



Alleluia!

Alleluia!

He is Risen!

Our Lady of Lourdes • Easter Sunday • April 12, 2009



Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano
Pastor

Welcome to our Parish Family! New Parishioners are cordially invited to register as members of our parish family. Please call or visit our Parish Office.

Parish Office

661-3224

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Saturday: 9 AM - 3 PM

Sunday: 9 AM - 2 PM

email: ParishOffice@ollchurch.org

fax: 661-7143

website: www.ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes School

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: lkrol@ollschool.org

Religious Education Office

661-5440

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon

1 PM - 5 PM

7 PM - 9 PM

email: ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org

Parish Outreach Office

661-9262

Monday -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

Children's Choir/Women's Chorale

Sumer Program Director

Carol M. Goetz

Parish Music Director

Louise Jane Krol

School Principal

Sr. Diane Liona

Director of Religious Education

Mary McMahon

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Vita 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 Catusco

Religious Education Office

Mary Anne Lettieri

Parish Office

Debbie Meyer

Bulletin/Parish Office

Rosemary Multer

School Office

Rex Muro

Organist

Rita Spera

Religious Education Office

Lori Walsh

Parish Office

Mission Statement

As stewards of all that God has given us, the Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes serves and ministers to all who come to this place. Regardless of a person's history, ethnicity, gender, orientation, age or race, we commit ourselves to open wide the doors of our Parish to provide a place of welcome and hospitality.



Vision...

so that all may know that they are a vital part of the Body of Christ, we further recommit and challenge ourselves to:

***Live** out our Baptismal call passionately by caring for all of God's people with justice.*

***Grow** in an understanding of God's role in each of our lives.*

***Respond** to the Gospel in a radical way, inviting and inspiring all to form the Kingdom of God in every moment of life.*

***Acknowledge** we are not complete without the willingness to grow, discern and discover the Spirit who moves and guides us.*

*Our Lady
of Lourdes*

455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, New York 11795

Welcome...

to Our Lady of Lourdes!

We are so happy to welcome everyone who has come to worship with us today! Whether you have come a long distance or you live locally, we are glad that you have decided to spend some time with us as we worship our Lord together. Please know that your presence today is a blessing to our parish family.

Would you like to know more about our parish family?

All are welcome at Our Lady of Lourdes and we do our best to reach out to everyone.

If you would like more information about our parish or if you would like one of our team to be in touch with you, please fill this form out and place it in any collection or offering basket, mail it to us, or send an email to parishoffice@ollchurch.org

Welcome...

to Our Lady of Lourdes!



I would like information about:

Religious Education of my Children Becoming a Catholic or Adult Confirmation
 Marriage or Annulment / Remarriage Spiritual Direction or Counseling
 Our Parish Catholic School Adult Education Senior Services
 Joining the Parish Baptizing my Children Other _____

I would prefer to be contacted by:

Phone at: _____ Email at: _____

Mail at: _____

Your Name: _____

Welcome...

All who come here!



Easter 2008

Dear Friends,

This past winter seemed particularly long. It was not a winter of great storms, the kids barely had one snow day, but it was cold and cold for a long time. Winter seemed to take hold around the New Year and we did not have a warm day until the middle of March! It was also a long winter spiritually – every where you go these days people are talking about fear and concern. We have concerns about the economy with so many worried about employment and supporting their families. Our world continues to be a place where there are so many wars and problems and violence. And not only that, but we each have our own share of troubles and difficulties. We long for spring, for the beginnings of new life.

Easter is not a magic solution. It does not take away the need to struggle with the problems and difficulties of life, but it does bring hope. It teaches us about the power of courage, faithfulness and perseverance. We follow Jesus in his journey from death to life and we notice that he never gave up in his belief that God is a God of life who could bring life out of each and every suffering, struggle, and difficulty. And after his resurrection, Jesus tells his disciples to minister this kind of hope, to bring this kind of hope, to every person they meet.

And so those who become followers discover a great truth. They discover that they find hope and life by bringing it to others. That amazingly, it is just at the moment that they forget their own fears and concerns to think about and care about the needs of another that they discover their own hope and life. St. Francis spoke of this so eloquently when he told his followers that, “it is in giving that we receive, in pardoning that we are pardoned, and in dying that we are born to eternal life.”

