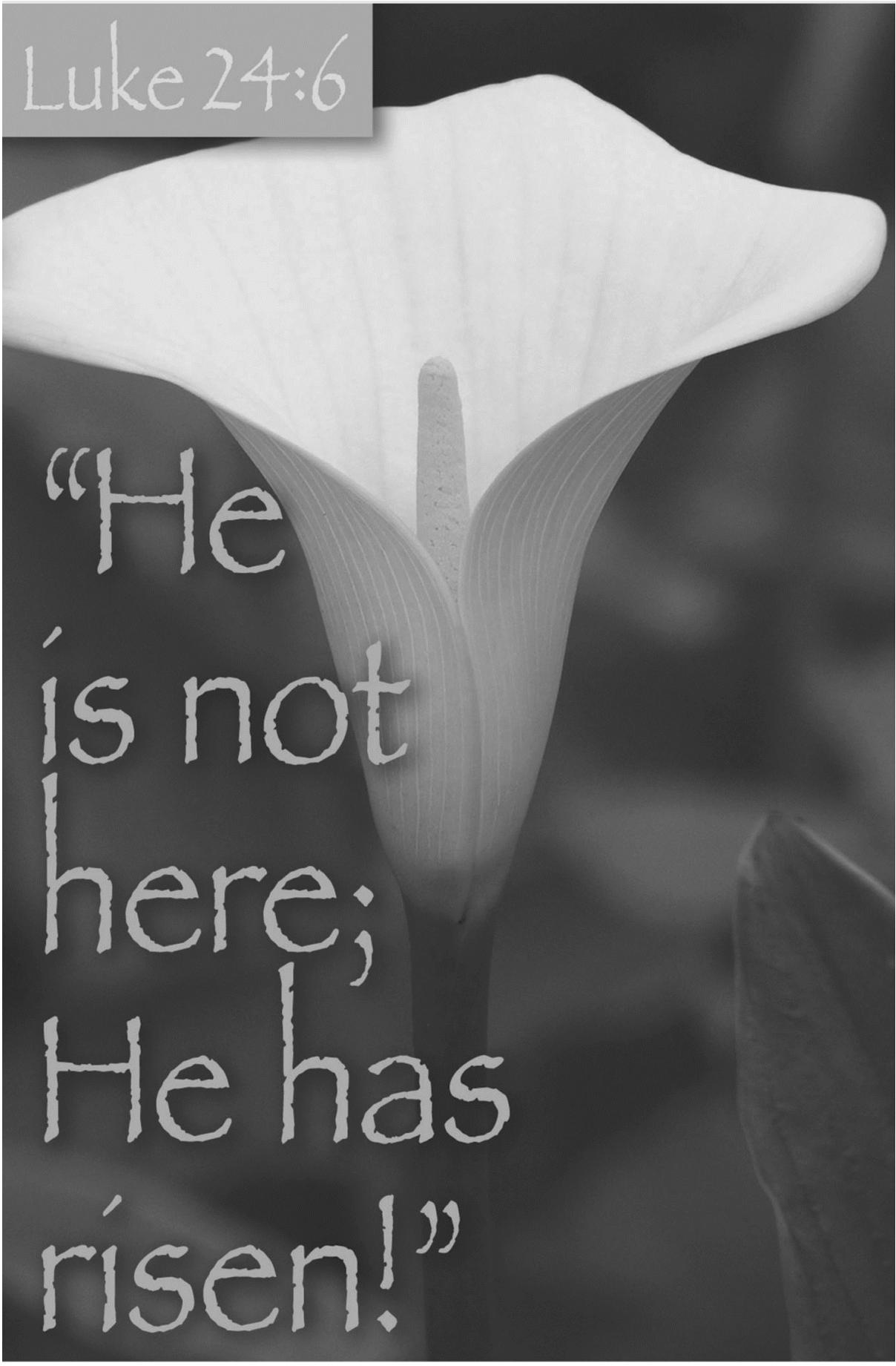


Our Lady of Lourdes • Easter Sunday • April 20, 2014

Luke 24:6

“He
is not
here;
He has
risen!”





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.

