

# Our Lady Queen of Peace

4696 Notre Dame Lane, House Springs, Mo 63051 636-671-3062

[www.olqpparish.org](http://www.olqpparish.org)

January 12, 2014



## PASTOR

Reverend Michael Murphy

## ASSOCIATES

Reverend James Beighlie, C.M.

Reverend Donald F. Molitor, Retired

## DEACONS

Reverend Dr. Thomas Gerling

Reverend Mr. Paul Turek, Sr.

## MUSIC DIRECTOR

Mr. Bob Ellison

## GRADE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Mr. Curt Baker

## PSR COORDINATOR

Mrs. Debra O'Donnell

## YOUTH MINISTER COORDINATOR

Mrs. Terry Ostlund

## PARISH COUNCIL

Thomas Broadbent, Bev Gregory, René Heibeck,

David Holmes, Taylor Layton, Dave Mills,

Donna Otzenberger, Jan Schultheiss, Tim Webb,

Linda Weber

Parish Office

671-3062

School

671-0247

Cafeteria

375-5335

## SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday Evening

5:00 pm

(Rosary before Mass - Fatima Prayers included on 1st Saturday)

Sunday

7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am

Holy Days

as announced

Weekdays

8:00 am

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for prayerful

Adoration the last Wednesday of each month from

1:00 to 8:00 pm.

## PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS

Tuesday after 8:00am Mass

## ROSARY

Monday through Friday after 8:00 am Mass

For vocations 2nd Monday of month after 8:00 am Mass

Before 5:00 pm Mass on Saturday evenings

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

First and third Sunday of the month after 11:30 am Mass

Make arrangements by calling the Parish Office.

## SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday

4:00 - 4:45 pm or by appointment

## SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

As soon as marriage is contemplated, contact one of the parish priests.

## Welcome to Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish

Registration forms may be found on our website ([olqpparish.org/parishregistration.htm](http://olqpparish.org/parishregistration.htm)), in the Church lobby or you may stop by the Parish Office to fill one out. If you have recently changed your status, married, moved out of your parents' home or graduated from high school, you need to re-register. Please help us keep our records accurate.

### Upcoming OLQP Parish Events

2014

#### February

- Sat 8 **Knights of Columbus Valentine Dinner/Dance**
- Sat 22 **Daughters of Isabella Antique Tea**

#### March

- Sun 16 **Red Hat BINGO, KC Hall**
- Mon 31 **Parish Mission Begins**

#### April

- Sat 12 **Parish All Day Confessions**
- Sun 20 **Easter**
- Sat 26 **Daughters of Isabella Tailgate Sale**

#### May

- Sun 4 **First Communion**
- Wed 7 **Confirmation**

#### June

- Sat 14 **OLQP Picnic**

#### July

- S/T 7-11 **Hope Builders Week**

#### August

- Sun 24 **KC Ladies Auxiliary Quarter Auction**



### “Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow”

Whoever wrote that song should be shot! (or at least they should be made to shovel all that snow). With the big storm last Sunday, we had 10 people show up for the 7:30 Mass, 11 people for the 9:30 Mass, 11 people for the 11:30 Mass and a gazillion people for the 5:00 pm Mass on Saturday evening. It took until Tuesday afternoon to completely clear the parking lot, sidewalks and driveway. I want to thank all the volunteers who shoveled and plowed snow on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. It was a valiant effort, especially on Sunday morning and even though nature seemed to have the upper hand for a while, in the end we prevailed thanks to all who helped with the snow removal.

OLQP 1 --- Frosty 0

**Young  
at  
Heart**

On Monday, January 13, we will meet for lunch at Marty's Bistro (on High Ridge Blvd., High Ridge) at 1:00 pm. Hope to see everyone there.

