

Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

www.olqpparish.org

March 20, 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

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

April

- Sat 9 **K C Meat Shoot**, Soccer Fields
 Sat 16 **Parish All Day Confessions**
Athletic Association Trivia Night
 Sun 17 **Palm Sunday**
Seder Meal, 4pm, KC Hall
 Thu 21 **Holy Thursday, 7 pm**
 Fri 22 **Good Friday, 7 pm**
 Sat 23 **Easter Vigil, 8 pm**
 Sun 24 **Easter**
 Sat 30 **Daughters Tailgate Sale**
 Sat 30 **Annual Catholic Appeal** begins

May

- Sun 1 **First Communion**
 Fri 13 **2011 Spring Fishing Tournament**
 Sun 15 **Daughters May Crowning**
Annual Catholic Appeal ends

June

- Sat 11 **OLQP PARISH PICNIC**
 Thr 30 **Blood Drive**, 2-7 pm Cafeteria

July

- Mon-Thur 25-29 **Soccer Camp**, Athletic Field
 Sat 23 **50th Anniversary Mass with**
Archbishop Carlson

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

Adoration

During the season of Lent we are having Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays from 8:30 am until 8:00 pm. In a way, Adoration allows us to freeze the moment in Mass when the priest holds up the consecrated host. We are then able to take the time to adore, pray, thank and praise the Lord and we can do it at our leisure. Try finding time to drop by the church on Wednesdays of Lent to make a visit and spend some time with your God!

Dispensation from Abstinence

Recently we received this letter from the Office of Worship from the Archdiocese:

"The Office of Worship would just like to remind you that **Friday March 25th** is the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord. This day is celebrated as a solemnity, and thus, in accordance with canon 1251 the penitential practice of abstinence is not to be observed on this particular day.

Canon 1251 reads: *Abstinence from meat, or from some other food as determined by the Episcopal Conference, is to be observed on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.*

This is a day meant for celebration and not fasting. We hope you all enjoy this special feast."

EVEN THOUGH WE CAN EAT MEAT ON THIS PARTICULAR FRIDAY IN LENT, WE WILL STILL BE HAVING OUR FISH FRY. PLEASE EAT YOUR RIB EYES AND PORK STEAKS FOR LUNCH, THEN YOU CAN COME AND ENJOY A DELICIOUS FISH DINNER HERE AT CHURCH!

50th Anniversary Mass

Mark your calendars for the special Anniversary Mass that we will celebrate on **July 23, 2011 at 5:00 pm**. Archbishop Carlson will preside at the Mass and bless our parish. The Mass will be followed by a special parish dinner. More details will be coming.

Spring

fr. mike



OLQP School News

School is on Spring Break!

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

RCIA

We meet every Monday evening at 7 pm 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.

Upcoming Sessions:

- 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
- April 11 - The Meaning of Holy Week
- April 16 - RCIA Retreat
- April 18 - No Classes



YOUTH MINISTRY

Spring Cleaning

Spring Cleaning not only feels good but renews our homes. Lent is the ultimate spring cleaning of our hearts, minds and souls which renews our families. Our teen children are heavily influenced by what they experience at home, the way we speak to them, the way we speak about others, the way we ask them for help and the way we live our lives. When we are spring cleaning our hearts, minds and souls we must throw out grudges, unkind words, gossip, judgementalism, profanity, excuses and anything that brings people down and replace it with forgiveness, kindness, confidentiality, compassion, pure words, actions, and only things that promote God's goodness. If we want to teach our teens how to live with a pure heart in love with God and to have an attitude of gratitude, we must personally be living it. Enjoy spring cleaning and renewing your family.

Wednesday Youth Nights

All High School youth are invited to bring a friend and join us for our weekly Youth Nights on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 pm in the Bear's Den where we "Bear the Love of Christ". Enjoy growing in your faith while eating popcorn and having fun.

*Note that there will not be a Youth Night on Wednesday, March 30th, due to Confirmation. Please pray for our Confirmation candidates as they continue preparing for this sacrament.