Here at Our Lady of Lourdes we understand our primary ministry to be that of welcome. We welcome all who come here because we understand that each person brings with them a bit of God’s own love and peace. And it is by offering these gifts to one another that we discover the great gift of life that God has won for us. Please know that you are always welcome and needed here.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

FR. Mike

*Fr. Mike Vetrano
Pastor*

OLL Liturgy Committee

...*Behind the Scenes Bringing our Prayer to Life*

These past days, and the past season of Lent, requires the helping hearts and hands of so many – more than ever can be mentioned in a bulletin ad. There is one ministry, though, that takes on the task and responsibility of bringing as much together as possible throughout the Liturgical year, but particularly during the holy seasons of Lent and Easter.

From hourly Ash Wednesday Prayer Services, to helping to organize our Parish Lenten Mission, to celebrating Reconciliation, preparing Palm Sunday and orchestrating a powerful Holy Week and Triduum, these women and men are the primary reason we can fully participate and bask in the beauty of the Liturgy. You may never see them in action but rest assured our experiences of Jesus' presence in the Liturgy is because of their planning, energy, dialogue and presence.

Let's give thanks to all who have been a part of the Liturgy Committee and continue to work to make the days and weeks of Easter and Pentecost true reflections of the Spirit!

Sister Margaret Mary Bickar

Mary Borgs

Sister Nancy Campkin

Cathleen Danowksi

Deacon John DeGuardi

Michael Dunne

Jerry Esposito

Carl Franckowski

Carol Goetz

Jean Ann Gottsch

Terri Hunter

Sister Diane Liona

Janet Loehr

Dorothy Perdue

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Vita Scorcia

Sister Betty Toohig

Fr. Mike Vetrano

If you're interested in learning more about the Liturgy Committee, contact one of these people or John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.

Praying Before Mass

In Advent 2007, we began the practice of asking all the liturgical ministers – lectors, servers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion - sacristans, ushers, deacons and presiders – to pray together before Mass. The idea of this is not to offer a special blessing or to set them apart. Rather it's to bring all the ministers together in a spirit of prayer – one that can unite and inspire all who are serving at God's table.

We are called to a greater sense of prayer at Liturgy – particularly by taking some time before Mass. While our ministers pray together in the Narthex, please consider making this a time of prayer for you and for those who will serve us at Liturgy.

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.



**April Showers Brings...
Leaks!**

It's time for a new roof and skylights for OLL Church.

Dear Parishioners,

If you have been to Mass on a rainy day, you know that we hardly need to water any of our indoor plants. There are leaks aplenty in our church and, worst of all, our skylights have sustained severe damage during one of our winter storms. The combination of sun damage and high winds this winter cracked the skylight over our main altar and the same damage is progressing in the smaller skylights as well.

It is time for a new roof and skylight replacement. The total cost for roof and skylights is \$50,000.00 so we will need your support to help keep us dry. A generous friend of OLL has offered us a challenge – every dollar raised from now until April 26 will be matched by an equal gift up to \$15,000.00!

We will be taking up a special collection on the weekend of April 18/19 but there is no need to wait. You can contribute now toward our roof/ skylight project by sending us your gift. Please help us with this important project.

Fr. Mike



April Showers Brings...

I want to help! Enclosed is my donation toward the
OLL Roof/ Skylight Challenge.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount of Gift: _____





RCIA

The Journey to the Fullness of Life

Throughout the past year, our parish family has journeyed with those seeking Baptism, reception and full initiation into the life of the Church. From the Rite of Reception in January, to the Rite of Election, Call to Continuing Conversion and the Scrutinies celebrated during Lent, we have celebrated their faith and, in turn, renewed our own.

At the Easter Vigil last evening,

- we celebrated the Baptism of *Jeanette D'Angelo* and *Hung Lu*
- we celebrated the Confirmation and full initiation into the Church of *Jeanette D'Angelo, Hung Lu, Michael Pulver* and *Christine Smith*.

Their journey has become our journey. Their excitement and enthusiasm has inspired and excited us about our faith journey!