### Your Autograph Please

This weekend, volunteers will begin to collect signatures after all the Masses in order to get the *Children's Education Initiative* on the ballot for the November election. The CEI is a proposed amendment to the Missouri Constitution that will provide additional funds to local public school districts, offer scholarships to children who attend nonpublic schools, and assist children with disabilities. This initiative does not raise taxes on anyone! It provides incentives by offering a state tax credit when donors give to K-12 school foundations that help local schools and school children. These foundations can support public school children (over and above what they already receive from the state), non-public school children (including Catholic students) and Special Education students. We will be collecting signatures during the next few weeks after Masses on Sunday and at parish functions. Please take the time to sign this important petition. More information will be made available.

~ fr. mike

### Parish Activities

- Mon Jan 13 PSR, 6:15 - 7:30 pm  
RCIA, 7:00 pm, Parish Office
- Tues Jan 14 Perpetual Help Devotions after 8:00 am Mass  
Quilters, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, 6:00 - 8:30 pm
- Thur Jan 16 Choir Practice, 7:00 pm, Church
- Sat Jan 18 Blood Pressure Screening after Mass, Cafeteria meeting room
- Sun Jan 19 Hospitality Sunday  
Blood Pressure Screening after Mass, Cafeteria meeting room

**Please be aware that  
our office sometimes closes  
in the event of bad weather.**

### **Archdiocesan Financial Assistance Application Due Date: March 15, 2014**

(This money is available as a result of the  
"Returning God's Gift" Campaign)

The Catholic Education Office will be using the FACTS CO. to input the data of those families applying for the Archdiocesan financial assistance programs for the 2014-2015 school year. Families must complete the FACTS Grant and Aid application when applying.

- Applicants must be Catholic and must be registered at the parish.
- Students must be Catholic and attend a Catholic Archdiocesan or Parochial Elementary School or an Archdiocesan or Parochial High School.

Private Elementary and Private High Schools are not eligible.

- Applications must be obtained from the parish bookkeeper where the family is registered.

Families meeting the above requirements may apply online for the CFTA Funds beginning in late December at [www.factstuitionaid.com](http://www.factstuitionaid.com) or obtain a paper copy from the bookkeeper or the school office.

Information and documentation required for these programs include:

1. An application completed online or a signed and completed paper application.
2. Payment of the \$30 application fee made payable to: "FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment". Please do not send cash.
3. Copies of your 2013 Federal tax forms including all supporting tax schedules.
4. Copies of your 2013 W-2 forms for both you and your spouse.
5. Copies of supporting documentation for Social Security Income, Welfare, Child Support, Food Stamps, Worker's Compensation and TANF.

Failure to submit all of the required information by the deadline date may result in your family not receiving financial aid or limit the amount given due to incomplete information.

### **Youth Council News**

Steubenville YOUTH Conference in  
Springfield, MO

July 18-20, 2014

Pre-Register by January 26th

All current 8th grade and high school youth are invited to join us for the annual Steubenville youth conference in Springfield, MO. I will be accepting reservations with a \$50 down payment for the next 3 weeks. The total cost of the conference is \$200. We are working on some ideas to help those interested in fund raising. The \$150 balance is not due until the beginning of May. To pre-register a youth for the conference write a check to OLQP for \$50 with Steubenville Conference in the memo and include a paper with the youth's name, current grade, an email address and phone number in an envelope marked Steubenville Conference. Drop the envelope in the Sunday collection or drop it by the parish office.

For more information about any event please call or email Terry Ostlund, 314-566-8363 or [terry.ostlund@olqpparish.org](mailto:terry.ostlund@olqpparish.org).

**BINGO**  
**Every Friday Night**  
**Knights of Columbus Hall**  
**Doors Open at 4:30 pm**  
**Bingo starts at 6:45 pm**  
**Everyone welcome!**

### **2014 Parish Picnic Saturday, June 14, 2014**

The 2014 Parish Picnic will be here before we know it. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 14th, 2014.

