



# Our Lady of Grace

## Roman Catholic Church

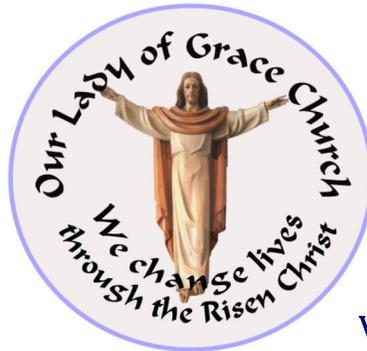
**Our Mission: We change lives through the Risen Christ**

### 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),  
AND 12:00 NOON (CHOIR)  
WEEKDAYS: MONDAY – FRIDAY 8:00AM AND 9:00AM • SATURDAY 8:00AM  
HOLY DAYS: SEE INSIDE

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FAITH FORMATION OFFICE (631) 661-9353  
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**March 11, 2018 • Fourth Sunday of Lent**

## Worship This Coming Week

**Mon. Lenten Weekday**  
 Mar. 12 *Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54*  
 8:00 Della Noce  
 9:00 Maureen Caruso

**Tue. Lenten Weekday**  
 Mar. 13 *Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16*  
 8:00 Rosalie Rubbo  
 9:00 Angela R. Tedesco

**Wed. Lenten Weekday**  
 Mar. 14 *Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30*  
 8:00 Christine Tavares  
 9:00 Palermo Giovanna

**Thu. Lenten Weekday**  
 Mar. 15 *Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47*  
 8:00 Cary Vega and Josephine Vega  
 9:00 John Kilfeather (2 Anniv.)

**Fri. Lenten Weekday**  
 Mar. 16 *Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30*  
 8:00 Philip P. Ognibene  
 9:00 Robert W. Olanick

**Sat. Lenten Weekday**  
 Mar. 17 *Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53*  
 8:00 Frank Lomigro, Jack and Julie Walsh

### The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 4:00pm, Presiders: Fr. Gius

## Worship for Sunday, March 18, 2018

Fifth Sunday of Lent

*Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33*

	<b>Presiding</b>	<b>We pray at this Mass especially for</b>
<b>5:00pm (Sat.)</b>	Fr. Vin	Antonina Salvo (3 anniv.)
<b>8:00am</b>	Fr. Vin	People of the Parish
<b>10:00am</b>	Fr. Gabriel	Seveniano Rodriguez
<b>12:00pm</b>	Fr. Gius	Suzanne Mattera (2 Anniv.)

### The Sacrament of Baptism

*Baptisms are celebrated throughout the year on most Sundays and occasionally on Saturday. Call the Parish Office for more information or to schedule 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.*

### Regular Devotions:

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Mondays from 2pm to 9pm except holidays or when noted.

**Miraculous Medal Novena with Rosary:** Mondays following the 8am and 9am Masses.

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

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

**Scripture Sharing:** Every Tuesday at 9:30am (except during July and August).

# Our Parish Communion

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## This week:

**Monday, March 12:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 2-7pm.  
Lenten Gospel Study of the *Gospel of Mark* begins, presented by Msgr. Donald Hanson. 7:30 – 9pm. No registration required. (Dates are March 5, 12, 19, and 26)

**Tuesday, March 13:** Scripture Sharing 9:30am. Rosary Makers 10am. RCIA 7pm. Youth Ministry 7pm.

**Friday, March 16:** Stations of the Cross 9:30am. Widows and Widowers 12pm.

**Saturday, March 17:** Bereavement Class 9am.

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## Next week:

**Monday, March 19:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 2-7pm.  
Lenten Gospel Study of the *Gospel of Mark* begins, presented by Msgr. Donald Hanson. 7:30 – 9pm. No registration required. (Dates are March 5, 12, 19, and 26)

**Tuesday, March 20:** Scripture Sharing 9:30am. RCIA 7pm. Youth Ministry 7pm.

**Wednesday, March 21:** Rosary Makers 4:30pm.

**Friday, March 23:** Stations of the Cross 9:30am.

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## Upcoming:

**Monday, March 19:** Lenten Gospel Study of the *Gospel of Mark* continues, presented by Msgr. Donald Hanson. 7:30 – 9pm. No registration required. (Dates are March 5, 12, 19, and 26)

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## Weekday Mass Intentions:

The Parish Mass Book through June 30, 2018, is open for Monday through Friday Masses only. All Masses must be requested in person, and the offering must be given at the time of the request.

All dates and times are subject to change when a priest cannot be available, and the Mass must be rescheduled.

