

Masses

Saturday Evening: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am

Daily Mass:
Monday - Friday 9:00 am

Holy Days:
7:00pm (Vigil on the eve)
9:00 (on the day)

Confessions

Saturday: 3:30 - 4:00 pm (Large Church)
or by appointment with a priest

Pastoral Team

Rev. Msgr. William A. Hanson Pastor	frbill@miparish.net
Deacon Robert Lyon	Baptism/ RCIA Coordinator deaconbob@miparish.net
Rev. Charles Okonkwo	Chaplain, in Residence
Mary Bruballa	Parish Secretary
Fran Bursztyn	Religious Education Coordinator fran@miparish.net
Mary Pat Lyon	Ministry of Consolation
Leslie O'Connor	Business Manager/Liturgical Music Coordinator leslie@miparish.net
Alfredo Sobalvarro	Parish Maintenance
Ellen Sullivan	St. Vincent de Paul President ellen92601@aol.com
Tara Turnow	Parish Accountant
Finance Committee	
Felix J. Grucci, Jr.	Chairman/Trustee
Dr. Joseph Graskemper	Trustee
Fr. Bill Hanson	
Jim Renehan	
Tom Derby	
Frank Lento	
Patricia Panatier	

Holy Angels Regional School

Principal: Mr. Michael Connell
631-475-0422
Business Office: 631-475-2641
www.holyangelsregional.org

The Parish Family of Mary Immaculate

**Sunday
June 24, 2018**

16 Browns Lane, Bellport, NY 11713
631-286-0154 / 631-286-2937 (fax)

www.miparish.net



Rectory Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM
(Closed 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM)

Religious Education Office: 631-286-0154

Society of St. Vincent de Paul / Food Pantry: 631-286-3795

Food Pantry Hours: Wednesday, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Friday, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

June 24, 2018 The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 5:00 pm	June 23 Msgr. Ryan	by Parishioners	Wednesday 9:00 am	June 27 No intention
Sunday 9:00 am	June 24 John O'Connell	by Rita Buckley	Thursday 9:00 am	June 28 No intention
11:00 am	Timothy Paulsen	by Kathy & Dennis Desmond	Friday 9:00 am	June 29 No intention
	Mary Jane Mahon	by Family	Saturday 5:00 pm	June 30 Patricia Trainor by Kathy & Dennis Desmond Alan Hankers by Ken Hawkins
Monday 9:00 am	June 25 Ann Carey	by Bridie Bergin		
Tuesday 9:00 am	June 26 No intention			

"We have loved them during life, let us not abandon them in death"

When we have a Mass said in memory of a friend or loved one, we follow these words of St. Ambrose and perform one of the Spiritual works of Mercy. To have a Mass said for a friend or relative who has passed, contact the rectory or stop by the weekend office at the kitchen after all Masses.

Bulletin Reflection:

St. Paul reminds us in the second reading that "John heralded His (Jesus') coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel." How faithful are we to our baptismal promises?

Living Stewardship:

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who embrace the obligation to serve others as opportunities to live out our own baptismal promise to serve in—and through—the Church.

Weekly Collection: \$ 5,434

Faith Direct : \$2,500

Fathers' Day: \$730

This Week's Readings

Monday: 1 Kings 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18;
Matthew 7:1-5

Tuesday: 2 Kings 19:9b-11, 14-21,
31-35a, 36; Matthew 7:6, 12-14

Wed.: 2 Kings 22:8-13, 23:1-3; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thurs, 2 Kings 24:8-17; Matthew 7:15-20

Friday: Acts 12:1-11, Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18;
Matthew 16:13-19

Saturday: Lamentations 2:2, 10-14, 18-19;
Matthew 8:5-17

Sunday: Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24: 2
Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15; Mark 5:21-
43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43



"None of us is an island,
an autonomous and independent 'I,' separated from the other,
and we can only build the future by standing Together..."

Pope Francis



Fr. Bill Hanson

Family Separation Declared “Immoral”

Statement of Cardinal DiNardo

President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



Pope Francis and Cardinal DiNardo

Fort Lauderdale, FL June 13, 2018
—“At its core, asylum is an instrument to preserve the right to life. The Attorney General's recent decision elicits deep concern because it potentially strips asylum from many women who lack adequate protection. These vulnerable women will now face return to the extreme dangers

of domestic violence in their home country. This decision negates decades of precedents that have provided protection to women fleeing domestic violence. Unless overturned, the decision will erode the capacity of asylum to save lives, particularly in cases that involve asylum seekers who are persecuted by private actors. We urge courts and policy makers to respect and enhance, not erode, the potential of our asylum system to preserve and protect the right to life.

