

Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

www.olqpparish.org

February 26, 2012



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/PRESCHOOL

Ms. Renée Chauvin

PSR COORDINATOR

Mrs. Debra O'Donnell

YOUTH MINISTER COORDINATOR

Mrs. Terry Ostlund

PARISH COUNCIL

Thomas Broadbent, Jacob Bufka, Sandee Burkemper,
Joanne David, Bev Gregory, René Heibeck, Dave Mills,
Denise Ortmann, Rich Ortmann, Rebecca Pigue,
Jan Schultheiss, 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 Sat.)

Sunday

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

Holy Days

as announced

Weekdays

8:00 am

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 our parish priests.

Welcome to Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish

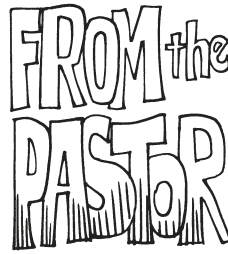
We welcome you, whether a long-time resident or newly arrived in our parish! Please fill out this form and return it to the Parish Office or place it in the Sunday collection basket if you would like to be a registered member of our parish. If you have recently changed your status, married, moved out 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

Upcoming OLQP Parish Events**2012****March**Sun 18 **Red Hat Bingo, KC Hall****April**Sat 28 **Daughters Tailgate Sale
Athletic Association Trivia Night,
KC Hall****May**Sun 6 **Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale after
Masses**Mon 7 **Confirmation**Sat 19 **Preschool Graduation****June**Sat 9 **OLQP Picnic****July**Sun 15 **Hope Builders**23-26 **Athletic Association Soccer
Camp****August**Sat 18 **Daughters Tailgate Sale, OLQP****September**Sat 22 **PSR Chili Supper, Cafeteria**Sun 23 **Quilt Social****October**Sat 6 **Hoedown**Sat 13 **Harvest Moon Auction, KC Hall**Sun 14 **Fall Festival, Cafeteria**Sun 28 **Daughters Fashion Show, Cafeteria**

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Another Anniversary

Thursday, March 1st will be the second anniversary of my arrival at Our Lady Queen of Peace parish. In the last few months, there have been moments when I wanted to pull my hair out, trying to figure out how to balance the parish budget and address the countless little problems that seem to plague us. But then I look back at all we've been through during the last two years and all that we have accomplished as a parish and my confidence comes back. In the end, all that really matters is that we stay close to Jesus and He will lead us to where we are supposed to be. I said it when I arrived at OLQP two years ago and I will say it again right now; I am very happy to be here at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish and I am very happy to be your pastor! Thanks for all your support.

Ps. Faith in Jesus is what carries us through difficult times....but a little extra money doesn't hurt either. We have been working to re-establish our Stewardship Committee and in the near future we hope to have a plan to address the current budget shortfall.

Fr. Mike

Parish Office emailparishoffice@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)**

**Young
at
Heart**

On Monday, February 27th, we will enjoy our brown bag lunch at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 11:30 am.

School News

We are so lucky to have Sue Syers and her wonderful dog, Buster, visit our school each week. Buster patiently listens to the students as they read to him. He certainly receives more than his share of attention from everyone who encounters him, from the time he is "signed in" at the office until he is "signed out". The students look forward each week to their visit. Thanks, Sue and Buster!



Middle School Religion News:

The 6th graders made shadow boxes depicting scenes from Exodus. These will be displayed during Holy Week.

The 7th graders have been working on power point presentations on the topics of: Messiah, Healer, Bread of Life, Savior, and Kingdom of God.

The 8th graders have been writing essays on the topic of Pro Life.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Parenting Teens Tool Box

By Mayo Clinic Staff

Teen sleep: Why is your teen so tired? Part 2

Resetting the clock

The good news is that your teen doesn't have to be at the mercy of his or her internal clock. To help your teen develop better sleep habits:

Adjust the lighting. As bedtime approaches, dim the lights. Then turn off the lights during sleep. In the morning, expose your teen to bright light. These simple cues can help signal when it's time to sleep and when it's time to wake up.

Stick to a schedule. Tough as it may be, encourage your teen to go to bed and get up at the same time every day – even on weekends. Prioritize extracurricular activities and curb late-night social time as needed. If your teen has a job, limit working hours to no more than 16 to 20 hours a week.

