

Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

www.olgpparish.org

January 9, 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

Paul McDonnell

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

January

- Sat 15 **Knights of Columbus Mouse Races**
 Sun 23 **Surf and Turf Dinner** Cafeteria
 Fri 28 **Junior High Trivia Night** Cafeteria

February

- Sat/Thur 19-24 **Parish Mission**
 Sat 26 **Daughter's Antique Road Show**
 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**

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



Pastor's Desk

Santa Claus Was Nice This Year

Fr. Molitor, Fr. Beighlie and I would like to thank all of you for the many wonderful Christmas cards, gift cards, cookies, candies, cheeses, sausages, "adult beverages" and other assorted gifts that you gave us for Christmas this year. It is very difficult to lose weight in this parish but we understand that each calorie (in fact several hundred thousand of them) is a sign of your love for us and we appreciate that! However, I am a little concerned that we did not receive any fruitcakes. Although I would not actually eat one, I do have hundreds of other uses for them. Some of the ingredients, like those little green and red rubber cherries, make great ammo for my wrist-rocket slingshot. Thank you for thinking of us!

Another HUGE Thank You!!

Several years ago our parish slipped behind in payments for employee health benefits. We needed the cash to pay salaries and maintain the parish. Over time the debt mushroomed into a \$120,000 millstone that was locked around our neck. This huge debt that we owed the Archdiocese prevented us from moving forward with any plans to build a school and it hurt our financial health.

Several months ago I announced that an "anonymous" parishioner stepped forward with a plan to relieve this debt and now that the transaction has taken place, I am at liberty to say that the "anonymous" parishioner is **Mr. Chuck Surdyke**. Chuck developed a plan in which he would agree to pay for half of the debt if the Archdiocese would pay for the other half. When he approached the Archdiocese, he was turned down at first. But last May, after the Confirmation ceremony for our 8th grade students, Archbishop Carlson pulled me aside and told me that the Archdiocese had reconsidered the proposal and if Mr. Surdyke was still willing, the Archdiocese would accept his plan.

I would like to thank Chuck Surdyke and his family for their generosity. The millstone around our necks has been shattered. We have been relieved of a huge debt and now all that remains is to nurse our budget back to health. We are very blessed by the large and small contributions that many of our parishioners make.

On behalf of the whole parish: THANK YOU CHUCK!!!!

fr. mike

**Young
at
Heart**

We will meet at Marty's Bistro (on High Ridge Blvd.) Monday, January 10, at 1pm for lunch. Hope everyone can join us.



OLQP School News

- Fr. Beighlie brought doughnuts for the 5th graders because they brought in the most money for "Pennies for the Poor". Way to go, 5th grade!
- In Science the 6th graders are studying the layers of the atmosphere and the 7th graders are studying monocots and dicots.
- The 8th graders are getting excited about their upcoming Pro Life Trip to Washington, DC.

BINGO!

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

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 10 -The People of God
- January 17 -Who is Jesus Christ
- January 24 -The Early Church



YOUTH MINISTRY

Affirmation is a Necessity of Life

In today's gospel reading we get to visualize the Trinity working together at Jesus' baptism. We see the power of touch as the Holy Spirit rests upon Jesus and the power of words as God the Father says, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased". This gives us a picture of perfect family life. The Trinity shows us the importance and empowerment of Holy affirmation.

Teens need encouragement even more than we do as adults. As parents we have many awesome opportunities to affirm our children when they are choosing goodness and truth. It is important not to affirm them for all choices but to make affirmations truthful and sincere. If teens don't get affirmation from their parents they will seek it out somewhere else and it might not be for doing the right thing. In a society with so many messages, good and bad, it is especially important for us as parents to give our children a loving pat on the back and words of sincere encouragement when they are on the right track. This not only empowers them to continue choosing goodness but also paves the way for the times we need to give them consequences for poor choices. Affirmation is a necessity of life so enjoy being the bearer of good news.

Wednesday Youth Nights

All high school youth are invited to have fun, share faith and enjoy popcorn every Wednesday evening from 6 to 8pm in the Bear's Den. If you attend we will definitely have more fun.

Steubenville Registration

If you would like to attend the Steubenville Conference on July 8-10, the down payment of a non-refundable \$30 is due by January 19th. Please drop it off at the Parish office or bring it to our Wednesday Youth Nights from 6-8pm.

