



Our Lady of Grace Roman Catholic Church

1962 -- 2012

Looking back with gratitude, looking forward with hope

Our Mission: We change lives through the Risen Christ

BY Prayer

WE PRAY EVERY DAY FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR PARISH'S MISSION AS WELL AS FOR OUR OWN INTENTIONS.

BY Presence

WE JOIN OUR COMMUNION OF FAITH FOR MASS EVERY SUNDAY FOR MUTUAL SUPPORT AND FOR THE GRACE GOD OFFERS US.

BY Witness

WE LOVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR EACH DAY.



BY Support

WE SHARE OUR GIFTS AND WE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER.

We Celebrate the Eucharist

VIGIL OF SUNDAY: 5:00PM SATURDAY EVENING

SUNDAY: 8:00AM, 10:00AM (CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD),
12:00 NOON (CHOIR), AND 5:30PM (YOUTH CHOIR)

WEEKDAYS: MONDAY – FRIDAY 8:00AM AND 9:00AM • SATURDAY 8:00AM

HOLY DAYS: SEE INSIDE

666 ALBIN AVENUE, WEST BABYLON, NEW YORK 11704

PARISH OFFICE (631) 587-5185 • FAX (631) 587-1427

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE (631) 661-9353

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY OFFICE (631) 661-9354

WWW.OURLADYOFGRACE.NET • PARISH@OURLADYOFGRACE.NET

February 12, 2012 • Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Worship This Coming Week

Mon. Weekday Feb. 13 <i>Jas 1:1-11/ Mk 8:11-13</i> 8:00 Vincent Cappiello (16 Anniv.) 9:00 Anna, Jerry and Neil Regina	Thu. Weekday Feb. 16 <i>Jas 2:1-9/ Mk 8:27-33</i> 8:00 Pasqua Assalone 9:00 Tony Fay
Tue. Cyril and Methodius Feb. 14 <i>Jas 1:12-18/ Mk 8:14-21</i> 8:00 Giuseppe Mozzone 9:00 Domenica and John Olanick	Fri. Weekday Feb. 17 <i>Jas 2:14-24,26/ Mk 8:34 - 9:1</i> 8:00 Aileen O'Brien 9:00 Bob Lockwood and Family
Wed. Weekday Feb. 15 <i>Jas 1:19-27/ Mk 8:22-26</i> 8:00 Charles Lyons 9:00 Vincent Hagan	Sat. Weekday Feb. 18 <i>Jas 3:1-10/ Mk 9:2-13</i> 8:00 Charles Lyons, Pasquale Forcino, William Reilly (B'Day.), Maryanne Cantalupo, Joseph Caramanico, Andrew D'Amico (2 Anniv.).

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 4:00 – 4:45pm: Presiding: Fr. Gil

Worship for Sunday, February 19

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 43:18-19,21-22,24-25/ 2 Cor 1:18-22/ Mk 2:1-12

	Presiding & Preaching	We pray at this Mass especially for
5:00pm	Fr. Eugene/Dcn. Irwin (P)	People of the Parish
8:00am	Fr. Eugene/Dcn. Peter (P)	Giovanni Iemma
10:00am	Fr. Gil	Joseph C. Heinlein
12:00pm	Fr. Vin	Sarvina Cantone
5:30pm	Fr. Gil	Joseph C. Heinlein

The Sacrament of Baptism

Sunday, 1:30pm: Presider: Deacon Irwin

Baptisms are celebrated each Sunday except the second weekend of the month which would be on Saturday. Call the Parish Office for an appointment for a Baptism interview. This should be done as soon as practicable.

The Sacrament of Matrimony

Arrangements for marriage should be made as soon as possible, but not less than six months prior to the intended wedding date.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

This sacrament is celebrated each Saturday during the 8:00am Mass for those facing surgery or those with major disorders. Other arrangements may be made by calling the Parish Office.

Becoming A Catholic • Completing Initiation as a Catholic

Any adult, teen, or child older than age seven who is interested in becoming a Catholic or in completing the Sacraments of Initiation as a Catholic (Baptism, Confirmation, Communion), is invited to contact the Parish Office.

