

Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

www.olqpparish.org

November 10, 2013



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 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), 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

2013

November

- Wed 13 **Personal Finance Seminar**
- Wed 20 **Personal Finance Seminar**
- Thur 28 **Thanksgiving**

December

- Mon 2 **OLQP Blood Drive**
- Sat 7 **Advent Retreat**
- Sun 8 **K of C Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale**
- Mon 9 **Immaculate Conception**
- Sat 21 **Parish All Day Confessions**
- Wed 25 **Christmas**

2014

January

- Sat 11 **Knights of Columbus Mouse Races**

February

- Sat 22 **Daughters of Isabella Antique Tea**

March

- Sun 16 **Red Hat BINGO, KC Hall**

April

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

May

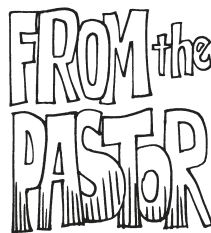
- Sun 4 **First Communion**
- Wed 7 **Confirmation**

June

- Sat 14 **OLQP Picnic**

August

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



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Ready For Advent? Grab Your Reading Glasses!

It's hard to believe, but the season of Advent begins in three weeks. Have you thought about how you are going to prepare yourself for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Every year the parish offers opportunities to grow spiritually, with retreats, adoration, Masses, confession...etc. and this year will be no different. But in order to involve more parishioners in the effort to grow in faith and prepare as Catholics for Christmas, I would like to try something different.

This year I would like for us as a parish to read a book together during Advent. The book is called: "The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic" by Matthew Kelly. He is very easy to read and he presents our Catholic faith in a fresh, creative and exciting way. The books will be distributed to the whole parish as a free gift (one per family) within the next two weeks. We will be able to distribute 500 books thanks to a donation from a very generous parishioner. After you receive your book, begin to prayerfully read it during the four weeks of Advent. The point of this effort is not just to read the book, but to begin to put into practice the "four signs" that Matthew Kelly claims will change our lives. I hope to comment on the book in my Pastor's Column each Sunday until Christmas. Left over copies will be given out as a gift after the Christmas Masses to our brothers and sisters who make a rare appearance at Christmas and Easter. (The snow bunnies and easter bunnies.) My hope and prayer is that Christmas will find each one of us more alive in faith, more prepared to celebrate the birth of our savior and more able to live life with JOY!

Bishop Rice is Coming to OLQP

Next Sunday, November 17, Bishop Rice will come to Our Lady Queen of Peace parish to celebrate a 5:00pm Sunday Mass for our families and youth. Everyone is invited. We will have a dinner afterwards. Those whose last names begin with A-M are asked to bring dessert and N-Z are asked to bring a salad. Hope to see you all there.

~ fr. mike

Parish Activities ~ November 11 - 17

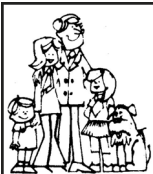
Mon	Nov 11	Catholicism Series, 9:00 - 10:30 am, Cafeteria PSR, 6:15 - 7:30 pm Catholicism Series, 6:30 - 8:00 pm, Cafeteria RCIA, 7:00 pm, Parish Office
Tues	Nov 12	Perpetual Devotions after 8:00 am Mass Quilters, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, 6:00 - 8:30 pm Parish Council, 6:30 pm, Rectory
Wed	Nov 13	Personal Finance Seminar, 7:00 pm, Cafeteria
Thur	Nov 14	Choir Practice, 7:00 pm, Church Home and School meeting, 7:00 pm, Cafeteria Child Care for Home & School meeting, Cafeteria meeting room
Sat	Nov 16	Grief Support, 9:30 - 11:30 am, Cafeteria meeting room
Sun	Nov 17	Hospitality Sunday

**Big Ticket Raffle Returns!!!!
Only 57 tickets Left to Sell**

It's back! The Big Ticket Raffle has returned and tickets are still available to purchase. Buy your ticket now before Christmas shopping starts, or better yet, include one to a favorite family member for a Christmas present!

All money raised over the expenses of the raffle and dinner will be used to help balance our budget.

Tickets are available after weekend Masses or in the Parish Office, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm. Any question please call the Parish Office, 636-671-3062.