Additionally, I join Bishop Joe Vásquez, Chairman of USCCB's Committee on Migration, in condemning the continued use of family separation at the U.S./Mexico border as an implementation of the Administration's zero tolerance policy. Our government has the discretion in our laws to ensure that young children are not separated from their parents and exposed to irreparable harm and trauma. Families are the foundational element of our society and they must be able to stay together. While protecting our borders is important, we can and must do better as a government, and as a society, to find other ways to ensure that safety. **Separating babies from their mothers is not the answer and is immoral.”**

Mary Immaculate Welcomes You!

Ongoing Programs/Meetings:

- **Parish Library**

Open weekends after each Mass in Large Church.

- **Children's Liturgy of the Word**

9:00 am and 11:00 am Mass on Sundays. Children are dismissed to break open The Word on a level appropriate for them.

- **Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

10:15 am to 11:15 am on the 1st Sunday of the month in the Cottage.
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Cottage.

- **Rosary Altar Society**

7:00 pm every 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Little Church. All are welcome!

- **Ministry of Consolation**

Please call the Rectory for more information.

- **AA Meeting**

7:30 pm on Sundays & 7:00 pm Thursdays upstairs in Auditorium. This meeting is open to anyone with the desire to stop drinking.

- **Icon Painting Class**

10:00 am - 3:00 pm on 2nd Thursday of every month in Auditorium. Please call Jim Fuchs at 631-286-1643.

- **Camera Club**

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of month in the Cottage except for holidays and scheduled field trips.

**For more information
please call the Rectory: 286-0154**

Welcome!



If you have recently moved into this area, kindly register by stopping by the Rectory or visiting the Church Office after any weekend Mass or by contacting us at 631-286-0154. You can also fill out a registration form found at both entrances to the Large Church, and drop them in the collection basket.



SACRAMENTS

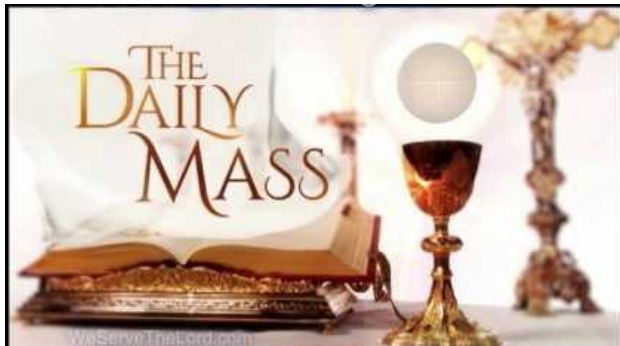
Baptism: Celebrated either at a weekend Mass or once a month at 1:00 pm in the Little Church. Please register three months before the baptism calling the rectory. An appointment will then be scheduled with Deacon Bob. If this is your first child, a baptism preparation class is also required.

Reconciliation: Confessions are heard on Saturdays at 3:30 - 4:00 pm in the Large Church or by calling the Rectory for an appointment with a priest.

Marriage: Couples should make arrangements at least 6 months in advance by appointment with the pastor. No date for a wedding will be set over the phone. Pre-Cana classes are required.

Adult Sacraments: (RCIA)

Are you an adult who wishes to be prepared for Baptism, Confirmation, and/or Eucharist? RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation by which adults become members of the Roman Catholic Church. All those who would like to begin this journey, please contact the rectory..



9am in the Little Church

CLAMBAKE - July 21st



You can make this year's Clambake a huge success by lending a hand!

Be part of this exciting event!

Perhaps you can donate one of the items below...
or maybe you know someone who runs a business who may like to be part of this fundraiser.

- ♦ Raffle Items
- ♦ Ice
- ♦ Water
- ♦ Wine
- ♦ Beer

From set-up to clean-up, there are tasks for many volunteers! Let us know where you can lend a hand!

- ♦ **Clam Shuckers:** *pry open those delicious clams!*
- ♦ **Beverage Coordinator:** *accept donations of beverages and drop off the day of the clambake*
- ♦ **Registration Table:** *volunteers needed to check people in to the event and distribute beverage tickets and name tags.*
- ♦ **Children Activities Coordinator:** *will create fun games and activities to keep the younger ones part of the fun. Enlist some teens to lend a hand!*
- ♦ **Raffle Ticket Sales People:** *collect money and distribute tickets throughout the event. Many hands are needed!*
- ♦ **Set-up Volunteers:** *beginning at 10 am on the day of the event.*
- ♦ **Clean-up Volunteers:** *beginning at the end of the event and continuing after Sunday 9am Mass.*

CALLING ALL BAKERS!!

Show off your skills by making one (or two) of your favorite desserts!

Call Ellen Sullivan at 631-286-5351 or 631-553-0463

To lend a hand, contact the rectory or speak to
Stephanie Barry (631-627-6373 or slbarry@optonline.net) or
John Deutsch (631-379-8290) or jd@circolutions.com

To be a successful fundraiser and not just a great party,

The Clambake needs Sponsors!

MARY IMMACULATE CLAM BAKE

Saturday, July 21, 2018 6 – 9 p.m.

