

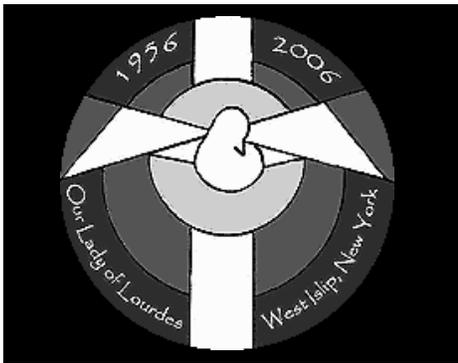
Our Lady of Lourdes • Seventh Sunday of Easter • May 4, 2008

*I pray for them.
I do not pray for the world
but for the ones you have
given me,*



because they are yours...

John 17:10-11



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: lkrol@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: 9:30 AM - 7:30 PM

Tuesday -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

Childrens' 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 Scorcia

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 Scorcia

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

Celebrating

“*Soon to Be*”
Deacon Tom Lucie!



As you know our parish is getting ready to celebrate the ordination of Tom Lucie to the diaconate on Sunday, May 17 at 11 AM at St. Agnes Cathedral. Our parish celebration will be held on Sunday, May 18 at the 12:30 PM Mass. Reception will follow in the Parish Center.

During the celebration of the Eucharistic liturgy, the deacon participates in specific penitential rites as designated in the Roman Missal. *The National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States* tells us...

- He properly **proclaims the Gospel**.
- He may **preach the homily** in accord with the provisions of Canon Law.
- He **voices the needs of the people in the General Intercessions**, needs with which he should have a particular and personal familiarity from the circumstances of his ministry of charity.
- The deacon **assists the presider and other ministers in accepting the offerings of the people**—symbolic of his traditional role in receiving and distributing the resources of the community among those in need—and he **helps to prepare the gifts for sacrifice**.
- During the celebration he helps the faithful participate **more fully, consciously, and actively in the Eucharistic sacrifice**, may extend the invitation of peace, and serves as an **ordinary minister of Communion**.
- Deacons have a **special responsibility for the distribution of the cup**.
- Finally, he **dismisses the community** at the end of the eucharistic liturgy

Please Support Catholic Education and OLL School

Our second collection this week is for the support of Catholic Education on Long Island and for OLL School. Our Catholic Schools form leaders for the future and, from elementary schools to colleges, an important part of our parishes and diocese. Please be generous in your support.



Oll teacher Vanessa Salubro leads our nursery students in song. Did you know that language instruction in our school spans 11 years - from nursery right up to grade 8!

Our Lady of Lourdes School

Middle States Accredited

What makes us different?

Come and see . . .

Visit our classes in session

NEW Science Lab & Media Center!

Lourdes Academy of Arts & Science

Grades 6, 7, 8

WE WELCOME NEW 6th GRADE ENROLLMENT

Registration for the 2008/09 school year has begun!

Please call the School Office at 631.587.7200

Early Childhood Programs

Somebody Special & Me! 2 year olds

Nursery for 3 year olds

PreK for 4 year olds

Full day Kindergarten

After-Care AVAILABLE

(Dismissal until 6 PM) - Beginning September

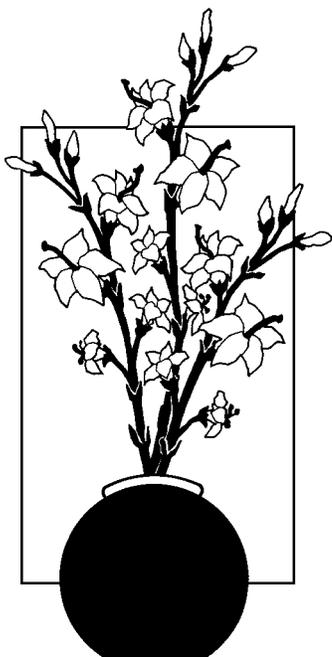
Ministry of Family Healing

What comes to mind when you hear the word hope?