Nix long naps. If your teen is drowsy during the day, a 30-minute nap after school might be refreshing. Be cautious, though. Too much daytime shut-eye might only make it harder to fall asleep at night.

Curb the caffeine. A jolt of caffeine might help your teen stay awake during class, but the effects are fleeting – and too much caffeine can interfere with a good night's sleep.

Keep it calm. Encourage your teen to wind down at night with a warm shower, a book or other relaxing activities.

Discourage stimulating activities – including vigorous exercise, loud music, video games, television, computer use and text messaging – an hour or two before bedtime.

Know when to unplug. Take the TV out of your teen's room, or keep it off at night. The same goes for your teen's cellphone, computer and other electronic gadgets.

Sleeping pills and other medications generally aren't recommended. For many teens, lifestyle changes can effectively improve sleep.

For more information go to <http://mayoclinic.com>

"IT" Group News

With Lent now in full swing, it's time for all of us to focus on one of the toughest questions we face each year: "What am I giving up for Lent?"

From Gum to Brussels Sprouts, Pizza to (actually doing) Chores, we've all struggled with what to give up and then following through and making the sacrifice throughout the Lenten season.

This year, along with giving up something, how about adding a to-do?

Commit to working the Fish Fry every Friday.

Commit to going to "IT" group every Sunday night.

Do something each week for mom and dad, without being asked.

Make a point to say hello to the shy kid in class.

Introduce yourself to one new person each week at Mass.

You know what your struggles are and so does Jesus!! Work on those and let's enjoy our pilgrimage to Easter.

This weeks Theme -

Youth Mass on Saturday, 25th... (yep, if it's Sunday, you missed it).

Join us at tonight's meeting (Sunday, February 26th) for our monthly teen challenge. Last month was indoor "snow"ball, this month may be just as exciting. Wear your sweats/tennis shoes and bring a friend.

Never been to youth group? - Get with "IT" and just do "IT"!!!

Every Sunday night from 6 pm - 8 pm in the Cafeteria Meeting room. To become part of "The IT Group" - all you need to do is show up and you're in. All teens in 9th - 12th grade are welcome to join us!

Everyone is invited!!

John and Sue Whitehead

314-954-7461

Terry Ostlund, Youth Minister

314-566-8363

Catholics Come Home

A Special Word to Parents of Inactive Catholics

I know how painful it can be for you when your children stop practicing their faith. You wonder where you went wrong, what you failed to emphasize, what you failed to explain. Instead of dwelling on what went wrong, take that energy and apply it to your prayer life.

Often your adult child's inactive faith can be a difficult subject for you to broach. Defensive reactions can be quick. You may have a tendency to lecture or to nag. Often the issue of Catholic practice may be tied up with delicate emotional issues between you and your children. Still, never give up. Pray for your inactive children and model more vibrantly your own Catholic faith for them. There can be opportunities for you to talk empathetically with your children about the benefits of returning to the Church. It requires a great deal of emotional calm, a supernatural spirit, and an intuitive sense of diplomacy and timing!

Remember St. Monica, who never gave up on St. Augustine. She prayed for Augustine for over thirty years. During this period, he restlessly tried a number of intellectual philosophies and engaged in self-centered, manipulative relationships. How painful it must have been for Monica to watch her talented son walk this self-destructive path.

It was through Monica's prayer that Augustine came home. We lift up our sons and daughters to the intercession of St. Monica and St. Augustine. We never give up on them.

A Catholic Come Home prayer box has been placed near the Church entry during Lent for you to put the names of those in need of prayer, in the hope that they return to the church. Please put the names of anyone in need of our prayers in the box, so that we can include them in the Catholic Come Home prayer we say before each weekend Mass.

The contents of the box will be destroyed during Holy Week.



Parish Corner

Every week a different organization is featured in the bulletin.

Daughters of Isabella

The Order of the Daughters of Isabella is a charitable organization of Catholic women founded on the principle of its motto: Unity, Friendship and Charity. We come together as a sisterhood to uphold the teachings of the Catholic Church, bringing spiritual benefits to our members and contributing to the common good of humanity. By our faith, we are called to serve, inspired and challenged to do God's work.

