

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 Bursztyrn	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
July 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 - 4:00 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

July 8, 2018 The 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 5:00 pm	July 7 Dana Cummings John O'Neil	by Tom Derby by the Thompson Family	Wednesday 9:00 am	July 11 Mary Jane Mahon	by the Family
Sunday 9:00 am	July 8 Vincent Wilson Marc Italiano	by the Derby Family by Mr. & Mrs. Clementi	Thursday 9:00 am	July 12 Helen M. Derby	by the Family
11:00 am	Mary Jane Mahon	by Keith & Pat Stehing & Family	Friday 9:00 am	July 13	No intention
Monday 9:00 am	July 9	No intention	Saturday 5:00 pm	July 14 Mac Alonso	by Hwasoon Mullaney
Tuesday 9:00 am	July 10	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:

This weekend after celebrating the independence of our country, we will do well to echo the Psalmist, saying, "Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy." May we always recognize and use wisely the gifts of freedom and abundance He has showered upon us.

Living Stewardship:

We are grateful this week for all the stewards in our parish who embrace the call of good citizenship by sharing their gifts at home, work, school, parish, community and world.

Weekly Collection: \$4,708

Faith Direct: \$2,250

Faith Direct for the month of June: \$9,808

This Week's Readings



Monday: Hosea 2:16, 17c-18, 21-22;
Matthew 9:18-26

Tuesday: Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13; Matthew 9:32-28

Wed: Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12; Matthew 10:1-7

Thursday: Hosea 11:1-4, 8e-9; Matthew 10:7-15

Friday: Hosea 14:2-10; Matthew 10:16-23

Saturday: Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 10:24-33

Sunday: Amos 7:12-15; Ephesians 1:3-14 or
1:3-10; Mark 6:7-13

For the Month of July

Flowers & Candles

are in loving memory of

Larry Gerolami & Scott Stelmok

Requested by Susan Stelmok

For the Month of July

Eucharist & Wine

are in loving memory of

Mary Jane Mahon

Requested by the Quinlan family

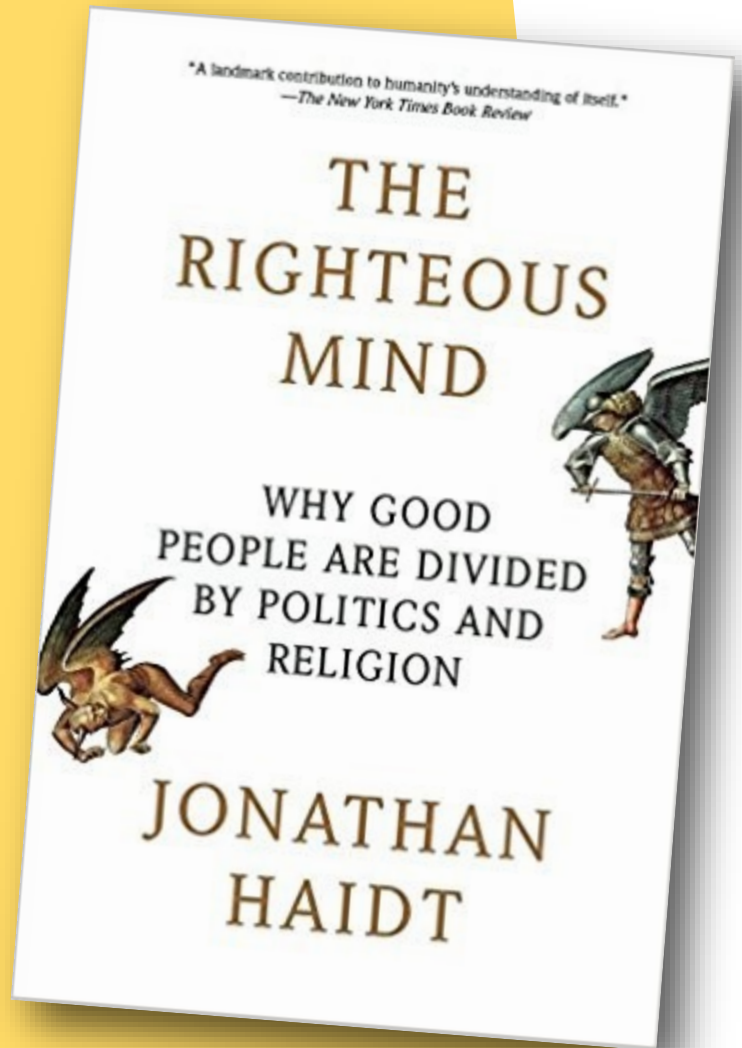


Fr. Bill Hanson

Here is the book so many parishioners have asked me about, which I mentioned in my homily on June 24. One of the keys in the author's research is the set of positive/negative values on which people make decisions. While we use them all, they

can't all carry the same weight in our less-than-perfect world.

