



# 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 8:00pm.*

**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

Day Care Office (631) 422-4681

Parish Social Ministry Office (631) 661-9354

**March 18, 2018 • Fifth Sunday of Lent**

## Worship This Coming Week

<p><b>Mon. St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b></p> <p>Mar. 19 2 Sm 7:4-5a,12-14a,16/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a</p> <p>8:00 Father Lee Freeman 9:00 St. Joseph, Thanksgiving</p> <p><b>Tue. Lenten Weekday</b></p> <p>Mar. 20 Nm 21:4-9/Jn 8:21-30</p> <p>8:00 Ann Hassel 9:00 Gerry Keller</p> <p><b>Wed. Lenten Weekday</b></p> <p>Mar. 21 Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Jn 8:31-42</p> <p>8:00 Father Mortimer Gleason 9:00 Maureen Caruso</p>	<p><b>Thu. Lenten Weekday</b></p> <p>Mar. 22 Gn 17:3-9/Jn 8:51-59</p> <p>8:00 Msgr. Myron Purick 9:00 Joseph DiBartolo</p> <p><b>Fri. Lenten Weekday</b></p> <p>Mar. 23 Jer 20:10-13/Jn 10:31-42</p> <p>8:00 Giuseppi Granata 9:00 Russell Hurst</p> <p><b>Sat. Lenten Weekday</b></p> <p>Mar. 24 Ez 37:21-28/Jn 11:45-56</p> <p>8:00 Stephen Kish, Rose Haas, Dennis Reyes, Andrew Lutz</p>
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### The Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

### Worship for Sunday, March 25, 2018

#### Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

**Mk 11:1-10/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47**

	<b>Presiding</b>	<b>We pray at this Mass especially for</b>
<b>5:00pm (Sat.)</b>	Fr. Vin	Francis Antonawich
<b>8:00am</b>	Fr. Vin	People of the Parish
<b>10:00am</b>	Fr. Gabriel	Dennis Forgit
<b>12:00pm</b>	Fr. Gius	Dorothy and George Feis

#### 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 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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## Next 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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## 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)

## Holy Week and Easter:

**March 24 – April 1, Confessions and Services:** Listed on the front cover of this week's *Bulletin*.

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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

## Report on Feedback for Bishop Barres

Last month, in preparation for meeting with Bishop Barres, I invited comments from parishioners who had returned to the practice of the faith. Today I want to offer to all of you a brief report on what I received, along with thanks to the dozen or so people who shared their stories with me. Here's a brief summary of what I heard.

First, the bishop had asked us specifically about what worked in bringing people back to the practice of the faith. The responses I received were varied in their details, but most made reference in some way to one or more these things:

- The person was “shut out” of church life by being told (wrongly) that something about their experience made them unwelcome at the Catholic church; Pope Francis’s message of God’s mercy caused them to take another look;
- The person returned because of the personal, one-on-one influence of a practicing Catholic (with or without a direct invitation to return);
- The person was attracted back to Catholic practice by the lure of church aesthetics and/or by the feeling of “something missing” in life. The intercession of the saints was also mentioned in this context.

To me that’s not surprising. As you’ve heard me say again and again, “Belonging leads to believing.” The welcome we offer (mostly one-on-one, not through formal programs) is the best way to bring non-practicing Catholics back to the practice of the faith.

The second question the bishop asked was how parishes could increase the number of seminarians. Here, the few answers I received had to do not with solutions but with a particular roadblock: the celibacy requirement. Dealing with that is beyond my pay-grade.

But I have one comment, and it shouldn’t be a surprise to you. My sense is that celibacy is just one of a variety of structural factors that make the life of priests seem unattractive (from outside and, truth be told, from inside). The way to increase interest in this vocation among young people is to reduce barriers (most of which come from a lifestyle that may have made sense in an earlier culture, but no longer does so today).

Reducing barriers is probably the wisest solution to bringing some people back to the practice of the faith, too. If wrong information drives people away, get good information to them. But the key ingredient isn’t information – it’s *welcome*.

