

*Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel:
"The reign of God is at hand!"*



Mark 1:14-15

*First Sunday of Lent
Our Lady of Lourdes
March 1, 2009*



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 -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

Lisa Cantalino

Sonia DaSilva

Nilo DeLeon

Jane Desthers

Jerry Esposito

Deacon Jack Meehan

John Muldoon

Bob Natale

Eileen Rega

Vita Scorgia

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Christine Volk

Parish Staff

Barbara Catuosco

Religious Education Office

Mary Anne Lettieri

Parish Office

Debbie Meyer

Bulletin Editor/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.

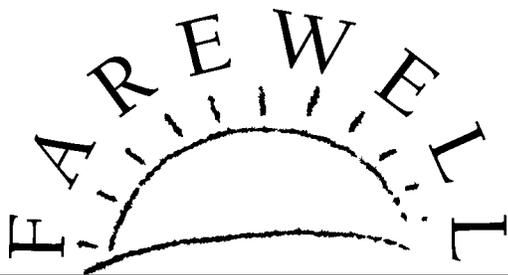
*Our Lady
of Lourdes*

455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, New York 11795

Fond Farewell

Fr. John Asomugha, who has served this parish community for the past three years, is taking leave of Our Lady of Lourdes on Monday, March 2. He will return home to Nigeria and then report to Zimbabwe to teach in the seminary. Fr. John earned his Ph.D. at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh last Fall.

Our parish has been touched by Fr. John's humility, gentleness, kindness and wonderful smile! So let's give thanks to God for Fr. John at a special...



MASS and CELEBRATION

Sunday, March 1

12:30 PM

Reception to follow

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Stations of the Cross

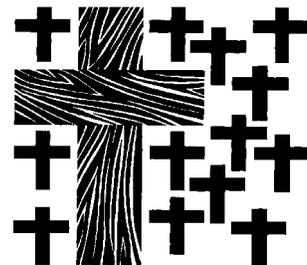
We remember the road to Jesus' death and link his journey to our own as our parish's deacons lead us through this beautiful devotion. Come and pray with us...

Each Friday during Lent – 1 PM and 7 PM

Save the date...

Living Stations of the Cross

Good Friday, April 10 at 7:30 PM in the Church



This is a must for your Lenten and Holy Week journey! Our parish community comes together – led by our young people, our Music Ministries and members of our parish community – who share their own personal experiences on this most holy and solemn night. The celebration includes the Veneration of the Cross.

The Lenten Labyrinth

Labyrinths are about journeys, and so is this holy Lenten season. Come to our Parish Lenten Mission and take a journey through your soul, in your relationship with God and your understanding of self. This week in our parish promises to be something special.

Monday, March 9 - Thursday, March 12

7:30 PM

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Led by Fr. Thomas O'Connor, OSB

Labyrinth

A Brief Introduction

The labyrinth is an ancient spiritual tool that has been used throughout the world for over four thousand years. A labyrinth is a circuitous path with one entrance point that leads through a series of switch-backs to its center. A labyrinth is not a maze. A maze, by contrast, has dead-ends and blind alley ways. Its intention is confusion and mystery. The labyrinth, when followed, leads eventually and without making choices to the center. It is designed for one to find his/her way.



The journey includes...

- Monday:** *The Lenten Labyrinth*
- Tuesday:** *Journey to Healing (including the Sacrament of Reconciliation)*
- Wednesday:** *Journeying with joy, lightness and humor*
- Thursday:** *Leaving the Labyrinth – Living the Message (Closing Mass)*



Father Thomas O'Connor, OSB, is a monk of Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham, Massachusetts, a Benedictine Community dedicated to prayer, work and service. Fr. Tom is presently a spiritual director and a member of the retreat team at the Abbey. He will bring to this Lenten Mission a deep spirituality, a wonderful sense of humor and a refreshing sense of balance for those walking life's journey of faith.