The planning for the picnic is well underway. We are looking for volunteers to help fill some open positions on the Picnic committee. Your suggestions and ideas are welcome. If you are interested in being a part of the planning committee and making our picnic a huge success, please join us for a Picnic Planning meeting on Wednesday, January 22nd, at 6:30 pm in the Cafeteria meeting room.

### **Marriage Preparation Program "Today and All the Days of Your Life"**

This program is for engaged couples and will fulfill the Archdiocesan requirement for a marriage preparation program. The program will be offered starting February 9, continuing for four weeks, ending March 2. The sessions will be facilitated by Deacon Tom and Margaret Gerling. To register or for more information please call Deacon Tom or Margaret, 636-671-0627. Please note there is a cost of \$25 for the program.

### **We would like to thank Nassar Tire**

for advertising in our parish bulletin. Because of their generosity we do not pay for our bulletins to be printed. Please patronize our advertisers and thank them for supporting our parish.

### **Children's Liturgy During 9:30 am Mass**

Children's Liturgy is held during the 9:30 am Mass every Sunday. Children ages 3 to 8 are welcome to attend. We are looking for volunteers (a minimal commitment is needed) to help. Please contact Julie Jenicek, 314-775-8217, with any questions or to volunteer.

### **Knights of Columbus Valentine Dinner/Dance February 8th, 6:30 pm - 12:00 am Knights of Columbus Hall**

Tickets will be sold after all Masses starting in January. Price is \$75 per couple (this includes a sit down dinner, beer, soda, wine tasting and dancing). Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Dinner choices:

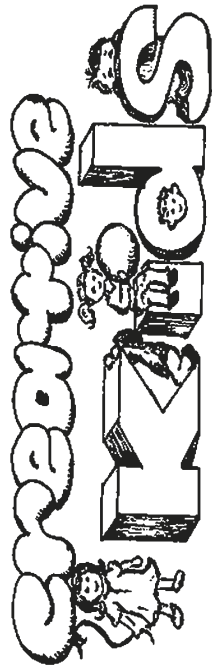
- A: Steak and Shrimp
- B: Chicken and Shrimp
- C: Steak and Chicken

For more information please contact Justin Larsen, 314-757-9169 or email [larseniij@gmail.com](mailto:larseniij@gmail.com).



### **St. Vincent De Paul**

SVDP loves and works for God. The members love and work for our neighbors in need. They do this through your kind offerings each week in the poor boxes. God will and does reward those who care and share.



# GOD'S WORD FOR CHILDREN!

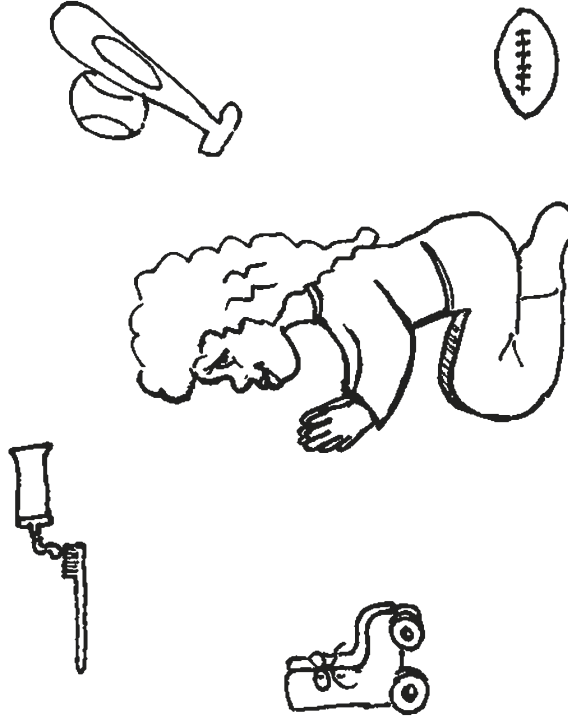
The Baptism of the Lord

*John the Baptist was sent to help the people get ready for Jesus' coming.*

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Ps 29:1-4, 9-10  
Acts 10:34-38 Mt 3:13-17

Directions: Circle the things you do to get ready for church.