HopeBuilders

Summer Service Week Registration

All current 8th grade youth and high school youth are invited to register for HopeBuilders summer service week. We will stay here on campus and go out into the community to do service during the day. In the evenings we will have different faith filled and pure fun activities. This will be held from Tuesday evening, July 19th, thru Sunday, July 24th. The cost of the week is \$50 and your time and talent. Call Terry for a registration packet. **Registrations are due with a \$25 deposit by April 15th.**

Terry Ostlund, Youth Minister
314-566-8363

Tailgate Sale
Sponsored by Daughters of Isabella
Saturday, April 30, 8 am to 2 pm
OLQP Parking Lot
Spaces Available \$10 each
(\$15 day of sale)
Clean out your garage, basement or attic.
Raise money for your organization or you.
Lunch/refreshments available
To reserve a space contact:
Carol, 285-4450
or Joan, 285-3278

Parish Work Day
Saturday, March 26th
9 am to Noon

There are a few dead trees that need to be removed, as well as brush cleaned up along the highway fence line. There is general spring yard work that needs to be done in the gardens around the campus. Several garden areas are in need of fresh mulch. Anyone interested in making a donation for the purchase of mulch, your generosity would be greatly appreciated.

We would like to give a fresh coat of paint to the handrail outside the Church entrance and around the boiler room foundation.

Set aside a few hours of your time on Saturday, March 26, and join in on the fun. Bring your leaf blowers, hedge trimmers, rakes, shovels, etc. Help us give the parish grounds a “freshening up” for spring!

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.

The due date for the application is April 1, 2011 and **must** include a copy of your 2010 Income Tax Return.



Parish Corner

Every week a different organization is featured in the bulletin.

Archdiocesan Catholic Appeal (ACA)

The Archdiocesan Catholic Appeal is the number one charitable works of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Your donation to the ACA supports Catholic Education, Retirement Benefits for Religious and lay employees, Pastoral programs, Catholic Charities, Birthright, Pro-Life, as well as many other spiritual and material services.

The campaign will begin April 30th and end May 15th.

Please help support the Archdiocesan Catholic Appeal.

Bob and Cheryl Brinker

St. Vincent De Paul
An Old Irish Greeting



These things I warmly wish for you:

someone to love,
 some work to do,
 a bit of sun,
 a bit of cheer,
 and a guardian angel always near.

Stephen Ministry

Consider letting a Stephen Minister help. A Stephen Minister is a parishioner who is trained to listen, care, encourage, pray and walk alongside you during difficult times. It's confidential, free and very helpful. To learn how you can receive care please call Margaret, 314-223-8751. All calls and sessions are confidential.



God bless you!

Lenten Workshop Series on Prayer

This Lent, we will offer a six week workshop series focusing on practical suggestions on how you can improve your prayer life. We will use the Catechism and writings of the saints as our foundation. We'll then translate these writings into our everyday life. The goal is to leave the meeting with solid dogma, uplifting inspiration and several practical ideas on how to put it into practice. We will meet from 7 to 8 pm each Wednesday during Lent in the Cafeteria meeting room. Discussion topics will be:

March 23 – The Gift of the Mass - the Highest Form of Prayer

March 30 – The Rosary – Spending Lent with Mary

April 6 – Mediation – Opening Up to the Lord

April 13 – The Psalms – Praying the Prayers Jesus Prayed

April 20 – Adoration – “Can You Spend an Hour with Me?”

Feel free to come to all the workshops or select the ones that appeal to you most. Any questions please call Phyllis 677-4364 or email phyllis106@charter.net.

Our Lady Queen of Peace Hardee's Fundraiser Thursday, March 24th

Hardee's in House Springs will be sponsoring an OLQP Fundraiser on Thursday, March 24th, from 6 am until 10 pm.

Stop by Hardee's, either the drive thru or dining room, during that time and present them with a flyer created for OLQP. OLQP will receive 20% for purchases that day. If you do not have a flyer, just mention OLQP's name at the time of purchase.

Hardee's flyers will be available in the back of Church after Masses this weekend as well as in the school office this week.

Reminder!!!

Please do not tape anything to the windows or doors in Church, use the bulletin boards.

K of C - OLQP - 2011 Fishing Tournament Saturday, May the 14th (This is the weekend after Mother's Day)

The 2011 Spring Fishing Tournament will be held at the Kon Tiki Resort located on the Little Niangua arm of the Lake of the Ozarks, right at the Big Niangua.