Hope is such a powerful word. Without it, we would be lost. We could not survive. Hope is our spiritual oxygen. We are surrounded by many circles of hope breathing life and spirit into our wounded world.

The Ministry of Family Healing invites you to a night of prayer and reflection on the power of hope. Please join us on **Wednesday, May 21 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

Please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440 to register. Food and fellowship to follow. Please bring a friend.



Art & Environment Ministry

As our Church celebrates the feast of Pentecost, a time when we reflect and recognize the great gifts that God has bestowed upon us, the Art & Environment Ministry would like to take this opportunity to thank our Parish family for their prayers and kind words of support throughout the past year! We are so blessed to have such a diverse and gifted group of people willing to share of their time and talents to help decorate our Church. Whether it is sewing, ironing, vacuuming, designing, gardening, cleaning, hauling boxes, you name it...this Ministry does it!

We would also like to send a special thank you to Sister Nancy - for her insightful guidance and support – we couldn't do it without you!

Also, thank you to Lori Walsh, John & Bill from our Maintenance Team and the 6th & 7th Grade Religious Ed classes who helped us throughout the year while completing their Service Projects. In addition, the kids from Grades 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 who also lent a hand to help prepare our Church for Christmas and Easter!

Do you have a special gift?

Are you looking to get involved? If you are crafty, love plants and flowers, or are just looking to get out of the house a couple of times a year...and you can get a little exercise at the same time...this is the Ministry for you! There is no huge commitment...we meet several times a year to transform the Church decor during the different liturgical seasons.

For more information about the Art & Environment Ministry at Our Lady of Lourdes, please send an e-mail to Jerry Esposito at art@ollchurch.org, or call the Parish Office at 661.3224 and leave a message for Jerry.



Get Ready...

Empowered by the Spirit Weekend

THE GREAT FEAST OF PENTECOST

Saturday, May 10/Sunday, May 11

All Masses

- Hear from some of our parish's latest "apostles"...those recently touched by the Spirit to become involved in parish life!
- Come to Church in something "red" and bear witness to the Spirit in your life!
- Come to prayerful liturgies that help you to identify the voice of the Spirit in your own life!

So come and be a part of it – and bring a friend!

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

Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

ALANON:

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

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

Lauren Afflixio, St. Patrick's, Bay Shore and

Lucas Kuchler, OLL

Laura Putira, St. Patrick's, Glen Cove and

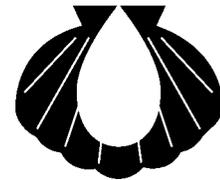
Michael Walker, OLL

Melissa Hutzmann and

Christopher Rehn, OLL

Christine Winter, OLL and

Joshua Amatuwegwu



Baptisms

Hunter Thomas Benham

Michael and Julie

Bella Giovanna Camerino

Daniel and Katie

Dylan Charles Carter

Anthony and Juanita

Xavier Robert Ingenito

Robert and Lauren-Beth

Joy Marie Reese

Scott and Andrea

Lily Elizabeth Reynolds

Scott and Carol

Isabella Lynn Taylor

Thomas and Jennifer

Remembering...

Monday, May 5

8:00 AM Regina Chambers

Tuesday, May 6

8:00 AM Caroline Cacomero

Wednesday, May 7

8:00 AM LaRocca & Sweeney Family

Thursday, May 8

8:00 AM Anthony LaRocca

Friday, May 9

8:00 AM John Sweeney

Saturday, May 10

8:00 AM John Lovari, Maria Pereira, Vincent McCarthy,
Isabella Buchanan, Fred Joest, Agnes Crane

5:00 PM Lil Daly & Mickey Salegna

Sunday, May 11

8:00 AM Loretta Yankel, Mary P. Colin & Kay Sullo

9:30 AM James & Charlotte Quinn

11:00 AM Theresa Reardon

12:30 PM Carmella Parasole

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Christopher Clyde, Cindy Cortes,
Anna Lettieri, Nancy Catalano, Margaret Chatterton,
Kim Ecker, Mary Laino, Maureen V. Kania-Wright,
Nancy Cusack, Ryan & Melissa Dolan (L)

Celebrating Sacraments



Taize - Prayer Around the Cross

Save the date...

