

Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

www.olqpparish.org

March 30, 2014



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

Mr. Curt Baker

PSR COORDINATOR

Mrs. Debra O'Donnell

YOUTH MINISTER COORDINATOR

Mrs. Terry Ostlund

PARISH COUNCIL

Bailey Alexander, Thomas Broadbent, Cathy Carley,
Joe Corio, Bev Gregory, David Holmes, Mary Luebbert,
Dave Mills, Donna Otzenberger, Jan Schultheiss,
Tim Webb,

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 Saturday)	
Sunday	7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am
Holy Days	as announced
Weekdays	8:00 am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for prayerful Adoration the last Wednesday of each month from 1:00 to 8:00 pm.

PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS

Tuesday after 8:00am Mass

ROSARY

Monday through Friday after 8:00 am Mass
For vocations 2nd Monday of month after 8:00 am Mass
Before 5:00 pm Mass on Saturday evenings

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

First and third Sunday of the month after 11:30 am Mass
Make arrangements by calling Parish Office

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 pm 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

Registration forms may be found on our website (olqpparish.org/parishregistration.htm), in the Church lobby or you may stop by the Parish Office to fill one out. If you have recently changed your status, married, moved out of your parents' home or graduated from high school, you need to re-register. Please help us keep our records accurate.

Upcoming OLQP Parish Events

2014

MarchMon 31 **Parish Mission Begins****April**Sat 12 **Parish All Day Confessions**Sun 20 **Easter**Sat 26 **Daughters of Isabella Tailgate Sale****May**Sun 4 **First Communion**Wed 7 **Confirmation**Sun 11 **Mother's Day**Wed 21 **8th grade Graduation****June**Sat 14 **OLQP Picnic**Sun 15 **Father's Day****July**S/T 7-11 **Hope Builders Week**Mon 28 **Vacation Bible School begins****August**Sun 24 **Knights of Columbus Ladies
Auxiliary Quarter Auction****September**Sun 28 **OLQP Quilt Social****October**Sat 4 **HoeDown**Sat 11 **Auction**

Parish Activities ~ March 31 - April 6

Mon	March 31	PSR, 6:15 - 7:30 pm Parish Mission begins RCIA, 7:00 pm, Parish Office
Tues	April 1	Perpetual Help Devotions after 8:00 am Mass Quilters, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Wed	April 2	Eucharistic Adoration, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Fri	April 4	Fish Fry, 3:00 - 7:00 pm, Cafeteria
Sat	April 5	Mass, 8:00 am Ministry of Consolation, 9:30 am, Cafeteria Eucharistic Minister Training, 9:30 am
Sun	April 6	1st Sunday Breakfast serving after 7:30 and 9:30 am Masses, Cafeteria



Thank You Quilters

Once again I would like to thank our quilters for their hard work and dedication to the parish. The quilters recently sponsored the Annual Red Hat Ladies Bingo Extravaganza at the Knights of Columbus Hall and presented the parish with a check for \$530. The Red Hat Ladies are always a lot of fun. They take playing BINGO to a whole new level. It's like a regular BINGO on steroids. So, a big THANK YOU to our quilters and to all who made this event a success.

Final Year For Sh-Boom

The band Sh-Boom who has played at our parish picnic the last three years announced recently that they will be disbanding at the end of this year. Their final engagement is a dinner/dance at Tan-Tar-A, Lake of the Ozarks on December 31st. Over the last 30 years Sh-Boom has been a fixture at many Catholic Parish Picnics, dances and charitable events. Each time that they played at our parish in the past, they have given us a generous discount, saving the parish well over \$3,000. They will perform at our Parish Picnic for the last time on June 14. But before they disband, we would like to have them out one last time. So, on **Saturday evening, November 1st**, we will be sponsoring a dance at the Knights of Columbus Hall featuring Sh-Boom. This will not be a fundraiser, but merely an opportunity for our parish to get together and have some fun. We want to keep ticket prices as low as possible. More information will be forthcoming. Mark your calendars now and make plans to enjoy the music and entertainment of Sh-Boom one last time!

Having a Crappy Lent?