Immediately following the 5 pm Mass being celebrated outside

**Use this form for
Sponsorships & Tickets**

Special Sponsorships

_____ **ANGEL SPONSOR** **\$25,000**

As event underwriter, your name/company logo is listed on appropriate signage and on a special promotional banner. 25 tickets are included.

_____ **LITTLE CHURCH SPONSOR** **\$10,000**

Along with 10 tickets to the event, your name/company logo listed on appropriate signage.

_____ **BIG CHURCH SPONSOR** **\$5,000**

Your name/company logo on signage at the event and you will receive 5 tickets.

_____ **ALTAR SPONSOR** **\$1,000**

Along with 2 tickets to the event, your name on appropriate signage at the event.

_____ **CO-SPONSOR** **\$500**

Your name on appropriate signage at the event.

_____ **\$250** *Signage and listing on placemats at seats*

_____ **\$100** *Signage and listing on placemats at seats*

_____ **\$50** *Listing on placemats at seats*

Individual Tickets

Each ticket includes two non-alcoholic beverages and dessert

Adults: \$25 in advance, \$50 at the door

Children: \$15 in advance, \$25 at the door
12 and under

Children 3 and under are free

Advance Ticket Sales will end on Sunday, July 15.

Sorry, no exceptions.

Additional non-alcoholic beverages and raffle tickets may be purchased at the event, or you may bring your own. Beer and wine will be available as well.

We have a 50/50 raffle too!

**Or you can do it all
on-line at miparish.net**

**YES! I want to support the
Mary Immaculate Clam Bake!**

Please count me in for the following:

_____ Adult tickets @ \$25 each

_____ Children's tickets @ \$15 each

***I cannot attend but I want to support my parish
Enclosed please find my donation.***

\$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Come join in the fun!

**For more information or to volunteer,
please contact Leslie or Mary at
631-286-0154 or email
mary@miparish.net or leslie@miparish.net**

All completed forms can be dropped off
or mailed to the parish office at
16 Browns Lane, Bellport, NY 11713

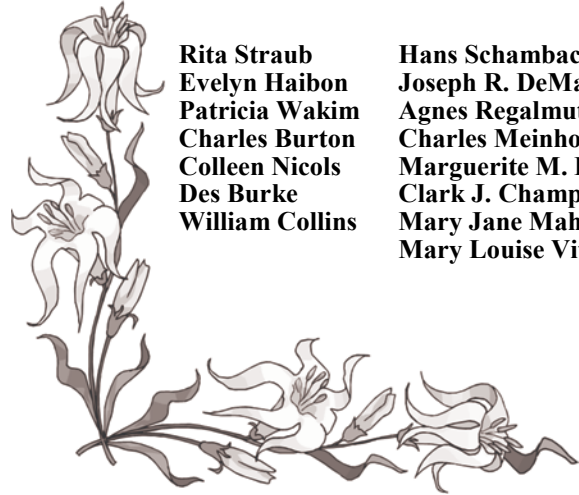
Mary Immaculate Prays For One Another



Gina DiMartino
 Kate Cox
 Michael Matthews
 Roz Hassell
 Nancy Cavaliere
 Claudia Horst
 Philip J. McSweeney
 Joanne Klonoski
 Vincent Racaniello
 Jennifer Lombardi
 Dana Hertzovitz
 Linda Sherwood
 Christine Barden
 Mary Kinsley
 Helen Sidoti

Doris Noehren
 Emily Magnani
 Lorraine Schordine
 Luhur Budiarjo
 Teimor Tamadon
 Theresa Venturino
 Thomas Nolan
 Alice Nolan
 John Rocco
 Kevin Williams
 Therese Hopper
 Helen May
 Irene Ball
 S. Richard Materia

Please Pray for Our Deceased



Rita Straub
 Evelyn Haibon
 Patricia Wakim
 Charles Burton
 Colleen Nicols
 Des Burke
 William Collins

Hans Schambach
 Joseph R. DeMaio Sr.
 Agnes Regalmuto
 Charles Meinhold
 Marguerite M. Rauh
 Clark J. Champney
 Mary Jane Mahon
 Mary Louise Vitale

PRAY FOR OUR ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ MILITARY

Gregory Azzara - Navy
Gunnery Sgt. John Scott Dowdell - USMC
SSgt Matthew Pica - Army
John Paul Redmond - Army
PFC Robert Temple - Army
SSgt. Shawn Weismiller - Air Force
Sgt. Jason Ramos - Army
Pvt Jonathan Salvestrini - Army
PFC Shane Gibney - USMC
Cpl Mark Anthony Barone - USMC
Lt. Philip J. Granati - U.S. Coast Guard
WO1 Nalita Sellers - Army
LC Amanda Knepper - USMC
SFC Edward Kusa - Navy
Bryan Thurston - Army
Sean Thomas Vignato - USMC
Mgr. David Matthew Butler - Army
Chief Richard J. Vanderhoof - U.S. Coast Guard
Thomas C. Lennon - USMC

Please pray for the safe return of our troops.
 The families wish to thank you for your prayers,
 and ask that you please continue to pray.