“THE SIX” – *Come and “journal” with us!*

This Lent, something unique is happening at our Sunday night Mass. At every “Six” mass in Lent, we’re going to become part of the homily each Sunday by journaling. How will it work? Our priests and deacons will preach a little less for the next 40 days and then we’ll be given the chance and the time to reflect on what we’ve heard by writing. After the brief homily, in quiet, we’ll be asked to reflect on what we have heard and what we can act upon in the days and weeks ahead.

Come and give it a try. Everyone who comes receives a journal – even if you only come once! It’s a great addition to your Lenten journey.

If you’re interested in helping us to plan our Sunday night Mass or have some ideas, contact John Sureau at 661.3224 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.

Family Mass – *Be a part of the story!*

There’s something special happening at our Sunday morning Mass, too! Our Children’s Liturgy of the Word committee is creating a unique experience using our Lenten gospels. Each week, we’ll focus on the Good “News” and meet many “newsmakers!” It promises to be something exciting and engaging.

The 9:30 AM Family Mass has become a great way for parents and children to pray on Sundays. After the Opening Prayer, our children are sent forth to hear God’s Word in a special way in the Parish Center while their parents and family members remain in the Church. The Word of God speaks powerfully to all of us – it just sometimes uses different means for each one of us!

Our Children’s Liturgy of the Word committee is looking for high school and adult members to help plan out our activities and events. The committee meets once a month and is a fun group to be a part of! We’re also looking for middle school students to read at Children’s Liturgy on Sunday mornings. If this is something you think you or your child can help with, let us know. Contact John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.

Mass @ Sunrise... *What about you?*

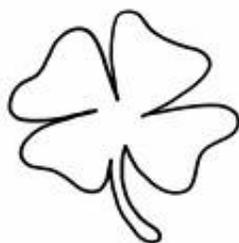
A beautiful Easter tradition at OLL is our Sunrise Mass at Captree State Park. We meet at OLL – this year around 5:45 AM – and caravan to the beach for a spirit filled liturgy.

Consider making this a new part of your Easter tradition (mittens, hats and scarves may also need to be a part of this tradition, too!). Also, we have a wonderful group of people who help to plan and carry out the Liturgy... would you be interested? We may meet once (if even) to go over the details so it is not an overwhelming commitment.

If you’re interested, contact John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes 1st Annual St. Patrick's/St. Joseph's Day Celebration

Saturday, March 21
from 8 PM until midnight
in the All-Purpose Room



The evening will include music, dancing,
Italian and Irish buffet,
beer, wine and soda
-all for only \$30 per person.

Dessert Contest

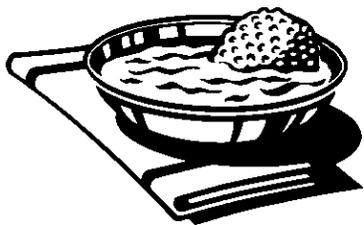
All are eligible to enter, if you wish.
A panel of judges will determine winners
and award prizes.



To reserve tickets, please call
Parish Outreach at 661.9262, option 4.
Space is limited, so get your tickets early!

The event is hosted by the combined efforts of
Our Lady of Lourdes Holy Name Society,
Rosary Christian Mothers and Parish Outreach.
Proceeds will benefit OLL Parish Outreach.

Ministry of Family Healing



Jesus invites us to follow his example of humility and love for one another. The Ministry of Family Healing invites you to join in a night of reflection on *“The Basin and the Towel.”*

Come pray with us on **Thursday, March 5 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

Please call the Religious Education Office to register at 661.5440, option 3.

As always, food and fellowship to follow.

Men’s Group

An Invitation to all men from OLL and beyond...

Come join us on **Thursday, March 19, in the Parish Center after the 8 AM Mass.**

We meet once a month to read and discuss the Scriptures for the following Sunday.

Come with your ideas and suggestions. We’ll gather for conversation and fellowship.