New Members

Welcome New Members

Curtis Zuellig and Tamara Huntington
Cedar Hill, MO

No October Baptisms

**October Weddings
Congratulations**

Luke and Christine (Havey) Mraz
OLQP ~ October 26, 2013

Youth Council News

**Bishop Rice Family Mass
Sunday, November 17th, at 5:00 pm**

All youth of the parish and their families are invited to a Mass with Bishop Rice on Sunday, November 17th, at 5:00 pm followed by dinner. Last names beginning with A through M are asked to bring dessert and N through Z please bring a salad to share. There will be a donation basket at the dinner to cover the cost of the main course. This is an awesome opportunity to celebrate with Bishop Rice the gift of the Eucharist and the gift of our youth and their families. Please RSVP the number of people coming from your family by emailing terry.ostlund@olqpparish.org.

**High School Camp Trinity Retreat
"Seek the Light"
December 7th and 8th**

All high school youth are invited to join us for a retreat at Camp Trinity in beautiful New Haven, Saturday, December 7th through Sunday, December 8th. We will meet at OLQP at 8:30 am on Saturday morning to load up and car pool to New Haven, MO which is about an hour from here. We will return refreshed physically and spiritually on Sunday around Noon. If you would like to attend please email Terry Ostlund, terry.ostlund@olqpparish.org so a permission slip can be emailed to you. The cost of this retreat is \$40.

**Junior High Youth Group
"St. Louis Super Saints"
Pie Baking Fun Night 6:00 - 9:00pm
Saturday, November 23rd**

The 7th and 8th grade youth are invited to join us in the Cafeteria after 5:00 pm Mass for pie baking and fun. Please bring \$4 and a snack to share with the group. The money collected will help buy the pie baking supplies. Deacon Paul will teach us how to make pies that will be donated to the elderly at St. Vincent de Paul Church in St. Louis.



On Monday, November 11, we will enjoy our Chili Luncheon at the Knights of Columbus Hall at Noon. Hope to see everyone there.

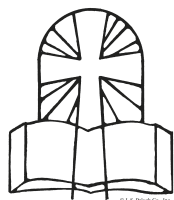
**Early Bulletin
Deadline**

The December 1st bulletin deadline is Wednesday, November 20th. Thank you so much for planning ahead so the bulletin can be sent in time for the deadline.

Bless you,
Linda

Proclaimers 2014 Workbooks

The 2014 Workbook for Lectors is available in the Church lobby. All Proclaimers are welcome and encouraged to take one of the books to help you prepare for your ministry. If you are able to contribute \$12.00 to help defray the cost of the book you can drop your contribution in the Sunday collection in an envelope marked "Proclaimer Workbook". Please do not let the contribution keep you from taking one of the books.



Called to Serve on the Parish Council?

Parish Council nominations are now being reviewed for January appointments. If you have not already done so, please discuss your interest or recommendation with any of the current Parish Council members. Nominations must be made this month to allow time for review.

Advent Day of Recollection Saturday, December 7th 8:00 am to Noon

The Day of Recollection will begin with the 8:00 am Mass, then we start our journey thru Advent between the Now and Not Yet. The focus will be on the Sunday Readings in Advent and will end with the seven Advent Stations, which takes us on a tour of the Old Testament. There is no cost for the Day of Recollection. A sign up sheet is available in the Church lobby or call Jan at the Parish Office, 636-671-3062.

Catholicism Series

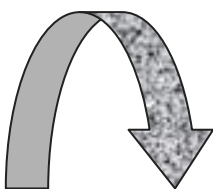
The Journey of a Lifetime

The first 5 episodes of the 10 part series is being presented now. There are 2 showings in the Cafeteria (9:00 - 10:30 am and 6:30 - 8:00 pm).

Topics :

- Nov. 11 - The Ineffable Mystery of God: Which Nothing Greater can be Thought
- Nov. 18 - Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast: Mary, the Mother of God
- Nov. 25 - The Indispensable Men: Peter, Paul and the Missionary Adventure

All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



The Scrip Program Back!!

