

*"If it dies,  
it produces much fruit."*



*Fifth Sunday of Lent  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
March 29, 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](mailto:ParishOffice@ollchurch.org)

fax: 661-7143

website: [www.ollchurch.org](http://www.ollchurch.org)

### **Our Lady of Lourdes School**

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: [lkrol@ollschool.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org)

## ...have you noticed?

### *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**

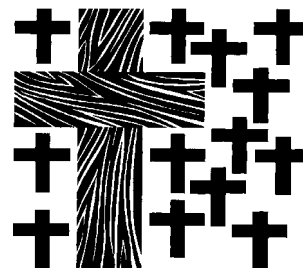
We remember the road to Jesus’ death and link his journey to our own as our parish’s deacons lead us through this beautiful devotion. Come and pray with us...

**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.



## Taize...Prayer Around the Cross

***PLEASE JOIN US  
FOR THIS EVENING OF PRAYER ...***

**Friday, April 3**

**7:45 PM in the Church following Stations of the Cross  
Carol Goetz, Parish Music Director**

### ***Looking for another way to pray?***

Taize is a form of worship that provides some time in our busy lives where we can stop and focus on the love of God.

Carol Goetz will lead us in prayer and song as we prepare to begin Holy Week this year.

Together we will share simple chants and prayers that will help guide us as we bring our concerns and hopes to the Lord.

### ***TAIZE ... and the San Damiano Cross***

The original San Damiano Cross, fashioned about the year 1100, hangs in Santa Chiara Church in Assisi. This was the cross through which St. Francis of Assisi received his commission from Christ: *"Rebuild my Church."* All Franciscans cherish the San Damiano Cross as the symbol of their mission from God to renew and rebuild the Church in the power of God.

## **St. Bernard League Updates!**

Our parish's St. Bernard League – hopefully – has wrapped up its work for the Winter season! We received some beautiful notes of appreciation and wanted to share them with our parish family!

### ***From the SAGE SISTERS:***

We spoke to "SAGES" this morning...in each conversation, somehow, the snow shoveling done by the Saint Bernards came up. Both of them expressed such gratitude for this. It took their worry away about how they would get the snow removed. What a great tradition this is - not only for the recipients of the service, but for the Saint Bernards themselves. We hope they know how much their work is appreciated.

Thank you for shoveling my driveway and front walk. My mother was brought into the house with no problem at all. I'd also like you to know that your kindness has made me feel connected to the parish. Surprising as it may be, I have felt disconnected from the parish, that while it offers many opportunities for me to serve, it has not served to fill my own needs.... Your corporal work of mercy (Is this ancient terminology still in use?) was, for me, a spiritual work of mercy. For this, I am most grateful.

Thank you so much for having the family from church come over and help shovel the snow. It really was a blessing. My car got stuck in the snow and could not be moved and they cleared it enough for my son to move the car. Thank you so much.....

This program involves families shoveling out some of the elderly and those most in need in our parish community. We are always in need of "St. Bernards"....so if you or your family can help out in 2010 (or even a little Spring or Fall clean up in 2009) please e-mail John Sureau at [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org) or call 661.3224, x. 135.

## Blessing of the Easter Foods

### Holy Saturday – 12 Noon – Church

The Easter Food Blessing is a custom associated with Poland, Russia, and the Ukraine. It takes place on Holy Saturday when the faithful bring baskets of food to church to be blessed. A basket may contain symbolic portions of any or all of the following: colorful Easter eggs, kielbasa, ham, farmers cheese, bread, babka, butter, horseradish, salt, pepper, onion, a candle, etc. Often the butter is molded in the shape of a lamb or a sugar lamb is included. The crowning touch is an Easter Lamb made out of cake or chocolate. Baskets are decorated with greenery or flowers. In Poland, boxwood and pussy willows often are used as well as straw palms wreaths. The baskets are covered with special linen, cotton, or crocheted cloths especially reserved for this purpose. In Poland, the entire meal is prepared and blessed on Holy Saturday as no cooking will be done by Mother on Easter Sunday. Whether you bring a loaf of bread and a few eggs or an entire meal, participating in the Easter Blessing is a beautiful tradition to begin or to continue.

