

Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

www.olqpparish.org

February 13, 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

Calendar of Events

Upcoming OLQP Parish Events

2011

February

- 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



Pastor's Desk

OLQP 50th Anniversary

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Back in 1961, two parishes, St. Philomena in House Springs and St. Columbkille at Byrnesville were merged together to form what is now Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish. The new Church was dedicated by **Cardinal Ritter on July 20, 1961.**

We are planning to celebrate throughout the year with special events and gatherings. A 50th anniversary committee has been organized by the Parish Council and will soon begin to gather ideas and plan our celebration. The committee is headed by Denise

Ortmann & Joanne David. If you would like to help with the planning or have ideas for celebrating the anniversary, contact Denise Ortmann at OLQP50th@olqpparish.org or call 636-671-0454.

We are already planning to make this year's **Parish Picnic on Saturday June 11th** one of the major events of our festivities with as much involvement from parishioners as possible. We are also going to extend an invitation to **Archbishop Carlson** to celebrate a special Mass for us followed by a dinner and/or dance later in the year. There will be more information to come. **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY my fellow OLQPeyans!!**

PARISH MISSION

The Parish Mission will begin next week and I would like to encourage all of our parishioners to participate as much as possible. Not only will this Mission help us to get ready for Lent, but it will also be the "spiritual" kickoff event for the celebration of our anniversary to help us get focused and set a new direction for the next 50 years.

PARISH PICNIC

The Picnic Committee has been hard at work getting organized and planning for this year's special 50th ANNIVERSARY PICNIC CELEBRATION. The Picnic Chairperson is **Todd Anderson**; Co-Chair is **Deacon Paul Turek** with **Jan Schultheiss** handling administrative details. Todd will have four co-captains helping him organize the picnic: **Rene Heibeck** (Marketing Chair), **Jim Bufka** (Operations Chair), **Tammy Groppe** (Games Chair), and **Tom Lakin** (Food/Beverage Chair). More on this later.

PARISH SURVEY

The Parish Council will be taking a parish survey in order to give parishioners an opportunity to communicate their perceptions of our parish (negative and positive). The results will be used by the Parish Council to identify problems and set goals. Hard copies of the survey will be available at Church or in the Parish office. An on-line survey is also available by going to the home page of the parish website and following the link. (While you're there, sign up for the Parish email list if you haven't done so already.) We are looking for honest input, but this is not the place to "vent". If you need to vent about anything please make an appointment with Fr. Mike ...or uhhh better yet...Fr. Beighlie!

-fr. mike



OLQP School News

- All who have been praying for snow can stop now. Can you believe we missed almost all of Catholic Schools' Week? We are glad to be back in school.
- We are in the process of re-scheduling Catholic Schools' Week Activities that were missed due to the weather. Check out our website for updates.
- The students are only about \$384.00 away from their recycling and labels collection goal. Please drop off labels, printer cartridges, and cell phones in the container in the back of church or at the school office. Thanks for helping us recycle and earn funds for our school.

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

**Young
at
Heart**

We will enjoy lunch at O'Charley's (in Fenton on the Bluffs) Monday, February 14, at 1pm. Hope to see everyone there.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Family Miracle Moments

In today's gospel we are reminded of the importance of following God's laws of love. In our fast paced American culture following God's law as a family often times becomes "if I have time to squeeze it into my schedule" type of priority. When you put God first in your family your life will be filled with many miracle moments.

What is your definition of a "Family miracle moment"? My personal definition of family miracle moments are when we, as a family, agree to live a lifestyle that cooperates with God's laws of love which allows us to swim in His grace. Whenever we invite Jesus into the heart of our family miracles will happen. As a parent of five children, three that are now adults and two teens, some of our experiences of miracle moments in family life were when we took time to support each other in tough times, celebrate with each other in good times and of course the birth of each of our children. Two years ago I got to add to my large collection of miracle moments with the marriage of my two oldest children and two weeks ago we were blessed with our very first grandchild.

