

## 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
Karen Stanganelli	Religious Education Secretary karen@miparish.net
Ellen Sullivan	St. Vincent de Paul President ellen92601@aol.com
Tara Turnow	Parish Accountant
<b>Finance Committee</b>	
Felix J. Crucci, 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  
April 8, 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 - 4:30 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

# April 8, 2018 Second Sunday of Easter

## MASS INTENTIONS

<u>Saturday</u> 5:00 pm	<u>April 7</u> Ted Hollmann	by Christine Auletti	<u>Wednesday</u> 9:00 am	<u>April 11</u> Bud Hattemer	
<u>Sunday</u> 9:00 am	<u>April 8</u> Rebecca Roberts	by Rita Buckley	<u>Thursday</u> 9:00 am	<u>April 12</u> No intention	
11:00 am	Mary Jane Mahon	by Family	<u>Friday</u> 9:00 am	<u>April 13</u> Maurice Mathie Sheila Mangina	by the Jaycox Family by the Jaycox Family
<u>Monday</u> 9:00 am	<u>April 9</u> No Intention		<u>Saturday</u> 5:00 pm	<u>April 14</u> Lishon Afanador	by Sandi, Duane & family
<u>Tuesday</u> 9:00 am	<u>April 10</u> 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:**

The Christian community described in Acts understood and practiced total stewardship. St. Paul reports that the believers did not claim anything as their own, but held everything in common and distributed to each whatever was needed.

### **Living Stewardship:**

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who look beyond their own wants to help satisfy the needs of others.

**Weekly Collection: \$12,785**

**Holy Land: \$1,076**

**Diocesan Religious Education: \$2,014**

**Faith Direct for the month of March: \$ 9,417**



*For the Month of March*

*Our Eucharist & Wine  
&*

*Altar Flowers & Candles  
are in Loving Memory of*

**Jerome Rodier**

*Requested by the Sullivan Family*



### **This Week's Readings**

**Monday:** Is 6:10-14; 8:10; LK 1:26-38  
**Tuesday:** Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7b-15  
**Wednesday:** Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21  
**Thursday:** Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36  
**Friday:** Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15  
**Saturday:** Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:1-7  
**Sunday:** Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1Jn 2:1-5a;  
Lk 24:35-48



# Mary Immaculate Prays For One Another



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

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

## *Please Pray for Our Deceased*



Charles Meinhold  
 Des Burke  
 Charles Burton  
 Marguerite M. Rauh  
 Clark J. Champney  
 Colleen A. Nicols  
 Mary Jane Mahon  
 Rebecca Roberts  
 Mary Louise Vitale

## *Pray the Rosary*

8:30 am Monday -Friday in the Little Church

## **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

are now be available after Masses on the second full weekend of every month. You may also 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 those who are recipients of our Mary's Mantles. Perhaps you know of someone who is in pain, someone who is suffering physically, mentally or spiritually, and who would appreciate receiving one of these lovingly-made prayer shawls.







Fr. Bill Hanson



## “Superstar” was SUPER

Last Sunday NBC aired one of its live musical productions, this one of “Jesus Christ Superstar” by Weber and Rice. Above you see an image of the last scene of the breathtaking production at the Armory on Marcy Street in Brooklyn before a live audience of 1300. A crew of 500 and a cast of over thirty with as many musicians, this is getting rave reviews. It has my highest and absolutely astonished endorsement.

I just finished reading “The Day the Revolution Began” by N. T. Wright, arguably the world’s most astute and readable scripture scholar. It’s a study of the understanding and misunderstanding of how the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus saves the world. From that scholarly perspective, I can celebrate that the entire point of view taken by Weber and Rice, along with the brilliant designers and directors of this performance, as well as with the work of the famous actors and singers is completely spot-on! If you missed it...it’s a must-see production.

**Fr. Bill**

# Mary Immaculate Welcomes You!



## 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.*

*Visit our website at  
[Www.miparish.net](http://Www.miparish.net)*

## **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 in Auditorium. This meeting is open to anyone with the desire to stop drinking.
- **Respect Life**  
6:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month in the Large Church.
- **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.**

**Like us on Facebook**

**Parish Family at Mary Immaculate**

## **SACRAMENTS**

**Baptism:** Celebrated once a month at 1:00 pm in the Little Church. Registration is required. Parents should call the rectory to schedule an appointment with Deacon Bob at least 3 months before the desired date of baptism. 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 Deacon Bob at the Rectory.