How is Lent going for you? Have you been faithful to your Lenten commitments? Maybe you are doing great and you are growing in faith and benefiting from the grace that this holy season has to offer. Or, maybe you have fallen flat on your face and the commitments that were made on Ash Wednesday have fallen by the wayside. If you are in the first group, then praise God, you are in good company with many others who have been faithful. If you are in the second group, then praise God, because you too are in good company. Every year I like to remind people that St. Peter made one of the most famous "Lenten commitments" in history: "*Though all may have their faith in you shaken, mine will never be!*" (Mt 26:33). Of course we all know that Peter was too weak to live up to that commitment and he ended up denying Jesus. The other apostles did not do much better. They could not even stay awake with Jesus for one hour in His great moment of loneliness and minutes later they abandoned Jesus out of fear. He was left alone to face His terrible fate. But the point is that Jesus did not renounce His disciples as failures. He anticipated their weakness and simply invited them to stand back up and continue their journey. He redeemed them and gave them other opportunities to demonstrate their faith, and in the end they did not fail Him. So, don't be afraid if your Lenten observance is not what it should be. There are still two weeks left and Jesus also gives us other opportunities to demonstrate our faith. For the next two weeks make time for prayer every day, do a kind deed for someone every day, go to confession, make plans to attend Holy Week services and walk with Jesus during the time that many abandoned Him. Jesus honors our efforts, even if they are last minute, just ask St. Peter!

~ fr. mike

Lent

Extra Lenten Masses

Saturdays - 8:00 am
April 5 and 12

Confessions During Lent

Every Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 pm
All Day Confessions Saturday, April 12
9:00 am - 4:45 pm
No Confessions Holy Saturday, April 19

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday after 8:00 am Mass
Every Friday School Children 2:15 pm
(Not on April 18)

Eucharistic Adoration

Every Wednesday during Lent
9:00 am - 8:00 pm
Wednesday, April 2
9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Parish Mission

March 31st - April 3rd 6:30 pm

Easter Schedule

Holy Thursday Mass, 7:00 pm
Good Friday Service, 7:00 pm
Easter Vigil, 8:00 pm
Easter Sunday
7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 am

Archdiocesan Lenten Regulations

Good Friday (April 18, 2014) is a day of *abstinence* for all Catholics *over the age of 14*. On this day, *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 themselves 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.

Youth Council News

- Thanks to the Knights of Columbus for their generous donation to our youth who worked the Red Hat Ladies Bingo a couple of weeks ago. We appreciate all the Knights of Columbus does for our youth.
- Thanks to the 35 junior high youth that attended the Crazy Game Night last weekend. The items you donated, to the youth in foster care, are much appreciated.

High School Youth Group
Sunday, April 6th, and April 20th
6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Cafeteria

Hope Builders Service Week
Monday, July 7th – Friday, July 11th
Registrations are due by May 1st

All current 8th grade youth and high school youth are invited to join us for our summer service week called Hope Builders, July 7th through the 11th. The cost of this week is \$50 along with your time, talent and heart. If you would like an application or more information about Hope Builders email Terry.

For more information about any of the above youth activities call Terry Ostlund, 314-566-8363, or email terry.ostlund@olqpparish.org.



William Pounds and Sabrina Boyd
OLQP ~ April 5, 2014



Early Bulletin Deadline

Palm Sunday (April 13 deadline is April 2)
Easter Sunday (April 20 deadline is April 3)
Thanks so much for your help!

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The following are the dates each parish in our deanery will be hosting:

Our Lady Queen of Peace

Saturday, April 12, 9:00 am – 4:45 pm

Immaculate Conception

Tuesday, April 15, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

St. David

Every Saturday, 3:30 pm – 4:15 pm

St. James

Tuesday, April 8, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

St. Joachim

Thursday, April 10, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

St. John

Saturday, April 12, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
Sunday, April 13, 9:00 am – 9:50 am and
11:00 am – 12:30 pm

St. Rose

Saturday, April 12, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Monday, April 14, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Tuesday, April 15, 5:30 pm – 6:15 pm

St. Stephens

Wednesday, April 16, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION

The Ministry of Consolation will be offering a six week session to support those who recently experienced the loss of a loved one. The program conveys God's consolation through scripture, prayer, reflection and sharing our faith. The sessions begin on Saturday, April 5. The meetings are held in the Cafeteria Meeting Room from 9:30 to 11:30 am.