Join us in this pioneering experience for **MEN ONLY**. If you plan to attend, please call Jack Fitzgerald at 587.5548.

R.C.I.A. – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The journey of our candidates and catechumens continue as we enter the first full week of Lent.

Sunday, March 1, *Jeannette D’Angelo* and *Hung Lu* will participate in the Rite of Election at St. Anne’s R.C. Church in Brentwood with Bishop Murphy. On March 22, we will celebrate the Call to Continuing Conversion for our baptized candidates – *Michael Pulver and Christine Smith* – also at St. Anne’s R.C. Church in Brentwood. These are important steps in the journey of the R.C.I.A. It’s a clear sign to the community that they are coming closer to receiving the Sacraments of Initiation and full communion with the Church.

Throughout Lent, we will celebrate the “scrutinies” – times for the candidates and catechumens to “bring out and strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good” in them – at the 11 AM Mass on Sunday, March 15, Sunday, March 22 and Sunday, March 29.

The Church gives us this public and life-giving process DURING LENT so that these good and holy people can be nourished and supported by our parish family. At the same time, we know that when we initiate others, we confront and renew our own identity as members of the Catholic Christian community.

Please continue to pray for these women and men and our beautiful RCIA team who minister with them each week.

Jesus is the Answer! *What's the Question?*

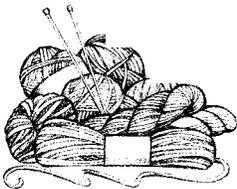


Tuesdays - March 3, 17, 24, 31 and April 7
7:30 - 9:30 PM
Parish Center
Presenter: Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Jesus of Nazareth in history...the Jesus of the Gospels...the Christ...the Word...the Theological Jesus...the personal/savior/redeemer.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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



Join us ...
Wednesdays, March 25, April 15, May 20, June 10
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.

Art and Prayer

Tuesdays, April 21, 28 and May 5, 12, 19
7:30 - 9:30 PM
Parish Center
Presenter: Joan Woelfel, Staff Associate – St. Ignatius Retreat House, Manhasset, NY

This workshop will explore the relationship between art and journaling in prayer. Participants will create their own art experience using different media as prayer, and continue the prayer experience through journaling.

No art experience necessary.

Art materials will be provided. Bring your own journal.

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 Ed Office at 661.5440 (option 3), Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 5 PM and 7 PM – 9 PM or e-mail to: religioused@ollchurch.org.

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.
(Babysitters available)

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

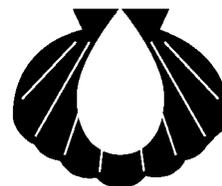
Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

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.



Baptisms

Danielle Juliann Berrios

Eduardo and Tami Berrios

Luke Matthew Christensen

William and Lynn Christensen

Kristin Yvonne Donnelly

Steven and Margaret Donnelly

Joseph Patrick Genovese

Dominick and Jeanne Genovese



Remembering . . .



Celebrating Sacraments

Monday, March 2

8:00 AM Lucille Harsch &
Josephine Zaccaria

Tuesday, March 3

St. Katharine Drexel, virgin

8:00 AM Josephine Sanfilippo

Wednesday, March 4

St. Casimir

8:00 AM John Weiss

Thursday, March 5

8:00 AM Carmine Isola

Friday, March 6

8:00 AM Rose Monroe

Saturday, March 7

8:00 AM John Celiberti, Hedwig Marczak, Vido Violaseib, Francis & Margaret Flanagan, Michael, Nellie & John Flanagan, Lois Vouse, Ray Brogan, Daniel Dunbar, John Lodespoto, Josephine Sabella, Peter Schreiner

5:00 PM Grace Cavalluzzo

Sunday, March 8

8:00 AM Molly Sweeney

9:30 AM Arthur Nappo, Sr.