Our Parish Communion

This week:

Sunday, February 12: Mass at 1:30pm for Persons with Special Needs.
Youth Choir 4:15pm.

Monday, February 13: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 12-9pm.
Children's Choir 4pm. Columbiettes 7pm.

Tuesday, February 14: Deacon Peter's Prayer Group 9:30am.
Padre Pio 7:30pm.

Wednesday, February 15: Small Base Christian Community, 7:30pm.
Youth Group 7:30pm.

Thursday, February 16: Children's Choir, 6pm. Adult Choir, 7:30pm.

Saturday, February 18: Centering Prayer, 3:30pm. Blood Drive sign-up
after all the Masses this weekend.

Next week:

Sunday, February 19: Youth Choir 4:15pm.

Monday, February 20: Presidents' Day, All Parish Office are closed.
There is NO Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Tuesday, February 21: Deacon Peter's Prayer Group 9:30am.

Wednesday, February 22: Ash Wednesday. Lent begins.
Small Base Christian Community, 7:30pm.

Thursday, February 23: Parish Blood Drive. Adult Choir 7:30pm.

Friday, February 24: Stress Management 7pm.

Saturday, February 24: Centering Prayer, 3:30pm.

Upcoming:

Wednesday, February 29: Deacon Peter's Prayer Group 7:30pm.

Regular Devotions:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Mondays from noon to 9:00pm
except holidays or when noted.

Miraculous Medal Novena: Mondays following the 8:00am and 9:00am
Masses.

Taizé Prayer around the Cross: The first Friday of each month at
7:30pm (not for July and August).

Padre Pio Prayer Group: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm.

Holy Face of Jesus: Hour of reparation First Friday after 9am Mass.

Scripture Sharing with Deacon Peter: Every Tuesday at 9:30am.

Our Pastoral Council

Mrs. Barbara Maertz-Cicio
Mr. Ronald Goebel
Mr. Richard Irizarry
Mr. David V. Mammina
Mr. Peter Mingione
Mrs. Catherine Passanante
Mr. Joseph Santorelli
Mrs. Cecelia Soto
Mr. William Wilson

Our Finance Council

Mrs. Barbara Maertz-Cicio
Mr. Richard Korcz
Mr. Joseph Salzone (Trustee)
Mr. Thomas Villella
Mr. William Whelan (Trustee)
Mrs. Cathy Marchese-Collins

Our Pastoral Staff

Rev. Msgr. Vincent Rush,
Pastor

Rev. Eugenio Solera,
Associate Pastor

Rev. Gilbert Lap, Associate
Pastor

Mrs. Betty Duffy, Director of
Parish Stewardship

Sr. Alice McVey, ACSW,
Director of Parish Social
Ministry

Mr. Terence Purtell, Director of
Music

Mrs. Cathy Marchese-Collins,
Business Manager

Mrs. Susan Martin, Director of
Faith Formation

Mrs. Barbara McGrellis,
Director of Day Care

PARISH DEACONS

Bill Austin

Peter DiGiuseppe

Brian Miller

Irwin Safran

As I See It

by Fr. Vin

Thrones, Powers, and Dominions - II

Last week I wrote about how people of Jesus' time, just as we do, made sense of the invisible-yet-real dimension of life that gives experiences their power. Jesus' contemporaries didn't use the same words we do, but they were aware that reality is moved by invisible forces that take shape in things we can touch or see, but which also go beyond those things and give them their power. (Try buying a burger with a Confederate dollar if you need proof. The tangible piece of paper may still exist, but "the Confederacy" – the invisible entity that gave that piece of paper its power – is no longer with us.) Illness – as in today's Gospel – is a good illustration of that same interplay between the visible and the invisible. And this can help us to understand Jesus' message with its revolutionary power.

"Leprosy" in the Bible was a social category as much as it was a disease. Scholars believe the mildly contagious bacterial illness we know as Hansen's disease existed in the New Testament period, but it's not clear that any Biblical reference is directly to it. It seems a variety of skin conditions (possibly not all of which we would today even consider a disease) were all gathered under the term. Why?