It might be interesting to make an exercise out of this. Since the author's goal is to help us hear views opposite to ours and be able to speak of our own values, pick an issue for yourself. Mark how strongly you feel about the issue on each set of pairs below. Put a different mark on each line for the same issue, representing how a person you disagree with would likely answer! This would be a good way to "see and hear" your differences, and perhaps find some common ground.... Let me know if it helps!



Six "Moral Foundations" upon which people decide what is right and what is wrong.

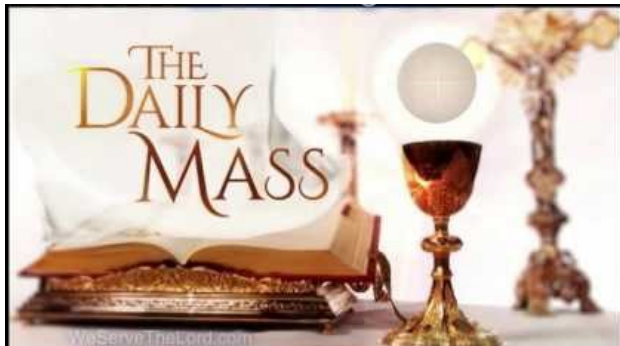
- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Care..... | Hurt |
| Liberty..... | Oppression |
| Fairness..... | Injustice |
| Loyalty..... | Betrayal |
| Authority..... | Tyranny |
| Sanctity..... | Degradation |

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**



9am in the Little Church

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..

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.

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

You could win a classic Sunfish Sailboat!



**Father Bill is donating his classic AMF Sunfish
Similar to the one pictured, but with a beautiful
green hull, new green & white North Sail,
new cover and new trolley!
In fabulous condition - ready to sail!**

**All Proceeds go to Mary Immaculate
Only \$10 per chance!**

The winning ticket will be picked at the clambake!

You don't need to be present to claim your prize!

Raffle Tickets available at the rectory or at Church after Mass.

