

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Our Lady of Lourdes November 8, 2009



**“From her poverty  
she has contributed  
all she had.”**

Mark 12:44

*Our Lady  
of Lourdes*

455 Hunter Avenue  
West Islip, New York 11795

## *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.*

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### *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.*

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### *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.

## *Pastoral Team*

**Rev. Michael A. Vetrano**  
Pastor

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**Rev. Patsy Amabile**  
Associate Pastor

**Rev. Robert Scheckenback**  
Associate Pastor

**Rev. Ambrose Cabildo**  
In Residence

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**Deacon John DeGuardi**

**Deacon Tom Lucie**

**Deacon Jack Meehan**

Coordinator of Stewardship

**Deacon John Teufel**

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**Sr. Margaret Bickar**

Senior Ministry-SAGE

**Sr. Nancy Campkin**

Director of Religious Education

**Allegra D'Alo**

Youth Minister/Social Action

**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

**Robin Reynolds-Brennan**

Coordinator of Worship

**Vita Scorcio**

Ministry Spiritual Director

**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

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## *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



### **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, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30 AM - 3 PM

### **S.A.G.E.**

661-3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth  
and Enrichment)

email: [Sage@ollchurch.org](mailto:Sage@ollchurch.org)



## **The Eucharist as a Meal**

**Presenter: Fr. Bob Scheckenback**

**Tuesday, November 17 and 24**

**Parish Center**

**7:30 PM**

Can a meal be Sacred?

A brief look at some Eucharistic history to see how the “breaking of the bread” is rooted in a thanksgiving (eucharistia) meal. You are what and how you eat.

*Upcoming dates...*

### **Monday Mornings in Advent**

**Fr. Pat Amabile**

**Fr. Bob Scheckenback**

Come to 8 AM Mass on Mondays in Advent. You will be able to pray the rosary after Mass or just take some time for your own prayer. At 9 AM, we will gather in the Parish Center for coffee, rolls and a talk, with some time for discussion and reflection.

*(If you can't make Mass, please join us at 9 AM.)*

### **Finding My Way to Bethlehem**

**An Advent Evening of Reflection**

**Fr. Pat Amabile**

**Wednesday, December 16**

**7:30 PM**

**Parish Center**

During Advent, we journey as did Mary and Joseph. We bring the *joys* of preparing for Christ's coming, the *love* for one another along the way, the *peace* that waiting holds for us, and the *hope* that brings us beyond ourselves!

*There is a \$5 fee for each session. No fee is required for those who have paid the Religious Education Family Fee or Our Lady of Lourdes School tuition.*

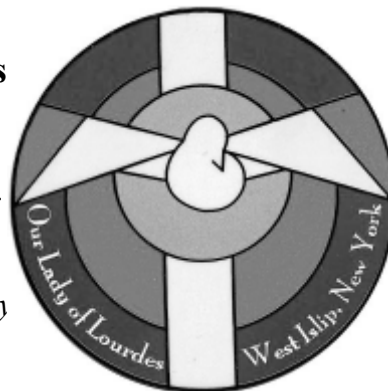
*Registration is necessary and helpful. This will enable us to have enough reading material and refreshments for all those attending. To register, please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option 3 or email to [religioused@ollchurch.org](mailto:religioused@ollchurch.org).*

## **When we love...**

### **Renewing our Support for Our Lady of Lourdes**

*Dear Parishioners:*

*Each year, our parish uses the weeks at the end of October and beginning of November to celebrate parish stewardship. Stewardship is a way of life, an attitude of generosity and faith that allows us to use our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to do the work of the gospel. Our parish community would not exist without the generosity of our members. Please pay special attention to the message of stewardship on these upcoming weekends.*



**...we serve.**

#### **Saturday and Sunday, November 7 and 8**

#### **Parish Commitment Weekend**

We will be invited, this Sunday, to listen and understand the importance of the stewardship of time, talent, and treasure in our lives. Parishioners will also be invited to make or renew a commitment to support Our Lady of Lourdes. The commitment cards may be put into the collection baskets at this Mass or at Mass over the next several Sundays. In addition, the commitment cards can be dropped off at or mailed to the Parish Office in the Rectory.