Wow, family life is filled with so many miracle moments but I think the greatest miracle is when we slow down enough to soak up the jammed packed week of blessings that God dishes up for us and we choose to live God's laws along with remembering to thank Him for His blessings as we attend Mass together on Saturday evening or Sunday. Enjoy the many miracle moments of family life with a thankful heart as you soak up God's many blessings, accept His grace and follow the laws of His kingdom for you and your family.

Warm Up Your Winter Wednesdays

If you are in High School and are getting tired of the cold weather and want to warm up your Wednesday evenings with fun, faith building and friendship, join us in the Bear's Den from 6-8pm. Look for the building next to the patio on the edge of the playground. We meet in the lower level.

Terry Ostlund, Youth Minister
314-566-8363

Homemade Items for Picnic

Got cabin fever? Bored with the snow and cold winter weather? Think SPRING. Why not consider using this time to make a few items for the Parish Picnic Craft Booth.

Our Picnic is only four months away. We have many talented people in our parish. We are looking for all types of homemade items: sewing, crochet, knitting, embroidery, jewelry, woodworking, etc.

Our parish will be celebrating its' 50th Anniversary this year. You might consider this as your theme. We need your help. Let's make this a grand celebration.

Any questions please call Mary Anne 636-274-1838. Thank you in advance.

Tuition Assistance

Application Deadline April 1

Any Catholic family wishing to apply for tuition assistance, from the parish or the Archdiocese for the 2011-2012 school year must obtain a "FACTS" application from the Parish Office.

Students must attend an Archdiocesan or Parochial Elementary School or and Archdiocesan or Parochial High School to be eligible. The due date for the application is April 1, 2011 and must include a copy of your 2010 Income Tax Return.

Grants for the 2011-2012 school year are made possible through the generosity of the Returning God's Gift Campaign and the Annual Catholic Appeal. The Catholic Education Office appreciates the support of the ACA and all of its donors.

St. Vincent De Paul



The work of St. Vincent de Paul is the Gospel message in action. I was hungry, I was thirsty, I was a stranger, I was naked, I was sick, I was in prison. And you cared.



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.

*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.

Revised Upcoming Sessions:

- February 14 - Review of the Sacraments
Our Prayer Life
- February 21- No RCIA - Parish Mission
- February 28 - Christian Moral Living
- March 7 - The Consistency of Life Ethics
The Dignity of Life
- March 14 - What is Lent

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. All calls and sessions are confidential.



God bless you!

**Daughters of Isabella
Antique Appraisal, Sale, and Tea
Saturday, February 26, 11am - 2pm
Our Lady Queen of Peace Cafeteria**

Appraisals conducted by Joan Komlos of "Joan and David Estate Sales." Cost will be \$10 for 3 items (with reservations) or \$12 at the door. This includes light refreshments and tea. Appraisals reflect the insurance value only.

There will be a table available (if you wish to sell your appraised Antique items) a 10% fee of sale will be assessed.

For information, please contact Fran, 375-3774 or Nancy 274-1981.



**Lay Eucharistic Conference
"Let Us Meet Jesus in Adoration"
Saturday, March 19, 9am-2pm**

The Lay Eucharistic Conference sponsored by Archbishop's Committee for Eucharistic Adoration is at St. Raymond, 931 Lebanon. Registration begins at 8am.

Presenters: Archbishop Robert J. Carlson and Reverend Kristian Teater, Spiritual Theology - Kenrick Glennon Seminary.

Registration fee is \$25 per person (this includes conference, lunch and refreshments). Fee must be received by Friday, March 11. Send name, address, telephone and email address, along with a check made payable to: Archbishop's Committee for Eucharistic Adoration, 6603 Christopher Drive, St Louis MO 63129.

Interpretation for the deaf and hearing impaired. For more information contact Mary or Rose, 314-846-8207 ext. 200.

**Knights Recruitment Drive
February 12th and 13th**

The Knights of Columbus will be conducting The Bishops Blast Recruitment Drive after Masses on February 12th and 13th. There will be Knights in the Church lobby handing out Knights literature and they will be happy to answer any questions that anyone might have about the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Men's Organization that does charitable work in the community and also helps their Parish.