## Our Pastoral Council

Mrs. Karen Elefterion  
Mr. Ralph Fiorillo  
Ms. Mary Ellen McEntee  
Mr. James Nevins  
Ms. Maria Russello-Chetti  
Ms. Lucy Sanchez  
Ms. Haydee Santini  
Mrs. Concetta Whelan  
Mrs. Annemarie Zaret

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## Our Finance Council

Mr. Richard Korcz (Trustee)  
Mr. Leonardo LoCricchio  
Ms. Debra Nicosia  
Mr. Joseph Salzone  
Mr. Robert Scharf (Trustee)  
Mr. Thomas Vilella

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## Our Ministries

### Ministries of Worship

Msgr. Vincent Rush, Pastor  
Rev. Gabriel Miah, Associate  
Rev. Gius Garcia, Associate  
Deacon Brian Miller  
Deacon Irwin Saffran  
Mr. Terence Purtell, Director of Music

### Parish Social Ministry

Mrs. Ann Kristoffersen,  
Coordinator

### Ministries with Children and Families

Mrs. Peggy Harnisch, Director  
Ms. Jeanmarie Florio, Day Care Director  
Mrs. Tischa Stanley, Angel Care Coordinator  
Ms. Doreen Scalise, Kids of the Kingdom / Summer Fun Coordinator

### Ministries of Administration

Parish Services, Finance  
Mr. James Pisano, Facilities Manager

# As I See It

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By Fr. Vin

## Looking for the Serpent

Today's Gospel has Jesus make a reference that his hearers would have understood, but which we may not. When he says, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert," he's referring to the story in the Hebrew Bible's Book of Numbers when, as the Israelites are fleeing Egypt, they turn against God because of the difficulties they encounter in their journey [Num 23:4ff]. In punishment, according to the story, God sends serpents to bite the people; and that stops only when they come to their senses. Then God tells Moses to make an image of a serpent and mount it on a pole. He does so, and when the people look at the serpent; they recover from the poisonous bites. What? There's magical healing that comes from looking at snake statues?

Here's how to understand this. There's a Chinese proverb that says, "No disease, short life; one disease, long life." Knowing what we're up against concentrates our attention and energy and can lead to good results; without a focus, we're likely to be distracted and to dissipate our energies. The serpent-statue is Moses' way of focusing the people's attention on what they need to learn about themselves.

And so back to Jesus: He continues, after the reference to the serpent, with "So must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life." The cross of Christ will be like the serpent-statue: an invitation to pay attention.

Some years ago a religious-studies professor wrote a book called *Lost Christianity*. In it he puts into the mouth of a (semi-fictionalized) hermit a phrase I've found haunting since I first read it: *You will not find Christ by going to "Christ," but only through seeing, clearly and with precision, how you crucify Him*. This is why we look to the cross of Christ: so that we see how we, by our choices, crucify Him. Note: I do not mean here just the *fact* that "we crucify him" by our sins; that's the commonplace – true, but not helpful – awareness that "Jesus died for our sins." The point of meditation on the cross is to discover *how* we crucify Him.

This can begin with simple awareness of actions that harm ourselves or others or our world. Most Christians can do some of that. We know that stealing is wrong, because it hurts others; we know that drug-abuse is wrong, because it hurts us; we may even know that littering is wrong, because it hurts society. But are we careful about what we allow to matter as stealing? Is fudging our taxes wrong? How about taking home a few things from the office? Wasting time while we're supposedly working? And for abusing ourselves: What about our diet of mindless trivia from the media? Our indulgence of resentment over old hurts? *How* we "crucify Christ" is a matter of fine-grained detail; we can't allow ourselves to skate on pious generalizations.

Meditation on Christ's cross can also raise our awareness of complicity in the larger evils of our time. We may rightly deplore the increasing crudeness of our society. But are we careful with our language, not only with profanity but with how we speak about people with whom we disagree? We decry the increasing violence of our world; do we tolerate violent language toward others in our household? Do we watch violent media or play violent video-games?

The "serpent on a pole" was Moses' way of helping the people to see with precision the sort of idolatry they had fallen into. We need such images to help us, and Christ crucified has always been the primary one for Christians. The lesson of this Sunday's scriptures is echoed in the words of that hermit: *You will not find Christ by going to "Christ," but only through seeing, clearly and with precision, how you crucify Him*. Until next week: prayer; fasting; and almsgiving. Peace.