God Bless you all.



MARY'S MANTLE PRAYER SHAWLS

On the second full weekend of every month, Mary's Mantle Prayer Shawls are made available by the Ministry.

You can also stop by the rectory and someone in the office can help you. Or you can call the rectory, leave your name and phone number, and a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will get back to you.

The Parish Family of Mary Immaculate prays for the recipients of our Mary's Mantles. If you know of someone who is suffering - physically, mentally or spiritually - perhaps they would appreciate receiving one of these lovingly-made prayer shawls.

Parishioners are offered the opportunity to honor or commemorate a loved one by sponsoring the altar flowers & candles, or the wine & hosts. We ask for a donation of \$50/pair.

Their name and yours will be listed in the bulletin for the entire month.

To remember a friend or relative in this very special way, please contact the Rectory office.

Flowers & candles as well as wine & hosts are available for the month of August.



Local Assistance Information

- ◆ AA Hotline 24 Hours: 631-669-1124
- ◆ Al-Anon and Al-ateen: 631-669-2827
- ◆ Birthright: 631-821-9727
- ◆ Catholic Health Services Pregnancy Support: 1-855-301-4CHS;
www.chsli.org/giannacenter
- ◆ Child Abuse Hotline: 800-342-3720
- ◆ Epic (NYS Program for Seniors):
1-800-332-3742
- ◆ Family Counseling Service: 631-669-2827
- ◆ Hope House: 631-473-6030
- ◆ Narcotics Anonymous: 631-689-6262
- ◆ Poison Control: 800-222-1222
- ◆ Shelter the Homeless: 631-854-9100
- ◆ Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence (Shelter):
631-666-8833
- ◆ Suffolk County Office of the Aging:
631-853-8200
- ◆ Suffolk County Handicapped Services:
631-853-8333
- ◆ Suffolk County Veteran Services:
631-853-8387
- ◆ Suffolk Perinatal Coalition: 631-475-5400
- ◆ Suicide Hotline: 631-751-7500
- ◆ Town of Brookhaven Adult Day Programs: 631-451-9142

*'As each has received a gift,
use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace.'*

1 Peter 4:10

Weekend Ministry Schedule

<u>June 23 and 24</u>	<u>June 30 and July 1</u>	<u>July 7 and July 8</u>	<u>July 14, 15</u>
<p><u>5 PM Mass</u> Altar Servers: C. Wilson, L. Wilson, T. Wilson Lector: K. Hawkins Ems: D. Berberich, J. Cronin, F. Gucci Ushers: M. Simon (sub needed)</p>	<p><u>5 PM Mass</u> Altar Servers: E. Mehrkens, E. Ciavatta, K. Ciavatta Lector: S. Hammer Ems: TBD Ushers: G. Zanazzi, J. Palo</p>	<p><u>5 PM Mass</u> Altar Servers: O. Ingrassia, S. Quatrate, N. Ponter Lector: F. Lento Ems: TBD Ushers: P. Morrison, T. Derby</p>	<p><u>5 PM Mass</u> Altar Servers: E. Mehrkins, C. Murphy, K. Wilson Lector: P. O'Connor Ems: TBD Ushers: B. Berberich, K. Hawkins</p>
<p><u>9 AM Mass</u> Altar Servers: T. Stanganelli, P. Schortemeyer, B. Fiori Lector: N. Cassone Ems: J. Barry, S. Barry, S. Rauch Ushers: M. Klein Sr., P. Attanasio</p>	<p><u>9 AM Mass</u> Altar Servers: C. Eisenberg, M. Eisenberg, M. Eisenberg Lector: H. Sidoti Ems: TBD Ushers: M. Comiskey, and sub needed</p>	<p><u>9 AM Mass</u> Altar Servers: A. Sullivan, M. Murphy, D. Walsh Lector: C. Kusa Ems: TBD Ushers: P. Dastis, C. Miller, D. Sullivan,</p>	<p><u>9 AM Mass</u> Altar Servers: T. Stanganelli, B. Fiori, E. Rauch Lector: J. Panarello Ems: TBD Ushers: J. Springhorn, A. Stelmok, E. Sullivan</p>
<p><u>11 AM Mass</u> Altar Servers: J. Schmidt, D. Slawinski, S. Zengen Lector: M. Lingat Ems: O. Miller, M. Simon, D. McDowell Ushers: J. Deutsch, M. Deutsch, F. Lento LWC: Donna D'Angelone</p>	<p><u>11 AM Mass</u> Altar Servers: D. Slawinski, J. Croke, E. Ryan Lector: R. Rossteuscher Ems: TBD Ushers: J. Deutsch, J. Ryan</p>	<p><u>11 AM Mass</u> Altar Servers: S. Maccioce, T. Maccioce, S. Schildgen Lector: J. Renehan Ems: TBD Ushers: G. Moriarty, H. Zengen</p>	<p><u>11 AM Mass</u> Altar Servers: J. Aragona, E. Campau, E. Campau Lector: E. Russo Ems: TBD Ushers: D. Sullivan, M. Umbarilla</p>

