

Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

www.olqpparish.org

February 16, 2014



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

Bailey Alexander, Thomas Broadbent, Cathy Carley,
Joe Corio, Bev Gregory, David Holmes, Mary Luebbert,
Dave Mills, Donna Otzenberger, Jan Schultheiss,
Tim Webb,

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

2014

February

Sat	22	Daughters of Isabella Antique Tea
Sun	23	Knights of Columbus Washer Tournament

March

Sun	16	Red Hat BINGO, KC Hall
Wed	19	Protecting God's Children Workshop
Sun	30	Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary Craft/Vendor Show
Mon	31	Parish Mission Begins

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

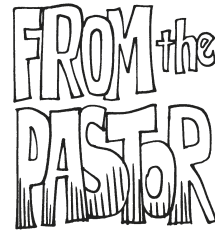
Sat	14	OLQP Picnic
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July

S/T	7-11	Hope Builders Week
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August

Sun	24	KC Ladies Auxiliary Quarter Auction
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Calling All Fryers (and Wannabe Fryers)

Lent is looming on the horizon; Ash Wednesday is just two and a half weeks away and it's time to start making plans. One of the more cherished traditions at OLQP is the Lenten Fish Fry's. Deacon Paul is now recruiting volunteers to work on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent including Good Friday so that our Fish Fry's will once again be a success. Volunteers are needed to bread and fry the fish, to serve drinks and desserts and to work in the checkout line. We also need desserts from all of you who can bake. I am personally going to bake a cake; my third cake ever! Finally, we need lots of people to come and eat fish, lots of fish. So invite your families and friends to come and enjoy some of the best fish dinners in the Archdiocese. Remember, Deacon Paul's fish is always better than Mrs. Paul's fish!

~ fr. mike

**The Parish Office
will be closed on
Monday, February 17,
for President's Day.**

Parish Activities

Mon	Feb 17	No PSR RCIA, 7:00 pm, Parish Office
Tues	Feb 18	Perpetual Help Devotions after 8:00 am Mass Quilters, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, 6:00 - 8:30 pm
Thur	Feb 20	Choir Practice, 7:00 pm, Church
Fri	Feb 21	8th grade Trivia Night, 6:30 pm, Cafeteria
Sat	Feb 22	Daughters of Isabella Antique Tea, noon to 3:00 pm

Welcome Fr. Robert N. Sherry

We welcome Father Robert N. Sherry of Cross Catholic Outreach who is speaking this weekend at all Masses on behalf of the poor in developing countries. Cross Catholic Outreach was founded to create a meaningful link between parishes in America and the priest and nuns working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central and South America.

Congratulations

We congratulate and are pleased to recognize the following girls for making the first semester honor roll at Ursuline Academy :

Second Honors

Melanie Boyer

Marissa Krieg

"Protecting God's Children" March 19, 6:30 pm OLQP Cafeteria

It is the policy of the Archdiocese of St. Louis that all clergy, employees and volunteers whose service in the Church brings them into contact with children must have a regular background check conducted through the Missouri Family Care Safety Registry and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for those who have lived outside the state of Missouri. They must also attend a "Protecting God's Children" Workshop and sign a "Code of Ethical Conduct". Any parents interested in volunteering to work with the school for any activity (class parties, field trips, coaching, boy or girl scout leaders) must be in compliance with these rules. There is a link on our website, olqpparish.org, to register.

All participants must be pre-registered on the Archdiocesan website before attending the workshop.

Any questions or for more information contact Jan, parishbookkeeping@olqpparish.org or 636-671-3062.

We would like to thank Midwest Scrap

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.

Youth Council News

Thanks so MUCH!!!!

The youth and adults attending the summer Steubenville Conference thank everyone who supported our breakfast last Sunday. Many joined us for breakfast, some people made donations and some did both. We are truly blessed with a parish community that loves and supports our amazing youth. Again, thank you and God bless you for your generosity!

High School Youth Group

Sunday, February 16th, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

No school on Monday, so plan on joining us for a fun night in the cafeteria playing "crazy ping pong". Our topic for the evening will be "staying focused on Jesus, when life gets crazy".

