



# Holy Week and the Easter Season of Grace

**Palm Sunday, March 25:** Mass and distribution of Palm at **5pm Vigil** (Saturday evening), **8am, 10am, and Noon.**

**Monday of Holy Week, March 26:** Mass, 8am, 9am.

**Tuesday of Holy Week, March 27:** Mass, 8am, 9am.

**Wednesday of Holy Week, March 28:** Mass, 8am, 9am.

**Holy Thursday, March 29:** Morning Prayer, 9am. **Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8pm.**

**Good Friday, March 30:** Morning Prayer, 9am. **Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3pm.**  
Youth Ministry Stations of the Cross at 5:30pm.

**Holy Saturday, March 31:** Morning Prayer, 9am.

**Holy Saturday Evening, March 31:** *The Easter Vigil.* **Vigil and Mass at 8pm.**

**Easter Sunday, April 1:** *The Masses of Easter:* **8am, 10am, Noon, 1:30pm** (no evening Mass).

**Ascension Thursday, May 10:** Masses at 5:30pm Wednesday (Vigil); 8am, 9am, 7:30pm.

**Pentecost Sunday, May 20:** Masses at 5pm Saturday (Vigil), 8am, 10am, and Noon.

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Saturday, March 24:** 4:00 – 4:45pm (Saturday before Palm Sunday).

**Monday, March 26:** 3:00 – 9:00pm (Monday in Holy Week).

**Wednesday, March 28:** After 9:00am Mass (Wednesday in Holy Week).

**Dying You destroyed our death  
Rising You restored our life  
Lord Jesus, come in glory!**

**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  
Day Care Office (631) 422-4681

**March 25, 2018 • Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**

## Worship This Coming Week

<p><b>Mon. Monday of Holy Week</b>          Mar. 26 <i>Is 42:1-7/Jn 12:1-11</i>          8:00 Maria and John Chao and          Maria and Enrique Cheng          9:00 William Schmidt</p> <p><b>Tue. Tuesday of Holy Week</b>          Mar. 27 <i>Is 49:1-6/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38</i>            8:00 Francesco Del Vecchio          9:00 Michael V. Sansalone</p> <p><b>Wed. Wednesday of Holy Week</b>          Mar. 28 <i>Is 50:4-9a/Mt 26:14-25</i>            8:00 Stephen Kish          9:00 Giuseppe Mozzone</p>	<p><b>Thu. Holy Thursday</b>          Mar. 29 <i>Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15</i>          8:00pm People of the Parish</p> <p><b>Fri. Good Friday</b>          Mar. 30 <i>Is 52:13—53:12/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42</i>            3:00pm</p> <p><b>Sat. Holy Saturday</b>          Mar. 31 <i>Gn 1:1—2:2 /Gn 22:1-18 / Ex 14:15—15:1/Is 54:5-14/Is 55:1-11/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/ Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/ Rom 6:3-11/Mk 16:1-7</i>            8:00pm People of the Parish</p>
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### The Sacrament of Reconciliation

### Worship for Sunday, April 1, 2018 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord *Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col 3:1-4 /Jn 20:1-9*

	<b>Presiding</b>	<b>We pray at this Mass especially for</b>
<b>8:00pm (Sat.)</b>	Fr. Vin	People of the Parish
<b>8:00am</b>	Fr. Gabriel	Easter Mass Remembrance
<b>10:00am</b>	Fr. Gius	Easter Mass Remembrance
<b>12:00pm</b>	Fr. Vin	Easter Mass Remembrance
<b>1:30pm</b>	Fr. Gabriel	Easter Mass Remembrance

#### 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 26:** 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 27:** Scripture Sharing 9:30am. RCIA 7pm.  
Youth Ministry 7pm.

**Thursday, March 29:** Morning Prayer 9am.

**Friday, March 30:** Morning Prayer 9am.

**Saturday, March 31:** Morning Prayer 9am.

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## **Next week:**

**Monday, April 2:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 2-9pm.

**Tuesday, April 3:** Scripture Sharing 9:30am. RCIA 7pm.  
Youth Ministry 7pm.

**Saturday, April 7:** Youth Ministry Bake Sale after the Mass.

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## **Upcoming:**

**Sunday, April 8:** Youth Ministry Bake Sale after all the Masses.  
Babylon Chorale 4pm.

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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*

## **The Lenten Gospels – Palm Sunday**

Each year on this Palm Sunday we get a double Gospel: One at the start of Mass (before the blessing and procession with palms) and at the usual time the story of Jesus' Last Supper, arrest, and crucifixion.