Daily Mass
8:30 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5 PM
Sunday: 8 AM, 9:30 AM,
11 AM, 12:30 PM and 6 PM

Reconciliation/Confession
Saturday: 4 PM - 4:45 PM

Rosary
Daily at 8 AM

Miraculous Medal Novena
Monday after 8:30 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 ad-
vance, please call the Parish Office.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of
Adults (RCIA)** A process to be em-
braced by the Catholic Church. For
non-Catholics and for Catholics who
have never received formal religious
education. If interested, please call
the 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.

Pastoral Team

Msgr. Brian McNamara
Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback
Associate Pastor

Deacon John DeGuardi
Deacon Tom Lucie
Deacon Jack Meehan
Coordinator of Stewardship
Deacon John Teufel

Sr. Nancy Campkin, CSJ
Director of Religious Education
Trish Frodell
Director of Parish Social Ministry
Louise Jane Krol
School Principal
Sr. Diane Liona, CSJ
Director of Religious Education
Mary McMahon
Business Manager
Robin Reynolds-Brennan
Coordinator of Worship
OLL Choir Director
Vita Scoria
Ministry Spiritual Director

Pastoral Council

Msgr. Brian McNamara
Eileen Rega
Mary Borgs
Lisa Cantalino
Sonia DaSilva
Nilo DeLeon
Jerry Esposito
Trish Frodell
Pam Gagliano
Deborah Lamb
Rosalie Mangels
Deacon Jack Meehan
John Muldoon
Josephine O'Malley
Dottie Perdue
Vita Scoria

Parish Staff

AnnMarie Buonaspina
Director of Youth Choirs
Michael Buonaspina
Parish Organist
Anne Gregg
School Office
Debbie Meyer
Bulletin Editor/Business Office
Rita Spera
Religious Education Office
Lori Walsh
Parish Office
Pat Young
Parish Office

Parish Office
455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, NY 11795
661.3224, option 1
Monday-Thursday
9 AM - 7:30 PM
Friday: 9 AM - 5 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
44 Toomey Road
West Islip, NY 11795
587.7200, option 2
Monday-Friday
9 AM - 3 PM
email: lkrol@ollschool.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- Friday
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

S.A.G.E.
661.3224, ext. 122
(Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment)
email: Sage@ollchurch.org



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Easter 2014

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Let us celebrate the great and glorious feast of the Resurrection of our Lord, let us celebrate it with joy and devotion; the Lord is risen and has awakened the whole earth!

These beautiful words of St. John Chrysostom, the fourth century Bishop of Constantinople, call us to rejoice in this greatest of all mysteries: the Son of God became man for us! As son of man He died for us! He Who died for us and went to the netherworld to release Adam and Eve and all the saints, rose in His very human body now glorified for us. He sets us free. He transforms our lives. He pours forth the Holy Spirit which is a pure and unmerited gift for us. We now live as adopted sons and daughters of God the Father. We now truly are sisters and brothers of Jesus, the Risen One, Who sits at the right hand of the Father for us!

On this Easter Day of 2014, I greet all of you just as the Risen Christ greeted the apostles in that Upper Room on that first Easter: *Shalom! Peace!* I pray that Christ's peace may dwell in your hearts and be shared by us all this Easter and every Easter of our lives here on earth. His peace is God's gift to us that we might be *free from sin and from all distress* because His life dwells in us and we dwell in Him.

Yet we know we continue to live in a world of lights and shadows. In such a world, we must join our lives to Christ and share His mission, the mission the whole Church makes her own: *that the world may believe*. St. Paul is right: *We were darkness. Now we are light*. That means that we must be light to the world as Christ is the light that illuminates our hearts and guides our journey on earth. Be confident that you share His mission. Be confident that you do so as a precious part of Christ's Body, the Church. Together we are co-responsible to bring Christ to the poor, the vulnerable, the marginalized. Together we are co-responsible to show the world Christ's life by our lives, Christ's love by our loving concern for others.

May this simple message resound in our hearts as we greet one another this Easter with the ancient cry of the early Christians: *Christ is risen! He is truly risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Your brother and your Shepherd in Christ,

Bishop of Rockville Centre

Dear Friends:

Blessed Easter! May the joy of the Risen Christ and the hope of the Resurrection be with you and your family always.