If you or someone you know is grieving the loss of a loved one, please know you are not alone. Consider allowing our Ministry of Consolation to walk with you during this difficult time. For more information please contact Judy Holmes, 314-650-0508 or Joan Ross, joanaross@sbcglobal.net.

Reflection...

God is only as far away as we place Him and never as far away as we think. For it is in Him that we live, move and have our being.

Catholicism Series Two Showings in Cafeteria 9:00 am * 7:00 pm

April 9 - The Fire of His Love: Prayer and the Life of the Spirit

April 16 - World Without End: The Last Things

Parish Mission March 31st through April 3rd An Extraordinary Event Awaits You! Plan to Attend

"A Journey of Faith" begins Monday, March 31st and continues through Thursday, April 3 at 6:30 pm.

The Mission is a preaching event. God's Word is proclaimed through the life, learning and personal experience of the preacher. Each session will begin at 6:30 pm. This will be a faith experience of a lifetime for you wrapped in inspiring prayer, heart warming songs, thought provoking ministry and wonderful fellowship. Bring the whole family. Invite neighbors and friends. Everyone is welcome.

BRMA Ecumenical Lenten Services

The Big River Ministerial Alliance will be having Lenten Services during Lent. Each Church will host a service in their own Lenten traditions and invite all from the different Churches to experience our differences and also our similarities.

There will be a free will offering requested at each service, and those funds will go to offset the costs of the Counseling Services that is available to all the Churches in the Alliance. Each service will begin at 7:00 pm and will last about an hour with fellowship to follow. This is an opportunity for the Christians of our community to meet one another and share in our common love of Jesus Christ.

This is the schedule for the Lenten Ecumenical Services:
April 3, Transformation UMC (Faith Methodist) H.S.
April 10, St. Martin UCC (High Ridge)

Eucharistic Ministers Makeup Training Session

If you missed our February Renewal/Training session we will be having a make-up session on Saturday, April 5th, in Church from 9:30 to 10:30 am. There have been some changes and we can all use a refresher training occasionally. This will also be an opportunity to update your contact information and preferred Mass time for the ministry.

Also, when schedules are developed, those who have renewed their commitment to the ministry by attending these types of activities are given preference in number and times of assignments.

Parishioners who wish to make this ministry their stewardship are also welcome. I can be contacted at joenn@gmail.com or 636-285-0672 if you have any questions.

FISH FRY

Lenten Fish Fries

All Fridays During Lent
Serving 3:00 to 7:00 pm

Good Friday

Serving Noon to 6:00 pm

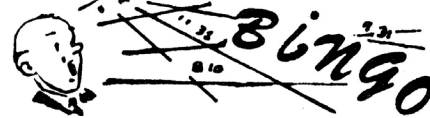
Adult Dinners \$9 and \$7

Children \$4

Carryout/Drive Thru Service

To order please call

636-375-5335



**Every Friday Night
Knights of Columbus Hall
Doors Open at 4:30 pm
Bingo starts at 6:45 pm
Everyone welcome!**

OLQP Athletic Association 9th Annual Trivia Night Saturday, April 5

Please consider reserving a table to participate in the trivia event, making a donation to be used as a prize, or sponsoring a round of questions. Doors will open at 6:15 pm and questions will start at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$20 each (\$160 for a table of 8). Free child care will be available at the Church. For more information about the event or how to purchase tickets, visit our website:

www.olqpraiders.com, or contact Cheryl,
wynn.cheryl@gmail.com or 314-852-2005.



St. Vincent De Paul

Thanks! Our thank you is a simple but sincere statement. You are being thanked by the poor and the needy for the needs you are supplying by your donations.

We would like to thank Hely Heating and Air Conditioning

for advertising in our parish bulletin. Because of their generosity we do not pay for our bulletins to be printed. Please patronize our advertisers and thank them for supporting our parish.

Aluminum Collection April 5th and 6th

The trailer will be on the lower parking lot. Thank you for helping us recycle aluminum, copper and brass. We cannot use aluminum foil, foil pans, glass, tin or steel. All proceeds help the Youth Ministry of our parish.