As announced last Sunday, we are continuing the Scrip program. As of right now we will be taking orders after every Mass and the gift cards will be available the following Sunday. With Christmas coming start your planning now. If you have any questions please call Tom, 636-671-8874.

Thank you,
Tom Ecker

Pro Life Breakfast Sunday, November 24th Serving After 7:30 and 9:30 am Mass

Enjoy breakfast while helping the youth raise money for the Pro-Life Trip to Washington D.C. in January 2014.

Thank You

Thank you for the rosaries, prayers and candles. Clifford is doing much better.

Wendt Family

Many Thanks

I want to thank all for your care, concern and prayers for my sister, Peggy Bauer. She is doing very well.

Katie Tutass

Cold or Flu?

Symptoms

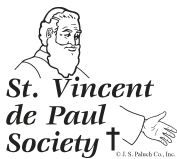
Fever
Aches
Chills
Tiredness
Sudden Symptoms
Coughing
Sneezing
Stuffy nose

Cold

Rare
Slight
Uncommon
Mild
Appear gradually
Hacking, productive cough
Common
Common

Flu

Usually Present
Often severe
Common
Moderate to severe
Can appear within 3-6 hours
Dry, unproductive cough
Uncommon
Uncommon



St. Vincent De Paul

Our works are not so much what we do, but rather what we are. Our works are not something we do for God, nor even with God. Our works are something we allow God to do in us.

Phone or Address Changes

If you have a phone number or address change please call the Parish Office, 636-671-3062, or email, parishoffice@olqpparish.org. We are always striving to keep our membership information accurate.

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

We would like to thank
Sovereign Arms

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.

Home and School Sponsors
OLQP Blues Night Fundraiser
December 12
Scottrade Center

The game is against the Toronto Maple Leafs. Tickets are \$20 per person (please make checks payable to OLQP). \$5.00 of every ticket goes to OLQP. Deadline to buy tickets is November 18th. Tickets are available at the school office or from the students. You will also have an opportunity to purchase tickets after all Masses on the weekends of November 9th and 10th; 16th and 17th. Let's show our parish and school spirit!

For more information; please contact the School Office, 636-671-0247, or Rita Rixford, 314-698-6287.

Congratulations to our Newly Trained Servers From School

- Billy Block
- Angelina Fiorino
- Alyssa Jones
- Marie Kenney
- Peter Kenney
- Maddy Lay
- Sophia Leahy
- Josie Looney
- Mady Mikko
- Connor Otzenberger
- Lexi Poulsen
- Maddy Schwantner
- Becca Sudholt
- Julia Woolsey
- Joseph Woolsey

Look for the list of our newly Trained Servers from PSR that will be coming shortly.

Special Offer for a Limited Time Only Another Lighthouse CDs Exchange

Any CDs you have listened to and haven't passed along to a friend or family member, or if you have any CDs you no longer want and would like to listen to one of the other previous ones we have had for sale; here is your chance to listen to more for less. For the next few weeks we will have a basket on the CDs table. You can drop off any extra CDs you may have and select another for just a \$1 donation each. The donations will help us defer the cost of shipping, which has put us slightly in the hole with this project. You will also have an opportunity to give us feedback on any of the talks you have heard thus far. We will continue with new selections after this sale. Thank you for supporting this excellent means of evangelization.

IL Ritiro Franciscan Retreat November 23 9:00 am - 4:00 pm 4:00 Mass (optional) Sabbath Day

Come spend a "Sabbath Day" in the quiet of nature, listen to the Holy Spirit, spend time with the Blessed Sacrament in chapel.

Registration is \$35 (\$60 for two people); lunch is included. For reservations call IL Ritiro, 636-274-0554 or email il.ritiro@gmail.com.

IL Ritiro Franciscan Retreat Days of Quiet and Prayer 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Be refreshed by a day of solitude and prayer. Come join us. This time together will begin and end with a Gospel Story.

The scheduled dates are: November 17, 2013; January 19, 2014; March 9, 2014; April 6, 2014; June 8, 2014.

Registration is \$15 (2 for \$25) and is non-refundable. Attend 4 and the 5th is free. Refreshments are provided. To register please call 636-274-0554 or email il.ritiro@gmail.com. Visit our webpage, www.il-ritiro.org for more information about IL Ritiro.