Our fundraisers allow us to make donations to various organizations, sponsor a person to go on the Pro-Life Trip and also offer a scholarship to an eighth grade girl who will be attending a Catholic High School. Any practicing Catholic woman who is 16 years of age or older is invited to join the Daughters of Isabella. We usually meet on the first Thursday of the month in the cafeteria at 7:30 pm.



St. Vincent De Paul

A Table of Plenty

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. Plan on giving a donation to your St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Three Heavenly Dusters Needed!!!

Ladies, do you have an hour or so to spare once every five weeks??

We are in need of three or more of you to fill out two teams who clean the church once every five weeks. We have teams of four who dust, vacuum, wash the windows in the lobby area, etc. They do this on Fridays after the 8 am Mass.

If you can help, please call Joanne David, 636 274-0590.

House Springs Knights of Columbus Baby Bottle Campaign

The House Springs Knights of Columbus will be holding a Baby Bottle Campaign starting this weekend, February 25th.

Help them empower life and healthy choices. This campaign provides you with the opportunity to make a difference in the fate of unborn children. Fill this bottle with coins, currency or a generous check and your gift, of any size, will help women make the right choice.

The net proceeds from this campaign will be used to match the funds available under the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound initiative.

Please return the bottle with your donation at Mass or during the week to the Parish Office no later than March 31st. Please return the bottle even if you were unable to collect any money. Checks should be made payable to: Knights of Columbus Baby Bottle Brigade.

OLQP Wish List

We are looking for a used ice machine to use during our Fish Fries.

If anyone has any information where one might be able to be bought at a reasonable price, please call Deacon Paul @ 314-954-0378.

The following projects are things that need to be done around the campus, and we're looking for qualified volunteers to work with Deacon Paul. For any questions or more information call Deacon Paul, 314-954-0378.

Landscaping: Install interlocking block wall around the new propane tank by the cafeteria. Install interlocking block wall at right rear corner of office building.

Misc. Repair: Install sealant on concrete ramp and handrail at the rear of the office.

Tuition Assistance Application Deadline April 1

Any Catholic family wishing to apply for tuition assistance, **from the parish or the Archdiocese**, for the 2012-2013 school year **MUST** obtain a "FACTS" application from the Parish Office.

Students must attend an Archdiocesan or parochial Elementary School or an Archdiocesan or Parochial High School to be eligible. The due date for the application is April 1, 2012 and **must** include a copy of your 2011 Income Tax return.

Grants for the 2012-2013 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.

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

All parishioners or guests are invited to sit in on any of our sessions when the topics being discussed might interest them.

For any questions or further information please call Deacon Paul, 314-954-0378, or email deaconpaul@olqpparish.org.

Schedule of Topics:

- Feb 27 - Saying Yes to Jesus
(Discussion of our relationship with Jesus)
- Mar 5 - Take a Look
(Discussion on looking at our Spiritual Journey)
- Mar 12 - The Nicene Creed
(What we believe as Catholics in the Creed we profess at each Mass)
- Mar 19 - The Way of the Cross and Our Lord's Prayer
(A prayerful walk through and explanation of the Stations and a deeper look at Jesus' prayer)
- Mar 26 - The Meaning of Holy
(Explanation of how our Parish celebrates Holy Week and how those being Baptized, Confirmed and Receiving Holy Communion will be received into the Church)

Grief Support Group St. John's (Imperial)

If you have recently lost a loved one and your loss has left you feeling confused, overwhelmed, angry or lonely, please consider attending the 6 week Grief Support Group this spring facilitated by Joe and Susan Scalise. We can help you learn more about the journey of grief. Feel free to call us to learn more about the group or to sign up.

When: Six Saturday mornings beginning
Saturday, March 3rd, 2012

Where: 4614 Blue Springs Road, Imperial

Time: 10:00 - 11:30 am

For more information please call Joe, 314-922-4634, Susan, 314-922-4636 or Sr. Anna Marie, 636-296-8061 ext. 2.

