

*"For God so loved the world that
he gave his only son."*



*Fourth Sunday of Lent
Our Lady of Lourdes
March 22, 2009*



Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano
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. Robert Scheckenback

Associate Pastor

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 Scorcio

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 Scorcio

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

Our Lenten journey has begun....

“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

...have you noticed?

Lent 2009

Jesus, Remember Me

We are beginning our Lenten liturgies in a more solemn tone. The Taize hymn, “Jesus Remember Me” certainly sets a different tone to our Lenten liturgies and prayer services. This stark beginning is a great contrast to what we will hear at the end of the Lenten journey with the great Triduum feasts and the celebration of Easter!

Environment

Our plants are gone – our greens have turned into purples and we are going through a time of great conversion and opportunity. We are reminded of the penitential nature of this season and called to long – through prayer – for the great sights, sounds and experiences of the new life that Easter can bring. Special thanks to our wonderful Art and Environment Ministry that works so hard behind the scenes to make so much come together.

Water

You’ll notice the holy water holders at the doors of the Church are taken away during Lent. Our entrance into Church is a clear sign that desert experience has begun. This is not a liturgical act – in the sense that the Church requires it or calls for it – rather it is an effort to raise our awareness to the tenor and tone of the season. You’ll see and hear our Baptismal font throughout the Lenten season. While we focus on the desert in these days we are also called to the waters of Baptism as we journey with the women and men of the RCIA and the stories of Scripture this Lent. So this Lent, come to the font and unite your journey with the water of life. Our holy water holders, at the doors, will be refilled at the Great Vigil on April 11.

Penitential Rite

We begin Mass a little differently during Lent. Our Penitential Rite – which is usually led by one of our deacons – is sung during Lent. The tune is basic and one that we have used in the past. Join in as we seek God’s mercy during these 40 days.

Stations of the Cross

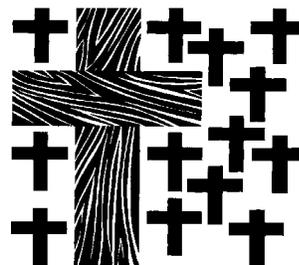
We remember the road to Jesus’ death and link his journey to our own as our parish’s deacons lead us through this beautiful devotion. Come and pray with us...

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WEEK

FAITH + FUN + FAMILY



*Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom;
Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.*

This refrain has been our Lenten prayer as we gather each week to worship together as a parish family. **Remembrance** is a significant quality which holds great meaning for us as a community....

To **remember** someone is to make them part of the whole of our lives – whether through memory or through action. At this time, the Diocese of Rockville Centre and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family celebrates Religious Education Week — a time to **remember** the many experiences, whether liturgical, catechetical or service which call all of us to holiness through the ministry of Faith Formation.

As the Directors of Religious Education here at Our Lady of Lourdes, we ask you to **remember** the people who share their giftedness and contribute to this life-giving experience.

We **remember** with gratitude, first and foremost, every member of our Parish Family for your generosity in supporting us with your prayer and your presence at the many activities that take place here. Each year, all who participate acknowledge the love and support they receive from you.

We **remember** the generosity and commitment of our 180 catechists who share their faith with our 2400 students and the members of our community, and whose love of God touches all whose needs are met here. The children especially have a sense of belonging because of your warmth and welcome.

We **remember** the parents, grandparents, relatives and friends who share their time and talent in the many behind-the-scenes activities which support our mission of religious education.

We **remember** all our ministries and the members of the Pastoral Team whose dedication and zeal allow us to proclaim the goals of our Parish Family Mission and Vision statements together as the Body of Christ.

*With love,
Sister Nancy and Sister Diane*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WEEK

FAITH + FUN + FAMILY



Be a part of this Special Week...

**OLL Parish Family and the
Diocese of Rockville Centre celebrate
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WEEK
Sunday, March 15 – Sunday, March 22, 2009**

FAITH + FUN + FAMILY

TODAY... Sunday, March 22...

Celebrate Religious Education Week at OLL

AT THE "9:30"...