Junior High Youth Retreat

"Answering the Call to Discipleship"

Saturday, March 1 – Sunday, March 2

The Junior High Retreat for the 7th and 8th grade youth is being held at Camp Trinity in New Haven. We will meet at OLQP on Saturday, March 1st, at 8:30 am and carpool to Camp Trinity. We will return around Noon on Sunday, March 2nd. All interested Junior High Youth can get a permission slip at school, PSR or by contacting Terry. Reservation deadline is Monday, February 24th.

For more information about any event please call or email Terry Ostlund, 314-566-8363 or terry.ostlund@olqpparish.org.

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)**

**Red Hat Ladies Bingo
Sunday, March 16
Knights of Columbus Hall**

You do not need to be a Red Hat member to attend. The event is \$35 per person. This price includes a nice luncheon of grilled chicken breast, pasta con broccoli, green beans, salad, bread, and dessert from McArthur's Bakery. Also included: beer, wine, coffee, and soft drinks, 9 Bingo cards, and a dobber.

Doors open at 11:30. Lunch is served at 1:00 pm. Basket Raffles and 50/50 Raffles will be held with proceeds going to the Peace Pantry. The OLQP Youth Group will be present to assist with serving and assisting with your needs. Each Bingo game pays out \$75- \$100 dollars.

Advanced reservations are a MUST. For more information and to make a reservation, contact Trish or Tom Guethle, 636-274-2062. Checks made payable to Knights of Columbus Council #6435 may be sent to The Guethles at 60 El Jer Drive, Cedar Hill, MO 63016.



2014 Lenten Fish Fries

Lent is just a couple of weeks away, beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5th, and ending on Good Friday, the 18th of April.

Sign up on the "big" board in the Church lobby, starting Feb. 23rd, or you can sign up on line and check where there is a need for workers. The Fish Fry worker list coordinator is Dave Mills, 636-452-3313.

Our Fish Fries are a major fund raiser for OLQP and it takes up to 30 workers for each of the two shifts to make the "fries" work smoothly.

We have some great dedicated workers at our "fries" and we are looking for any new parishioners who may want to join the "Cod Squad" and some younger workers, to learn, and carry on their skills; as fryers, breaders, chefs, servers, etc. We will be asking for homemade desserts again, these desserts are one of the things that make our Fish Fries so special.

If you have any questions or suggestions call Deacon Paul, 314-954-0378.

**Knights of Columbus
12th Annual Washer Tournament
Knights of Columbus Hall
February 23
Starts at 1:30 pm
Last sign up at 1:15 pm
Open to general public**

Any questions or for more information please call Ferenc, 636-274-1406.

MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION

The Ministry of Consolation will be offering a 6 week session to support those who recently experienced the loss of a loved one. The program conveys God's consolation through scripture, prayer, reflection and sharing our faith. The sessions begin on Saturday, April 5. The meetings are held in the Cafeteria Meeting Room from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

If you or someone you know is grieving the loss of a loved one, please know you are not alone. Consider allowing our Ministry of Consolation to walk with you during this difficult time. Please contact Judy Holmes, 314-605-0508 or Joan Ross, joanaross@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Antique Appraisal and Tea
Saturday, February 22
Noon to 3:00 pm
OLQP Cafeteria

All are welcome to attend the Antique Appraisal and Tea. An appraiser will appraise items brought in by attendees. We will be serving a light lunch and refreshments to all. Please call, Jan, 636-671-9093 or Debbie, 636-399-2066, to make advance reservations (\$15 for advance reservations) or \$20 at the door.

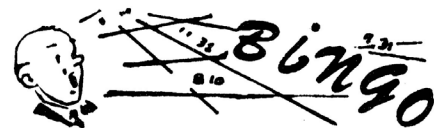
Daughters of Isabella donates monthly to St. Vincent de Paul and the Peace Pantry. We also donate regularly to the parish, Veterans, Women in Transition, Birthright and the Pro Life Trip to name a few of the charities we support.