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

Our Lady Queen of Peace will be holding their annual used Book Fair 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 Church lobby or the Parish office.

**Permanent Diaconate
Information Night**

On Tuesday **March 1st** and on Thursday **March 10th**, the Office of the Permanent Diaconate will be holding an informational meeting for men who are interested in exploring the possibility of a vocation in Permanent Diaconate. Interested men are invited to attend one of the sessions which will be held in the Auditorium at the Cardinal Rigali Center starting at 7pm. Wives of interested men are strongly encouraged to attend. For more information or to reserve a spot at the meeting, please contact the Office of the Permanent Diaconate at 314-792-7431.

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

Many Thanks

A big thank you to the OLQP family for the prayers during my recent recovery from surgery. I enjoyed the visits, cards and good food that made the past few weeks so much better. You are all ANGELS ON EARTH.

Janet Sankey

Congratulations on Upcoming Marriage:
Stacy Blase ~ Benjamin Henning
OLQP ~ February 26, 2011

Seven Days of Inspiration

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

**Wherever you go today,
remember there are angels
watching over you.**



**Today, look at the gifts
in your life and be thankful.
You are far richer than
your eyes can see.**



**Even when you're not
feeling strong, others are
around you to give you
strength. Just ask.**



**Open your eyes to the
miracles happening around
you every single minute.**



**Your words help
others soar.**



**You are treasured
by so many.**



**You were meant to
sing the song that is
in your heart.**

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
 Time is shortened because of Parish Mission
 From 1:00pm – 6:00pm.

Burning of Old Palms

You may bring your old palms (to be burned) from previous years and place in baskets provided in the Church lobby until February 27th. They will be burned at the 9:30am Mass on March 6th.

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.

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

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

Alec Ocheltree,

husband of Donna Ocheltree

Tom Brooks,

relative of Greenwell, Johnson and Williams families

*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
234 Envelopes Used

Special Collections

St. Louis Review	\$	230.00
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New Building Fund

Lavender Envelopes	\$	970.82
Total Received to date	\$	687,964.10

Offertory

Sunday Envelopes	\$	11,801.00
Sunday Loose	\$	458.00
Above and Beyond	\$	25.00
Candlemas	\$	367.00
First Offering	\$	25.00
Present and Future	\$	415.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$	10.00
Total Offertory	\$	13,101.00
Offertory Goal	\$	13,699.00

Thank you for your generosity.

As of February 7, 2011

Contributions Year To Date	\$	388,863.89
Projected Year to Date Budget	\$	438,368.00

Script Gift Cards

Sales	\$	1,045.00
Profits/tuition reduction	\$	59.62

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

*Stewardship
 Start With Prayer*

**February 13, 2010
 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

"Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given to him." Sirach 15:17

It seems that in this life we have an endless array of difficult choices always conflicting for our time and our attention. But in the end it is all very simple. Do we choose to give or do we choose to have? Do we choose to participate or do we choose to go our own way? Do we choose God or do we choose the world?

Parish Activities

Mon	Feb 14	Rosary for Vocations after 8am Mass PSR, 6:15-7:30pm RCIA, 7pm, Cafeteria meeting room Rosary for Peace, 7:30pm, Church
Tues	Feb 15	Devotions after 8am Mass No Quilters Church History, 7pm, Cafeteria meeting room Finance meeting, 7pm, Rectory
Wed	Feb 16	Youth Night, 6-8pm, Bear's Den
Thurs	Feb 17	Choir Practice, 7pm, Church Bible Study, 7pm, Cafeteria mtg. room Home & School Meeting, 7pm, Cafeteria
Sat	Feb 19	Parish Mission begins Blood Pressure Screening after Mass, Cafeteria meeting room
Sun	Feb 20	Hospitality Sunday Blood Pressure Screening after Mass, Cafeteria meeting room Children's Liturgy during 9:30am Mass, Cafeteria Surf and Turf Dinner, noon -7pm, Cafeteria