**Picture yourself sailing along the Great South Bay!
Great for Adults or Teens!
Don't miss this amazing opportunity!!**

Weekend Ministry Schedule

June 30 and July 1

5 PM Mass

Altar Servers: E. Mehrkens,
E. Ciavatta, K. Ciavatta

Lector: S. Hammer

Ems: L. Ferraro, F. Grucci,
D. Beberich

Ushers: G. Zanazzi, J. Palo

9 AM Mass

Altar Servers: C. Eisenberg,
M. Eisenberg, M. Eisenberg

Lector: H. Sidoti

Ems: J. Barry, S. Barry,
S. Rauch

Ushers: M. Comiskey, and
sub needed

11 AM Mass

Altar Servers: D. Slawinski,
J. Croke, E. Ryan

Lector: R. Rossteuscher

Ems: M. Simon, E. Russo,
L. Budiarto

Ushers: J. Deutsch, J. Ryan

July 7 and July 8

5 PM Mass

Altar Servers: O. Ingrassia,
S. Quatralo, N. Ponter

Lector: F. Lento

Ems: K. Desmond, and
TBD

Ushers: P. Morrison,
T. Derby

9 AM Mass

Altar Servers: A. Sullivan,
M. Murphy, D. Walsh

Lector: C. Kusa

Ems: K. Stanganelli,
T. Fiori, M. Lyon

Ushers: P. Dastis,
C. Miller, D. Sullivan,

11 AM Mass

Altar Servers: S. Schildgen,
S. Maccioce, T. Maccioce,

Lector: M. Lingat

Ems: J. Renehan, M. Brown,
D. McDowell

Ushers: G. Moriarty,
H. Zengen

July 14, 15

5 PM Mass

Altar Servers: E. Mehrkins,
C. Murphy, K. Wilson

Lector: Susan Hammer

Ems: E. Sullivan, C. Barnett,
C. Strickland

Ushers: B. Berberich,
K. Hawkins

9 AM Mass

Altar Servers: T. Stanganelli,
B. Fiori, E. Rauch

Lector: J. Panarello

Ems: A. Messina, L. Pergola,
A. Martinez

Ushers: J. Springhorn,
A. Stelmok, E. Sullivan

11 AM Mass

Altar Servers: J. Aragona,
E. Campau, E. Campau

Lector: E. Russo

Ems: G. Moriarty,
O. Miller, L. Bidarjo

Ushers: D. Sullivan,
M. Umbarilla

July 21, 22

5 PM Mass

Altar Servers: B. Barry,
A. Sullivan, T. Sica

Lector: P. Morrison

Ems: E. Sullivan,
C. Strickland, C. Barnett

Ushers: D. Sullivan,
M. Simon, J. Barnett

9 AM Mass

Altar Servers: J. Comiskey,
G. Comiskey, K. Comiskey

Lector: J. Travers

Ems: J. Barry, S. Barry,
S. Rauch

Ushers: P. Attanasio,
M. Klein

11 AM Mass

Altar Servers: S. Zengen,
N. Ponter, T. Ocasio

Lector: J. Renehan

Ems: O. Miller, M. Simon,
D. McDowell

Ushers: F. Lento,
J. Deutsch, M. Deutsch



ONE WAY TO PRAY

1. **GRATITUDE:** Begin by thanking God in a personal dialogue for whatever you are most grateful for today.
2. **AWARENESS:** Revisit the times in the past 24 hours when you were and when you were not the best version of yourself. Talk to God about these situations and what you learned from them.
3. **SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS:** Identify something you experienced in the last 24 hours, and explore what God might be trying to say to you through that event (or person).
4. **PEACE:** Ask God to forgive you for any wrong you have committed (against yourself, another person, or Him) and to fill you with a deep and abiding peace.
5. **FREEDOM:** Speak with God about how he is inviting you to change your life, so that you can experience the freedom to be the best version of yourself.
6. **OTHERS:** Lift up to God anyone you feel called to pray for today, and ask God to bless and guide them.
7. **Pray the Our Father.**

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.

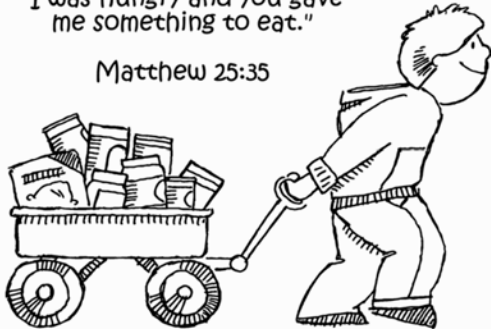
At these sessions, we will spend the first 10—15 minutes in prayer together. The children will then go to their age-appropriate levels with a catechist. Their parents will stay for a short class and then rejoin their children for Evening Prayer. This gives parents and children a chance to share faith, 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



"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

Matthew 25:35



In today's Gospel the people ask: "How is it such miraculous deeds are accomplished by his hands?" Because of your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, many "miraculous deeds" are accomplished for the poor.

This week put a gift in the St. Vincent de Paul poor box, knowing that through your kindness someone who is suffering will be touched by God in a miraculous way.

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.



TODAY!



SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR THE NEEDY

St. Vincent has a new project—helping those needy students get the essential school supplies they need before September begins. You can help by stopping by the tables which will be set up after all the Masses this week and next. Please help our young children in need.

WALK FOR THE POOR

The annual St. Vincent de Paul Walk for the Poor coming this September has an exciting new twist!

An official 5K run has been added!

There will be official timers, age classifications and medals awarded.

More details to come!

