

Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

www.olqpparish.org

January 30, 2011



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

Ms. Renée Chauvin

PSR COORDINATOR

Mrs. Debra O'Donnell

PRESCHOOL COORDINATOR

Mrs. Nancy Lorenz

YOUTH MINISTER

Mrs. Terry Ostlund

PARISH COUNCIL

Sandee Burkemper

Joanne David

Vicki De Long

René Heibeck

Arnie Lohbeck

Dave Mills

Denise Ortmann

Rich Ortmann

Linda Weber

PHONES

Parish Office

671-3062

School

671-0247

Cafeteria

375-5335

SCHEDULE OF HOLY MASSES

Saturday Evening

5:00pm

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

Sunday

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

Holy Days

as announced

Weekdays

8:00am

PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS

Tuesday after 8:00am Mass

ROSARY FOR VOCATIONS

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

ROSARY FOR PEACE

Every Monday evening at 7:30pm

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

STEPHEN MINISTRY

314-223-8751

YOUTH MINISTRY

314-566-8363




Upcoming OLQP Parish Events

2011

February

- Sat 12 **Valentine's Day Dinner/Dance**
KC Hall
- Sat/Thur 19-24 **Parish Mission**
- Sun 20 **Surf & Turf Dinner** Cafeteria
- Sat 26 **Daughter's Antique Appraisal Sale and Tea** Cafeteria

March

- Wed 9 **Ash Wednesday**
- Sun 20 **Red Hat Bingo** KC Hall
- Wed 30 **Confirmation** 7:30pm Church

April

- Sat 16 **Athletic Association Trivia Night**
- Sun 24 **Easter**
- Sat 30 **Daughters Tailgate Sale**

May

- Sun 1 **First Communion**
- Sun 15 **Daughters May Crowning**

June

- Sat 11 **OLQP PARISH PICNIC**

July

- Mon-Thur 25-29 **Soccer Camp**, Athletic Field

August

- Sat 20 **Daughters Tailgate Sale**

September

- Sun 25 **OLQP Quilt Social** KC Hall

October

- Sat 1 **Hoedown**
- Sat 8 **Harvest Moon Auction** KC Hall
- Sun 16 **Daughters Fashion Show** KC Hall

December

- Sun 4 **Advent Tea** KC Hall

As most of you know, I write a column in the bulletin every Sunday in an attempt to keep in touch with parishioners. But unfortunately, not everyone gets the bulletin each week or reads my column. There are times when I need to communicate something important to the parish but I am unable to reach a large number of families. Sending a letter to every family in the parish through the mail is expensive. In order to be able to communicate more effectively with the parish, **I've decided to establish a "Parish Email List"**.

With the use of a Parish Email Service, I would be able to communicate parish news, upcoming events, death notices, Holy Day and Holiday Mass schedules, event cancellations, and urgent or important messages...etc.

Fr. Beighlie has set up an account with a company called *Constant Contact* which will manage our email list. I hope to get as many parishioners as possible to participate in this effort by submitting their name and email address. The *Constant Contact* company protects the email list on a secure server; the list will not be sold or shared with anyone.

It is very easy to subscribe or unsubscribe to this service:

Go to the parish website www.olqpparish.org and type in your email address in the form provided. You will then be prompted to confirm your email address and enter your name. It's that simple.

Email your name and email address to Fr. Beighlie (frbeighlie@olqpparish.org) and he will do it for you.

If you change your mind and want to unsubscribe, you simply press the unsubscribe link on any email that you receive and your name and email address will be instantly and safely removed.

My hope is to be able to be in contact with the majority of active parishioners. There will be opportunities to sign up after Mass on Sundays and at parish functions.

Please take the time and subscribe to our parish email list soon!

Parish Office email
parishoffice@olqpparish.org
OLQP Web Site
www.olqpparish.org
submit articles for bulletin
olqpbulletin@yahoo.com
Deadline Tuesday at 4:30 pm

fr. mike

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 Archdiocese requirement for a marriage preparation program. The program will be offered starting February 13 and last through March 6, 2011 from 6:00 to 9:00pm. The sessions will be facilitated by Deacon Tom and Margaret Gerling. To register or for more information please call Linda, 671-3062, at the Parish office.

Note: There is a cost of \$25.00 for the program.