*-Janet Loehr, OLL Liturgy Committee*

## Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a powerful way for our community to celebrate and pray for God's grace and healing. We celebrate this Sacrament every Saturday from 4:00 – 4:45 PM in the Church and always by appointment with a priest.

During Holy Week, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday, April 6, from 3 PM to 9 PM (*Special Family Reconciliation Service at 7 PM*) and Saturday, April 11, from 9:30 AM to 11 AM. Come and experience God's loving embrace this Lent and Holy Week!

## Mass for the Hearing Impaired

*Did you know Our Lady of Lourdes offers a Mass every Sunday for the hearing impaired?*

Our Sunday 12:30 PM Mass provides an opportunity for all to worship at the Table of the Lord! When you come to Our Lady of Lourdes, take a seat by the piano. Our interpreter signs from this location. All are welcome at Our Lady of Lourdes!

## What's the Rush?

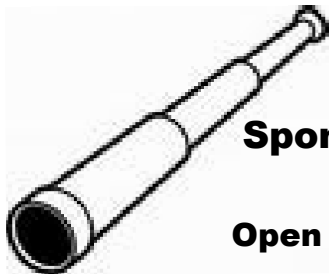
As we continue to pray so well as a parish community, we are always called to more in our prayer and action.

Part of what the liturgy calls us to is a stepping away from the business and "busy"ness of every day life. For at least one hour, we would pull ourselves away from work, family, commitments, shopping, etc. and give that hour over to prayer. The prayer calls us not only to bring ourselves but to also commit to praying on behalf of the community for the entire Mass.

If you are someone who has gotten into the habit of leaving early at Sunday Mass, please take some time to think, for yourself, what that is about? The community's prayer NEEDS you for the ENTIRE time – from beginning to end, from Entrance Hymn to Closing Hymn! Please give it some thought!

If you have any ideas or thoughts about how we can better address this, please contact John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org).

# DISCOVERY SUMMER CAMP



**Sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes**  
44 Toomey Road, West Islip, NY

**Open to all Children entering grades K – 7**

**Registration applications now being accepted!**  
**Four Week Program**  
**June 29th - July 24, 2009**  
**9am – 5pm, Monday thru Friday**

**Programs offered are as follows:**

**All classes are:**

- K – 1      \*Under the Sea \* or**  
**\*Dinosaurs\***
- 2 – 4      \*Space Camp\* or**  
**\*Rain Forest\***
- 5 – 7      \*Mind Games\* or**  
**\*Drama Camp\***

- 1/2 day of Academic Based Activities**
- 1/2 day of Sports Based Activities\***
- Bring a Bag Lunch and Snack**
- \*Sports provided by F.A.S.T**  
**Athletic**

**\*CIT program for students entering Grade 8 (no charge, limited space)**  
**High School and Parent Volunteers needed**

**AM and PM Extended Hours are Available**

<b>Early Registration Fee*:</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Registration Fee* After April 15<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Deposit*:</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Full Course Cost:</b>	<b>\$675.00</b>

**\*Deposit and registration fee are non-refundable/non-transferable.**  
**No refunds made after May 1, 2009.**

**For further information contact:**

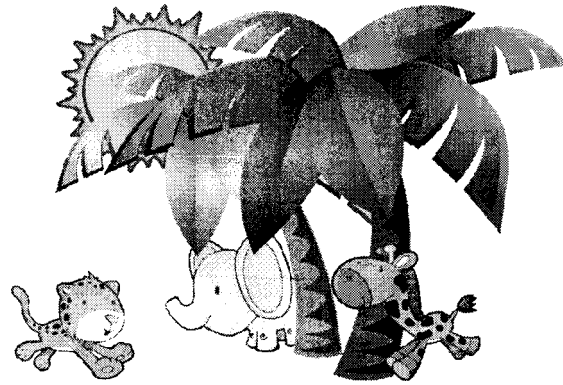
**Lisa Kennedy: 631.587.7200 ext. 100 or [LKennedy@OLLSchool.org](mailto:LKennedy@OLLSchool.org)**