# Clambake

SAVE THE DATE FOR  
THE 2018 CLAMBAKE



Saturday, July 21st

## Give your Sports Equipment a Second Life

For the 2nd year, Double Dribble will be collecting new and gently-used sports equipment to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of the Bellport area. A donation box will be set up in the lobby of church from April 7 to April 20. Double Dribble was founded by 6th graders Kate Lemery and Mairead Reitzel as part of the St. Mary's School Young Leaders Club.

**Thanks**   
*FOR PITCHING IN!*

**Please donate your gear to help give kids an opportunity to play sports!**

Contact 646-342-7787 with any questions



## CYO Corner !!



The CYO organization provides a wonderful opportunity for our young participants to have good role models. This year the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Role Model Dinner will be held at The North Ritz Club in Syosset on April 27<sup>th</sup>. It's a great night to honor those that have fulfilled that role in an exemplary manor.

This year Mary Immaculate is proud to announce that  
Wayne Rountree  
is the proud recipient of CYO's Role Model Award!

Wayne Rountree has been actively involved in the Mary Immaculate basketball program for over 14 years. Wayne originally coached his daughter's team, then his son's team. When his kids all graduated from the program, Wayne stepped up and asked if there was another team he could coach. Wayne presently just finished his 14<sup>th</sup> year coaching our 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys' team.

It's volunteers like Wayne that keep our program going. Wayne has always been a champion focusing his efforts and those of his players on the core values of CYO and Mary Immaculate; sportsmanship, teamwork, competition and integrity!

Thanks Wayne for all that you do

***"For it is in giving that we receive"***

# Society of St. Vincent de Paul



## Tax Statements from SVDP for 2018

Anyone needing a 2018 Tax Statement for their SVDP donations, please contact Jim Renehan, SVDP treasurer, at 770-597-2942 (cell).



In the Gospel today, Jesus stands in the midst of us and says: "Peace be with you!"

During Mass we turn to each other and say "Peace be with you!" As you put your gift into the St. Vincent de Paul box, you say "Peace be with you!" to those who are poor and hungry.



**We asked and you answered!**

**1,499 items were donated!**

**Valued at \$2,503!**

**Thank you for donating so generously to the 40 cans of Lent campaign!**

## We accept food year round!

You may drop the cans off Saturday or Sunday before Mass in our little blue wagon located in the foyer of the Large Church.

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

*"You pray for the hungry, then you feed them. That's how prayer works."*

*- Pope Francis*



**CHRIST THE LORD**  
**IS RISEN TODAY!**



# Mary Immaculate Parish

## 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  
WILL BEGIN  
APRIL 22**

**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.**

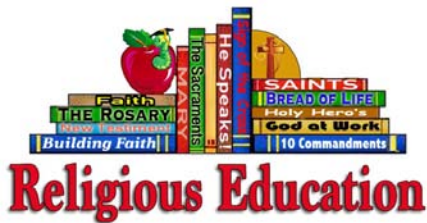
**Family Catechesis (New Program)**

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.



# Mary Immaculate Faith Formation News



Level 1: Monday, April 9 4:15-5:15 pm  
Level 2: Tuesday, April 10 4:15-5:15 pm  
Level 3&4: Wed., April 11 4:15-5:15 pm  
Level 5&6: Thurs. April 12 4:15-5:15 pm  
Level 7&8: Monday, April 9 7:00-8:15 pm



Hello Parents,  
Please note the following parent meetings and events:

Level 8 Grade Liturgy: April 14 at 5 pm or  
April 15 at 9 am or 11 am

## An Invitation to become a Catechist!

If you are someone who loves to be around children, loves hearing and proclaiming the love of God to people and has the gift of teaching, then have we got a ministry for you. Think and pray about becoming a catechist. We are looking for people who want to share their talents in this area. You will have training and will be a great asset to our faith community. So come on and give it a try or come in and talk to Fran; and join in a ministry that will help our Church to grow in age and wisdom.

Hi Kids of All Ages!

Vacation Bible School will be here before you know it!

VBS begins  
Monday, June 25 and ends Friday, June 29  
10 am to 2 pm.

REGISTRATION FOR VBS BEGINS  
THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 21st

## ATTENTION PARENTS and GUARDIANS

Each year, every child enrolled in a Faith Formation program in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, grades 1 - 6, will receive safety training by the use of the Child Lures Prevention Program 'Think First & Stay Safe'. Parents and guardians will be given a Child Lures Prevention Handbook for the purpose of reviewing the topics that are taught to your child in an age appropriate way.

MY  
REDEEMER  
LIVES!