Free Personal Finance Seminars November 13 and November 20

Are you struggling with:

Developing a realistic household budget?

Ways to reduce debt and save money?

Options for insurance?

How to protect your identity from cyber-thieves?

If so, your prayers have been answered! The

Archdiocesan Stewardship office is sponsoring personal finance seminars presented by Fifth Third Bank. Learn how to make better financial decisions and become better stewards of all your financial resources.

The seminars are free and will be held at Our Lady Queen of Peace in the Cafeteria on November 13th and November 20th from 7:00 - 8:15 pm. The November 13th seminar will cover household budgeting and reducing debt and saving money. The November 20th seminar will cover insurance planning and identity protection.

Please call the Parish Office, 636-671-3062 or e-mail parishoffice@olqpparish.org to reserve your spot!

Kenrick-Glennon Advent Novena

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary will be hosting an Advent Novena in the Chapel of St. Joseph in the evenings from December 4th through December 12th. We invite you to join our seminarians for nine evenings of prayer and music as we prepare our hearts and minds for the joy and splendor of Christmas.

For more information, please visit:

www.kenrick.edu/novena.

St. Ignatius Loyola Church
(Marthasville) Handicap accessible

It's Turkey Time Again!!

Annual Thanksgiving Day Festivities
Thursday, November 28th

This event is our major fundraiser of the year. We are a small rural parish and we rely greatly on this day of hospitality. Parishioners give of their time and energy to host a truly good family style Thanksgiving dinner for you.

Dinner is served from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. It is a sit down all you can eat meal. Price for adults \$12 (Seniors 62+ is \$10); Children 6 - 12 \$5; age 5 and under are free.

<http://www.saintig.com> will give you a map location.

Catholic Men's Zechariah
Prayer Breakfast

You are invited to a Prayer Breakfast Saturday, November 16, from 8:30 am (registration) until noon at Cardinal Rigali Center, 20 Archbishop May Dr., 63119. Please call 314-427-7786 to reserve a place by Tuesday, November 12. Price is \$15 and the guest speaker is Fr. Joseph Post who was ordained in 2007 and is currently the Priest secretary and MC to Archbishop Carlson. The next prayer Breakfast is March 29, 2014.

Marriage Encounter

How would you like to spend a weekend away with your spouse before the holidays - just the two of you? Take the time to attend the Marriage Encounter weekend on December 6th - 8th just for your relationship. To apply for this weekend simply call 314-469-7317 or apply online at www.stl-wwme.org.

White House Jesuit Retreat

White House Jesuit Retreat would like to invite all of the Women of the parish to join us for a retreat in 2014. Our silent-preached retreats are based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and take place on our beautiful 80-acre campus in South St. Louis County. The dates for our 2014 Women's Retreats are: April 7 - 10, May 5 - 8, May 22 - 25, July 17 - 20, September 8 - 11, October 6 - 9, October 20 - 23, November 13 - 16 and November 17 - 20.

To register or for more information please call 314-416-6400 or visit <http://www.whretreat.org/>.

Seven Days of Inspiration

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

Day 1

Today, replace "I can't"
with "I will" and go for it!

Day 2

No one expects you
to be perfect. They're
happy you're you!

Day 3

Every accomplishment
starts with the
decision to try.

Day 4

Sometimes, someone says
something so small but it
just fits the empty
space in your heart.

Day 5

A good laugh fills
you with sunshine!

Day 6

It is all right not to
have all the answers!

Day 7

Sin is never the answer.

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)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our next Eucharistic Adoration is
 Wednesday, November 27th,
 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.

Archdiocese for the Military Services

Today we support our family and friends who have served this nation with distinction. The Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services will provide the Gospel, the sacraments and other forms of spiritual support to the men and women of the United States Armed Forces wherever they serve, no matter the circumstances. Please prayerfully consider a generous contribution to the first ever national Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services.

Retirement for Religious

Religious give thanks. "Thank you for accompanying us as we care for our elder sisters," writes a religious superior. Your gift to last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps support nearly 34,000 sisters, brothers and religious order priests past age 70. May God bless you abundantly for your goodness."

