

Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

www.olqpparish.org

March 18, 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 the parish priests.

Welcome to Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish

We rejoice to have you with us, whether a long-time resident or newly arrived in our parish! Please fill out this form and return it to the Parish Office or place it in the Sunday collection basket if you would like to be a registered member of our parish. If you have recently changed your status, married, moved out of your parents' home or graduated from college, you need to re-register. Please help us keep our records in order.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Phone _____ # of people registering _____

email address _____

Please circle one: New Registration Address or phone number change Moving out of parish

Upcoming OLQP Parish Events**2012****April**

- Sat 21 **ACA begins this weekend**
 Sat 28 **Daughters Tailgate Sale**
Athletic Association Trivia Night,
KC Hall
ACA continues this weekend

May

- Sat 6 **ACA ends this weekend**
 Sun 6 **Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale after**
all Masses
 Mon 7 **Confirmation**
 Sat 19 **Preschool Graduation**

June

- Sat 9 **OLQP Picnic**

July

- Sun 15 **Hope Builders**
 M-F 23-26 **Athletic Association Soccer**
Camp

August

- Sat 18 **Daughters Tailgate Sale, OLQP**
Knights Fairmont Horse Races

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

From the Pastor



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Confessions

“The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel!” (Mark 1:15) These are the very first words that Jesus utters in the Gospel of Mark. These words define His purpose for coming into the world; this was His mission, to call people to confess their sins and receive forgiveness. “Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world...” Jesus healed people who were sick and He worked miracles, but He did these things to show that He had the authority to forgive sins. Forgiving sins was more important to Him than healing physical ailments. Before He left this world, He gave authority to His church to call people to repentance and forgive sins in His name.

If calling us to repentance was Jesus’s biggest priority, then it should definitely be our biggest priority to heed His words and respond to the opportunities we have to address sin in our lives. Lent is a sacred season, tailor made for repentance.

Next week the Archdiocese is sponsoring a “Reconciliation Weekend”. Designated churches will be open for confessions Friday and Saturday. In our region, **St. Anthony’s in High Ridge** is the designated church. Priests will be available on Friday March 23, 7pm-9pm and then again on Saturday March 24, from 9am-3pm.

In addition, the sacrament of reconciliation will be made available at **Our Lady Queen of Peace** parish on Saturday, March 31, from 10am-4:45pm. Please make use of these opportunities to heed the call of Jesus to be set free from sin and to embrace the life of the gospel!

Fr. Mike

PLEASE NOTE...**Announcements before Mass**

The deadline for all announcements before Mass is to be turned in to the office no later Thursday at 2 pm for the following Sunday announcements. The blurb should be no more than 3 lines. You may email it to:

parishoffice@olqpparish.org

**EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES**

PALM SUNDAY (April 1) DEADLINE is March 22
 EASTER SUNDAY (April 8) DEADLINE is March 29
 Thank you for your help!

School News

Lenten Activities at OLQP School:



Prayer:

All of the students participate in **Adoration** each Wednesday that school is in session.

Stations of the Cross were led by the 8th graders and their kindergartners on March 2nd. The 7th graders will lead the Stations of the Cross on March 30th.

The 6th graders will perform the **Passion Play at 1:30 and 7:00 pm on April 4th in Church.**

Sharing:

The Student Council sponsored the **Mission Carnival** on March 16th. The students are also participating in the **Rice Bowl and Knights of Columbus Baby Bottle collections.**

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)**

RCIA

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:

- 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 Week (Explanation of how our Parish celebrates Holy Week and how those being Baptized, Confirmed and Receiving Holy Communion will be received into the Church)

YOUTH MINISTRY

Saturday, March 24th...

6th, 7th and 8th grade Crazy Game Night from 6 - 10 pm in the Cafeteria. If you would like to learn more about this or to register a team please call Terry, 314-566-8363.

Sunday, March 25th...