Mass Intentions

Mon	Feb 14	8:00am	Joyce Clayton
Tues	Feb 15	8:00am	Warren & Bernice Dierks
Wed	Feb 16	8:00am	Helen Driskill
Thurs	Feb 17	8:00am	Tyler Freihaut
Fri	Feb 18	8:00am	Robert Crean
Sat	Feb 19	5:00pm	Jeanette Ellison
Sun	Feb 20	7:30am	People of the Parish
		9:30am	Doxie Smentkowski
		11:30am	Rosalie Pinson

February 19th and 20th**Special Ministers of the Eucharist**

5:00 pm	*Larry Bottchen, Margaret Bottchen, Peggy Mikko, Barb Nenninger, *Katie Tutass, Joyce & Michael Ruopp
7:30 am	Mary Bjornstad, *Carl Boyer, Patsy Boyer, Vicki De Long, Ruth Haen, *Jo Jahnsen, Marie Strayhorn
9:30 am	Fran Corley, Joanne David, *Margaret Gerling, Lee Hoffman, *Sharon Reineri, Helen Salamone, Kelly Smith, Maria Webb
11:30 am	Tom Ecker, *Carol Freihaut, *Joan Ross, Dan & Kim Horn, P. McDonnell, 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 **Mary Copeland**
Debbie O'Brien **Carl Grimwood**

Debbie Laird, friend of Geraldine Little
Donna Henslee, friend of Geraldine Little
John Ostlund, son of Pete and Terry Ostlund
Buck Thomas, husband of Donna Thomas
Alyssa and Ashlyn Stark, granddaughters 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	John Holmes, Sandy Munzlinger
7:30 am	Bev Gregory, Linda Weber
9:30 am	Christine Camden, Jo Ann Vess
11:30 am	Andrea Lawson, Barb Oppelz

Servers

5:00 pm	Kali & Mark Chafin, Paige Smith
7:30 am	Ann & Jane Kenney, Kaitlyn Robertson
9:30 am	K. Hahn, Garret Surdyke, Ashley Turnbull
11:30 am	Johnny Gibson, Delaney Lawson, Dylan Robb

Ushers

5:00 pm	Bill & Donna Clifton, Ken Ganey, Ralph Munzlinger, Jerry Sheets, B. Slodkowski
7:30 am	G. Bachmann, Doug Bjornstad, R. De Long, Jeff Eschbach, John Nahlik, Richard Rousseau
9:30 am	Tom Broadbent, Tim Diffey, Tom Mattingly, Cal & George Flynn, Ray Wieschhaus
11:30 am	Don Brooks, Don Reno, Jim Robertson, Al Schuld, David Witt, 1 needed



**Church
Cleaning**

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

**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle A**



THEME: Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy. Be set apart from the usual and mundane. Be Godlike. Today's readings celebrate possibilities, the possibilities of standing apart from the world and its values, the possibilities of living unity rather than division, the possibilities of being more than ordinary, the possibilities of being really alive to our God and to all others with whom we share His world. Today we ponder the reality that we are God's temple, the place where He chooses to dwell with humanity in this created world.

THE READINGS:

FIRST READING: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

The first reading comes from the Book of Leviticus, from the section of the Book known as the Holiness Code. *Kadosh*, the Hebrew word for *Holy*, primarily means "something set apart." At a basic level, the vessels of the temple were treated as "holy," set apart from normal human use and reserved for a special purpose – almost like a family that has normal dinnerware for daily use and a special set of china for those occasions when company comes. The idea of "holiness," when applied to God refers to the complete otherness of God, His transcendence. But the Bible constantly affirms that we have a relationship with this

totally other God and the call to be holy as our God is holy is a call to be set apart for God as He is set apart for us.

Contrary to the image of holiness as some type of reverence and piety, some sense of religious fervor, the biblical idea of holiness implies a being in the world in a way that is set apart, out of the ordinary. The Holiness Code of Leviticus outlines a way of living in the world that promotes justice, fairness, forbearance, compassion, forgiveness and a choice to love. This is to be set apart for God. It is to live in the world in a way that is not ordinary. Holiness is not mumbling prayers or offering sacrifices, but living well with others, living the will and intention of God for the good of all His creation, living values that set us apart.