11:00 AM Charlotte Sweeney

12:30 PM John Lovari

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Rose Macaluso, Jean Baer, Ray Brogan, Victor Lazaro, Rosaria Colombo, Joseph D. Sullivan, Kathy Pisani, Vincent DeLucia

Rest In Peace

Joseph D. Sullivan died on February 16 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 19. We extend our prayers to his wife, Doris, his children, grandchildren and entire family.

John J. Lodespoto died on February 14 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 19. We extend our prayers to his mother, Theresa, his children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Vera Gabrielly died on February 17 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 20. We extend our prayers to her daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and entire family.

Gloria P. Oliveira died on February 19 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 23. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Elizabeth Lattari died on February 21 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 24. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and entire family.



Nocturnal Adoration

Nocturnal Adoration will follow the 5 PM Mass on **Saturday, March 7**, followed by Benediction at 9:50 PM. Please come and pray with us. All are invited and welcome! Bring a friend.

Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, March 8**. 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, March 2**. We will begin with **Rosary at 7:45 PM in the Parish Center** followed by **meeting at 8 PM also in the Parish Center**.

Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast

Come out and support Cub Scout Pack 330, sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes Church, on **Sunday, March 1**, following the 8 AM, 9:30 AM, and 11 AM Masses.

A hearty breakfast, served by Scouts will include: pancakes, sausage, juice & coffee.

\$5.00 donation (children under 3 Free)

Your support is greatly appreciated.



and don't forget...

**Our Lady of Lourdes 25th Annual Duffers Classic
Monday, July 20, 2009**

The Our Lady of Lourdes 25th Annual Golf Outing to Support Catholic Education will be held on July 20, 2009.

This year we will be honoring **Dom and Mary Anne Lettieri**, who have supported our Golf Outing and our Parish Italian Family Feast for over 25 years.

Please mark your calendars and plan to be with us.

For more information about our Golf Outing, please contact the Parish Office.

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.**



©LPI

1st Sunday of Lent

He spent most of his college days creating or recovering from hangovers instead of studying. While his parents had taken him to various Protestant churches as a young boy, God was the furthest thing from his mind. He was expelled from school and soon found himself in the military where his off-duty hours were spent behaving much as he did in college. After his discharge, he aimlessly wandered through life and jobs until a priest who was building a new parish in Chicago offered to introduce him personally to the Catholic faith. At the Rite of Initiation, the man realized that perhaps his own angels had been with him as he wandered through the desert of his former life.

Have you experienced a bit of desert wandering of your own? In today's Gospel from Mark, it is the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Upon his baptism by John, the Holy Spirit leads Jesus out into the desert where he remains for forty days. During this time, he is immediately challenged by Satan, but as the Gospel states, "He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him." Can we recognize our beasts, and still rely on our angels?

Throughout Jesus' forty days, his thoughts were always first and foremost with his Father. This saving grace protected him from danger and temptation. Yet we all too frequently choose to seek God's intervention only as a last resort (CCC 2732). Whether we spend our days in the presence of life's temptations or try to battle the beasts and demons that come our way, how can we be so bold as to believe we can do it on our own, when Jesus himself relied on God as his savior and protector? Faith is, was, and shall always be our greatest shield.

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Readings for the week of March 1, 2009

Sunday:	Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
Monday:	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/ Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11/ Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday:	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday:	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Carol Grillo*.
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 ...

Lucas Anderson, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Deacon Steve Behar, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Howard Campkin, Michael Ciotkosz, Regina Cranor, Karen DellaVecchia, Marge Flem, James, Jr. & Julia Florio (infants), Susan Gigante, Alice Hallahan, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Veronica Hopkins, Kathleen Kerrigan, Kara Lobasso, Baby Josephine Mahan, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Eleanor McGee, Florence McLoughlin, Dorothy Meloni, Brenden Muldoon, Frances Parine, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Joe Radosti, James Randazzo, Patricia Salimbene, Patricia Santangelo, Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Derek Stahl, Mary Clair Stephen, Diana Marie Taveras, Charlie Tibbetts, Baby John Tramazzo, Jean Virgilio, Pat Wallace, Flo Worysz, Rosemarie Wurmser