Exclusion. The "people of Israel" were, as they understood the Biblical command, to be "perfect." They thought that meant not only morals but appearance. The imperfect were a blot on Israel and so were to be excluded. Evident imperfections – like skin conditions, among many other things – marked some people out for exclusion. (Anthropologists tell us that this leads to greater cohesion in the group who are doing the excluding – a sad commentary on human nature.) Without realizing it, the people's life was being shaped by a "Power" – an invisible assumption and social force that divided people. It was this Power that Jesus came to conquer.

Here's the point: When Jesus "cures a leper" he does three things:

1. He miraculously removes the evident skin condition. (Without this happening, no one would credit the next two things, which are more important for his ministry and perhaps even for the person cured).
2. He restores the excluded person to full participation in social life.

But this is only "following the rules of the game" erected by the invisible Power that separates people one from another. To stop here would be to make Jesus a miraculous healer, rather than a prophet of the Kingdom of God. So –

3. Jesus shows by the healing that this Power-who-separates can be overcome; the world is returning – in and through Him – to its God-given, all-inclusive form.

I admit that it takes hard thinking to grasp this. It's easier – because more in line with the narrow confines of our contemporary way of viewing the world – to think of Jesus as doing only #1 (or, if we're inclined to think sociologically, #1 and #2). To understand that he's also – mostly, in fact – doing #3 requires that we appreciate the polar, visible-invisible structure of the world (both as we see it, and as Jesus' contemporaries see it); and, that we confront the likelihood that we, even now, need to be liberated from the Powers. That's a topic for next week. Until then, Peace.

...A Word of Thanks

On behalf of our parish and especially those who attended last Friday's potluck, I'd like to offer thanks to all who made it possible: the Columbiettes, the 50th Anniversary Celebrations task group, and more. The vitality of our parish depends on the generosity and talents of its members, and you showed that ten days ago. (And thanks, too, to all who brought the wonderful food! I hope you enjoyed one another's cooking as much as I did...!)



Faith Formation

Religious Education Update

Please pray for our seven and eight year olds as they receive the gift of Christ's peace and forgiveness this month in the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Our First Communion level I parent-child retreat will be on February 15, at 6:30pm. If you have not yet responded, please contact the Faith Formation Office.

Youth Stations of the Cross to be held on Good Friday at 5:30pm. All students in grades 3-12 are invited to audition for non-speaking roles on February 27 at 7pm in Room 212. We need a Jesus, Mary, John, Pontius Pilate, soldiers, a Veronica, Simon of Cyrene, angels, and more. Everyone who auditions WILL get a role in this outdoor living Stations of the Cross!

Scripture Sharing – All Welcome

All are invited to share the scripture for the next Sunday's Liturgy on Tuesday, February 21, 2012, at 9:30am to 10:30am in Room 109. These meetings will be presented by Deacon Peter DiGiuseppe and will continue every Tuesday morning.

Also: Starting February 29 we will also meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:30pm to 8:30pm also in Room 109. All are welcome.

Coming Soon

Our Lady of Grace Church - Blood Drive

Thursday, February 23, 2012

Contact: Helen Butler at 631-888-5331

Sign-ups will be in the lobby for the weekend of February 17-18, 2012, after all the Masses.



Widows and Widowers News

Our Lady of Grace Widows and Widowers group will be sponsoring a bus trip to Atlantic City (Showboat Casino) on April 26, 2012. Cost for the trip will be \$30.00. Please contact Cathy at 669-2285 if interested.

Religious Education Donations

Pennies can make a difference. We again ask you to drop them off at the Religious Education Office mail slot, the Parish Office, or the Sunday collection (place them in an envelope marked for Religious Education). Last week \$57.00 was donated for the 2011-2012 year. The total to date: \$177.00.

Thanks to all who donate.

Parish Social Ministry

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

“The joys and hopes and the sorrows and anxieties of people today, especially those who are poor and afflicted, are also the joys and hopes, sorrows and anxieties of the disciples of Christ, and there is nothing truly human which does not also affect them (No.1”).

The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World.

The notion of the “option for the poor” has been present within the Christian tradition from earliest times. The ministry of Jesus was committed to the well being of those least fortunate. The disciples of Jesus today need to work for a better world characterized not only by acts of charity but also by action for justice so no one should be excluded from fair opportunities.