RCIA

We meet every Monday evening at 7pm in the Cafeteria meeting room. All parishioners or guests are invited to sit in on any of our sessions when the topic being discussed might interest them.

Upcoming sessions:

January 31 - History of the Church

February 7 - Social Justice

February 14 - Christian Moral Living

February 21 - Dignity of Life

February 28 - Review of Sacraments and Prayer Life



YOUTH MINISTRY

Amazing Trip

This past weekend 42 youth and adults went to Washington, D.C. to be your voice for Pro-Life. Everyone on the trip was extremely tired from sleeping on a bus for two nights but everyone was happy to sacrifice a little to help put an end to abortion in our country. We met with our elected officials and were encouraged with the progress they are making on this issue. This year the eleven 8th grade youth who were on the trip went with a parent. It was such an inspiration watching parents march with their child in the Pro-Life March. Everyone on the trip was such an inspiration to each other. Thanks to all of you for all of your prayers, donations, and support for this trip to take place. We have the most amazing parish in the entire world. Please continue to pray for the conversion of hearts for some of our legislators and a heart of perseverance for our legislators who are a strong voice for our unborn citizens. Together with God's help we are making a difference.

Wednesday Youth Nights

Calling all high school youth! Don't forget to join us for our weekly youth nights from 6-8 pm in the Bear's Den.

"Souper Bowl" Sunday Collection

The youth will be in the Church lobby after all Masses next weekend with big soup pots collecting donations for St. Vincent de Paul and the Peace Pantry. Ten years ago, one of our confirmation students began this tradition. Thanks to Matt, OLQP has this great way to support the needy in our area during the cold winter month. Thanks in advance for your loving donations.

Terry Ostlund, Youth Minister
314-566-8363

**Aluminum Collection next weekend,
February 5th and 6th. Thanks for your support.**

Fr. Don's "Church History" Class
We meet in the Cafeteria meeting room every Tuesday evening from 7 to 8:30pm.



Parish Corner
OLQP Catholic School

As Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish was established and new parish buildings were still being planned, a temporary school location was located at the historic home of the House Family in old town House Springs back in 1959. In April of 1960, ground was broken for the new church and school. Due to construction issues, the opening of the 1960 school year was delayed, but the school was opened with two self-contained, dual classroom buildings. The new church was used for the first time by school children on Palm Sunday, March 25, 1960. Our Lady Queen of Peace School continued to grow steadily through the decades. The school now has four buildings and two modular buildings which accommodate 12 classrooms, a library, a computer lab, a faculty room, and offices. The school currently has 161 students, ten full time teachers, two part time teachers, a full time learning consultant, a full time secretary, and a full time principal.

Winter Bible Study

Winter Bible Study group will meet in the Cafeteria meeting room at 7:00pm every Thursday. The session will meet for 10 weeks and the topic will be the Gospel of Matthew. If anyone is interested please call the Parish office, 671-3062, or e-mail me at frbeighlie@olqpparish.org so we know the number of copies to print.

Parishioners Helping Parishioners
 We have become aware that there are parishioners in need of assistance with transportation to church, doctors appointments and visits to loved ones in the hospital or nursing home. Parishioners are available to assist in these needs. Respite care, visiting home centered individuals and the hospitalized is also offered.
 If we can be of assistance to you or anyone you know within the parish, please call the Parish office, 671-3062, or one of the following people:
 Sharon 671-1063 - Eunice 274-2636 - Fran 375-3774
 May God Bless Our Parish

St. Vincent De Paul

We have received so much from the good Lord that we wish to encourage others to experience His love for them through our ministry of assistance.



Something for you to read... and think about!

- Examine your conscience daily.
- Have I prayed today?
- Did I struggle to avoid distractions in my prayer?
- How have I offended God? Have I been: envious, proud, lazy, gluttonous, lustful, angry, covetous? Have I cared for my family?
- Have I prayed for them? Have I assisted them in whatever way I can with the temporal necessities?
- Have I helped my friends?
- Did I do my work well? How can I do it better?
- Did I waste time?
- Then make a resolution to change and an act of contrition.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers serve people who are struggling with a special need or going through a difficult time. They are going to walk along beside you. If you want to talk, they will listen, if you just want to cry, that's fine. Stephen Ministers provide one-on-one confidential Christian support and care. It's confidential, free and very helpful. To learn how you can receive care please call Margaret, 314-223-8751. All calls and sessions are confidential.