The Catholicism Project St. Paul (Fenton)

Beginning February 23, Msgr. Mike will present new sections of the video, chapter 6-10 of the series of "The Catholicism Project" on five consecutive Thursday nights at 7 pm in the school cafeteria, during Lent. There will be a discussion period after, led by a member of St. Paul's clergy. It is a great way to prepare for Easter.

The Catholicism Program presents a clear and beautiful picture of God's revelation through Jesus Christ and His Church. It is comprehensive and faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church. It is a fascinating series with beautiful images and music with Fr. Barron who enlightens you with so many spiritual observations and facts. Bring a friend with you! Refreshments will be provided. Please call Mary Kirkpatrick, 636-0962 if you have any questions. See you there!

Trivia Night Hosted by Chapel Hill Mortuary Saturday, March 3, 7pm start Knights of Columbus Hall

All proceeds go to the Peace Pantry in Cedar Hill. For more information please call Katie, 636-274-4100.

Seven Days of Inspiration

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

Let go of regrets.
Embrace possibilities!

~~~~~  
Today will unfold  
in its own  
miraculous way.

~~~~~  
Hope is a renewable
natural resource.

~~~~~  
You have such  
a good heart.

~~~~~  
Going from good to
great just takes a
little extra oomph!

~~~~~  
You are an original!

~~~~~  
Take the first step
toward a beautiful
new future. Dream!

47th Annual Chicken Dinner St. John's Gildehaus (Villa Ridge) Sunday, March 11

Deep fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, corn, cabbage slaw, pie, milk and coffee. Serving family style from 10:30 am to 6 pm. Drive thru and carry-outs available.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our next Eucharistic Adoration is
 Wednesday, February 29,
 from 8:30 am – 8:00 pm.

Come visit with Jesus. He is waiting for you in the Eucharist. His love flows from Him, saturating you completely. In the stillness of the sanctuary, in the Presence of Christ, offer your heart.

2011 Contribution Statement

If you would like a 2011 Contribution statement please send a note (marked "Linda") to the Parish office, you may put it in the collection basket or call the parish office, 636-671-3062.

Thank you,
 Linda

Church in Central and Eastern Europe

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your generosity helps provide not only daily necessities for those in the region but also pastoral care and catechesis that restore the strength of the Church there. Please visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections to learn more about what your donations have accomplished.

**Black and Indian Mission Collection
 February 26**

Today each of us is asked to support the Church's evangelization efforts among African Americans and Native Americans here in the United States. Your financial contribution supports Catholic communities on reservations, in rural areas and inner cities. Our financial support funds evangelization programs that are strengthening the faith, continuing the legacy and sharing the mission with children and adults across Black and American Indian Communities.

God bless you for your generosity.

Our Gifts to God and Parish

Special Collections

Black/Indian Missions	\$	5.00
Eastern European	\$	113.00
St. Louis Review	\$	140.00

New Building Fund

Lavender Envelopes	\$	595.00
Total Received to date	\$	719,166.83

Offertory

Sunday Envelopes	\$	10,639.10
Sunday Loose	\$	718.00
Above and Beyond	\$	31.00
Candlemas	\$	2.00
First Offering	\$	20.00
Present and Future	\$	25.00
Total Offertory	\$	11,435.10
Offertory Goal	\$	14,000.00

Thank you for your generosity.

1,189 registered members

227 online, checks and envelopes donations

As of February 21, 2011

Contributions Year To Date	\$	415,355.20
Projected Year to Date Budget	\$	476,000.00

Scrip Gift Cards

Sales	\$	1,290.00
Profits/tuition reduction	\$	55.77

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

Stewardship

"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God..." Mark 1:14

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

Parish Activities

Mon	Feb 27	PSR, 6:15 - 7:30 pm Mass, 6:30 pm, Church RCIA, 7 pm, Cafeteria meeting room Rosary for Peace, 7:30 pm, Church
Tues	Feb 28	Devotions after 8 am Mass Quilters, 9 am - 3 pm, 6 - 8:30 pm History Class (Fr. Don), 7 pm, Cafeteria meeting room
Wed	Feb 29	Eucharistic Adoration, 8:30 am-8 pm, Church
Thur	March 1	Choir Practice, 7 pm, Church Daughters of Isabella, 7:30 pm, Cafeteria
Fri	March 2	Fish Fry, 3-7 pm, Cafeteria
Sun	March 4	1st Sunday Breakfast serving after 7:30 and 9:30 Masses, Cafeteria Girl Scouts selling cookies after Mass Youth "IT", 6 - 8 pm, Cafeteria meeting room