Religious Freedom Week 2018: Serving Others in God's Love Rally for Religious Freedom

*Held at St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School Auditorium
1170 Montauk Highway, West Islip*

Rev. Msgr. James Vlaun, President & CEO of the Telecare Television Network will be Master of Ceremonies. The keynote speaker will be Fr. Eric R. Rasano, J.C.L., Secretary to the Bishop and Co-Chancellor DRVC. Also speaking will be Sister Constance Veit, Communications Director, Little Sisters of the Poor. Video messages will be given by Cardinal Dolan and Bishop Barres, and a student video entitled "Public Schools are not God-Free Zones.

10:00 am Public witness Rosary in front of the school (meet in auditorium lobby)

10:30 am: Rally begins; Refreshments follow rally.

Rally co-sponsored by DRVC and Catholics for Freedom of Religion.

For more info call 631-896-8331; or visit www.drvc.org

Mary Immaculate Faith Formation News

FAITH FORMATION NEWS - 2018/2019

New Class Schedule for 2018/19 is as Follows

Mondays: Level 7 7:00 pm—8:20 pm
Level 8 7:20 pm—8:20 pm

Tuesdays: Level 2 4:30 pm—5:30 pm
Levels 5 & 6 5:45 pm—6:45 pm

Wednesdays: Level 3 4:30 pm—5:30 pm
Level 4 4:30 pm—5:30 pm
Family Catechesis 6:00 pm—7:00 pm

(New program—see below for details)

**REGISTRATION FOR
FAITH FORMATION HAS BEGUN.
Placement is on a first-registered,
first-enrolled basis.
You are encouraged to register soon.**

**All children in Level 1 or entering the
program as a transfer student must
bring in their baptismal certificate
at the time of registration.**

The primary catechists for children are their parents. The parents are the first to introduce their children to formal Faith Formation instruction - at home, in a familiar environment. For this reason,

All Level 1 children will be Home-Taught

All materials and on-going support by the Faith Formation staff will be made available to parents.

There will be four mandatory meetings for children and their parents to attend which will expand upon what they have learned at home and to answer any questions you may have.

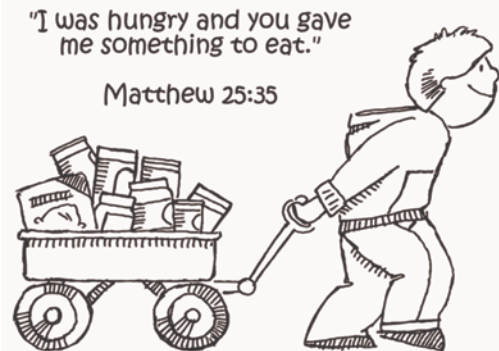
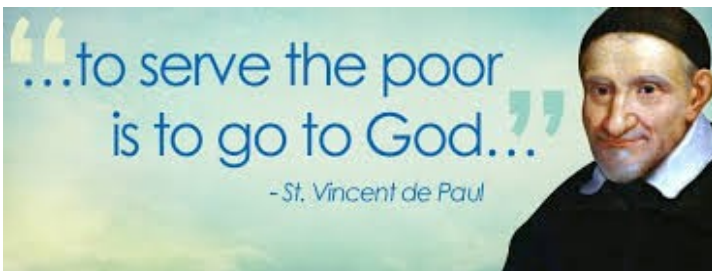
We look forward to partnering with you as we journey in faith.

Family Catechesis (New Program)

Family Catechesis is a new program in which families come to Faith Formation classes together. If you choose this option, parents and their children in all levels will come together on Wednesdays from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm once every 5 weeks.

At these sessions, we will spend the first 10—15 minutes in prayer together. The children will then go to their age-appropriate levels with a catechist. Their parents will stay for a short class and then rejoin their children for Evening Prayer. This gives parents and children a chance to share faith, learn something new about their faith, and have time to pray together. In between formal sessions, the parents will home teach their children and do on-line assessments. We are excited about implementing this program where families share faith with one another.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul



In the Gospel today, we celebrate the birth of John the Baptist and everyone pondered the question: What, then, will this child be? For surely the hand of the Lord was with him."

This month, "the hand of the Lord has been acting through you" as your gifts, to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought his love and care to the poor.

You may help feed the needy in our area by dropping off non-perishables on Saturday or Sunday before Mass in our little blue wagon located in the foyer of the Large Church.

Our food pantry is in need of peanut butter, jelly, soup, tuna, canned yellow vegetables, macaroni & cheese, pasta, and spaghetti sauce.

Might God be calling you to share your gifts as a Catechist?