God bless you!

BINGO
Knights of Columbus Hall
Every Friday Night
Doors open at 4:30pm
Bingo starts 6:45pm

**Big River Ministerial Alliance
 Pulpit Exchange
 Sunday, January 30**

This Sunday the Big River Ministerial Alliance will be having their annual Pulpit Exchange, where the different ministers from the Churches that are part of the Alliance will speak on the same Scripture readings that we share as a Christian Community here in our Jefferson County area. The Churches that are a part of the Alliance are: Our Lady Queen of Peace; Hillside Presbyterian; St. Martin United Church of Christ, High Ridge; St. Martins United Church of Christ, Dittmer; Faith United Methodist; and The Community of Christ Church, Dittmer.

Pastor Carol DeVaughan will be speaking at our 9:30 Mass today. This will be the last time we will be blessed to host Pastor Carol, she will be retiring from her ministry at Hillside. Carol has been at Hillside for many years and a dedicated supporter of the Peace Pantry that all of the Churches of the Alliance support with the many volunteers that work at the Pantry.

Fr. Don will be going to Faith United Methodist to speak at their Service at 10:00 this Sunday.

"Pennies" for St. Vincent de Paul

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the "Penny Jar" during the Holidays. St. Vincent de Paul received \$460.14 to help the needy in our area with money for electric bills, rent, medicine and many other bills that are so difficult for some families to pay.

Your generosity is very much appreciated!!!!

**Our Lady Queen of Peace
 Valentine's Day Dinner/Dance
 Join us in this Celebration of Love
 Saturday, February 12**

We will begin the evening with 5pm Mass and a renewal of marriage vows. Dinner and dancing will follow at the Knights of Columbus Hall.



Tickets are \$40 per couple and go on sale this weekend after Mass.

The ticket price includes dinner, beer, soda and wine.

We are looking forward to an evening of fun and fellowship as we celebrate and give thanks for the love in our lives. Talk to your friends and reserve a table now. Hope you can join us.

For more information email Tom at tlakin6403@gmail.com or René at heibeck1@msn.com

**ST. JOHN VIANNEY
 1ST AND 2ND HONOR ROLLS
 CONGRATULATIONS**

Garrett Love,

son of Greg and Ann Love

Brian Puszkar,

son of Brian and Rebecca Puszkar



**First Sunday Breakfast
 February 6 after
 7:30 and 9:30 Masses**

Menu:

Pancakes, Ham Steaks, Egg Casserole,
 Hash Browns, Cereal, Fruit Cup,
 Coffee, Orange Juice and Milk

**Mary the Font Solitude
Retreats Available**

Mary the Font Solitude is offering a time of quiet, a time to be alone with Jesus at a hermitage in the wooded hills of High Ridge. It is a time to renew and refresh your spirit, relax your body as you walk the trails away from responsibilities, distractions and phones.

You will have the privilege of celebrating daily Mass and praying the Liturgy of the Hours three times a day with the Community. One-on-one spiritual direction is available. You will be welcomed, prayed for, made comfortable and fed three times a day.

To learn more about this opportunity, please call, 677-3235.

**Financial Peace University
Free Preview February 10, 6pm
St. John's Catholic Church**

Financial Peace University is a biblically-based, video-driven small group study that teaches families to beat debt, build wealth and give like never before!

This program is for you if...

- Your credit cards are your emergency fund.
- Your dog responds to the name "Ebay".
- You have to sell your house to put your kids through college.
- You want to know what God says about money.

Classes are faith based and conducted by Peggy Haberberger, retired Financial Manager.

For more information call Peggy, 636-948-2113.

Seven Days of Inspiration

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

**Be the best friend
you've ever had!**



**Do something you've
been putting off.**

What a relief!



**A precious moment is
headed your way!**



**You are at the center
of a circle of love.**



**There is always enough
hope to go around.**



**Wish the best for someone
else. It will do both
of you good.**



**Give your true beauty
a chance to shine: Stop
focusing on your flaws.**

Welcome to Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish

We rejoice to have you with us, whether a long-time resident or newly arrived in our parish! 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 re-register. 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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our next Eucharistic Adoration is
Wednesday, February 23
From 1:00pm – 8:00pm.