#### **Saturday and Sunday, November 14 and 15**

#### **Commitment Weekend**

Parishioners will be invited to return their commitment cards if they did not do so last weekend. In addition, we will have cards available at the entrances of the Church over the next several weeks for your use. All cards can be returned in the collection baskets at Mass or they can be dropped off at or mailed to the Parish Office in the Rectory.

## Ministry of Family Healing

Life is not so much about how to survive the storm, it's about the willingness to dance in the rain, with Courage, Wisdom and Serenity. The Ministry of Family Healing invites you to a night of prayer and reflection on **Thursday, November 12 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

Please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440 (option #3) to register.

Come for yourself and bring a friend. Join with us and your fellow parishioners as we help each other to survive the storms in our lives. As always, food and fellowship to follow. Looking forward to seeing you on November 12!

## Folk Group Gathering

All members of the past OLL Folk Groups are invited to our "Folk Group Gathering." We will come together on **Sunday, November 29 from 2 PM until 5:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

Bring your families, singing voices, instruments, pictures and memories.

Please contact Dorothy at [Kuchdot@optonline.net](mailto:Kuchdot@optonline.net) or

Cathy at [danowhouse@aol.com](mailto:danowhouse@aol.com) for details.

## Men's Group

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

We invite all men of the parish to meet for prayer and reflection after 8 AM Mass on **Thursday, November 19, in the Parish Center.** We meet once a month to read and discuss the Scriptures for the following Sunday. Come with your ideas and suggestions.

We'll gather for conversation and fellowship. Join us in this pioneering experience for men. Call Jack Fitzgerald at 587.5548 for more information.

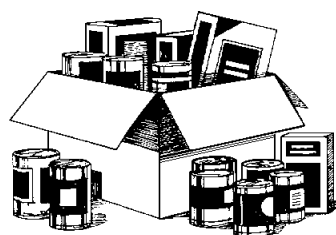


The Parish Office will be **closed on Wednesday, November 11** in observance of Veteran's Day. The Parish Office will reopen on Thursday at 9 AM.

## Food Drive

Calling all families! Outreach needs your help!

On **Sunday, November 15 OLL Parish Outreach** will be **holding a food drive at the Stop and Shop on Montauk Highway in Babylon** and we need your help to hand out flyers. PLEASE sign up for a shift by emailing [Allegra@ollchurch.org](mailto:Allegra@ollchurch.org). The shifts are from 9-11, 11-1 and 1-3. We also need help unloading the food back at OLL so there is plenty of time to catch up with us!



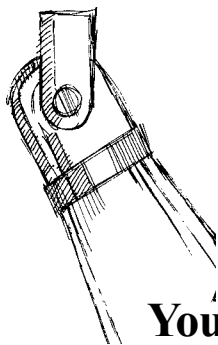
## Peace and Justice

On **Wednesday, November 18** the Peace and Justice Club will be hosting Dale from the non-profit organization “Midnight Run,” which benefits the homeless of New York City. Dale will be speaking about the organization and about homelessness in New York. **The free event will begin at 7 PM in the All Purpose Room.** Refreshments will be served.

## Bands-giving

Bands-giving will be held on **Friday, November 13 from 7 PM till 11 PM in the All-Purpose Room.** All student bands are welcome to play, bring friends and hang out.

Bring a non-perishable food item for the Parish Outreach food pantry. Email [Allegra@ollchurch.org](mailto:Allegra@ollchurch.org) with any questions.



## Youth Spotlight!

Our Lady of Lourdes Youth Program now has a FACEBOOK! Friend Bernie Soubirous and join the OLL Youth group and stay in the loop about all of the teen events that are happening at OLL. Awesome things are coming up so you don't want to miss out.

## Outreach Updates

### *“Don’t fix it unless it’s broke!”*

Last year the Oktoberfest was a huge success. What were we thinking trying to top it with a Square Dance?!! Sometimes we should leave well enough alone!

The Square Dance was cancelled due to lack of response. We only sold 32 tickets. Outreach was counting on the revenue from this fundraiser to help us weather the upcoming Holiday Season. A heartfelt thank you to all who donated the cost of their tickets to Outreach. As we approach the Holiday Season your generosity is so appreciated.