**God gives each of us talents and strengths
He then calls upon us to use those gifts to help others**

One of the ways to use your God-given gifts is by sharing your faith with the children of Mary Immaculate.
It is also one of the greatest gifts you can give your parish family!

If you have the gift of faith, work well with children and/or teenagers, and enjoy sharing your love of God with others, we invite you to think and pray about becoming a catechist in our Faith Formation Program.

Your gifts and talents as a catechist could be utilized as either a Weekly Formation catechist (Sept. - May), an LWC catechist (on Saturday evening or Sunday morning Masses) or as a catechist in our new Family Catechesis model, which will meet with children and teens once every 5 weeks.

Faith Formation volunteers are provided with lesson plans, as well as guidance, advice and help from our Faith Formation Coordinator and other experienced Catechists.

Events

Sister Pat Duffy's Summer Porch Chats are Back!

Every Thursday in July at 7 pm - In front of the Mary statue

July 5th: Snap Out of It

July 12th: Forgive and Forget??

July 19th: What's It All About?

July 26th: On the Road Again

Bring a lawn chair, and bug spray if you like.
In the event of rain, we will meet in the Little Church.

The Office of Diaconate Formation
will be conducting
THREE INFORMATION SESSIONS
for men and their wives.

Wednesday, Sept. 5; Friday, Sept. 7th; Sunday Sept. 9; at 7:00 PM

Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, 440 West Neck Road, Huntington, NY 11743

Are you discerning a vocation to the Diaconate?

IF YOU AND YOUR WIFE WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND ONE OF THE MEETINGS

CALL 631-423-0483 ext. 179 OR

E-MAIL diaconateformation@drvc.org

- ◆ **Present Moment** The key to inner peace is living in the Present Moment and embracing life with compassion for others and ourselves. Come join other faith-filled people as we deepen our relationship with God through a combination of a themed discussion, silent prayer, reflection and sacred sharing. Dates: July 3 & 17, August 7 & 21. To register, please call the Cenacle Retreat Office or Joan McGovern at 631-588-8366. \$20 per session. Held at the Cenacle Retreat Center, 30 Cenacle Rd., Ronkonkoma.
- ◆ **Centering Prayer Afternoon** DVD by Thomas Keating O.C.S.O., Centering Prayer and discussion. You do not need to have any experience, simply the desire to rest in God's presence. "Be still and know that I AM God" (Psalm 46:10). Facilitators: Sr. Margaret Rohde r.c. and Diane Robinson. Offering: Freewill. Registration required. Call 631-588-8366. Held at the Ronkonkoma Cenacle Retreat Center, 310 Cenacle Rd., Ronkonkoma.
- ◆ **Liberty and Justice For All**— Born and unborn. Pro-life Face the Truth event on Saturday, July 7 from 10 AM to 11:30 AM at LIE Exit 70S and Country Route 111, Manorville. Without the Right to Life we have no other rights! Pro-lifers are invited to join in a peaceful presence against the status quo of legal abortion. We hold signs (provided) on the public sidewalk. Sponsored by L.I. Coalition for Life: 631-243-1435; info@prolifeLI.org.
- ◆ **St. John the Baptist High School** is offering a Prep Course to prepare students for the Catholic High School Entrance Exam. Five 2 1/2 hour sessions will begin in September. For additional information visit their website at www.stjohnthebaptistdhs.net or call 631-587-8000, Ext. 117.



Stirring the Mourning

Our culture doesn't give us easy permission to mourn. Its underlying ethos is that we move on quickly from loss and hurt, keep our griefs quiet, remain strong always, and get on with life.

But mourning is something that's vital to our health, something we owe to ourselves. Without mourning our only choice is to grow hard and bitter in the face of disappointment, rejection, and loss. And these will always make themselves felt.

We have many things to mourn in life: We are forever losing people and things. Loved ones die, relationships die, friends move away, a marriage falls apart, a love we want but can't have obsesses us, a dream ends in disappointment, our children grow away from us, jobs are lost, and so too one day our youth and our health. Beyond these many losses that ask for our grief there's the need to grieve the simple inadequacy of our lives, the perfect symphony and consummation that we could never have. Like Jephthah's daughter, all of us have to mourn our inconsummation.

How? How do we mourn so that our mourning is not an unhealthy self-indulgence but a process that restores us to health and buoyancy?

There's no simple formula and the formula is different for everyone. Grieving, like loving, has to respect our unique reticence, what we're comfortable with and not comfortable with. But some things are the same for all of us.

First, there's the need to accept and acknowledge both our loss and the pain which with we're left. Denial of either, loss or pain, is never a friend. The frustration and helplessness within which we find ourselves must be accepted, and accepted with the knowledge too that there's no place to put the pain except, as Rilke says, to give it back to earth itself, to the heaviness of the oceans from which ultimately comes the saltwater which makes up our tears. Our tears connect us still to the oceans that spawned us.