# Impact

Bring faith to life. Find life in faith.

## WE HAVE ALL BEEN THERE

**Confused. Angry. Fearful. Grief-stricken. Disappointed. Hopeless.**

We know the fatigue, emptiness, and darkness that accompanies moments of extreme turmoil. The women who came to Jesus' tomb were likely filled with all of these emotions, and more.

They had found love in Jesus' eyes, acceptance, and value. They had believed that he was the long-awaited Messiah, and when they were with him, they found themselves imagining, *"what if?"* *What if* Jesus was sent by God to bring justice and freedom from oppression? *What if* the healings, feedings, and teaching were only a glimpse of the reign of God? *What if* all they experienced in Jesus' presence could be known and spread throughout the world? *What if* they were to be part of making it so?

It was only a few short days ago that all of their dreams still seemed possible. And then, Jesus was

arrested, mocked, scourged, and brutally murdered. And their dreams died on the cross with him. Still, in their grief and fear, they came to the tomb, to anoint the body of the one they hoped was the Anointed of God.

Incredibly, suddenly, everything changed. The tomb was empty. *"What if?"* became *"It is just as he said!"* Minds and hearts racing, they rushed to tell the disciples.

From that moment on, we have known that Christ is with us in the midst of our deepest darkness, and that the love of God and power of the risen Lord is greater than all of the difficulties we experience in this earthly life.

## NOTHING WILL EVER BE THE SAME

**He is risen. The stone has been thrown away.** Have you suddenly recognized Christ, when new life, possibilities, and dreams emerge from your darkest times?



Suddenly...the clouds lift and sunlight pours in, brightening your spirit and bringing fresh perspective. Suddenly... a friend calls, a job is offered, medical treatment is finished. Suddenly... the truth of Christ's presence in the Eucharist is known in a flash of insight. Suddenly... your offer of forgiveness is accepted, your visit with an elderly friend is cherished, your service appreciated.

Jesus' resurrection breaks the power of death. "It is the mystery of the thrown-away stone, that ends up being the cornerstone of our existence," Pope Francis said last Easter. Through Christ's passion, death, and resurrection, we are assured that no confusion, fear, or grief is beyond the reach of God's eternal plan of love.



**"The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them...[their resources] were distributed to each according to need." (Acts 4:32-36)**

In these weeks of the Easter season, we hear the stories of the early believers in the first reading each Sunday, from the Acts of the Apostles. The followers of Jesus Christ, emblazoned by the power of the Holy Spirit, do signs and wonders; new believers are drawn into the fold; and the apostles are not only willing, but take heart in facing persecution in Jesus' name. Each account tells the story of God's grace in action, and of the stewardship of the followers of Jesus. These stories also inspire us, and urge us to continue to commit ourselves as disciples and stewards. A steward is one who recognizes that all we are, have and will be is a gift from God. In fact, our very lives and all that we have been given is grace - a sign of and the very presence of God in our lives. Coming to appreciate that the life and love of the Risen Christ are planted within us helps us to respond as good stewards - as people who care for and nurture the grace of God, so that it will bear fruit that endures. Being stewards in this way is sure to touch the lives of others, just as Christ was "made real" by

the early believers through their actions and words. We are told that "many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles." (Acts 5:12-16) What "signs and wonders" are you capable of, when you allow God to work through you as you give yourself and your resources as a good steward?

## IMPACT THIS MONTH

### BE ATTENTIVE

Notice the blessings and grace of life, love, gifts, friendship, and meaning in your life.

### THANK GOD

Say a prayer of thanksgiving for this grace and blessing.

### INVITE GOD

Ask God to guide you as you discern how you might nurture, witness, and share this grace with others.

### COMMIT TO ACT

Make a commitment to act on your discernment. Share this with another. Ask him or her to hold you accountable.

\*The article at the top of this page was previously published by Our Sunday Visitor, and is used here with permission.

## HOPE IN THE CROSS AND RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Why do we wear crucifix or hang one on a wall? People sometimes ask why Catholic Christians have a corpus, the body of the crucified Christ, on their cross. Does this deny the resurrection? We wear and honor the symbol of Jesus' death, the cross, not only because he suffered and died there, but because he conquered it. The cross is our Christian sign of hope - hope in our new life in Christ.