Prayer of Thanksgiving
 Bless the food before us,
 the family and friends around us,
 and the love between us.
 Amen

Our Gifts to God and Parish

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

Special Collections

Old Cathedral Restoration	\$	252.00
Retired Religious	\$	858.00
World Mission Sunday	\$	5.00

New Building Fund to date \$ **762,814.07**

Offertory

Sunday envelopes	\$	11,792.92
Sunday loose	\$	607.00
Above and Beyond	\$	20.00
All Saints	\$	181.00
All Souls	\$	630.00
Parish Enrichment	\$	586.00
Total Offertory	\$	13,816.92
Offertory Goal	\$	13,200.00

As of November 4, 2013

Contributions Year to Date	\$	226,297.48
Projected Year to Date Budget	\$	237,600.00

"Persons thankful for little things are certain to be ones with much to be thankful for."

Frank Clark

Stewardship

Start With Prayer

"May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through His grace, encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word."

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

God wants us to know the joy of giving. Yet, being generous takes strength, trust and grace. That's why St. Paul reminds us to turn to God every day for encouragement and guidance on our stewardship journey.

Please pray for those who are ill

(parishioners are in bold)

Audrey Hastings	Paul McDonnell
Ray Wieschhaus	Alice Aubuchon
Leonard Hirtz	Greg Hirtz
Ellen O'Brien	Wally Freihaut
Danielle Enghauser	Anna Ade
Jackie Nappier	Andy Nappier
Robert Brand	Maria Webb

Pat Promnitz, friend of Kathy Pawlak
 Carol Swanson, mother of Scott Reimer
 Peg Tichecek, friend of Katie Tutass
 Natalie Cline, granddaughter of Carol Delue
 Gabbie Glaser and father, friend of Isabella Rixford
 Vernon Brinker, brother of Bob Brinker
 Allen Chott, nephew of Judy Motttert
 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, 636-671-3062. Names will be removed after 3 weeks.

Mass Intentions

Mon	Nov 11	8:00 am	Ed Krshul
Tues	Nov 12	8:00 am	Roland Ecker
Wed	Nov 13	8:00 am	Intentions of Krshul Family
Thurs	Nov 14	8:00 am	Ed Krshul
Fri	Nov 15	8:00 am	Tom Finder
Sat	Nov 16	5:00 pm	Jim and Dot Hussey
Sun	Nov 17	7:30 am	People of the Parish
		9:30 am	James Paul
		11:30 am	Clayton Family Intentions

November 16th and 17th

Special Ministers of the Eucharist

5:00 pm	Barb Nenninger, Joe Nenninger, Katie Tutass, Dale Ottomeyer, Peggy Mikko
7:30 am	Tom Broadbent, Don Moeller, Sue Syers, Cathy Carley, Joyce Stenger
9:30 am	Dale Andrews, Carol Delue, Bruce Gallion, Vicki De Long, Jan Schultheiss, 1 needed
11:30 am	Michelle Mose, Tom Ecker, Angie Ecker, Paul McDonnell, Joan Ross

Proclaimers

5:00 pm	Barb Nenninger, Joe Nenninger
7:30 am	Dave Mills, Terry Soer
9:30 am	Vicki De Long, Patricia Larsen
11:30 am	Laura Huss, David Holmes

Servers

5:00 pm	Jack Groppe, Madison Gross, Michael Reiter
7:30 am	Billy Block, Zach Morlock, Tabetha Otzenberger
9:30 am	Gabby Anderson, Hayden Conley, Alec Poulsen
11:30 am	Jeremiah Pigue, Anna Reno, Gracie Scanga

Ushers

5:00 pm	Darleen Allmeroth, R. Munzlinger, Don Brooks, Ken Ganey, Ben Slodkowski, Bill Clifton
7:30 am	Tim Webb, Jerry Terry, Butch Mattingly, Doug Bjornstad, Jeff Eschbach, 1 needed
9:30 am	Tom Mattingly, Sam Pierceall, Jeff Queen, Ralph Schultheiss, Tom Broadbent, Tim Diffey
11:30 am	Kevin Huss, Paul McDonnell, Mary Buckley, Cristina Duncan, Jennifer Younkings, G. Freihaut