Our pantry has never seen such scarcity! The shelves remain bare and our donations have dramatically declined. Our clientele has increased substantially this past year. So, we have a real dilemma for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We anticipate 100 families will require assistance from us for Thanksgiving. This year Outreach will accept baskets for families and I PROMISE that baskets will not be taken apart. Each basket will be gratefully received and given to a designated family. (The only change would be if we added food to supplement what has been offered.) I PROMISE!

In response to the needs presented for Thanksgiving, Outreach will require gift cards for 13 individuals, 40 baskets for families of 4, 28 baskets for families of 6 and 19 baskets for families of 8. If you can assist us in any way, we would appreciate your help. Perhaps you could join with a neighbor and make a basket, or collect from people at work or speak with members of your health clubs, book clubs or other groups or ministries to which you belong. With the needs as great as they are, now is really the time to come together as a Parish. In upcoming bulletins there will be additional information.

Thank you in advance for your support.

## Outreach Assistance

Outreach has received two separate requests for drivers.

A gentleman in our Parish requires a ride home from dialysis three mornings a week: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 10:30 AM.

A parishioner, recently discharged from Consolation requires transportation to physical therapy three times a week as she continues to heal from a shoulder fracture. If you are interested in volunteering to assist either person, please contact the Outreach Office at 661.9262, option 4.

We will request that each person sign a waiver, if transported in your vehicle.



## Parish Outreach

### Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

### Office hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:  
9:30 AM - 3 PM



## Pantry Needs

canned fruit  
canned vegetables  
jelly  
peanut butter  
pudding/jello  
soup

## Outreach Donations

### October Donations

- Outreach has received a donation in memory of *Virginia Beno* from her daughter, Mary Borg.
- The Giuffré Family has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Phil Charron*.
- John Moscarelli has made a donation to Outreach in memory of his late wife, *Valerie*.
- Flo Worysz has made a donation to Outreach in *gratitude for prayers answered*.
- Marie and Gerry Fogarty have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Aranka Minkler, Martin Minkler, Catherine Fogarty and John P. Fogarty*.
- Outreach has received donations from Kate and Joe Shields, The Gans Family, Anne Basso, Claire Donovan, Pat Heithaus, Jack and Celeste Meehan.
- Doris and Doug Cameron have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Fr. Harold Buetow*.

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.

## **Rosary Christian Mothers**

The Rosary Christian Mothers will be sponsoring a Holiday Raffle on the weekend of **November 21/22**. Raffle tickets will be sold after the 5 PM Mass on November 21 and after the 9:30, 11 AM and 12:30 PM Masses on November 22. Please help support this wonderful ministry.

## **Taize-Prayer Around the Cross**

Please join us for a Taize Prayer Service on **Tuesday December 1 at 7:30PM in the Church**. If you're interested in singing/playing with our Taize Group, please contact Carol Goetz at [music@ollchurch.org](mailto:music@ollchurch.org) for further information.

## **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.**

## **Bereavement Ministry - Coping with the Holidays**

*"How Can I Celebrate When My Heart is Broken?"*

All who have experienced a loss are invited to a Presentation and Brunch to help in facing and embracing the holidays while mourning. The Presentation and Brunch will be on **Saturday, December 12 at 11:30 AM in the Parish Center.**

Please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 to register.

*Save the date ...*

## **Breakfast with Santa**

Breakfast with Santa at Our Lady of Lourdes School this year will be on **Sunday, December 13**. This year, seatings will be from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM for the first seating and the second seating will be from 11AM to 1PM.

For more information please feel free to contact Charlene Coppola via email at [marchbaby@optonline.net](mailto:marchbaby@optonline.net).

Please look for more information in future bulletins.

## **Making Our School Better !**

Thank you to the **Gany Family** for their gift of a Sony Mobile HD Snap Camera.

Thank you to the **Siddiqui Family** for their monetary gift towards the first grade Smart Board.

One of our parents has graciously offered a donation towards the purchase of a SMART board for the First grade classroom for the 2009-10 school year.

Their contribution alone is not enough to make it happen. If you would like to contribute please contact, [lkennedy@ollschool.org](mailto:lkennedy@ollschool.org).

## **2009-2010 Student Government**

Congratulations to the students who are our Student Government...