Next, mourning is a process that takes time, sometimes a lot of time, rather than something we can achieve quickly by a simple decision. We cannot simply will our emotions back to health. They need to heal and healing is an organic process. What's involved?

In many instances there's the need to give ourselves permission to be angry, to rage for a time, to allow ourselves to feel the disappointment, loss, unfairness, and anger. Loss can be bitter and that bitterness needs to be accepted with honesty, but also with the courage and discipline to not let it have us lash out at others. And for that to happen, for us not to lay blame and lash out at others, we need help. All pain can be borne if it can be shared and so we need people to listen to us and share our pain without trying to fix it. Pride is our enemy here. We need the humility to entrust others to see our wound.

Finally, not least, we need patience, long-suffering, perseverance. Mourning can't be rushed. The healing of soul, like the healing of body, is an organic process with its own non-negotiable timetable for unfolding. But this can be a major test of our patience and hope. We can go through long periods of darkness and grief where nothing seems to be changing, the heaviness and the paralysis remain, and we're left with the feeling that things will never get better, that we will never find lightness of heart again. But grief and mourning call for patience, patience to stay the course with the heaviness and the helplessness. The Book of Lamentations tells us that sometimes all we can do is put our mouths to the dust and wait. The healing is in the waiting.

Henri Nouwen was a man very familiar with mourning and loss. An over-sensitive soul, he sometimes suffered depressions and obsessions that left him emotionally paralyzed and seeking professional help. On one such occasion, while working through a major depression, he wrote his deeply insightful book, *The Inner Voice of Love*. There he gives us this advice: "The great challenge is *living* your wounds through instead of *thinking* them through. It is better to cry than to worry, better to feel your wounds deeply than to understand them, better to let them enter into your silence than to talk about them. The choice you face constantly is whether you are taking your hurts to your head or to your heart. In your head you can analyze them, find their causes and consequences, and coin words to speak and write about them. But no final healing is likely to come from that source. You need to let your wounds go down into your heart. Then you can live them through and discover that they will not destroy you. Your heart is greater than your wounds."

We are greater than our wounds. Life is greater than death. God's goodness is greater than all loss. But mourning our losses is the path to appropriating those truths.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com. □ Now on Facebook

Even the wind and
the waves obeyed Jesus.

Find and circle the hidden letters in the picture.

M I R A C L E



Children's Worship Bulletin

Ages 3-6

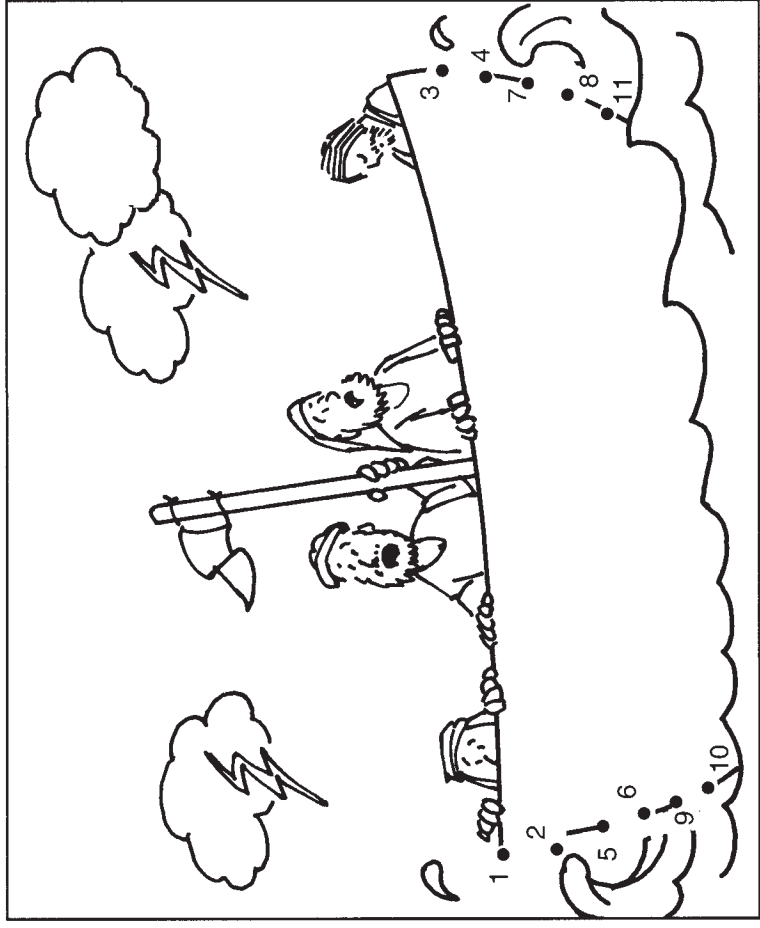
June 24, 2018 • Mark 4:35-41

Jesus Calms the Storm

Jesus and His disciples were
in a boat. A storm came up.