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

- ♦ **Job Opening:** Kellenberg Memorial High School is accepting resumes for the position of Assistant Director of the Annual Appeal. The individual will be responsible for developing solicitation themes and donor appeal mailings, maintaining donor database, and coordinating donor acknowledgements, generating donor reports, and assisting with the Office of Advancement's special events. Strong writing skills and proficiency in Microsoft Office and Raiser's Edge are required. For more information, please email Director of Advancement Denise Miles at mrsmiles@kellenberg.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.
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **Friday, July 13th World Apostolate of Fatima.** Our Lady's Blue Army Shrine, 674 Mountain View Road East, Asbury, NJ 08802. Experience the 150 acre scenic beauty and serenity of our outdoor Shrine. 10:30 Confessions; 12:00 Outdoor Rosary Procession; 12:30 pm Speaker: Rev. Joshua Caswell, S.J.C. 1:00 Holy Mass Celebrant: Most Rev. Joseph Perry; 3:00 Divine Mercy Chaplet. Visit the Holy House USA containing largest piece of tree upon which Our Lady stood, altar from Tuy, stone from Loreto. Visit the Angel Tabernacle carved according to the description of the Angel of Portugal by the Fatima seers. www.bluearmy.com 908-689-1700.



Real Miracles

Ralph Waldo Emerson calls the stars in the night sky “envoys of beauty, lighting the universe with their astonishing smile” and submits that if they appeared for a single night only every thousand years, we’d be on our knees in worship and would cherish the memory for the rest of our lives. But since they come out every night, the miracle goes mostly unnoticed. We watch television instead.

But, their beauty notwithstanding, shining stars are not the most prominent miracle which goes unnoticed. The greatest miracles have to do with gratuity, with love, with unfreezing a soul, with forgiveness. Our great poverty is that these go mostly unnoticed. There are much more astonishing things than the stars for which to be down on our knees in gratitude and there are more profound things to cherish in memory than a starlit night.

The Belgium spirituality writer, Benoit Standaert, suggests that the greatest miracle is “that the freely given exists, that there is love that makes whole and that embraces what has been lost, that chooses what had been rejected, that forgives what has been found guilty beyond appeal, that unites what had seemingly been torn apart forever.”

The greatest miracle is that there’s redemption for all that’s wrong with us. There’s redemption from all we’ve failed to live up to because of our inadequacies. There’s redemption from our wounds, from all that’s left us physically, emotionally, and spiritually limping and cold. There’s redemption from injustice, from the unfairness we suffer ourselves and from the hurt which we inflict knowingly or unknowingly on others. There’s redemption from our mistakes, our moral failures, our infidelities, our sins. There’s redemption from relationships gone sour, from marriages, families, and friendships that have been torn apart by misunderstanding, hatred, selfishness, and violence. There’s redemption from suicide and murder. Nothing falls outside the scope of God’s power to forgive, to resurrect and make new, fresh, innocent, and joyful again.

Our lives, to a greater or lesser extent, all end up incomplete, broken, unfairly ripped away from us, and causing hurt to others because of our weaknesses, infidelities, sin, and malice; and still, ultimately, it can all wash clean again. There’s redemption, new life after all the ways we’ve gone wrong in this world. And that redemption comes through forgiveness.

Forgiveness is the greatest miracle, the pan-ultimate miracle, which, along with everlasting life, is the real meaning of the resurrection of Jesus. There’s nothing more godlike, or miraculous, than a moment of reconciliation, a moment of forgiveness.

It’s for this reason that when the Gospels write up the resurrection of Jesus their emphasis, again and again, is on forgiveness. Indeed, Luke’s Gospel does not distinguish the announcement of the resurrection from the announcement of the forgiveness of sins. Forgiveness and resurrection are inextricably linked. Likewise, in the Gospel of John, in Jesus’ first resurrection appearance to the assembled community (with them all hiding behind locked doors in fear) he gives them the power to forgive sins. The message of the resurrection is that a dead body can be raised again from its grave. But this isn’t just true for our physical bodies, which die, but it’s also true, especially, for hearts that are frozen and dead from disappointment, bitterness, anger, separation, and hatred. The miracle of the resurrection is as much about raising deadened souls to new life as it is about raising dead bodies to new life.

Despite being nearly overwhelmed by new inventions today, machines and gadgets that do everything including talking to us, in truth, we see very little that’s genuinely new, that’s not the norm. Sure, we see new innovations every day coming at us so rapidly that we have trouble coping with the changes they are bringing about. But, in the end, these innovations don’t genuinely surprise us, at least not at a deep level, at the level of the soul, morally. They’re simply more of what we already have, extensions of ordinary life, nothing really surprising.