**President** - *Ashley Acompora*

**Vice President** - *Francesca Desiderio*

**Treasurer** - *Grant Macina*

**Secretary** - *Christopher McDonald*

**8th Grade Representative** - *Christine Hess*

**7th Grade Representative** - *Chloe Hoerner*

**6th Grade Representative** - *Lexi Seigal*

## **Sports Announcements**

### **Cross-Country Update**

The boys and girls both placed 4th in a tough field. *Dan C.* broke 5:00 minutes for the course - the first boy to do so since we started competing. We had four medal winners - besides *Dan*, *Matt V*, *Brendan C* earned medals for the boys and *Alexis S* for the girls.

Championships will be on Veterans' Day, Wednesday, November 11 at Sunken Meadow Park. Come on out and cheer our OLL athletes on !

Please look at your times for this year and shoot for a PB in the last two meets.

## **Daily Mass**

8 AM

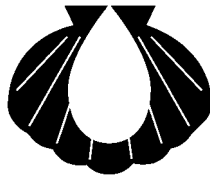
## **Weekend Masses**

**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.

## ***Baptisms***

*Zachary John Villalba*

Albert and Kathleen

*Daniel Robert Aprigliano*

George and Jennifer

*Mason Cruz Arredondo*

Erwin and Theresa

*Emma Dorotea Blandino*

John and Jeanine

*John Joseph Dappio*

John and Tangerine

*Dylan Michael Delgado*

Darwin and Toniann

*Anthony Nicholas Elberti*

Joseph and Susan

*Vincent Charles Elberti*

Joseph and Susan

## Remembering . . .

### Monday, November 9

*Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome*

8:00 AM Connie Celiberti

### Tuesday, November 10

*St. Leo the Great, pope & doctor*

8:00 AM Stephen V. Perez

### Wednesday, November 11

*St. Martin of Tours, bishop*

8:00 AM LaRocca & Sweeney Family

### Thursday, November 12

*St. Josaphat, bishop & martyr*

8:00 AM Salvatore Carrano

### Friday, November 13

*St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, virgin*

8:00 AM William Kuhlwilm

### Saturday, November 14

8:00 AM Roberta Carrano, Leonardo Vincencio,  
Nicholas Gustina, Stephen Perez

5:00 PM Barbara McGarrity

### Sunday, November 15

8:00 AM Gertrude Hawxhurst & Rita Hoeffner

9:30 AM Catherine & Joseph Esquilin  
(12th Wedding Anniversary)

11:00 AM Kim Ecker

12:30 PM Stephanie Garcia

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Helen Tryon, William Kuhlwilm,  
Phillip Charron, Salvatore Dellaria, Dominick Yannotti,  
Virginia Feliciano, Marilyn Sauers



## Rest In Peace

*Thomas Gaffney* died on October 28 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on October 31. We extend our prayers to his wife, Anne, and entire family.

*Robert Baxter* died on November 2 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on November 4. We extend our prayers to his wife, Mary, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and entire family.



## 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

A few years ago, an editor at a financial investment magazine penned an article on how one should give to charities. Amazingly, he advocated giving with strings attached! He cautioned that giving to an "inefficient" charity would cause your funds to be eaten up by administrative costs, and a misdirected donation (whatever that means) would cause you financial grief. Is it possible that in this day and age the word charity would be so misunderstood? True charity has no expectations and awaits no accountability. There are no strings attached.

Today's Gospel reading from Mark actually contains two lessons. The first is a warning; Jesus asks us to beware of those who promote themselves using religion as a catapult for their own selfish desires. The second lesson speaks to faith and charity. As Jesus and his disciples watched the donations being given to the synagogue's treasury, they noted that the wealthy gave large amounts of money and made sure everyone knew it; a poor widow, however, gave all of her wealth (two coins) in silence. It was this woman that Jesus praised; she gave all, the others gave what they could spare.

In giving of our heart to Jesus Christ, do we give all that we have or whatever we feel we can spare? In asking ourselves this question, we would do well to remember that we are one with the body of Christ; we share a communion of charity. Should one suffer, we all suffer; as we give individually, all benefit (CCC 953). The woman with the two coins gave far more than the rich men who made a show of giving a small percentage of their capabilities. As charity is love, remember that we cannot love with only a portion of our hearts, it is all or nothing.