This year's Confirmation class and sponsors have a retreat at OLQP from 11 am to 3 pm. We meet in the Church Cafeteria at 11 am so we can process in together for the 11:30 am Mass. A pizza lunch will be provided during the retreat.

Monday, April 2nd...

Confirmation Class of May 2013 (our current 7th graders) parent and youth meeting at 6:15 - 7:30 pm in the Cafeteria to learn about the many exciting Confirmation faith building opportunities as these youth prepare for their Confirmation. If you cannot attend please call Terry to schedule a time you and your son or daughter can meet with her.

"IT" Group News

It's hard to believe we are just a couple days away from the first day of spring. Our first three months of 2012 have been successful ones for the "IT" group and you can feel the excitement as we get closer to having our newly confirmed eighth graders join us in May.

Parents - We are finalizing our 2012 Youth Group calendar and will be posting it to the OLQP website and our "IT" group Facebook site ASAP. Please join us and keep an eye out for our calendar of events.

www.facebook.com/groups/olqpyouthgroup/

This weeks Theme -

Tonight: March 18th - March Youth Mass prep.

Never been to youth group? - **Get with "IT" and just do "IT"!!! Every Sunday night from 6pm - 8pm 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 Coordinator
314-566-8363

Catholics Come Home Corner

During Lent, when your friends or co-workers express curiosity about Catholic customs and symbolism, use those moments as opportunities to evangelize. Following is a common question Catholics hear during Lent and an evangelizing answer.

External Sacrifice: So why exactly are you not eating candy for the next month?

This is a very popular penance during Lent, and the questions about it are just as popular. Heaven forbid you should avoid the cake at the birthday party! You LOVE cake! But it's Lent - a time for penance and sacrifice. Christ has said, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23). Giving up something we enjoy strengthens our love for Christ and our resilience against temptation. As Pope Benedict XVI said in his Lenten address of 2009, "Through fasting and praying, we allow [Christ] to come and satisfy the deepest hunger that we experience in the depths of our being: the hunger and thirst for God." It unites us with Christ's own sacrifices and gives us a deeper appreciation of the blessings in our lives.



St. Vincent De Paul

Thanks again for your support. We received \$620.89 from the penny jar. Also a special THANK YOU to the SVDP Youth Group for the collection of \$1,114.61 on Super Bowl Sunday. Half of this was shared with the Peace Pantry. The funds were disbursed as follows;

Electric-\$610.00

Water-\$75.00

Propane-\$75.00.

God Bless You and your Families in this Lenten season and always.

OLQP-SVDP Volunteers

Movie: October Baby 'Every Life is Beautiful!'

A special viewing will be at Ronnie's Saturday, March 24th, 9 am including a prayer before and a YouTube video of Gianna Jessen (abortion survivor) after the movie. Advance purchase (\$6) is required. Any questions or for more information contact Mike Heller, 314-223-9480 or 636-274-2733.



Parish Corner

Every week a different organization is featured in the bulletin.

No organization this week.

Thank You

To my OLQP family,

Thank you all so much for the prayers offered for my infant grandson, Ethan, while he was in the NIC unit at Cardinal Glennon. He is home now and doing well.

Thank you so much and may God bless you all.

Sincerely,
Diane Spear

Please Patronize Our Sponsors

We wish to thank Chapel Hill for being a sponsor for our bulletin. Because of their generosity we do not pay to have our bulletins printed. Please remember to patronize our sponsors when in need of their type of service.

OLQP Summer Camp 2012

An Exciting Opportunity for 3 to 5 year olds

It is not too early to begin thinking about summer activities for your child! Look no further than Our Lady Queen of Peace Preschool!

The mission of the program is to offer children ages 3 (fully potty trained) to 5 years of age a continuity of services by providing a safe and nurturing environment, developmentally appropriate themed activities and socialization opportunities rooted in a faith based foundation.

The program will be held the week of June 4th—8th at the OLQP Preschool. The hours are 8:30—11:30 am Cost is \$90 for the first child and \$81 for each additional sibling. Registration forms are due by April 19th.