In today's world, Christians face challenges, even persecution, for our beliefs and the actions that result from our Christian faith. It is all the more important that today, and for these coming days of the Easter season, we celebrate the resurrection. We celebrate the fact that Jesus triumphed over evil, death, and persecution. That sacrifice saves us from our wayward ways, all the times that we fail to live as God's good and holy people. Christ's sacrifice is the ultimate act of mercy. On the cross, Jesus' "arms were stretched between heaven and earth in an everlasting sign" of God's great love. (Eucharistic prayer for Reconciliation I)

Especially during the Easter season, we celebrate and must live the very truth that Christ died and rose and lives in and through us today, through the power of the Holy Spirit. The resurrection brings with it a great responsibility. We are to be Christ's hands and feet, the ones that were pierced through suffering and sacrifice.

Christ's sacrifice calls us to give of ourselves more than we think we are able.

Christ's resurrection insures us that in doing so, we will find new life in living Christ's mission of love.

**What sacrifice are you called to make to carry out Christ's mission?**

**What will you do with your new life?**



# Community and Diocesan Events

## **An Evening Dedicated to the Priests of the Diocese**

The Diocese of Rockville Centre Night of Intercessory Adoration & Prayer, Tuesday, April 10th. Locations open from 6:00 PM - 10 PM. Join your fellow parishioners at one of these six locations:

- ◆ St. Rosalie's Church, Hampton Bays
- ◆ St. Anthony of Padua Church, East Northport
- ◆ St. Agnes Cathedral, Adoration Chapel, Rockville Centre
- ◆ Our Lady of the Shrine, Manorville
- ◆ St. Patrick's, Southold
- ◆ Our Lady of Poland, Southampton

**Benefits & Resources Fair for Seniors.** Experts will be on hand to answer your questions related to many topics (i.e., VA benefits, Medicaid, food stamps, burial benefits, affordable housing, home care, etc.) Representatives from Northport VA Eligibility and Enrollment will be on site. This is sponsored by the Long Island State Veterans Home at Stony Brook University. Event is being held on Saturday, April 28, from 9 AM to 1 PM at the L.I. State Veterans Home at 100 Patriots Road, Stony Brook, in the multi-purpose room. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, please call 631-444-8606 or visit [www.listateveteranshome.org](http://www.listateveteranshome.org)

## **"Christian Life, Cyborg Life: Evolution and the Unfinished Self"**

The Institute for the Study of Religious and Community Life of St. Joseph's College offers this presentation by Sister Iliia Delio, OSF, Ph.D., an accomplished scientist/theologian. The program runs from 9 AM until 1 PM on Friday, April 20th on the college's Patchogue Campus, 155 West Roe Blvd. Breakfast and refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP on or before Monday April 16th. The conference fee of \$20 can be paid at the door or mailed in advance. For further information, please contact either Sister Suzanne Franck, C.S.J. at 631-687-1496 or email [sfranck@sjcny.edu](mailto:sfranck@sjcny.edu), or Professor Paul Ginnetty at 631-687-2681.

# Alleluia!

- ◆ **Establishing and Maintaining Healthy Boundaries as God Designed Them.** Learn how to bring new health to your relationships and discover how sound boundaries give you the freedom to walk as the loving, giving, fulfilled individual God created you to be. April 13-15. This weekend offers practical tools and encouragement to those seeking a healthy, balanced life. Offering: \$250. For more information call 631-588-8366 or visit their website: [www.cenaclesisters.org/ronkonkoma/retreats-and-programs/](http://www.cenaclesisters.org/ronkonkoma/retreats-and-programs/)
- ◆ **Golden Wedding Jubilee Liturgy:** 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 2:30 pm. 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.
- ◆ **Worldwide Marriage Encounter:** "Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart." Let our eyes be opened to the love of God in our marriages by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Apr 27-29, 2018 in Huntington, NY and Nov 16-18, 2018 in Huntington, NY. For more information, call John & Toni Torio at 877-697-9963 or visit their website at <http://www.wwmeli.org>.
- ◆ **"2018 Desert Bread Workshops"** – A Journey through the Great Arts of Catholicism. Join the Friends of the Seminary for a workshop series presented by author and Professor Annabelle Moseley. This popular ongoing program explores the rich treasure trove of the art, literature, and music unique to our Catholic faith. Each date's lecture is on a different theme. We will break bread together over luncheon as we discuss our shared faith. Meal included. Come nourish your soul with beauty. Seminary of the Immaculate Conception from 2 to 4:30 pm; Sundays - April 8, April 22, May 6 and June 10; \$25 per session/\$90 for all four in advance. For information and reservations: Seminary Development Office, (631)423-0483 x 102; [bmalone@icseminary.edu](mailto:bmalone@icseminary.edu).