But when you see a woman forgive another person who has genuinely hurt her, you are seeing something that’s not normal, that’s surprising. You are seeing something that is not simply another instance of how things naturally unfold. Likewise, when you see warmth and love break through to a man who has long been captive of a bitter and angry heart, you are seeing something that’s not just another instance of normal life, of ordinary unfolding. You’re seeing newness, redemption, resurrection, forgiveness. Forgiveness is the only thing that’s new on our planet, everything else is just more of the same.

And so, in the words of Benoit Standaert: “Whenever we strive to bring a little more peace through justice here on earth and, in whatever form, change sadness into happiness, heal broken hearts, or assist the sick and the weak, we arrive directly at God, the God of the resurrection.”

Forgiveness is the most astonishing miracle we will ever see or experience this side of eternity. It, alone, makes for the possibility of heaven – and happiness.

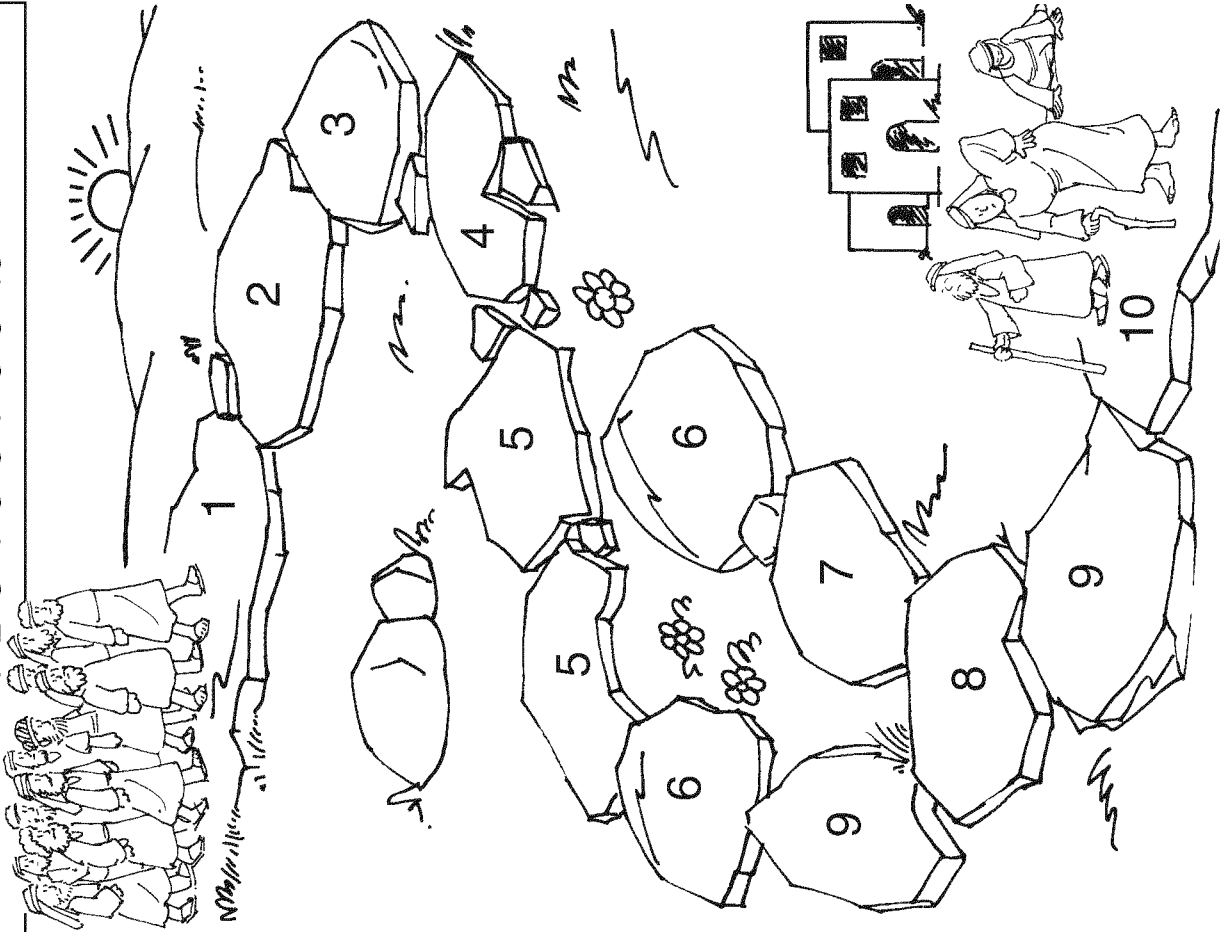
Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com.