*Please pray for the repose of the soul
 Mary Jane Konrad, mother of Maria Webb*



November 15
 Diane Yocom,
 Susan Whitworth,
 Joanne David,
 Joan Thompkins
 and Helen Stewart

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C



THEME: By your endurance you will gain your souls. We approach the end of the Church year, the end of our time. The readings focus on the end, on the judgment of all peoples, a judgment based on how we have lived our time, what we have made of our time to give back to our God. In another two weeks we begin again the season of Advent, the time of longing for the presence of Christ in the world around us. We will begin again our journey through the mysteries of what Jesus Christ accomplished for us and we will move again into another year of our time. At the end of this season we are asked to consider our time and how we have used it. We are called to endurance, to persistence in living our faith. We are called to hope, hope in the peaceful coming of God's kingdom.

THE READINGS:

FIRST READING: Malachi 4:1-2

The first reading is taken from the Prophet Malachi. In historical terms, the focus of Malachi is on restoration, the rebuilding of the people of God after the Babylonian Exile. The image of rebuilding is hopeful. Malachi refers to judgment, a fiery judgment on the nations, an overcoming of evil, or all that stands against God's will for His creation. But that judgment is accomplished. It is time, now, for renewal, for rebuilding, for a new endurance and persistence in living God's will. This new life is a source of joy. Joy, that is God's will for us, a joy born of right living and commitment.

SECOND READING: II Thessalonians 3:7-12

The second reading comes from the Second Letter to the Thessalonians. The context out of which the letter arose was a situation of persecution. The false Paulinists saw in the suffering of the present the beginning of the end, the ushering in of God's final victory and the return of Christ. Against this view, the letter praises the constancy of those standing up to persecution and suffering as a way of living in the world and sharing in the mission of Christ. The letter denounces the apocalypticists who were ready to sit back and let God do His thing, as it were, and upholds those who continue to build up the community and interact with the world, carrying the message to others, even when they meet with hardship.

Today, II Thessalonians speaks to those who are content to leave all in God's hands and absolve themselves of any responsibility for their fellow travelers in this world that we share. It encourages us to constancy and perseverance, even in the face of hardship and rejection. In the lives we share as members of the community of believers, we have a role to play and we are responsible for how we play it.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 21:5-19

The Gospel reading from Luke has as its context the final teaching of Jesus in Jerusalem before His saving death and resurrection. In this context, some of Jesus' companions point out the splendor of the Jerusalem Temple. Jesus responds with apocalyptic imagery, imagery that looks to the complete overthrowing of the present order to establish something new – a time of peace and justice, a time of God's Kingdom.

Apocalyptic writing was common in the ancient world to give hope to people living in hopeless conditions. HOPE was the focus. God will act to change the present world order to conform to His will for right and good, justice and peace. What was new and different in New Testament apocalyptic writing was that the decisive event that would change everything was considered to be already accomplished in the cross of Jesus Christ. The world of evil has been overcome already and now, by persistence and endurance we build that kingdom of justice and peace. For Luke, this is the major characteristic of the lives of believers, the characteristic trait of living in our time. "By endurance you will gain your souls."

Many people want to calculate the coming of the end of time and see God's coming rule in violent images. Yet, from a biblical point of view, the final establishment of God's rule is viewed with hope. We look not for a violent overthrowing of what is, but of a peaceful building of what can be. The final establishment of God's kingdom comes not with violence but with peace. When we have built a world of peace, and only then, God will be ready to come and claim dominion, will come to finally establish His kingdom as He always intended it to be.

FOR REFLECTION:

- How have I lived my time this past year? With joy? With hope? With fear? With disappointment and discouragement? Have I made something worthwhile to give back to God?
- Where in my life do I need to be persistent and enduring? Do I find this difficult?
- At what points in my life have I experienced rebuilding? Was God's hand directing this rebuilding? Am I better now than before?
- What is my responsibility to my fellow travelers? Do I accept my responsibility? Why is persistence and endurance so important in building our community of believers?
- What gives me hope? What do I hope for in my life? In my world? Do I see the end as a violent and fearful judgment or as the culmination of the Christian community's efforts to build God's kingdom of peace?