I hope that Easter will be a time of great grace for your family as well. If you have been away from the Church for a while, make this a new Easter for you and your family and come back to God's family, the Church. Christ died and rose from the dead for YOU, so that YOU would have the opportunity for happiness in this life and the life to come! Take advantage of the grace that God wants to bestow on you every Sunday, especially in the gift of the Eucharist, Holy Communion.

St. Matthew notes that an angel came and rolled away the stone from the front of the tomb. With that in mind, I invite you and your family to pray this Litany aloud before Easter dinner later today.

*Roll away the stone that makes me want to give up.
Roll away the stone of absence that saddens my life.
Roll away the stone of disappointment and despair.
Roll away the stone of discouragement and defeat.
Roll away the stone of false hopes, negativity and pessimism.
Roll away the stone of self-reliance and self-assertion.
Roll away the stone of self-importance and self-glory.
Roll away the stone that keeps me closed in on myself.
Roll away the stone of unwillingness and stubbornness.
Roll away the stone of resistance and rebellion in my life.
Roll away the stone of anger and resentment.
Roll away the stone of indifference and laziness.
Roll away the stone of bitterness and regret.
Roll away the stone of individualism and alienation.
Roll away the stone of skepticism and the doubting of God's promises.
Roll away the stone of defensiveness and blaming.
Roll away the stone of selfishness, moodiness and materialism.
Roll away the stone of my hardened opinions and stereotypes.
Roll away the stone of my addictions.
Roll away the stone of cynicism and self-justification.
Roll away the stone of pretense and lies.
Roll away the stone that keeps me lukewarm in my prayer.
Roll away the stone that keeps me sealed in the wounds of the past.*

Remember: Together, we can do something beautiful for God!

In Christ,

Msgr. Brian

Nocturnal Adoration

"Come to me all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."

This is Jesus Christ's invitation every first Saturday of the month. The Blessed Sacrament is taken to the main altar after the 5 PM Mass and will be exposed up to 9:50 PM. Everyone is invited to spend some time in front of the Blessed Sacrament to offer prayers, petitions, and thanksgiving to Jesus. Nocturnal Adoration will follow the 5 PM Mass on **Saturday, May 3**, concluding with Benediction at 9:50 PM. Please come and pray with us.

All are invited and welcome. Bring a friend!

Women's Prayer Group

We are women, mothers, daughters, sisters and wives, married and single, of all ages and stages in our lives. We come together to pray, share and discuss how our faith fills us and gets us through our lives. We welcome all women to come and share how God made us special and how we bring that into our world. We meet on the first Thursday of each month in the Spiritual Life Center. There are two opportunities to gather-**Mornings 9:30 AM and Evenings 7:30 PM**. Come join us. Your story is what we need to hear. **Our next meetings are on May 1**. For more information call Vita Scoria at 669.4717 or Stacie Baltrusitis at 661.4254.



RCIA-Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

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 November, 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,

- we celebrate the Baptism of *Amanda Sellmeyer*
- we celebrate the reception into the Church of *Steven John Andrich and Stacey Raia*
- we celebrate the Confirmation of *Steven John Andrich, Stacey Raia and Amanda Sellmeyer*.

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, please email to RCIA@ollchurch.org or contact Fr. Bob Scheckenback or Sister Nancy Campkin at 661.3224, option 1. We would love to welcome you!

SAGE

The SAGE Group (*Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment*) will meet on **Tuesday, April 29 in the Parish Center at 9 AM.**

Always Our Children

We are gay and lesbian Catholics, their family members and friends who meet once a month to pray, support each other, and discuss how God is present in our lives. We look forward to meeting this month on **Thursday, April 24 at 7:30 PM in the Spiritual Life Center.** Each month a relevant different topic is discussed and reflected upon. Come join us; all are welcome.

Directed Prayer Retreat Week

Sunday, May 4 thru Saturday, May 10

Looking for something to do for yourself during this Easter Season?

RIGHT HERE in our own parish surroundings, members of Inisfada Spiritual Ministries and Staff Associates of the former St. Ignatius Jesuit Retreat House offer the opportunity to experience a Directed Prayer Retreat to the people of Our Lady of Lourdes, right now....as we live out our daily lives.