**Check out our website: [www.OLLSchool.org](http://www.OLLSchool.org)**

**Applications and program descriptions can be found “in the Backpack” section of our website.**



# SAFARI Camp



**Our Lady of Lourdes  
NINTH Annual Vacation Bible Camp  
July 27-31, 2009  
Don't miss the fun!**

### *Where?*

Right on the grounds of Our Lady of Lourdes, which will be transformed into SAFARI Camp! (SAFARI stands for *S*haring *A*bout *F*aith and *R*el*I*gion)

### *What will we do?*

Our campers will participate in lots of fun daily activities: singing super songs, making cool crafts, participating in awesome safari-themed science activities, and learning about God through different Bible adventures! And, of course, there'll be snacks!

### *Who can come?*

Campers should presently be in Pre-K (age 4) through 5th grade.  
Students in grades 6-12: we need you as volunteer counselors and assistants!!

### *Who's running the camp?*

The camp director is Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, a school principal and part-time team member at OLL. She'll be working with a volunteer team of adults and teens from our parish family.

### *How much does it cost?*

The cost is \$75 per child. The fee includes all materials, snacks, crafts, and an official camp T-shirt!

### *How do I sign up?*

Fill out the registration form (which will be available at the school and religious ed. offices and will be in the bulletin in the beginning of June) and mail it to OLL at 455 Hunter Ave. (att. Jennifer Gallagher) with all fees by June 30.

### *Questions?*

Email [JenGallagher@ollchurch.org](mailto:JenGallagher@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



## Nocturnal Adoration

Nocturnal Adoration will follow the 5 PM Mass on **Saturday, April 4**, followed by Benediction at 9:50 PM. Please come and pray with us. All are invited and welcome! Bring a friend.

## 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)

## Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, April 5**. 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/Novena

### Rosary

Daily after 8 AM Mass

### Miraculous Medal Novena

Monday after 8 AM Mass

### Anointing of the Sick

Throughout the liturgical year.

If needed sooner, please call the Parish Office.

### Baptism

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

### Marriage

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

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults(RCIA)

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

## Mass Attendance

### March 22

5 PM	480
8 AM	246
9:30 AM	412
11 AM	359
12:30 PM	221
"The Six"	412
TOTAL	2130

# Remembering . . .



## Rest In Peace

Celebrating Sacraments

### Monday, March 30

8:00 AM Rose Monroe

*Grace Marie Accardi* died on March 4 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 9. We extend our prayers to her husband, Martin, children and entire family.

### Tuesday, March 31

8:00 AM Robert D. Colin

*Grace Hunter* died on March 10 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 16. We extend our prayers to her husband, Farold, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and entire family.

### Wednesday, April 1

8:00 AM Donald Bolin

### Thursday, April 2

*St. Franics of Paola, hermit*

8:00 AM William Smith

*Marianna A. (Ann) Nardone* died on March 13 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 18. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren and entire family.

### Friday, April 3

8:00 AM Joseph Mascaro

### Saturday, April 4

8:00 AM Danny Miranda, Mary Jean Wilkinson, Peter Schreiner, Ethel Reiger, Helen Toscani, Theresa Grasso, Carolyn Esser, Susan Esser, Grace Hunter, William Bernatovich

5:00 PM Kay Sullo

*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

### Sunday, April 5

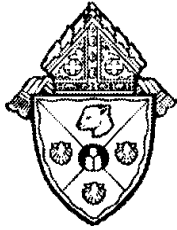
8:00 AM Loreto & Benedetto Fantuzzi  
*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

9:30 AM Francis Durante  
*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

11:00 AM James J. Werner  
*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

12:30 PM Tony Squeo  
*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Linda Francavilla, Thomas MacMonigle, Joseph Sullivan, Marilyn DiGiacomo, Edward Abramski, Jack Burnett, Salvatore Galasso, Mary Bardong, David McCarthy, Frank & Marge Raggio  
*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*