### Readings for the Week of November 8, 2009

<b>Sunday:</b>	1 Kgs 17:10-16/Heb 9:24-28/Mk 12:38-44 <i>or</i> 12:41-44
<b>Monday:</b>	Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Wis 2:23---3:9/Lk 17:7-10
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Wis 6:1-11/Lk 17:11-19
<b>Thursday:</b>	Wis 7:22b---8:1/Lk 17:20-25
<b>Friday:</b>	Wis 13:1-9/Lk 17:26-37
<b>Saturday:</b>	Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9/Lk 18:1-8
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Dn 12:1-3/Heb 10:11-14, 18/Mk 13:24-32

## **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 ...

*Roy Anderson, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Ben Bellotti, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr.,  
Howard Campkin, Nicholas Cibelli, Michael Ciotkosz, Regina Cranor,  
Jeanne DellaRagione, Mary DeVivo, Ann Donlon, Marge Flem,  
Edward Herger, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Mary Kaval, Veronica Kenny,  
Kathleen Kerrigan, Bill Kruger, Kara Lobasso, Vicky Massaro, Marie Mathena,  
Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Muriel Meade, Vinny Meade, Dorothy Meloni,  
Rick Mirabella, Brenden Muldoon, Evelyn Nonnon, John O'Brien, Arthur Petrino,  
Helen Pitkowitz, Joanne Popper, Laura Prichard, Santa Quevedo, Joe Radosti,  
Frank Raimo, Carol Randazzo-Hopkins, Michael Savino, Ann Marie Schiraldi,  
Jayna Schmidt, Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Albina Sipplak, Derek Stahl,  
Mary Clair Stephen, Stephen Straub, Sr., Jack Timmer, Baby John Tramazzo,  
Vera Vieni, Flo Worysz*

# 2009 Catholic Ministries Appeal

*Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us*

**Thank you to all those who have responded!**

Our Lady of Lourdes and the Diocese of Rockville Centre would like to thank all those who have made a sacrifice by making a gift to the *2009 Catholic Ministries Appeal*.

## OLL CMA

**October 20, 2009**

Parish Goal	\$101,839.00
Amount Pledged	\$112,947.00
Total Paid	\$101,155.00
Number of Pledges	466
Average Pledge	\$242

As you can see, we have reached our parish goal in the amount pledged. However, we do not see the benefits of reaching our goal until the total paid has met or exceeded our parish goal amount. Therefore, our work is not done yet!

Please continue to make your annual pledge. If you have not already done so, please fill out the pledge card below and return to the Parish Office or place in the collection basket at Mass.

Thank you for your continued generosity.



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)

### 2008 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 \_\_\_\_\_

PARISH OF DONOR \_\_\_\_\_

#### A GUIDE TO GIVING

PLEDGE	10 PAYMENTS
\$ 1,000	\$ 100
\$ 500	\$ 50
\$ 350	\$ 35
\$ 250	\$ 25

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.



## Financial Summary

### October 25, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 17,010.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (1,990.00)

### November 1, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 18,170.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (830.00)

*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:



**Lorenzo Bacchi**-*US Marines*  
**Bryan R. Dempsey**-*US Marines*  
**Christopher Florca**-*US Marines*  
**Michael Mallimo**- *US Army*  
**Anthony Mannino**-*US Marines*  
**Peter Provenzano**-*US Army*  
**Frank Sliva**-*US Army*

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

# Old and New Struggles with the Church

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Today a lot of people are struggling with the church and this is more complex than first meets the eye.

Statistics show that in the last fifty years there hasn't been a huge drop-off in the number of people who say that they believe in God. Surprisingly too there hasn't been a huge drop-off in the number of people who name a church or a denomination to which they claim to belong. The huge drop-off has come mostly in one area, actual church-going. People still believe in God and their churches even when they don't often go to church. They haven't left their churches; they just aren't going to them. We aren't so much post-Christian as we are post-ecclesial. The problem is not so much atheism or even religious affiliation, but participation in the church.

Why? Why does our culture struggle so much with the church?

