

# Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

[www.olqpparish.org](http://www.olqpparish.org)

March 6, 2011



## PASTOR

Reverend Michael Murphy

## ASSOCIATES

Reverend James Beighlie, C.M.

Reverend Donald F. Molitor, Retired

## DEACONS

Reverend Dr. Thomas Gerling

Reverend Mr. Paul Turek, Sr.

## MUSIC DIRECTOR

Mr. Bob Ellison

## GRADE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Ms. Renée Chauvin

## PSR COORDINATOR

Mrs. Debra O'Donnell

## PRESCHOOL COORDINATOR

Mrs. Nancy Lorenz

## YOUTH MINISTER

Mrs. Terry Ostlund

## PARISH COUNCIL

Sandee Burkemper

Joanne David

Vicki De Long

René Heibeck

Arnie Lohbeck

Dave Mills

Denise Ortmann

Rich Ortmann

Linda Weber

## PHONES

Parish Office

671-3062

School

671-0247

Cafeteria

375-5335

## SCHEDULE OF HOLY MASSES

Saturday Evening

5:00pm

(Rosary before Mass - Fatima Prayers included on 1st Sat.)

Sunday

7:30, 9:30, 11:30am

Holy Days

as announced

Weekdays

8:00am

## PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS

Tuesday after 8:00am Mass

## ROSARY FOR VOCATIONS

2nd Monday of each month after 8:00am Mass

## ROSARY FOR PEACE

Every Monday evening at 7:30pm

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

First and third Sunday of the month after 11:30am Mass

Make arrangements by calling Parish Office

## SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday

4:00 - 4:45pm or by appointment

## SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

As soon as marriage is contemplated, contact one of the parish priests.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

314-223-8751

## YOUTH MINISTRY

314-566-8363

**Upcoming OLQP Parish Events****2011****March**

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

**April**

- Sat 9 **K C Meat Shoot**, Soccer Fields  
 Sat 16 **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**

**July**

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

**August**

- Sat 20 **Daughters Tailgate Sale**

**September**

- Sat 24 **Moonlight Golf Tournament**  
 Sun 25 **OLQP Quilt Social** KC Hall

**October**

- Sat 1 **Hoedown**  
 Sat 8 **Harvest Moon Auction** KC Hall  
 Sun 16 **Daughters Fashion Show** KC Hall

**November**

- Sat 5 **K C Meat Shoot**

**December**

- Sun 4 **Advent Tea** KC Hall

**2012****January**

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

in order to grow as a Christian? Will you be any closer to God by the time Easter arrives? Are you ready for some really delicious fish? The holy season of Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday. Ashes will mark our foreheads to show that we stand in need of repentance and that we are willing to do what it takes to make things right with God and with each other.

Masses will be celebrated on Ash Wednesday at **6:15 am, 8:00 am, 12:00 Noon and 7:00 pm**. Our parish Fish Fry's will take place on Ash Wednesday; Noon-7:00 pm, all the Fridays of Lent; 3-7 pm and on Good Friday; Noon- 7:00 pm.

Look for more information, schedules and opportunities to learn and grow in the upcoming weeks.

**TURKEY PORN!**

Now that I have your attention I would like to remind you of (and invite you to attend) the Parish Awareness Conferences that are being offered as part of the Archdiocesan "*As For Me And My House*" initiative. There are four conferences scheduled (you only need to attend one) and they will provide more information concerning the impact that pornography has had on our culture, our families, our young people and our souls.

The meetings will last about an hour and will consist of a video followed by a Power Point presentation. Besides making us more aware of the damage that addictions to pornography can cause, it will provide some strategies for protecting our families and offer some hope to those who struggle with this addiction.

**Schedule of Conferences**

- Sunday, March 13 8:30 am and 10:30 am  
 Monday, March 14 6:30 pm  
 Wednesday, March 16 6:30 pm

Meetings will take place in the Cafeteria Meeting room.

The Archdiocesan website, [www.archstl.org/myhouse](http://www.archstl.org/myhouse), provides additional resources to help people understand the dangers of pornography, where to find help if they are struggling with the addiction and information on how to protect families.

Fr. Mike



Pastor's Desk

**LENT**

Do you have a game plan for Lent? Have you thought about what needs to change in your life



## OLQP School News

- The 2nd graders are studying the Liturgy of The Word. Once they have learned all the Mass parts, they will role play "Church" in the classroom.
- The 3rd graders are wearing their bully prevention T-shirts on Fridays because that is the day they are having their class meetings.
- The 4th graders are studying the lives of slaves and Civil War soldiers from Missouri. They are doing research in the computer lab on this topic.
- The 5th graders are doing "peer assessments" of each other. Mrs. LaMar will use these assessments, plus her own, to determine grades.
- Madison Gross, 3rd grade, has a new baby brother! Congratulations to the Gross family!



