

Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

www.olgpparish.org

February 27, 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



Upcoming OLQP Parish Events

2011

March

- Wed 9 **Ash Wednesday**
 Sun 20 **Red Hat Bingo** KC Hall
 Wed 30 **Confirmation** 7:30pm Church

April

- Sat 9 **K C Meat Shoot**, Soccer Fields
 Sat 16 **Athletic Association Trivia Night**
 Sun 24 **Easter**
 Sat 30 **Daughters Tailgate Sale**
 Sat 30 **Annual Catholic Appeal** begins

May

- Sun 1 **First Communion**
 Sun 15 **Daughters May Crowning**
Annual Catholic Appeal ends

June

- Sat 11 **OLQP PARISH PICNIC**

July

- Mon-Thur 25-29 **Soccer Camp**, Athletic Field

August

- Sat 20 **Daughters Tailgate Sale**

September

- Sat 24 **Moonlight Golf Tournament**
 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

November

- Sat 5 **K C Meat Shoot**

December

- Sun 4 **Advent Tea** KC Hall

2012

January

- Sat 14 **Knights Mouse Races** KC Hall



Pastor's Desk

E.S.P.

I'm a little embarrassed to have to admit this, but I flunked Mind Reading class in the seminary. It has been a challenge over the years trying to work in a parish without the benefits of having the super human powers that other priests might have. It is especially difficult when people go into the hospital expecting that their priest is going to come and visit them and then get hurt, angry or disappointed when he does not show up. Most of the time, the problem is that the priest never knew that the parishioner was in the hospital. I feel bad when this happens because visiting sick people is a very important part of the pastoral life of a priest.

Please remember that you are dealing with a mere human mortal who flunked ESP 101. Because of this, we need to use old fashion methods of communication.....like calling the parish office on the telephone and requesting a visit when you are in the hospital. It may be tedious, but it is very effective. Some people do not want or need visits from their priests and that is fine. But for those who do, let us know.

Thanks to HIPAA laws, hospitals know longer call to inform us when our parishioners are in need. We are very happy to come for a visit, but we need to be informed. So, if you find yourself in the hospital and would like a visit, please call the parish office and let us know.

fr. mike

There is nothing better than
the encouragement of
a good friend!

Burning of Old Palms

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



OLQP School News

- The 5th - 8th graders went skiing at Hidden Valley as part of Student Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools' Week. Ms. Chauvin joined them on the slopes!
- Volunteer Appreciation Day is re-scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, following the Mass. All school volunteers are invited to join us in the cafeteria for a breakfast prepared in your honor.
- Registration for the 2011-2012 school year is now underway.
- Re-registration packets have been sent to all current school families. If you are a prospective new family interested in having your children attend Our Lady Queen of Peace School, please call or stop by the school office (636-671-0247) for a registration packet.

Young at Heart

On Monday, February 28, we will enjoy our monthly brown bag lunch, 11:30am, at the Knights Hall. Hope all can join us.

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 28 - Christian Moral Living
 March 7 - The Consistency of Life Ethics
 The Dignity of Life
 March 14 - What is Lent
 March 21 - Saying "YES" to Jesus
 Commitments to a Life of Faith
 March 28 - The Nicene Creed
 April 4 - The Way of the Cross
 The Lord's Prayer



YOUTH MINISTRY

Seek and You Will Find

Life is a great big scavenger hunt and if we persevere we will find what we are seeking. What are you seeking, for you and your family? Are you seeking the Kingdom of God which gives us true joy and peace of heart or are you looking for power, money and fame? Today's gospel tells us that the rules of the scavenger hunt of life are that we must choose one or the other, we cannot choose both. If we choose to search for the Kingdom of God we will be choosing struggles, sacrifices and some suffering but the reward is peace that surpasses all understanding, joy that is overflowing and the hope of eternal life. If we choose to search for power, money and fame we will also get struggles, sacrifices and suffering but with our fruit will be anxiety and despair. It seems like an easy choice but in life we often get tempted by the glamour and glitz of the low life. Choose the high life for you and your family and enjoy the great scavenger hunt of life. You will find what you are seeking, so search for the Kingdom of God, your family is counting on your leadership.