We've been to the Kon Tiki Resort in the past. Kon Tiki is located in the Highway EE resort area, off Highway 7 just out of Greenview.

This year's lodging **will not** be included, Kon Tiki is holding some rooms for us, but only for a short time. Reservations must be submitted by the end of March to secure our rooms and space is limited. Each person is responsible for making their own reservations. Please contact Jeff or Deacon Paul after making reservations so we can keep a contact list of those who are going in case there are any changes to be made.

Contact info: 1-800-873-5320 – www.kontikiozarks.com

E-mail address – kontikiresort@sbcglobal.net

The entry fee this year will be \$50.00 which will include:

Trophy hats for first, second, and third place winners;

and an evening banquet meal will be supplied after the weigh in.

Fishing will start at dawn and end at 4:00 pm with weigh-in at 4:30 pm.

Dinner and stories about the ones that got away begins at 6:00 pm.

For more information call or email:

Jeff Littrell at 314-607-4121 – ljd124@AOL.com

Deacon Paul at 636-677-4040 – dconpaul@charter.net

**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.

Vincentian Parish Mission Center

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,
The priest missionaries at the Vincentian Parish Mission Center would like to thank your parish family for your very kind contribution of \$2,544.00.
As you can probably guess it's impossible to send a thank you note to everyone who contributes to our work. That doesn't mean your kindness is appreciated any less. Daily we pray for you, our benefactors. We especially remember you at prayer and daily Mass.
God bless and love you,
Fr. Michael Mulhearn, C.M.

Seven Days of Inspiration

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

You are as essential
as air and water to the
people who love you.

~~~~~  
Let happiness be your  
companion today!

~~~~~  
Everyone needs time
to daydream.

~~~~~  
Fame and fortune are  
overrated. You have  
riches beyond measure!

~~~~~  
You deserve a day
off from stress!

~~~~~  
You got  
what it takes.

~~~~~  
Delight in something!

Welcome to Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish

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

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Phone _____ # of people registering _____

email address _____

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our next Eucharistic Adoration is
 Wednesday, March 23
 From 8:30 am – 8:00 pm.

Lenten Schedule
Adoration on Wednesdays of Lent

8:30 am to 8 pm

Stations of the Cross

Fridays of Lent after 8 am Mass
 School Children Fridays 2:15 pm

Fish Fry's

Every Friday of Lent 3 to 7 pm
 Good Friday, April 22, noon to 7 pm

Parish All Day Confessions

Saturday, April 16
 9am - noon and 1pm - 4:45 pm

April 17, Seder Meal, 4 pm, KC Hall

April 21, Holy Thursday Mass, 7 pm

April 22, Good Friday Service, 7 pm

April 23, Easter Vigil, 8pm

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

Our Gifts to God and Parish Last Week
234 Envelopes Used

Special Collections

Black/Indian Mission	\$	337.00
Eastern European	\$	274.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	312.00

New Building Fund

Lavender Envelopes	\$	599.39
Total Received to date	\$	690,809.49

Offertory

Sunday Envelopes	\$	9,426.00
Sunday Loose	\$	625.00
Present and Future	\$	115.00
Total Offertory	\$	10,166.00
Offertory Goal	\$	13,699.00

Thank you for your generosity.

As of March 14, 2011

Contributions Year To Date	\$	448,834.45
Projected Year to Date Budget	\$	506,863.00

Script Gift Cards

Sales	\$	2,265.00
Profits/tuition reduction	\$	89.14

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

Stewardship
Start With Prayer

Lord, it is good that we are here." Matthew 17:4
 In today's Gospel we see Jesus take Peter, James and John to a mountain top and reveal to them His divine glory. Peter responded enthusiastically, "Lord, it is good that we are here.". Do we feel the same way each week when we come to Mass? Are we in awe of the wonder of our God? Are we grateful for the opportunity to spend time with God? Do we feel St. Peter's enthusiasm? It is good that we are here!

Bulletin Deadline Change

Bulletin deadline is being changed to Friday (i.e. deadline March 25 for April 3 bulletin) at 4:30 pm. I need to send the bulletin by noon on Tuesday of the bulletin week to insure that I receive the bulletin by Friday. A new company has bought the current bulletin company and changes were made. I am sure once we get in the habit of this new schedule it will be fine.