+FAITH+... Please join us... at the 9:30 AM Mass
Welcome our Catechist as she shares her faith journey

+FUN+... After 9:30am Mass... come down to the Cafeteria... Bagel Breakfast...
See Religious Ed in action on DVD... Listen to "our student speakers"
STAY... Come, be a part of +FUN+ with Religious Education

+FAMILY+... *All are Welcome in our Parish Family...*
especially Grades 1/2/3/4 and their families

AND AT THE "SIX"...

+FAITH+... Please join us... at the 6pm Mass
Welcome our Catechist as he shares his faith journey

+FUN+... after 6 PM Mass... hang around for... Tostitos and Salsa...
Open Gym for all... Basketball, volleyball,
STAY... Come be a part of

+FUN+ with Religious Education

+FAMILY+... *All are Welcome in our Parish Family...*
especially Grades 5/6/7/8/High School and their families

OLL's Sixth Annual Mission Trip to El Salvador

Help us raise money for OLL's Sixth Annual Mission Trip to El Salvador

Cash for Gold Party!

Make some extra cash for yourself while helping our Mission Trip!

When: Sunday, March 22, from 10 AM until 1 PM in the Parish Center.

Do you have mismatched earrings, broken chains, outdated jewelry that has been laying around for years? This is your chance to cash it in for some extra money, while helping our Mission Trip.

Representatives from Cash for Gold will be on hand to appraise and weigh your gold, and give you cash instead! All we ask for is a voluntary donation from your proceeds; you can give as much or as little as you like. Bring your gold to the PC on March 22, and members of our mission trip will serve you coffee and juice while your gold is appraised. It's a win-win for all!!

Super Easter Chocolate Sale

On Palm Sunday (April 4/5), members of our El Salvador Mission Group will once again be selling homemade chocolate candy after all masses to benefit our trip and our Sister Parish.

Please come and buy your Easter candy from us!

Rite of Election

Recently, members of our parish community gathered with Bishop Murphy and others throughout Suffolk County preparing for the Sacrament of Baptism at the Great Vigil on April 11, at 7:30 PM. *Jeannette D'Angelo and Hung Lu* presented themselves before the Bishop and then signed the Book of Elect.

Now they are no longer catechumens, but "The Elect". They now serve as a reminder to us of the power of God's call to Baptism. Let's pray for them, for our parish's candidates and for our RCIA team as we are entering the final stages of preparing for the Easter sacraments.

Students enjoy F.A.S.T. Sports Program

Students at Our Lady of Lourdes School in West Islip are enjoying the variety of sports being played through their new F.A.S.T. (fitness, agility, skills, teamwork) Athletics Program offered as part of their after school enrichment.

Started by former athletes, this program is available to all schools for kids of all skill levels, who are encouraged and motivated to be the best they can be, along with enhancement of confidence, aerobic activity, teamwork and sportsmanship.

So well received was this program that the school has invited the F.A.S.T. Athletics team to return and host the sports based activities of their new Discovery Summer Camp, open to all school children entering K-7, which will run through July. Anyone interested can contact Lisa Kennedy at 631.587.7200, ext.100.

Jesus is the Answer! What's the Question?

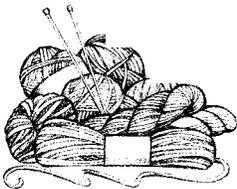


**Tuesdays - March 24, 31 and April 7
7:30 - 9:30 PM
Parish Center
Presenter: Fr. Bob Scheckenback**

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.

Upcoming Marriages

*Amanda Nathanson, St. Raymond's, East Rockaway
and Edward Kelly, OLL*

Rest In Peace



Andre Nunziato died on March 5 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 9. We extend our prayers to his wife, Maria, children and entire family,

Joseph J. Billott died on March 9 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 12. We extend our prayers to his wife, Mary, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and entire family.

Patricia Quirk died on March 10 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 12. We extend our prayers to her son, Michael and entire family.

Charles H. Tibbetts died on March 9 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 13. We extend our prayers to his wife, Dolores and entire family.

Edward P. Gallagher died on March 10 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 13. We extend our prayers to his son, John, grandchildren, and entire family.

Remembering . . .

