

Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

www.olqpparish.org

March 25, 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 Assoc. 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**

the loss of something, or more importantly, the loss of someone we love. It could be a parent, a spouse, a child or a dear friend. We all have *sympathy* for people who have lost someone, but only those who have actually experienced this kind of pain can have *empathy*, for them. "Empathy" is a type of awareness where you can look at another person in pain and say truthfully to them: "I know what you are going through".

For many people, the worst part of grieving isn't just the pain, it is the feeling that they are alone. Other people can be sympathetic, but they do not really understand what it is like. That is why it is important to find people who understand. In every parish, at any given time, there are always people quietly struggling with the pain of loss. Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish is no exception.

In order to assist people who are struggling with loss, the **OLQP Grief Support Group** is being formed. This support group will provide the opportunity to give and receive emotional support, learn and share experiences. We can never take another person's pain away, but we can walk with them in total understanding until they re-gain their balance in life.

Our Lady Queen of Peace parish community will host *Seasons of Hope*, a unique support group for the bereaved. This program, rooted in Catholic tradition, conveys God's consolation through scripture, prayer, reflection, and sharing our faith. The group meets from 9:30 - 11:30 am on Saturday mornings for six weeks beginning April 14th. If you would like to participate or if you have any questions please call: 636-677-3278 or 636-671-4281 by April 7th.

ALSO...for those who find it difficult to share their pain in group situations but still need to talk to someone, our very own **Deacon Tom Gerling** is a grief counselor and would be happy to meet one-on-one with anyone who needs someone to listen. (Of course, any of the priests would be available too!)

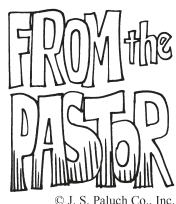
Don't Forget

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available most of next Saturday. Between the hours of 10:00 am and 4:45 pm, there will be priests available in church to hear confessions. If you have done nothing during Lent to prepare for Easter, this would be a great "penance" to embrace. Jesus died on the cross, gave His life in a painful way so that we could have this opportunity for mercy, forgiveness and redemption. Please take advantage of this gift to you that came at such a great cost!!

4th Annual Used Book Fair March 30th, 31st and April 1st We Want Your Books!

Our Lady Queen of Peace will be holding their Annual Used Book Fair. We are looking for donations of books; kids, adults, cooking, crafts, history, etc.

Your donations can be dropped off in the Church lobby (please place donations in box on the bench by the east door).



Good Grief....

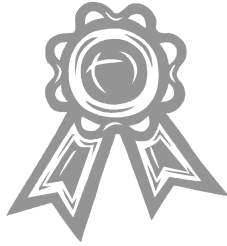
No, I'm not talking about Charlie Brown, I'm talking about....grief! At some point in life, every one of us will experience some form of grief, a severe emotional

pain that hurts deep in the soul. Usually it is caused by

Fr. Mike

School News

OLQP Speech Team participated in another Speech Meet on Saturday, March 10. The results were:



- Duet: Alyssa Block & Sarah Marting, 6th graders, Red ribbon
- Serious: Colt Bolte, 5th grade, Red ribbon
- Humorous: Saranae Tamborski, 5th grade, Blue ribbon
- Noah Sudholt, 5th grade, Blue ribbon
- Allison Kohne, 6th grade, Blue ribbon
- Jane Kenney, 7th grade, Gold ribbon

CONGRATULATIONS to each of you! Thank you for representing our school so well. We are very proud of you!

Movie: October Baby 'Every life is beautiful!'

Movie opens Friday, March 24, at 5 area theaters, including Ronnies and DesPeres 14.

Loosely based on the real-life abortion survivor Gianna Jessen.

Opening weekend is important for movies because it helps determine how long the movie will remain on the big screen.

Even if you can't see it opening weekend, please try to get to the theaters to see it to show support for good movies! <http://octoberbabymovie.net/>

RCIA

Topic for this week

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

Pro-Life Action Day

The 7th grade class of Our Lady Queen of Peace will be attending the Pro-Life Action Day in Jefferson City on Tuesday, March 27th. It is expected that 10,000 people from across the state will be attending this Rally. Please pray for us as we learn how to stand up for Truth and Life with our elected officials. Please pray for our elected officials at this critical time in our country.