# Catholic Ministries Appeal

## CMA NEWS

*"Supporting the Community Around Us"*

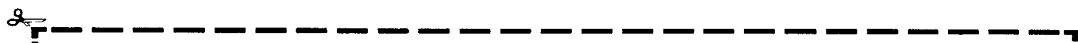
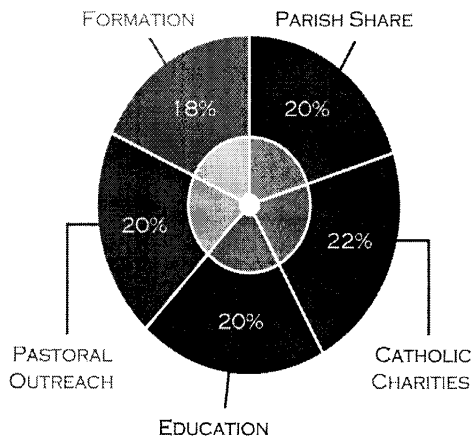
### Did you know...

Next to the Federal Government, the Catholic Church is the leader in providing Educational, Charitable and Social Services. To help us continue this trend, we need your gift!

*Our Lord is grateful to those who sacrifice in His Name to build the Kingdom of God. No gift is too small when it is offered with love to serve others.*

*100% of EVERY DOLLAR raised by the Catholic Ministries Appeal will be allocated as shown!*

**THANK YOU!**



catholic ministries appeal • diocese of rockville centre  
po box 4000 • rockville centre, new york 11571-4000 • [www.drvc.org/cma.html](http://www.drvc.org/cma.html)



### 2009 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

*Supporting the Community Around Us*

To provide funds I/we agree to make a gift of:

Pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Initial Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Balance \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature of Donor \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

#### A Guide To Giving

Pledge	8 Payments
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	\$125.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 500	62.50
<input type="checkbox"/> 250	31.25
<input type="checkbox"/> 150	18.75

**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.

**CMA-Catholic Ministries Appeal**

## **OLL's Sixth Annual Mission Trip to El Salvador**

### **Help us raise money for OLL's Sixth Annual Mission Trip to El Salvador Super Easter Chocolate Sale**

On Palm Sunday, April 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!

### **Senior Circle**

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, March 30, at 12:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

### **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.



## 5th Sunday of Lent

At a wedding recently, we were seated next to a retired couple we had not previously met. After introductions, the gentleman proceeded to share with us every detail of his life, beginning with his income and where he spent it, and then relished in telling us all of the famous people he had known and places he had traveled. It was clear that his ego and his desire for worldly possessions dominated his every thought. Like a panhandler, he begged for acceptance and praise, rattling the few coins of his existence in a tin cup that was his life. Never once did he mention his wife sitting next to him or the beautiful wedding we had all just attended. I realized that everything he valued would mean nothing after he was gone.

In today's Gospel reading from John, there is a quote from Jesus that is very much worth discussing. He says, "Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life." In this sense, Jesus is asking us to recognize that all of the things in this worldly life that we seem to value so greatly have no value whatsoever. This is how we "lose our life" and enjoy a new life in the loving arms of Jesus and can begin to bear the fruit of new life just as he describes with a grain of wheat, unable to bloom until it dies.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that our baptism is birth into a new life in Christ (CCC 1277). So, too, are we given an opportunity every day to renew this new life. In daily prayer, we are giving thanks for God's many blessings. We must also ask for assistance in "dying unto ourselves," giving up those things which have gathered around us and prevented us from living fully in the light of Christ.

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### Readings for the week of March 29, 2009

**Sunday:** Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33  
**Monday:** Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Jn 8:1-11  
**Tuesday:** Nm 21:4-9/Jn 8:21-30  
**Wednesday:** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Jn 8:31-42  
**Thursday:** Gn 17:3-9/Jn 8:51-59  
**Friday:** Jer 20:10-13/Jn 10:31-42  
**Saturday:** Ez 37:21-28/Jn 11:45-56  
**Next Sunday:** Mk 11:1-10  
*or* Jn 12:12-16 /Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1---15:47  
*or* 15:1-39

## 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 *Janet Loehr*.  
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, Nicholas Cibelli, 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, Laura Larocco, Kara Lobasso, Baby Josephine Mahan, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., 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, Jean Virgilio, Pat Wallace, Flo Worysz, Rosemarie Wurmser*

## **Albany Bill Targets the Catholic Church A.2596, Markey/S.2568, Duane**

The sexual abuse of children is a heinous crime. While a victim's physical pain and scars may fade, the emotional pain and scars often last a lifetime. It is true that in the past a small number of Catholic priests have been guilty of this grave evil. As men who represent the person of Christ in the celebration of the Eucharist, priests who commit such depraved acts not only subject themselves to criminal penalties, they also rightfully forfeit their right to ever again exercise their priestly ministry.