*What's God like for you? What's praying like for you?
Perhaps taking a week to focus more intently on noticing
God's loving presence in and around you might be just the way for you...*



What's involved?

- a commitment to spend a half hour a day in prayer – at home, on the train, wherever...
- a commitment to meet at the parish for approximately a half hour; with a spiritual director... your companion on the journey - an openness to God's love. After an initial small group gathering on **Sunday, May 4**, each retreatant will meet with his/her director at the Parish for approximately a half hour each day, Monday through Friday, at a mutually convenient time.

Are there any special requirements?

No, this experience is helpful for all – experienced pray-ers, beginners, and all who might be somewhere in-between

Brochures/applications available at the RelEd Office and the Parish Office. For more information call Vita Scoria/ RelEd Office at 661.5440 or religiousued@ollchurch.org.

The number of participants is limited! Deadline to register is Thursday, April 24 .

Sometimes it's nice to be able to "get away" and focus on God. Sometimes it's not possible to get away, but it is still very possible to focus on God, for God is with us everywhere, all the time. A directed prayer retreat week can help us to notice God's presence right in the midst of our everyday lives and noticing leads to response.

Prepare! Our God is a God of faithfulness and of surprise!

COMING SOON!

**OLL School Annual
SPRING & MOTHER'S DAY PLANT SALE!**

Pre-Order Flats, Pots, Hanging Baskets

* Beautiful Annual Flowers, Plants, Organic Veggies and Herbs *

*Order forms will be available at www.ollschoool.org or around the Parish/School
OR call Bronwen Sessa @ 631-806-6228 to request assistance.*

And

MOTHER'S DAY Weekend Sale !

Find us **Saturday, May 10 and Sunday, May 11** after all Masses.

Gorgeous Blooming Hanging Baskets & Plants for Mom!

Our Lady of Lourdes School thanks you for your continued support!

**Our Lady of Lourdes School
Someone Special & Me, Nursery and
Pre-Kindergarten Programs**

Now Registering for Fall, 2015

The early childhood years are important years... Young children grow gradually in readiness for schooling. Their curiosity makes them eager to know and learn. Through our programs, children are immersed into a learning environment that emphasizes a natural process of emotional growth and academic achievement.

Our program also introduces children to God's love for them and all creation. They hear Bible stories, visit our parish church and learn about our holydays. Simple prayers are part of each school day.

Some "Specials" include: library, gym, theatrical arts, computer lab, Spanish language class. All Classrooms are equipped with interactive SmartBoards, and the children are introduced to iPads!

Sessions:

Someone Special & Me (must be 2 by Dec. 1st)

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-11 a.m. - Child attends with Parent

Nursery (must be 3 by Dec. 1st)

2 Half Days (T, Th), 3 Half Days (M, W, F), 3 Full Days (M, W, F), 5 Full Days

Pre-K (must be 4 by Dec. 1st)

3 Full Days, 5 Half Days, 5 Full Days

AM Sessions 8:30 –11:00 a.m.

PM Sessions 12 noon –2:30 p.m.

Full Day Sessions 8:30 a.m. –2:30 p.m.

Extended Care Program available from 7 AM until 6 PM.

Visit www.OLLSchool.org and look in "Admissions" for tuition rates and other information.

Call the School Office at 631-587-7200 during school hours to schedule a visit!



Camps "R" Us presents...

Spring Break Camp

April 21-25

Open to all children, grades K-8.



The camp is hosted by Our Lady of Lourdes School. The camp will include athletics, arts and crafts, gaming, sports, special events and more!

Information and registration can be found at campsrus.org/recess or by calling 516.935.2267. The cost is \$400 per week. There is a \$50 discount for: *parishioners, students of Our Lady of Lourdes, or children who are enrolled in the Camps "R" Us 2014 Summer Program.*



Your spiritually adopted baby has been quite active over the past month. Your baby is 10,000 times bigger than at conception. Your baby has developed the foundations of his/her brain, spinal cord and nervous system by the 20th day. His/her heart began to beat on the 21st day and is pumping blood through its own circulatory system.

The blood type can be different from his/her mother. Your baby is most vulnerable during the next month of being aborted. Pray that the Lord of Life might move the heart of his/her mother to give the most precious gift of all...THE GIFT OF LIFE.