Spring Craft / Vendor Show
Sunday, March 30th, Noon - 5:00 pm
Knights of Columbus Hall

Spring is just around the corner so why not spend the afternoon with family, friends or neighbors and come to where the fun is! To rent a table as a vendor/crafter and for general questions please contact:

Krista Gross, 636-274-1968 or
 email: gross123@sbcglobal.net
 Jane Saggio, 636-671-2939
 or email: janesaggio@yahoo.com

Peace Pantry Collection
Weekend of Feb. 22nd and 23rd
Pasta Items
Cereal Bars
Canned Protein
Anything You Wish



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

Fundraising Idea
Help the Parish/Help Each Other

Greg Benefield, a semi-retired Jack-of-all-Trades Handyman, has approached the Fundraising Committee with an exciting idea.

Beginning on Monday, February 3, we will be offering chances on 8 hours of general maintenance and repair labor for \$5 a chance. When 100 tickets are sold a winner will be drawn. The winner will receive a total of 8 hours of general maintenance and repair work and \$100 to help defray the cost of any materials needed. The parish will earn \$400, the donated labor fee of \$50 per hour. Tickets are available in the Parish Office or can be purchased online through the Parish website.

PLEASE NOTE: Winners are limited to a maximum of 8 hours labor. For projects that need more time the winner is responsible to make other arrangements for finishing the work.

For more information on the services Greg can provide or to join him in providing services to the parish, please call Jan in the Parish Office, 636-671-3062.



St. Vincent De Paul

As your family sits down at the dinner table, take time to reflect on the banquet placed before you. Enjoy the companionship of your family and ask the good Lord to bless those less fortunate than you. Please plan on giving a donation to St. Vincent de Paul.

Engaged Encounter

To ensure that the plans for your wedding don't overtake the more important preparation for your marriage, attend a Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend. Learn more about these marriage preparation weekends at <http://home.centurytel.net/stlengaged/>, or by calling Jim and Cheri, 636-379-0962.

**Knights of Columbus - OLQP – 11th ANNUAL
Blind Buddy Draw Fishing Tournament
Saturday, May 3, 2014**

The 2014 Spring Tournament will be held at the Runaway II Resort located on the Osage River arm of the Lake of the Ozarks. Runaway II Resort is located on Lake Road 7-13, off Highway 7 just out of Greenview. They are located on the 45 mile marker. This is an area of the lake that we have not fished yet, so it will be fun to see how everybody does fishing new areas.

If you have never fished with us before, this is how we do it:

- Arrive Friday, May 2nd, for pre-fishing. We encourage you to keep fish on Friday to bring back to the Resort to clean and share for a fish fry.
- Tournament take-off is Saturday at 6:30 am and boats are due back at the dock by 4:30 pm, with weigh-in following immediately. There will be a 1 pound penalty for each dead fish presented for weigh-in. All game fish of legal length will be weighed (bass, crappie, catfish – Jeff, drum are not acceptable).
- The format will be the same as before, a blind buddy draw, where each fisher person weighs in their fish individually, and then partners are drawn to add up the total stringer weight to determine the winners. Largest combined weight wins.
- Trophy hats awarded for 1st thru 3rd place.
- Entrance fee is \$75.00 per man, of which \$50.00 goes to the Knights of Columbus. Entrance fees are payable day of the tournament.
- We will have a Big Bass side pot, \$10.00 per person for those who wish to donate their money to Rich Ortmann.
- A fabulous dinner after the weigh in is included in your entrance fee.
- The Jeff Littrell fishing stories about the one that got away are free.
- A Washer Tournament following dinner for those who wish to participate

You are responsible for your own beverages and other meals thru the weekend. The Lodge and cabins have full kitchens, motel rooms do not. There is a restaurant and lounge located on the Resort.

We currently have reserved Lodge 7 for May 2nd and 3rd, which sleeps 14 men, of which 12 beds are already accounted for. The cost for Lodge 7 per man for 2 night stay is approximately \$90.00. Boat slips are an additional \$12.00 per night. Runaway has cabins and motel rooms available, so call to make your reservations as soon as possible. You can contact them, 1-800-468-1665, or visit their website www.runawayresort.com.

Please contact Clay Gregorc, 636-485-4503, or Rich Ortmann, 314-574-0084, if you would like to join us, so we can have a head count for the dinner, and keep a contact list of those who are going in case there are any changes to be made or an emergency. It is a great time. Let's go fishing!