Their journey still continues as they enter The Period of Mystagogy which lasts from Easter Sunday until the completion of the Easter season, fifty days later on Pentecost Sunday and completes the initiation process. Let's continue to pray for them as they continue to more fully realize what the life of the Church has in store for them.

If you're interested in becoming a Catholic or completing your own initiation, contact John Sureau, Fr. Bob Scheckenback or Sister Nancy Campkin at 661.3224. We would love to welcome you!

Blessing of Extraordinary Ministers

*The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way,
and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread.*

-Luke 24, 3rd Sunday of Easter

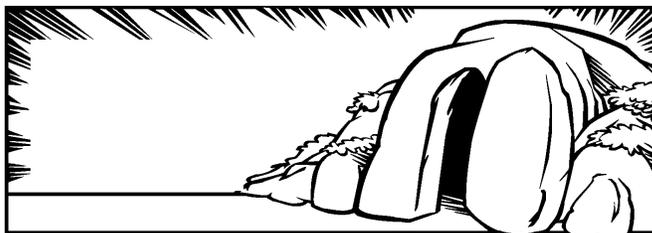
Our parish is blessed to have nearly 200 Extraordinary Ministers of Communion who minister at Masses and bring communion to the homebound. This past month has been a time of discernment for them as they consider whether they will renew their commitment to the ministry this Spring.

At all of our Masses on April 25/26, 2009, the Third Sunday of Easter, we hear about the power of the meal and how Jesus is often encountered in this unique way. We, too, encounter him in the meal of meals every time we gather at Liturgy. In the spirit of this connection, our Extraordinary Ministers will be called forth to state their intention and to seek our prayerful support. Let's commit to that prayer and support of them as they consider a new three year term of ministry.

If you're interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister, training takes place again in the Fall of 2009. If you're interested, contact John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.

Living Liturgy

Happy Easter!



We celebrate and believe!

As you enter the Church today, you know we do just that here at OLL!

Our Church is filled with signs of new life! Our Art and Environment Ministry has worked so hard to make our Church a place of new life and hope!

Our Holy Water fonts have been refilled with the water blessed at the Easter Vigil. Throughout the season of Lent, our fonts remained empty reminding us of the sacrifice that season brings. As Easter begins, we celebrate our connection to Jesus' death and new life through Baptism.

Our Baptismal font will be the source of blessings throughout the Easter season. Every Sunday of the great Easter season, we will be blessed with the Easter water as a reminder that we are always God's holy and beloved children.

The beauty of our Church is brought to life this day because of the work of our Art and Environment ministry! They have worked hard these past days to transform the Church from the starkness of Lent to the new life of Easter! Surely, from the looks of our Church, we know He is risen!

And our celebration continues! Easter and the sense of new life and new beginnings and new hope it brings is not only for today. Now we celebrate the fifty days of Easter- from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. The Church tells us that this season should be celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one "great Sunday."

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Did you know OLL loves to pray with our children?

Every Sunday at the 9:30 AM Mass, we invite young people from age four to about fourth grade to process into the Parish Center. Here, they hear God's word in a powerful and meaningful way for them...and their families get a break, too!

Consider coming to our 9:30 AM Mass and inviting others to do the same.

Also – Help is needed!

We are looking for musicians and lectors to be part of the Children's Liturgy of the Word in the Parish Center on a Sunday or two a month. If you think you can be a part of it – we'd love to have you! If you have any questions or you are interested in helping out, please call John Sureau at 661.3224 extension 135 or email jsureau@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.
(Free babysitting 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.



Rest In Peace

Helen Bergin died on March 22 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 26. We extend our prayers to her son, Daniel and entire family.

Denise Ann Horton died on March 21 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 27. We extend our prayers to her husband, Robert, children, Sean and Sara and entire family.

Marie Turano died on March 24 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 27. We extend our prayers to her daughters, Mary Anne Lettieri, Joanne and Jeanne, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and entire family.

Gloria Aliperti died on March 25 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 27. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and entire family.

Patricia Santangelo died on March 25 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 28. We extend our prayers to her daughter, Mary and entire family.