Monday, March 23

8:00 AM John Varley

Tuesday, March 24

8:00 AM Frank Barba

Wednesday, March 25

Annunciation of the Lord

8:00 AM Frank & Sara Falco

Thursday, March 26

8:00 AM Rita Dunne

Friday, March 27

8:00 AM Lee Albert Bridges

Saturday, March 28

8:00 AM Henry (Bud) McColgan, Dennis Radesky, Jean Cilluffo,
Dorothy Olsen, Charles Van Manen, Grace Accardi,
Victor Rafinski, Gerald Cunningham, In Thanksgiving to St. Rita

5:00 PM Steven Perone

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Sunday, March 29

8:00 AM Camille & Lawrence Narissi
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

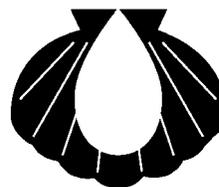
9:30 AM Mary Laino
Fr. Mike Vetrano

11:00 AM Elizabeth & Charles Homann
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

12:30 PM Russell Benson
Fr. Mike Vetrano

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Maureen V. Kania-Wright, Thomas Izzo,
Joseph Sullivan, Kenneth C. Anderson II, Elizabeth Lattari,
James Granato, Charles Stropoli, Mary Agnello, Robert Mariani,
Gregory Lamb (*living*), Robert J. Meehan, Sr.
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Baptisms



Sara Marisa Crosley

Steven and Connie

Dylan James Keiser

Christopher and Jaime

Robert Thomas Longobardi

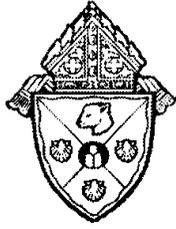
Michael and Denise

Antonio Luigi Mazzeo

Louis and Kelly

Matthew Vincent Pulito

Vito and Antonia



Catholic Ministries Appeal

CMA NEWS

"Supporting the Community Around Us"

Catholic Charities

With more than 130 programs at 60 sites across Long Island, Catholic Charities touches the lives of more than 50,000 people each year. Their programs include services for children and families, people who are poor or disadvantaged, senior citizens or those who have developmental or physical disabilities.

Pastoral Outreach

Pastoral Outreach helps bring together the Church on Long Island with people from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. It brings together our youth and young adults, and allows us to welcome the stranger, care for the sick and give guidance and support to those in prison.

Formation

The future of the Catholic Church is strengthened by the number of men and women who answer God's call to a religious vocation. In 2008, the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception was blessed with the ordination of 12 men to the priesthood, nine of whom are now priests serving within the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Since 1988, the Catholic Ministries Appeal has also helped to fund the Pastoral Formation Institute (PFI). More than 16,000 individuals have successfully graduated from PFI and they are putting their fine-tuned skills to good use by bringing their knowledge and unique insight to their varied ministries and services within our Diocese.

Our Parishes

Our parishes are where we celebrate some of the most meaningful occasions in our lives. Through Parish Outreach programs, available at more than 110 of the 133 parishes, it is also where we turn in our time of need. Each of these parishes has a unique program, many offering food, clothing, shelter, and other critical forms of support.

Education

More than 22,000 students receive their education from the 53 diocesan elementary and 3 diocesan high schools on Long Island. Besides a strong tradition of academic excellence, which for 99% of graduates includes pursuing a college degree, our schools foster a strong sense of Catholic values and a love for our religious heritage.

2009 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

PO BOX 4000 • ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11571-4000 • www.drvc.org

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
\$ 250	\$ 25
\$ 150	\$ 15
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.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, March 24**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

Bereavement Group

The loss of someone close to us is one of the most difficult experiences in life. Someone who brought you joy, someone who gave you love, perhaps even someone who gave you life itself is gone, and no matter how much you have prepared yourself for the experience and the loss, no one is quite prepared enough.

Our bereavement support group will be starting on **April 15 from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM**, and we will be meeting for six weeks. If you would like to be part of our group, please contact the Parish Office at 661-3224, Ext. 120 to register.

Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group

The Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group meets each **Thursday afternoon** in the **Church**. The meeting is from **3 PM until 4 PM** in front of the **Blessed Sacrament**.