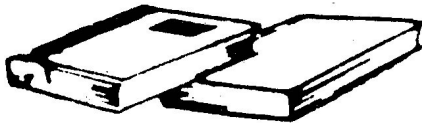
Terry Ostlund, Youth Minister
314-566-8363



Marriage Preparation Program Today and All the Days of Your Life

This program is for engaged couples that will fulfill the Archdiocese requirement for a marriage preparation program. The program will be offered starting February 13, 2011 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.



3rd Annual Used Book Sale April 1st, 2nd and 3rd We Want Your Books!

OLQP will be holding their annual Used Book Sale to raise money for the Church. We are looking for donations of books; kids, adults, cooking, history, etc. Your donations can be dropped off in the lobby of Church, the Parish office or contact Lisa, 274-6015.

Athletic Association News

We will be having baseball, softball & T-ball registration on Sunday, January 16th, after all the Masses. You can also get a registration form from our website www.olqpraiders.com. Remember to mark your calendar for the OLQP Athletic Association Trivia Night which will be held on April 16th at the Knights of Columbus Hall. More information available on the website.



Parish Corner

Every week a different organization is featured in the bulletin. The following week they have representatives in the Church lobby to talk about their organization and sign up potential members.

No Organization this week

Knights of Columbus Mouse Races Saturday, January 15 Dinner at 6pm Races start at 7pm Knights of Columbus Hall

St. Vincent De Paul We are Listening



St. Vincent de Paul exists to assist those in need. We can help those we know about. We hear of their need from people like you. Do you know of a parishioner in need of temporary assistance? Please call the Parish office, 671-3062, and leave a message on our voice mail.

Stephen Ministry

Consider letting a Stephen Minister help. A Stephen Minister is a parishioner who is trained to listen, care, encourage, pray and walk alongside you during difficult times. It's confidential, free and very helpful. To learn how you can receive care please call Margaret, 314-223-8751.



God bless you!

Flowers in Memory of:

Robert Dawson
 Henry & Lorayne Mills
 James & Catherine Zitto
 Viola Williams
 James & Ann Kleisle
 Helen Krieg
 Mom & Dad Reinig
 Mary McFarland
 Donald Hoffman
 To the glory of God for His many blessings!
 Jason Bolinger
 Deceased members of Daughters of Isabella
 Jeff Corley
 Estus & Rachel Whitworth
 Marvin & Yvonne Lutes
 Nicholas Roussin
 David Hirtz
 Deuser Family
 Brandt Family
 Philip & Corinne Forys
 Roy & Helen Williams
 Van Cleave Family
 Brouk Family
 Ernst & Virginia Hoskins
 Jim & Marie Copeland
 Bierman & Scherting Families
 Luczak & Turek Families
 Jim Hussey
 Dot Hussey
 August J. Eimer, Jr.
 Rose Valin
 Guiffrida Family
 Valin & Ferrara Family
 Jerry & Shirley Broyles
 Wm. Spear
 Albert & Mary Ellen Oberhaus
 Jasper/Kannawurf Family
 Bohle/Rankin Family
 Alice Nahlik
 Eddie Perez
 Gale Traiteur
 Leonard & Mary Bolte
 Alexandro Sanchez
 Dudley & Imelda Ruopp
 Jim & Norma Smith
 Bob Mottert
 Weber & Siebel-Spath Families
 Guethle & Goodin Families
 Bob Stubits
 Joan Wieschhaus
 Louise & Ralph Schultheiss, Sr.
 Bob & Barb Ellison