Daniel DiMonda died on March 27 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was April 1. We extend our prayers to his wife, Carol, children, grandchildren and entire family.

Anne Foote died on March 28 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was April 1. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren and entire family.

Rosemarie Wurmser died on March 29 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was April 2. We extend our prayers to her husband, Thomas, her mother, Connie and her entire family.

Remembering...

Monday, April 13

8:00 AM LaRocca & Sweeney Family

Tuesday, April 14

8:00 AM John Lovari

Wednesday, April 15

8:00 AM Eddie & Lucy Regina

Thursday, April 16

8:00 AM Max Hugues

Friday, April 17

8:00 AM Maria Manganis

Saturday, April 18

8:00 AM Kurt Reuter, Elizabeth Durante, Victor Lazaro,
Dennis Radesky, William Holmes, John Losdespoto,
Cecelia Weiss, Helen Germano, Joan Ruggiere,
Anthony Vocile

5:00 PM James L. Boyle

Sunday, April 19

8:00 AM Thomas D'Angelo

9:30 AM Sylvan Lodespoto

11:00 AM Mary & John Lynch and John James

12:30 PM John Meditz

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Peter Reehil, Joseph Sullivan,
Keith Hilbert, Gaetano Postilio, Jean Ojeda,
Grace Hunter, Ann Nardone, Patricia & James Ward,
John Spahr, Evelyn Tierro, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr.

Altar Bread & Wine

In Memory of...

Baby & Richard Joseph Shaddock

Baptisms

Samantha Helen Martin

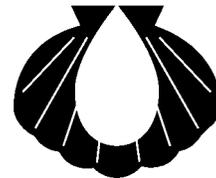
Raymond and Alison

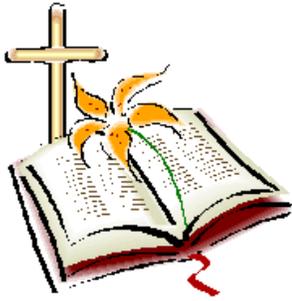
Brady Martin Quinn

Martin and Mary

Anthony Lorenzo Sansone

Anthony and Maria





Directed Prayer Retreat

All Are Welcome to our Fourth Annual Directed Prayer Retreat Week
...right here at OLL!

Sunday, April 26 - Saturday, May 2, 2009

St. Ignatius Retreat House offers the opportunity for the experience of the Directed Retreat to the people of a parish, in their parish surroundings... as they live out their daily lives.

All Are Welcome!

Many people cannot go away for a week or a weekend to experience a directed retreat. This is a wonderful taste of what it is like to have spiritual direction and to be on retreat without leaving your home. This retreat week can help us to notice God's presence right in the midst of our everyday lives.

What's involved?

- We will meet initially on Sunday afternoon at 1:30PM in the Parish Center. Our first meeting will last about one hour and you will meet your retreat director/prayer guide. The Prayer Guides are a group of spiritual directors, affiliated with St. Ignatius Retreat Center, Manhasset, who have been trained in leading prayers and spiritual exercises in the tradition of St. Ignatius.
- After this meeting, each retreatant will meet privately with his/her spiritual director at our parish for approximately one-half hour each day, Monday through Friday. During these meetings, the retreatant and spiritual director will reflect together the different ways to pray, including meditation and praying with scripture.
- Each retreatant commits to set aside a half hour each day for a prayer period on a scripture passage.
- On Saturday morning at 9:30AM, there will be a group closing session at Our Lady of Lourdes.

Brochures containing applications are available at the Religious Education Office or Parish Office. Registration deadline is Friday, April 17. For more information, call the Religious Education Office at 661-5440, option 3 or email to Religioused@ollchurch.org.

Save the date...

Pentecost Sunday, May 31

Celebrating Our Heritage...

One Faith – Many Traditions

This event will begin with Mass at 12:30 PM on Sunday, May 31 – Pentecost Sunday. Our celebration will continue after Mass in the Cafeteria as we celebrate our many heritages within our parish family.

The celebration will include food, costumes, music and traditional dancing. Join us as we begin our journey arriving in America and experience a favorite "all American" food. We're asking each parish family to bring a "food item" (enough for a family) according to their family heritage, and bring it to their country's table. This way, we will have something to share from all the different countries.

