

Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

www.olqpparish.org

January 15, 2012



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/Preschool Coordinator

Ms. Renée Chauvin

PSR COORDINATOR

Mrs. Debra O'Donnell

YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Mrs. Terry Ostlund

PARISH COUNCIL

Sandee Burkemper

Joanne David

Vicki De Long

René Heibeck

Dave Mills

Denise Ortmann

Rich Ortmann

Linda Weber

Parish Office

671-3062

School

671-0247

Cafeteria

375-5335

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday Evening

5:00pm

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

Sunday

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

Holy Days

as announced

Weekdays

8:00 am

PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS

Tuesday after 8:00am Mass

ROSARY FOR VOCATIONS

2nd Monday of each month after 8:00 am Mass

ROSARY FOR PEACE

Every Tuesday evening at 7:30pm

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

First and third Sunday of the month after 11:30 am Mass
make arrangements by calling Parish Office

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday 4:00 - 4:45pm 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

We rejoice to have you with us! Please fill out this form and return it to the Parish Office or place it in the Sunday collection basket if you would like to be a registered member of our parish. If you have recently changed your status, married, moved out of your parents' home or graduated from college, you need to change your status. Please help us keep our records in order.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Phone _____ # of people registering _____

email address _____

Please circle one: New Registration Address or phone number change Moving out of parish

**Upcoming OLQP Parish Events
2012**

January

- Sun 22 **Pinewood Derby, Cafeteria**
- Fri 27 **Jr. High Trivia Night, Cafeteria**
- Sat 28 **Youth Open House, Cafeteria**

February

- Sat 11 **Knights Valentine Dance, KC Hall**
- Sat 25 **Daughters Antique Appraisal, Cafeteria**

April

- Sat 28 **Daughters Tailgate Sale**

May

- Mon 7 **Confirmation**
- Sat 19 **Preschool Graduation**

June

- Sat 9 **OLQP Picnic**

July

- Sun 15 **Hope Builders**

August

- Sat 18 **Daughters Tailgate Sale, OLQP**

September

- Sat 22 **PSR Chili Supper, Cafeteria**
- Sun 23 **Quilt Social**

October

- Sat 6 **Hoedown**
- Sat 13 **Harvest Moon Auction, KC Hall**
- Sun 14 **Fall Festival, Cafeteria**
- Sun 21 **Daughters Fashion Show**

Several of these issues were ranked low in priority because people felt we were doing a good job or were adequately addressing that area of concern overall.

Now we are at the stage where we are forming committees to move our plans forward. Interested parishioners are invited to serve on a committee and get involved with helping to improve our parish. Fr. Beighlie has developed the following "job description" for committee members:

Here is what is involved:

The Goals Committee has evaluated surveys and feedback from parishioners and identified the significant issues facing our parish

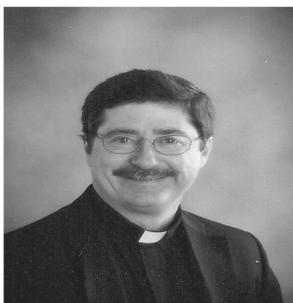
In response to these issues, the committee developed vision statements - what we'd like our parish to be, where we want to go.

The Goals Committee developed statements of goals point us toward our vision. Now the work of individual committees comes into play, developing action plans to achieve our goals.

The task of each committee is:

- To define the action steps to be taken to achieve the goals, (what two or three concrete steps do we need to take to reach our goal?)
- To define accountability (who will be responsible for carrying out the action step?)
- To define a time-frame (when will the action be completed? When can we expect the goal to be met?)
- To determine cost (What financial or time resources are needed to carry out the action plan?)

The goal of all of these committees is to work themselves out of existence. Their work is done when they have developed a reasonable plan and handed it off to those responsible for implementing it. That means that committee members are making a limited time commitment to this project. The goal is to develop a strategic plan by Easter. Thanks to all who have worked so hard on this endeavor!!