**Great Opportunity!!
Fundraising Idea**

Help the Parish/Help Each Other

The parish is offering chances on 8 hours of general maintenance and repair labor for \$5 a chance. The work will be done by Greg Benefield, a semi-retired Jack-of-all-Trades Handyman. When 100 tickets are sold a winner will be drawn. The winner will receive a total of 8 hours of general maintenance and repair work and \$100 to help defray the cost of any materials needed. The parish will earn \$400, the donated labor fee of \$50 per hour. Tickets are available in the Parish Office, can be purchased online through the Parish website or be purchased by using the coupon below and adding it to the collection basket.

PLEASE NOTE: Winners are limited to a maximum of eight hours of labor. For projects that need more time the winner is responsible to make other arrangements for finishing the work.

For more information on the services Greg can provide or to join him in providing services to the parish, please the Parish Office, 636-671-3062.

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General Handyman Raffle

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

\$5.00 per chance (please enclose with coupon)

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✂

**Knights of Columbus
Ladies Auxiliary Council 6435**

Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary Council # 6435 is asking our parish family to consider helping with the Friday night Bingos.

During 2013 and beginning with 2014 the Auxiliary is experiencing members who are relocating (moving out of state) or people retiring from helping after many years of service to the Bingos. Help is needed with preparing the food, serving or cashiering.

Please look within your own heart to make some time to volunteer even if it is just a few hours a week or whatever time you have available. We do work hard but we also have enjoyment amongst each other and the bingo players. This request is for men and women (also teens needing service hours can be considered).

For more information or any questions call Stephanie Schwantner, 636-671-2919 or Jane Saggio 636-671-2939.

**Spring Has Arrived...Time To Clean
Daughters of Isabella
Semi-Annual Tailgate/Garage Sale
Saturday, April 26, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
OLQP Lower Parking Lot**

Spaces are available - Outside \$15 with reservations - \$20 day of sale. Inside spaces \$25 with reservation or \$30 day of sale. Clean out your basement, garage, or attic. Raise money for your organization or yourself. Lunch and refreshments will be available.

To reserve a space please call Fran, 314-809-2676 or Debbie, 636-399-2066.

Fasting and Feasting

Lent should be more than a time of fasting. It should be a joyous season of feasting.

Lent is a time to fast from certain things and to feast on others. It is a season in which we should...

Fast from judging others...

Fast from emphasis on differences...

Fast from apparent darkness...

Fast from thoughts of illness...

Fast from words that pollute...

Fast from discontent...

Fast from anger...

Fast from pessimism...

Fast from worry...

Fast from complaining...

Fast from negatives...

Feast on Christ dwelling in them.

Feast on unity of all life.

Feast on the reality of light.

Feast on the healing power of God.

Feast on phrases that purify.

Feast on gratitude.

Feast on patience.

Feast on optimism.

Feast on divine order.

Feast on appreciation.

Feast on affirmatives.

**St. Vincent de Paul
Annual Palm Sunday Festival
Mass at 10:00 am
Sunday, April 13**

Come join us for our Annual Palm Sunday Dinner from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. The day includes Chicken Dinner and all the fixings, a beer and wine garden under a tent, live music, raffles an Easter egg hunt, Easter Bunny photos and other games and activities for kids and adults.

We are on South Highway 94 in Missouri wine country between Balducci and Blumenhof wineries, about 5 miles north of Washington, MO.

For more information call, 636-433-2678 or visit our website: www.svdutzow.org.

Catholic Radio

For inspiration during the Lenten season listen to **AM 1460 KHOJ, Catholic Radio**. Programming includes daily Holy Mass, the Holy Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and the Stations of the Cross. For a schedule and a free CD, call 314- 752-7000 or toll-free 1-877-305-1234.

**April & May Retreats
IL Ritiro Franciscan Retreat**

"St. Mary Magdalen Retreat"
Friday, April 25, 5:00 pm thru
Sunday, April 27, 2014 11:30 am
Presenter: Marilyn Koncen

"Sabbath Day"
Saturday, May 3, 2014 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Presenters: Sr. Marlene Geppert, OSF;
Br. Guillermo Gonzales, OFM

Visit our Webpage for more information:

www.il-ritiro.org
or Like us on Facebook
Call us at: 636-274-0554 or
email us at il.ritiro@gmail.com

IL Ritiro Franciscan Retreat
PO Box 38 - 7935 St. Francis Lane
Dittmer, MO 63023

Seven Days of Inspiration

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

Day 1

You can make a
difference today!