# Faith Formation

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## Christian Service

Our students in Confirmation Prep 8 have begun their Christian Service for the year. In this year of their Faith Formation, they will participate in service projects to reach out to the community and the world.

So far our students have raised \$1173 at our Walk-A-Thon and made over \$500 at our bake sale!

Our Pasta Dinner raised \$1440.00!

Our students have been gathering to make sandwiches for a local soup kitchen. So far they have made 1401 sandwiches!

Our students in Confirmation Prep 7 have begun their Christian Service around our parish. They have been helping in the community garden, and each week they help clean and set up PES Hall as well as setting up our classes for the year.

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## Faith Formation Office Hours

The Faith Formation Office is open each day from 9:00am to 4:00pm from Monday to Friday. Evenings available by appointment!

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## Clothing Drive

Our Confirmation students will be fundraising this year to raise money to donate to a worthy charity that they choose. One of the things they will do is have a fundraising clothing drive. Please bring any gently used clothing to our Faith Formation Office Monday through Friday between 9am and 5pm or to the Parish Office during weekend hours. Last year our students loaded a truck for St. Vincent DePaul with 5,000 pounds of clothing to help the needy in the Long Island area. We hope to surpass that this year!



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## Pasta Dinner

This year's Pasta Dinner was a success due to the help of so many parents and families of our Confirmation students who donated many items for the dinner and the raffles, not to mention, the hard work of the parents who supervised and the students who worked so hard! A special thank you goes out to Christine Gilliland and Peter Gilliland for their work cooking and the K of C for assisting us!

Thank you as well to the parishioners who supported this event. Watching our students do so much to serve our parish is such a wonderful thing to be a part of! We'll have new service totals next week!

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## Lent

During this season of Lent, our students are reflecting on ways they can get more out of the season by prayers, fasting and giving. We are supporting CRS with Lenten Rice Bowls, praying a little more each day and trying to help others. We talk about ways we are 'fasting' each week. Upstairs in the building you may notice purple paper chains forming. These are our Lenten practices each week. We hope to fill the hallway by Holy Week!

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## Faith Formation Donations

Pennies can make a difference. We again ask you to drop them off at the Faith Formation Office mail slot, the Parish Office, or in the Sunday collection (place them in an envelope marked for Faith Formation). Last week \$59 was donated for the 2018-2019 year. The total to date: \$140. Thanks to all who donate.

# Parish Social Ministry

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## CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

### “Dreamers” in Jeopardy

By day’s end February 15, members of the U.S. Senate had rejected four immigration proposals, leaving it unclear how lawmakers will address overall immigration reform and keep the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program in place.

Late that afternoon, Archbishop John C. Wester of Santa Fe, New Mexico, issued an urgent alert to Catholics in his archdiocese to raise their voices “to support the ‘Dreamers’ and contact their representatives to vote for a bipartisan measure to preserve the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program or DACA, which is set to expire March 5.

“Time is running out for them. Congress must pass bipartisan legislation that would provide urgently needed relief for Dreamers. As Catholics, we believe the dignity of every human being, particularly that of our immigrant and refugee children and youth, must be protected. Archbishop Wester said in his statement.

(Catholic News Service, 2/16/18)

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## Bereavement Support Groups

Child and Family Bereavement Support Program  
Tuesday Evenings – March 6 thru April 24 / 6:00pm – 7:15pm  
Good Shepherd Hospice Administration Offices  
110 Bi-County Boulevard, Suite 114  
Farmingdale, NY  
Registration Required – Call Carolyn Lisi Haas – (631) 828-7629

Spousal/Partner Bereavement Support Groups  
Thursday Evenings / March 15 thru May 3 / 6:00pm - 7:30pm  
St. Patrick’s Catholic Church  
9 Clinton Avenue. Bay Shore, NY  
Registration Required – Call Maribeth Mckeever, (631) 828-7628

Adult Loss of Parent or Sibling Support Groups  
Thursday Evenings / March 15 thru May 3 / 7:45pm - 9:15pm  
St. Patrick’s Catholic Church  
9 Clinton Avenue, Bay Shore, NY  
Registration required – Call Maribeth Mckeever, (631) 828-7628

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## Senior Advocates

Help in Applying for SCAT transportation, SNAP (food stamps), Medigap Insurance, Relief and other senior programs available through Senior Advocates at:

Tanner Park	Wednesday, March 21	8:30am -1pm
West Babylon Library	Thursday, March 22	10am – 1pm

# Parish News

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## Let Us Welcome Our Newly Baptized Into Our Parish Communion

Juliana Marie Melendez  
Micayla Isacksen  
Aubree Leigh Bravo

Francis Anthony Gioia, IV  
Cameron Josiah Santos

Alessio Francisco Romeo  
Julian Joseph Lopez

## Please Pray for Those Who Have Died This Week

Jesse L. Morrell

Gail S. McGurty

Joann Volta

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## Bereavement Class

For information regarding the 'Bereavement Class,' please call Fran at 631-587-1578.