This is why in 2002 the United States Bishops agreed to remove from ministry every ordained clergy member who has been found to have committed this type of sexual abuse. It is also why the Catholic Church has become a leader in efforts to reach out to victims of past abuse with assistance and to prevent future instances of sexual abuse especially by anyone who serves in our Churches and ministries.

Despite the Church's increased efforts to protect children, some advocacy groups, backed by trial lawyers, are seeking to pass new laws that would overturn a basic principle of American jurisprudence and are designed to decimate the ministries of the Church New York State while at the same time protecting public institutions where abuse has occurred.

Sexual abuse occurs everywhere, and society must root out the abusers and punish them to the fullest extent of the law. The most common location for sexual abuse is in the home. Outside the home, public schools are the most frequent place where children to encounter abuse. A recent report by the Associated Press revealed that in New York State and across the country, the number of children abused by public school employees, such as teachers, overwhelms the number of children abused by Catholic priests. For example, there were 485 reports of abuse in New York State public schools in just the five year period between 2002 and 2006. That's nearly 200 more cases than the total number of priests accused in New York since 1957, a period of more than 50 years. These statistics are meant to provide context often missing in the media and not to attempt to in any way minimize the crimes of clergy members who have so gravely abused the trust given to them.

Here in New York, legislators are considering a bill that would allow some people who say they were victims of sexual abuse many years ago to bring lawsuits, even though the statute of limitations on such cases have expired. Statutes of limitations refer to a period of time in which civil or criminal penalties can be brought against an individual or institution accused of wrongdoing. They exist not just for sexual abuse cases but for virtually all civil and criminal proceedings. Statutes of limitations were designed to

ensure justice and fairness in court proceedings. The more time that elapses, the harder it is for the accused to provide a defense. Statutes of limitations also help to assure prompt and timely reporting of wrongdoing, so that steps might be taken to prevent greater harm or wrongdoing from occurring. Under this bill now being considered, a person can bring a lawsuit against the Catholic Church for abuse that may have taken place 60 years ago or more. He would be permitted to bring this suit even though he may have never reported the abuse at any time over the last six decades and even though the accused priest, and anyone else who might have some knowledge of the facts, are all long dead. The individual may have been abused, but can a credible determination of the truth be reached under such circumstances? Should today's Catholic families, who sacrifice greatly to support their parish, their Catholic school and other ministries be forced to pay for what a cleric may or may not have done in the 1940s or '50s?

This is troubling enough when only one single case is involved. Imagine the situation of several hundred people coming forward making such claims from many years ago and with no physical evidence. Not only would it be impossible to discover the truth, but the prospect of losing some of the cases with potential multi-million judgments, could put the Church in position to be forced to enter into a group settlement of all cases, even those cases that may have little to no merit. Unfortunately no one has to "imagine it." It has happened already in California, where a similar law was enacted and has cost the Church there close to a billion dollars. Plaintiffs' attorneys have taken close to half of the total awarded to those who claimed abuse. Under New York law, trial attorneys here would see the same windfall.

But what of a person who was the victim of abuse by a public school teacher as a child just a few years ago? Because of different laws governing lawsuits against public institutions, that person would not be able to sue under this new law. That's because anyone suing a public school or municipality must file a notice with the courts within 90 days of the incident indicating their intent to bring a suit. This "notice of claims" provision would not be affected by a change in the statute of limitations. In California, victims of public school abuse who sought the right to sue were turned away, even though they represent potentially the largest class of sex abuse victims. That would be the case in New York as well.

For this reason, it is clear that this law is not about justice for victims of sexual abuse. Instead it involves a thinly disguised targeting of the Catholic Church by a coalition of trial lawyers who seek to enrich themselves by seizing Church properties. Where we see churches and schools built and supported with our contributions, they see only valuable real estate to acquire and sell.