Thanks to the Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus are a true treasure in our parish and community. They have been supporting Youth Ministry for the past twelve years by giving the youth ways to "earn" needed funds for our Pro-Life trip, our summer retreat and our annual summer service week. We are so appreciative of the money they donated for our Pro-Life Trip and for chairing the Roses for Life. We once again thank the Knights of Columbus and the entire parish for your support of our amazing youth.

See YOU on Wednesday

All high school youth are invited to join us every Wednesday evening from 6-8pm in the Bear's Den for popcorn, fun and faith sharing.

Terry Ostlund, Youth Minister
 314-566-8363

**"Precious Metals" Collection next weekend,
 March 5th and 6th. Thanks for your support!**

OLQP 50th Anniversary

Help us make this 50th Anniversary year a true celebration of the Faith, Fellowship and Fun that we share here at Our Lady Queen of Peace. Do you have a favorite OLQP memory you could share? Pictures of parish events through the years that we could use to make a special presentation? Were you there in 1961 at the dedication of our parish? We would love to hear from you. Email us at OLQP50th@olqpparish.org or call Denise, 636-671-0454. Thanks for your help.



BINGO
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL
EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT
DOORS OPEN AT 4:30PM
BINGO STARTS 6:45PM

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 an 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.



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.

"OLQP Baseball/Softball Umpires Needed"

You can make \$16-\$19 per game.
 You must be 13 years of age by April 1, 2011.
 If interested please contact
 Luke Moore at 636-274-9622 or at
moorecrabby@hotmail.com by Feb. 22



St. Vincent De Paul

The volunteers of the SVDP Society wish to THANK YOU for your generous donations. We were able to help many of the needs in our area. This is how the funds were disbursed in January:

Electric- \$503.75 Water- \$100.00 Propane-\$197.46
 Thanks again and God Bless!

SVDP Volunteers

Stephen Ministry

It's not just for people in the parish. It's also a community outreach. 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!

Picnic Plant Booth Requests

Seed Sowers - Some of my garden friends and I have plenty of supplies to share with anyone that would like to start some plants from seed. It could be fun for the scouts or a class project. The request is that the group or parishioners share a little of their bounty with the plant booth.

Plants - Plants for the house, for the gardens, vegetables or flowers, annual or perennial, tropical or aquatic. We would welcome trees, bulbs or seeds. For your convenience we will come to your home to pick up the plants, and even dig them up out of the ground.

Containers - Medium to large containers for the plants. We have a few youngsters that have volunteered to clean up containers that might need a little attention.

Volunteers - We enthusiastically welcome any time and talent parishioners could share at the plant booth.

Questions - If you have any ideas, questions or any of the items requested for the plant booth please call Debbie, 274-2601.

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.

Our Lady Queen of Peace Lenten Fish Fry's

Beginning Ash Wednesday, March 9th, noon to 7pm

Every Friday during Lent 3 to 7pm

Ending with Good Friday, April 22, noon to 7pm

Serving Shrimp (\$9), Fried Cod, Jack Salmon Filets, and Cajun or Lemon Pepper Baked Fish (\$8).

Each plate includes two sides, hushpuppies, applesauce, bread, homemade dessert and a drink.

March Breakfast Menu

Scrambled Eggs

Sausage

Hash Browns

Biscuits and Gravy

Fruit Cup

Cereal

Coffee, Orange Juice, Milk

Many Thanks

Thanks to Fr. Mike and Deacon Paul for all their visits to the hospital and my home during my hip replacement surgery.

Thanks to my Parish Family, the Quilting Ladies and the Knights of Columbus Auxiliary for all the prayers, cards and phone calls; you all have been my special angels.

Jean Duda

Thank you for a successful Mission Week!

We were blessed to have Fr. Mike Mulhearn lead our mission this past week. The talks and special time with Fr. Mike was inspirational and insightful. We thank him for this time to help us prepare our hearts for Lent. We also thank Fr. Jim Beighlie for bringing Fr. Mike to our church. And thank you to all who had a part in our mission, especially the Adult Faith Formation Committee and all of the OLQP ministries who hosted our social time each evening after the Masses, prayer service, and the concert. All those who attended made this mission week a success!