Confirmation Class of **2013**

All 7th grade students of the parish planning to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in May of 2013 are asked to attend a meeting on Monday, April 2nd, 6:15-7:30pm in the Church cafeteria. At least one parent must attend this meeting with their son or daughter. If a conflict arises, please call to schedule another time to meet with Mrs. Ostlund.

"IT" Group News

Hope everyone had a great week and is enjoying the first week of spring. Thanks to Anne and Mark for last week's discussion on the importance of language and how the words we say can affect others in our lives.

Parents - Feel free to keep up with all of the "IT" happenings online. Join us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/olqpyouthgroup/

This weeks Theme -

Tonight: March 25th - 101 Things to Do

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 Coordinator
314-566-8363

Catholics Come Home Corner

When your friends or co-workers express curiosity about Catholic customs and symbolism, use those moments as opportunities to evangelize.

External Sacrifice vs. Internal Conversion: I don't get it - All you do is give up candy?

Now, here is an interesting question. External sacrifices are the most obvious kind, so sometimes it does look like all we do is avoid chocolate. However, if you look closer, you'll realize that fasting and abstinence have always gone hand in hand with two of their best friends: prayer and almsgiving. External sacrifice is a manifestation of interior conversion: "...interior conversion urges expression in visible signs, gestures and works of penance" (CCC no. 1430). Interior conversion is where prayer and almsgiving come into play. In almsgiving, we show mercy and generosity to others, giving them a chance to experience the blessings we have. In prayer, we are communicating with God, asking him to bless and perfect our fasting and almsgiving: "... prayer is the living relationship of the children of God with their Father who is good beyond measure, with His Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit" (CCC no. 2565). It's not just avoiding sweets. It's glorifying God by growing in His Love.



St. Vincent De Paul

We are waiting to help someone or a family who is out of work and needs assistance. Maybe it's only a temporary setback. Call the Parish Office, 636-671-3062 and ask to leave a message for SVDP.

Decorating for Easter

The Arts & Environment Committee will be decorating the Church on Saturday, April 7th, from 9am-Noon for Easter. Please consider sharing your time, talent and treasure during this wonderful season.



Parish Corner

Every week a different organization is featured.
No organization this week.

House Springs Knights of Columbus Baby Bottle Campaign

Please return the baby bottle with your donation no later Saturday, 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.

Please Patronize Our Sponsors

We wish to thank **Bill Williams Construction** 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.

Tailgate Sale sponsored by Daughters of Isabella

Saturday April 28, 8 am - 2 pm
Our Lady Queen of Peace Parking Lot
Spaces Available - \$15 each or \$20 day of sale.
Clean out your garage, basement or attic. Raise money for your organization or yourself. Lunch/refreshments available. To reserve a space please contact:
Carol, 636-285-4450 or Lea @ 314-270-7521

SEASONS OF HOPE Bereavement Group to Begin

If you're in need of consolation after losing a loved one, this Christ-centered faith sharing group is for you. We will meet on Saturday mornings beginning April 14th. Prayer, scripture, faith sharing, and fellowship begin 9:30 am. For questions or more details pick up a Seasons of Hope brochure or call Joan, 636-677-3278 or Linda, 636-671-4281.

WHAT IS SCRIPT??

Script is the easiest fundraiser you can do!!

How does it work?

Script is just plain gift card/cash cards. You don't pay extra for them and most of them are for places and items that you already pay for daily! Everyone grocery shops, buys gas, goes to Wal-Mart/Target/Kmart at least a few times a month and we have the gift cards/cash cards that you can use making these purchases.

How does it help the Parish?

Our parish makes money on **EVERY** card you purchase. A percentage is ours...just for buying something we already spend money on!! Plus, they come in all kinds of denominations which means it is great for grabbing a last minute gift for teachers, coworkers, birthday parties and family! Even if you decide to go out to dinnerwe have the card!!