Mass Intentions

Mon	Feb 27	8:00 am	Christine DeClue
		6:30 pm	Rita Wende
Tues	Feb 28	8:00 am	Susan Denney
Wed	Feb 29	8:00 am	Ray Brune
Thurs	Mar 1	8:00 am	Otto Riney
Fri	Mar 2	8:00 am	Fred C. Smentkowski
Sat	Mar 3	8:00 am	Deacon Tom Murphy
		5:00 pm	Mr. & Mrs. Campbell
Sun	Mar 4	7:30 am	Virginia Hilgert
		9:30 am	People of the Parish
		11:30 am	Irma Ecker

March 3rd and 4th

Special Ministers of the Eucharist

5:00 pm	Margaret Bottchen, Pat Hoskins, Jan Hussman, Peggy Mikko, Joe Nenninger, *Michael & *Joyce Ruopp
7:30 am	Mary Bjornstad, Mary Copeland, *Ruth Haen, *Michele Huff, Jo Jahnsen, Marie Strayhorn, Linda Weber
9:30 am	Margaret Gerling, Dan & Kim Horn, Don Moeller, Helen Salamone, Jo Ann Vess, *Maria & *Paul Stonecypher
11:30 am	Sandee Burkemper, Barb Ooppelz, Deb Pigue, *Sharon Schmidt, Connie Stubits, * Maria Webb, Denise Witt

* You are responsible to clean the vessels after Mass

Proclaimers

5:00 pm	Larry Bottchen, Barb Nenninger
7:30 am	Scott Reimer, Frieda Siebel-Spath
9:30 am	PSR Children
11:30 am	Carol & Gary Freihaut

Servers

5:00 pm	Sara Eimer, Matthew Grimes, Jakob Stoff
7:30 am	Allyson & Kaitlyn Bridges, Cameron Gerber
9:30 am	PSR Children
11:30 am	Allie & Nicholas Gal, Claire Webb

Ushers

5:00 pm	Don Brooks, Bill & Donna Clifton, Ken Ganey, Benny Slodkowski, Helen Stewart
7:30 am	Gerald Bachmann, Doug Bjornstad, Carl Boyer, Jeff Eschbach, Larry Lammert, John Nahlik
9:30 am	PSR Children
11:30 am	John Holmes, Kevin Huss, Don Reno, Jim Robertson, Al Schuld, David Witt

Donna O'Malley,
Theresa Haug,
Mary Copeland
and Judy Mottert



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

Frieda Siebel-Spath	Vi Hoeft
Butch Fischer	Don Constantz
Mary Bequette	Jackie Nappier
Pat Hoskins	Edwin Tenny
Margaret Bottchen	
Raymond Wagner, father of Cathy Gansman	
Robert Hogan, nephew of Katie Tutass	
Emily Buckey, daughter-in-law of Mary Buckey	
Liam Buckey, granddaughter of Mary Buckey	
Roxanne Cisneros, friend of Gary Hake	
Mark Buchheit, son of Dottie Buchheit	
Jonathan Whyatt, son of Greg and Kathy Benefield	
Jack Beine, son-in-law of Maryann Barnett	
Jonathan Whyatt, son of Greg and Kathy Benefield	
Susan Cole, friend of Katie Tutass	
Tim Clancy, friend of Katie Tutass	
Robert Hogan, friend of Katie Tutass	
Wayne Wencker, father of Angie Henning	
MaryAnne Stewart, sister of Tim Lodes	
Elija Weatherly, friend of Patrick Rawlins	
Trudy Girard, sister of Lynette Rawlins	
Holly Smith, daughter of Lynette Rawlins	
Rachel Preston, granddaughter of Lynette Rawlins	
Louise Gunter, mother of Lynette Rawlins	
Jim Rawlins, husband of Lynette Rawlins	
Reese Gunter, great niece of Lynette Rawlins	
Allen Chott, nephew of Judy Mottert	
Haley Weis, great granddaughter of Carol O'Shea	
Buck Thomas, husband of Donna Thomas	

~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.

