

OUR LADY OF LOURDES • PENTECOST SUNDAY • MAY 23, 2010

"HE BREATHED ON THEM AND SAID,



**"RECEIVE THE
HOLY SPIRIT."**



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.

Our Lady of Lourdes

*455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, New York 11795*

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

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.

Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano

Pastor

Rev. Patsy Amabile

Associate Pastor

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

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

Parish Staff

Barbara Catusco

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 (option 1)

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 (option 2)

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: lkrol@ollschoo.org

Religious Education Office

661.5440 (option 3)

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon

1 PM - 5 PM

7 PM - 9 PM

email: ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org

Parish Outreach Office

661.9262 (option 4)

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

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 contact the Parish Office at 661.3224, option 1, or send an email to parishoffice@ollchurch.org



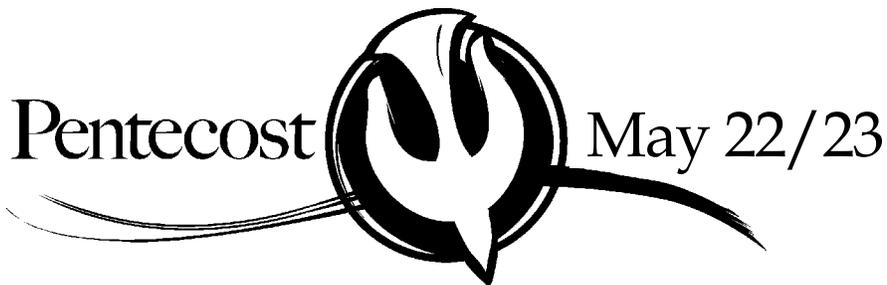
Veterans and Patriots Wanted

This year, the parish family of Our Lady of Lourdes has been invited to take part in the West Islip Memorial Day Parade.

It would be wonderful for us to be represented on this important patriotic day honoring our troops and veterans. If your group or ministry is interested in helping us organize parish participation, please contact Fr. Mike, pastor@ollchurch.org or call 631.661.3224.

The Great Ministry Event

Come and See...



Our Lady of Lourdes has so many wonderful and caring Ministries. Every day our parishioners "Make a Difference" by offering gifts of loving service in support of our community. Each of these gifts offered in Christ's name provides a glimpse of our God's love for His people.

On Pentecost Weekend (May 22/23) at and after each of our Masses, we will celebrate by highlighting our many Ministries. This will be an opportunity for each of us to see the breadth and depth of all that happens at OLL.

*You are invited to "Come and See"
-is there a ministry here that calls to you?
Spend some time with us and celebrate
the great works done in our Parish!*

Around Our Parish

OLL Pilgrimage to the Holy Land Walking in Jesus' Footsteps

April 25 - May 4, 2011

Come and walk in the footsteps of Jesus along with our Pastor Fr. Mike Vetrano.

Consider being with family and friends on a trip of a lifetime!

Walk the streets of Jerusalem and be in the place of our Christian heritage. Come to Bethlehem, visit the Basilica of the Nativity. Be at the Baptism site of Jesus on the Jordan River, sail on the Sea of Galilee and walk in the Garden of Gethsemane. You will visit the room of the Last Supper, walk on the Via Dolorosa "The Way of the Cross", and drive through the wilderness of Judea and the mountains of Jerusalem. All this on your trip of a lifetime. For more information, come to our meeting on **Monday, May 24 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

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**.



There's a new...

A new *evening* men's prayer group is starting up! It will be held once a month, on the third Wednesday of each month from **7:30 PM until 8:30 PM in the Spiritual Life Center**.

The first meeting will be **Wednesday night, June 16**. Come with your ideas. We'll read and discuss the Liturgy for the following Sunday Mass.

For more information, call Jack Fitzgerald at 587.5548 or Tim Keegan at 926.4900.

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.

Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday, May 24, at 12:30 PM in the Parish Center**.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, May 25, in the Parish Center at 9 AM**.

Mark your calendars...

Upcoming Youth Ministry Event

Monday, May 24th:

High School Youth Group starts at 7 p.m. in Room 16.