Enroll today and save your child's space! Let the adventure begin! If you have any questions, please contact Laura Cortner, Preschool Director, 636-671-3062. Looking forward to seeing you this summer!

A Friendly Reminder...

We've noticed that the Cafeteria and kitchen have not been cleaned well enough after being used by various groups holding activities there. The kitchen equipment should be left clean and ready for use for the school lunches. Sometimes spills on the equipment or the side of the equipment are not cleaned. All stainless counters must be sanitized, not just wiped off. The floors need to be mopped not just swept.

It is the responsibility of those using the kitchen and cafeteria to contact the maintenance staff or office in order to have access to the cleaning equipment needed.

A reminder: all posters, signs and artwork, that is taped to the walls, must be hung with "BLUE PAINTERS TAPE". All other tape pulls off the paint.

With cooperation of everyone we can keep our facilities clean and ready for use by all. If you have any questions: please call Deacon Paul, 314-954-0378.

Two Heavenly Dusters Needed!! Angels We Need You!

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

We are in need of two 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 Church lobby, etc. They do this on Fridays after the 8 am Mass or at a time convenient to you.

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

OLQP Parish Email List

Subscribe to our **Parish Email List** and receive:

- Parish News
- Event Calendar & Reminders
- Death Notices
- Holy Day & Holiday Mass Schedules
- Event Cancellation Notices
- Urgent Messages
- And so much more!

It's easy and safe to subscribe and unsubscribe.

This email list is for parochial use only and will not be sold or shared with anyone!

Go to www.olqpparish.org and submit your name and email address in the form on the bottom of the home page

OR

Email your name and email address to:

frbeighlie@olqpparish.org

K of C/OLQP Annual Fishing Tournament Saturday, June 2

Hey! All you "fisherpersion", mark your calendars, clean out your tackle boxes, reline your reels, it's time for the OLQP Fishing Tournament at the Lake of the Ozarks. Check the flyer on the bulletin boards, ask Deacon Paul, 314-954-0378 or Jeff Littrell, 314-607-4121 for details.

RALLY FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY Defend Conscience Rights!

Oppose the federal mandate that forces religious employers and others to pay for abortion drugs, contraception and sterilization

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Archbishop Robert Carlson –
Archbishop of St. Louis

Dr. John L. Yeats –
Missouri Baptist Convention

Maggie Karner –
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Wear red to show support for bills that will protect our religious liberties. If you want to lobby legislators, please come at 10 am to register.

TUESDAY,
March 27, 2012
Noon
Missouri State Capital
First Floor Rotunda

For bus transportation or more information, contact the Respect Life Apostolate at archstl.org/respectlife or 314-792-7555.

Sponsors: Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Missouri Baptist Convention, Missouri Catholic Conference, Missouri Right for Life

Catholic Youth and Fr. Scheid Presents "Harvey"

The Archdiocesan Catholic Youth Apostolate and the Fr. William Scheid players will present Mary Chase's "Harvey" on Friday, April 13th, and Saturday, April 14th, at 8 pm, and Sunday, April 15th, at 3 pm. All performances will be at Pope John Paul II Auditorium at the Cardinal Rigali Center, 20 Archbishop May Drive, Shrewsbury. All proceeds support the Catholic Youth Apostolate youth programs. All tickets are \$12 each or \$10 for Seniors. For more information please contact Allison by phone: 314-792-7624 or email: allisontabeta@archstl.org for tickets.

BINGO
Every Friday Night
Knights of Columbus Hall
Doors open at 4:30 pm
Bingo starts at 6:45 pm
Hope to see you there!

Singles Dance Saturday, March 31st

Jefferson County separated, divorced and widowed Catholic support group will be sponsoring a Singles Dance at 10140 Concord School Rd, 63128. The doors open at 7 pm, music is from 7:30 to 11:30 pm. Cost is \$10 (this includes snacks and prizes; cash bar; you must be at least 21 to attend). Call 636-282-3014 for more information or any questions.