*For more information on any diocesan-sponsored events /programs, please visit [www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org).*





## When Time Stands Still

The theory of relativity tells us that space and time are not what they appear to be. They're relative, meaning that they don't always function in the same way and they aren't always experienced in the same way. Time can stand still. Or can it? This side of eternity, it would seem not. Ever since the universe started with a mammoth explosion some 13.8 billion years ago the clock has been running non-stop, like a merciless meter, moving relentlessly forwards.

However, our faith suggests that time will be different in eternity, so different in fact that we cannot now even imagine how it will be in heaven. As St. Paul tells us in his letter to the Corinthians: *Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love him.*

How will time be experienced in heaven? As we've just affirmed, that cannot be imagined now.

Or can it? In a wonderful new book on the Resurrection and Eternal Life, *Is This All There Is*, the renowned, German scripture scholar, Gerhard Lohfink, suggests that we can and sometimes do have an experience of time as it will be experienced in eternity. For Lohfink, we experience this whenever we're in *adoration*.

For him, the highest form of prayer is adoration. But what does it mean to "adore" God and why is that the highest form of prayer? Lohfink answers: "In adoration we ask nothing more of God. When I *lament* before God it is usually my own suffering that is the starting point. Even when I *petition* God, the occasion is often my own problem. I need something from God. And even when I *thank* God, unfortunately I am usually thankful for something I have received. But when I *adore*, I let go of myself and look only to God."

Admittedly, lament, petition, and thanksgiving are high forms of prayer. An old, classical, and very good, definition of prayer defines prayer as "lifting mind and heart to God", and what's in our hearts virtually at all times is some form of lament, petition, or thanksgiving. Moreover, Jesus invites us to ask God for whatever is in our heart at a given moment: "Ask and you will receive." Lament, petition, and thanksgiving are good forms of prayer; but, in praying them, we're still focused in some manner on ourselves, on our needs and our joys.

However in adoration we look to God or at some attribute of God (beauty, goodness, truth, or oneness) so strongly that everything else drops away. We stand in pure wonder, pure admiration, ecstatic awe, entirely stripped of our own heartaches, headaches, and idiosyncratic focus. God's person, beauty, goodness, and truth overwhelm us so as to take our minds off of ourselves and leave us standing outside of ourselves.

And being free of our own selves is the very definition of ecstasy (from the Greek, *EK STASIS*, to stand outside oneself.) Thus, to be in adoration is to be in ecstasy – though, admittedly, that's generally not how we imagine ecstasy today. For us, ecstasy is commonly imagined as an earthshaking standing *inside* of ourselves, idiosyncrasy in its peak expression. But true ecstasy is the opposite. It's adoration.

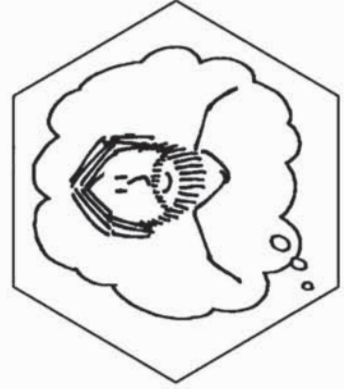
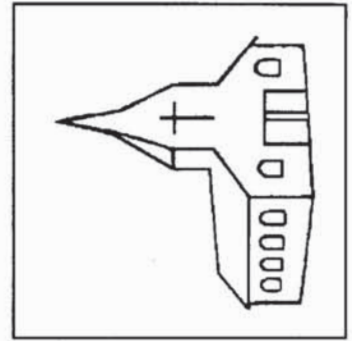
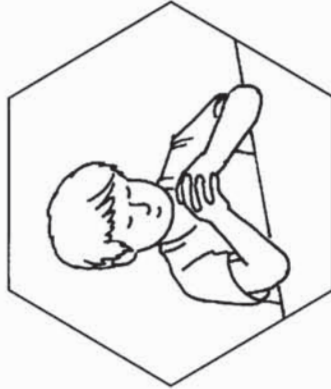
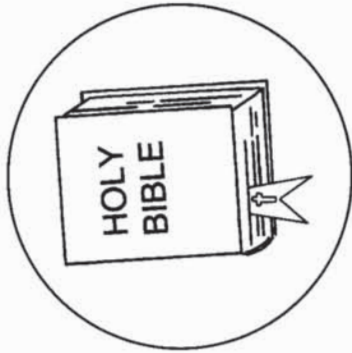
Moreover, for Lohfink, not only is adoration the only true form of ecstasy, it's also a way of being in heaven already right now and of experiencing time as it will be in heaven. Here's how he puts it: "In the miracle of adoration we are already with God, entirely with God, and the boundary between time and eternity is removed. It is true that we cannot now comprehend that adoring God will be endless bliss. We always want to be doing something. We want to criticize, intervene, change, improve, shape. And rightly so! That is our duty. But in death, when we come to God, that all ceases. Then our existence will be pure astonishment, pure looking, pure praise, pure adoration – and unimaginable happiness. That is why there is also a form of adoration that uses no words. In it I hold out my own life to God, in silence, and with it the whole world, knowing God as Creator, as Lord, as the one to whom belongs all honor and praise. Adoration is the oblation of one's life to God. Adoration is surrender. Adoration means entrusting oneself entirely to God. As we dwell in adoration, eternity begins – an eternity that does not withdraw from the world but opens to it utterly."