2010 Contribution Statement

If you would like a 2010 Contribution statement please send a note (marked "Linda") to the Parish office, put it in the collection basket or call the Parish office, 671-3062. Thank you so much.

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 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.

Linda
Parish office

There was a pair of glasses found in the cafeteria recently. Please call the Parish office, 671-3062, if you lost them.

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

Yong Cha Pogolorski, wife of Terry

John Atkinson, brother in-law of Cathy Carley

Mary Matejka, cousin of Angie Ecker

*May God welcome them home, fill them with peace,
and bless those who will miss them.*

SUNDAY OFFERING

Our Gifts to God and Parish Last Week
223 Envelopes Used

Special Collections

St. Louis Review	\$	437.00
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New Building Fund

Total Received to date	\$	684,223.28
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Offertory

Sunday Envelopes	\$	9,363.00
Sunday Loose	\$	537.00
Above and Beyond	\$	147.00
First Offering	\$	45.00
Present and Future	\$	20.00
Total Offertory	\$	10,112.00
Offertory Goal	\$	13,699.00

Thank you for your generosity.

As of January 24, 2011

Contributions Year To Date	\$	364,504.89
Projected Year to Date Budget	\$	410,970.00

Script gift cards are available in the Parish Office from 8am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday and every weekend after Mass.



**PRAYER is OIL for the
DAILY GRIND**

STEWARDSHIP

January 30, 2011

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Consider your own calling, brothers and sisters."

1 Corinthians 1:26

In his letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul reminds us that all of us are called to participate in the work of the Church. There can be no excuses. We cannot say that we are not wise enough, powerful enough or smart enough. We cannot say that we do not have the time, the talents or the skills. God can use each of us. All we have to do is offer our humble lives to Him and then be willing to follow where He leads.

Parish Activities

Mon	Jan 31	PSR, 6:15-7:30pm RCIA, 7pm, Cafeteria meeting room Rosary for Peace, 7:30pm, Church
Tues	Feb 1	Devotions after 8am Mass Quilters, 9am - 3pm, 6 - 8:30pm, Activity Center School Board, 6:30pm, Rectory Church History class, 7pm, Cafeteria meeting room
Wed	Feb 2	Liturgy Meeting, 4pm, Rectory Youth Night, 6-8pm, Bear's Den
Thurs	Feb 3	Choir Practice, 7pm, Church Winter Bible Study, 7pm, Cafeteria meeting room Daughters, 7:30pm, Cafeteria
Sun	Feb 6	1st Sunday Breakfast after 7:30 & 9:30 Masses Boy Scout Sunday – 11:30am Mass

Mass Intentions

Mon	Jan 31	8:00am	Ginger Basile Intentions
Tues	Feb 1	8:00am	Rita Sparrow Intentions
Wed	Feb 2	8:00am	Anne McNally Intentions
Thurs	Feb 3	8:00am	Kathie Davis Intentions
Fri	Feb 4	8:00am	Alice Wittich Intentions
Sat	Feb 5	8:00am	Dale Robinson
		5:00pm	Mike Sale
Sun	Feb 6	7:30am	Jerry Smith
		9:30am	Grace Sanderson
		11:30am	People of the Parish

February 5th and 6th

Special Ministers of the Eucharist

5:00 pm	Clay Gregorc, Peggy Mikko, *Barb & Joe Nenninger, Sandy Munzlinger, Joyce & Michael Ruopp
7:30 am	Mary Bjornstad, Vicki De Long, *Ruth Haen, Michele Huff, Jo Jahnsen, * Marie Strayhorn, Linda Weber
9:30 am	Margaret Gerling, Dan & Kim Horn, * Jan Hussman, *Helen Salamone, Kelly Smith, Connie Stubits, Nancy Wilfong
11:30 am	*Sandee Burkemper, * Deb Pigue, Maria Webb, Lynette & Patrick Rawlins, Denise Witt

* You are responsible to clean the vessels after Mass

Please pray for those who are ill
(parishioners are in bold)

Jackie Nappier	Andy Nappier
Vince Ferrara	Gerry Schroeder
Augie Hoeft	Mary Copeland
Debbie O'Brien	