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The disciples went out to preach and heal.

Help the disciples get to the people
by following the numbers:

- 1
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- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10



Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 3-6

July 8, 2018 • Mark 6:1-13

A Prophet Without Honor

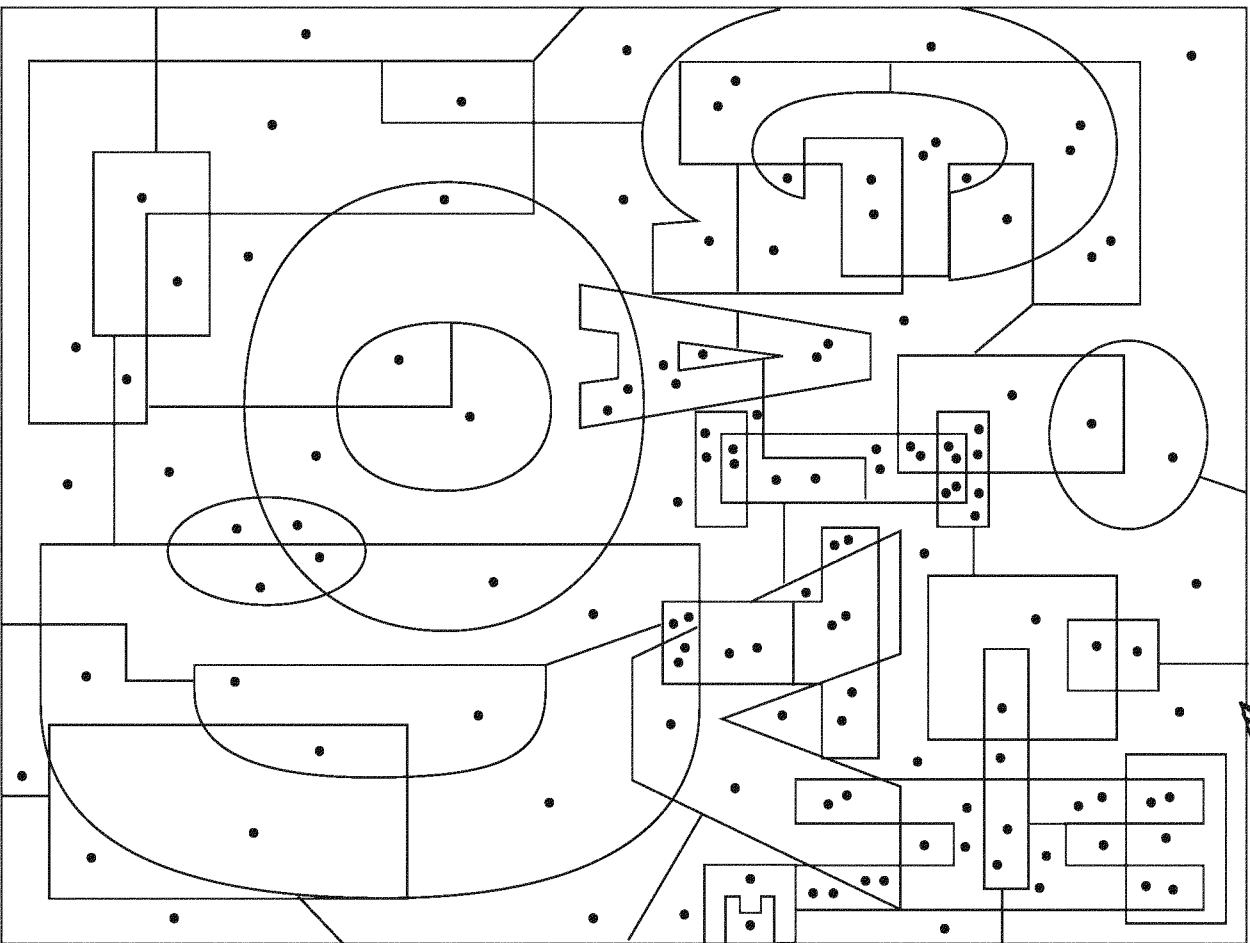
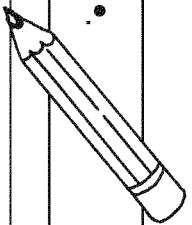
Jesus went to His hometown.
Some people there did not believe in Him.