Mary of Nazareth Speaker Series
"Guiding Your Child to Jesus Through Prayer"
Thursday, February 20

Moms! The Office of Laity and Family Life invites you to join us for the **Mary of Nazareth Speaker Series!** Put your kids to bed and come to the Cardinal Rigali Center, 20 Archbishop May Drive, 63119, on **Thursday, February 20, from 8:00 - 9:30 pm** for an evening of fellowship and a presentation by **Sr. Cathy Doherty, SSND**, titled **"Guiding Your Child to Jesus Through Prayer."** Babes in arms welcome. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please visit www.archstl.org/laityandfamilylife.

St. Pius News

Wednesday, February 26th, 7:00 pm join us for Catholic Book Club in the St. Pius X library. We are reading *Killing Jesus* by Bill O'Reilly for February. Any questions, or for more information please call Janice Surdyke, 636-931-1939 extension 143.

St. Pius X High School is now accepting applications for enrollment for the 2014-2015 school year, Archdiocesan Financial Aid deadline is March 15th. Call 636-931-7488 with questions or for more information.

Healing In The Spirit Of Jesus
Spring Conference

March 7th and 8th

Father Peter Sanders

Contact the Catholic Renewal Center

catholicrenewal@archstl.org

or call 314-427-7786

Marriage Encounter Weekend

A Marriage Encounter weekend is a time for you and your spouse to rediscover each other and to focus on your relationship for an entire weekend without any family interruptions. For more information or to apply for the weekends on April 4-6, August 8-10 or September 26-28, just go to www.stl-wwme.org or call 314-469-7317.

Seven Days of Inspiration

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

Day 1

Friends come through
 right when we need them to.

Day 2

Sometimes things turn
 out even better
 than you'd hoped!

Day 3

You are never alone.

Day 4

Think something
 nice about yourself!

Day 5

The good that you do
 comes back to you.

Day 6

You don't have to
 have a reason to be happy!

Day 7

You are amazing!

Estate and Planned Giving Seminars

St. Francis Borgia Regional High School will be hosting two Estate and Planned Giving Seminars. They will be held **Wednesday, February 26, at 10 am** and **Thursday, March 14, at 7 pm** in the SFBRHS Cafeteria. Michael C. Dempsey from Baylard, Billington, Dempsey and Jensen, P.C. and David P. Politte from Zick, Voss, Politte and Richardson, P.C. will be the featured speakers. They will share their strategies for reducing uncertainty in your long-term plans and reveal effective and creative ways to ensure the well-being of you and your family, while considering Borgia and/or other charities in your plans.

Please RSVP to Donna Grahl, donna.grahl@borgia.com or 636-239-7871 extension 131 to register.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our next Eucharistic Adoration is
Wednesday, February 26,
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.

Catholic Radio KHOJ 1460 AM

Tune in to Catholic radio on AM 1460 KHOJ.
Programming includes daily Holy Mass, the Rosary,
the Divine Mercy Chaplet, live call-in shows, local
programming and much more. For a program schedule
and a free CD, call, 314- 752-7000 or toll-free 877-305-1234.

Our Gifts to God and Parish

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

Special Collections

St. Louis Review \$ 90.00

New Building Fund to date \$ 763,636.88

Offertory

Sunday envelopes \$ 10,290.69

Sunday loose \$ 471.00

Candlemas \$ 66.00

First Offering \$ 5.00

Parish Enrichment \$ 162.00

Total Offertory \$ 10,994.69

Offertory Goal \$ 13,200.00

As of February 17, 2014

Contributions Year to Date \$ 423,708.33

Projected Year to Date Budget \$ 422,400.00

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 included) 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

2013 Contribution Statement

If you would like a 2013 contribution statement,
please send a note (marked Linda) to the Parish Office
(it may be placed in the collection basket, mailed to the
Parish Office, or use the mail slot in the Parish Office
door).