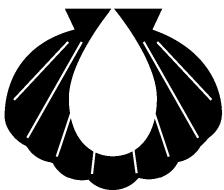
OLL Coffee House

Our Second "Our Lady of Lourdes COFFEE HOUSE" will be
Saturday, May 17 from 7:30-10 PM.

We need volunteers to set up the room and coordinate the evening, as well as artists from the Parish. If you are interested or have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224, extension 121.

This is a wonderful evening of parishioners sharing their artistic gifts in a relaxing Café setting, over coffee, music and desserts.

(Please do not drop off any art work at the Church or Rectory office, as ALL of the artwork will be dropped off and set up in the Parish Center the afternoon of May 17.)



Baptism

*Samantha Grace Bellacosa
Michael and Patricia
Emerson Ann Puccia
Justin and Lee-Ann
Bentley Thomas Syrok
Vincent and Lindsey
Nina Isabella Castro
Ryan and Toni*



Upcoming Marriages

*Jessica Laufer, St. Joseph's, Babylon and
Bryan Dempsey, OLL*



Rest In Peace

Patrick J. Crowley died on April 8 and Mass of Christian burial was April 14. We extend our prayerful sympathy to his wife, Joan, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and entire family.

Prayer for Divine Mercy

An invitation to all men and women to be part of God's plan. We invite you to meet in prayer for the world and our nation to put their trust in God. Our hope is that the nations will have a new spirit of morality. Please come with your love and hope for humanity as well as your prayer requests. We gather together every **Thursday at 1:30 PM** before the Blessed Sacrament for about one half hour. For more information, call Charles Argento at 586.8528.

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.

Remembering...

Monday, April 21 (*Acts 214, 22-33/Mt 28:8-15*)

8:30 AM Sylvan J. Lodespoto (*10th Anniversary*)

Tuesday, April 22 (*Acts 2:36-41/Jn 20:11-18*)

8:30 AM Erna Schmid

Wednesday, April 23 (*Acts 3:1-10/Lk 24:13-35*)

8:30 AM Sherman Glass

Thursday, April 24 (*Acts 3:11-26/Lk 24:35-48*)

8:30 AM Vera Vieni

Friday, April 25 (*Acts 4:1-12/Jn 21:1-14*)

8:30 AM Adria Melendez

Saturday, April 26 (*Acts 4:13-21/Mk 16:9-15*)

8:30 AM Joseph Licciardi, Grace Sheren,
Thomas Brown, Marie Tully,
Terence & William O'Connell, Vivian Aparo

5:00 PM Michael Reilly

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Sunday, April 27 (*Acts 2:42-47/I Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31*)

8:00 AM Joseph Reilly

Msgr. Brian McNamara

9:30 AM Ben & Loreto Fantauzzi

Msgr. Brian McNamara

11:00 AM Brian Contelmo

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

12:30 PM Carla SanGenito

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Dianne Martinez,

Bryan Monahan, Joseph S. Schiavoni,

Marie Ricigliano, Loretta E. White, Kevin Richardson

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Financial Summary

April 13, 2014-Palm Sunday

Weekly Collection	\$
Weekly Budget	<u>-\$ 18,200.00</u>
+/- for the week	\$

The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs, and salaries is \$18,200.

Due to a change in the bulletin deadline-the collection amount for Palm Sunday will be published in a subsequent bulletin.

Parish Outreach: March Donations

- Outreach has received donations in loving memory of *Vivian Aparo* from Anne and John DeGuardi and Richard and Norine Bonanno.
- Leon and Beth Cota have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Miriam Wagner*. If you would like to make a donation to Parish Outreach in memory of a loved one, please call Trish Frodell, Director of Parish Social Ministry at 661.3224, option 4.

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:

**Michael Fantauzzi-US Air Force
John Filosa-US Air Force
Christopher Florca-US Marines
Kyle Fouhy-US Marines
Anthony Mannino-US Marines
James Rooney III-US Marines**

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

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: Wednesday at 10 AM in Lourdes Hall (convent lower level.)
Free babysitting available Beginner's meeting at 9:30 AM.

AA Day-by-Day/Girls Night Out: Thursday at 7:30 PM in Lourdes Hall (convent lower level.)