Mission Advancement Status

For the past several months, a committee of parishioners has been working hard on developing a comprehensive strategic plan to address the current challenges that our parish faces. The issues that were addressed were

determined by a survey given to the parish several months ago. Our parishioners also prioritized the issues from what they felt were most important or most urgent to least important or least urgent in the following way:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Buildings and Facilities | 5. Youth |
| 2. Stewardship | 6. Worship |
| 3. Education | 7. Service and Outreach |
| 4. Evangelization | 8. Communications |

Fr. Mike

RCIA**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

RCIA classes meet weekly at 7:00 pm in the Cafeteria meeting room.

All parishioners or guests are invited to sit in on any of our sessions when the topics being discussed might interest them.

For any questions or further information please call Deacon Paul, 314-954-0378, or email

deaconpaul@olqpparish.org.

Schedule of Topics:

- Jan 16 - Who is Jesus Christ
(What the New Testament tells us of Jesus Christ)
- Jan 23 - The Early Church
(The Apostles spreading the Good News)
- Jan 30 - The History of the Church
(The Church's long history up until the present time and what it means to us today)
- Feb 6 - Christian Moral Living and Social Justice
(What the Catechism says about the Ten Commandments and how it effects the way we are called to live)
- Feb 13 - Life Ethics and The Dignity of Life
(What the Catechism and the Church says about Human Life from beginning to end)
- Feb 20 - What is Lent
(Our Lenten traditions, symbols and call to conversion)
- Feb 27 - Saying Yes to Jesus
(Discussion on our relationship with Jesus)

**Tuesday Evening History
Discussion Group
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Cafeteria Meeting Room**

Peace Pantry Volunteers Needed

Tuesday morning helpers are needed to help sort and stock shelves in preparation for client pick up on Wednesday and Thursday. All helpers of any kind are always welcome and needed. Please contact Connie Stretch, 636-285-0934.

YOUTH MINISTRY**Welcome to Ordinary Time**

Celebrating the holidays is so much fun but so is ordinary time. Ordinary time gives us the daily opportunity to get into a rhythm of gratitude. We are challenged to be thankful daily for the blessings in our lives. The youth and young adults are one of those blessings in our lives and our Church. In 2012 we at Our Lady Queen of Peace are making a purpose filled effort to step up our ministry to the junior high youth, high school youth and to our young adults. Throughout the year we will keep the parish informed on our progress with this mission.

So that we can reach more of our young people at Our Lady Queen of Peace we are developing a junior high youth ministry, high school youth ministry and a young adult ministry. Currently John and Sue Whitehead are chairing the high school youth ministry programming along with an amazing team. Last week I met with thirteen young adults about young adult ministry. They came up with a mission statement and some goals for young adult ministry at our parish and in December we had our first junior high retreat. Remember we are in the developing stages and we are working with a team that is dedicated to ministering to our youth and young adults. Please pray for us.

High School Teen News

And we're off...

With our first meeting behind us, we are ready to take on 2012. Thanks to those teens that joined us at our first **JAM Session** of the year. For those that couldn't make it, the door is always open for you to join us every Sunday evening from **6pm - 8pm** in the OLQP cafeteria meeting room.

Don't miss next week's meeting, as we play some indoor ball!!

January 15th theme - SnowBall!!!! - Join us for some fun as we challenge each other to an indoor game of SnowBall!!

Make the time to be there for a JAM Session! Every Sunday night at 6 pm. All teens 9th - 12th grade are welcome to join us!

Bring a friend, we'll see you there!

John and Sue Whitehead
314-954-7461

P.S. - Mark your calendars - Saturday, January 28th, we are having a Youth Group Open House for all of the teens and their parents. We will start with our Youth Mass at 5 pm, then have snacks in the cafeteria following. More details to come!!

Terry Ostlund, Youth Ministry Coordinator

Catholics Come Home

Pope Benedict XVI has called upon all Catholics to participate in a new evangelization of the world in 2012, asking us to follow his "three laws" for evangelization: constant prayer, humility and a willingness to accept the cross. "Renewed evangelization" of an increasingly secular world has been a theme of the Holy Father's pontificate; he told the faithful that the Church needs "humble and generous workers who do not ask any other recompense than participating in the mission of Jesus and the Church".