Circle the hidden objects in the picture below.



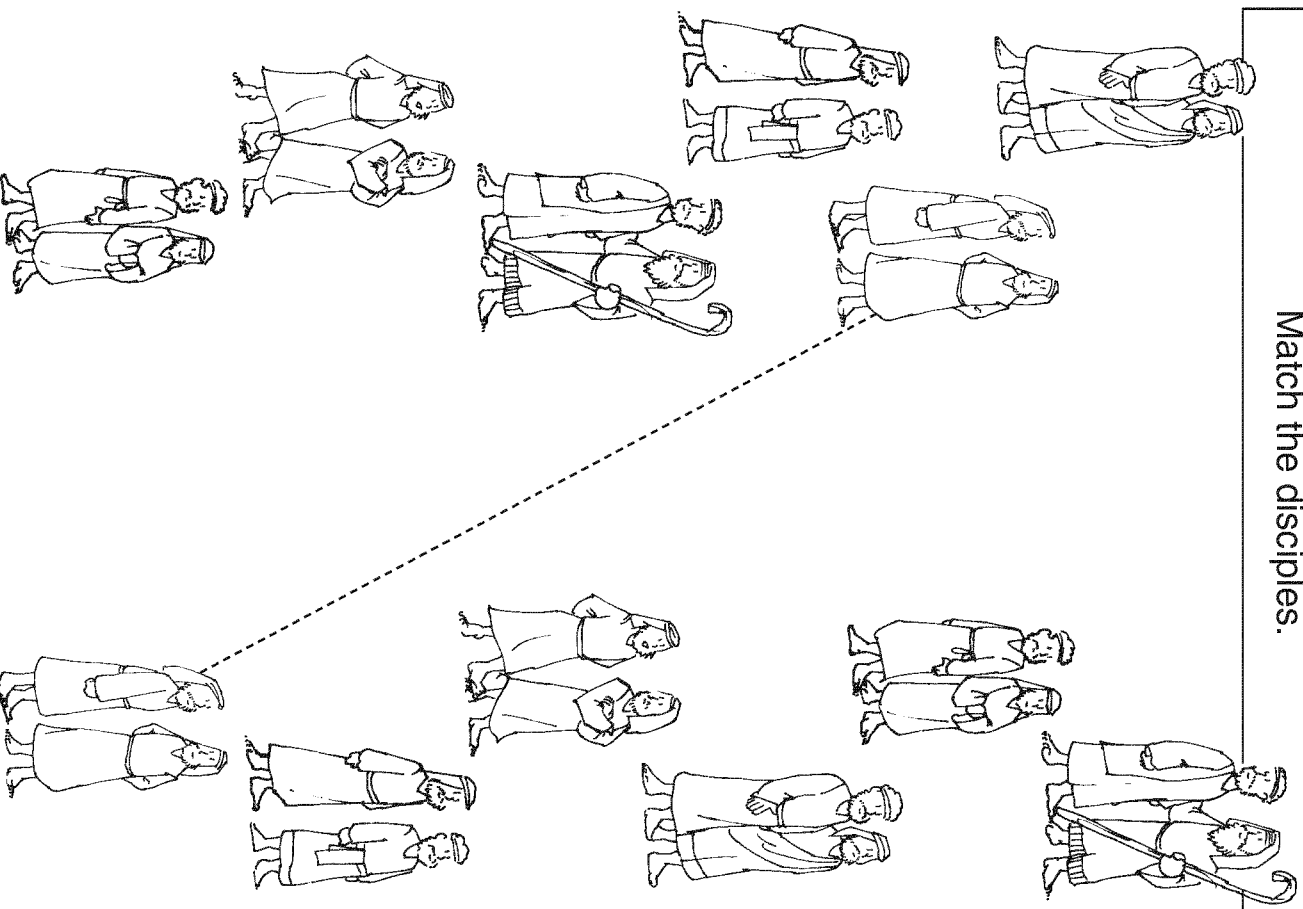
Jesus was amazed at their lack of faith.

Shade the shapes that have ...



Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. He sent His disciples out 2 by 2.

Match the disciples.



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