Tuesday, May 13

7:30 PM

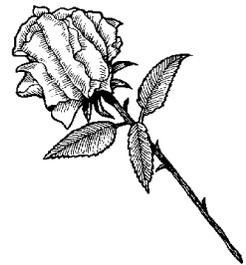
Church

sponsored by OLL's Evangelization Ministry

Looking for another way to pray? Something that will allow you to “escape” for a short time and just be with your thoughts - and with God? Taize is a form of worship that provides us some time in our busy lives where we can stop and focus on the love of God revealed in the Cross and in those gathered with us. Taize consists of simple chants and prayers which are used to help guide our personal prayer and meditation as we bring our concerns and hopes to the Lord.

Please join us this night as we gather, along with the Taize Prayer Group from Our Lady of Grace in West Babylon, to bring this special prayer experience to Our Lady of Lourdes.

Mother's Day / Father's Day Mass for parents who have lost a child



Mother's Day and Father's Day can be difficult times for parents who have lost a child. Whether you have lost a child in childhood or adulthood, to stillbirth or miscarriage, this Mass will be celebrated to bring you God's peace and consolation.

We would like to invite any parent who has lost a child to a special **Mass on Saturday, June 7 at 10 AM.**

Mass will be followed by hospitality in our Parish Center. Please feel free to invite family or friends with you. For more information, or to let us know you will be able to attend, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

Congratulations Rev. Dr. Stan!



Fr. Stan Chukwube poses with his mentor Dr. John Elias and other Fordham faculty after successfully defending his doctoral dissertation. Fr. Stan will graduate from Fordham with his PhD on May 17. Congratulations on a job well done!

mark your calendar...

24th Annual OLL Golf Classic

**Timber Point Country Club
Thursday, June 19 at 2:30 PM**

This year's honorees are

Sister Nancy and Sister Diane

- Singles, twosomes and foursomes are welcome
- Sponsorships ranging from \$50 to \$1,500 are now available
- Awards and prizes throughout the day
(including a live auction with professional auctioneer)
- Includes barbeque lunch and gourmet dinner
- \$175 for golf and dinner or \$75 for dinner only
- All skill levels are welcome

Last year we had over 120 golfers and/or dinner guests. Please call Joe Macina at 647.7440 or Frank Antonawich at 587.7988 or the school office at 587.7200 for further information.

Last year's event was a great success and a key fundraiser for the school.

Don't miss it...sign up today!

Summer Evening Prayer

OLL always celebrates summer with a great spirit of prayer and excitement...but it doesn't come without some good planning and hard work. This year, as always, we are looking for volunteers to be part of our planning committee. Would you be interested? Would you be willing to think about it? There are about 3 or 4 meetings and then presence at Evening Prayer when you're able.

Could this be the year for you?

If so, call John Sureau at 631.661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage

Rome, Florence, Assisi and Milan

October 16 - 25, 2008

An old saying has it that all roads lead to Rome, and within Rome, all roads lead to St. Peter's Square. Day after day, the Piazza San Pietro is a stage for the entire world. In every season of the year, the piazza is alive in a way uncounted nowhere else. St. Peter's Square is a meeting place for all Christianity, sacred space for those who journey from all corners of the world.

Our next information meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 10 at 7:30 PM**

in Room 16 of OLL School. There are forty-five parishioners who have reserved their place for our parish pilgrimage. We have reached capacity and can no longer accept new travelers. However, if you are interested, please call the Parish Office and we will place your name on a waiting list.

OLL Seventh Annual Vacation Bible Camp

SURF Camp!! Summer Understanding Real Faith (and Fun!)

July 28 - August 1---Save the date!