Good Samaritan Prayer Group of L.I.

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

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

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.



©LPi

4th Sunday of Lent

I want you to try something on your next birthday. When you've gathered with family or friends, and you have enjoyed a nice meal and maybe a little cake (but not too much!), gather the unopened gifts that may have been brought for you and have someone put them on a table just out of your reach. Then, as everyone gathers around you ready to listen to you read the cards and tear off the wrapping paper, tell them that even though you can see the gifts and you know they were given with love, you're not going to open them right now because it's too hard to reach across the table to them. Imagine their reaction!

It is probably one of the most well-known and oft-recited passages in the Bible and is part of today's Gospel reading from John: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." In this simple yet so very powerful sentence, we are told that we all are recipients of the greatest gift ever given-eternal life-and all we need to do is to believe. We would never leave a birthday present unwrapped; why, then, do so many choose not to believe? Why do they choose not to unwrap the greatest gift that will ever be given to them?

Whether one attends Mass on a daily or weekly basis, we are forever invited to share in the gift that is Jesus Christ through the sharing of the Eucharist (CCC 1336). When we can finally accept the love from God that was manifested in Jesus himself, and further accept Jesus' gift to us of the redemption of our sins through his willingness to die on the cross, then we will truly live in the glory of eternal life. On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, give thanks for not only for our smaller gifts, but for the greatest gift of all.

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Readings for the week of March 22, 2009

Sunday:	2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21
Monday:	Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday:	Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday:	Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38 (<i>Annunciation</i>)
Thursday:	Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47
Friday:	Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday:	Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53
Next Sunday:	Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33

Easter Flower Offering

The deadline for Easter Flower Offerings, so that they appear in the Easter bulletin, is March 29. Flower offerings received after this date will appear in subsequent bulletins.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Rose Grant*.
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, Matthew Badamo, Deacon Dick Barry, Deacon Steve Behar, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Alex Cavalcante, Howard Campkin, Michael Ciotkosz, Regina Cranor, Charles Diesso, Marge Flem, James, Jr. & Julia Florio (infants), Susan Gigante, Baby Brady James Hicks, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Veronica Hopkins, Kathleen Kerrigan, Gregory Lamb, Kara Lobasso, Baby Josephine Mahan, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Eleanor McGee, Florence McLoughlin, Dorothy Meloni, Rae Morris, Brenden Muldoon, Frances Parine, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Mary Quinn, Joe Radosti, James Randazzo, James Reilly, Patricia Salimbene, Patricia Santangelo, Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Mary Clair Stephen, Diana Marie Taveras, Baby John Tramazzo, Vincent Trincilla, Marie Turano, Jean Virgilio, Pat Wallace, Flo Worysz, Rosemarie Wurmser

It's a Mardi Gras Thing!

Two weeks post-Mardi Gras and we have just finally cleared out the shredded paper from the Needle in the Haystack Game. The remaining purple and green beads have been put away. We are now into the season of Lent and Mardi Gras is a memory- a wonderful memory to be sure and if you missed it... don't worry, this year's success has guaranteed the Mardi Gras a place on next year's calendar.



Our Mardi Gras could not have been the event it was without the help of so many people. A big shout out of thanks to the "Purple Shirts"-the many people who came early to help set-up/decorate, supervise the games, and stayed to help clean up. Special thanks to:

High School Hangout Leaders:

Kasey Doherty, Alex DaSilva, Nina Rossiello, Peter Rossiello, David Rodriguez, Jenny Sparby, Nicole Parisi, Nicole Kuchler, Brian Lewis, Dan Sierra, Billy Martin, Kelly Bartley, Dan Frodell,

Justina Russo, Patrick Collins, Dan Volk, James Messina, Danielle Cintorino.

More Kids to Thank:

*Joseph Parisi-5th Grade Religious Ed.
Gina Parisi-6th Grade Religious Ed.
Amy Kuchler-6th Grade Religious Ed.
Erik Sparby and Friend-6th Grade Religious Ed.
Michael Trujillo-7th Grade Religious Ed.
Leanne Scorgia- 8th Grade Religious Ed.
Gabriella Zollo- 8th Grade Religious Ed.*



The McAllister Family-they worked the balloon darts! Phew..the most popular attraction!