John Ostlund, son of Pete and Terry Ostlund
Buck Thomas, husband of Donna Thomas
Tom Brooks, relative of Greenwell, Johnson & Williams family
Erin Stark, daughter of Jim and Judy Winfrey
Kay Oestman, sister of Maureen Turney
Allen Chott, nephew of Judy Mottert
Dorothy Langan, mother of Jane Saggio
Tracy Musselwhite, niece of Lynette Rawlins
Rachel Preston, granddaughter of Lynette Rawlins
Jimmy Rawlins, son of Lynette Rawlins
Dave Haig, friend of Ken and Jan DeClue
Shirley Hussey, sister-in-law of Cathy Eimer
Louise Gunter, mother of Lynette Rawlins

~ 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.

Proclaimers

5:00 pm	Larry Bottchen, Shirley Tenny
7:30 am	Scott Reimer, Frieda Siebel-Spath
9:30 am	Tom Mattingly, Nora Suhovecky
11:30 am	Boy Scouts

Servers

5:00 pm	Brent Ambrose, AJ Drew, Joe Wigge
7:30 am	Ann & Jane Kenney, Kaitlyn Robertson
9:30 am	Bailey & Marissa Ginger, Delaney Lawson
11:30 am	Joey & Tommy Carbone, Jessica Tarter

Ushers

5:00 pm	Bill & Donna Clifton, Ken Ganey, Ralph Munzlinger, Jerry Sheets, B. Slodkowski
7:30 am	Gerry Bachmann, Doug Bjornstad, Carl Boyer, Jeff Eschbach, Larry Lammert, John Nahlik
9:30 am	Tim Diffey, Lee Hoffman, Dale Sudholt, Jeff Queen, Lloyd Young, Steve Freihaut
11:30 am	Don Brooks, Don Reno, Jim Robertson, Al Schuld, David Witt, 1 needed

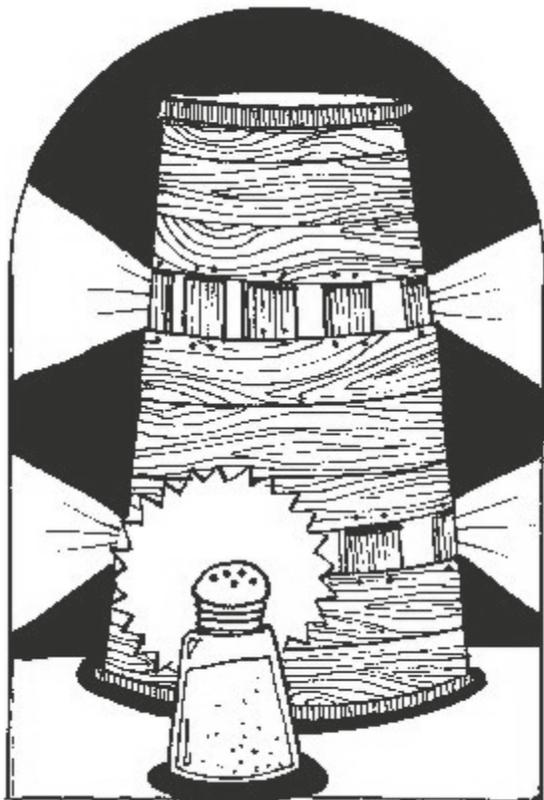
Heavenly Dusters Needed

Would you have an hour or two to spare on a Friday morning once every five weeks? If the answer is "yes" we need you to help clean the House of God. We work in teams of four to dust, vacuum, wash windows, etc. If you can help us with your time and talent in this ministry, please call Joanne, 274-0590.



February 4
Marie Strayhorn,
Debbie Maloney-Reeves,
Nancy Wilfong,
Lee and Kay Hoffman

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle A**



THEME: “You are the light of the world.”

The readings for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary offer a selection of mixed images and mixed roles. In accomplishing God’s will, there is a blurring of the distinction between God and humanity. All of this works together to make one idea crystal clear. We have a partnership with our God. When all is as it should be, God’s will is accomplished through us; God’s light shines in us; God’s justice is rendered by us.