Please call Religious Ed Office at 661-5440, option 3 or e-mail to Religioused@ollchurch.org and let us know what you are bringing.

Religious Education

What's happening during the Easter Season

Please pray for our Grade 7 Confirmation Candidates and their families as they begin their decision process to choose their Sponsors.

For all in Grade 7 in our Parish Family...

Sponsor/Candidate Enrollment Sunday

Sunday, May 3

6 PM Mass

All seventh graders in our Parish Family choose a Sponsor in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please come and join with all the seventh graders of our parish, their families and their newly chosen Sponsor, as we celebrate this commitment. They look to their Parish Family for prayers and support on their faith journey.

Please pray for our 8th Grade Confirmation Candidates and their Sponsors as they continue to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation in 9th Grade by participating in "RESCUE" (Religious Education Sponsor/Candidate United Effort)

For all in Grade 8 in our Parish Family...

"Rescue Closing"

Sunday, May 17

6 PM Mass

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

For all in Grades 6/7/8 in our parish family...

Hang Out Nites continue...

Friday April 24	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Parish Center
Friday May 15	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Parish Center
Friday June 19	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Parish Center

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

All 6th / 7th / 8th graders of our Parish Family... come play volleyball, basketball.

We have Guitar Hero 2, Dance Revolution, music and more... DON'T MISS IT!

also...

Grades 9/10/11/12

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

Reminder...

Important Confirmation Meeting

For all Eighth Grade Parents in OLL Parish Family -

Tuesday, May 5 at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria

or Wednesday, May 6 at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria

or Thursday, May 7 at 10 AM in the cafeteria.

May Crowning

Sunday, May 3

9:30 AM Mass followed by a procession in honor of the Blessed Mother.

This day, our Rosary Christian Mothers and our Family Liturgy Committee invite you to be a part of this annual Catholic tradition. Here, we bring forth the different parts of our parish community for a time of prayer and hospitality.

Of course – all are welcome to stay after for some delicious bagels and juice!

Summer Evening Prayer

It's almost summer...and time for Summer Evening Prayer!

OLL's annual tradition of gathering for Evening Prayer on the "Great Lawn" will continue in 2009 and we need to get working on new ideas, activities and events to make our 2009 celebration the best ever! This group only meets a few times in May and June so it's not a "forever" commitment. Think about it – it may be something for you.

If you're interested in joining, contact the Parish Office at 661.3224 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org. We'd love to have you join us!

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 or call 661.3224, x. 135.

Parish Outreach

Office telephone: 661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

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

St. Joseph-St. Patrick Dance



On March 21, through the collaborative efforts of The Holy Name Society and Rosary Christian Mothers, our All Purpose Room was transformed into Little Italy and a wee bit of Ireland!

Where else, but at OLL, could you experience the culinary delights of Corned Beef and Cabbage on the same plate as Penne ala Vodka and Chicken Parmagiana? There was food in abundance, dancing throughout the night, prizes, desserts and FUN! How wonderful to have two groups in our Parish come together for a common cause-Outreach.



The fundraiser, to benefit Outreach, was a tremendous success. I would like to extend a heartfelt Thank You to the planning committee for the time, effort and energy involved. To Sister Nancy's Hang-Out kids and John Sureau's high school kids-thanks for making a heavy job-a little lighter. You had the APR set up in less than an hour!

Thank you to West Islip Wines & Liquors for the generous donation of wine for the evening. Thanks to Mike Carrano and Manhattan Beer Distributors for donating the beer and to Michael Dunne for

donating the bread.

The evening was so successful-
I can say with certainty...See You Next Year!

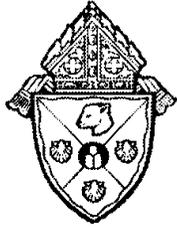


Outreach Memorial Donations

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

- Outreach has received donations in loving memory of *Ann Nardone* from Betty Goode, Mary DeVivo, Flo Worysz and Pat Heithaus.
- Edith Caputo made a donation to Outreach in memory of her husband, *Kenneth Caputo*.
- Outreach has received donations in loving memory of *Mr. Chocko* and *Marie Turano* from Grace O'Connor.
- John Moscarelli made a donation to Outreach in loving memory of his wife, *Valerie*.
- Richard and Doris Shaddock have made an Easter Donation to Outreach in memory of their children, *Baby and Richard Joseph Shaddock*.