Il Ritiro Retreat Center Mass of Anointing of the Sick

The Franciscan Community of Il Ritiro, Dittmer, has a 10 am Mass of Anointing of the Sick the fourth Sunday of every month at its Chapel of Our Lady of the Cedars. All those who are sick and in need of reception of this healing Sacrament are invited to come.

"By the sacred anointing of the sick and the prayers of the priests the whole Church commends those who are ill to the suffering and glorified Lord, that He may raise them up and save them". (Catechism of the Catholic Church)

The Il Ritiro Retreat is located in Dittmer on Eime Road and St. Francis Lane. For additional information, please call, 636-274-1736.

Thanks To Our Sponsors

We wish to thank **Catholic Supply**, for being a sponsor for our bulletins. Please remember to patronize our advertisers when in need of their type of service. Because of our sponsors we do not pay for our bulletins to be printed.



Parish Corner

Every week a different organization is featured in the bulletin.

Pro-Life

God's commandment of "thou shall not kill" clearly states we all have the obligation to protect human life from the moment of conception to natural death. In our culture of selfishness and greed, lives are being thrown away every day in this country. Please be a voice for the voiceless whether it is the innocent babies being killed by abortion, the poor, prisoners, elderly, anyone being abused or neglected and the needy. Prayer is our number one voice. Please pray everyday for conversion of heart for our country and that we will begin to see the invisible people, voiceless people and remember we are ALL created in the image and likeness of God and we need to support all human life in the best way we can. Some of the ways the Pro-Life group does this here at OLQP are the Rosary for Peace on Monday nights and after Masses, the Pro-Life Chain on the first Sunday of October, and the Pro-Life Trip in January. Several of the other organizations in the parish are also Pro-Life through all of their work with the poor and needy. Please pray daily for Life and also become informed on Pro-Life legislation so you can write you legislators, for more information check out www.missourilife.org.



St. Vincent De Paul

In the life of Mother Teresa, the Two Commandments - To love God and to love our neighbor - are inseparable. In her life and work she exemplified the relationship between the two: How, if we do not love God we cannot love our neighbor, and if we do not love our neighbor we cannot love God.

Protecting God's Children Update

Anyone who works with or volunteers with children must be compliant with the Safe Environment Program per the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops). Compliance in the Archdiocese of St. Louis includes having the "Protecting God's Children" workshop, a signed Code of Ethical Conduct and a current background check which is run every even year in our Archdiocese.

2012 is a background check year and we will begin requesting current background checks for those who are active with children in our parish. If you are no longer serving children in any capacity, please let Pat Hoskins (636-671-0247 or pat.hoskins@olqpparish.org) know that you are no longer serving in a ministry with children. We will delete your information from the background request.

If you are still serving children in our parish, we will be requesting a current background check for you. You will also receive a copy by mail from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. We will be receiving our own copy so you will not need to submit your copy to the parish.

Recycle Phone Books

You may recycle your old or unused phone books at Church. We cannot put them in our recycle bin for papers. Please leave your phone books in the box provided in the Church lobby.

Valentine's Semi-Formal Dinner & Dance Saturday February 11th from 6:30pm- Midnight

Tickets are \$65 per couple, this includes a sit down dinner, appetizers, beer, wine, soda and dancing. There will be wine tasting available. Tickets will start being sold on January 1st, 2012 after all Masses and in the parish office.

OLQP Parish Email List

Subscribe to our **Parish Email List** and receive:

- Parish News
- Event Calendar & Reminders
- Death Notices
- Holy Day & Holiday Mass Schedules
- Event Cancellation Notices
- Urgent Messages
- And so much more!

It's easy and safe to subscribe and unsubscribe.

This email list is for parochial use only and will not be sold or shared with anyone!

Go to www.olqpparish.org and submit your name and email address in the form on the bottom of the home page

OR

Email your name and email address to:

frbeighlie@olqpparish.org

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 12th through March 4th. 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.

Note: There is a cost of \$25 for the program.