**Second Sunday of Lent
Cycle B**



THEME: The path to glory leads through sacrifice.

Our Lenten journey has begun and we are on the way to the glory and hope of Easter. We have a vision in mind, a goal to be achieved. Yet all of today's readings remind us that the path to glory, the achievement of our hopes, passes through sacrifice and suffering. There is a price to pay, not to merit or earn eternal happiness with our Risen Lord, but in living our connectedness with others, in living what flows from the life we hope to move into, in saying "Yes, Lord, I will follow you. I will do what you did. I will love as you did. I will give of myself for the sake of proclaiming your love to others."

THE READINGS:

FIRST READING: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

Our first reading is from the Book of Genesis. In a very real way, this story of the near sacrifice of Isaac is worthy of Stephen King. It's a horror story. In the mind-set of the ancient world, some cultures did practice child

sacrifice. In this story, Israel explored the possibility, "What if our God would want this of us?" On one level, then, the story functions as a faith statement of ancient Israel. Our God is different from other gods; we are different from other peoples. In our journey with our God we are about living life, not sacrificing it! On another level, this story is a key element in the cycle of stories about Abraham, the ultimate reason for honoring Abraham as the Father of Faith. It serves as a model of ultimate faith and trust in God. Abraham had been promised that he would be the father of a great nation. Isaac was the son of the promise. Everything Abraham hoped for rested on him. Now, he is asked to let go. To sacrifice his son. To trust that God's promises would work themselves out as God saw fit, not as Abraham expected. Could Abraham do this? Could he, ultimately, leave in God's hands all that he hoped for? The story also works on a third level, the level of family relationships, the relationship of a father and son. Throughout the story, the narrator notes that Abraham and Isaac proceeded, the two of them as one. In his words, Abraham never speaks Isaac's name. He is not an individual person, but the fulfillment of Abraham's hopes and dreams. And Isaac just isn't the brightest bulb in the pack. He asks, "Look, father, here is the knife and here is the fire, but where is the lamb of sacrifice?" We want to scream at him, "Wake up, kid!" Later, Isaac will have a story about finding a wife. It's a patterned story, repeated often in the Old Testament, about the hero traveling to a foreign land, moving through a set of typical actions at a well with girls, and ultimately finding a wife. The longest and most developed example of this type of story is Isaac's, and he isn't even in it. In his story, his father sends a servant to find a wife for his son. The son is acted upon and for. And in his own family, Isaac will favor his older son over his younger and be deceived by his wife and younger son, who manipulate him to give the sacred family blessing to the younger boy. Here is the son of the promise! Yet, that also is the point of the story. God has a plan and it will proceed. Abraham wanted to make sure it proceeded as he thought it should, but God had other ideas. And aren't we all guilty of that. We believe that we, that our families, that our children, have a place in God's plan and we want to control things, make them work out as we are sure God would want them to. In doing this, we attempt to control other people, when what God asks is that we let go, let Him work with other people as He sees fit, as He works with us. A final, significant and sad element in the story is that after the story of the near sacrifice of Isaac, the two never appear on the pages of Genesis together again; the two never speak again. God's promise will be carried out, now completely independently of Abraham and the rift between father and son will never be healed.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:31-34

The second reading, from Paul's letter to the Romans, is one of the most well known passages from all of Paul's writings. Who can separate us from the love of God? In Romans, Paul presented his basic teachings to a community he wanted to visit. His life was one of faith and sacrifice. For the sake of Jesus Christ, he broke ties with his Jewish roots; for the sake of Jesus Christ, he stood against early Church leaders to defend a mission to the Gentiles; for the sake of Jesus Christ, he suffered at the hands of those to whom he preached. There was, for him a price to pay. Yet, in it all he could affirm that he was loved, that he was cared for and directed by God, that faith and trust in God mattered. It gives us confidence. For Paul, Abraham was the great model of faith, precisely because of Abraham's ability, no matter how much he had to struggle with it, to let go and leave things in God's hands. When we can do that, nothing can separate us from God's love.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 9:2-10