The most frequent response non-practicing Catholics give when asked in surveys why they haven’t returned to church is, “Because nobody invited me!” That’s something we can change.

I can do my part, but of necessity it’s somewhat impersonal. I invite in the letters I send every parish household before Easter and before Christmas. I invite when talking to groups who are here for other purposes (e.g., Faith Formation programs). But only you can do the personal inviting – of your non-practicing friends and neighbors and family members. Ask them to come to Mass for Easter (or any Sunday) with you and have breakfast afterward to talk about what they experienced and about what Mass means to you. When Jesus wanted disciples, he didn’t give them a textbook: He said, “Come and see.” That’s inviting. And when people are welcomed at church, they find that they want to become a part of it.

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!

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!

# Parish Social Ministry

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## CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

### From the US Bishops' Letter to Congress on the 2018 Farm Bill

"Domestic Hunger and Nutrition: Food is a basic need and a fundamental human right. Therefore, food production ought to be a critical national concern...When faced with tens of millions still unsure about how they will put food on the table, robust funding of programs that feed hungry families must be prioritized.

The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and other similar initiatives are critical to meeting the needs of hungry people. SNAP not only helped feed more than 43 million people last year but also lifted over 4 million Americans above the poverty line. It is responsive to increased periods of need and continues to have one of the lowest fraud rates for federal programs. Congress should oppose efforts to weaken efficiency or access to this important part of the social safety net, and instead strengthen SNAP by improving outreach, streamlining enrollment, and including case management in efforts to align state employment and training activities to improve access to living-wage jobs."

### IRS Consumer Alert

The IRS issued a consumer alert in response to concerns about IRS scam phone calls. The IRS consumer alert has provided tips to help protect against these con artists pretending to be IRS employees.

According to the IRS, the following are five things the IRS will never do:

1. Call to demand immediate payment, nor will they call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.
2. Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
3. Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debt card.
4. Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
5. Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

If you know you owe taxes or think you might owe, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. The IRS workers can help you with a payment issue.

If you don't owe taxes or have no reason to believe that you do, report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at 1-800-366-4484 or [www.tigta.gov](http://www.tigta.gov)

### Reminder: Did you apply for your Earned Income Tax Credit (EIC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC)?

According to IRS, each year millions of eligible workers do not claim their credit missing out on millions of dollars they have earned. Even if workers don't earn enough to owe income tax (although they pay federal excise and payroll taxes as well as state and local taxes), they can qualify for these tax credits but may not realize it. Child qualifications for workers with children are: son, daughter, grandchild, stepchild or adopted child, foster child placed with the worker by a government agency. Check it out before it's too late.

# Parish News

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

Camila Felicita Vique  
Kylie Rose Ciecirski

Lilianna Rose Otte  
Sienna Skye Talavera

Ryan Michael Torres

## Please Pray for Those Who Have Died This Week

Frank Commisso

Charles Kiefer

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## Donation of Bread and Wine

The bread and the wine have been donated in loving memory of Marie Foster for the week of March 18 through March 24, 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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### **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.***

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# 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 continues this week! For those who wish to be part of a group, we will meet on Thursday at 7:00pm, March 22, 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 today, 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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## 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 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!

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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.

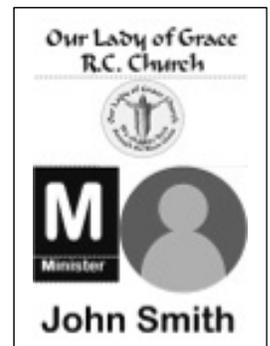
No advance registration is required. Get to know Jesus better this Lent through study of his word. Again, the sessions will meet on Monday evenings, 7:30 to 9pm, in the Parish Center, Room 110. Dates are March 5, 12, 19, and 26.

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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.



## 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@drcv.org](mailto:mapill@drcv.org) or call 631-678-5800 ext. 505.



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### Care to Shop?



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 Registration Open

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 ages five to twelve.

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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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