*(continued on next page)*



## Parish Outreach

### Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

### Office hours:

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

## Pantry Needs

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canned fruit  
 canned vegetables  
 jelly  
 peanut butter  
 pudding/jello  
 soup

## Outreach Memorial Donations

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

- A donation in memory of *Gerald Cunningham* has been given to Outreach by Marie Ricigliano.
- A donation in memory of *Armand Porzio, Joseph Sullivan and Mary O'Keefe Finn* has been made to Outreach from Rosalie and George Mangels.
- A donation in loving memory of *John Eifler* has been made to Outreach by Janet Eifler.

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.

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## Albany Bill Targets the Catholic Church

*(continued from previous page)*

These lawyers are aided by a group of politicians, many of whom are hostile toward the Church over our stand on issues such as abortion or same sex marriage.

To be clear, this bill does nothing to protect children from abuse today. The Legislature could take any number of actions that could more effectively address the crisis of child sexual abuse. The Church fully supports extending criminal and civil statutes of limitations going forward. The Church supports increased criminal penalties for those who abuse children. The Church supports measures to mandate sexual abuse prevention programs in every institution, public and private, that work with children. The Church supports mandatory reporting by clergy members and others of those suspected of committing abuse.

An alternative bill has been introduced in the Legislature by Assembly Member Vito Lopez (D-Brooklyn) and Sen. Carl Kruger (D-Brooklyn) that would extend the statutes of limitations prospectively and, importantly, would amend the notice of claim requirement, leveling the playing field for all victims, so that those abused in public institutions would have the same rights as those abused in private institutions. The Catholic Conference urges passage of this bill, A.5708/S.3107.

We urge you to support laws to protect your children and grandchildren from child abuse. But reopening statutes of limitations for only one class of victims is not just or equitable, and will only serve to punish today's Catholic parishioners, schoolchildren and those in need of the services of our health care institutions and charities. Please call on your legislators and Governor Paterson to reject this terribly misguided and unjust bill.

**Richard E. Barnes, Executive Director**  
**New York State Catholic Conference**

*www.nyscatholic.org e-mail: info@nyscatholic.org*

# Walking Away Out of Sorrow

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

What do we do when we're depressed? What's our temptation when a dream is shattered, when we feel betrayed, and when it seems like the trust we've shown someone was childish naiveté??

Generally the temptation is to gather what pride we have left and walk away, away from that person, away from that place of rejection, away from the humiliation, and away from our former dream, all the while saying to ourselves: "I'll never trust in this way again! I've been burned, taken in, I now know the lesson!"

And, as we walk away from the place where we got hurt, what do we invariably walk towards?

We walk towards human consolation, towards compensation, towards something that looks like it will alleviate the hurt, soothe our wounded pride, or at least distract us from the pain. Sometimes, in fact, we're so wounded that what we walk towards is simple bitterness and despair. We unconsciously turn our backs on energy, family, community, happiness, faith, trust, and God. Life isn't worth living, why try!

In Luke's Gospel, we see this in the story of two, dispirited, disciples walking from away from Jerusalem towards Emmaus on Easter Sunday morning, unaware that Jesus had risen from the dead. Luke writes that on the morning of the Resurrection "two disciples were walking away from Jerusalem toward Emmaus, a village some seven miles away, their faces downcast."

Every word is pregnant here: For Luke, "Jerusalem" is more than a city. For him, it means the church, it means our faith-dream, and it means the place where Jesus was crucified (the place of pain, betrayal, crucified dreams, humiliation, and shame). On Easter Sunday, he tells us, two disciples were walking away from that, namely, they were leaving the church, leaving their faith dream, and walking away from the place where they felt that dream had ended in shame. Moreover they were walking towards "Emmaus". What is "Emmaus"?

Scholars tell us that there were several places called Emmaus, but they suspect that the one referred to here was a Roman Spa, a resort of sorts, a place of human consolation, the Las Vegas of that day. Thus, these disciples were doing what we invariably do when we get hurt, walk away from the hurt towards human consolation, towards something will take the pain away or at least distract us from it.