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## Contribution Statements for 2017

Contribution statements for 2017 will be mailed out on request. Please contact the Parish Office (631-587-5185) or e-mail parish@ourladyofgrace.net. If you have your envelope number, that would be helpful. We will send letters as soon as they can be prepared. Thank you for your generosity to Our Lady of Grace!

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### *From Fr. Vin:*

Thanks to all who expressed support for the idea of converting the convent building into a spiritual retreat center after the sisters depart. I've set up a task force from among those offering their expertise to see if it's feasible and could be self-supporting. I'll keep you informed of the group's progress. Keep praying that we can make it happen!

*The Gift you have  
received  
Give as a  
Gift*  
Matthew 10:8

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### **Financial Stewardship Report**

**September 1, 2017, through February 26, 2018**

**Sunday offering target: \$13,300 per week**

Target to date: \$345,800

Collections to date: \$347,692

**Over target by \$1,892**

*Many thanks to our generous sacrificial givers!*

**Your sacrificial giving makes our ministries and our mission from Christ possible. Please be generous.**

# Ministries with Children and Families

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## What is Family Life Ministry?

Family Life Ministry hopes to address the needs of families of all ages and sizes. From those in single person families or multi-generational families, we are all part of the parish family of Our Lady of Grace.

Contact Maria at [mrchetti4olog@gmail.com](mailto:mrchetti4olog@gmail.com) or call our Faith Formation Office at 631-661-9353 for more information.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 5, 2018, at 7:30pm! Join us!

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## Lent

Our Family Bible experience continues this week! For those who wish to be part of a group, we will meet on Thursday at 7:00pm, March 15, 2018, or you may join the Tuesday morning group at 9:30. Both groups will meet in Room 109!

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## Hospitality Breakfast

Our next Hospitality Breakfast will be on Sunday March 18, 2018. Come join us after the 10am Mass between the Feasts of St. Joseph and St. Patrick for a nice time and good food! Even if you attend a different Mass, come down at 11am and join us. Everyone welcome!

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## Day Care News

Day Care is in for a fun-filled winter! Our curriculum includes the ABCs, science, math, music and art for toddlers and preschoolers. We have a few openings available at each level. Please feel free to call or email me to set up a tour or ask questions at 631-422-4681 or [Jflorio@ourladyofgrace.net](mailto:Jflorio@ourladyofgrace.net).



## Registration for Angel Care Is Here

Angel CARE is our before- and after-school program. We offer a safe and friendly environment for children in kindergarten through sixth grade for West Babylon schools and kindergarten through fifth grade for Daniel Street and Wm. Rall in Lindenhurst.

For further information, please contact us at 631-893-6564 or email [pstanley@ourladyofgrace.net](mailto:pstanley@ourladyofgrace.net).

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## Youth Ministry Meeting



Youth Ministry, 7:30pm, Tuesdays in Room 212/214. Teens 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Nothing to do Tuesday nights? Our fall session began September 19 at 7:30pm, Room 212. Join us for faith, fun and fellowship!

The Our Lady of Grace Youth Ministry is a group of kids who love pizza and Jesus. Especially pizza. I come to YM because it's a place where I feel safe and closer to Jesus. It's somewhere we can serve the community but have fun doing it. We make our own money for causes and many fun things. We accept everyone and anyone no matter your preferences. Plus Professor makes church amusing." Brianna MacGregor – 19 year old – Junior Youth Ministry Leader.

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# Parish News

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## Adult Confirmation

It just happened again. I received a call from a woman who was asked to be a Godmother for her newborn niece. Unfortunately, she never confirmed as a child and now needs to do so by early April. I had to tell her the confirmation of adults would be taking place on May 26 well after the baby's christening. Not much I could do to help her. Understandably, I never heard from her again.

Don't let this happen to you or someone you know. Our Lady of Grace is here to help. An Adult Confirmation Program is being offered to those ages 18 and older who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The program entails attending seven classes being held on the following Wednesdays from 7:15 to 9pm: April 4, 11, 18, 26, May 2, 9 and 16, 2018

Confirmation will be conferred during the 5pm Mass on Saturday, May 19.