Trivia Night

Proceeds to Benefit Peace Pantry

Come join us for a FUN evening, Saturday, March 5th, at the Knights Hall hosted by Chapel Hill Mortuary. Tables of 8 or 10, \$25 per person, (\$30 at the door). Free beer, wine, soda and popcorn. Prizes, Prizes Prizes. Auctions, 50/50 Drawings, Hot Electronics Raffles.

Any questions or more information or to sign up please call Katie, 274-4100.

**The formula for happiness:
something to do,
something to love,
something to hope for.**

**Fr. William Scheid Presents
Neil Simon's "Fools"**

The Archdiocesan Catholic Youth Apostolate and The Fr. William Scheid players will present Neil Simon's "Fools" on Friday, April 8th and Saturday, April 9th, at 8pm and Sunday, April 10th at 3pm. All performances will be at Pope John Paul II Auditorium at the Cardinal Rigali Center, 20 Archbishop May Dr. This year there will be a special Wine and Cheese Party prior to the Saturday performance. All proceeds support the Catholic Youth Apostolate youth programs. All tickets are \$12 each. There will be an additional \$10 charge to attend the Wine and Cheese Party. For more information please contact Allison, 314-792-7624 or email : allisontabeta@archstl.org for tickets.

Seven Days of Inspiration

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

Do this day justice.
Live it well!

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You are worth getting  
to know better.

~~~~~

A wish you've made
will come true.

~~~~~

Your feelings matter, too.

~~~~~

Say something that's
on your mind.
What a relief!