Thanks so much for your help.

Linda



Pray for the Deceased

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

Richard Lamb, neighbor of Ron and Betty Oermann

Shirley Hussey, sister -in-law of Cathy Eimer

Vince Ferrara, husband of Fran

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

Parish Activities

Mon	March 21	PSR, 6:15 to 7:30 pm RCIA, 7 pm, Cafeteria meeting room Rosary for Peace, 7:30 pm, Church
Tues	March 22	Devotions after 8am Mass Quilters, 9am - 3pm, 6 - 8:30 pm, Act. Ct. Church History, 7pm, Cafeteria mtg. rm.
Wed	March 23	Eucharistic Adoration, 8:30 am to 8 pm Youth Night, 6 - 8 pm, Bear's Den Lenten Prayer, 7-8 pm, Cafeteria mtg. rm.
Thurs	March 24	Choir Practice, 7 pm, Church
Fri	March 25	Stations after 8 am Mass and 2:15 pm Fish Fry, 3 until 7 pm, Cafeteria
Sat	March 26	1st Communion Parent/Student meeting, 9 am until noon
Sun	March 27	Children's Liturgy during 9:30 am Mass, Cafeteria

Mass Intentions

Mon	March 21	8:00 am	Raymond Plese
		6:30 pm	Debbie O'Brien
Tues	March 22	8:00 am	Lena Vande Ven
Wed	March 23	8:00 am	Margaret O'Brien
Thurs	March 24	8:00 am	Nancy Childs Family
Fri	March 25	8:00 am	Michael Sheehan
Sat	March 26	8:00 am	Warren & Bernice Dierkes
		5:00 pm	Jerry Smith
Sun	March 27	7:30 am	Dale Robinson
		9:30 am	Margaret O'Brien
		11:30 am	People of the Parish

**March 26th and 27th
Special Ministers of the Eucharist**

5:00 pm	*Donna Clifton, Bev Gregory, *Joe Nenninger, Ralph & Sandy Munzlinger, Maryann Turek, Katie Tutass
7:30 am	Carl & Patsy Boyer, * Michele Huff, J. Stenger, *Andrea Lawson, Shirley Tenny, Linda Weber
9:30 am	Trish Guethle, *Lee Hoffman, Jan Hussman, Deb Pigue, Connie Stubits, *Kent Sturhahn, Jo Ann Vess, Nancy Wilfong
11:30 am	Sandee Burkemper, Debbie Cleek, V. De Long, *Denise Ortmann, Lynette & Patrick Rawlins, *Sharon Schmidt

* You are responsible to clean the vessels after Mass

Please pray for those who are ill

(parishioners are in bold)

Christine Dower	John Ostlund
Ann Bevard	Rich Leiber
Jackie Nappier	Gerry Schroeder
Margaret Bottchen	Mary Slodkowski

Allen Chott, nephew of Judy Mottert
Kitty Conway, aunt of Rich Ortmann
Joe Wood, father of Doug Wood
Ralph Michael, father of Geraldine Little
Baby Henley, relative of Geraldine Little
Tracy Musselwhite, niece of Lynette Rawlins
Rachel Preston, granddaughter of L. Rawlins
Trudy Girard, sister of Lynette Rawlins
Jimmy Rawlins, son of Lynette Rawlins
Hubert Taylor, father of Nancy Wilfong
Debbie Laird, friend of Geraldine Little
Donna Henslee, friend of Geraldine Little
Buck Thomas, husband of Donna Thomas
Kay Oestman, sister of Maureen Turney
Dave Haig, friend of Ken and Jan DeClue
Louise Gunter, mother of Lynette Rawlins

~ the homebound, shut-ins of the parish and all in nursing homes. To add a name please call the Parish Office, 671-3062. Names will be removed after 3 weeks.