Adults:

Mrs. Veronica Parisi, Mrs. Laura Lewis, Mrs. Christina Macina, Mrs. Flynn, Mrs. Rita Vandenburg, Mrs. Joanne Maher.

College Students:

Caterina DaSilva and Christina Trujillo.

Thanks too, to those who donated items for the Chinese Auction-this was a huge success. To Deacon Tom Lucie and his wife, Maria, for the donation of juice boxes. To the Family Liturgy Committee for the smooth transition into Mass.



Special mention to Dave Brethel who donated his time as DJ and to Jennifer Rahner who painted wonderful designs on the childrens faces!

An Honorable Mention to all my steadfast Outreach Volunteers who tolerate all my misery the week before an event and then faithfully show up and work the event. Finally, one big THANK YOU to Sister Nancy- who brought in all the Purple Shirt Kids, reminded me constantly that God was in charge, so, of course, the event would be a success, and for her presence!

A slide show of the Mardi Gras is available on our homepage - www.ollchurch.org

Parish Outreach

Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

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



Pantry Needs

canned pasta, ravioli, etc.
chili
macaroni & cheese
pasta
tomato sauce

Great Loss

On Friday, March 13, Outreach lost a faithful and loyal volunteer. Ann Nardone died peacefully while in Good Samaritan Hospital. Most recently, Ann worked at the Outreach desk on Monday mornings. Ann was devoted to the work of Outreach, she offered a calm and reassuring presence to all who came for assistance. Always quick to offer a smile and warm words of support and encouragement, Ann will be missed by clients and volunteers alike.

Outreach would like to acknowledge offerings made in Ann's memory.

Pat and Carl Falco

Anne Basso

Fran and William Angeloro

Ruth Hiller

Pat Wallace

Please continue to remember Ann and her family in your prayers.

Outreach Memorial Donations

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

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

Mass Attendance

March 15

5 PM	535
8 AM	207
9:30 AM	345
11 AM	360
12:30 PM	276
"The Six"	361
TOTAL	2084

Helping Simon of Cyrene Carry Jesus' Cross *by Ron Rolheiser, OMI*

"It seems as though through purely earthly accidents we are made responsible for what is heavenly and divine."

Karl Rahner wrote those words to describe what happened to Saint Joseph when he was asked by an angel to be the husband to Mary and support her in the birth and raising of Jesus: "Take the child to yourself." Something of God was entrusted into his care, not because he wanted it, planned it, or because he himself was central to the event. He was asked to do something simply because of circumstance, because he was engaged to someone inside a great drama. Moreover, what he was asked to do radically reshaped his life in a way not according to his own choosing.

Rahner's words are just as accurate when applied to Simon of Cyrene, the man conscripted to help Jesus carry his cross. The Passion accounts tell us that, when Jesus was too weak and wearied to carry the cross, a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene was forced to help him carry it.

We aren't given any details as to how this happened other than that Simon was someone who was incidentally there, a "passer-by", a victim of circumstance. This was not something for which he had planned or volunteered. He was merely at the wrong place at the wrong time. No doubt too, being conscripted to help carry the cross was an irritation and something humbling and shameful for him (guilt by association with a condemned criminal). Helping a scorned person carry his or her humiliation in front of a jeering crowd doesn't exactly bring the same reaction as helping Tiger Woods carry his golf clubs.

Whatever Simon's feelings, there can be no doubt that helping Jesus carry his cross was something that was unwanted, unpleasant, and was experienced at the time as an unfairness, bad luck.

Yet, ironically, this would be the most significant thing he would do in his whole life, earning him a place in history and folklore that can only be envied by the most famous of athletes, entertainers, politicians, writers, and religious figures. Simon of Cyrene will forever be famous. Thousands of years from now his name will still be remembered - and for the right reason, he helped carry the cross of Jesus.