OLQP Cafeteria Free Bunny Pictures Packages Available for Purchase March 24th, 10 am to 3 pm

Sponsored by Pam's Monograms
and The Hobby Girls

Come see the vendors, Miche bags, Photos-by-shell, Pam's Monograms, ditigal scrapbooks, jewelry, Avon Dove chocolate, Lia Sophia, Pampered Chef, Scentsy, Tupperware, Fabric Books, Thirty one gifts, Sterling Silver Jewelry, Handmade wreaths, Premier Jewelry, Celebrating Home, Tastefully Simple, It Works, BeautiControl, Partylite, Origami Owl, Amazing Animals. Any questions please call 636-575-1996.

Seven Days of Inspiration

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

You don't have to
be perfect to be happy
or to make others happy.

~~~~~  
You deserve to live well.

~~~~~  
Say "yes" more often.
Say "no" more often, too!

~~~~~  
There's a star shining  
just for you.  
Follow it!

~~~~~  
You bring out the
good in people.

~~~~~  
Let an angel earn her  
wings: Accept her help.

~~~~~  
A person's true wealth
is the good they
do in the world.

Peace Pantry Collection
March 24th and 25th
Needs This Month
Canned Beets, Carrots,
Cream Corn, Hominy or Broth
Thank you for your continuous support!
God bless,
Peace Pantry

Engaged Encounter Weekend

An Engaged Encounter Weekend is for all couples planning marriage in the Catholic Church who desire a richer, fuller life.

Weekends will be held in March, May, July and September at the a Marianist Retreat Center in Eureka. Register at <http://home.centurytel.net/stlengaged/>, or by calling Jim and Cheri Zobel, 636-379-0962.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our next Eucharistic Adoration is
 Wednesday, March 21,
 from 8:30 am – 8:00 pm.

Do you wonder what to do in His Eucharistic Presence? How to spend an hour or even a few moments in quiet solitude with Him? Come then, in faith and humility, and receive the outpouring of His love and mercy.

Pray for enlightenment of your sins, which so offend our Lord. Offer all your sins and misery to Jesus. He thirsts upon these iniquities; the fire of His mercy consumes them!

Seek His will, His wisdom, His peace and His love. He will never fail you, His beloved.

In the stillness of the sanctuary, Jesus waits for you. Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for Adoration this Wednesday, from 8:30 am – 8 pm. This time spent with Him is most intimate and holy.

EASTER FLOWER FUNDRAISER FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

We are again taking orders for flowers to be used on our altar for this Easter.

You may use the form below, put it in an envelope marked "FLOWERS" and put it in the collection basket or turn it into the parish office. All orders MUST be in by Monday, March 19th. Additional order forms are available in the Church lobby.

If you have any questions, please call Joanne at 636-274-0590.

	Price	Quantity	Total
Easter Lily full 3-4 blooms	\$10.00	_____	_____

Cash or checks accepted.

Checks made to OLQP St. Vincent de Paul

Name _____ Phone _____

Amount paid _____

If your flower is donated in the memory of a loved one, please print their name below.

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

Joan Maupin, sister of Cliff Wendt

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

Our Gifts to God and Parish

Special Collections

Eastern European	\$	3.00
St. Louis Review	\$	70.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	10.00

New Building Fund

Lavender Envelopes	\$	568.00
Total Received to date	\$	720,283.83

Offertory

Sunday Envelopes	\$	10,245.00
Sunday Loose	\$	429.00
Candlemas	\$	2.00
Present and Future	\$	57.00
Total Offertory	\$	10,733.00
Offertory Goal	\$	14,000.00

Thank you for your generosity.

1,191 registered members

228 online, loose and envelopes used this week

As of March 12, 2011

Contributions Year To Date	\$	452,879.70
Projected Year to Date Budget	\$	518,000.00

Scrip Gift Cards

Sales	\$	1,400.00
Profits/tuition reduction	\$	61.76

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

Start With Prayer

"For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son..."