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Angela MacDermott*.
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.

Parish Spiritual Care Companions

Do you know a parishioner who is homebound and would welcome a visit from one of our trained Parish Spiritual Care Companions? Please call Rick Danowski at 586.2192, Vita Scoria at 669.4717 or Charlie Zeiss at 669.7189.

Pray for Our Sick

Please remember to keep in your thoughts and prayers ...

Salvatore Albanese, Cathrine Battiata, Patricia Beni, Frank Castalano, Rose Conway, Allen Crowley, Beverly DeCanio, Jeanne DellaRogiane, Mark DellaRogiane, Karen DellaVecchia, Harry Denyse, Frank Edwards, Paula Edwards, Jake Feldman, Billy Fuchs, Kenneth Garretson, Donna Gerek, Richard Gladkowski, Dan Golden, Vivian Gordon, Tommy Haughney, Patrick Anthony Heffron, Shena Kahn, Baby Lana Charlotte Keenan, Robyn Kerrigan, Michael Kirshbaum, Kelly (Kuntz) Lee, Lisa Letterel, John Liona, Christopher Maher, Jean McCauley, Richard Meyer, Josephine Ninivaggi, Michele Nonnon List, Mary O'Connor, Patrick O'Connor, Eugene Olsen, Baby Joseph Onofrietti, Ayn Paoletta, Artie Petrino, Connie and Fred N. Polik, Joanne Popper, Gasper Salerno, Louis Saracione, Joseph J. Schiavoni, Ann Marie Schiraldi, Mary Sherman, Carol Shinn, Helen Toland

Catholic Ministries Appeal

At this special time of year, let us witness Christ's Resurrection by serving the poor and those in need.

Your gifts to the Catholic Ministries Appeal help us to provide:

SHELTER

through affordable, safe housing for seniors and people with disabilities.



EDUCATION

for our Seminarians as they follow their calling to serve as Priests in our Diocese.



INSPIRATION

for our young people so they can grow in their faith through Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry programs.



By participating in the Catholic Ministries Appeal we are given the opportunity to proclaim the message of the Risen Lord.

Please prayerfully consider a gift to the 2014 Catholic Ministries Appeal. Thank You!

XX-

Make Checks Payable to:
Catholic Ministries Appeal

Pledge: \$ _____
Down Payment: \$ _____
Balance: \$ _____

Parish _____

Payment Plan:

Name: _____

Monthly

Quarterly

Address: _____

Annually

Other

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Donor Signature: _____ Date _____

Please place in weekly collection basket or drop off at the Parish Office.

Retrouvaille

You Can Help Heal Your Marriage

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples worldwide experiencing ALL TYPES of marital difficulties. For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, or to register for the upcoming weekend that begins on Friday, May 30th, 2014 at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington. Please call 1-800-470-2230 and you will be connected directly and confidentially to a couple from Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille who can help.

Senior Singles

Lancaster Show Trip and the Dutch Country

Three days/two nights, Tuesday, May 6 -Thursday, May 8. \$275 per person. Cost includes transportation, two nights lodging, four meals-two breakfasts and two dinners, "Moses Show" at the Sight and Sound Millennium Theater, and a guided tour of Lancaster including Amish Country and more! For more information, contact Pat McKeefery at 631.422.6816.

Our Lady of Lourdes

Fr. Joe Lukaszewski

"Walk of Life"

Preserve your name, or that of a loved one, well into the next millennium, with a personalized brick paver.

Order Information:

Name _____

Address _____

City State _____

Phone _____

Paver size 4" x 8"

\$200 per Brick

Maximum of 13 characters per line. NOTE: Spaces are considered a character.

Make check payable with order form:

Our Lady of Lourdes-Dedication

455 Hunter Avenue

West Islip, NY 11795

Mail or drop off at Rectory



The Easter Candle

by Paul Turner

The first sound of the Easter season is the crackling of new fire. Even before the presider greets the people, the Easter flame burns to warm the hearts of believers and to fascinate our eyes which long to behold the glory of God.