SECOND READING: I Corinthians 3:16-23

The second reading comes from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. A central teaching of Paul is that belief in Jesus Christ makes us a unified whole, the body of Christ in the world, the dwelling place of God's spirit. In his teaching, Paul echoes Old Testament themes, themes that draw on the Hebrew notion of holiness. Israel referred to the temple location as the Mountain of God's holiness in a way that recalled the cloud settling over Mt. Sinai. The cloud symbolized God's holiness, His otherness, but that presence of God came near to His people. In the assembly of the people, especially as they assembled at the temple, the presence of God was proclaimed and celebrated. In the same way, the community of believers bodies forth God's presence in Jesus Christ, but this makes the community of believers something other, something out of the ordinary.

One of the problems that Paul faced in Corinth was division in the community because people in the community wanted to understand God's presence in terms of current ways of thinking, certain modes of wisdom. They wanted to adapt God's presence to what was ordinary in the world. For Paul, the wisdom of the world was foolishness for God, for God was totally "other." To be the body of Christ in the world, to be a means of bringing God's presence to people around us, we need to let go of the ordinary and usual and embrace the "otherness" of God.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:38-48

The Gospel reading comes from Matthew's Sermon on the Mount. Living in a way that is out of the ordinary is again the theme of this reading. What Jesus has to say comes from the "Great Antitheses" (you have heard... but what I say is...). This section of the Sermon on the Mount begins with Jesus' admonition, "Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven." Here, we have to remember that the scribes and the Pharisees were not bad people. They had a sense of holiness, of being set apart by God, set apart from what was usual and ordinary in the world. What Jesus says to them, and to us, is "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." Just as we sometimes tend to think of holiness of pious and prayerful, so we think of perfect as ideal and exemplary. The root meaning of *perfect*, however, is *complete*. God is infinite. He is complete, all that he can be. We are finite. For us, being perfect means being all that we can be at any given moment. But we are perfectible, we can – and must – grow and change. The problem with the scribes and Pharisees was that they held on to a sense of tradition, a set of answers that seemed to work, but could not see the possibility for going beyond. Jesus did not do away with the teachings of the Law, He didn't offer something new and completely different, but called for us to keep growing, advancing in the spirit and meaning of God's will as revealed in Scripture, not defining meanings and actions and behaviors in a once-for-all fashion.

To be holy is to be set apart, to live in a way that is out of the ordinary. On the one hand, this sets believers against the values of the world and asks us to go beyond the ordinary. But more than this, Jesus challenges the believing community to go beyond what is ordinary in the community of faith, in the Church. At one time in the world, slavery was an accepted practice, but members of the believing community were called on to go beyond this and treat slaves with compassion and decency. The next step in "going beyond" was to come to see that no one has the right to own another person and to work for the abolition of slavery. At one time it was generally accepted that capital punishment was necessary to exact retribution for crimes against persons and as a deterrent to such

actions. Now we are moving in the direction of upholding the right to life for all persons.

Where will we be tomorrow in our understanding of God's will? Where will we be in ten years? One thing we can be sure of is this: if, in ten years, we are where we are now, then we have not grown, we have not progressed, we have not been holy as our God is holy.

FOR REFLECTION:

- Do I see my world and my life as a Christian as a life filled with possibilities or do I look for unchanging truth and answers? What possibilities does the world hold out to me? Am I willing to embrace those possibilities?
- What does it mean to me to hear God's call to be holy as He is holy? How "holy" am I? What definition of holiness do I use to make this judgment? Are there other possibilities for holiness that I need to consider?
- In the Christian faith, we proclaim that we, each, are temples of the Holy Spirit and that together we are the Body of Christ. In what practical ways do I see and affirm God's spirit living in me? In what practical ways do I participate with the believing community to make Jesus Christ present in the world?
- What does it mean to me when Jesus calls me to be perfect as my Heavenly Father is perfect? Can I achieve perfection? How do I reconcile the ideas of being perfect and always being called to change and grow?
- How Godlike am I? Where do I hope to be in ten years? Are there any attitudes and convictions that I hold that I am not willing to consider that God might want me to change or go beyond?

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