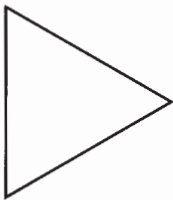
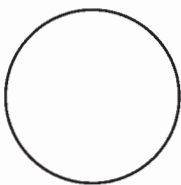
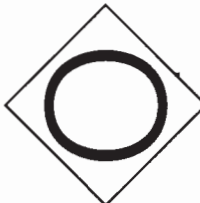
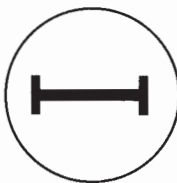
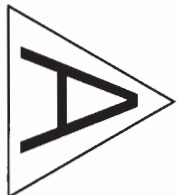
Connect the dots.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11



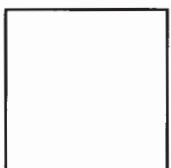
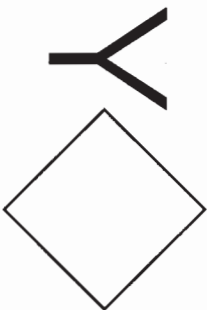
The disciples were afraid.
Jesus said, "Do not be afraid."

Match the shapes to fill in the missing letters.



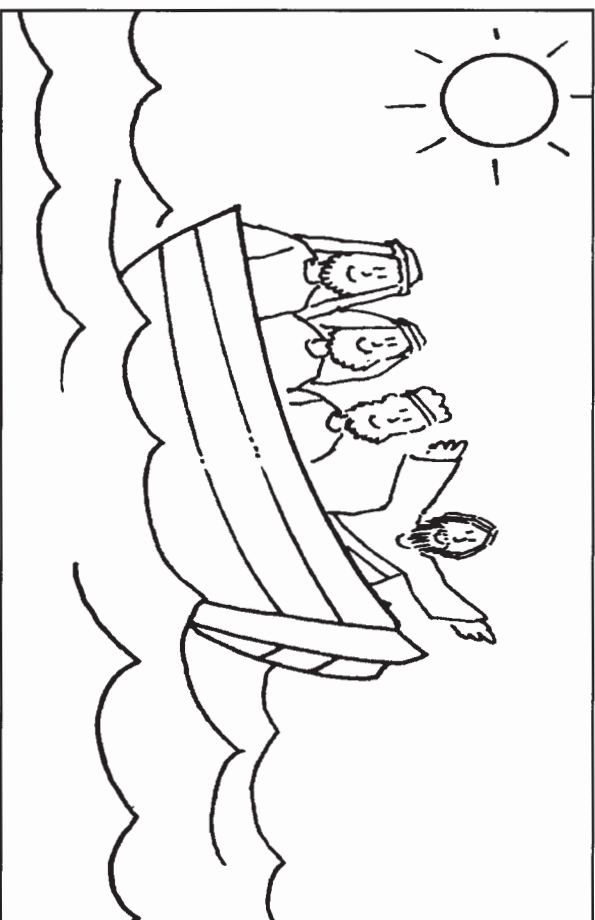
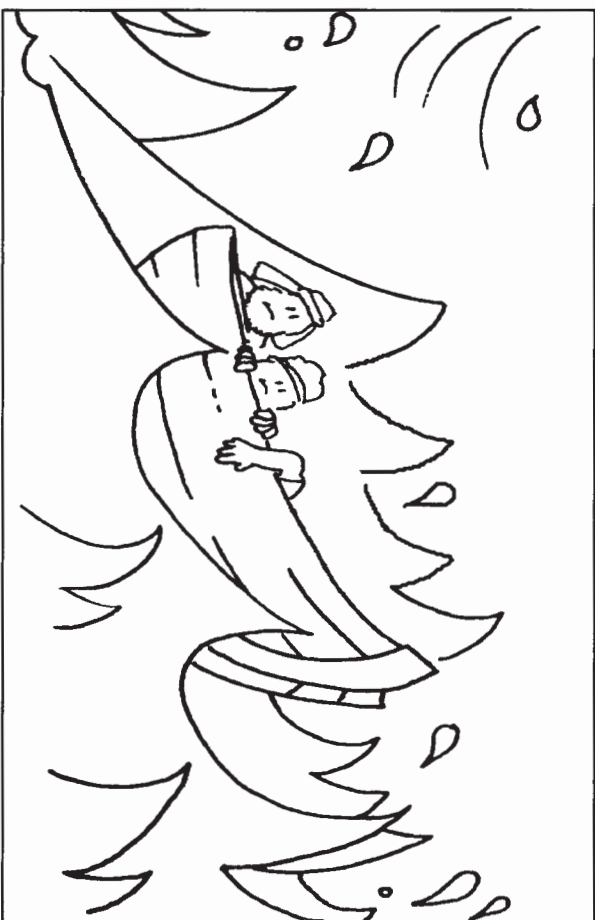
M

W O T H



Jesus quieted the storm.

Circle 6 things that are different
in the 2nd picture.



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