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.



Catholic Ministries Appeal

CMA NEWS

“Supporting the Community Around Us”

The **key ingredient to the success of our appeal is participation.** In order to reach our goal as a parish we need to have every family participate in the appeal to the best of their ability. *If you have not had an opportunity to make a gift to the appeal or have been waiting to make a pledge, please complete the pledge envelope that are in the pews and return it by mail or by dropping it off at the rectory.*

WHAT ARE YOU ASKED TO DO?

As a parishioner in your parish and a member of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, we ask you to help us meet the challenge we now face. To succeed in accomplishing the needs of this appeal, we ask each of our Catholic families to consider a sacrificial pledge to the **Catholic Ministries Appeal** to the best of their financial ability. The specific amount to be donated is a decision that each family is asked to make after prayerful consideration.

To assist you in making your decision, a series of Suggested Gift Plans has been prepared for you please see the chart below. While no pledge is too small or too large, it should have some relationship to your own standard of living and how generous God has been to you and your family. Our ultimate need in this appeal is 100% participation! We thank you in advance for your generosity and support in this very important endeavor.

100% OF EVERY DOLLAR RAISED GOES TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES

catholic ministries appeal • diocese of rockville centre
po box 4000 • rockville centre, new york 11571-4000 • 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.

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**.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Dottie Collins*.

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, Rosemaria Russo, Patricia Salimbene, Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Mary Clair Stephen, Diana Marie Taveras, Baby John Tramazzo, Vincent Trincilla, Pat Wallace, Flo Worysz



Easter Sunday - The Resurrection of the Lord

No one is quite sure where or when the saying began, but it has become a mantra of young people to want to "find themselves." They search and search, looking for answers as to who they are when they truthfully don't even know what the questions are! Many times, they flee their homes in anger, having decided that it is their families that are holding them back, and if they are ever going to make it in the world they will have to do it elsewhere. Their hearts become hard as stone, so hard in fact that no amount of talking will move them.

Today, we celebrate the most glorious day of the church, the resurrection of Jesus Christ as he had promised. Our choirs will sing stirring hymns of praise, and we will dress in our finest. But take a few minutes today to think of that morning mentioned in today's Gospel reading from John. It is quiet and dark, shortly before the first few rays of the sun are visible. The sealed tomb is no longer sealed, the massive stone having been rolled away from the entrance despite the presence of a guard. Peter and John, who ran from Jesus at his arrest, now run to find him again. Seeing his burial cloths removed, they believe.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that in his dying and resurrection, Jesus has "opened" heaven to all who would believe in him with unwavering faith (CCC 1026). All too often, we hold the pains and sins of our lives like a stone, placed firmly in front of our minds and our hearts so that we cannot see the love of Christ which lives in us. Even though we've put the stone there, we cannot remove it by ourselves. At some point, we need only to ask the one who removed the stone 2,000 years ago, and he will move ours as well.

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Readings for the week of April 12, 2009

Sunday:	Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col 3:1-4 <i>or</i> 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 <i>or</i> Mk 16:1-7
Monday:	Acts 2:14, 22-33/Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday:	Acts 2:36-41/Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday:	Acts 3:1-10/Lk 24:13-35
Thursday:	Acts 3:11-26/Lk 24:35-48
Friday:	Acts 4:1-12/Jn 21:1-14
Saturday:	Acts 4:13-21/Mk 16:9-15
Next Sunday:	Acts 4:32-35/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31

Financial Summary

March 29, 2008

Weekly Collection	\$ 20,734.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 1,734.00

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

Due to a change in the bulletin deadline, the collection amount for Palm Sunday will be published in an upcoming bulletin.