How do you get the cards?

Cards are available after all Masses and in the parish office Monday-Friday. How much easier can it be? Plus, if we are out of the card you are looking for, we can order it (on Monday before 11:00 am) and it will be ready for pick up by Thursday!! Since we can't carry every card (hundreds are offered) just let us know and we can order any card on the master list! Just ask...we will check and see if it is available to order!! You can even drop off your order prior to Mass and we will have it ready for you after Mass!

Example of how this all works:

Your family buys:

Shop n Save- \$50 (OLQP profit \$2.00)

Shell-\$50 (OLQP profit \$1.25)

Wal-Mart/Target- \$25 (OLQP profit .50)

you've spent: \$125 (money you would already spend).

The parish would make: $\$ 2.00 + 1.25 + .50 = \3.75

So... $\$3.75 \times 4\text{weeks} = \15 to the parish just from you!

Then....300 parishioners buy that amount = \$4,500 per month!!!!

So... $\$4,500 \times 12\text{months}$ would be \$54,000.00 to the parish!!!!

Just for buying items you already purchase!

Then add in an occasional restaurant card, birthday present, etc. it is just more easy money for the parish!!

Let's work as a parish family and make a commitment to purchase Script and watch our free money grow!!

Any questions? Please do not hesitate to call me at 314-210-8451.

Thanks for your support to your parish!!

Kim Lakin

**St. Pius X High School Project Prom
Buck Knob Challenge 5K Fun Run / Walk
Saturday, April 21, 2012
Race begins at 9:00am**

The race route begins at St. Pius X High School, goes up to Buck Knob Hill, and returns to St. Pius X. Cost: \$20.00 with registration by April 14, 2012 (includes a T-shirt). Please see www.stpius.com for more information and to download the registration form. Proceeds benefit St. Pius X High School Project Prom.

DASK Retreat Weekend

A Koinonia retreat is a spiritually healing weekend specifically designed to help heal the hurts of divorce for divorced and separated men and women. The weekend is scheduled for Friday, April 20, at 5 pm to Sunday afternoon, April 22, 2012 at Todd Hall in Columbia, Illinois. The cost of the weekend is \$110, which includes meals and lodging, double occupancy. Single rooms are also available for an additional charge. A \$50 deposit and registration is required. Please call Lee at 636-946-7782 for more information and for a brochure.

**Senior Citizen's Prom
"Black Tie"**

**Saturday, March 31st, 5 - 9 pm
Dinner and Dancing
Northwest High School
Admission is free**

Hosted by Northwest High School Student Council
RSVP: Lana Romaine, 636-274-0555 ext. 148
or email lromaine@nrw1.k12mo.us

Wanted: Cook(s) at IL RITIRO

IL RITIRO Franciscan Retreat is looking for two people to prepare meals for retreatants. Our goal is to provide fresh healthy meals for your guests. That person(s) would also be responsible for cleaning the kitchen and dining room, purchasing food from suppliers, etc. Retreats are largely on weekends, therefore the person(s) would need to be available on weekends. (Presently not more than twice a month) Pay is hourly. If you are interested in being part of this ministry please contact Fr. Paul at 636-274-0554 or fr.paul.gallagher@gmail.com.

Seven Days of Inspiration

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

You're a star in
someone's eyes!

~~~~~  
Help is on  
the way.

~~~~~  
Amazing. That
describes you!

~~~~~  
Give yourself the  
gift of time.

~~~~~  
You're great at
something. Admit it!

~~~~~  
Imagine the best  
for yourself, and  
watch it happen.

~~~~~  
Welcome something
new into your life.
You'll be glad you did!