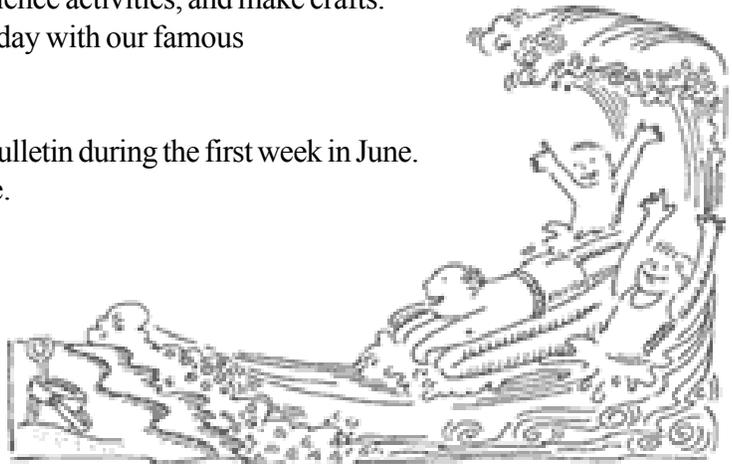
We'll hop on our surfboards and catch the waves of faith and fun as we learn about God, hear stories from the Bible, share cool science activities, and make crafts.

And of course, we'll end our camp each day with our famous OLL camp sing-along!!

Look for camp registration forms in the bulletin during the first week in June. Campers can be pre-school to grade five.

Helpers must be at least in sixth grade, and counselors need to be in grade seven through twelve. Adult volunteers are also needed!

Watch future bulletins for details.





Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of May will be on **Wednesday, May 7 from 1- 3 PM**. All are invited and welcome!

We will be praying for our children, grandchildren, peace in our families and peace in our world.

Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, May 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**.

Rosary Christian Mothers

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



Seventh Sunday of Easter

An inventor from San Francisco named Alex Chiu has created something that he says will offer us all eternal life. Called the "Eternal Life Rings" and the "Eternal Life Foot Braces," the devices are essentially rings with magnets, and when worn on the small fingers will prevent the person wearing them from ever aging, according to Mr. Chiu. He even has a United States Patent, #5,989,178. Who knew the U. S. Patent Office could grant eternal life?

The scientific world has tried for years to develop ways to extend our lifespan here on earth through medications and surgery. But Jesus speaks to us today in the Gospel reading from John of eternal life, a life which can only truly be achieved by having God within us. He says, "Now this is eternal life, that [we] should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us of the importance of the Lord's commandments. When asked what good deed one must do to attain eternal life, Jesus responds that first and foremost, we must first recognize God as the supreme good and source of all that is good, and stresses that above all else, we must love our neighbors as ourselves (CCC 2052). This, then, is the ultimate capability within each of us to live forever in the grace of God.

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Readings for the Week of May 4, 2008

Sunday:	Acts 1:12-14/1 Pt 4:13-16/Jn 17:1-11a
Monday:	Acts 19:1-8/Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday:	Acts 20:17-27/Jn 17:1-11a
Wednesday:	Acts 20:28-38/Jn 17:11b-19
Thursday:	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Jn 17:20-26
Friday:	Acts 25:13b-21/Jn 21:15-19
Saturday:	Morning: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Jn 21:20-25
Next Sunday:	<i>Vigil:</i> Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b <i>or</i> Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39 <i>Day:</i> Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Nancy Trujillo*.
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 Sacrament of the Sick.

Pray for Our Sick

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

Connie Altadonna, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Brenda Bello, Pat Bonavita, Howard Campkin, Lynn Castellano, Peggy Cornell, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Maureen Darrell, Karen DellaVecchia, TJ Devlin, Josephine DiBenedetto, Jason Fisher, Anne Foote, Susan Gigante, Samantha Hil, Kathleen Kerrigan, Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch, Anthony Lombardo, Rose Lucio, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., David McCarthy, Dorothy Meloni, Bryan Monahan, Jimmy Murphy, Ginger O'Keefe, Joseph Ortiz, Rocco Panaro, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Dorothy C. Proctor, Joe Radosti, Martha Reichel, Patricia Salimbene, Dorothy Schiavone, Derek Stahl, Alison Stemkowski, Diana Marie Taveras, Baby John Tramazzo, Jean Virgilio, Pat Wallace, Flo Worysz

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
Thomas W. Ferrara - US Air Force
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.