BINGO

*Every Friday Night
Knights of Columbus Hall
Doors open at 4:30 pm
Bingo starts at 6:45 pm
Hope to see you there!*

TRIVIA NIGHT...

to benefit **Insight Theatre Company, Saturday, February 25, 2012**, at 7:00 pm, at Nerinx Hall High School, 530 East Lockwood. \$160 per table of eight. For reservations please call, 314-556-1293.

**BINGO STARTING
Monday, JANUARY 16th**

Starting Monday, January 16, 2012, St. John's Catholic Church will be moving their Monday Night Bingos to the KC Hall in House Springs, 6800 KC Lane, 636-671-3366. All sales start at 5:00 pm. Speedballs start at 6:30 pm; regular session starts at 6:45 pm. Food and drink will be available.

To kick off our 1st night, January 16th, we will be offering \$5.00 off your tally. Also, everyone will receive a free ink dabber. Invite your friends...see you there!

For more information, please contact Gary Przsgoda at 636-948-2354.

Recycle Paper...Did you know that one ton of recycled paper saves: 17 trees, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 4,102 hwh of electricity, 60 pounds of air pollution and 7,000 gallons of water.

Seven Days of Inspiration

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

Forgive someone for
an old hurt, and
it will heal.

~~~~~  
Trust yourself.

~~~~~  
Happiness lies in
being yourself!

~~~~~  
Make it a great day!  
The choice is ours.

~~~~~  
There is a light
within you that shines
all year around!

~~~~~  
You put the joy  
in someone's day!

~~~~~  
Everyone on your
list knows you
are a gift.

Celebrating Success in Urban Education

Cardinal Ritter College Prep is hosting its Annual Gala, *Celebrating Success in Urban Education*, on February 10, 2012 at the Missouri Athletic Club downtown St. Louis. Honorary chairmen David Farr (Emerson), David Kemper (Commerce Bank) and Andy Taylor (Enterprise) cordially invite you to attend as we honor Archbishop Robert J. Carlson for his commitment to Cardinal Ritter Prep's three-fold mission of faith development, academic excellence, and leadership.

The evening begins at 6:00 pm with cocktails in the Art Lounge followed by the invocation, dinner and program in the Missouri Room. All proceeds help provide the necessary financial resources needed for underserved students in the St. Louis area to receive a Cardinal Ritter College Prep education. For more information about attending, sponsoring or donating, please contact Aaron Emig at (314) 792-7732 or email him at AaronEmig@archstl.org.

The high school graduation rate in public schools in St. Louis city is less than 50 percent, nationwide, 70 percent of all students graduate high school, but Cardinal Ritter consistently graduates 100 percent of its students. Together We Can Make A Difference.

Through your sponsorship, you can provide an educational alternative to underserved families living in under-performing public school districts and lay the foundation for children to succeed in high school, college, and in future careers.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our next Eucharistic Adoration is
Wednesday, January 25th,
from 1:00 - 8:00 pm.

Come visit with Jesus. He is waiting for you in the Eucharist. His love flows from Him, saturating you completely. In the stillness of the sanctuary, in the Presence of Christ, offer your heart.

**The Parish Office will be closed on
Monday, January 16th,
in observance of
Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

2011 Contribution Statement

If you would like a 2011 Contribution statement please send a note (marked "Linda") to the Parish office, you may put it in the collection basket or call the parish office, 636-671-3062.

Thank you,
Linda

St. Louis Review Subscription

The cost for a year subscription is \$23. 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 provided) 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.

Thank you,
Linda

*Absent from the body present with our Lord.
In your kindness pray for the repose of the soul*

Ron Oehlert,

brother-in-law of Richard and Joan Ross
*May God welcome him home, fill him with peace,
and bless those who will miss him.*

Our Gifts to God and Parish Last Week**Special Collections**

Seminary	\$	5.00
St. Louis Review	\$	48.00

New Building Fund

Lavender Envelopes	\$	380.10
Total Received to date	\$	715,572.61

Offertory

Sunday Envelopes	\$	11,995.00
Sunday Loose	\$	616.00
Above and Beyond	\$	50.00
Christmas	\$	25.00
First Offering	\$	200.00
Present and Future	\$	75.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$	91.00
Total Offertory	\$	13,052.00
Offertory Goal	\$	14,000.00

Thank you for your generosity.