~~~~~

The world always looks  
brighter behind a smile.

~~~~~

You will be in someone's
thoughts, prayers
or dreams today!

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 up to date.

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, March 30
From 1:00pm – 6:00pm.

2010 Contribution Statement

If you would like a 2010 Contribution statement please send a note (marked "Linda") to the Parish office, put it in the collection basket or call the Parish office, 671-3062.

Thank you so much.

**Permanent Diaconate
Information Night**

Do you feel called to do something special for your Church? If so a vocation to the Permanent Diaconate might be something that you are being called to. The Office of the Permanent Diaconate is asking that interested men attend one of the two Information Nights to begin exploring a vocation to the Permanent Diaconate. The Information Night will be held on Tuesday, March 1st and Thursday, March 10th at 7pm at the Cardinal Rigali Center. Wives of men considering this vocation are strongly encouraged to attend. For more information or to reserve a spot at the meeting, please contact the Office of the Permanent Diaconate, 314-792-7431.

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

Marie Delue, mother-in-law of Carol Delue

Debbie O'Brien, wife of Dan

Helen Ponder, of our community

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

**Our Gifts to God and Parish Last Week
232 Envelopes Used**

Special Collections

St. Louis Review	\$	73.00
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New Building Fund

Lavender Envelopes	\$	805.00
Total Received to date	\$	689,418.10

Offertory

Sunday Envelopes	\$	8,932.00
Sunday Loose	\$	535.00
Above and Beyond	\$	126.00
Candlemas	\$	32.00
First Offering	\$	5.00
Present and Future	\$	5.00
Total Offertory	\$	9,635.00
Offertory Goal	\$	13,699.00

Thank you for your generosity.

As of February 21, 2011

Contributions Year To Date	\$	411,098.89
Projected Year to Date Budget	\$	465,766.00

Script Gift Cards

Sales	\$	2,740.00
Profits/tuition reduction	\$	129.37

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

**Stewardship
February 27, 2011
8th Sunday on Ordinary Time**

"Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself." Matthew 6:34

Jesus tells us that we cannot serve two masters. In many ways, worry is the other master in our lives. We worry about our job, our house, our family and our health. We worry about our future plans, our dreams and our goals. We worry about measuring up, meeting expectations and keeping up with neighbors. Today, God gives us a very soothing message. Do not let worry rule your life. Put God first and He will take care of everything else.

Parish Activities

Mon	Feb 28	PSR, 6:15-7:30pm RCIA, 7pm, Cafeteria meeting room Rosary for Peace, 7:30pm, Church
Tues	March 1	Devotions after 8am Mass Quilters, 9am - 3pm, 6 - 8:30pm, Activity Center School Board Meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory Church "History Class", 7pm, Cafeteria meeting room
Wed	March 2	Volunteer Breakfast, 8:30am, Cafeteria Youth Night, 6-8pm, Bear's Den
Thurs	March 3	Choir Practice, 7pm, Church Winter Bible Study, 7pm, Cafeteria meeting room Daughter's, 7:30pm, Cafeteria
Fri	March 4	Youth Dance, 6-10pm, Cafeteria
Sun	March 6	First Sunday Breakfast

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

Jackie Nappier	Andy Nappier
Vince Ferrara	Carl Grimwood
Martin Ponder	Janet Bachmann
Rich Leiber	Gerry Schroeder

Chris DeClue, daughter of Bill & Linda Weber

Anice Nixon, mother of Ruth Barbato

Hubert Taylor, father of Nancy Wilfong

Donald Abell, brother of Helen Maloney

Jim Giljum, friend of Bob & Vicki De Long

Debbie Laird, friend of Geraldine Little

Donna Henslee, friend of Geraldine Little

Buck Thomas, husband of Donna Thomas

Alyssa and Ashlyn Stark, granddaughters of

Jim and Judy Winfrey

Kay Oestman, sister of Maureen Turney

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.

Parish Office email

parishoffice@olqpparish.org

OLQP Web Site

www.olqpparish.org

submit articles for bulletin

olqbulletin@yahoo.com

Deadline Tuesday at 4:30 pm

Inserts - Monday at noon

Mass Intentions

Mon	Feb 28	8:00am	Jeanette Ellison
Tues	March 1	8:00am	Alice Nahlik
Wed	March 2	8:00am	Fred C. Smentkowski
Thurs	March 3	8:00am	Tyler Freihaut
Fri	March 4	8:00am	Irma Ecker
Sat	March 5	8:00am	Sheri Noonan Intention
		5:00pm	Deceased members of Huckshold Family
Sun	March 6	7:30am	Harold Duckworth
		9:30am	Mary McFarland
		11:30am	People of the Parish

**March 5th and 6th
Special Ministers of the Eucharist**

5:00 pm	Peggy Mikko, Sandy Munzlinger, Katie Tutass, Barb & Joe Nenninger, *Mike & Joyce Ruopp
7:30 am	Mary Bjornstad, Ken Bohnert, Ruth Haen, *Michele Huff, Jo Jahnsen, Marie Strayhorn, *Linda Weber
9:30 am	*Margaret Gerling, Dan & Kim Horn, Jan Hussman, Helen Salamone, Connie Stubits, Jo Ann Vess, *Nancy Wilfong
11:30 am	Sandee Burkemper, Deb Pigue, Maria Webb, Sharon Schmidt, *Lynette & Patrick Rawlins, Denise Webb

* You are responsible to clean the vessels after Mass

Proclaimers

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

Servers

5:00 pm	Allyson Bridges, Kaitlyn Bridges, Sara Eimer
7:30 am	Jordan Duff, Ann & Jane Kenney
9:30 am	PSR
11:30 am	Tom Carbone, Donnie Constantz, Ben Pigue

Ushers

5:00 pm	Bill & Donna Clifton, Ken Ganey, Ralph Munzlinger, Jerry Sheets, B. Slodkowski
7:30 am	Doug Bjornstad, Carl Boyer, Jeff Eschbach, Ted Hempen, Larry Lammert, John Nahlik
9:30 am	PSR
11:30 am	Don Brooks, John Holmes, Don Reno, Jim Robertson, Al Schuld, David Witt



Mary Jo Dawson,
Mary Ann Whitecotton,
Debbie O'Donnell
and Carol Delue

**Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle A**



THEME: In all of life we have a choice. Choose well. Choose blessing. Choose life.

The choices we make define us, make us who we are. We can choose to rise above bad circumstances or to wallow in them. We can choose to better ourselves or to remain as we are, or even to become worse. We can choose possibilities and be hopeful or choose to deal only with limitations and be fatalistic. We have a choice.