There’s No Excuse for Abuse

- Can you freely visit family and friends without unpleasantness?
- Is your partner excessively jealous and/or possessive?
- Are you denied access to family assets such as bank accounts, credit cards or car?
- Does your partner control all finances and force you to account for what you spend?
- Have you been humiliated or insulted in front of others?
- If you answered YES to one or more of these questions, you might be abused.

For information and/or help, call SCCADV 631-666-8833 or VIBES 631-360-3606.

Are You Getting Telemarketing Calls You Don’t Want? Here’s How to Stop Them

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) launched the National Do Not Call Registry to give Americans a choice about getting telemarketing calls at home. To register your number call 1-888-382-1222 from the phone number you wish to verify and follow the prompts. For further information on line, go to www.donotcall.gov.org

Annual Alzheimer’s Educational Conference – Thursday, March 8

Will be held at the Melville Marriott. Come and learn

Helping Workers Claim the Tax Credits they’ve Earned

Many working families will qualify for the **Earned Income Credit (EIC)** even if they owe no taxes. People in low wage jobs may not be aware that the EIC can provide a wage supplement to help them cover the costs of transportation, child care and other work-related expenses. New parents, grandparents raising grandchildren and foster parents may qualify for the EIC.

The Earned Income Credit (EIC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) allow families of modest means with children to keep more of what they earn and help lift the income of families with low income.

Low and moderate income workers who claim a child under age 17 as a dependent on their tax return may be eligible to claim the Child Tax Credit. This can mean up to \$1000 per child on top of any EIC for which the family may qualify.

The Child Tax Credit does not count as income in determining eligibility for federally funded programs. In other words, it will not reduce your benefits such as food stamps, SSI, Medicaid or raise your rent if you live in federally assisted housing.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program run by the IRS provides free tax filing assistance to low income taxpayers. Check at your library or in local newspapers for VITA sites in our area.

Souper Bowl

Our Lady of Grace was one of the 13,795 groups engaged in SOUPER BOWL 2012. Through your generosity we raised \$1029.00 to be sent to our local soup kitchens. Our own food pantry kept the cans of soup. Thank you for your support of this program.

Stewardship News

Think of us in this way,
as servants of Christ
and stewards of
God's mysteries.



Treasure Report

Financial Stewardship

Weekly Goal (including building fund): \$17,250

Last Week's Collection: \$20,186.42

Fiscal Year 2010-2011: \$4,894.71 under Sunday goal. (Sunday collections are 40% of our needed income, the rest coming from fundraising and from program fees. Please continue to be generous!) The amount to date collected toward our building fund goal of \$55,000 is \$22,012.80.

Strawberry Festival/Monster Garage Sale

Sunday, June 3, 2012 (Rain or Shine)

8:00am to 5:00pm

Fee: \$35 per 10x10 space

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

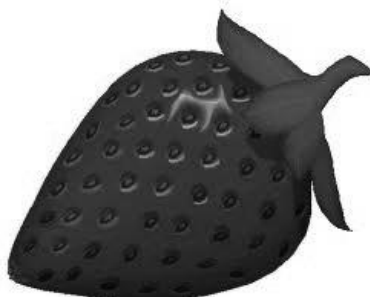
E-mail _____ Phone # _____

of spaces @ \$35 ea. _____ Table rentals @ \$10 ea. _____

Please make checks payable to K of C- O.L.O.G. # 11968

Please mail to:

Knights of Columbus, 666 Albin Ave., West Babylon N.Y. 11704



Calendar Raffle Winners

1-30-2012	1-31-2012	2-1-2012	2-2-2012	2-3-2012	2-4-2012	2-5-2012
30476	30462	30158	30406	30037	30511	30524

Parish News

Please Pray for Those Who Have Died This Week

Angela Cataratta
Josephine R. Scaffidi

Carmela Buchetta

Mary Ahlquist
Angela M. Calastro

Opening of the Parish Mass Book

We will be opening the Mass Book for July 2012 through June 2013 for weekday Masses only on **Wednesday, February 29, 2012, at 9am**. The limit of Masses is four (4) per person. Please remember that the offering for Mass-intentions is now \$20. [Please note the change in date!]