Ask your parents to show you pictures from your own Baptism. What does the priest pour on babies' heads as a sign of Baptism? Please draw what is missing.



### Christmas Flowers in Memory

Adrian & Anna Marie Schwartz	Frank Stewart
Anna Bowman	Daniel J. Flavin
Kay & Nick Pergola	Steve Mullins
Mary Jane Konrad	Brandy Alexander
Gladys Buckner	Alice Nahlik
Francis & James Henning	Bessie & Wayne Wencker
Richard & Pearl Mraz	Betty Strayhorn
John Harness Sr	John Harness Jr
Louise & Ralph Schultheiss Sr	Joan Wieschhaus
Vince Ferrara	Rose Valin
Christopher Larsen	Jerry Sankey
Rose Adams	Brandt Family
Deuser Family	Martha Conrad
Mary T. England	Patricia Hirth
Arleen Lammert	Karen Lorentz
James Stephens	Charles Sweeney
Gary David	Lisa Ann David
Emil Kory	Margie Mertsch
Barbara Ford	Mark Ford
Andrew & Mary Schaefer	Chuck Fisher Sr
Joe & Mary Mitva	Mary & Eugene Cannava
Windy Gale Reimer	Bobbie Jean Canady
Leo, Jim (JJ), Michael Jahnsen	Jim Rawlins
William H. Spear	Catherine Murphy
Jerry & Shirley Broyles	Albert & Mark Oberhaus
Nick Holmes	Ray & Laverne Soer
Harley & Bertha Diehl	Charles & Catherine Soer
Andrew Grither	David Tenny
Julius J. Bufka	Vernon Diehl
Brian & Steven Berry	Heather Polley
Helen Bottchen	Joseph Bottchen
Walter Janos Sr	Walter & Harriet Majewski
Josef & Emilia Slodkowski	George & Joseph Foreman
Raymond Brune	Barb Rocchio
Jerry Smith	Jim Vess Sr.
Al and Agnes Leifeld	Vince and Hettie Vess
Knights of Columbus and Ladies Auxiliary #6435	Gene O'Brien
Ray and Theresa Dowling	Jim and Mary Mace
Art Ade Sr.	Roland and Irma Ecker
Glenda Clayton	August J. Eimer Jr.
James, Dorothy and Shirley Hussey	Chester Galkowski
Sylvia Keen	Deceased Duda Family
Deceased Brennan Family	Deceased Guethle Family
Deceased Goodin Family	Deceased Bohle Family
Deceased Jasper Family	Deceased Siebel-Spath Family
Deceased Weber Family	Deceased Maloney and Reeves Families
Deceased Macke, Ecker, Leighton and Konersman Families	

### Jesse Tree

Many thanks to all who gave so much in helping with the Jesse Tree. As you put away your Christmas decorations if you find you have gift bags, tissue paper or boxes that you no longer have a use for, but are still in good condition, we could use them for the Jesse Tree next year. Please drop off your donations at the Parish Office.

Linda

### Please Recycle Paper

**D**id you know that our parish has a paper recycling program call the Paper Retriever? You can recycle all of your newspaper, magazines, shopping catalogs, office and school papers and mail 24 hours/7 days a week right here in our green and yellow bin (located by the school).

This is an easy way for you to recycle your paper every week and help us raise money for the parish. By recycling paper, not only do you save water and energy, but our parish earns money for every pound of paper you help us collect.

Please put all of your magazines, mail, newspapers and office papers in the green and yellow bin; please do not include cardboard, plastic (of any kind) or phone books (phone books are recycled by one of our parishioners, just leave them on the bench in the Church lobby)!

Remember to add recycling to your errand route and bring your paper to help our parish and the environment.