On the Second Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading in all three cycles is one of the accounts of the Transfiguration. The setting of the story is Jesus' journey to Jerusalem with His disciples, a journey that will end in the passion and crucifixion of Jesus. Along the way, the disciples get a glimpse of resurrection glory. They get to see the end of the journey. And, as is typical of Peter, he misunderstands and wants to hang on to the moment, to live the glory now. Yet the whole story makes clear that the path to resurrection glory passes through the passion and death of Jesus. It cannot be otherwise for us. Our path to eternal life with our Father, passes through a life of sacrifices, a life of letting go of control and going where our God leads us, a life of working for the good of others – as God works in their lives, not as we would want or expect God to work in their lives.

We are called to faith and trust in God, but more, we are called to a faith and trust in God that let's God be God, that asks us to abandon ourselves and our cherished attempts to control our lives into His loving hands.

FOR REFLECTION:

- In what ways in my life have I had to pay a cost, make a sacrifice to achieve what I wanted? Can I expect things to be different in my journey with God? What does it mean for me to say that my life is a journey with God?
- Israel acclaimed that we are about living life, not sacrificing it. So, how does sacrifice enter into our lives, become a necessary part of it? Are the sacrifices I make sacrifices of life or for life? How do I understand the difference?
- What do I try to control in my life? What do I try to control in the life of others? How might God want me to abandon myself and my sense of control to Him? How easy is this? How possible?
- Paul proclaims that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Do I really believe this? What about sin? What about all the bad choices I have made? What about those times when I know I'm wrong and I don't want to let go or be sorry? What does it mean that nothing can separate us from the love of God?
- What are those things in my life I want to hang on to, to cherish, to find as stopping points? How do they keep me from moving forward? What does it mean to me to affirm that the path to glory passes through suffering and sacrifice?

Lenten Schedule

Extra Masses

**6:30 pm Monday evenings (not March 12)
8:00 am every Saturday morning**

Fish Fries

**Every Friday in Lent, 3 - 7 pm
Good Friday, Noon - 6 pm**

Confessions

**No confessions on Holy Saturday, April 7th
Every Saturday from 4 - 4:45 pm
All Day Confessions, March 31st
from 10 am to 4:45 pm**

**Regional Weekend of Reconciliation
from 7 - 9 pm on Friday, March 23
and from 9 am - 3 pm on
Saturday, March 24th**

**Priests from this region of our deanery
will be available for confessions at
St. Anthony's in High Ridge.**

**Eucharistic Adoration
Every Wednesday from
8:30 am to 8 pm**

Holy Week

**Palm Sunday Blessing and
Distribution of Palms
Saturday, March 31st, 5 pm Mass
Sunday, April 1st, all Masses**

**Holy Thursday, April 5th
Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7 pm**

**Good Friday, April 6th
Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, 7 pm**

**Holy Saturday, April 7th
Easter Vigil, 8 pm**

**Easter Masses
7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 am**

ARCHDIOCESAN LENTEN REGULATIONS

Then to all Christ said, "Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day, and follow in my steps." (Luke 9:23)

The Church has always helped us fulfill these words of Jesus by prescribing very definite penance for all Catholics. Accordingly, the Pope and the American Bishops have outlined obligatory fast and abstinence as follows:

Ash Wednesday (February 22, 2012) and Good Friday (April 6, 2012) are days of *abstinence* for all Catholics *over the age of 14*. On these two days, *fast*, as well as *abstinence*, is also obligatory for those *from the ages of 18-59*. Abstinence means abstinence from meat. Fast means one full meal a day, with two smaller meals and nothing between meals (liquids are permitted). No Catholic will lightly excuse himself or herself from this obligation.

All Fridays in Lent are days of *abstinence* from meat. Here again Catholics will not hold themselves lightly excused, but if there is a serious health problem, this obligation would not apply.

We should strive to make all days of Lent a time of prayer and penance.

Lent is a time to take the time

to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,
A time to let the events
get up and walk around in us,
A time to intensify
our living unto Christ,
A time to hover over
the thoughts of our hearts,
A time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem
or walk along the sea and listen to His word
A time to touch His robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
A time to ponder and a time to wonder...

Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

HAVE A BEAUTIFUL DAY!!
LINDA