The Easter candle that leads the procession into the church at the Easter Vigil becomes a dominant symbol for the season. Tall, bright, decorative, stately, it creates the first light for the faithful and dispels the darkness which belies our sins. The Easter candle first announces the news of the resurrection, followed by the Glory to God, the Alleluia, the Gospel, the homily, and, of course, the Eucharist. All join to make the same proclamation. Christ is risen!

So big is this message that it takes fifty days to celebrate. That Easter candle burns in our churches every day during those seven weeks, proclaiming: Christ is risen, and we too may rise!

The Easter candle appears in our liturgy on two other very significant occasions: baptisms and funerals.

Whenever infants are baptized, we light the Easter candle. The resurrection of Christ foreshadows our own resurrection. Baptism incorporates us into the body of Christ and gives us a share in his resurrection. Whenever the baptismal waters are poured, the Easter candle burns bright. Parents and godparents light a baptismal candle from the Easter candle. They accept the responsibility of keeping the flame of faith alive in the heart of the newly baptized. Parents carry this candle home, where it may shine on baptismal anniversaries to symbolize the first news of the risen Christ.

We also light the Easter candle at funerals. In the midst of our grief, we call upon the symbols which enliven our faith. Several images of baptism reappear at the funeral: the sprinkling with holy water, the placing of a white pall (like a white garment) over the casket and the lighting of the Easter candle. Christ rose from the dead so that we too might pass from death to life. Every death reminds us of Easter. And every Easter gives us hope that death is not the end, but the passage from darkness to eternal light.

Copyright© 1997 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408)286-8505. Paul Turner, pastor of St. John Regis Parish in Kansas City, Mo., holds a doctorate in sacramental theology from Sant' Anselmo University in Rome. His e-mail is PaulTu@aol.com.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter



Married Couples!

Would you attend a seminar to enhance your job or to increase your salary?

Why not give your marriage the same attention? Enhance your good marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend!

Weekends are scheduled throughout the Metro New York area. The next weekend on Long Island is scheduled for April 25-27 at The Immaculate Conception Seminary in Lloyd Harbor, NY. For more information about the weekends or to apply, call 1-877-697-9963 or visit our web site at <http://www.wwme.org>.

9th Annual St. Patrick's Spring Car Show

St. Patrick School, Smithtown, N.Y. will host its 9th Annual Spring Car Show on the grounds of St. Patrick Church on Sunday, April 27th (raindate May 4th) from 9 AM to 4 PM. All are invited to enjoy a day of fun for the whole family. Admission is \$5 for adults, no charge for children. Car enthusiasts are invited to bring their cars, motorcycles and trucks. Show will include a large section of movie replica cars, monster trucks, etc. Admission for cars is \$15 and \$5 for motorcycles. All car clubs and private owners are welcome. The first 200 cars receive a goodie bag. Craft vendor space is also available. If you would like to display your car, truck or motorcycle, or if you are interested in vendor space, call John Forlenza at 631-588-2696.

Golden Wedding Jubilee

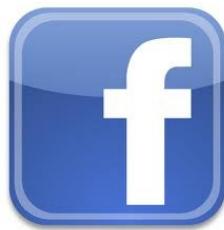
This spring, couples that have been married fifty years or more will be honored at liturgies on **Sunday, May 4 at the Church of Maria Regina in Seaford and on Sunday, May 18 at the Church of St. Lawrence the Martyr in Sayville**. Both liturgies will begin at 2:30 PM.

Couples may register for ONE liturgy. Registration forms and complete instructions can be obtained at the Parish Office. Registration must be received by the Office of Worship by April 16 for the May 4 liturgy and by April 30 for the May 18 liturgy. There will be additional celebrations in the Fall for those who may find that more convenient.

If you have any questions, you may call 516.678.5800, ext.207.

Fatima Day

Come celebrate Fatima Day at the **Shrine of Our Lady of the Island in Manorville, NY on Tuesday, May 13**. We will have Stations of the Cross at 10 AM, Rosary at 11 AM, Mass at 11:30 AM, "The Triumph" a powerful new Medjugorje film at 1:30 PM and Benediction at 3 PM. If you have any questions, please call 631.325.0661.



In addition to our parish website, please visit us on *Facebook* at **The Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes**.

Click "Like" and you will receive the latest news on upcoming parish events and information.

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 "**Triumph.**"