John 3:16

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we be generous in making some sacrifices for Him.

Parish Activities

Mon	March 19	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	March 20	Devotions after 8 am Mass Quilters, 9 am - 3 pm, 6 - 8:30 pm Finance Meeting, 6:30 pm, Rectory History Class (Fr. Don), 7 pm, Cafeteria meeting room
Wed	March 21	Eucharistic Adoration, 8:30 am - 8 pm, Church "Protecting God's Children Class", 6:30 pm, Cafeteria
Thur	March 22	8th grade Performance, 1:30 & 7 pm, Cafeteria Choir, 7 pm, Church
Fri	March 23	Fish Fry, 3 - 7 pm, Cafeteria
Sat	March 24	Jr. High Crazy Game, 6 pm, Cafeteria
Sun	March 25	Confirmation Retreat Day, 11-3 pm, Cafeteria & Church SVDP Youth meeting, 7 pm, Cafeteria "IT" Youth meeting, 6 - 8 pm, Cafeteria meeting room

Mass Intentions

Mon	March 19	8:00 am	Ron Day
		6:30 pm	Rita Wende
Tues	March 20	8:00 am	Anthony Ruzicka
Wed	March 21	8:00 am	Virginia Hilgert
Thurs	March 22	8:00 am	Ray Brune
Fri	March 23	8:00 am	Nancy Childs Family
Sat	March 24	8:00 am	Wayne Thome
		5:00 pm	Leonard Sanchez
Sun	March 25	7:30 am	Deceased Members of Knights of Columbus and Ladies Auxiliary #6435
		9:30 am	People of the Parish
		11:30 am	Ted Boller

**March 24th and 25th
Special Ministers of the Eucharist**

5:00 pm	Larry Bottchen, Christine Camden, Ralph Munzlinger, *Barb & Joe Nenninger, Denise & Richard Ortmann, Shirley Tenny
7:30 am	*Bev Gregory, *Carl & Patsy Boyer, Michael & Joyce Ruopp, Joyce Stenger, Linda Weber
9:30 am	Tom Broadbent, Clay Gregorc, *Don Moeller, Deb Pigue, Maria & Paul Stonecypher, Connie Stubits, *Jo Ann Vess
11:30 am	Sandee Burkemper, Vicki De Long, Barb Oppelz, Lynette & Patrick Rawlins, *Sharon Schmidt, *Denise Witt

* You are responsible to clean the vessels after Mass

Proclaimers

5:00 pm	Youth Ministry
7:30 am	Ken Bohnert, Dave Mills
9:30 am	Dale Andrews, Maryann Turek
11:30 am	Carol & Gary Freihaut

Servers

5:00 pm	Madison & Reagan Becnel, Rose Haug
7:30 am	Cameron Gerber, S. Otzenberger, K. Robertson
9:30 am	Kimberly Queen, Gracie & Joey Scanga
11:30 am	Kaitlyn & Melissa Esch, Cierra Payne

Ushers

5:00 pm	Youth Ministry
7:30 am	Donna Clifton, Ted Hempen, Larry Lammert, Steve Morlock, Vince Rocchio, Volunteer needed
9:30 am	Steve Freihaut, Tom Mattingly, Jeff Queen, Rich Rousseau, Dale Sudholt, Larry Whitworth
11:30 am	Don Brooks, Robert De Long, John Holmes, Paul McDonnell, Don Reno, David Witt

Please pray for those who are ill

(parishioners are in bold)

Frieda Siebel-Spath	Mary Bequette
Jackie Nappier	Helen Wendt
Craig Nelson	Cheryl Salamone
Audrey Hastings	Judy Janos
Maria Stonecypher	Dave Buckey