Luncheon with a Heart

All are invited to the 28th Annual Luncheon With a Heart sponsored by Catholic Financial Life Chapter 1038. The Luncheon will be held on **Saturday, April 14th, at 11:30am** in the St. Matthias Parish Center at 800 Buckley Road, St. Louis, 63125. The Luncheon will include homemade spaghetti, salad, rolls and many desserts. There will be many attendance prizes, 15 games of Bingo, a Quilt Raffle and a 50-50 drawing. Proceeds from the Luncheon will benefit the Confluence Wheelchair Sports Association, the American Diabetes Association Campership Program and the MO Citizens for Life Billboard Campaign. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Sandy Jacobs at 314-544-2162. Its always a fun time. Hope to see you there!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our next Eucharistic Adoration is
Wednesday, March 28
from 8:30 am – 8:00 pm.

O God, You are my God whom I seek;
For You my flesh pines and my soul thirsts
Like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.
Thus have I gazed toward You in the sanctuary
To see Your power and Your glory,
For Your kindness is a greater good than life;
My lips shall glorify You. Psalm 63:2-4

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.

**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.

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)

Our Gifts to God and Parish**Special Collections**

Catholic Relief	\$	562.00
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New Building Fund

Lavender Envelopes	\$	355.00
Total Received to date	\$	720,638.83

Offertory

Sunday Envelopes	\$	9,900.00
Sunday Loose	\$	621.00
Above and Beyond	\$	3.00
Total Offertory	\$	10,524.00
Offertory Goal	\$	14,000.00

Thank you for your generosity.

1,191 registered members

235 online, loose and envelopes used this week

As of March 19, 2011

Contributions Year To Date	\$	463,403.70
Projected Year to Date Budget	\$	532,000.00

Scrip Gift Cards

Sales	\$	1,515.00
Profits/tuition reduction	\$	65.52

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

BINGO

*Every Friday Night
Knights of Columbus Hall
Doors open at 4:30 pm
Bingo starts at 6:45 pm*

Stewardship

I will be their God and they shall be my people."

Jeremiah 31:33

What does it mean to be God's people? It means that first we recognize that everything we have and everything we are truly belongs to God. It also means that we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for the world just as God cares for us.

Parish Activities

Mon	March 26	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 27	Devotions after 8 am Mass Quilters, 9 am - 3 pm, 6 - 8:30 pm History Class (Fr. Don), 7 pm, Cafeteria meeting room
Wed	March 28	Eucharistic Adoration, 8:30 am - 8 pm "Protecting God's Children" class, 6:30 pm, Cafeteria
Thur	March 29	Used Book Fair begins, Cafeteria Choir Practice, 7 pm, Church
Fri	March 30	Fish Fry, 3 - 7 pm, Cafeteria
Sat	March 31	1st Communion Meeting, 9 am, Cafeteria All Day Confessions, 10 am - 4:45 pm, Church
Sun	April 1	Confirmation Retreat Day, 11 am - 3 pm, Church and Cafeteria "IT" Youth, 6 - 8 pm, Cafeteria meeting room

Mass Intentions

Mon	March 26	8:00 am	Warren & Bernice Dierks
		6:30 pm	Tom Quint
Tues	March 27	8:00 am	Vince Ferrara
Wed	March 28	8:00 am	Dorothy Langan
Thurs	March 29	8:00 am	Oscar Buchheit
Fri	March 30	8:00 am	Wayne Thome
Sat	March 31	8:00 am	Wayne Thome
		5:00 pm	Barb Rocchio
Sun	April 1	7:30 am	People of the Parish
		9:30 am	Eleanor & Cyril Tiemann
		11:30 am	Henry & Julia Muehlenkamp

**March 31st and April 1st
Special Ministers of the Eucharist**

5:00 pm	Peggy Mikko, 5 needed
7:30 am	Joyce Stenger, 5 needed
9:30 am	Lee Hoffman, Carol Delue, Tom Broadbent, Bruce Gallion, 2 needed
11:30 am	Patrick Rawlins, Lynette Rawlins. 4 needed

* You are responsible to clean the vessels after Mass

Please pray for...