Out of Reach: Dental Care for the Poor & Uninsured, Pt. 1

MICAH*: An Interfaith Campaign to End Poverty on Long Island
(*Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger)

“Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.” Micah, 6:8

The Surgeon General’s recent report states that oral health is essential to the general health and well-being of all Americans. Although we fight to promote universal health coverage for all, dentists and advocates for the poor complain that dental care remains a “neglected stepchild among health priorities”. Dental care is one of the most difficult health care services for poor and uninsured people to obtain throughout the country and it is recognized as the single greatest unmet healthcare need here on Long Island.

Poor oral health and delays in getting treatment are the root causes of many life-threatening and expensive medical problems that contribute to an overloaded health-care system. Oral infections lead to health problems as serious as heart attacks and strokes. Having missing teeth interferes with chewing and contributes to a poor diet or malnutrition. And it affects a person’s speech, appearance, and self esteem which may inhibit securing decent employment.

Medicaid, the government health plan for the poor, offers free dental coverage, but stopped paying for root canal procedures for adults after budget cuts in 2003. Many who have government assistance are finding it tougher to get help because dentists often won’t accept Medicaid due to low reimbursement rates and too many paperwork hassles. The tragedy here is that time should not have to be spent making dozens of phone calls for hours on end, to find a dentist who accepts Medicaid, especially during a medical emergency.

The federal government requires state Medicaid programs to cover oral health care for children, but since there is a shortage of dentists willing to treat beneficiaries, we see the poorest children who are on Medicaid suffering without the dental attention that their rights afford them. In 2007, the death of 12-year old Deamonte Driver who died after bacteria from a tooth abscess spread to his brain, revealed access to dental care problems and the failings of Maryland’s Medicaid dental program. Fewer than one-third of Maryland’s Medicaid children were seen by a dentist in 2005, a statistic that is typical of the problem nationwide. In 2000, the Surgeon General reported that tooth decay was the most chronic ailment for children and poor children were most at risk. Though 8 million kids lack health care, three times as many— more than 25 million, don’t have dental care.

Access to dental care for low-income families also can be complicated by lack of transportation, periods of homelessness, difficulty missing work, and interrupted telephone and mail services. According to experts, tooth decay is the most common childhood disease nationwide, and children living in poverty suffer twice as much tooth decay as their more affluent peers, while their disease is more likely to go untreated.

Barriers to dental health care access include: *The dental components in Medicaid and SCHIP are chronically underfunded. *Federal law mandates that Medicaid cover basic preventive and restorative services. But many state programs fail to deliver care to even half of their eligible children. *About one-third of public water systems are not fluoridated, yet it is the single most effective public health measure to protect against tooth decay. Please see next weekend’s insert for a discussion on solutions to the access to dental care issue.

To learn more about the MICAH campaign, contact Rev. Thomas Goodhue at the L.I. Council of Churches (tomgoodhue@optonline.net) or LICC Advocacy Director Neelofer Chaudry (nchaudry@aol.com)

Parish Outreach

Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

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



Pantry Needs

baked beans
boxed potatoes
boxed rice
canned meat
cookies
crackers
hot chocolate
mayonnaise

Outreach Memorial Donations

Parish Outreach has received many donations in memory of loved ones.

- Donations in memory of *John Lodespoto* have been made to Outreach by Marge Cassiano and Anne Basso.
- Doris and Doug Cameron have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Eleanor Cornell* and *Ray Brogan*.
- Pat and Carl Falco have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Helen Falco* and *Ellen Brown*.

If you would like to make a donation to Parish Outreach in memory of a loved one, please call Mary McMahan, Director of Parish Social Ministry at 661.3224, option 4.

How Do You Hear a Heartbeat?