Day 2

Your time to shine
has come.

Day 3

It's a great day
to be happy!

Day 4

Just be yourself!

Day 5

Do something today
to make yourself smile!

Day 6

Let hope carry
you forward!

Day 7

Within each of us is
a voice that whispers,
"You can do it".

Parish Office email

parishoffice@olqpparish.org

OLQP Web Site

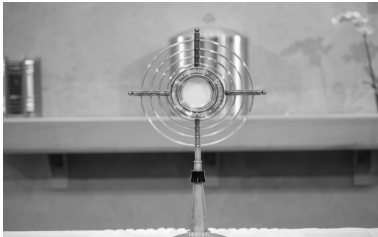
www.olqpparish.org

submit articles for bulletin

olqpbulletin@yahoo.com

**Deadline Friday at 4:30 pm
(9 days before publication)**

Lent 2014 Adoration Schedule



April 2: 9:00 am-6:00 pm
April 9: 9:00 am-8:00 pm

Come visit with Jesus,
even if it is only for a few minutes,
Jesus will be glad to hear from you.

Catholic Relief Services Collection Sunday, March 30

"Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me". Matthew 25:40

Today, we are reminded that Jesus identified Himself with our poorest brother and sisters. The Catholic Relief Services serves Jesus in the victims of human trafficking, in those who suffer from unjust laws and in those who need pastoral care and humanitarian assistance across the globe. Through your support with today's collection, you help Jesus in disguise. Please be generous.

Catholic Home Missions Appeal Sunday, April 6

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal will take place next week. One way that this Appeal works to support mission dioceses here at home is by supporting seminarian formation in poor dioceses. The blessing of seminarians places a financial burden on these dioceses, which educate each seminarian at a cost of \$35,000 to \$40,000 per year. Your support is needed for these young men, so they can return to serve their parishes. Please strengthen the Church at home by making a generous gift to next week's Appeal.

Our Gifts to God and Parish

770 registered members
214 online, loose and envelopes used this week
Thank you for your generosity!!!

Special Collections

Black/Indian Mission	\$ 25.00
Catholic Relief	\$ 5.00
Eastern European	\$ 10.00

New Building Fund to date \$764,168.69

Offertory

Sunday envelopes	\$ 9,761.02
Sunday loose	\$ 583.00
First Offering	\$ 5.00
Parish Enrichment	\$ 20.00
Total Offertory	\$ 10,369.02
Offertory Goal	\$ 13,200.00

As of March 24, 2014

Contributions Year to Date	\$ 493,493.51
Projected Year to Date Budget	\$ 501,600.00

2013 Contribution Statement

If you would like a 2013 contribution statement, please send a note (marked Linda) to the Parish Office (it may be placed in the collection basket, mailed to the Parish Office, or use the mail slot in the Parish Office door).

Thank you,
Linda

Stewardship

Start With Prayer

"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

How often do we invest our time, talent and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talents and treasure here on earth.

Please pray for those who are ill

(parishioners are in bold)

Danielle Enghauser	Rose Ficken
Audrey Hastings	Paul McDonnell
Greg Hirtz	Ellen O'Brien
Maryann Barnett	Wally Freihaut
Alice Boeger	Bob Ellison
Jackie Nappier	Andy Nappier
Fran Mills	Trish Guethle
Alice Wood	Ed Kelemen
Cliff Brandt	Laura Hicks
Anna Cicerelli	Ray Wieschhaus
Zachary Rawlins	Jennifer Younkins
Sandy Quinn	Sharon Alderson

Bernita Wallach, request of Mary Miller
 Al Cortner, husband of Laura (OLQP preschool teacher)
 Brenda Meredith, aunt of Dixie Garrett
 Chuck Hampton, cousin of Dixie Garrett
 Vince Mendenez, friend of Dixie Garrett
 Kathy Garrett, sister-in-law of Dixie Garrett
 Christy Dickerson, friend of Debby Maloney-Reeves
 Robert Bokern, brother of John Bokern
 Dave Landers, brother-in-law of Bernie Henning
 Joe Politte, brother-in-law of Ken DeClue

~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 three weeks.