(parishioners are in bold)

Frieda Siebel-Spath	Mary Bequette
Jackie Nappier	Cheryl Salamone
Judy Janos	Maria Stonecypher
Ken Reeves	Denise Burgan
Carl Grimwood	Maryann Barnett
Jack Beine, son-in-law of Maryann Barnett	
Gertrude Benefield, mother of Greg Benefield	
Carla of our community	
John Wyhatt, son of Kathy and Greg Benefield	
Shane Thomas of our community	
Bob Cranston, friend of Tom & Sue Alt	
Ray Payne, grandfather of Steve Payne	
Christine Gregory, mother of Bill Gregory	
Derrick & Mae Evans, friends of Ray Wieschhaus	
Maryann Stewart, sister of Tim Lodes	
Pam Szolga, sister of Frank Saggio	
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.	

Proclaimers

5:00 pm	Barb & Joe Nenninger
7:30 am	Shirley Tenny, 1 needed
9:30 am	Bruce Gallion, Tom Mattingly
11:30 am	Barb Oppelz, Christine Janos

Servers

5:00 pm	3 needed
7:30 am	3 needed
9:30 am	3 needed
11:30 am	3 needed

Ushers

5:00 pm	6 needed
7:30 am	6 needed
9:30 am	Sam Pierceall, 5 needed
11:30 am	Walter Janos, 5 needed



**Church
Cleaning**

Marie Strayhorn,
Debbie Maloney-Reeves,
Nancy Wilfong
and Lee Hoffman

**Sixth Sunday of Lent
Palm Sunday
Cycle B**



THEME: Will the story of Jesus continue in us?

The liturgy for Palm Sunday presents a study in contrasts. We begin by recalling Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem as He begins the last week of His life and end with remembering His passion. We approach again the mystery of Jesus' glorification, a celebration of what He accomplished to the glory of God the Father, a glorification won by emptying Himself, by self-sacrifice for our sake, a glorification won by suffering and death. And we wonder again at the fickleness of human nature, at the fickleness of people who raise cries of Hosanna to greet Jesus and barely a week later cry for His death. We wonder again at our own fickleness as we over and over again say yes to our God, only to sin again, fail again, refuse again to be a means of God's loving presence in the world.

THE READINGS:

GOSPEL AT BLESSING OF PALMS:

The Liturgy for Palm Sunday begins with the distribution and blessing of palms. For Cycle B there is a choice of two Gospel readings for the commemoration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Mark's version or John's. Mark's story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem begins with a small miracle. Jesus sends two disciples ahead of Him to find a donkey on which He can ride. He gives explicit instructions and the instructions are carried out verbatim. In Matthew's account of this story, the details of the "miracle" are truncated. Miracle stories in Matthew focus on the faith of those for whom they are performed. The actions in miracle stories in Mark are presented with more detail. The function of such stories is to show that the Kingdom of God has really come

near. Mark's use of the "small miracle" to introduce his account of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem serves to situate that event and what Jesus will accomplish in Jerusalem over the next week clearly in the context of bringing God's Kingdom into the world.

John's version of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem differs significantly from that of the synoptics. There is no "small miracle" to introduce the episode. In John, there are only seven miracle stories and these are usually much more developed than miracle stories in the synoptics. They are called signs and are occasions for Jesus to launch into extensive speeches. The culminating sign in John's Gospel was the raising of Lazarus, the event that sealed the hostility of the religious leaders against Jesus so that they would seek His death. In the synoptics, Jesus, during His public life, never goes to Jerusalem until the final week of His life. In John, Jesus regularly visits Jerusalem and regularly enters into conflict with the religious leaders there.

Perhaps one of the most significant features of John's Gospel is that Jesus is always portrayed as being in control of His own fate. And that is what is depicted in this little scene. It is Jesus who finds the donkey and mounts it. It is Jesus who freely rides into Jerusalem and meets His fate head on. And, in case there is any doubt, what happens fulfills the Scriptures. Jesus' will is attuned to that of His Father. This the disciples will come to recognize only after the fact, when Jesus has been glorified. In John, it is Jesus Himself who is the sole focus of this episode.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-7