Youth Ministry

Youth Group Meeting Schedule

Middle School

High School

June 7, 21

May 24

June 14, 21

**All meetings will be in Room 16 of the school*



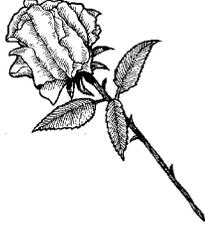
Youth Group

High School students! Youth Group for grades 9-12 has moved from Thursdays to Mondays at OLL! We will still meet at 7 PM in Room 16. For a full list of dates please go to ollchurch.org/youth, email Allegra@ollchurch.org or check the bulletin board in the All Purpose Room!

“The 6 Committee” is getting a make-over!

We all love *The 6* and its laid-back atmosphere and now it's going teen! If you're a student in grades 6-12, join “The 6 Committee”! We need your help to keep “The Six” comfortable and to make it even better! To become a member of the 6 Committee speak with Allegra or email Allegra@ollchurch.org.





Mother's Day / Father's Day Mass
for parents who have lost a child
Saturday, June 12 at 10 AM

Mother's Day and Father's Day can be difficult times for parents who have lost a child. Whether you have lost a child in childhood or adulthood, to stillbirth or miscarriage, this Mass will be celebrated to bring you God's peace and consolation.

We would like to invite any parent who has lost a child to a special Mass on **Saturday, June 12 at 10 AM.**

Mass will be followed by hospitality in our Parish Center. Please feel free to invite family or friends with you. For more information, or to let us know you will be able to attend, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224, option 1.

Religious Education

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

Hang Out Nites continue...

Friday June 18 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, free raffles, 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.

For more information, call 661.5440, option 3 or email religioused@ollchurch.org.

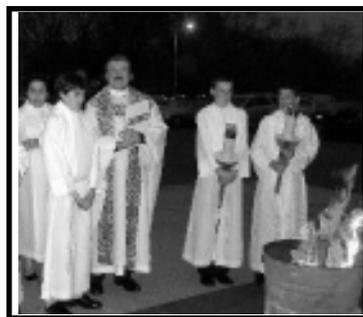
Did you know?

You can go to "eChalk" at www.ollreled.org to link and follow your "own" grade to find new and exciting activities, important parent information, and view our OLL Religious Education Calendar.

Where is the RCIA?

Their journey continues...

Listen as they share their stories with us each week.



My Journey Began and My Journey Continues

A year ago my wife, Samantha and I got married and bought a house in West Islip with plans of starting a family of our own. We knew we wanted to raise our future children in the Catholic faith, but as my wife received all her sacraments, I had only been baptized as a baby. Growing up my family never made going to church a priority and only attended mass during Easter and Christmas. Thus, I had always felt a spiritual void in my life throughout the years and decided it was time to bring Christ into my life for myself, my wife and our future children. Samantha and I called Our Lady of Lourdes to inquire about the adult religious education programs.

From the very first meeting, Father Bob, Sister Nancy and the entire R.C.I.A. team, or I should say "Family", has made this spiritual experience wonderful and enlightening. I have to admit I was a little apprehensive at first, not knowing what to expect, but my mind was put at ease with the friendly and family oriented atmosphere. I looked forward to every Thursday's meeting and Sunday Mass, where the conversation and food were great, and the insight and spiritual education provided by the Team was even better.

I would just like to thank the R.C.I.A. family and the entire Parish for their friendship and guidance through my spiritual journey these past months. The Our Lady of Lourdes Parish truly exemplifies the meaning of community and family, which I am now blessed to be a part of. Samantha and I are now expecting our first child at the end of October and we look forward to our family being a part of the OLL family for many years to come.

- Roy Miller

Religious Retirement Fund

The Religious Retirement Fund for the Rockville Centre Diocese was launched in 1985 when it became obvious that retirement plans for local religious orders were significantly under-funded. Today, retired Religious receive a minimal sum in Social Security benefits, well below what the average individual receives.

On June 5/6, we will have our special annual collection for the Sisters and Brothers of the Religious Communities who serve us throughout the Dioceses of Rockville Centre and Brooklyn. Many of us have had our lives touched by caring Religious. They have taught us in schools and given quality health care to many of us in hospitals and nursing homes.