Together the Gospels tell the story of Holy Week – and they invite us to see it as our story as well. At the start of Mass, we hold palm branches – for Jesus' culture, the traditional way of welcoming a hero. There's a part of us that does that.

But later in the Mass, we hear the crowds yelling "Crucify him"; and there's a part of us that does that, too. Our job during Holy Week is to locate within ourselves those two parts of us and to learn from each.

Notice I don't say, "to eliminate the second part." I don't say that first, because it's impossible and damaging, and second, because that part of us is there for God's purposes – it has something to teach us.

There's a strange and wonderful parable in Mark's Gospel that makes this clear. In it Jesus tells the story of a man who sows his field, but at night an enemy sows weeds there. As they sprout together, the workers want to pull the weeds out; but the farmer, wiser than they, says not to: it might damage the good crops. He tells them to wait until the harvest to do the separating...

When we attack and try to eliminate the part of ourselves that would like to be rid of Christ (like the crowds before Pilate in the Gospel), we run a great risk of damaging ourselves. I see this regularly in confession, when truly good people torment themselves about things that might not even be sins but are failures to live up to their own expectations for themselves. And – beyond the pain – the tragedy is that such people rarely learn – about themselves, or about Christ and His work within them. "Eliminating the sin" is often like cutting dandelions in the lawn with a lawnmower: the heads disappear, but the roots remain; and the effort only makes things worse.

The hard work of becoming a mature disciple means, first of all, self-knowledge: We must see clearly before we can act wisely. Today's two Gospels invite us to just this seeing: What emotions, habits, and impulses within us want to say to Christ, "Welcome!?" And which wish to say, "Later!?" During this Holy Week, take some quiet time for self-observation. Come to confession if you think that would help you to sort yourself out. And certainly, join in worship on Holy Thursday and Good Friday as well as, of course, on Easter. Until next week, Peace



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### **From Fr. Vin:**

With the danger from the flu epidemic waning we are restoring the service of the Eucharistic Cup effective this weekend. Please enjoy the fullness of the sacramental sign during this most Holy week! (Of course, if you are sick please do not partake of the Cup out of respect for others' health.)

# 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!

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

We are wrapping up our Clothing Drive by April 5! After that date, we will no longer be able to accept clothing donations for this year. Thank you all for your help in assisting our students with this goal!



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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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## Holy Week

Remember to try and attend some of the Holy Week Services here at Our Lady of Grace. We're wrapping up everything we've tried to do for Lent so why not add some of these services! Thursday the Mass of the Lord's Supper reminds us of the institution of the Eucharist. When the priest washes the feet of parishioners, he re-enacts how Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. This shows us how He came to serve and we also serve, each other.

Good Friday we will have the Stations of the Cross. Weather permitting, we will process around the grounds of the church and pray as some of our youth act out the Stations of Jesus suffering, death and Resurrection. This is at 5:30pm. In case of inclement weather, it will be held in the Church!

# Parish Social Ministry

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## CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

### From Bishop John O. Barres 2018 Lenten Letter:

“As we look to the future we are aware that we continue to face difficulties both here on Long Island and in our country at large. Whether they involve the opioid epidemic, gang violence, racism, or any other threat, a deep trust and reliance on the Risen Christ is necessary for us to advance and make progress in dealing with these problems.

On April 4 we will commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragic death of Dr. Martin Luther King. I would ask that during the Lenten season we all prepare for this historic anniversary by dedicating dimensions of our Lenten prayer, fasting and almsgiving to the pursuit of racial harmony and comprehensive immigration reform grounded in the principles of the sanctity of human life and dignity of the human person.

We dream and act in a way that treasures the African American legacy of contribution in this country. We dream and act in a way that not only welcomes our Hispanic brothers and sisters but expresses our deep appreciation for their gifts and leadership in the Church and in American society, and we advocate together for comprehensive immigration reform.”

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### Town of Babylon Senior Transportation Department

Do you know that the Town of Babylon Department of Human Services have Senior Transportation Services for Seniors 60 and over – who are residents of the Town of Babylon.

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### Daily Medical Transportation – Monday through Friday

Morning appointments only – 8:30am to 10:30am – Roundtrip Service

11am appointment – One way service only.

Seniors must give at least one week’s notice prior to scheduling transportation appointment

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### Supermarket Shopping

8:30am to 11am.

Seniors requesting free transportation to the supermarket will be taken with a group every other week, thus allowing them to accommodate more seniors. New requests for shopping will be placed on a waiting list if there are no openings at the time.

Shoppers are given approximately 1 ¼ hours in the store and are limited to 4 bags of groceries.