In the Liturgy of the Word, the first reading for all three cycles is one of the Servant Songs from Isaiah. The image of the Suffering Servant was a favorite for the evangelists as they attempted to offer an understanding of the person of Jesus and His mission. It is not clear in Isaiah, who exactly this servant was – the prophet himself, some other person who suffered for the sake of the community, that taking a stand for what is just and right, living in a way that accomplishes God's will and challenges the complacency of others leads to suffering, to rejection, to humiliation. Such an image describes Jesus as the very presence of God in our midst, calling us to repent, to change, to change the way we live and look at other people within God's plan. We resist change and denigrate the one who shows us not only the need to change, but that such a change is a real possibility.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:6-11

The second reading, from the Letter to the Philippians, is likewise common to all three cycles. The reading is a Christological hymn that lays out Paul's understanding of Jesus the Messiah. Jesus, being fully divine, became fully human and suffered an ignominious death for the sake of all people. His ultimate act of love for the sake of others is His glorification so that all can worship God through Him and all can acclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Characteristic themes of Paul are evident in the hymn: Salvation takes place in and through Jesus Christ; the heart of the Gospel message is the death and resurrection of Jesus; salvation is a free gift from God, it can't be earned, but it demands faith. Together with the Servant Song from Isaiah, the Philippians Hymn expresses amazement at the love of God for us through His Son who suffered so much for us, not to coerce us into a relationship, but to offer us that love.

GOSPEL READING:

The Gospel during the Liturgy of the Word at Mass is Mark's account of the Passion. This is the heart of Mark's Gospel. Mark spends nearly as much time narrating the Passion as he does on all the rest of the events in Jesus' public life. One of the favorite structuring devices of Mark is the use of bracketing and concentric structures. Such bracketing is used in the Passion narrative. The story begins with the account of a woman anointing Jesus as He dines in the house of Simon the Leper and ends with the women at the tomb who have come to anoint the body of Jesus who ran away in fear when they encounter the angel. In its original form, this is the ending of Mark's Gospel. There were no resurrection appearances of Jesus.

Of all the Gospels, Mark presents the harshest portrayal of the disciples and the angriest and most frustrated Jesus. There is a sense of urgency in responding, in understanding, in getting things right and the disciples regularly fall short of what Jesus expects of them. That is the case here when some of those present are angry with the woman, when they fail to see what is coming and what it is that the woman is really doing. And it is after this interchange between Jesus and His disciples that Judas strikes his deal with the chief priests to betray Jesus.

In the Last Supper scene, Jesus announces that He is about to be betrayed by one of the twelve who is dipping in the bowl with Him. Mark's language, here, is not as inclusive as it is in Matthew. Outright betrayal is not implied for all the disciples, but only for one of them. Still, after the meal, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus predicts that all the disciples will abandon Him. Peter protests that he would never do this and Jesus predicts his denial.

The tendency to single out individuals continues as Jesus prays in the Garden. He finds His disciples sleeping, unable to keep watch and pray with Him, unable to commit to Him and support Him, but He only names Peter, only chides him for his inability to stay awake. In the arrest scene, Judas identifies Jesus with a kiss. In Matthew, Jesus expresses hurt, disappointment, wonder that one of His chosen followers would betray Him with a gesture of friendship and affection. In Mark, the action stands on its own with no comment from Jesus. One of the disciples draws his sword and cuts off the ear of the high priest's servant. Again in Matthew, this was an occasion for Jesus to speak and to highlight the futility of

fighting against God's will. In Mark the action receives no comment, but stands as a rash, impetuous, and largely useless act on the part of one of His followers, another example of their lack of understanding and ability to make appropriate responses.

At this point, Mark includes an isolated and seemingly superfluous incident, not found in the other Gospels. There is a young man at the scene, scantily clad, identified as one following Jesus. When they attempt to seize him, he abandons his garment and runs away. Here is a follower partly clothed, partly prepared to be out and about. Symbolically, here is a follower partly prepared to be a disciple, to be involved with Jesus and His mission. In contrast, the twelve are fully clothed, just fed with Jesus' gift of Himself, and they too run away. It would suggest that this detail is included to highlight the desertion of the twelve, the fully initiated, in contrast to what might be expected of a marginal follower, a person following but not completely included and involved, one who is on his own as opposed to the fully initiated in community.