Kindly consider a donation or a pledge, as generous as your means will allow, to the Religious Retirement fund. You may use your envelope to place this donation in the mail or drop in the collection basket on the weekend of June 5/6.

Discovery Camp



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

Registration Now Being Accepted*

June 28th – August 6th
9am – 5pm, Monday - Friday

A full time day camp program for students entering grades K – 7 beginning with an academic based morning and a fun-filled afternoon of sports provided by F.A.S.T. Athletics.

Program choices include:

K – 1 "Under the Sea" or "Bugs Galore"
2 – 4 "Rain Forest" or "Space Camp"
5 – 7 "Mind Games" or "Teen Spirit"

Before / After Care and School Provided Lunch Available for an Additional Fee. For More Information Contact:

Lisa Kennedy, Director

lkennedy@ollschool.org 631.587.7200 ext.100

*non-refundable/non-transferable

Who's Who

Our Golf Classic Honorees are...

John and Anne DeGuardi

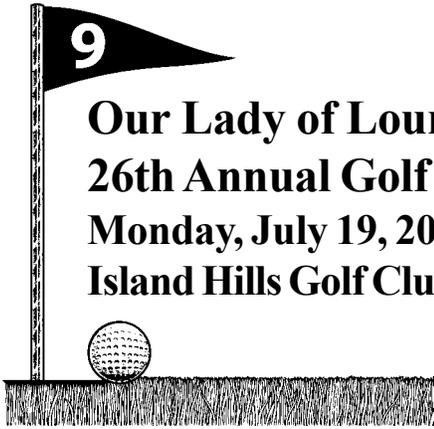
Deacon John and Anne have been at the heart and soul of our parish for many years. They serve together in our ministry of consolation reaching out to so many who have lost a loved one. They support our stewardship and evangelization ministries which help our parishioners to find a place of belonging and service in our parish. A gifted artist, Deacon John has brought much beauty to our parish -- most recently a new processional cross (inspired by eighth graders in the class of 2009) and a new mural for the entrance to our church to be dedicated this fall. Deacon John has been an active supporter of Our Lady of Lourdes school and has been the spiritual guide for many graduating classes.

Paul and Diane Munch

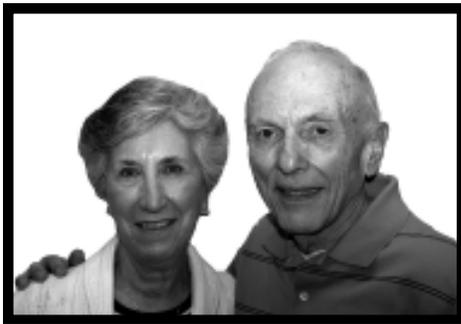
Many OLL parishioners know Paul as the person who is most responsible for the beauty of our parish grounds throughout the year -- Munch Landscaping always keeps us looking our best! Paul and Diane are also the first to support important programs here at OLL. They are good benefactors for our Summer Evening Prayer Program and also our Parish Italian Family Feast. They have helped us with the design and building of our Father Joe Garden including the beautiful Christmas tree in his memory. Diane is a very active member of the West Islip community and has been active in many projects of beautification for our town. They are true supporters of everything we do and we are happy to honor them this year.

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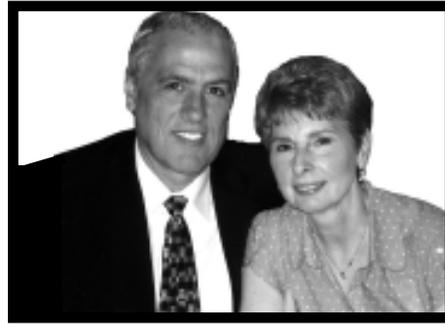
**Our Lady of Lourdes
26th Annual Golf Classic
Monday, July 19, 2010
Island Hills Golf Club, Sayville**



This year we will be honoring:



Deacon John and Anne DeGuardi



Paul and Diane Munch

(see page 10 for more info)

Golfing Package includes green fees, golf cart, driving range, lunch and dinner, all for \$250 per golfer.