Jeanette Ellison
 Alvin & Betty Lechner
 Nicholas Holmes
 Horace Holmes
 Mike Sale
 Jim & LaVerne Connelly
 All Babies from abortion
 Mikko & Gebke families
 Francis Stewart
 Annabell Bowman
 Don O'Shea
 Margie Barnes
 Henricks & Grimwood Families
 Kay & Nick Pergola
 Ed Gardner & Eddy Jr.
 Les & Jenny Myers
 Grace Herberlie & Dale Bauman
 Maloney & Reeves Families
 Sister Rose Mary Politte
 Walter R. Politte
 Jerry Smith
 Jack & Dorothy O'Brien
 Eric & Nellie Broadbent
 Genevieve, John & Francis Boczek
 Melba & Charles Baker
 Jim Stephens
 Chuck Fisher
 Mary Schaefer
 Sam Jones
 Margie Mertsch
 Gary David
 Lisa Ann David
 Emil Kory
 Jessalee David
 Barney & Faye David
 Barbara Ford
 Roy & LaVerne Soer
 Halley & Bertha Soer
 Charles & Catherine Soer
 Vernon Diehl
 Brian & Steven Berry
 Heather Polley
 John G. Schneider Family
 Oma C. Smith Family
 John & Carrie Ganey
 Clarence & Aurelia Struckhoff
 Doc Dave Struckhoff
 Tadeusz Iglewski
 Zofie & Marian Piesmikowski
 Laura Beth Anderson
 Thomas Eagleton
 Theresa & Ray Dowling
 Jim & Mary Mace
 Chester Glakowski

Sylvia Keen
 John Harness, Sr.
 Gene O'Brien
 Vince & Hettie Vess
 Al & Agnes Leifeld
 Sherwood Family
 Betty Wippler
 Kelemen Family
 William Frede
 Florence & Frank Duquesne
 Tony Misbauer
 Lottie Lee
 Frank White
 Grace & Hurbert Warden
 Herbie Wulsch
 Don Larabelle
 Edward & Joyce Clayton
 Shirley Clayton
 Dorothy Clayton
 Art Ade, Sr.
 Irma & Roland Ecker
 Pat Ecker
 Butch Lane
 Floyd Callahan
 Mary Jean Russell

And God Said....

I said, "God I hurt".
 And God said, "I know".

I said, "God I cry a lot".
 And God said, "That is why I gave you tears".

I said, "God, I am so depressed".
 And God said, "That is why I gave you loved ones".

I said, "God my loved one died".
 And God said, "So did mine".

I said, "God it is such a loss".
 And God said, "I saw mine nailed to a cross".

I said, "God, but your loved one lives".
 And God said, "So does yours".

I said, "God where are they now?"
 And God said "Mine is on my right and yours is in the light".

I said, "God it hurts".
 And God said, "I know".

Thank You for Flowers

Thanks to all who participated in the Poinsettia Fundraiser for St. Vincent de Paul by buying flowers in memory of their loved ones to be used on the altar for Christmas. Our Church looks beautiful and you helped someone else's life with the total of over \$550 for SVDP to help those in need.

The Christmas decorations will be taken down this week. If you would like to take a poinsettia home, please feel free to do so starting Monday, January 10.

You're Invited
Hospitality Sunday

Please join us next Sunday, January 16, after Mass for donuts, coffee, juice, milk and fellowship in the Cafeteria hosted by RCIA. Stop in and get to know your parish family.

Blood pressure screening available after Mass in the Cafeteria meeting room.

Seven Days of Inspiration

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

A single wish or prayer
can set a miracle in motion.

This day will unfold in
beautiful and unexpected ways.

It's okay to "slack off"
now and then.

Perform a random act
of kindness for
yourself, too!

You are a treasure
beyond measure.

Your middle name
should be "Amazing"!

Restore your spirit and
someone's else's: Smile!

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, 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 _____

Please circle one:

New Registration

Address or phone number change

Moving out of parish

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our next Eucharistic Adoration is
Wednesday, January 26
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, 671-3062. Thank you so much.

Fr. Don's "Church History" Class begins Tuesday, January 11
We will meet in the Cafeteria meeting room from 7 to 8:30pm.

Winter Bible Study

Winter Bible Study group will begin in the Cafeteria meeting room at 7:00pm next Thursday, January 13th. The session will meet for 10 weeks and the topic will be the Gospel of Matthew. If anyone is interested, call the Parish office or e-mail me at frbeighlie@olqpparish.org so that we know the number of copies to print.



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

Adam Kirsh, uncle of Mike Groppe

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

SUNDAY OFFERING

Our Gifts to God and Parish Last Week
224 Envelopes Used

Special Collections

Seminary	\$	15.00
St. Louis Review	\$	69.00

New Building Fund

Lavender Envelopes	\$	829.00
Total Received to date	\$	682,889.39

Offertory

Sunday Envelopes	\$	17,392.00
Sunday Loose	\$	726.82
Above and Beyond	\$	25.00
Christmas	\$	80.00
First Offering	\$	617.00
Present and Future	\$	410.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$	381.00
Total Offertory	\$	19,631.82
Offertory Goal	\$	13,699.00

Thank you for your generosity.