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

At the end of her novel, *A Map of Glass*, Jane Urquhart, has her heroine, Sylvia, recall how her father, a doctor, once gave her a toy stethoscope as a gift when she was a little girl. She was fascinated with it: "I loved the little silver bell at the end of the double hose, a bell I could place against my chest in order to listen to the drum, to the pounding music of my own complicated, fascinating heart."

Our hearts are complicated and fascinating and we'd all be gentler with ourselves and find our lives more interesting if we listened more regularly to their beat. That's also the secret in our relationship with Christ. We need to put a stethoscope to his heart and listen to its complex and fascinating rhythms. How do we do this?

In the Gospel of John we're given a mystical image for this. In John's account of the Last Supper, he has a disciple, whom he describes as "the one whom Jesus loved", reclining on the breast of Jesus. Obviously this connotes a deep intimacy, but it's also meant to convey something else. If you lean your ear on someone's chest you are able to hear that person's heartbeat and that sound eventually begins to gently reverberate throughout your own body.

So this is the image, the image of perfect discipleship for John: We are "the one whom Jesus loves" and we need to have our heads on Jesus' breast so as to hear his heartbeat and, from there, look out at the world. Being attuned to Christ's heartbeat and reclining in solace and intimacy on his breast will give us both the vision and the sustenance we need to live our lives as we should.

As we know, "the one whom Jesus loved" in John (historically this might have been John himself) is meant to refer to every one of us. Each of us is to be the "beloved disciple", the one who reclines on Jesus' breast in special intimacy. For John, this constitutes the very heart of discipleship and dwarfs everything else (charism, church office, even prophecy) in terms of what's important. Indeed, at the Last Supper, Peter (the pope, the leader of the church) cannot even talk to Jesus directly, but must ask his question through the "beloved disciple". That's John's way of saying that intimacy with Jesus is more important than any charism or leadership role.

And that's our call, to have the kind of intimacy with Christ that has us reclining on his breast, hearing his

heartbeat, and looking out at the world from that perspective. But how do we do that practically?

To recline on Jesus' breast is not the image William Blake so brilliantly describes in his poem, *Infant Sorrow*, where fear and hurt suggest it's best "to sulk upon my mother's breast." In this case, our eyes are turned inward, or are closed, and what we are seeking is only comfort. John's image says something more.

His is an image of the intimacy of lovers, where the bond of intimacy offers deep comfort but also attunes one heart to the other in such a way that energy and strength flow out, first from the one who is doing the consoling and then from the one who is drawing that consolation.

The image works this way: We are to put our heads on Christ's breast, feel that intimacy, hear his heartbeat, be filled with the comfort of that, and then let the energy and strength we feel there flow out, through us, into the world. And that is meant to fill us with the vision and sustenance we need to live as we should.

In terms of vision: When we are listening to Christ's heartbeat and looking out at the world from there, we will see what it means to love purely, beyond ideology, beyond being liberal or conservative, beyond different schools of thought, and beyond our opinions and those of others. We will also have a vision of self-sacrifice, beyond our own comfort, own ambitions, and society's sincere, though shrunken, capacity to renounce pleasure and the immediate for something deeper and more meaningful long-range.

In terms of sustenance: When we are listening to Christ's heartbeat, feeling his comfort, and looking out at the world from there, we will also more easily find the strength to keep our hearts soft when everything beckons us to be hard, our tongues gentle when everything is gossip and slander, and ourselves aware of others' gifts when all around there is jealousy. We will more easily find the capacity to forgive despite our wounds, to live chastity inside an over-stimulated culture, to see beauty inside dram and duty, to see the sacred inside of the humdrum, and to remain aware of God's presence inside a godlessness that sometimes overwhelms us.

Our sensitivity must be a stethoscope that hears the beat of the complex and fascinating heart of Christ.

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.

Financial Summary

February 22, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 17,740.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (1,260.00)

The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs and salaries is \$19,000.