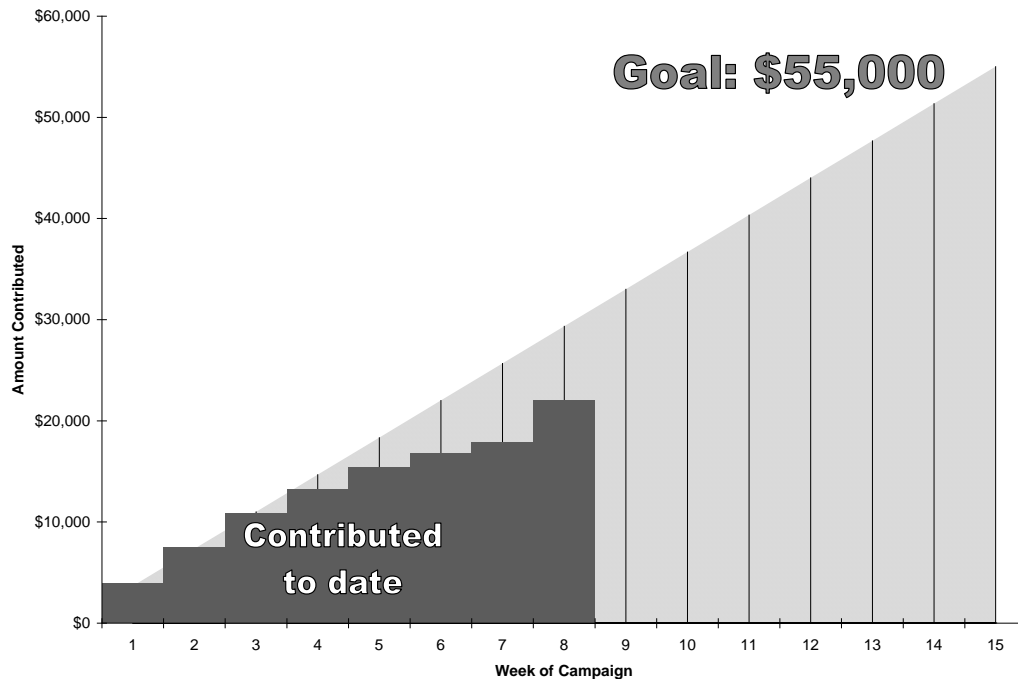
From Fr. Vin:

A Message about Fr. Eugene

Fr. Eugene came to Our Lady of Grace in 2006 to serve our people while on sabbatical from his home diocese in the Philippines. He was, through extraordinary good fortune, able to extend his stay for now a total of six years. At the end, of May Fr. Eugene will be returning to his home diocese to serve the people there. We will have a farewell Mass toward the end of his stay with us. On your behalf and my own, I wish to thank him for his generosity, his companionship, and his preaching of the Gospel and to wish him Godspeed in his new assignment.

Help Us to Paint the Interior of the Church!

We'd like to raise \$55,000 between now and Easter so that we can replace the phone system in the parish and paint the interior of our church for our 50th Anniversary. You can use the "green envelope" (in your annual pack or found at the doors of the church or in the Parish Office) to make your contribution at any time. The chart below shows our progress so far.



Parish News

From Bishop Murphy:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus:

On Friday, January 20, the President approved new regulations from the Department of Health and Human Services. These regulations mandate that, with few exceptions, all Catholic employers, including Catholic Charities and Catholic hospitals, provide coverage for contraception, abortion-producing drugs and sterilization in the healthcare benefits provided to their employees. Most insurance programs will have to include these as well.

This mandate directly interferes with the freedom of conscience of individuals and with the freedom of religious belief and practice of our Catholic institutions. The Administration has chosen to cast aside the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, denying to Catholics our nation's first and most fundamental freedom, that of religious liberty and free exercise of conscience. Regulations about healthcare are being used to re-define pregnancy as a disease and to make abortion-inducing drugs available to one and all. As a result, unless the rule is overturned, we Catholics will be compelled either to violate our consciences or to drop healthcare coverage for our employees and suffer significant penalties for doing so.