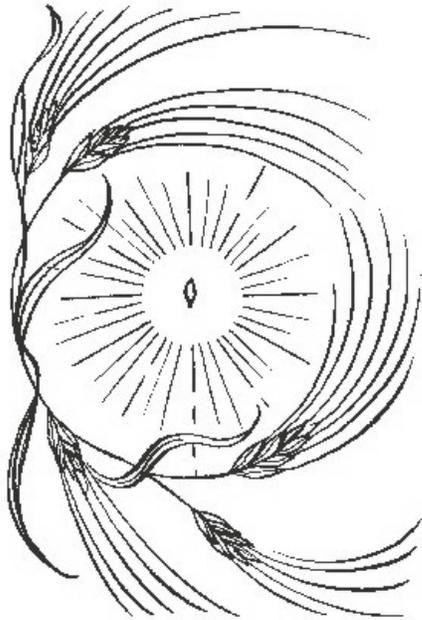
Sam Taylor of our community
 Bob Cranston, friend of Tom & Sue Alt
 Christine Gregory, mother of Bill Gregory
 Derrick & Mae Evans, friends of Ray Wieschhaus
 Liam Buckey, grandson of Mary & Dave Buckey
 Emily Buckey, daughter-in-law of Mary & Dave Buckey
 Maryann Stewart, sister of Tim Lodes
 John and Elaine Muich of our community
 Kelsey Lavrrar, granddaughter of Carl & Bernice Grimwood
 Pam Szolga, sister of Frank Saggio
 Ed Rabbit Sr., father of Tammy Groppe
 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
 ~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.



**Church
Cleaning**

Maryann Whitecotton
and Carol Delue

**Fifth Sunday of Lent
Cycle B**



**THEME: Now is the hour. How I live now matters.
Live in love.**

Our Lenten journey is drawing to an end. Next week is Holy Week, the week that celebrates Jesus' ultimate triumph – over sin, over death, over all forms of self-concern and isolation. There is an urgency in today's readings, an urgency to take in and live what God speaks to our hearts, an urgency to accept and live the present moment well, to see that all the choices we make at every moment of our lives have significance – eternal significance, an urgency to love, to die to self for the good of our brothers and sisters.

THE READINGS:

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The first reading is taken from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah dates from the final days of the Kingdom of Judah and the destruction of the Kingdom by Babylon. In the end, the book envisions a new future, a new covenant that God will establish with His people. It is significant that today's reading speaks of a new covenant with Israel and Judah.

In the life of the people in the Promised Land, one of the saddest chapters in their story was the division of the kingdom, the division of the people of God. We can argue the existence of differing views on how to live God's covenant, views that gave rise to the four great sources of the Pentateuch, that responded to crises in the life of the people, that tried to understand and live God's will, that attempted to give that understanding a theological framework and grounding. And yet there was sin, there was isolation, there were selfish concerns, there was disaster and division in the life of God's people. Jeremiah imagines God as a loving husband, forgiving past hurts, not remembering them and simply letting His people know that they are loved, and being loved, they are able to live love, live a life that looks to the well-being of others, putting their needs first. That is the new covenant written on their hearts.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:7-9

The second reading is taken from the Letter to the Hebrews and forms a meditation on the nature of the New covenant, the covenant of love. The Letter to the Hebrews draws its thought patterns from Israel's Wisdom traditions and its imagery from the Old Testament notion of the Levitical Priesthood. In the Old Testament, the sacrificial system symbolically re-enacted Israel's relationship with her God. Specifically, atonement sacrifices were offered to repair damages to the loving relationship between God and His people caused by people's willfulness, lack of concern for others, sin. The role of the Levitical Priesthood was to take on the guilt of the people and offer sacrifices for them, sacrifices intended to restore the relationship between people and God. What is new, in the Letter to the Hebrews, is that Jesus is seen not only as the priest but also as the lamb of sacrifice and the sacrifice He offered is once-for-all. Here is our model. What restores our relationship with God, what joins us to Jesus in His sacrifice, then, is our willingness to make the sacrifices that love of others demands.