### Mass on Television

You may have heard about changes made to local TV Mass offerings. In full appreciation of the fact that the recent changes have not fully satisfied the needs of our homebound, the archdiocese has entered into a new partnership with a company that offers TV Mass for dioceses across the country, Heart of the Nation, an apostolate of Santa Fe Communications out of Milwaukee. I am pleased to announce that as of December 22, a new Mass will be offered on WRBU-TV, channel 46. I have been told this is a full power, 100% coverage station.

### Seven Days of Inspiration

**Take one a day...  
and feel great all week!**

#### Day 1

No matter how busy life gets, there's always time for joy.

#### Day 2

Less than perfect is more than good enough.

#### Day 3

One step is all it takes to get started.

#### Day 4

Today could be the start of a dream come true!

#### Day 5

You do something right every single day.

#### Day 6

Happiness can happen anytime.

#### Day 7

Hope will always take you further than doubt.

#### Parish Office email

[parishoffice@olqpparish.org](mailto:parishoffice@olqpparish.org)

#### OLQP Web Site

[www.olqpparish.org](http://www.olqpparish.org)

**submit articles for bulletin**

[olqpbulletin@yahoo.com](mailto:olqpbulletin@yahoo.com)

**Deadline Friday at 4:30 pm  
(9 days before publication)**

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Our next Eucharistic Adoration is  
 Wednesday, January 29,  
 from 1:00 - 8:00 pm.

Come visit with Jesus; He is waiting for you  
 in the Eucharist. In the presence of Jesus,  
 offer your heart.

**Our Gifts to God and Parish**

775 registered members  
 206 online, loose and envelopes used this week  
 Thank you for your generosity!!!

**Special Collections**

Retired Religious	\$	5.00
Seminary	\$	1,259.00

<b>New Building Fund to date</b>	\$	763,310.10
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**Offertory**

Sunday envelopes	\$	10,591.22
Sunday loose	\$	588.00
Christmas	\$	8,762.00
Parish Enrichment	\$	40.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>19,981.22</b>
<b>Offertory Goal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>13,200.00</b>

**As of December 30, 2013**

Contributions Year to Date	\$	335,646.28
Projected Year to Date Budget	\$	343,200.00

**2013 Contribution Statement**

If you would like a 2013 contribution statement, please send a note (marked Linda) to the Parish Office (it may be placed in the collection basket, mailed to the Parish Office, or use the mail slot in the Parish Office door).

Thank you,  
 Linda

**St. Louis Review Subscription**

Please let the Parish Office know (yes or no) if you wish to receive the St. Louis Review. If you do not receive the envelope packet (which has the envelope included) you may write a note (with your name and address) and add it to the collection basket stating "yes" or "no" for the Review. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

Linda  
 Parish Office

**Stewardship****Start With Prayer**

*"And a voice came from the heavens, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'" Matthew 3:17*

At the Baptism of Jesus, God made it clear that He was giving us the greatest gift He could give. He was giving us His only Son. When you really think about the magnitude of that gift of Jesus sent to save us, plus all of the many other blessings that God has entrusted into our hands, it is very humbling. God has given us so much. What do we give in return?



**Please pray for those who are ill**

(parishioners are in bold)

<b>Audrey Hastings</b>	<b>Paul McDonnell</b>
<b>Alice Aubuchon</b>	<b>Tamara Mattingly</b>
<b>Greg Hirtz</b>	<b>Ellen O'Brien</b>
<b>Wally Freihaut</b>	<b>Alice Boeger</b>
<b>Danielle Enghauser</b>	<b>Anna Ade</b>
<b>Jackie Nappier</b>	<b>Andy Nappier</b>
<b>Maryann Barnett</b>	<b>Maria Webb</b>
<b>Donald Kupferschmid</b>	<b>Cliff Wendt</b>
<b>Bill Bierman</b>	