Financial Summary

April 27, 2008

Weekly Collection	\$ 16,828.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (4,172.00)

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

2008 Catholic Ministries Appeal

Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us

OLL CMA

April 15, 2008

Amount Pledged	\$85,065
Number of Pledges	353
Average Pledge	\$241

Thank you to all those who have responded!

Our Lady of Lourdes and the Diocese of Rockville Centre would like to thank all those who have made a sacrifice by making a gift to the *2008 Catholic Ministries Appeal*. 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.



CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL • DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
PO BOX 4000 • ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11571-4000 • www.drvc.org/cma.html

2008 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Supporting the Community Around Us

TO PROVIDE FUNDS I/WE AGREE TO MAKE A GIFT OF:

PLEDGE \$ _____ INITIAL PAYMENT \$ _____ BALANCE \$ _____

If you would like to charge your contribution to your credit card, please check here and see reverse side of this form.

SIGNATURE OF DONOR _____

PARISH OF DONOR _____

A GUIDE TO GIVING	
PLEDGE	10 PAYMENTS
\$ 1,000	\$ 100
\$ 500	\$ 50
\$ 350	\$ 35
\$ 250	\$ 25
Other \$ _____	
EVERY GIFT COUNTS!	

Please make checks payable to:
Catholic Ministries Appeal
Thank you for your support

FOR GIFTS OF SECURITIES, PLEASE CALL THE APPEAL OFFICE FOR INSTRUCTIONS. 516.379.5210, EXT. 2
MATCHING GIFTS: IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A MATCHING GIFT FROM YOUR EMPLOYER, PLEASE FORWARD TO THE CMA OFFICE.



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

Parish Outreach

Office telephone: 661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

Monday: 9:30 AM - 7:30 PM

Tuesday -Friday: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Please Note:

In order to service our clients better, Parish Outreach now has extended hours on Mondays, until 7:30 PM.

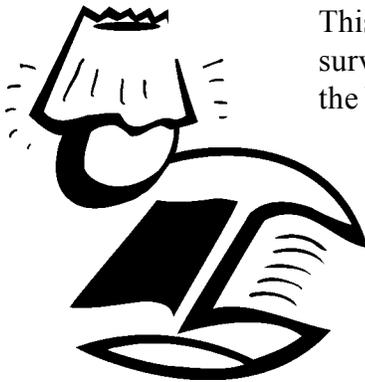
Social Action

Reading Circle

The purest acts of Justice come from an enlightened mind and heart~!

The Social Action Committee invites you to join us as we journey with the book: ***“Left To Tell”*** by Immaculee Ilibagiza.

This is a most powerful story of hope and forgiveness written by a survivor of the genocide in Rawanda. *“Left to Tell”* is available in the West Islip Library or to purchase at Barnes & Noble.



Our ‘Reading Circle’ will meet on **Thursday, May 15 and again on Thursday, May 29 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

If you plan to join us, please call Outreach at 661.9262, x.4 to register.

Liturgy

Goin’ Green

This year, our Liturgy Committee has made a concerted effort to do what we can to recycle and to reduce paper waste. Each week, we are in need of volunteers to take a box of paper home to place in your WRAP can or recycle bin. If you’re able to help – please let John Sureau know by calling the Parish Office at 661.3224, x 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org

7th Sunday of Easter

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Someone needs to write a book with one of these titles: *The Metaphysics of a Goodbye*, *The Anatomy of a Farewell*, *The Pain of Moving On*, or, better still, *A Spirituality of the Ascension*. Why such a book?

Because we experience many painful goodbyes in life. There are so many times when someone we love has to go away, or we have to go away. There are many times when, for whatever reason, someone has to move on and irrevocably change a relationship. Almost always this is painful, sometimes so painful that it leaves us feeling restless and empty, as if all the colour, energy, and joy have gone out of our lives.

But, as we know, usually this isn't the end of the story. Most of the time, after the restless, dark heartache of a painful goodbye has worn off, we experience the opposite, a deep joy in sensing now our loved one's presence in different way.

Parents, for example, experience this when their children grow up and leave home to start lives of their own. At first, when a child leaves home to go to college, to get married, or to take a job elsewhere, we are often left with a restless heartache that leaves us feeling empty. But, after a while, especially when our child, in the full bloom of adulthood, comes back to visit us our heartache can just as quickly disappear because our loved one, now no longer a child, can offer us a richer love and presence than he or she could when they were little. The pain of losing someone turns into the joy of finding something deeper in the one whom we thought we had lost.

When Jesus was preparing his disciples for his ascension, he told them: "It is better for you that I go away! You won't understand this now. You will grieve and have heavy hearts, but, later, this will turn to joy and you will understand why I have to do this because, unless I go away, I can't send you my spirit."

These are the unspoken words that children say to their parents when they leave home to begin lives on their own; these are the unspoken words we say to our friends when we have to move on from a certain circle of friendship to get married; these are the unspoken words spouses sometimes say to each other when they have to grow in ways that, at the end of the day, will make their marriage stronger, but which, on a given day,

leave their partner with a heartache; and these are the unspoken words we say to each other every time we have to say a goodbye, even if it's just to go off to work for the day: "It is better for you that I go away, even if there is sorrow now!"

The paradoxical interplay of presence and absence in love is a great mystery. We need to be present to each other physically, but we also need to be gone from each other at times. We bring a blessing both when we visit someone and when leave after the visit is over. Presence is partly predicated on absence and there is something of our spirit that we can only give by going away. Why is this so?

Because absence is sometimes the only thing that can purify presence. When we are physically present, there are always certain tensions, irritations, disappointments, flaws in our bodies, and faults in our character that partially block full love and blessing. That's why we rarely appreciate our loved ones fully, until they are taken away from us.

Absence can help wash clean. What the pain of absence does is stretch our hearts so that the essence, the beauty, the love, and the gift of the one who is absent can flow to us without being coloured by the tensions, disappointments, and the flaws of everyday life. As well, the other's absence can work to stretch our hearts so that we can receive him or her in a way that more fully accepts and respects who he or she really is. That's why our children have to go away (and we have to feel that bitter heartache) before we can accept that they are no longer children, but adults like ourselves, with lives of their own.

The mystery of saying goodbye is really the mystery of the Ascension, the most under-understood mystery both inside and outside of religion. The Ascension is about going away so that our loved ones can fully receive our spirit. It's about the mystery of saying goodbye, when goodbye isn't really goodbye at all, but only love's way of taking on a different modality so that it can be present in a way that's deeper, purer, more permanent, less-clinging, and less-limited by the tensions, disappointments, inadequacies, wounds, and betrayals that, this side of eternity, forever make our intimacy a work in progress.

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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Car Raffle

Our friends at Atlantic Hyundai are donating a three year lease for a 2009 Hyundai Sonata. Raffle tickets are \$50 each - buy two and get one free. Raffle will be drawn at the 24th Annual OLL Golf Classic, June 19, 2008 at the Timber Point Golf Club in Great River. Winner need not be present. Winner is responsible for tax, title, and tags.



Tickets are available at the Parish Office, Our Lady of Lourdes School, or see Dan Toomey of Atlantic Hyundai located on the Sunrise Highway Service Road in West Islip.

The car will be on display outside OLL Church the weekend of May 17 and 18 and at the 24th Annual OLL Golf Classic at Timber Point on June 19. *Come and see what can be yours!*

Religious Education

Our eighth grade Confirmation Candidates and their Sponsors continue to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation in ninth Grade by participating in "RESCUE" (Religious Education Sponsor/Candidate United Effort)

"Rescue Closing" - Sunday, May 18 - 6 PM Mass

All eighth graders in our Parish Family, their Sponsors and parents share in celebrating their time together. The eighth graders and their Sponsors have been getting together and doing service for others.

and... of course

Grade 6/7/8 Hang Out Nites continue...

Friday, May 16	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Parish Center
Friday, June 20	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Parish Center

Don't forget...there's something for everyone!

All 6th / 7th / 8th graders of our Parish Family... come play volleyball, basketball. We have Guitar Hero 2, Dance Revolution, music and more... **DON'T MISS IT!**

also...

Grades 9/10/11/12

ALL ARE WELCOME! High School Chaperones help with set-up, participating in activities, refreshments, clean-up, etc... and assist the Adult Chaperones.

Reminder...

Important Confirmation Meeting

All Eighth Grade Parents in OLL Parish Family -

Tuesday, May 6 at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria *or* **Wednesday, May 7** at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria
or **Thursday, May 8** at 10 AM in the cafeteria.

Dominican Village

Please join us for an **Open House on Tuesday, May 6 from 2 PM until 4 PM**. Dominican Village is an independent retirement community that offers assisted living and respite care, outstanding programs, all-inclusive services and bountiful amenities. For more information, or to schedule a tour at your convenience, call 631.842.6091.

Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille is a peer ministry. Couples who have had problems in their own marriages and have recovered from those problems, share their experiences with troubled couples in the hope that they too will see that their marriage can be saved. For more information about the upcoming **Retrouvaille weekend that begins on Friday, May 16 at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston, Queens**, please call 1.800.470.2230 and you will be confidentially connected to a couple from Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille who can help.

The Rosary-Mysteries of Light

Each Tuesday in May - May 6, 13, 20 and 27 - there will be Reconciliation, Conference, Rosary and Eucharist at the Montfort Spiritual Center, Bay Shore. Reconciliation will be from 6:30 PM until 7:15 PM, Conference and Rosary will be at 7:15 PM and Eucharist at 8:15 PM. There is no registration, but a free will offering. If you have any questions, please call the Montfort spiritual Center at 631.666.7500.

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: "**Outdoor Experience.**" 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.

Help Wanted

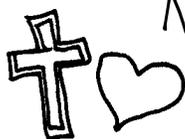
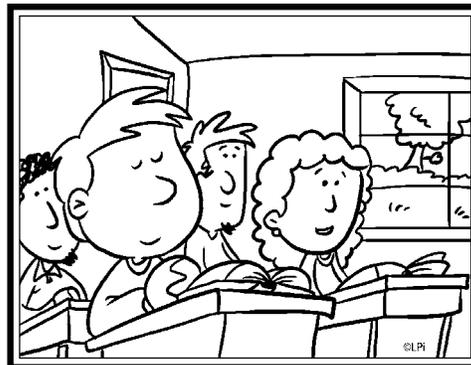
Senior Secretary/Transcription

Seeking an experienced secretary to provide transcription from a dictaphone, secretarial and clerical services within the Pastoral Center, Monday through Thursday, 20 hours a week.

Send resume and salary requirements to Office of Human resources, DRVC, P.O. Box 9023, Rockville Centre 11571-9023 or fax to 516.678.9566 or email HR@DRVC.org.

Sharing the Gospel

Jesus prays for you every minute of your life.
 God the Father always listens to his Son.
 When you need help, ask Jesus to help you.
 He will send the Holy Spirit to show you how
 to solve your problem. The Holy Spirit will keep
 you safe. He will make you strong. The Holy
 Spirit will help you choose goodness, love, and
 forgiveness. Then you will enjoy never-ending life
 with God in heaven.



Mission for the Week

I will ask Jesus to send the Holy Spirit to help me every day.



Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

ETERNAL
CHRIST
FATHER

GLORY
GIVEN
FOLLOWERS

WORLD
SHOWN
PRAYING

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

©LPi

Prayer



Holy Spirit,
 help me choose
 goodness, love, and
 forgiveness.

Something to Draw



Draw Jesus praying
 for you. Draw
 yourself talking to
 Jesus in prayer.