Mass Attendance

	February 22
5 PM	492
8 AM	194
9:30 AM	463
11 AM	368
12:30 PM	259
"The Six"	257
TOTAL	2033
2008	2014

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
Danielle DiLapi-US Army
James J. Ferrara-US Marines
John Finn-US Army
Christopher Florca-US Marines
Donnie Frank-US Marines
Edward A. Kelly, IV-US Air Force
Michael Mallimo- US Army
Anthony Mannino-US Marines
Trent Narra-US Marines
Peter Provenzano-US Army
Frank Silva-US Army

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

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Court Bishop McDonnell #1403 invites women of the parish to join us in "Unity and Charity." Annual membership induction celebration will be **Saturday, March 7 at 9 AM in St. Joseph Church, Babylon** followed by breakfast at Lily Flanagan's. For information, please call Diane at 587.3621.

Holy Family DHS

Class of '79 is holding its 30th year reunion at the Smithtown Sheraton, July 18, 2009. Please send your contact info, and any other classmate's info you might have, to info@reunionsofamerica.com or call (631) 266-1836. Feel free to chat with your former classmates on facebook.com; *Holy Family High School Class of 1979*.

Ronan Tynan in Concert

St. Michael's Church (4th Ave., Brooklyn) is hosting a Benefit concert with the famous Irish Tenor-Ronan Tynan. Please join us on **March 15 at 4 PM**. Tickets for the concert are \$50 and all proceeds to benefit Firefighter Daniel Pujdak Memorial Fund and St. Michael's Church. For reservations and information, please call 718.768.6065.

"Fill My Heart with Peace" Bereavement Conference

For the bereaved and those ministering to them – all faiths welcome. Sponsored by Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Rockville Centre on **Saturday, March 21** from 8:30 AM until 5:30 PM at Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale. The day features an opening keynote by Antoinette Bosco, Ph.D., award winning syndicated columnist and author, bereaved mother of three children, conference bookstore and closing Eucharistic Celebration. For registration and further information, please call 516.334.7990, extension 120 or 122.

Chinese Auction

A food pantry fundraiser sponsored by the Columbiettes. To be held at **Our Lady of Grace Church, West Babylon in Fr. Shanahan Hall on Saturday, March 7 from 1 PM until 4 PM**. Doors open at noon and admission is \$5 per person. Ticket price includes 25 tickets, coffee, tea and desserts. For ticket information, please call Annette at 661.9056.

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. The show is also available on Sirius Radio, Channel 159 at 11 PM on Saturday.

Next Sunday's theme is "**Sacrifice.**" Don't miss it!

To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go to www.religionandrock.com. Don't forget to tune into TELECARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 271 for the Best in Catholic Television!

Sharing the Gospel

In today's Gospel, Jesus spent forty days in the desert. Jesus stayed close to God, and he followed God's directions every day of his life.

When Satan came to test Jesus he was ready. Jesus passed every test beautifully. He said "No" to temptation. When you write spelling words over and over, it is easier to remember them. If

you are learning a new language, it helps to make flash cards to practice with. Once you memorize all your words, taking the test is pretty easy. The more you read the Bible and do what God asks in his word, the easier it will be for you to pass Satan's tests, too.



Prayer



God, help me to stay close to you so that I am ready for my tests.



Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

SPIRIT
JESUS
DESERT

FORTY
SATAN
TESTED

ANIMALS
ANGELS
BELIEVE

E S Y T U O I G U F E
R A N I M A L S J O R
I T G S Y N O E A R I
S A L O F G D N S T N
T N E T A E S J I Y O
E M S B E L I E V E S
S U O J T S R S O S U
T S P I R I T U P A T
E L A D L U N S E D Y
D E S E R T M I R O N
O T I M Y B A L Y T A

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Mission for the Week



Memorize Proverbs 1:3, "You will learn what is right and honest and fair." Practice writing it and saying it every day, until you know this verse by heart.

Something



to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus helping you remember Bible verses.