Liberals like to think that it is because the church has been too slow to change and that it is unhealthily out of step with today's world. Conservatives like to think the opposite, namely, that people have grown disenchanted with the church because it has changed too much and been too accommodating to the culture. There is some truth in both views, but analysts suggest that there are other reasons, reasons to do with the general breakdown of family and public life.

It is not just church-life and parish-life that are in trouble today. Declining church attendance is paralleled everywhere: Families and neighborhoods are dissipating and breaking down as people guard their privacy and individuality more and more. Civic organizations and clubs are finding it hard to function as they once did and there is simply less of a sense of community everywhere than there once was.

No wonder that our churches are struggling. Churches and parishes are, by definition, communities that are not based upon private intimacy, that is, they are not made up of people who choose to relate to each other on the basis of being like-minded. Rather churches and parishes are, by definition, made up of people who are called together despite their differences to meet around Christ and a set of values that molds them into a community beyond private preference. But that is not easily understood in a culture that believes

meaningful community can only be formed on the basis of private choice and a personal need for intimacy. Today we don't just bowl alone, we also do spirituality alone.

People today tend to treat their churches in the same way as they treat their families, namely, they want them to be there for them, for rites of passage, for special occasions, and for the security of knowing they can be turned if needed, but they don't want them to interfere much in their actual lives and they want to participate in them on their own terms. People no longer feel they need the church. They admit their need for God and for spirituality, but not their need for the church. Hence we have the popular notion that says: I want spirituality but not the church.

Finally, there is too the notion that the church as an institution is too flawed, too fraught with compromise, too narrow, too judgmental, and too hypocritical to be credible, to be the institution that mediates salvation. Jesus is pure, but the church is flawed, goes the logic. Hence, a lot of people choose to relate to the church very selectively and very sporadically.

I have never found a better answer to that than the one given by Carlo Carretto, the Italian spiritual writer, who loved the church deeply but was honest enough to admit its faults. Late in his life, he wrote this ode to the church:

How much I must criticize you, my church, and yet how much I love you! You have made me suffer more than anyone and yet I owe more to you than to anyone. I should like to see you destroyed and yet I need your presence. You have given me much scandal and yet you alone have made me understand holiness. Never in this world have I seen anything more compromised, more false, yet never have I touched anything more pure, more generous or more beautiful. Countless times I have felt like slamming the door of my soul in your face - and yet, every night, I have prayed that I might die in your sure arms! No, I cannot be free of you, for I am one with you, even if not completely you. Then too - where would I go? To build another church? But I could not build one without the same defects, for they are my defects. And again, if I were to build another church, it would be my church, not Christ's church. No, I am old enough, I know better.

That's an insight that can help all of us, both those of us who are going to church and those of us who aren't.

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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).*

## Goin' Green!

Each week we work hard to recycle and to save our planet. Our Sacristans with the help of many volunteers work hard to clear of our Church of all worship aids, bulletins and the like! We are always in need of help with this effort!

*How can you help?*

- *Clean up after yourself!* When you leave the Church, take home any extra worship aids, bulletins, or whatever else you see around.
- *Help us recycle!* Each week our Sacristans keep all the paper collected. Whenever you come to Mass check in the Sign In Room. (It's located in the front of the All Purpose Room with a big banner by its entrance) Check with the sacristans or take a box from the room and drop it in your recycle can!

## St. Cecilia's School Reunion

*You're invited to the celebration!*

Join with us as we commemorate "a rare parish school" on **St. Cecilia's Feast Day, Sunday, November 22 with Parish Liturgy at 12:15 PM at St. Cecilia's RC Church, 84 Herbert Street, Brooklyn.** Refreshments will follow in the auditorium. Please RSVP by November 10 to 718.389.0100.

## Men's Day of Reflection

Join the Suffolk County Chapter Knights of Columbus on **Saturday, November 21 from 10 AM to 2:30 PM for an inspirational Day of Reflection at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island.** You need not be a member. Cost is \$15. Contact Ray Burhan at 631.846.4068 to register.

## Upcoming Craft Fairs

**St. Matthew Rosary Altar Society , Dix Hills,** is sponsoring their Annual Holiday Craft Fair on **Sunday, November 22 from 9 AM until 4 PM.** there are over fifty vendors, lots of food, prizes and raffles, something for everyone. For information, please call Louise at 631.586.4515.