And they were doing this out of depression; their dream had been crucified when Jesus died. Indeed, when they describe their faith to Jesus, they use the past perfect

tense: "We had hoped." Their dream is over, dead. So is their faith.

So this is the scene: Two dejected disciples are leaving the church and walking towards human compensation because their dream has been shattered by the shame and humiliation of the cross. Their dream is over and they are now walking inside the sadness that besets us whenever we feel betrayed, shamed, found to be naive in our trust.

It is because of this sadness that they cannot recognize Jesus when he appears to them on the road. Jesus walks with them and they can't recognize him. Why?

The answer to that lies in the Agony in the Garden. In Luke's description of this, when Jesus goes out into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray he tells his disciples: "Watch!" They're supposed to learn something by watching him. What they were supposed to learn was what Jesus himself learned, or at least learned to accept, in Gethsemane, namely, that there is no other way to glory except through humiliation, no other way to new life except through death, no other way to intimacy except through unspeakable loneliness, and no other way to the light of Easter Sunday except through the darkness of Good Friday.

This is what Jesus had to accept, on his knees and begging for an alternative, in Gethsemane. But, as Luke tells us, after Jesus comes to accept this, he turns towards his disciples and finds them asleep, not out of simple tiredness, but "out of sheer sorrow". They were too depressed to get the lesson.

This is a mystical image worth meditating. Like these dispirited disciples in Luke's Gospel, we too, when faced with the kind of pain that brings us to our knees in agony and humiliation, too often are too discouraged and too disheartened to grasp the lesson that's being taught. We "fall asleep out of sheer sorrow" and then, in our sadness and discouragement, we feel tempted to walk away from what's hurting us and move instead towards some human consolation, towards something in the world that promises earthly compensation to replace our crucified dream of faith.

The good news is that Jesus finds us on that road and turns us around so that, like the disciples, we never actually get to Emmaus. Instead, after re-reading the scriptures and breaking the bread, we regain our vision and our idealism and find the courage to again return to our faith and to our church.

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*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](http://www.ronrolheiser.com).*

## Financial Summary

**March 22, 2009**

Weekly Collection	\$ 18,420.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (580.00)

*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](http://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 Thursday, April 2 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

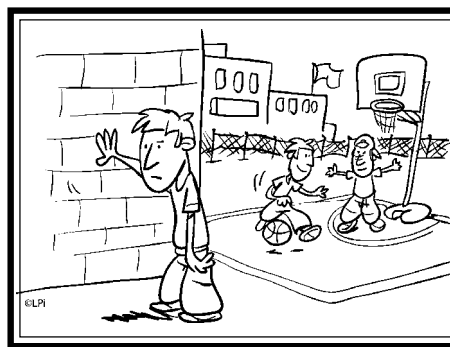
Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. The show is also available on Sirius Radio, Channel 159 at 11 PM on Saturday.

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

To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go to [www.religionandrock.com](http://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 you act bossy, selfish, or rude, no one will want to spend time with you. You will be lonely and unhappy. Follow the example of Jesus instead. Be strong in your faith. Do all that God asks you to do, even when it is not easy. Be honest. Be kind. Share what you have been given. Be helpful. Forgive. Show everyone what God is like. When you follow Jesus' example, you won't be lonely. When people around you see that your faith is real, they will come to you for help. They will want to know what makes you different. Then you can point them to Jesus.



## Prayer



God, help me to follow Jesus. I want to show everyone how great you really are.



## Puzzle

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

grain  
suffer  
give

wheat  
glory  
life

dies  
voice  
serve

raing      g r a i n

wehat      \_\_\_\_\_

desi      \_\_\_\_\_

iveg      \_\_\_\_\_

lefi      \_\_\_\_\_

serev      \_\_\_\_\_

fusfer      \_\_\_\_\_

glyro      \_\_\_\_\_

oicev      \_\_\_\_\_

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## Mission for the Week



Look for ways to be helpful in your family. Help set the table. Take the trash out. Put away your toys and books without being asked. When your family notices you being so helpful, tell them you are trying to follow Jesus' example.

## Something



to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself sharing your lunch with a friend who has no food.