Proclaimers

5:00 pm	Larry Bottchen, Christine Camden
7:30 am	Ann Riley, Terry Soer
9:30 am	Dale Andrews, Tom Mattingly
11:30 am	Barb Oppelz, Richard Ortmann

Servers

5:00 pm	Kali Chafin, Mark Chafin, Nicole Diener
7:30 am	Z. Morlock, S. Otzenberger, Rachel Roussin
9:30 am	Hayden Conley, Darby O'Donnell, H. Voisey
11:30 am	Dylan Robb, Jessica & Samantha Tarter

Ushers

5:00 pm	Arnie Lohbeck, R. Munzlinger, Jerry Sheets, Ben Slodkowski, Helen Stewart, Ron Williams
7:30 am	G. Bachmann, Wally Freihaut, Steve Morlock, John Nahlik, Vince Rocchio, Richard Rousseau
9:30 am	Tom Broadbent, Steve Freihaut, Jeff Queen, Dale Sudholt, Larry Whitworth, Lloyd Young
11:30 am	Robert De Long, Gary Freihaut, M. Harris, Kevin Huss, Paul McDonnell, Andy Nappier

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
(week before publication)



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

**Third Sunday of Lent
Cycle A**



THEME: We thirst for the source of life.

The readings for the Third Sunday of Lent unfold a motif of water in which Baptism is suggested and the role of the baptized, the believer, the one immersed in Jesus' word is portrayed. A thirst for water is a thirst for life and the source of true life is Jesus Christ.

THE READINGS:

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:3-7

The story from Exodus is a twice told tale. There is a concentric structure to the events of the wilderness wanderings and the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai. Episodes that are narrated on the way to the mountain are repeated as Israel leaves Sinai and moves on towards the land of promise. Having entered into a solemn covenant relationship with their God, the Chosen People are still people, still flawed, still in need of God's saving help. Biblical scholarship treats these stories as "grumbling" stories, stories in which Israel questions Moses and God, stories in which they complain about their dire needs.

On the one hand, it would be easy to conclude that the "grumbling" stories depict an ungrateful people, a people looking for comfort and lacking trust in their God. But the "grumbling" stories all have the basic form of a miracle story. These stories all make a statement of faith that, in those situations in which people are in need, situations over which they have no

control, our God is involved and cares. In the stories that follow the giving of the Covenant at Sinai, the grumbling motif is presented more negatively as a lack of trust, but the stories continue to be miracle stories, stressing God's involvement with His people – even when they lack trust.

The grumbling stories make a clear faith statement: the Covenant Community, the Chosen People, the community of believers is expected to take its needs to its God. Ideally, we should approach our God with trust and confidence, but when we experience doubt, when our God seems to us to be remote, perhaps the most we can do is grumble and complain. We may be inconstant, but our God is constant. He remains caring and involved. At least our grumbling leaves the lines of communication open. Perhaps, in time, we can grow beyond the grumbling to confident faith and trust in our saving God.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

The second reading from the Letter to the Romans gives voice to our reason to have confidence in our God. At the right time, Jesus died not for the righteous and faithful, but for the grumblers and sinners, for us in the fullness of our humanity. There is hope that our redemption, our reconciliation with God does not depend on us getting things right, living without sin, but in believing that we are loved enough by our God for Him to reconcile us with Himself and offer us eternal life.

GOSPEL READING: John 4:5-42

In the Gospel reading from John the motif of the waters of baptism as our entry point into life with our God becomes most pronounced. The story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman is intriguing. John has taken a typical scene common in Biblical narrative and adapted it to his purposes. The scene is that of finding a wife at a well. The scene always includes: 1) the hero traveling in foreign territory; 2) an encounter with one or more girls at a well; 3) someone draws water; and, usually, 4) the betrothal of the hero to the girl. In such typical scenes, what the story-teller wants to convey most often comes in varying the pattern and breaking expectations.

There are five "betrothal" scenes in the Bible. The first, and most developed version of the scene concerns the finding of a wife for Isaac. In this story, Isaac is completely absent. A servant of Abraham travels to the foreign land and meets Rebecca. She has the main role in the story. Later, Isaac will become a patriarch, but a patriarch who has no independent story in Genesis, and it will be Rebecca who controls things in his household. The second instance of the scene concerns Jacob.