GOSPEL READING: John 12:20-33

The Gospel reading is taken from the John. The context of the reading is Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem for the final week of His life, following immediately after the raising of Lazarus and the determination of the religious leaders to seek Jesus' death. It is in this context that Jesus declares that "the hour has come." Jesus makes this declaration in the setting of Greeks coming and requesting an audience with Him – in Jerusalem, at the time of the feast of the Passover.

So much of the New Testaments' understanding of Jesus draws on images and thought patterns derived from Isaiah, and we can see that here. Second Isaiah, who spoke so much of the Suffering Servant, proclaimed that all peoples would stream to God's mountain, to Zion/Jerusalem, and that there they would find light and life and hope. Israel was to be a beacon drawing all people to the Lord and one understanding of the image of the Suffering Servant was that it was God's Chosen People.

In John's Gospel, the "hour" is always understood to be the hour of Jesus' glorification and that hour of glorification comes precisely in the crucifixion. Jesus, the Lamb of God, the sacrificial lamb, the suffering servant attains glory, attains God's approval when He embraces fully His role to sacrifice himself for the well-being of others. His sacrifice is the ultimate sacrifice, putting His life on the line. What John says about a grain of wheat dying in order to produce new life is what the Synoptics assert with the images of broken bread and planted seeds. Broken bread can be shared, planted seeds can grow to produce new life. For John, Jesus' relationship with His disciples will reach its fulfillment in the Farewell Discourse at the Last Supper when Jesus announces that His disciples will be His friends if they do what He commands and what He commands is that they love others as He loves them. His love for others is what leads Him to sacrifice even

His own life for the good of others, for the good of the world. This is what we are called to do.

Our journey through Lent nears its end and as it does, as we approach Holy Week, we are reminded again that this Lenten season is not about giving things up for the sake of giving things up; it's not about giving alms as a means of earning God's favor. It's about, day by day, learning to love as Jesus loved, learning to love in a way that puts aside all selfish concerns and self interests, learning to love in a way that completely seeks the good of others.

FOR REFLECTION:

- When I stop and look back of the earlier weeks of Lent, how has my Lenten Journey gone? Am I at a different place in my life now than I was when Lent started? Have I been more intentional in my choices?
- Is there an urgency in my life right now? An urgency to seek God and grow in my relationship with Him? An urgency to seek solidarity with my brothers and sisters in my community, in my world? An urgency to heal the hurts in my life with others?
- What has God written on my heart? What, in my heart of hearts, do I know to be true and right? Where is what God has written in my heart leading me?
- What sacrifices am I asked to make for my spouse, my children, my family, my parish, my neighborhood, my world? Can I die to self for the sake of others? What does that mean to me?
- What do I hear when Jesus says, "The Hour has come?" What is my "Hour?" What will I make of this moment in time? Will it have significance?

Lenten Schedule

Extra Masses

6:30 pm Monday evenings
8:00 am every Saturday morning

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday - all are welcome at any
8:30 am (except Good Friday)
2:15 pm (when school is in session)
6:00 pm (except Good Friday)

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

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

RECONCILIATION WEEKEND 2012

Friday, March 23, 7:00-9:00 pm

Saturday, March 24, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

"We should never be incapable of 'showing mercy' towards those who suffer. Our hearts should never be so wrapped up in our affairs and problems that they fail to hear the cry of the poor.

Reaching out to others and opening our hearts to their needs can become an opportunity for salvation and blessedness." Pope Benedict XVI Lenten Letter 2012.

Archbishop Robert J. Carlson invites all the faithful, especially those returning to the practice of their Catholic faith, next weekend, March 23rd - 24th, to celebrate Reconciliation Weekend 2012 throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis. A complete listing of all the churches where confessions will be heard is provided in the St. Louis Review, or you may go online to:

www.archstl.org/worship/reconciliation-weekend.

The parish in this area where confessions will be available is: St. Anthony (High Ridge).

Whether you go to confession frequently, or haven't been for a long time, or just returning to the Catholic Church please take this opportunity to receive God's mercy. Let us pray for one another!

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.