THE READINGS:

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:7-10

It has long been recognized that the Book of Isaiah, from which the first reading is taken, is not a single, unified book coming from one time in the life of the people of Israel. Scholars have distinguished three sections in the book, the first coming from the 8th century and centered in Jerusalem, the second dating from the time of the Babylonian Exile, and the third in the period of the restoration after the exile. Yet, what unifies the book is a vision of God’s justice and will for

all people, a theology of election – being chosen for a purpose – and a universal outlook that sees God’s elect working with their God to bring light and justice and peace to all the world.

A key theme that runs through the entire prophetic book is the idea of our partnership with God. In the first section of the book, God deliberates, “Whom should I send?” Isaiah accepts the challenge, “Here am I. Send me.” Key elements in the role and message of the 8th century prophet were the announcements of light and hope for the people of Judah during the time of the Assyrian crisis, a light and hope that would spill over from the people of Judah to all the world. Isaiah and God worked together. In the second section of the book, we encounter the Servant Songs. God’s favor rests on His servant, sometimes understood as the prophet Himself, sometimes as another individual who takes up the cause of the people, and sometimes as the whole people of Israel. God’s servant announces an end to oppression, a dawning of God’s light to gather people together, an era of Justice and peace. In this second section of the book, there is a call for the people to prepare a way for the Lord, to make ready a way for our God to come to us. Now, in the final section of the book, it is God who observes the just and good works of the people and announces, “Here I am.” Here is our partnership with God coming to fulfillment. Called by God to be a means of His light, justice and peace, we prepare for our God to come to us, to vindicate us as His messengers in the world, so that, having worked for what is just and right, our God can come and say, “Here I am. Here I am now that the world can recognize me. Here I am now that my servant has prepared my way.”

SECOND READING: I Corinthians 2:1-5

Wisdom, in Israel, was always counter-cultural. It always stood outside the mainstream of thought and theology and dared to question and critique false ways of believing and behaving. Even when the teachings of the wisdom tradition began to become formalized and rigid, wisdom thinkers arose to question and critique the wisdom tradition itself. Paul, with his training as a Pharisee, was heir to this tradition. Being raised in the Greco-Roman world, he was acquainted with the thinking and wisdom of the larger, Gentile world.

As Christianity began to spread and adapt itself to the world beyond Jewish Palestine, Paul was uniquely suited to present wisdom thinking to the world. Paul's "wisdom" was the wisdom of the cross, God's wisdom, a wisdom that appeared as absolute folly to the human view of things. In today's second reading, from the First Letter to the Corinthians, Paul dared to critique worldly wisdom and offer an alternative. Real wisdom comes from a sense of unity, of connectedness in which we adopt service for others, self-sacrifice for the common good. This is the wisdom of the cross, the wisdom of God's plan for humanity that frees us from sin and ushers in a way of life, eternal life with our Father.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:13-16

In the Gospel reading from Matthew, the Sermon on the Mount continues. Immediately after the *ashre* statements of the Beatitudes, Jesus tells His followers that they are the light of the world. In the words of scripture, light regularly functions as a symbol for God's wisdom, for the goodness of His will for people, for that coming from God that reveals, opens, guides. It is God Himself who is most often characterized as light and the source of light. But, now, Jesus tells His disciples that those who follow Him, those who accept Him, those who adopt the wisdom of His teaching and recognize in Him the revelation of the Father, in these people is the light of the world.

We have a partnership with God. Who we are, what we believe, our commitment to follow Jesus Christ changes us, elevates us, makes us partners with God in bringing His love and justice and peace to the world. Now is our time. Now is the time for us to live this partnership. Now is our time to reveal to the world that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

FOR REFLECTION:

- What is my responsibility in making God's justice and peace known in the world? What is my responsibility in making God's justice and peace a reality in the world?
- God's justice and peace is intended for all people. How difficult is it for me to accept that God includes all people in His plan, even criminals, terrorists, those I would consider unjust and evil? How willing am I to extend the hand of peace to such people?
- In the face of evil in the world, when God deliberates, "Whom should I send," am I able to say, "Here am I. Send me?" Do I really believe that my response to God's call is what makes it possible for God to come into the world or to prevent His justice and peace from happening?
- Paul asserts that the Wisdom of God is the Wisdom of the Cross. What does that mean to me? What practical implication does this have for how I live my life as a Christian?
- Jesus tells His followers that they are to be the light of the world, to share with God His role of revealing, enlightening, guiding. Am I up to the task? Can I accept that there is something Godlike in me? Can I live that Godlike nature?

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