While Jesus is questioned by the high priest, Peter follows from a distance. He is curious to see what will happen, but distances himself from the Lord, unwilling to share fully in what Jesus will face, in what discipleship demands – for in Mark, a disciple must be willing to do what Jesus did, even if it means suffering. Confronted with the possibility of being drawn into the Passion, of being identified with Christ, Peter denies that he even knows him. And the cock crows and Peter weeps bitterly. He confronts his own failure.

From this point on, the disciples disappear from the story and Jesus proceeds alone. He is led before Pilate, the crowd screams for His death, and to satisfy the crowd Pilate acquiesces. There is no washing of his hands, no attempt on his part to absolve himself of guilt in the death of an innocent man. He merely acts in a way that is politically expedient.

On the way to His death, Jesus is aided in carrying the cross by a certain Simon of Cyrene. We don't know who he is; we don't know if he is a disciple or not. We can assume that he is Jewish – Simon is a Jewish name, but it is the names of his sons that are significant – Alexander and Rufus. These are not Jewish names. This suggests that Simon was a Hellenized Jew, a Jew who was attracted to and adopted the practices and culture of the larger Hellenized/Roman world. Jesus is aided by someone on the fringes, someone with a foot in two worlds, someone whose full allegiance to either world is questioned, someone, finally, who is forced to help. Finally, on the cross at the moment of His death, Jesus echoes the words of the psalmist in voicing His sense of utter isolation as He attempts to do His Father's will, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" And in His death, at the moment He accomplishes His Father's will, at the moment that He wins salvation for a sinful world, He is recognized, not by a loyal follower, not by a member of

God's chosen people living the relationship offered to us by our God, but by a foreign soldier.

Mark's story of Jesus Passion proceeds by way of juxtaposing Jesus and other people, to the disadvantage of those people who are presented. Mark consistently presents Jesus in terms of the image of the Suffering Servant from Isaiah and his whole Gospel centers on the idea of discipleship. For Mark a disciple must be willing to do what Jesus did, even if it means suffering and there is an urgency in Mark to respond, to take on the responsibility of discipleship NOW, while there is yet time. And Mark presents a picture of disciples that is less than flattering. They are obtuse, slow to respond, fearful, self-centered.

In the end, women will go to the tomb to finish what the unnamed woman began at the beginning of the Passion narrative and will confront the reality that Jesus has been raised, that what He said was really true, that the time to take up discipleship is now and, in a reaction characteristic of Jesus' chosen followers, they run away in fear. But the story has continued; there is an audience to hear again Mark's story of Jesus, to hear its call for an immediate response, to accept the responsibility of continuing to do what Jesus did. Someone overcame fear and reluctance, someone has carried the message on and that is a possibility for us, too.

FOR REFLECTION:

- In my journey of Lent, in my life as a Christian, where have I been fickle? What are the things that I have begun with enthusiasm and commitment that I have abandoned because they were hard, because they asked too much of me, because I simply lost enthusiasm?
- Jesus came to announce that the Kingdom of God had come near. It comes near most fully in His passion and death. I am called to change - to change how I live and look at the realities of the world - primarily in the light of this suffering and death? In my life as a Christian, do I seek comfort, peace, consolation or do I see the real value of this life, the real value of God's kingdom is self-sacrifice for the sake of others?
- In my life as a Christian, do I hang on to the illusion of independence and control? Do I work to be the master of my own life or can I really let go and allow myself to be cared for, to be loved?
- In Mark's story of Jesus' passion, the Lord is presented as isolated. The disciples and other people in the story are on the fringes and Jesus is alone. Am I content to allow Jesus to suffer alone? Am I willing to join with Him for the sake of others, for the sake of bringing the Kingdom near?
- When all is said and done, the work of Jesus is accomplished, our redemption is achieved and salvation is offered. In my life, will the story of Jesus continue? In the life of my family, of my parish, will the story of Jesus continue?

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, 7pm
Mass of the Lord's Supper

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

Holy Saturday, April 7th, 8 pm
Easter Vigil

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

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: