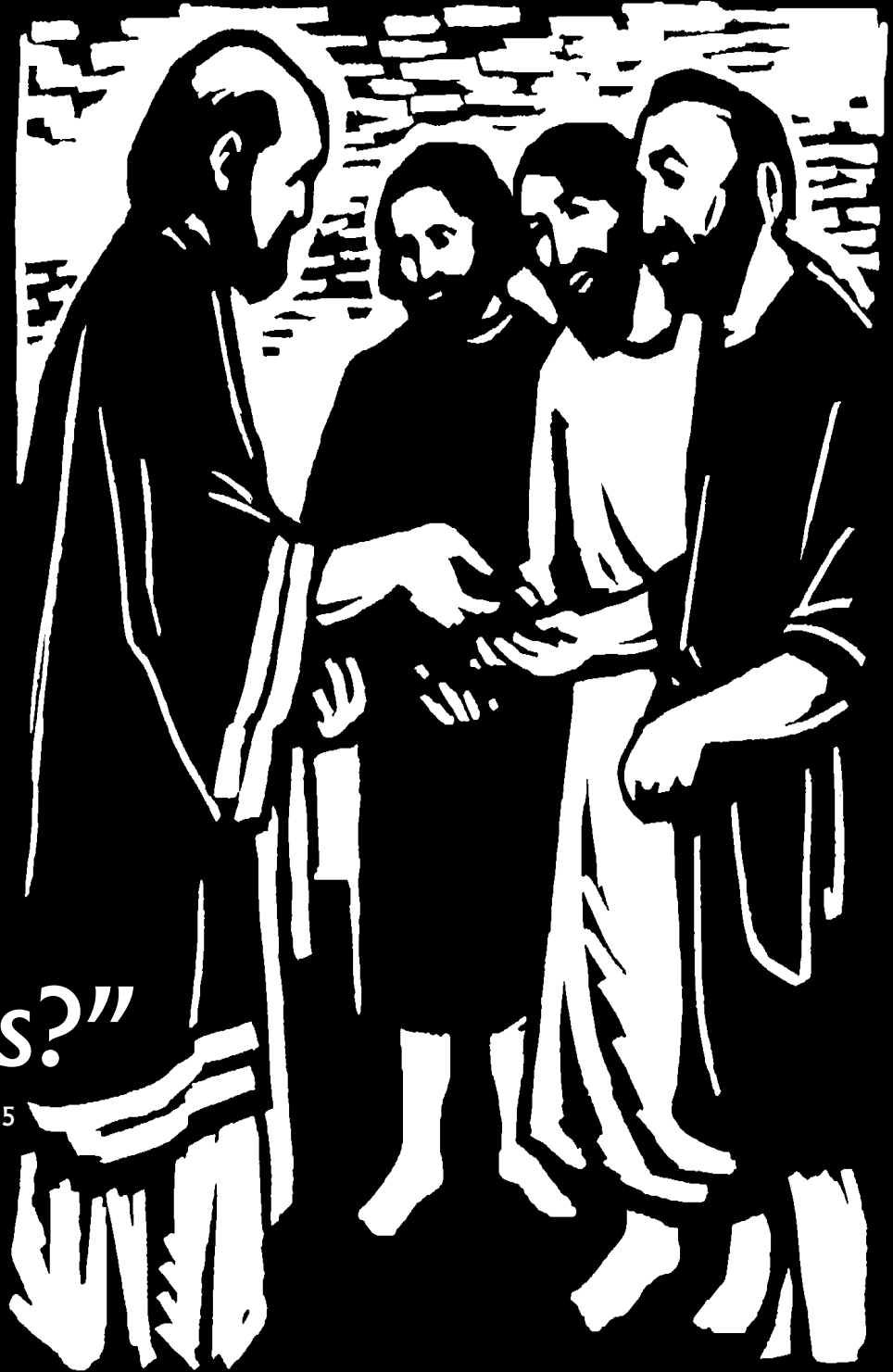


**“Are
you
envious
because
I
am
generous?”**

Matthew 20:15



**Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Our Lady of Lourdes • September 21, 2008**



Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano

Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback

Associate Pastor

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. John Asomugha

In Residence

Rev. Ambrose Cabildo

In Residence

Deacon John DeGuardi

Deacon Tom Lucie

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 McMahan

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

Stacie Baltrusitis

Jane Desthers

Anne Kerrigan

Deacon Jack Meehan

Vita Scorgia

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

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.

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.

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

Do You Love to Sing?

Our 9:30 AM Mass Choir needs YOU! Any students in grades K through college are invited to be part of our 9:30 AM Mass choir.

“Junior Choir”, for grades K-8 meets on Thursdays from 7:00-7:45 PM in the Church, and our new “High School/ College Group” will meet once a month following the 9:30 AM Mass.

Both groups sing each week at our 9:30 AM Family Mass.

Sign-up and first rehearsal for “Senior Choir” (high school and college students) is Sunday, September 21, at 10:30 AM in the Parish Center. Bagels will be served!

Questions or more info: email jengallagher@ollchurch.org



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

What's it all about?

IF you are an adult and

- ... you were never Baptized
- ... you were Baptized in another faith and would like to become a baptized Catholic
- ... you never received Holy Communion (Eucharist)
- ... you never received your Confirmation

IF you are an adult and one or all of the circumstances above apply to you...

IF you feel you would like to become a Baptized Catholic or become more fully initiated into your Catholic faith...

Please contact John Sureau, S. Nancy or Fr. Bob at the Parish Office, 661.3224 #1, and we would be happy to help you.

“When asked to join the RCIA I had known this was my calling to finish what my Father and I had always wanted for me, to join in with the Catholic religion. As I helped my daughter with her religion classes I knew that I wanted to be closer to Our Lady of Lourdes and of course Jesus.....The Monday night meetings were always productive and the good food always helped. They allowed my children to feel at home as my oldest is always asking when can we go again. I thank all that participated in helping me regain my faith in Jesus and for learning how to be a true Catholic.”

-Patricia Clark, Received into the Church and confirmed at the Great Vigil, 2008

New Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist



Extraordinary Ministers distribute communion at Sunday liturgy, weekday Masses and during holy days of obligation. Some ministers also choose to bring Communion to the sick in our parish community.

What's the commitment?

There is a training offered by the Diocese of Rockville Centre in the Fall (October 4 or October 18) and a follow up training here at OLL. We try to schedule you based on the Mass you most frequently attend. Ministers sign up to serve on holidays, holy days and special occasions. We also offer opportunities for reflection and prayer that all are invited to and requested to be a part of throughout the year.

I want more information....

You can ask one of our Extraordinary Ministers you might see at Mass, you can the Parish Office at 661.3224, x. 135 or you can e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org



Altar Servers

Have you ever wondered how Masses come together each week? How it seems that things just happen naturally! It's usually because of the altar servers! **WE NEED MANY YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH TO STEP UP AND SERVE.** Altar servers help to make our Masses and prayer services so great! Also, altar servers go on trips (like Splish Splash, Islanders games, and more!) and do a lot of other fun things. We are always looking for new altar servers and are in need of servers at many of our parish masses. Training will begin later this month and begin serving in November of 2008.

What's the commitment?

There are five or six altar server trainings sessions before you can actually serve. Being an altar server is a lot of work so we want to make sure you're prepared. For Sunday Masses, we try to schedule you based on the Mass you most frequently attend. Servers sign up for Masses on holidays, holy days and special occasions. Servers can volunteer to serve at weddings and funerals too!

I want more information....

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

Jesus is the Answer!

What's the Question?

An introductory course on the New Testament for those who want to understand how to read the Gospels and Letters of Saint Paul.



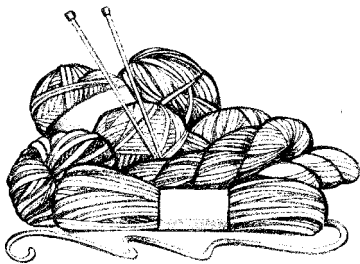
Presenter: Fr. Bob Scheckenback
Tuesdays-September 30, October 7, 14, 21, and 28
7:30 - 9:30 PM
Parish Center

Did people write down what Jesus said? Were the Christian Scriptures really only “canonized” in the 4th Century? Did the early Church “hide” certain teachings? Does the Book of Revelation predict the end of the world? Were Paul’s writings actually letters? What can we know about Jesus from the Gospels? How does God “inspire” the Scripture writers?

Learn about their creation and development. Learn how to read them, hear them, and pray them.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Bring your prayer and creativity together in a gift of love.



Some years ago a group of women attended a retreat. They spent time in reflection and they prayed for people they loved. After the retreat they began to get together to continue to pray and while they prayed they also knit and crocheted simple items like shawls. These simple gifts, created during prayer, became gifts of love to the people for whom they prayed and the Prayer Shawl Ministry was born.

We are beginning just this kind of ministry of prayer, creativity, and love here at Our Lady of Lourdes. There is no special talent or crafts required - just a desire to pray together with other women who will intercede for those they love.

Join us...

Wednesday, October 1 from 9 AM until 11:30 AM in the Parish Center. All you need to bring is scrap yarn, knitting needles or crochet hooks (patterns and instructions will be given to you), and your gifts of love and prayer.

To register or for more information, please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option #3 during office hours (9 AM - 12 Noon and 1 PM - 5 PM.)



St. Agnes Medal Recipients

On Friday September 12, Rich and Joanne Maher were the recipients of the St. Agnes Medal of Service. This is an award recognizing and honoring those who generously and unselfishly give of themselves to their parishes and whose love of the Church has been shown through their devotion to the Holy Father, as well as to our Diocese.

They are the unsung heroes in our midst who build up our parish communities by extraordinary service in parish ministry, parish administration or a significant volunteer role. Each year a recipient is chosen from each parish in our diocese to receive this award based on the recommendation of the pastor, pastoral council, and pastoral team.

Here at OLL, Rich and Joanne are active in service to our school, religious education program, vacation bible program, and children's liturgy of the word. They are supportive of almost every event and program we run here at Our Lady of Lourdes! Congratulations Rich and Joanne!

Religious Education Registration

for children in Public School, Grade 1, September 2008

INFORMATION MEETING & REGISTRATION: (meeting will take place in the Parish Center – the room opposite the playground on Hunter Ave)

*Please note: **Baptismal Certificates required for any child being registered in PEP 1, including children Baptized at Our Lady of Lourdes.***

Monday, September 22	7:45 pm
Wednesday, September 24	1:00 pm or 7:45 pm
Thursday, September 25	1:00 pm
Monday, September 29	10:00am or 7:45 pm

The registration fee (Family Fee) is \$140 and texts are \$20 and the materials fee and worksheets are \$20. Details will be provided at the meeting.

Daily Mass

8 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5 PM

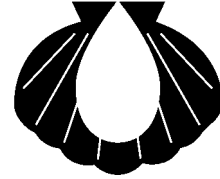
Sunday: 8 AM, 9:30 AM,
11 AM, 12:30 PM and 6 PM

Reconciliation

Saturday: 4 PM - 4:45 PM

Baptisms

Erica Reese Paragna
Rolando and Eunice



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.
(Babysitters available)

Upcoming Marriages

Adrienne Marie Kalosieh, Sacred Heart, Little Falls, NJ and

Eric Paul Storjohann, OLL

Megan Goodrich, OLL and

Frank Santanello, Notre Dame, New Hyde Park

Rosary/Novena

Rosary

Daily after 8 AM Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena

Monday after 8 AM Mass

Anointing of the Sick

Throughout the liturgical year.

If needed sooner, please call the Parish Office.

Baptism

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

Marriage

Arranged at least six months in advance, please call the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults(RCIA)

A process to be embraced by the Catholic Church. For non-Catholics and for Catholics who have never received formal religious education. If interested, please call the Parish Office.

Remembering...

Monday, September 22

8:00 AM James Graham

Tuesday, September 23

St. Pio of Pietrelcina, priest

8:00 AM John J. Goode, Sr. &
Joan Goode

Wednesday, September 24

8:00 AM Jack McGeveran

Thursday, September 25

8:00 AM William Basso

Friday, September 26

Ss. Cosmas and Damian, martyrs

8:00 AM James & Charlotte Quinn

Saturday, September 27

8:00 AM Evelyn Foley, Paul Abbate, Violet Evans,
Hedwig & Edward Marczak, Gustave Kuruc,
Stephen Frayler, William Kuhlwilm, Joseph Robert DeSantis,
In Thanksgiving to the Holy Family

5:00 PM John Lovari

Fr. John Asomugha

Sunday, September 28

8:00 AM John P. Kopitsch

Fr. Mike Vetrano

9:30 AM William Basso

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

11:00 AM Eugene DeCanio

Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

12:30 PM Donald & Patrick Manning and Dorothy & Joseph Boening

Fr. John Asomugha

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Edith & Al Peterson, Joseph DeRiso,
Arthur Donald Gallagher, Robert Harris, Kevin Haynes,
William Kuhlwilm, Donald Bolin, William McNully,
Maureen Ferro, Hortencia Gastone, Tina DeLiso

Fr. Mike Vetrano



Rest In Peace

Maureen Ferro died on September 10 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was September 13. We extend our prayers to her husband, Rudy, her daughters, Alyssa and Alexis and entire family.

Donald Reynolds died on September 6 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was September 9. We extend our prayers to his children and entire family.

Celebrating Sacraments

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

Pantry Needs

canned fruit
canned vegetables
jelly
peanut butter
pudding/jello
soup

Donations

- Outreach has received a donation in memory of *William Kuhlwilm* from Donna Capon.
- The Adult Choir has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *James Stephen*, brother of Carol Goetz.
- Outreach has received a donation from the SAGE Group in memory of *Will Reardon*.
- Outreach has received a donation from Barbara, Debbie, Lori, Mary Anne and Rita in memory of *James Stephen*, brother of Carol Goetz.



Our Lady of Lourdes Senior Singles Social

One year Anniversary Party!

Saturday, September 27 at 6 PM following the 5 PM Mass in the Parish Center.

Dinner will be served.

Please call Pat Wallace at 587.4342 or 796.1265 if you plan to attend.

Can't wait to see you there!

Blood Donors are Quiet Heroes. Be One.

On **Wednesday, October 1**, 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.**

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.

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

Outreach Oktoberfest

PARTY!



Saturday – October 4
Hibernian Hall, Babylon
8 PM – Midnight
\$40 per person
includes German buffet
unlimited beer/wine/soda

OOMPAAH
FUN!

Music, singing
dancing, toasting,
food & drink

Proceeds to benefit Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Outreach.
Tickets now on sale in the Outreach Office.



©LPI

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Every day, in hospitals and churches of all denominations across the country, meetings are held to provide a means of support to those fighting the terrifying grip of addiction. At those meetings, there is never an issue as to the age of the attendees. Perhaps a person late in life has finally decided to do something about a lifelong problem; or perhaps a young person attends, hoping to avoid a lifelong problem. Either way, both are welcomed unconditionally; their goal and their reward are the same.

Today's Gospel reading gives us the parable of the landowner who hired laborers to work in his vineyard. As the day went on, he continued to bring laborers to his fields even up to the last hour of the day, yet all were paid the same wage. Those who had readily agreed to work all day for a certain wage—their reward—were not thrilled that those who had only worked an hour were given the same wage, the same reward. If our reward for believing in God is eternal life, what is the point of bringing others into the light if they shouldn't expect the same reward?

Of all of the characteristics of the human soul, one stands above the rest—hope. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that we as faithful followers of God are given the hope of glory in heaven if we love him and do as he directs through his word, his Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit (CCC 1821). In the parable of the landowner and the vineyard workers, we are given witness to hope; those laborers who were still waiting at the end of the day for a job were hopeful that they might work even for a short time in hopes that they could provide for their families. We stand at the altar with hope and faith that God will provide eternal life.

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Readings for the Week of September 21, 2008

Sunday:	Is 55:6-9/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a
Monday:	Prv 3:27-34/Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday:	Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday:	Prv 30:5-9/Lk 9:1-6
Thursday:	Eccl 1:2-11/Lk 9:7-9
Friday:	Eccl 3:1-11/Lk 9:18-22
Saturday:	Eccl 11:9-12:8/Lk 9:43b-45
Next Sunday:	Ez 18:25-28/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32

Good Samaritan Prayer Group of L.I.

The Good Samaritan Prayer Group of Long Island holds their **meetings every Friday** (*except the first Friday of the month*) **at OLL School in Room 16 from 8 PM until 10 PM.**

All are welcome to experience singing, praying and fellowship each evening.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Angela MacDermott*.

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 ...

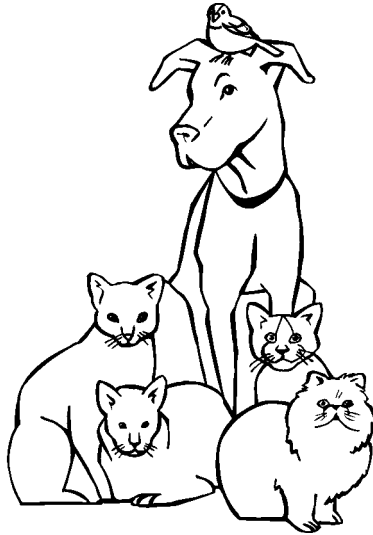
Connie Altadonna, Lucas Anderson, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Ben Bellotti, Margaret Bentley, Peter Buccinna, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Jim Butler, Howard Campkin, Regina Cranor, Karen DellaVecchia, TJ Devlin, Josephine DiBenedetto, Sandra Dubois, Susan Gigante, Samantha Hil, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Doris Ingrassia, Kathleen Kerrigan, Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch, Kara Lobasso, Anthony Marrotta, Margery Marrotta, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., David McCarthy, Eleanor McGee, Dorothy Meloni, Brenden Muldoon, Jean Muller, Joseph Ortiz, Robert Petersen, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Joe Radosti, Patricia Salimbene, Dorothy Schiavone, Joe Shields, Derek Stahl, Diana Marie Taveras, Charlie Tibbetts, Baby John Tramazzo, Jean Virgilio, Pat Wallace

Calling all people with no time to spare!

(If you want something done, ask a busy person!)

Commit to one hour a week as part of a program to visit parishioners in Good Samaritan Hospital. Training will be given. To learn more, contact : sage@ollchurch.org or call 661.3224 x 122. Hurry. Volunteers will be accepted on a first-come-first-chosen basis.

Benefits: out of this world!



Feast of St. Francis

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 4 – 12 Noon

The Feast of St. Francis, a saint famous for his kindness to animals, will be celebrated with our annual blessing of the animals!

This year we'll gather at 12 Noon in the Fr. Joe Garden (*weather permitting*) for a beautiful prayer service followed by food and fun for all (including our four legged friends, those that crawl, those that swim and even those that fly!)

Men's Retreat

The Men's Retreat this year is scheduled for the weekend of **October 3-5 at the Bishop Molloy Retreat House in Jamaica**. All men of Our Lady of Lourdes are invited to participate in this wonderful weekend which starts at 7 PM dinner on Friday, October 3 and ends at noon lunch on Sunday, October 5.

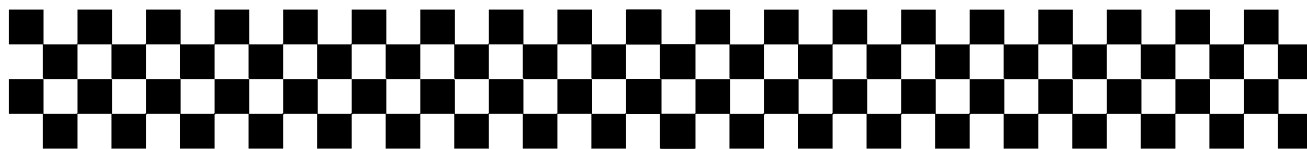
This will be a weekend that you will remember; it is spiritual, fun, informative and relaxing (your own room with excellent meals.) Come and see. If you are interested, or have any questions, please call Pete Cunningham at 661.0273. If transportation is needed, please call and let Pete know.

Padre Pio Presentation

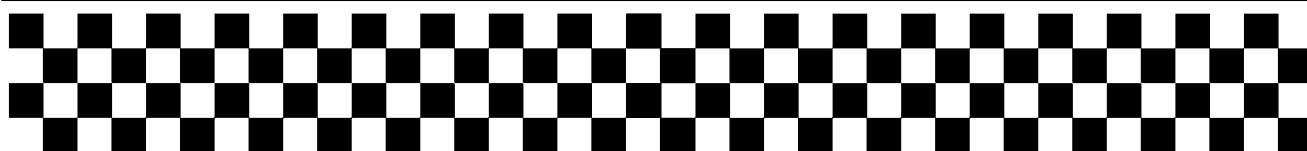
On **Monday, October 27 at 1 PM** the Senior Circle will host a presentation on Padre Pio **in the Brendel Center**. There will be a speaker and video presentation. All parishioners are invited to attend. If you are interested in attending, please contact Vera t 587.1553.

(We would like to know how many people to expect.)

Our Lady of Lourdes



Italian Family Feast 2008



Super Raffle Winners!



\$7,000

#017

\$2,000

#187

\$1,000

196



Thank you Feast Sponsors!

West Islip Wines & Liquors, Inc.
Hither Brook Nursery, Inc.
Chapey & Sons Funeral Home

Nightly Raffle Winners

Wednesday #43438
Thursday #24622
Friday #49659
Saturday #44120
Sunday #67974

HUNGRY LONG ISLANDERS... HOW CAN THIS BE?

A New York State Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights

**MICAH*: A Campaign to End LI Poverty
(*Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger)**

To learn more about the MICAH campaign, contact Rev. Thomas Goodhue at the LI Council of Churches (LICCHemp@aol.com) or Neelofer Chaudry (LICCMICAH@aol.com). Domestic workers are a crucial part of New York State's economy, yet labor law does not protect them the way it protects other workers. Domestic workers often work under harsh, exploitative conditions, but they are barred by federal law from collective organizing into unions. Additionally, they face unique barriers to organizing because they are isolated in the homes of their employers and have difficulty negotiating with powerful employers.

SOLUTION:

The proposed New York State Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights addresses the unfair exclusion of domestic workers from labor protections, reflects the unique conditions and demands of their industry, and clarifies employers' obligations.

THE BILL WOULD AMEND NY STATE LABOR LAW TO ENSURE:

- 1. Employer choice to provide health care coverage or a wage supplement.**
- 2. An annual cost of living increase tied to the Consumer Price Index.**
- 3. Other basic work standards:**
 - o **Time-and-a-half at the regular rate for every hour over 40 hours per week;**
 - o **One day off per 7-day calendar week;**
 - o **Up to 12 weeks of family and medical leave;**
 - o **Paid time off for vacations and holidays;**
 - o **Paid sick days;**
 - o **Advance notice of termination;**
 - o **Severance pay in accordance with number of years worked.**
- 4. A method for domestic workers to enforce these work standards in court.**

To find out how you can work for the adoption of the New York State Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights contact Vanessa Crilly,

Vanessa@jwj.org. Sources: New York Domestic Workers Justice Campaign, Domestic Workers United (www.domesticworkersunited.org)) and Jobs with Justice Long Island.

Financial Summary

September 14, 2008

Weekly Collection	\$ 16,094.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (4,906.00)

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

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

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.

Crisis of Faith or of the Imagination?

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

J. R. Tolkien, author of *Lord of the Rings*, was one of the key persons who helped C.S. Lewis accept Christianity. As a man of considerable imagination he was not one to easily denigrate this faculty. Yet he knew its limits. One night, after hours of listening to Lewis object to certain aspects of the faith, Tolkien suggested to him that his resistance was not so much a question of belief as it was of imagination: “Your inability to understand stems from a failure of imagination on your part.”

There is something very important in that statement. Imagination isn’t faith. For example:

Some of the intimate letters of Mother Teresa, recently published for the first time, would seem to indicate that she suffered painful doubts in terms of believing in the existence of God. She shares, again and again, how she can no longer imagine God’s existence and the pain that she feels about that. A simplistic judgment can then be made that she ceased believing in God, that she lost her faith. Is this true?

Looked at superficially, it might appear so, at least in that she was unable to imagine that God exists. But such a judgment is too simple. We need to understand the depth of Tolkien’s comment to C. S. Lewis. Her struggles were much more with her imagination and its incapacity to give her an imaginative picture of God’s existence than they were with the actual belief that God exists. Why? Because every action in her life gives us the indication that, as she aged, her faith grew deeper rather than weaker.

But how do we know this? How is our inability to imagine God’s existence different than atheism? Consider these two scenes:

Imagine yourself lying in bed some night. You have just had a very good time of prayer and are flooded with feelings and images about God. You have strong, clear feelings that God exists. On that particular evening you have no faith doubts; you can feel the existence of God.

Now, imagine another night, a darker one. You wake up from a fitful sleep and are overwhelmed by the sense that you don’t believe in God. You try to convince yourself that you still believe, but you cannot. Every attempt to imagine that God exists and to feel his presence comes up empty. You feel an overwhelming emptiness inside because of that feeling. Try as you like, you cannot shake the feeling that you no longer believe. Try as you like, you can no longer regain the solid ground on which you once stood.

Try as you like, you can no longer make yourself feel the existence of God.

Does this mean that on one of these nights you have a strong faith and on the other you have a weak one? Not necessarily. It can just as easily mean that on one night you have a strong imagination and on the other you have a weak one. On one night you can imagine the presence of God and on the other night you cannot imagine it. Imagination isn’t faith.

Daniel Berrigan, in his colorful manner, puts this crassly, but accurately: He was once asked: “Where does your faith live? In the head or in the heart?” Faith, he assures us, is rarely where our heads are at, nor where our hearts are at. In his words: “Your faith is where your ass is at! Where are you living? What are you doing?” Our commitments, our actions, our charity, and our morality ultimately determine whether we believe or not.

Passing strange but strangely true, the posterior is invariably a better indication of where we stand with faith and belief than are the head and the heart. We know this from experience: We all have had the experience of being inside of certain commitments (marriage, family, church) where, at times, our heads and our hearts are not there, but we are there! The head tells us this doesn’t make sense; the heart lacks the proper warm feelings to keep us there; but we remain there, held by something deeper, something beyond what we can explain or feel. This is where faith lives and this is what faith means.

Mother Teresa, for long periods of time, suffered anguish inside of her head and heart every time she tried to imagine the existence of God; yet by every indication she lived her whole life in function of God’s existence. Her problem was with the limits and poverty of the human imagination. Simply put, she couldn’t picture how God exists.

But nobody can because the finite can never picture the infinite, though it can sense it and know it in ways beyond what the head can imagine and the heart can feel.

Not being able to imagine God’s existence is not the same thing as not believing. Our actions are always a more accurate indication of faith than are any feelings about God on a given day.

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.



2009 Respect Life Contest

The Diocesan Office of Respect Life is pleased to announce the 2009 Respect Life Youth Contest. This year's theme is "We are Wonderfully Made by God."

All Catholic youngsters in grades 7 - 12 who live in the Rockville Centre Diocese and attend Catholic elementary and high schools or parish religious education programs, are invited to participate in any of the following categories: Poetry, Bookmark Design, Essay, Music and Photography.

Winners will receive monetary awards in support of their future education. For further information contact the Parish Office at 661.3224. Registration forms may be downloaded from the diocesan website at www.drvc.org.

Education of a Lifetime

A Catholic High School education offers young people a challenging, value-centered liberal arts education. It also affords each student an opportunity to test abilities, add skills, build confidence and develop an understanding of faith, while preparing for college and for life.

Open Houses present students and parents with a special opportunity to gain information about the programs, faculty, and facilities of the Catholic High Schools on Long Island. Administrators, faculty members, staff, and students are available to describe school programs and to answer questions at the Open House events. For additional information on particular schools, plan to attend one or more of the Open House.

Open House Schedule

Sunday, September 14	10 AM - 1 PM	St. Anthony's High School
Saturday, September 20	11 AM - 1:30 PM	Our Lady of Mercy Academy
Sunday, September 21	1 PM - 4 PM	St. Dominic High School
Sunday, September 28	12 PM - 2:30 PM	Holy Trinity High School
	2 PM - 4:30 PM	St. Mary's College Prep. High School
Saturday, October 4	9 AM - 12 PM	Sacred Heart Academy
	10 AM - 1 PM	Kellenberg Memorial H. S.
	2 PM - 4 PM	Chaminade H. S.
Saturday, October 18	10 AM - 1 PM	McGann-Mercy D.H. S.
	12 PM - 2 PM	Academy of St. Joseph
Sunday, October 19	10:30 AM - 2 PM	St. John the Baptist D.H.S.

The Catholic High School Entrance Exam is scheduled for Saturday, October 25 and will be held at several locations. Applications for the Catholic High School entrance exam are available at the Religious Education Office and the OLL School Office.

If you have any questions, please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option #3 or the OLL School Office at 661.7200, option #2.

Military Bridge

You don't have to know how to play bridge to play this fun game! The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Bishop McDonnell #1403 will be sponsoring Military Bridge on **Thursday, September 25 at St. Joseph's Church, Msgr. Nolan Hall, Babylon**. Doors open at 6:30 PM and games begin at 7:30 PM. The cost is \$6 per person and includes coffee and cake. For reservations and information, call Corinne at 587.9416.

Sounds of Life Concert

A concert for youth by Sounds of Life: Musicians with a Message will be held at **7 PM on Saturday, September 27 at the St. Joseph's College Clare Rose Playhouse, Patchogue**. Free Admission. Teens, twenties and all welcome! Presented by LI Coalition for Life. For further information, call 631.243.1435.

Gala Dinner Dance and Auction

The Sisters of Saint Joseph of Brentwood will honor Joseph K. Collins, President/CEO Collins Building Services, William J. Forrester, Exec. VP/COO Goodwill Industries, Sister Elizabeth Mullane, CSJ, Assoc. Dir., St. Vincent Services, Medical & Special Services, St. Vincent Services at their Gala Dinner Dance and Auction to be held at the **Garden City Hotel on Thursday, October 23**. For further information call 631.273.1187, extension 25.

Bereavement Support Groups

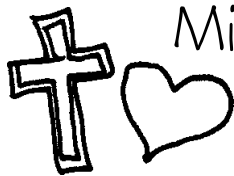
A variety of Bereavement Support Programs are available in Nassau and Suffolk Counties for all losses, including adults and children. You will find groups that meet 6 or 8 weeks, weekly and monthly groups, special programs, masses and retreats for the bereaved. Simply check the website of Catholic Cemeteries, Diocese of Rockville Centre at www.holyroodcemetery.org.

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 Long Island's East End. The show is also available on Sirius Radio, Channel 159 at 11 PM on Saturday nights. Next Sunday's theme is: **"Boredom."** Don't miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding Religion and Rock, go to www.ReligionandRock.com. Don't forget to tune into TELE CARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 271 for the best in Catholic television!

Sharing the Gospel

Your Father says, "Will you work eight hours in my garden for one hundred dollars?" You answer, "Yes." You work hard for seven hours. Then your Father says to two other people, "Will you work one hour in my garden for one hundred dollars?" You shout angrily, "Father, you are not fair." He says, "You agreed to work eight hours for one hundred dollars. That is fair."



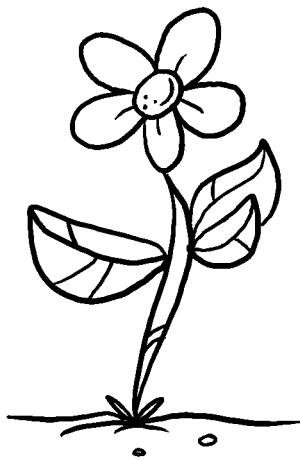
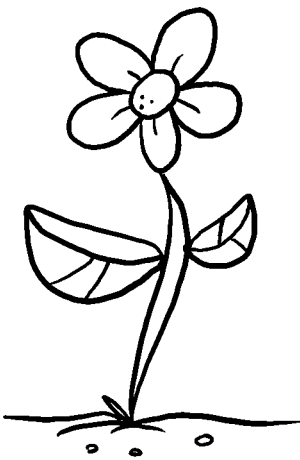
Mission for the Week

I will do chores and give the money that I earn to the poor.



Puzzle

Find 8 differences.



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Prayer



When I am first or when I am last, thanks for giving me what I need, Father.

Something to Draw



Draw God giving you a blessing for helping others in this world.