherine O'Connor, CSB, Ph.D, workshops for all losses and closing eucharistic Celebration. Breakfast, lunch and conference folder are included in the registration fee. Advance registration is requested by calling 516.334.7990, extension 120.

Charismatic Renewal Center

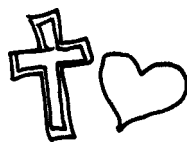
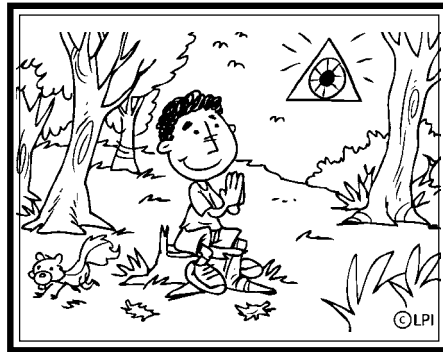
Charismatic Prayer Groups in Nassau County will sponsor an evening of Prayer and Praise on **Monday, February 18 beginning at 8 PM in the St. Barnabas Holy Family Chapel, Bellmore**. After a period of Praise and Worship we will have a Youth Witness given by Anthony Gentile. Anthony and his wife Crystal head up a Totus Tuus Ministry. Everyone is welcome. For information call Charismatic Prayer Groups in Nassau County at 516.785.0054.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Are you living the beatitudes in today's Gospel in your marriage? Learn how to live the way God wants you to in your marriage. Let go of your worries and responsibilities for one weekend to enrich and renew your marriage and bring Christ into the center of your marriage. Please visit the website at www.wmme.org to find out the next scheduled Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend.

Sharing the Gospel

Peter, James, and John had walked up the mountain with Jesus. When they got to the top, Jesus looked different. Rays of bright light came from his face. His robes became white. Then a voice from a cloud said, "This is my Son whom I love. In him I am well pleased. Listen to him." The three apostles were scared and fell on the ground and covered their heads with their arms. Then Jesus touched them and said, "Don't be afraid."



Mission for the Week

When I am afraid, I will remember that God is always with me.



Puzzle

Find seven differences in this scene of Jesus in Heaven.



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Prayer



Lord, help me when I am afraid.

Something to Draw



Draw Peter, James, and John looking at Jesus shining with rays of light.