Discounts for seniors 60+ and college students, \$200.



*If you would like to
join us for dinner
only, \$75 per person.*

Outing includes cocktails, raffles, roving beverage cart, Hole-in-one contest for a new car, contests-longest drive, most accurate, closest to pin.

*Registration and BBQ is at
11 AM with a 12:30 PM shot
gun tee off. Cocktail hour
is 5:30 - 6:30 PM with
dinner at 6:30 PM.*



Journal Ads:

Full page \$ 100
Half page \$ 75
Quarter page \$ 50

Sponsorships:

Dinner \$1,500
Lunch \$ 750
Driving Range \$ 500
Individual Hole \$ 100

For more information please contact Golf Committee member Rich at 661.5478.

All proceeds will benefit Our Lady of Lourdes.

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-9:30 AM beginners meeting convent lower level.
(Free babysitting available.)



Rest In Peace

Nicholas W. Cibelli died on May 7 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was May 12. We extend our prayers to his mother, Pamela, his father, Michael, siblings, grandparents, and entire family.

Pauline Licata died on May 11 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was May 14. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and entire family.

Chuck Campos died on April 20 and a Memorial Mass was celebrated on May 14. We extend our prayers to his wife, Joanne and entire family.

Joseph Shields died on May 10 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was May 14. We extend our prayers to his wife, Katherine, children, grandchildren, and entire family.

Ernest Wiebke died on May 12 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was May 17. We extend our prayers to his wife, Mary, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and entire family.

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.

Remembering...

Monday, May 24

8:00 AM Nora Olsen

Tuesday, May 25

Saint Bede the Venerable, priest and doctor

8:00 AM Mary Colin

Wednesday, May 26

Saint Philip Neri, priest

8:00 AM Ethel Isola

Thursday, May 27

Saint Augustine of Canterbury, bishop

8:00 AM Michael M. O'Donnell

Friday, May 28

8:00 AM Ethel Isola & Antoinetta Isola

Saturday, May 29

8:00 AM Mary Catalano, Lynn Aspetti, Margaret Scanlon,
Harry Perissi, Marilyn Yung, Dorothy Wimmer,
Sherry Billings, Linda Kelly (*living*)

5:00 PM John Wallace

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Sunday, May 30

8:00 AM Anne Magner

Fr. Pat Amabile

9:30 AM Donald & Patrick Manning

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

11:00 AM Joseph Specht

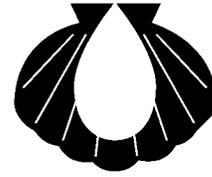
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

12:30 PM Joseph Lombardi

Fr. Pat Amabile

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Ruth & Ginny Munkwitz, Rick Munkwitz,
Fran Van Bramer, Joseph C. Walsh, Veronica Kenny,
Anthony Cannizzaro, Dorothy Rodigan, Patricia Wepler,
Stephen Massina, John Ianno, Joseph DiPalma, Vincent Grabinsky,
Thomas Donohue, Deborah Cameron

Fr. Ambrose Cabildo



Baptisms

Ava Marie Davis

James and Jennifer

Alyssa Paige Dilan

Joseph and Bernadette

Gracey Lee Fournier

Christopher and Stacey

Angelina Marie Rizzo

Johnathan and Catherine

Branden Scott Rizzo

Johnathan and Catherine

Jeremy Vincent Sinclair

James and Jennifer



Pentecost Sunday

The church cries out this day, "Come, Holy Spirit, come! Veni, Sancte Spiritus! ?Ven, Dios Esp?ritu Santo!" In every language and dialect in the world, we beg that the Spirit of God may be poured out. We look to God's Spirit for refreshment, comfort, and peace.

The Pentecost mystery of many languages united by one Spirit didn't just happen in Jerusalem so many centuries ago. One of the great beauties of the church is that many languages, nationalities, and peoples are united Sunday after Sunday in a great prayer of thanksgiving to the God who gives us every good gift. It is the Spirit of Christ that makes us one, even as we pray that we "may be filled with his Holy Spirit, and become one body, one spirit in Christ" (Eucharistic Prayer 3). The very fact the church gathers in so many languages is a great sign of the unifying action of the Holy Spirit. We thank God for all the blessings poured out on us, each in our own tongue. And rather than it being a cacophony, the Spirit weaves our prayer together as we cry out "Abba, Father," as Paul writes in today's selection from his Letter to the Romans.