There's a wonderful mystical image here, namely, the picture of a man or woman being victimized by circumstance so that he or she, simply by being at a given place at a given time, is conscripted to do a task that is unwanted, unplanned for, humbling, disruptive of his or her own agenda and dreams, and yet this unwanted thing becomes, in the end, the most important thing he or she will ever do.

How does that happen to you? How do you become a Simon of Cyrene, helping Jesus carry his cross?

The cross of Jesus appears in many forms: Whenever you are the one who has to take care of an aging parent because circumstance arranges that you are the one who happens to be living close by; whenever you are the parent of a handicapped child and are asked to do things ordinary parents aren't asked to do; whenever you are the one to whom the emotionally needy person at work chooses to reach out; whenever you are the one whose gentle nature makes it difficult to say no and people take advantage of you; whenever you are the one who is the first at the scene of an accident; whenever you are the one whom the drunk accosts on the side-walk; whenever you are the one who forever finds herself caught up in duties not of your own choosing that always have you around when the less-glamorous work needs to be done; whenever you are the one whose plans and dreams can be sacrificed because everyone else's are deemed more important; whenever you're the one whose life is disrupted by unwanted circumstance, you are Simon of Cyrene, helping Jesus carry the cross.

Simon of Cyrene was not central to the drama or meaning of Jesus' passion and death. He was an unimportant figure who happened to be standing at the edges of things when the drama accidentally enfolded him and forced him to play an un-glamorous, self-effacing, but needed, role. His own agenda and plans had to be sacrificed and his response was, no doubt, less than fully enthusiastic. Yet this unplanned for, conscripted, humble service became the most important thing he ever did, his signature piece, and gave him a place in history beyond the thousands and millions whose place in the drama of life was deemed important.

There's a lesson here: Henri Nouwen once wrote "I used to get upset about all the interruptions to my work until one day I realized that the interruptions were my real work."

Pure earthly accidents often do make us responsible for what is divine and they conscript us to our real work.

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

March 15, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 20,604.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 1,604.00

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

Members in the Military

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

They are:

Bryan R. Dempsey-*US Marines*

Danielle DiLapi-*US Army*

James J. Ferrara-*US Marines*

John Finn-*US Army*

Christopher Florca-*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.

Our whole parish family rejoices with the Frank Family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty. **Donnie Frank** -*US Marines* has returned to the United States safe and sound from his tour of duty. Thank you, Donnie, for your generous service to our country! The Frank Family would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family for all of their prayers.

Catholic Men's Conference - Diocese of Rockville Centre

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, April 25

Holy Trinity High School, Hicksville

For additional information, visit the conference website at www.catholicmensministry.net or call 516.678.5000, extension 1234.

Contact Jack Fitzgerald at 587.5548 if you plan to attend.

Golden Wedding Jubilee

On Sunday, April 26, 2009, couples married 50 years or more are invited to a special Mass to be celebrated by Bishop William Murphy at St. Lawrence the Martyr, Sayville, at 3 PM. Please pick up your registration card at the Parish Office no later than April 10. Information regarding the day will be mailed to you approximately one week before the ceremony. If you have any questions, you may call 516.678.5800, extension 242.

Gennasaret Retreat

A retreat especially designed for persons who live with a serious illness is planned May 1, 2, and 3, 2009 at Montfort Spirituality Center, Bay Shore. This retreat offers a respite, a quiet time, an oasis, to enable one to continue the journey. The retreat focuses on God's love, His forgiveness, and His faithfulness. To register or receive more information about this weekend, please call Colette at 631.665.7052.

Dominican Village

Please join us for an Open House on Saturday, March 28 from 1 PM until 3 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.

Religion & Rock

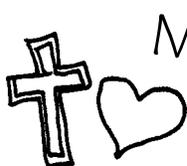
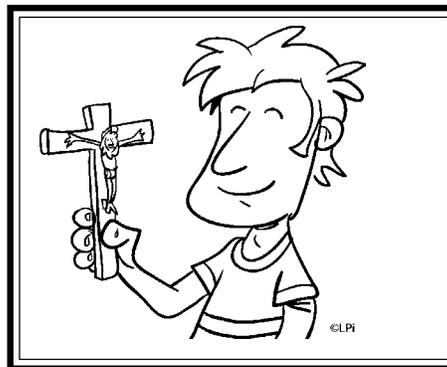
Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. The show is also available on Sirius Radio, Channel 159 at 11 PM on Saturday.