1,187 registered members

243 Envelopes, online and loose checks used

As of January 9th, 2011

Contributions Year To Date	\$	344,878.10
Projected Year to Date Budget	\$	392,000.00

Scrip Gift Cards

Sales	\$	1,195.00
Profits/tuition reduction	\$	64.46

Scrip Gift Cards are available in the Parish Office from 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday and every weekend after Mass.

Stewardship

*"Jesus turned and saw them following Him and said to them,
'What are you looking for?'"* John 1:38

What are you looking for? It is a question Jesus asks each of us. Are we wasting our time looking for the material pleasures of the world? Or are our hearts really longing for something deeper that can only be found by spending time with God?

Parish Activities

Mon Jan 16 Parish Office closed
Confirmation Retreat Day, 7:45 am - 4 pm,
Cafeteria and Church
NO PSR
RCIA, 7 pm, Cafeteria meeting room

Tues Jan 17 Devotions after 8 am Mass
Quilters, 9 am - 3 pm, 6 - 8:30 pm
Finance Meeting, 6:30 pm, Rectory
History Class (Fr. Don), 7 pm, Cafeteria
meeting room
Rosary for Peace, 7:30 pm, Church

Thur Jan 19 Choir Practice, 7 pm, Church
Boy Scouts Leaders Meeting, 7 pm, F.H.

Fri Jan 20 OLQP "Spelling Bee", 2 pm, Cafeteria

Sun Jan 22 JAM Session, 6 - 8 pm, Cafeteria meeting
room

Mass Intentions

Mon Jan 16 8:00 am Nancy Childs Family
Tues Jan 17 8:00 am Oscar Buchheit
Wed Jan 18 8:00 am Deacon Tom Murphy
Thurs Jan 19 8:00 am Barb Rocchio
Fri Jan 20 8:00 am Tracy Creighton
Sat Jan 21 5:00 pm Annabel Bowman
Sun Jan 22 7:30 am People of the Parish
9:30 am Donna St. Vrain
11:30 am Sue Denney

January 21st and 22nd

Special Ministers of the Eucharist

5:00 pm *Donna Clifton, Mary Copeland, Clay Gregorc,
*Jan Hussman, Peggy Mikko, Barb Nenninger,
Katie Tutass

7:30 am Mary Bjornstad, *Ken Bohnert, Vicki De Long,
Ruth Haen, Michele Huff, Jo Jahnsen,
*Marie Strayhorn

9:30 am *Joanne David, Carol Delue, Trish Guethle,
Tom Mattingly, *Barb Perez, Sharon Reineri,
Richard Rousseau, Kelly Smith

11:30 am Sandee Burkemper, *Tom Ecker, Dan & Kim
Horn, *Paul McDonnell, Denise Ortmann,
Connie Stubits

* You are responsible to clean the vessels after Mass

Proclaimers

5:00 pm Barb & Joe Nenninger
7:30 am Bev Gregory, Linda Weber
9:30 am Dale Andrews, Jo Ann Vess
11:30 am Laura Huss, Richard Ortmann

Servers

5:00 pm Nicole Diener, Christopher Dutton, Rose Haug
7:30 am McKenzie Beck, Ann & Jane Kenney
9:30 am Cierra Payne, Jessica & Samantha Tarter
11:30 am Kaitlyn & Melissa Esch, Sarah Marting

Ushers

5:00 pm Larry Bottchen, Bill Bohnert, Ken Ganey,
Ralph Munzlinger, Don Reno, Helen Stewart
7:30 am Doug Bjornstad, Carl Boyer, Robert De Long,
Jeff Eschbach, Wally Freihaut, John Nahlik
9:30 am Tom Broadbent, Tim Diffey, Lee Hoffman,
Al Jensen, Jerry Sheets, Ray Wieschhaus
11:30 am John Holmes, Kevin Huss, Andy Nappier,
Jim Robertson, Al Schuld, Benny Slodkowski