If the Holy Spirit prompts us all-no matter what race, language, or nationality-to call upon God as our Father, then indeed the Spirit invites us to see others who are baptized as our brothers and sisters. So on this great feast, think of all who are brother and sister to us because they too are baptized in Christ and call on God as Father: the Iraqi refugee in Jordan who fled from his church; the Dalit (Untouchable) Christian in India who is of the lowest caste; the illegal immigrant Catholic from Mexico; the homeless Christian in Chicago. These, along with us, and many others, call upon one Father in the Holy Spirit.

2010 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of May 23, 2010

Sunday:	<i>Vigil:</i> Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b <i>or</i> Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39 <i>Day:</i> Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 <i>or</i> Rom 8:8-17/Jn 20:19-23 or 14:15-16, 23b-26
Monday:	1 Pt 1:3-9/Mk 10:17-27
Tuesday:	1 Pt 1:10-16/Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday:	1 Pt 1:18-25/Mk 10:32-45
Thursday:	1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12/Mk 10:46-52
Friday:	1 Pt 4:7-13/Mk 11:11-26
Saturday:	Jude 17, 20b-25/Mk 11:27-33
Next Sunday:	Prv 8:22-31/Rom 5:1-5/Jn 16:12-15

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Monenna Kennedy*.
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, Alicia Atteniese, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Ben Bellotti, Antoinette Bongiorno, Theresa Buffa, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Michael Ciotkosz, Donald L. Coffey, Anthony Colitti, Regina Cranor, Jeanne DellaRagione, Ann Donlon, Tony Drexler, Debbie Eichen, Vivian Gordon, Jack Hartz, Edward Herger, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Max Illiano, Herb Jaggi, Diana Kaehne, Mary Kaval, Kathleen Kerrigan, Josephine Kosiczky, Charles LaSala, Joseph Lehmann, S. Diane Liona, Kara Lobasso, Charlie Maccio, Louise Malcuit, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Dorothy Meloni, Rick Mirabella, Rae Morris, Brenden Muldoon, Ruth Murray, Evelyn Nonnon, John O'Brien, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Laura Prichard, Joe Radosti, Carol Randazzo-Hopkins, Baby Skyler Rene, Michael Savino, Ann Marie Schiraldi, Jayna Schmidt, Ruth Shea, Dorothy Shiavone, Derek Stahl, Mary Clair Stephen, Stephen Straub, Sr., John Tramazzo, Nancy Turano, Vera Vieni, Pat Wallace, Kyle Williams, Geraldine Wloszczyna, Joe Yezek

Financial Summary

May 16, 2010

Weekly Collection	\$ 16,984.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (2,016.00)

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

Christopher Florca-US Marines

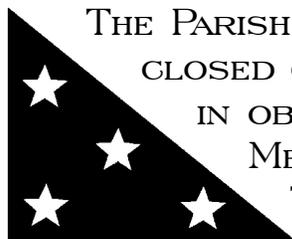
Michael Mallimo- US Army

Anthony Mannino-US Marines

JD Montefusco-US Marines

Peter Provenzano-US Army

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



THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED ON MONDAY, MAY 31
IN OBSERVANCE OF
MEMORIAL DAY.

THE OFFICE WILL REOPEN
TUESDAY, JUNE 1 AT 9 AM.

MEMORIAL
DAY



Pantry Needs

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

Donations to Outreach

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

- Mr. and Mrs. Donald Sullivan have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *MaryEllen Robinson*.
- In honor of Mother's Day, Doris and Richard Shaddock have made a donation to Outreach in remembrance of their mothers, *Rose Monroe and Elinor Shaddock*.
- Phyliss Diesso has made a donation to Outreach in memory of her late husband, *Charles Diesso*.
- Vito and Rosa Mastorocca have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Angela Serini*.
- Doris and Doug Cameron have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Edward Humburg*.