As of January 3, 2011

Contributions Year To Date	\$	331,151.89
Projected Year to Date Budget	\$	369,873.00

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

STEWARDSHIP

January 9, 2011
Baptism of the Lord

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him."

Acts 10:34-35

St. Peter reminds us that from the very beginnings of the Catholic Church everyone was invited to participate. We cannot be an "us" and "them" Church. By our common Baptism, we are all united with Jesus in carrying out His work here on earth. God shows no partiality but He does expect all to be active in living and building up the faith.

Parish Activities

Mon	Jan 10	PSR, 6:15-7:30pm RCIA, 7pm, Cafeteria meeting room Rosary for Peace, 7:30pm, Church
Tues	Jan 11	Devotions after 8am Mass Quilters, 9am - 3pm, 6 - 8:30pm, Activity Center Parish Council, 7pm, Rectory Church History Class, 7pm, Cafeteria meeting room
Wed	Jan 12	Youth Night, 6-8pm, Bear's Den
Thurs	Jan 13	Choir Practice, 7pm, Church Bible Study, 7pm, Cafeteria meeting room
Sat	Jan 15	Knights of Columbus Mouse Races, 6pm, Knights Hall Blood Pressure Screening after Mass, Cafeteria meeting room
Sun	Jan 16	Blood Pressure Screening after Masses, Cafeteria meeting room Hospitality Sunday

Mass Intentions

Mon	Jan 10	8:00am	Jerry Smith
Tues	Jan 11	8:00am	Warren & Bernice Dierks
Wed	Jan 12	8:00am	Lou Duchinsky
Thurs	Jan 13	8:00am	Raymond Plese
Fri	Jan 14	8:00am	Herbert Wulsch
Sat	Jan 15	5:00pm	Deceased Members of Lohbeck Family
Sun	Jan 16	7:30am	Dale Robinson
		9:30am	People of the Parish
		11:30am	Joyce Clayton

**January 15th and 16th
Special Ministers of the Eucharist**

5:00 pm	Larry & Margaret Bottchen, *Shirley Tenny Ralph & Sandy Munzlinger, Katie Tutass, * Maryanne Turek
7:30 am	Gerald Bachman, Mary Bjornstad, R. Ortmann, *Andrea Lawson, *Marie Strayhorn, Michael & Joyce Ruopp
9:30 am	*Tom Broadbent, Fran Corley, *Joanne David, Lee Hoffman, Sharon Reineri, R. Rousseau, Jo Ann Vess, Maria Webb
11:30 am	Sandee Burkemper, *Tom Ecker, L. Reinhardt, Dan & Kim Horn, *Paul McDonnell, C. Stubits

* You are responsible to clean the vessels after Mass

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

Jackie Nappier	Andy Nappier
Germaine Schroeder	Jim Vess
Jean Duda	Sam Pierceall
Vince Ferrara	Dottie Buchheit
Jo Ann Vess	Jean Duda

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	Barb & Joe Nenninger
7:30 am	Terry Soer, Linda Weber
9:30 am	Dale Andrews, Ann Riley
11:30 am	Christine Camden, John Holmes

Servers

5:00 pm	Kali & Mark Chafin, Rose Haug
7:30 am	Jordan Duff, Ann & Jane Kenney
9:30 am	Kaitlyn Bridges, Brittany Gray, Molly Kovarik
11:30 am	Kiersten Hahn, Dylan Robb, Paige Smith

Ushers

5:00 pm	Bill & Donna Clifton, Ken Ganey, Arnie Lohbeck, Jerry Sheets, Ron Williams
7:30 am	Doug Bjornstad, Carl Boyer, Robert De Long, Jeff Eschbach, Larry Lammert, John Nahlik
9:30 am	Cal & George Flynn, Steve Freihaut, Tom Mattingly, L. Whitworth, Lloyd Young
11:30 am	Don Brooks, Gary Freihaut, Kevin Huss, Paula Schroeder, Ben Slodkowski, David Witt

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
Inserts - Monday at noon



January 14
Cathy Morlock,
Debbie Stephens,
Chyree de Roode
and Joyce Stenger

**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 servant hood, 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 people 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?

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