Marie Strayhorn,
Debbie Maloney-Reeves,
Nancy Wilfong,
Lee and Kay Hoffman



Please pray for...
(parishioners are in bold)

Sharon Alderson Frieda Siebel-Spath
Bernice Grimwood Maryann Barnett
Judy Holmes Patsy Boyer
Linda Scotino Helen Wendt
Joan Maupin, sister-in-law of Helen Wendt
Crystal Murray, daughter of Betty Oermann
John Acton, brother of Richard Acton and Laura Huss
Samuel Taylor, friend of Phyllis Smith
Walt Wieseman, friend of Phyllis Smith
Ronnie Wulsch, cousin of Glenda Clayton
Erin Wolf, friend of Kathy Constantz
Trudy Gerard, sister of Lynette Rawlins
Holly Smith, daughter of Lynette Rawlins
Rachel Preston, granddaughter of Lynette Rawlins
Louise Gunter, mother of Lynette Rawlins
Jim Rawlins, husband of Lynette Rawlins
Reese Gunter, great niece of Lynette Rawlins
Allen Chott, nephew of Judy Mottert
Haley Weis, great granddaughter of Carol O'Shea
Buck Thomas, husband of Donna Thomas

~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.

Parish Office email
parishoffice@olqpparish.org
OLQP Web Site
www.olqpparish.org
submit articles for bulletin
olqpbulletin@yahoo.com
Deadline Friday at 4:30 pm
(9 days before publication)

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle B



THEME: The time to respond is NOW.

Typically, the Gospel readings at the start of a new liturgical year focus on the beginning of Jesus' ministry and especially His calling the first disciples. There is an urgency in that call, an urgency that is reflected in all of today's readings. We live in the midst of a world filled with cares and concerns, with the needs to make a living, to provide for ourselves and our loved ones. We can forget the presence of God in our world with us as we go about our day to day lives, the presence of God we have just celebrated. Once again, at the beginning of ordinary time, we are reminded that God is with us, calling us to respond, to respond now – right in the middle of our topsy-turvy world.

THE READINGS:

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The first reading is a very short passage taken from a very short book, the Book of Jonah. Jonah was a prophet from the northern kingdom of Israel, called by God to carry His word to the people of Nineveh. Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, a hated enemy that destroyed the northern kingdom. Jonah is called to get up and go east. He gets up and goes west. He is called to speak out. He runs away and hides.

God's will is not to be thwarted. That is an essential message in the book of Jonah. The prophet eventually gets where he is supposed to be and says what he is supposed to say. And the people of Nineveh repent. We might expect Jonah to be happy over this, but he is not. He's been made to look like a fool, announcing doom only to have God spare the Assyrians.

Jonah is caught up in a world of cares and concerns, of worries and hopes. He is caught in a world of power politics and issues of violence and justice and, in this world, he is sure of himself. He is sure of how things ought to be. God has other plans and God needs a Jonah – and us – to carry out those plans no matter what we might think of them. God's plan for justice and peace needs us as it needed Jonah. Can we risk not responding? Can we risk perpetuating violence, hatred, and injustice? Is it better to be vindicated in human terms or be a follower of God on His terms?

SECOND READING: I Corinthians 7:29-31

The second reading is from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. In Paul's writings, the idea of the delay of the Second Coming of Christ had not yet really developed. In addressing the problems and concerns of the Christian community in Corinth, then, Paul stressed a sense of urgency. We don't have time to worry about petty concerns, jealousies, and disagreements. One thing only is needed, to live in and for Jesus Christ.

For Paul, living in Christ was a means of transformation, transformation of the whole world. Why hang on to what is when what is becoming offers so much grace, so much hope, so much liveliness? Again, there is a choice – to choose for the here and now and work out our lives according to the passing world, or to choose for eternity and live our lives according to the pattern of divine possibilities revealed in Christ. The time to choose is not unlimited.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:14-20

With the sense of urgency stressed in today's readings, it is appropriate that the Gospel reading comes from Mark. The sense of urgency in responding to Jesus is more pronounced in Mark than in any of the other Gospels.