As Pope Benedict XVI said last week:

"It is imperative that the entire Catholic Community in the United States come to realize the grave threats to the Church's moral witness presented by a radical secularism which finds increasing expression in the political and cultural spheres . . . Of particular concern are certain attempts being made to limit the most cherished of American freedoms, the freedom of religion."

I would ask of you two things. First, as a community of faith, we must commit ourselves to prayer and fasting that wisdom and justice may prevail and religious liberty may be restored. Without God, we can do nothing; with God, nothing is impossible. Second, I would recommend that you contact your US Congressional representatives to express to them why this mandate cannot stand and to support religious freedom through the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 2012. This legislation, sponsored by Senator Marco Rubio, would reverse the Administration's decision. To learn more about this assault on religious liberty, the US Bishops have set up the following special website:
www.usccb.org/conscience.

Yours devotedly in Christ,
+William Murphy
Bishop of Rockville Centre

Columbiette News

The Columbiettes will host a "Game of your Choice" party next weekend on Sunday, February 12, 2012, between 2pm and 4:30pm. Bring your own cards and/or board games. Admission of \$5.00 includes coffee and cake.

Our next scheduled meeting is on Monday, February 13, in Father Shanahan Hall.

Youth Ministry Bake Sale

The Youth Ministry is holding a bake sale in the lobby after the morning Masses today. Please help support the youth of our parish.

The Last Good Word

Let's Talk by Flo Aubin

Fanny Illuminato and Joan Versaci

Today I spoke with two lovely ladies who are neighbors, good friends and active members of Our Lady of Grace Sewing Group.

Fanny moved here to West Babylon nine years ago and she now lives with her daughter and family. Fanny had three children. She now has nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Fanny enjoys making rosary beads and helping out around the house.

Joan has been a parishioner here at Our Lady of Grace for about six years now, and she feels at home here. Her former parish was Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Joan has been married to her husband, Patrick, for 61 years and they have three sons. When time allows, Joan enjoys attending Yoga classes.

Now here is where Fanny and Joan share similar interests. They both have been members of the sewing group for about four years. They love the camaraderie with the other ladies in the group. They sew dresses (made from pillow cases) for African children; they sew patchwork quilts for Birth Right; and they make items for cancer parents and for needy children. Both Fanny and Joan told me how good it feels to help others and to do things for good causes.

As you can see, they are both using their God-given talents to help others. We appreciate the work that these ladies do and we thank them for being such active volunteers.

Propagation of the Faith Membership Sunday Next Weekend

Since 1930, Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus have been serving as missionaries in Africa, - in Chad, Ghana and Nigeria. There they teach from the primary grades to the universities, provide formation programs for lay leaders, catechists, and funding religious sisters, and work in health and prison ministries. In Chile and the Dominican Republic, they assist in evangelization, community building, and leadership and spiritual training programs. On the home missions in the United States, the sisters work in inner-city social service centers and schools. Response-Ability, our lay volunteer program, enables young men and women to serve the children in these schools.

A Sister of the Holy Child will be visiting our parish the weekend of February 18-19, 2012. Sister Margaret Rogers, SHCJ, spent twenty-two years as a missionary in Nigeria, West Africa, before beginning ten years of development work all across Africa with an ecumenical organization. She can boast of having visited twenty-five African countries.

Sister looks forward to sharing her mission experience with the people of Our Lady of Grace Parish. A collection for membership Sunday for the Society of the Propagation of the Faith will be taken up at all the Masses on February 18-19. It is your opportunity to share in the mission work of Rockville Centre Diocese.

A Message from Terence:

This weekend the parish bids farewell to Youth Choir Director, Mike Buonaspina, and his sister Rosemary. Mike has been consistent in training our teenagers to lead song and accompany as instrumentalists at Sunday 5:30 Mass. As a regular recipient of Mike's e-mails, I've appreciated his cheerful invitations to get the young people involved on Sunday evenings. It was also a pleasant surprise to notice the Facebook page Mike put together for the choir, just an example of how Mike has gone 'above and beyond the call of duty' in his ministry. We were also blessed to have Rosemary Buonaspina cantoring and playing violin. Please join me as we thank the Buonaspinas for sharing their musical talents with Our Lady of Grace parish.