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.

Public Service Announcement

Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Outreach Program

Free: Physical Exam and Medical Screening at Good Samaritan Hospital, 100 Montauk Highway, West Islip, New York 11795

Includes: History, Physical, Chest X-Ray, Breast Exam, EKG, Blood & Urine Test, Pap Smear.

Eligibility: 18 yrs. or older without funds or medical insurance, those who have Medicaid only and are not regularly seen by a physician or clinic. This is non-denominational and open to all who qualify. For an appointment or more information call: 631.376.3182. Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 10 AM-2 PM.

Mystical Images for Our Religious Quest

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

There are few things as powerful as a poetic image. The nation with the best poets will ultimately triumph because poetry is more powerful than armies. An army can beat a nation into submission, but only a poetic image can change a people's vision.

That's not an exaggeration. To offer a small example: Centuries ago, Leonardo da Vinci painted a picture of the Last Supper. No historian in the world would suggest that the actual Last Supper of Jesus looked anything like da Vinci's painting, but his image of the Last Supper has so branded and stamped itself into our universal consciousness that today we cannot not picture the Last Supper, except as he painted it.

With this in mind, I want to highlight two images from the Gospel of John, mystical images that we would do well to brand into our consciousness, like a da Vinci painting. They are images for the religious quest, for true pilgrimage, for discipleship.

Unlike the other Gospels, where Mary, the mother of Jesus, is presented as the ideal disciple, John's Gospel gives Mary a different role, that of being Eve, the mother of all creation. It then gives us two powerful images of discipleship, one male and one female: The Beloved Disciple and Mary of Magdala.

The Beloved Disciple, whom we commonly, though perhaps naively, identify with John himself, offers one image of what means to be a disciple of Jesus. John presents this figure in various guises, but all have this in common: The Beloved Disciple has a unique intimacy with Jesus. Perhaps the single most powerful picture of this is that of the Beloved Disciple reclining at the Last Supper with his head on Jesus' breast.

What is contained in this image? This is a mystical image, of intimacy and of listening. Simply put, the image is this: If you place your ear on someone's chest, you can hear that person's heartbeat. The Beloved Disciple, then, is the person who is so intimate with Jesus that he or she hears his heartbeat and, from that perspective, looks out at the world. To be a disciple of Jesus is to have your ear attuned to his heartbeat as you gaze out into the world. For John, if you do this, you will always be at the right places, will always have the right perspective, and will always have the courage to do the right thing. You will also be driven by love.

And this, to be driven by love, is John's other mystical image for discipleship, the figure of Mary of Magdala.

John presents her as the restless, driven figure from the Song of Songs, a woman unable to sleep until she finds her soul mate. And, like the image of the Beloved Disciple reclining on Jesus' breast, it is an image of a unique intimacy.

To help grasp the strength of this image, it is helpful to first read the Song of Songs. Its early chapters, speaking through a woman's voice, present us with an image of an unconsummated, driven lover whose yearning for her soul mate relativizes everything else in her life. She has only one thing on her mind and in her heart, to find the one who can still her moral loneliness:

On my bed at night I sought my beloved, sought him but could not find him.

So I got up and went into the city; in the streets and in the squares, seeking my beloved.

I sought but could not find him!

I came upon the watchmen, those who go on their rounds in the city:

"Have you seen my beloved?"

Barely had I passed them when I found my beloved

I caught him, and would not let him go, not until I had brought him to my mother's house and to the very room and the bed where my mother had conceived me.

There are no images more intimate than these. And, for John, true discipleship is driven by precisely such yearning, both in terms of its earthy intensity and in terms of the depth of intimacy it desires.

But we rarely think like this religiously. Such language strikes us almost as sacrilegious, unfit for pious ears. The quest for God and the hunger for this kind of consummation form different categories, two distinct worlds, inside of us. Our quest for discipleship and religion is emotionally all but completely divorced from our yearning to find a soul mate, divorced from our sexuality, and divorced from our fantasies, whatever they are, of what ultimately makes for consummation. For us, religion and our psycho-sexual world rarely, if ever, intersect at that level. Religion is understood as a duty we do, a categorical imperative that in our better moments we recognize as important, but it isn't something that drives us out on a Sunday morning, as it did Mary of Magdala, to restlessly prowl gardens, which we tend to call churches, looking for a God to fill an emptiness that we consider only emotional, psychological, and sexual.