Church Decorating for Easter Looking For Volunteers

Did you ever wonder who decorates the Church? It could be you or you and your friends. We need volunteers to decorate for Easter. Please call the Parish Office, 636-671-3062, to volunteer with this fun and fulfilling ministry. Any amount of time you have to help will be greatly appreciated.

Easter Flowers

Please Help to Beautify our Church!

Please consider making a monetary donation for Easter flowers. As always, your donation of Easter flowers are welcome. Please use an envelope marked "flowers" in the collection basket or drop it off at the Parish Office. If you would like your donation to be used in memory of a loved one, please include the name (printed clearly) with your donation.

Mass Intentions

Mon	March 31	8:00 am	Arleen Lammert
Tues	April 1	8:00 am	Mary Brooks
Wed	April 2	8:00 am	Reverend Ray Oge
Thurs	April 3	6:30 pm	Parish Mission
Fri	April 4	8:00 am	Reverend Jim Marshall
Sat	April 5	8:00 am	Cameron Stewart
		5:00 pm	Irene Baker
Sun	April 6	7:30 am	People of the Parish
		9:30 am	Frances Stewart
		11:30 am	Ophelia Myers

April 5th and 6th

Special Ministers of the Eucharist

5:00 pm	Barb and Joe Nenninger, Peggy Mikko, Katie Tutass, Bev Gregory
7:30 am	Jim England, Carol England, Cathie Frede, Jo Jahnsen, Rich Ortman
9:30 am	Dale and Pat Andrews, Tom Broadbent, Chris Camden, Joanne David, Don Moeller
11:30 am	Thom and Angie Ecker, Carol Freihaut, Greg Love, Joan Ross

Proclaimers

5:00 pm	Tom and Mary Heeley
7:30 am	Scott Reimer, Jim England
9:30 am	PSR Children
11:30 am	Thom Ecker, Christine Janos

Servers

5:00 pm	Augie Eimer, Matt Grimes, Connor Otzenberger
7:30 am	Alyssa Block, Alyssa Jones, Peter Kenney
9:30 am	PSR Children
11:30 am	M. Bruggemann, Josie Looney, Lexi Schmidt

Ushers

5:00 pm	Don Brooks, Ken Ganey, Ben Slodkowski, Bill and Donna Clifton, Bart Heinzer
7:30 am	Jeff Eschbach, Larry Lammert, Ted Hempten, Vince Rocchio, Tim Webb, Jerry Terry
9:30 am	PSR Children
11:30 am	Kevin Huss, Paul McDonnell, Mary Buckey, Cristina Duncan, Jennifer Younkins, G. Freihaut



**Church
Cleaning**

April 4

Diane Yocom,
 Susan Whitworth,
 Joanne David,
 Helen Stewart
 and Mary Weindel

Next Sunday's Readings
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Cycle A



THEME: Our hope is to live.

The readings for the Fifth Sunday of Lent focus on God bringing life to lifeless situations. The oracle of Ezekiel follows immediately on the vision of the dry bones and offers hope of new life for the exiles; the psalm records the plea of the penitent from the lifeless depths of sin; Romans, too, while holding out the promise of eternal life in the resurrection of the body, equates lifelessness with sin; and the story of the raising of Lazarus is the last sign recorded in John's Gospel, a final sign to draw people out of a lifeless situation and point them to the salvation offered in Jesus.

THE READINGS:

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:12-14

The reading from Ezekiel is the oracle that comes immediately after the vision of the resuscitation of the dry bones. The valley of the dry bones represents the situation of Israel in the exile. Time has passed and people are settling in. Hope for a return to Israel is diminishing and the exiles are becoming content to build homes, start families, engage in the structures of life in Babylon. Energy and enthusiasm for the idea of election,

for living a special relationship with God is waning. Israel's relationship with its God is in a dry, lifeless situation. In this context, God speaks a promise not just of return, not just of going back, but of revival and renewal. He addresses the exiles as "My people" and promises to fill them with His Spirit so that they will know Him. And a constant theme in the Old Testament is that knowing leads to life.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:8-11

The second reading, from the Letter to the Romans affirms again that life comes from the Spirit of God within us. What God promised through Ezekiel is accomplished in Jesus Christ – we have God's Spirit. This Spirit, though we may be sinful, is God's pledge of life that will lead us to share in the resurrection of Jesus, to share eternal life with our merciful God.