Time can stand still! And it stands still when we're in pure admiration, in awe, in wonder, in adoration. In those moments we stand outside of ourselves, in the purest form of love that exists. At that moment too we are in heaven, not having a foretaste of heaven, but actually being in heaven. Eternity will be like that, one moment like a thousand years and a thousand years like one moment.

When we adore, time stands still – and we're in heaven!

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Match the shapes.



# Children's Worship Bulletin

Ages 3-6

April 8, 2018 • John 20:19-31



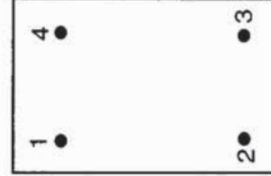
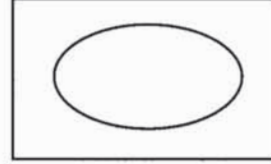
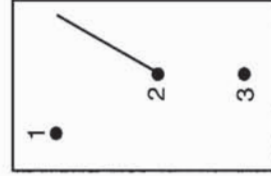
On the evening of the 1st Easter, the disciples were together with the doors locked. Suddenly, Jesus was in the room with them! What did He say?



Connect the dots to form the letters.

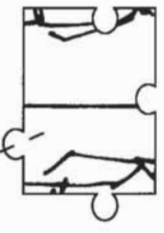
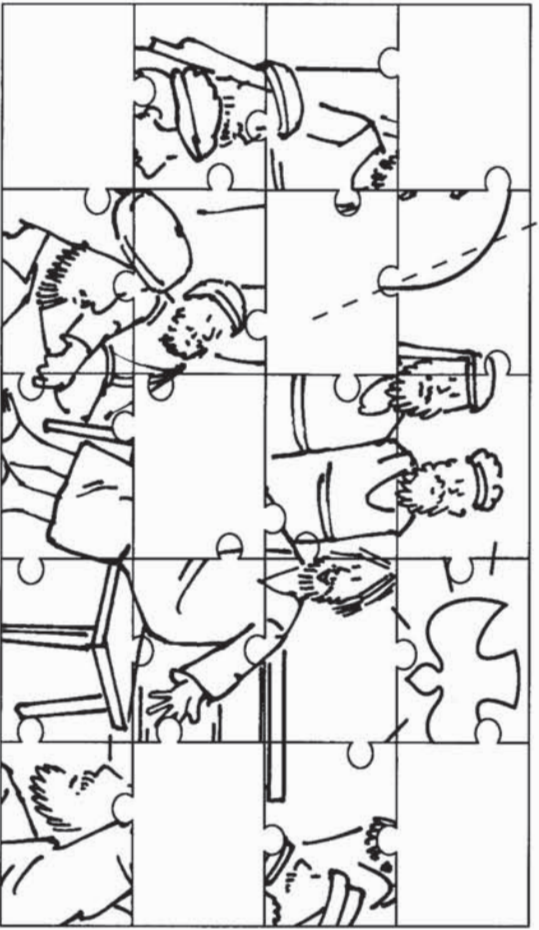


be with



Jesus told His disciples,  
 "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Match the puzzle pieces.

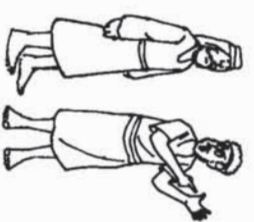


But Thomas was not there when  
 Jesus came. The other disciples told him,  
 "We have seen the Lord!" But he  
 did not believe them.

Circle the 2 that are alike in each row.



Believe ! Believe ! Believe ?



A week later, Jesus came again. This time,  
 Thomas was there. He said to Jesus,  
 "My Lord and my God!"





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