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.

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40th Reunion

Class of '70 Bishop Reilly H.S. Graduates! Our fortieth reunion will be held at the school on Saturday, June 26, 2010. For detailed information, please visit bishopreilly1970reunion.com or email Steve DiTomaso at bishopreilly1970reunion@hotmail.com.

Volunteers Needed

St. Cyril's Thrift Shop, Deer Park, has expanded their hours! In order to meet the growing demand, volunteers are needed. If you can help, please call Jane at 242.6718 for more information.

Taking Time to Wonder

Would you ever consider spending a few hours of your time reveling in moments of quiet, simply enjoying God? Would you be drawn to a few simple passages of scripture where God describes what God cares about most of all—loving you and being loved by you? Come join us on Sunday, June 6 from 1:30 PM until 4:30 PM at the Maude Adams House at the Cenacle in Ronkonkoma. Registration begins at 1 PM. Offering \$30 for the afternoon. A deposit of \$10 (non-refundable) will hold your registration. Light refreshments will be served.

Centering Prayer Retreat Weekend

St. Ignatius Retreat House, Manhasset

Friday, June 25 - Sunday, June 27

For further information, please call Diane at 631.587.0966.

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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 "**Remembering.**" Don't miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go to www.religionandrock.com or at "Religion & Rock" on ITUNES. Don't forget to tune into TELECARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 296 for the Best in Catholic Television!

Sharing the Gospel

The disciples must have missed spending time with Jesus after he went back to heaven. But they knew that the Holy Spirit would always be with them, helping them remember what Jesus taught them. The disciples kept learning about God and kept growing closer to him. The Holy Spirit will help you remember Jesus, too.



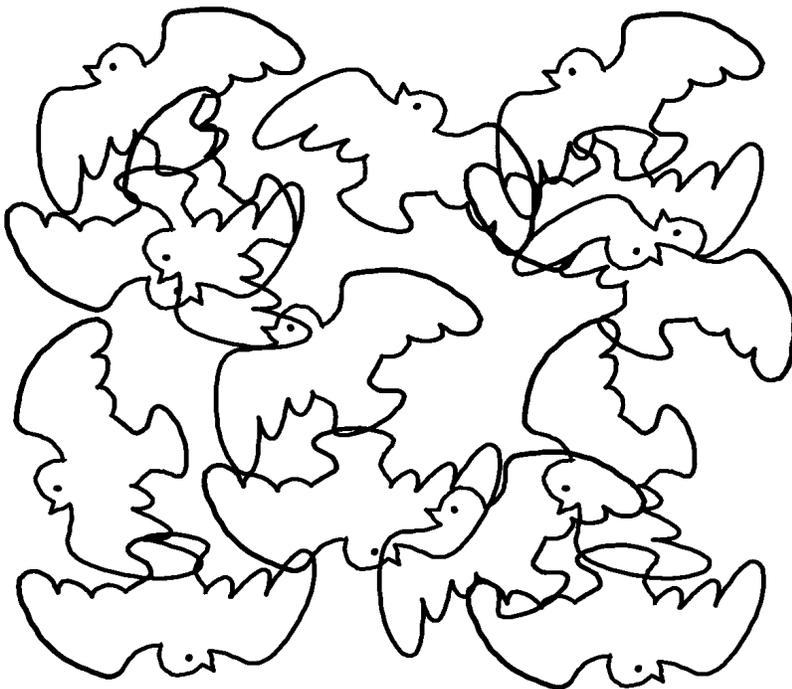
Mission for the Week



Pray to the Holy Spirit. Ask him to help you learn more about Jesus."

Puzzle

How many spirits can you count?



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THE ANSWER IS FOURTEEN

Prayer



Dear God, thank you for sending the Holy Spirit.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of Jesus washing his friends' feet.