Next Sunday's theme is "**New Life.**" 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

When the Hebrews sinned in the desert, snakes came to bite them. Moses lifted up a metal snake in the desert. If God's people looked at the metal snake, their painful snake bites would be healed. Instead of dying from their snake bites, they would live. Our sins are a lot like those snake bites. Sins turn us away from God, hurt us, and hurt other people. When Jesus was lifted up on the cross, he washed our sins away. Jesus gave us healing and forgiveness. We don't need to die from our sins. We can believe in Jesus, follow God with our whole hearts, and live forever.



Mission for the Week

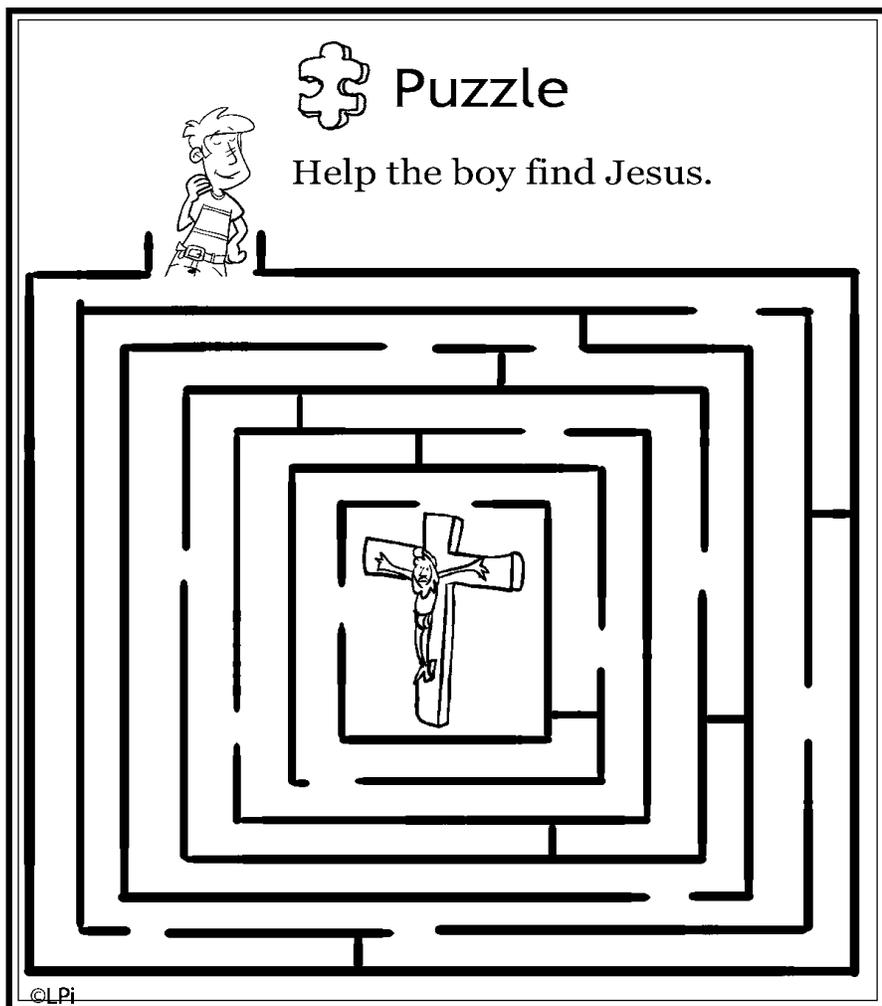
Help your parents wash dishes. As you take dirty dishes and wash them clean, talk about how Jesus washed our sins away on the cross.



Puzzle



Help the boy find Jesus.



Prayer

God,  thank you for sending Jesus to wash away my sins.



Draw a picture of Jesus on the cross. Around the cross, write down your sins in pencil, then erase them. This will show that Jesus has washed all of your sins away.