For further information, please call 631-422-7618 or 631-893-1056.

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### Free Tax help by Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Bethpage Federal Credit will help low to moderate income households prepare their tax returns at no cost by VITA – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. The program is open to all eligible Long Islanders, including non-Bethpage members.

Trained and bilingual tax preparers will be available at Bethpage’s Bay Shore, Farmingdale, Hempstead and Massapequa branches to meet with eligible taxpayers with 2017 incomes of \$55,000 and below. Addition mobile sites will be at the Brentwood, Wyandanch and Copiague public libraries. For further information, go to [www.bethpagefcu.com](http://www.bethpagefcu.com) or call 1-800-628-7070.



# Parish News

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## **Please Pray for Those Who Have Died This Week**

Eugene Favale

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## **Donation of Bread and Wine**

The bread and the wine have been donated in loving memory of Maria and John Chao and Maria and Enrique Cheng and for mercy towards sinners and the world for the week of March 25 through March 31, 2018.

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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!

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

### **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 through events that also strengthen our faith. 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, April 9, 2018, at 7:30pm! Join us!

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## Lent

Our Family Bible experience will not meet this week as it is Holy Thursday! We will meet the Thursday after Easter, April 5.

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## Hospitality Breakfast

Our next Hospitality Breakfast will be today, Sunday, April 15, 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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## Save the Date

Please join the children of the parish as they pray the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, March 30, 2018, at 5:30pm. We will travel around the outside of the building as the children act out the Stations. If the weather does not permit, we will be in the church.

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## Day Care News

Day Care is in for a fun-filled spring! 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).



## 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!

"I come to Youth Ministry because I am learning to bond with God and my fellow peers. Our Lady of Grace is a very joyful and spiritual place. It makes me feel more Christian than I usually do. The man in charge is my neighbor, The Professor. Youth Ministry supports everyone around the world by setting up charities and fundraisers. Every Tuesday we come together and pray for what's right with the greatest people." Gino Capone 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

The Youth Ministry Bake Sale is the weekend of April 7 and 8 after all the Masses, come out and support the youth of our parish.

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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.

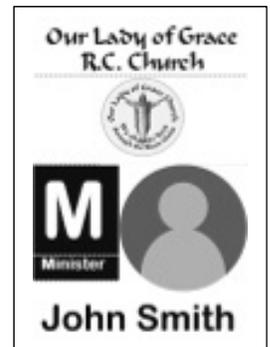
There is no fee for the program. Parishioners from Our Lady of Grace and from any other parish are welcome. If interested, please leave your name, telephone number and email address in the Parish Office or email Joe Salzone directly at [jsalzone@ourladyofgrace.net](mailto:jsalzone@ourladyofgrace.net).

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## 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.



## A Word about Memorial Donations



Our Lady of Grace is frequently given donations of vestments or altar vessels that people have received as memorials when a person dies. While we appreciate the thought behind such memorials, we have so many of the items most frequently given that the donations end up stored away in sacristy closets. To provide an alternative, Our Lady of Grace has established an *Altar Fund* to receive money donations as memorials on the occasion of a death. Donors will receive a formal acknowledgement card that can be presented to the family at the wake; memorials will be noted in the parish *Bulletin*; and donations will be used to purchase items for our public worship when needed, such as liturgical books, altar cloths, and the like. Memorial cards for donations to the *Altar Fund* are available at the Parish Office. Please encourage people to use this method of giving memorials rather than purchasing items that may never be used.

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## More Parish News

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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.



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### Kids of the Kingdom is Coming

Summer is approaching quickly and our summer sun and fun program begins on June 25, 2018. It runs for eight weeks through August 17, 2018. The hours are 8:30am - 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

There is a before care from 7:30am – 8:30am and an after care from 4:30pm – 5:30pm which is an additional cost of \$5 for each session used.

Our program ranges from daily field trips to on grounds recreation. Feel free to choose any or all weeks as needed. We accommodate children age's five to twelve.

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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!

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### April Chorus Concerts

The Our Lady of Grace Choirs present their annual Easter Concert April 14, 2018, at 7pm, conducted by music director Terence Purtell. Celebrate with us as choir season draws to a close, fun for all ages, free admission. On April 8 at 4pm, The Babylon Chorale presents "Faith" featuring Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna* and much more. \$20 adults, \$15 seniors and students. For more information, call or email at [www.babylonchorale.org](http://www.babylonchorale.org); [thebabylonchorale@gmail.com](mailto:thebabylonchorale@gmail.com), 516-799-4974. These concerts replace the concert series for the month of April.

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