Linda Francis, of our community  
 Patty Christy, cousin of Lynn Gustafson  
 Liz Chapin, relative of Ann Bevard  
 Carol Brennan, sister of Katie Tutass  
 Brenda Meredith, aunt of Dixie Garrett  
 Chuck Hampton, cousin of Dixie Garrett  
 Vince Menendez, friend of Dixie Garrett  
 Mary Ellis, daughter of Christine Dower  
 Jane Riehl, aunt of Bolte Family  
 Dennis De Maria, husband of Dr. Marty Freihaut  
 Susan Flaherty, cousin of Joanne David  
 Dave Landers, brother-in-law of Bernie Henning  
 Joe Politte, brother-in-law of Ken DeClue

~those serving in the military, the homebound, shut-ins of the parish and all in nursing homes. To add a name please call the Parish Office, 671-3062. Names will be removed after 3 weeks.

**Mass Intentions**

Mon	Jan 13	8:00 am	Karl Groppe
Tues	Jan 14	8:00 am	Robert Dawson
Wed	Jan 15	8:00 am	Salvatore Randazzo
Thurs	Jan 16	8:00 am	Warren/Bernice Dierks
Fri	Jan 17	8:00 am	Reverend Jim Marshall
Sat	Jan 18	5:00 pm	Ed Krshul
Sun	Jan 19	7:30 am	Ray Brune
		9:30 am	Tracy Creighton
		11:30 am	People of the Parish

**January 18th and 19th**

**Special Ministers of the Eucharist**

5:00 pm	Ann Bevard, Donna Clifton, Fran Corley, Clay Gregorc, Ruth Haen
7:30 am	Marie Strayhorn, Don Horn, Kim Horn, Michelle Huff, Laura Huss
9:30 am	Barb Oppelz, Sharon Reineri, Nancy Wilfong, Judy Winfrey, Maryann Turek, Paul Turek
11:30 am	Don Moeller, Carol Freihaut, Pat Rawlins, Lynette Rawlins, Michelle Mose

**Proclaimers**

5:00 pm	Tom Heeley, Mary Heeley
7:30 am	Terry Soer, Dave Mills
9:30 am	Vicki De Long, Patricia Larson
11:30 am	Tom Ecker, Don Moeller

**Servers**

5:00 pm	C. Dutton, Sophia Leahy, Madison Stephan
7:30 am	Billy Block, Cameron Gerber, Colleen Kenney
9:30 am	S. Kershaw, Cierra Payne, Natalie Voightmann
11:30 am	Kaitlyn Esch, Gracie Scanga, Samantha Tarter

**Ushers**

5:00 pm	Ken Ganey, Ben Slodkowski, Bill Clifton, Donna Clifton, Bart Heinzer, Jeff Heibeck
7:30 am	Tim Webb, Jerry Terry, Butch Mattingly, Dave Mills, Ed Kelemen, Doug Bjornstad
9:30 am	Ralph Schultheiss, Tom Broadbent, Tim Diffey, Al Jensen, Jerry Sheets, Dale Sudholt
11:30 am	Jennifer Younkins, Gary Freihaut, Becca Mose, Jim Robertson, Al Schuld, David Witt

**January 17**

Marie Strayhorn, Debby Maloney-Reeves, Denice Bufka, Bob DeLong, Mary Ann Whitecotton



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**Here is my servant whom I uphold**

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time****Cycle A****THEME: Here I am, Lord. I come to do your will.**

In many respects, the Season of Ordinary Time can be understood to be our time. Each year, throughout Ordinary Time, we review again the mission and ministry of Jesus, we consider the Gospel Story of all that Jesus said and did, and we, like the early disciples are called again to make Jesus' message our own, to accept His call to follow, to continue the work He began. Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter – these are seasons of the year in which we consider God's gift to us in Jesus Christ, when we celebrate what Jesus the Christ accomplished for us. Our time is the time to consider what practical difference this makes to us and to revitalize ourselves to live that difference. "Here I am, Lord. I come to do your will."