All of today's readings offer us a choice – to choose God and His will, to choose hope and life, or to choose stagnation and death. To choose God and His will is to choose endless opportunity, to choose growth and change, to always move forward and reach for, yearn for what is possible.

THE READINGS:

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 11:18, 26-28

The first reading is taken from the Book of Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy consists of four elaborate sermons by Moses to the people of Israel, delivered on the plains of Moab immediately before the people crossed the Jordan and entered the Promised Land. In the ending of the first of these sermons, Moses calls for the people to make a choice, to choose blessing or curse, life or death.

The Deuteronomic tradition, as it unfolds in Deuteronomy and the stories contained in Joshua

through Kings, is a voice of critical traditionalism, a voice that speaks against dogmatic authoritarianism. In the Deuteronomic tradition, the law is not viewed as a rigid and fixed set of principles to be slavishly followed, but a sense of justice and right imbued with the very spirit of God. Moses calls on the people to choose this spirit, this liveliness, and he calls for this choice as the people face new and unimagined possibilities – life in the Land of Promise, life as a nation of God's Chosen People.

Deuteronomy presents the Mosaic age as an ideal age, almost as an age of Camelot and holds up a challenge to all people of all time to embrace the vision, to strive for the ideal. We can choose to see our relationship with God as defined by a set of rigid rules or we can embrace a spirit, a spirit that sees God's will in promoting the good of the whole community, in living a communal life that benefits those around us, that draws on our roots, but ventures forward to new experiences, new ways of understanding how our God leads us, or we can see the idealized past as an impossible goal, or as something fixed that we need to hang on to. We can choose blessing or curse, life or death.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:21-25

The second reading comes from Paul's letter to the Romans. Most of Paul's letters are written to Christian communities he had established and had the purpose of addressing problems and concerns and answering questions from members of the community. Romans is different. Romans is more a letter of introduction to a community Paul intended to visit, a letter that explains beforehand the Christian teaching Paul proclaimed. In his letter to the Romans, Paul again announced that we have a choice, a choice to see our relationship with God in fixed terms of legal precepts or in a freedom imparted by Jesus Christ, a freedom to say, "Yes, I am sinful and forgiven. Yes, I am freely loved." From such love, love should flow, the love that expresses itself in building up the community and seeking the good of all. We do not earn salvation through any good works or the following of commandments. These guidelines show us where we fall short. It is only by saying "Yes" to Jesus Christ, by choosing to be loved and forgiven, by accepting God's love that we are redeemed, and as the community of the redeemed, we care for one another.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 7:21-27

The Gospel reading is the ending of the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew. Over the last few weeks, we have seen a progression in Jesus' words in Matthew's Sermon on the Mount. Jesus, presented as a teacher like the Scribes and Pharisees, but more, presented as a teacher and interpreter of God's word like Moses, but more, begins by grounding what He says in the Torah, proceeds to quote the law and announce the need to go beyond it to fulfill the spirit of God's word and will, and finally speaks on His own about how to live as God's chosen ones, true to His word and will.

At the end of the Sermon, Jesus, too, says that we have a choice, a choice to be wise or foolish, a choice to be grounded in our God through Jesus, or adrift in our self-serving endeavors. What Jesus deals with is how we choose. We can acclaim Him as Lord, but if we don't live those words, then we choose foolishness. Here, Matthew echoes Paul. Some will come saying, "Look, we did all this in your name. We've earned our place." They have missed the spirit of Jesus. Others will be able to say, "We have been touched by the spirit of God in Jesus and have tried to live accordingly. We were first loved and valued." These are the people who build the Kingdom, who share with others the possibilities they have found in God's love, who choose blessing, who choose wisdom, who choose life. In all of life we have a choice. Choose well. Choose blessing. Choose life.

FOR REFLECTION:

- Do I believe that I have choices? Do I believe that life's circumstances so determine my life that what I choose makes little difference? Do I believe that my choices make me who I am? Who do I choose to be?
- In my life with God, is my stance more one of dogmatic authoritarianism (here is what I must do), or critical traditionalism (here is what I must decide)? How do I decide what I must do? How do I know what I decide is in accord with the spirit of God?
- How do I understand what Paul says about freedom from the law? Even understanding Paul, do I believe that by what I do I earn my way to heaven? Do I ever have the sense that "God owes me?"
- What grounds my choices? What grounds my life? What are the values out of which I operate? Is saying "Yes" to the love of Jesus the central value of my life?
- Choose blessing or curse. Choose life or death. All of the ideas about choosing make it seem that I determine my own fate, that I can earn salvation. How do I understand freedom and choice and reconcile these ideas with the fact that salvation is a free gift that cannot be earned, that no matter what, I am simply loved by God?

AD PAGE
can be used if
needed.

AD PAGE