Christmas Craft Fair at **Westminister United Presbyterian Church, Udall Rd., West Islip on Sunday, December 5 from 9 AM until 4 PM.** Vendors are welcome-\$25 table fee. Please call the church office at 631.661.6740 for more information.

## Memorial Mass

Holy Name Society will host a Memorial Mass in remembrance of deceased Holy Name brothers, at St. Agnes Cathedral on Sunday, November 15 at the 11AM Mass. All families of recently deceased brothers invited.

## Rebuilding Together

Volunteers are needed any time , Mondays to Fridays. Rebuilding together Long Island is a volunteer group that performs free repairs to low-income seniors and handicapped homeowners in both Nassau and Suffolk.

Volunteers with minor skills are needed. Come join us and feel the joy of helping others in an atmosphere of fun. Call 516.541.7322.

## Wanted: Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist who have been commissioned by the Diocese are needed to bring the Eucharist to patients at Good Samaritan Hospital.

You may schedule whatever mornings are convenient for you. Even one day per month will help a great deal. If interested, please call 631.376.4103.

## Hope for Warriors

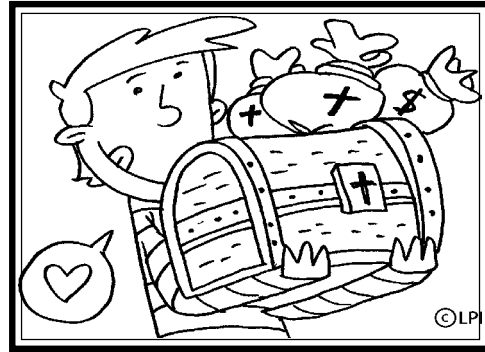
On November 21, Brumidi Lodge is running a fund raiser “Hope for Warriors”, the purpose is to raise funds to pay for schooling for the wives of wounded men. Many of the women are stay at home Moms and do not have skills that would enable them to earn a living wage, now that they will be the primary wage earner in their families. Everything to make this happen is donated, all monies raised will be used for the purpose of educating the women. The donation is \$25., dinner will be served.

## 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. Listen on Saturdays at 11 PM on Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and at 11 PM on XM Satellite, channel 117. Next Sunday’s theme is “**Family Life.** ” Don’t miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding “Religion & Rock” go to [www.religionandrock.com](http://www.religionandrock.com) or at “Religion & Rock” on ITUNES. Don’t forget to tune into TELECARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 271 for the Best in Catholic Television!

# Sharing the Gospel

God wants us to be humble, and he wants us to share our blessings. So many people Jesus met were proud, and they thought they deserved special treatment. Other people were rich, but they took what they wanted first and gave God what was left. The poor widow in today's Gospel got it right. She quietly gave to God all she had.



## Prayer

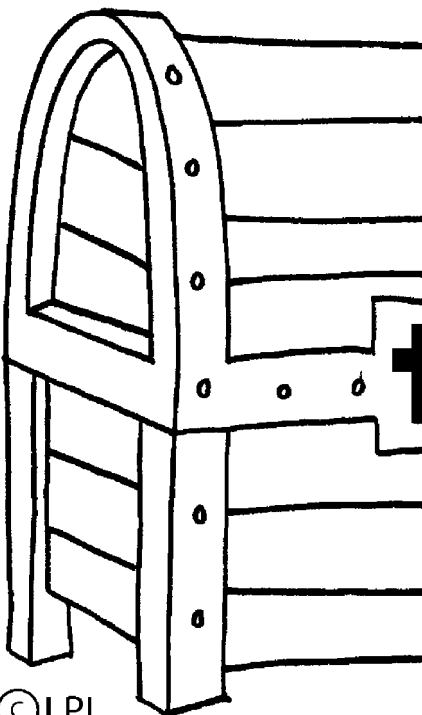


Dear God,  
help me to quietly give you the best of all that you have given me.



## Puzzle

Complete the picture.



©LPI

## Something to Draw



Draw a picture of the poor widow who trusted God with her whole heart.

## Mission for the Week



If you have a piggy bank, take money out and give it to God next Sunday. Shhhh! Remember to give it to God quietly.