GOSPEL READING: John 11:1-45

In John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus is the final and greatest sign – overcoming death itself. The seven signs (miracles) are all intended to point beyond themselves to the person of Jesus who makes God's presence manifest in the world. In the synoptics, the cleansing of the temple provides the final push to drive the religious leaders of Israel to seek Jesus' death. In John, that was one of the first acts of Jesus' public life. Throughout His ministry, there was constant conflict between Jesus and the leaders of the people. It is this culminating sign that provides the final push in John for the religious leaders to actively seek to rid themselves of Jesus.

In the larger context of the whole Gospel, the raising of Lazarus serves two purposes. It is a sign, demonstrating the glory of God and pointing to Jesus as the means of God's self-revelation. It is a cause for belief. And the end result of the story is that many came to believe. But it also serves as a contrast to Jesus' resurrection. Lazarus emerges from the tomb still wrapped in the trappings of death. His is not a resurrection to eternal life, but a resuscitation. When the disciples visit the tomb of Jesus, they find the wrappings left behind. Death no longer has a hold on Jesus.

There is a general progression in the seven signs Jesus performs in John's Gospel – from changing water into wine, to healings, to power over the forces of nature, to power over life and death itself. Each sign is an occasion for Jesus to teach and His teaching is met with misunderstanding. But each sign is also an occasion for faith, for entering into a relationship with Jesus as the revelation of the Father, even with misgivings and misunderstandings, an entrance that leaves people open to growth in that relationship. And this is the case with the raising of Lazarus. The sign is an occasion for Jesus to proclaim who He really is – the resurrection and the life for those who believe, the means of hope and the opening of a relationship with the Father.

Some, like Mary and Martha accept the offer of the relationship whole-heartedly and have a full and loving commitment to Jesus; others come to believe but are still on the road, are still growing and developing in that relationship; some see only the signs and fail to respond to Jesus the revealer – “Could not He who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” And finally, the religious leaders will find this all to be too much, more than they can tolerate and maintain their sense of stability and control. They actively reject Jesus.

As we near the end of our Lenten journey, we come again to see that it is God who brings life to lifeless situations, to situations where we are tempted to just hang on, to accept what is and hope for no more, even to situations of ultimate loss – death itself. What deadens us to hope most often is our own sinfulness, our turning back on ourselves and seeking our own ends, our tendency to absolutize our experiences and define boundaries for our lives that limit us, that shut us off from hope, from the full manner of living that is possible for believers, for those who have a full and loving commitment to their God.

Ezekiel proclaims that the present moment isn't the end of the story, but a step along the way, a moment in time to respond to a loving God who calls us His people and promises us hope and revitalization. For John, the present moment has absolute significance, not in itself but as a moment of choice, a moment to decide to live in the light and commit to Jesus the revealer, or to shrink back into darkness and live by our own devices. Life – fully living in the world in the here and now, and the possibility of eternal life with our loving Father – depends not on our ability to take control and maintain what is comfortable, but in letting go of control, in letting ourselves constantly be reformed by our revealing God, by growing in our relationship with Him, a growth that is never content with what is, but always celebrates what can be – if only we love, if only we approach Jesus and His Father with full and loving commitment.

FOR REFLECTION:

- What are the lifeless situations in my life, those areas of life where I'm stuck, where there is no energy, no enthusiasm, no hope? What are the lifeless situations in my community of faith, those areas of life where we're stuck, where there is no energy, no enthusiasm, no hope?
- How well do I know God? Does my knowing God, my relationship with God bring life to the lifeless situations in my life? What can I do to know God better? Does the possibility of knowing God better give me hope?
- In what sense do I believe that the Spirit of God is within me? Does this suggest to me that I have within myself all that I need to bring life to the lifeless situations of my life? To the life of my faith community? How can I do this?
- In simplest terms, a miracle is the experience of God in our world. What has been my experience of miracles, of God's involvement with us? In John's Gospel, for some people miracles were threatening, confusing, challenging and uncomfortable. What about my experience of God's involvement in our world has been threatening, confusing, challenging or uncomfortable for me? What can I do about this?
- In what ways am I tempted to absolutize my experiences, to hang on to what I have, to limit my possibilities and squelch hope? God brings life to lifeless situations. How can I open myself to His offer of life?