There is no fee for the program. Parishioners from Our Lady of Grace and from any other parish are welcome. If interested, please leave your name, telephone number and email address in the Parish Office or email Joe Salzone directly at [jsalzone@ourladyofgrace.net](mailto:jsalzone@ourladyofgrace.net).

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## Entering the Word and World of Mark: a Lenten Series

*Presenter: Msgr. Donald Hanson*

Mondays, March 5, 12, 19, 26, 7:30 – 9:00pm, Center Room 110



This year we are reading the gospel of Mark at Sunday Mass. Mark is the earliest written and the shortest of the gospels. Similar in structure to Matthew and Luke's gospels, it is very different from John's gospel. Mark's gospel presents an important and distinctive view of Jesus, its subject. In four sessions we will come to know Mark a little better as well as becoming acquainted with the methods modern scripture scholars use to study the gospels, who their original audience was, and the literary forms in which the message was expressed. Participants will have the chance to examine key passages up close and ask questions of the text

in order to understand it better.

The first two sessions will focus on how the Gospels came to be, and how we now study them. The final two sessions will have more to do with reading the Gospels for spiritual benefit.

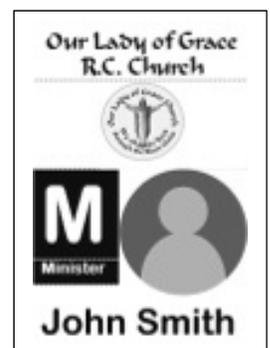
No advance registration is required. Get to know Jesus better this Lent through study of his word. Again, the sessions will meet on Monday evenings, 7:30 to 9pm, in the Parish Center, Room 110. Dates are March 5, 12, 19, and 26.

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## A Reminder about ID Badges

Parish staff and volunteers wear I.D. badges (except at worship) to identify themselves as people who have authority and responsibility for the good order of the parish and its programs. You should feel free to question (or to report to the Parish Office) anyone who seems to be in an area or doing anything out of order if the person is not wearing I.D. Keep yourself and others safe on our campus!

Volunteers and staff: Please remember that wearing your ID as required is a contribution to the safety and good order of our parish.



## More Parish News

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### Rosary Makers

I am sure many of you read a portion of the letter that was received from Mother Teresa Center of the Missionaries of Charity regarding the 250 rosaries that were shipped to them by Our Lady of Grace Rosary Makers to be sent to the poor somewhere around the world.

Our Lady of Grace Rosary Makers meet on the second Tuesday of each month to ship and send out rosaries to our local hospitals, nursing homes and missions all over the states. Some of our members have been making rosaries for over 20 years, and we continue to do so each month. However, our group is in need of additional rosary makers to keep up with the demand for rosaries. Last year two of our members died, and we have been unable to replace them.

To join the Rosary Makers all you need are two capable hands and two hours of your time once a month. We will teach you how to make the knots to make the rosaries; and then once you have mastered them, you are given a supply kit for 50 rosaries that you will make at home and bring back the finished product at the next month's meeting. So if you have time on your hands and can help us, we welcome you. You can stop into the Parish Office and leave your name and phone number, and I will contact you and give you more details. Thank you, Gladys Rodriguez

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### World Meeting of Families 2018

The Office of Faith Formation of the Diocese of Rockville Centre is pleased to be working with Bishop Barres and Bishop Brennan in participating in the World Meeting of Families 2018, to be held in Ireland from August 21 – 26, 2018.

The Office of Faith Formation will be providing opportunities for those participating in the pilgrimage and for those who are unable to participate to gather in advance in order to prepare for the event with catechesis and prayer. For further information, contact us by email: [mapill@drvc.org](mailto:mapill@drvc.org) or call 631-678-5800 ext. 505.



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### Your Help is Needed

Shopper wanted for Outreach – to shop at one of the local supermarkets once a month. A list of items needed and money to purchase items will be provided.

Are you available to drive someone to a local doctor or to visit a local nursing home?

Please contact the Parish Social Ministry Office at 631-661-9354.

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### Golden Wedding Jubilee

This spring, couples that have been married fifty years or more will be honored at a Mass on Sunday, April 29, 2018, at the Church of St. Rose of Lima in Massapequa. Mass will begin at 2:30pm. Registration forms and complete instructions can be obtained at the rectory. Registration must be received by the Office of Worship by April 13, 2018. If you have any questions, you may call 516-678-5800, extension 504.