Having tricked his father and cheated his brother out of his birthright and blessing, Jacob is forced to flee. He encounters girls at a well and moves a heavy stone to give them access to water. Jacob will always be associated with strength and hard work. A betrothal is arranged between Jacob and Rachel, but Jacob will be tricked into taking Leah first. The trickster is tricked – a kind of poetic justice. Next comes Moses. He is forced to leave Egypt when he kills an Egyptian for abusing a Hebrew. He meets girls at a well and it is he who draws the water, as he will later draw Israel through water to lead them to the Covenant making ceremony at Sinai. The last Old Testament example concerns Saul. He travels in search of his father's lost animals and encounters girls at a well. This leads to a meeting with the prophet Samuel but instead of ending in a betrothal, Saul is anointed King. Patterns are broken and expectations are shattered, suggesting from the start that there will be something broken about Saul's kingship.

Finally, there is the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman. Jesus enters the territory of the Samaritans and asks the woman to draw water for Him. If He is not, strictly speaking, breaking Jewish law, He is certainly violating the customs of His day. Jews had nothing to do with Samaritans and did not speak to women, especially non-Jewish women, in public places. Typical of John, what Jesus says is misunderstood. There is a play on the idea of "flowing" water and "living" water. At first the woman understands solely on human terms, but Jesus moves things to the personal level and she sees herself as someone sought out, not judged, but offered a chance at life, real life. The Samaritan woman depicts that response of someone with some misunderstandings, but open to Jesus and His message, a person who draws others to come and hear what she has heard. She represents a typical disciple. In the end, Jesus does not find a wife, but followers and believers – in an unexpected area among unlikely people. He will not be the Messiah people expect, but so much more. Yet, like the story of Saul, there is something broken here and to achieve His ends, Jesus will be broken. But that brokenness will not end in tragedy; the seeming tragedy of the cross will lead to life. And entry into that life, appropriation of what Jesus accomplishes on the cross, which for John is the moment of Jesus' glorification, comes through living waters, the waters of baptism.

Lent is our journey through the Passion and death of Jesus to the new life of the Resurrection. We thirst for that life, for a renewed life among ourselves as the community of believers and for that hoped for eternal life with our God. Along the way, we may grumble and complain, but we can grow into confidence, into loving trust. Along the way we may be sure that we're on the right track only to have our complacency and

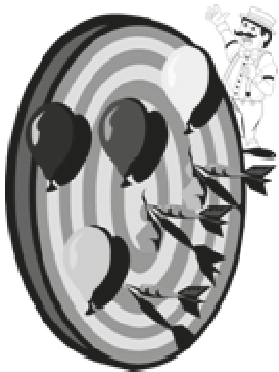
expectations shattered. But all along the way we are invited to come into the presence of our God with joy and confidence. We are invited to let go of those things which harden our hearts to God and His will for all people, we are invited to see the opportunity to live new life with others, even those who seem to us to be most outside of God's will and plan. We are invited to live.

FOR REFLECTION:

- The Exodus story is a model of our Lenten experience, our Lenten journey. Like Israel we symbolically enter the desert, strip ourselves of worldly distractions, and seek a transforming experience. Like Israel, before and after that experience, we make the same mistakes, behave in similar patterns. What, then, is hopeful about this experience? What, in particular, gives me hope? For what do I hope?
- Jesus chose to die for sinners. What does that basic faith statement from St. Paul do to my sense of self? Do I want to see myself as better than some sinners so that Jesus would choose to die for me, but not for others who are more sinful, more unrepentant? Can God love murderers, rapists, pornographers, terrorists as much as He loves me? Can I love them as God loves them?
- How does the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman break expectations about who Jesus is, who He is for us? What are my expectations of Jesus? What expectations might I need to surrender to see and accept Jesus as He truly is for us?
- Today's readings center on the image of baptism. One understanding of baptism is that it is a cleansing, a washing. The primary understanding of baptism is that it is a death and rising to new life. What does my baptism mean to me? How can I die and rise to new life in Jesus in my life now?
In what ways do I understand Lent as an invitation to life? How can I live in new ways with my community of believers?

SAVE THE DATE

Our Lady Queen of Peace Picnic June 11th, 2011

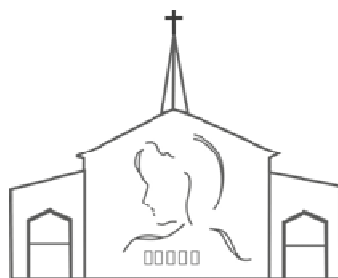


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