Members in the Military

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

They are:

Bryan R. Dempsey-US Marines

James J. Ferrara-US Marines

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 DiLapi Family in gratitude for the safe return of their daughter from active duty. **Danielle DiLapi** -US Army has returned to the United States safe and sound from her tour of duty. Thank you, Danielle, for your generous service to our country! The DiLapi Family would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family for all of their prayers.

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

Jesus' Last Words

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Just before he dies on the cross, Jesus utters these words: "It is finished!"

What's "finished"?

These words can be spoken in different ways:

They can be words of defeat and despair ("It's over, hopeless, I give in!) or they can be words of accomplishment and triumph ("I've done it, succeeded, I've held out!").

Obviously, for Jesus, these are not words of defeat. He has triumphed, succeeded, run the toughest race of all to its finish. When he speaks these words, he's like the winner in the Olympic marathon throwing up his arms in triumph at the finish-line; except in this case both his exuberance of spirit and his arms are nailed down so that his utterance of triumph is not like the pumped-fist of an Olympic winner, but like the cry of a newborn baby that's finally succeeded in pushing itself through the birth-canal; a startling triumph, but one that, for a time, has you lying in blood, tears, and helplessness.

And his triumph here left him precisely in blood, tears, and helplessness. He's won, but it's cost him his life, tested his faith to the limit, lost him his popularity, scattered his friends, shrouded his life in misunderstanding, left him looking compromised, and isolated him in an unspeakable loneliness.

It's not easy then to pump your fist in triumph, even when you've won, especially since your victory isn't evident to anyone who isn't journeying inside of this with you. To everyone else, this looks like defeat, the worst kind of defeat.

So what's "finished"?

At one level, what's finished is Jesus' own struggle with doubt, fear, and loneliness. What was that struggle? The painful, lonely, crushing discrepancy he habitually felt between the warmth and ideals inside his heart and the coldness and despair he met in the world.

Everything inside of him believed that, in the end, always, it is better to give yourself over to love than to hatred, to affirmation than to jealousy, to gentleness of heart than to bitterness, to honesty than to lying, to fidelity than to compromise, to forgiveness than to revenge. Everything about him too was a testimony that the reality of God, immaterial and fanciful though it can seem, is in the end more real than the undeniable reality of our physical bodies and our physical world. And finally, everything about him pointed uncompromisingly towards the "road-

less-taken" and revealed that real love means carrying your solitude and chastity at a high level.

But, for him, as for us, it wasn't easy to live that out. As scripture says, sometimes it gets dark in the middle of the day, we find ourselves very much alone in what we believe in, and God seems far away and dead. Faith and love aren't easy because they feel empty and fanciful whenever they're betrayed and they only work and prove that they're real when they're persevered in.

Jesus, though, did persevere in them and when he utters those famous words: "It is finished!", it's a statement of triumph, not just of his own faith, but of love, truth, and God. He's taken God at his word, risked everything on faith, and, despite the pain it's brought, is dying with no regrets. The struggle for faith, for him, is finished. He's crossed its finish line, successfully.

But there's a second level of meaning to his words. "It is finished" also means that the reign of sin and death is finished. An order of things (wherein we live our lives believing that, eventually, everyday joys give way to darkness and the underworld; that paranoia and sin unmask trust and goodness as naive; that the reality of the physical world and this life is all there is; that compromise and infidelity trump everything else, and that death is more real than hope) is also finished. It is exposed as unreal, as a lie, by love, fidelity, gentleness, trust, childlikeness, vulnerability, and the paradoxical power of a God who, in the deeper recesses of things, works more by underwhelming than by overpowering. "

"It is finished!" Jesus uttered those words when he realized that, despite all the pain and sin in the world, the center does hold, love can be trusted, God is real, and, because of that, in the end, "every manner of being will indeed be well." The forces of sin and death are finished because we can, in full maturity and utter realism, believe in the sun even when it isn't shining, in love even when we don't feel it, and in God, even when God is silent. Faith and God deliver on their promise.

Mohandas Gandhi, in a remarkable passage, once wrote: "When I despair, I remember that all through history, the way of truth and love has always won. There have been murderers and tyrants, and for a time they can seem invincible. But in the end they always fall. Think of it, always." Many things were finished on the cross, including rule of tyranny and murder.

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.