Mark's Gospel jumps right into the middle of things, beginning with Jesus' baptism by John. Then it records John's arrest and Jesus is off and running. He announces that NOW is the time to repent – and the primary meaning of repent is to change, to live differently, to look at the world and the people in it differently, to see God's presence with us in the world differently and to respond. The first action of Jesus is to call disciples and discipleship is the center of Mark's whole Gospel. Disciples are called to do what Jesus did, even if it means that, like Jesus, they will have to suffer. This wasn't a message Jonah wanted to hear. He didn't want to be contradicted, to look foolish for delivering a message of condemnation. And when people repented at his word, he didn't want to accept it, to see this change with God's eyes and God's heart.

Throughout Mark's Gospel, the disciples will struggle with the same thing. They want to "win." They want to be right. They want to see some tangible reward for following Jesus. But Jesus' call is to change how we look at things, to change how we live, to risk for different possibilities of living in our world.

We begin the Season of Ordinary time facing a challenge and a choice. The choice is to see alternate possibilities for ourselves and our world. The challenge is to look for these possibilities not with our usual expectations, but with the very heart of God, revealed to us in the presence of His son.

FOR REFLECTION:

- The holidays are over. The work-a-day world resumes. How easy is it for me to forget the presence of God in my busy world? How do I respond to God's call in my everyday life?
- Jonah simply did not want to do what God asked of him. When do I find myself resisting what I believe God wants of me? Why do I resist? What is it about what God wants of me that I don't want to do?
- How do I choose for eternity now? What does it mean to me to say that "now is the moment of salvation?"
- Do I believe that the call to be a disciple carries with it the call to suffer as Jesus did? How can that be? Am I willing to say, "Yes" to the call?
- As a Christian, what do I find to be the biggest challenges of living as a Christian in the world as I know it?

Deck of Cards

It was quiet that day, the guns and the mortars, and land mines for some reason hadn't been heard.

The young soldier knew it was Sunday, the holiest day of the week.

As he was sitting there, he got out an old deck of cards and laid them out across his bunk.

Just then an army sergeant came in and said, "Why aren't you with the rest of the platoon?"

The soldier replied, "I thought I would stay behind and spend some time with the Lord."

The sergeant said, "Looks to me like you're going to play cards."

The soldier said, "No, sir. You see, since we are not allowed to have Bibles or other spiritual books in this country, I've decided to talk to the Lord by studying this deck of cards."

The sergeant asked in disbelief, "How will you do that?"

"You see the Ace, Sergeant? It reminds me that there is only one God.

The Two represents the two parts of the Bible, Old and New Testaments.

The Three represents the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost.

The Four stands for the Four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The Five is for the five virgins. There were ten but only five of them were glorified.

The Six is for the six days it took God to create the Heavens and Earth.

The Seven is for the day God rested after making His Creation.

The Eight is for the family of Noah and his wife, their three sons and their wives
- the eight people God spared from the flood that destroyed the Earth.

The Nine is for the lepers that Jesus cleansed of leprosy. He cleansed ten, but one never thanked Him.

The Ten represents the Ten Commandments that God handed down to Moses on tablets made of stone.

The Jack is a reminder of Satan, one of God's first angels, but he got kicked out of heaven for his sly and wicked ways and is now the joker of eternal hell.

The Queen stands for the Virgin Mary.

The King stands for Jesus, for He is the King of all kings. When I count the dots on all the cards, I come up with 365 total, one for every day of the year.

There are a total of 52 cards in a deck; each is a week - 52 weeks in a year.

The four suits represent the four seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

Each suit has thirteen cards - there are exactly thirteen weeks in a quarter.

So when I want to talk to God and thank Him, I just pull out this old deck of cards and they remind me of all that I have to be thankful for."

The sergeant just stood there. After a minute, with tears in his eyes and pain in his heart, he said, "Soldier, can I borrow that deck of cards?"

Please let this be a reminder and take time to pray for all of our soldiers who are being sent away, putting their lives on the line fighting.

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Have a beautiful day!!

Linda