Thank you,
Linda

**Stewardship
Start With Prayer**

*"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the
scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom
of heaven."* Matthew 5:20

The scribes and Pharisees lived according to the letter of
the law and they used this to elevate themselves above
the other people. Jesus is clear - it's the love that you have
in your heart that will get you to heaven. Simply
following church rules out of obligation, not love, does
not put you on the path to heaven. Attending Mass on
Sunday and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner on
the parking lot is an example of a modern day Pharisee.

Please pray for those who are ill

(parishioners are in bold)

Audrey Hastings	Paul McDonnell
Marie Ulrich	Greg Hirtz
Ellen O'Brien	Maryann Barnett
Wally Freihaut	Alice Boeger
Jackie Nappier	Andy Nappier
Bob Ellison	Dave Mills
Trish Guethle	Alice Wood
Charles Bacher	Jim Soer
Helen Wendt	Cliff Brandt
Ken Bohnert	Fran Mills

Kim Reese daughter of John and Shirley Bokern
 Kathy Garrett, sister-in-law of Dixie Garrett
 Chuck Hampton, cousin of Dixie Garrett
 Vince Mendenez, friend of Dixie Garrett
 Brenda Meredith, aunt of Dixie Garrett
 Craig Ramsey, husband of Becky Ramsey
 Dorothy Grither, mother of Ron Grither
 Haley Reed, granddaughter of Walter and Judy Janos
 Charles J. Hendricks, brother of Bernice Grimwood
 Allen Chott, nephew of Judy Mottert
 Robert Bokern, brother of John Bokern
 Dave Landers, brother-in-law of Bernie Henning
 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, 671-3062. Names will be removed after 3 weeks.

**Pray for the Deceased**

We offer sympathy and the assurance of our prayers to the family of

*Anna Ade,
 mother of Angie Ecker
 grandmother of Christine Harris*

Mass Intentions

Mon	Feb 17	8:00 am	Ray Brune
Tues	Feb 18	8:00 am	Art Ade Sr.
Wed	Feb 19	8:00 am	Tom Finder
Thurs	Feb 20	8:00 am	Doxie Smentkowski
Fri	Feb 21	8:00 am	Poor Souls
Sat	Feb 22	5:00 pm	Linda Bohnert
Sun	Feb 23	7:30 am	Barb Rocchio
		9:30 am	People of the Parish
		11:30 am	Paul Boeger, Jr.

February 22nd and 23rd**Special Ministers of the Eucharist**

5:00 pm	Katie Tutass, Jeff Grimes, Peggy Mikko, Pat Hoskins, Barb Nennering
7:30 am	Tom Broadbent, Jim England, Sue Syers, Cathy Carley, Nancy Wilfong
9:30 am	Dale Andrews, Tom Gerling, Margaret Gerling, Bruce Gallion, Vicki De Long, Jan Schultheiss
11:30 am	Clay Gregorc, Ruth Haen, Angie Ecker, Paul McDonnell, Joan Ross

Proclaimers

5:00 pm	Christine Janos, Barb Nennering
7:30 am	Jim England, Dave Mills
9:30 am	Vicki De Long, Maria Webb
11:30 am	David Holmes, Tom Mattingly

Servers

5:00 pm	Gabby Anderson, M. Schwantner, M. Stephan
7:30 am	Cameron Beck, Zachary Morlock, Ethan Pulic
9:30 am	Allison Kohne, Amanda Kohne, Alec Poulsen
11:30 am	Jeremiah Pigue, Anna Reno, Katherine Younkins

Ushers

5:00 pm	Bill Clifton, Donna Clifton, Bart Heinzer, Jeff Heibeck, Helen Stewart, Dixie Garrett
7:30 am	Larry Lammert, Ted Hempen, Vince Rocchio, Tim Webb, Jerry Terry, Butch Mattingly
9:30 am	Carl Boyer, Terry Filicsky, Ray Graf, Sam Pierceall, Ralph Schultheiss, Tom Broadbent
11:30 am	Al Schuld, David Witt, Larry Bottchen, John Holmes, David Holmes, Kevin Huss

February 21

Theresa Haug,
 Mary Copeland,
 Ed Kelemen,
 Darleen Allmeroth,
 Margaret Gerling
 and Sandy Million



**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 an 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?