**THE READINGS:****FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6**

The first reading is taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. The reading comes from that second section of the book that dates from the Babylonian Exile. The dual focus on God's Servant is clear in this reading. The tone of the reading seems to imply that a single person is envisioned, the prophet himself or another member of the exilic community who is charged with raising the hopes of the people of Israel. Yet, the Servant, here, is named as Israel. The ambiguity seems to suggest that through what an individual says and does, the hopes and the status of all can be raised, and that all can then embrace

that role of Servant, caring for each other in the community of God's people. We are called to be such people. But the Isaian prophecy is also clear that this is not enough. As a community of God's servants, we have a task, a task to bring light to all the nations of the world, to bring God's blessing to everyone. This is a constant theme in Biblical stories dealing with Israel's election and at the beginning of our time, like the people of Israel of old, we are reminded that if we are chosen by God, it is for a purpose, it is for the sake of sharing God's good gifts, God's gracious love, with all our brothers and sisters throughout the world, those in our community of believers and those outside.

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3**

In today's reading, we have Paul's opening greeting to the community at Corinth. He identifies himself as an Apostle, as one called by Christ and sent out to continue His mission – a servant, and he identifies the community of Corinth as those called to be saints. The primary meaning of sanctified and saints in reference to the Corinthian community is "holy" and "holy" simply means set aside. They are set aside by and for God. Through the ministry of Paul who founded the community in Corinth, the Corinthians are called to be set aside – to also be servants. The result of this shared call to servanthood, as Paul's greeting indicates, is grace and peace. Grace has to be understood as the life of God within us that leads to peace, to right relations. Moreover, Paul, trained as a Pharisee, is the Apostle of the Gentiles, the one who began to take God's gift in Jesus Christ beyond the people of Israel to be shared with all the world, Gentiles like the community of Corinth. Everything, then, in these short lines at the beginning of the Letter to the Corinthians echoes the idea from Isaiah that individuals bring God's grace to others within the community so that the community can also be transformed into God's servant to bring His light, His grace and favor, His very life to all the peoples of the world.

**GOSPEL READING: John 1:29-34**

The Gospel reading comes from John and narrates the next episode after the Baptism of Jesus. In John's Gospel, it is important to pay attention to how characters are portrayed in relation to Jesus. All the characters who are people in John's Gospel have one of seven possible relationships with Jesus, ranging from outright rejection to a full and loving commitment. John the Baptist represents a full and loving commitment; he represents all that a disciple can be.

The primary role of a disciple in John is to testify to the truth and the truth is that Jesus is the sacrificial lamb who atones for sin and establishes a full and loving relationship between people and His Father. John gives this testimony. John is someone who embraces the light, the light of revelation that recognizes in God's light and will have an understanding of who Jesus is and finds and recognizes in Jesus the revelation of the Father. He testifies to this truth. He makes that full and loving commitment. He models what our time can be.

All of today's readings focus on progression, progression from people listening to and responding to the presence of God in their lives, sharing what they have found and enlivening others to respond, and, within the community of those who see, who believe, who respond, reaching out to, touching, and making a difference in the world. The story of Jesus' public life that we consider during the Season of Ordinary time is our story, a story that centers on living the difference this Jesus makes to us individually and as a believing community.

**FOR REFLECTION:**

- As I look back on the season of Christmas just celebrated, what practical difference does it make to me? How do I carry that difference along into my life in "Ordinary Time"?
- How do I bring hope and peace to others? Is my interaction with others around me in my family, parish community, world transformative? Are others somehow better because of me?
- What does the idea of "holy" mean to me? Is holiness static or dynamic? Is holiness, as Paul would understand it, at the heart of the life of my parish community?
- John the Baptist, by his words and actions, testified to the truth. His testimony pointed to Jesus Christ, to the truth about him. On the model of John, do my words and deeds testify to the truth? Do my words and deeds point others to a relationship with Jesus Christ?
- What does it mean to me to say that the Gospel story of Jesus Christ is our story? Am I living that story?