## YOUTH MINISTRY

### Parents Please Attend a "For Me and My House" Conference

Please try to attend a Parish Awareness Conference for the "Me and My House" program. This Archdiocesan program will help educate us, as parents. Our teens need us to set boundaries and guidelines to keep them safe during their teen years. As parents we must become educated on the dangers that are before our teens. Please consider attending one of these conferences. There will be one scheduled on Wednesday evening, March 16th, so you can drop your teen off at Youth Group at 6pm and have plenty of time to attend the workshop at 6:30 pm

### Confirmation Retreat for Sponsors and Candidates

On Sunday, March 13th from 2-7 pm the Confirmation candidates and their sponsors will meet in the cafeteria at 2 pm and we will all attend the Youth Mass at 6 pm. The retreat will end after the Youth Mass. Everyone in the parish is invited to join us for Mass and we ask you to keep our Confirmation youth in your prayers as they journey toward Confirmation. Bishop Rice will confirm our youth on Wednesday, March 30 here at OLQP.

### Thanks to Home and School

Thanks soooo much to our Home and School for their generous donation of \$1,000 for needed equipment for our Youth Band. Thanks a million!

### Youth Night on Ash Wednesday

We will meet in the Bear's Den at 6 pm for social time and we will all attend Mass together at 7 pm on Wednesday, March 9th. All High School youth are invited to join us every Wednesday from 6-8 pm.

Terry Ostlund, Youth Minister  
314-566-8363

## 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](http://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](mailto:frbeighlie@olqpparish.org)

**"Precious Metals" collection this week!  
Thanks for your support!**

## 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 16 – Finding Time for Prayer and Getting Started
- 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](mailto:phyllis106@charter.net).

**Parish Office email**  
[parishoffice@olqpparish.org](mailto:parishoffice@olqpparish.org)  
**OLQP Web Site**  
[www.olqpparish.org](http://www.olqpparish.org)  
**submit articles for bulletin**  
[olqpbulletin@yahoo.com](mailto:olqpbulletin@yahoo.com)  
**Deadline Tuesday at 4:30 pm**  
**Inserts - Monday at noon**



## St. Vincent De Paul

Thanks!

Because you are concerned...This is a note of appreciation. Our thank you is a simple but sincere statement. You are being thanked by the poor and the needy for food, clothing, medicine and other needs you are supplying. St. Vincent de Paul thanks you for allowing us to be a channel of your almsgiving.



## Parish Corner

Every week a different organization is featured in the bulletin. The following week they have representatives in the Church lobby to talk about their organization and sign up potential members.

### Daughters of Isabella

The Order of the Daughters of Isabella is a charitable organization of Catholic women founded on the principle of its motto: Unity, Friendship and Charity. We come together as a sisterhood to uphold the teachings of the Catholic Church, bringing spiritual benefits to our members and contributing to the common good of humanity. By our faith, we are called to serve, inspired and challenged to do God's work.

Our fundraisers allow us to make donations to various organizations, sponsor a person to go on the Pro-Life Trip and also offer a scholarship to an eighth grade girl who will be attending a Catholic High School. Any practicing Catholic woman who is 16 years of age or older is invited to join the Daughters of Isabella. We usually meet on the first Thursday of the month in the cafeteria at 7:30 pm.

## 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!

### **Archdiocesan Lenten Regulations**

**Ash Wednesday (March 9) and Good Friday (April 22)** is a day of abstinence for all Catholics over the age of 14. On these days, fast as well as abstinence is also obligatory for those from the ages of 18 to 59. Abstinence means abstinence from meat. Fast means one full meal a day, with two smaller meals and nothing between meals (liquids are permitted). No Catholic will lightly excuse himself or herself from this obligation.

**All other Fridays of Lent (except March 25 this year)** 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.

### **Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe March 9, 2011**

This collection provides support for basic pastoral programs and makes scholarships available for students who will serve their local church.

Thank you for your support of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe!

### **"For Me and My House" Conference Times**

Last Sunday was our Awareness Sunday for the "Me and My House Program". Our parish will host a Parish Awareness Conference for those who want to learn how to best protect their family from the damaging effects of pornography and how to help their children desire and choose God's plan for their lives. All parishioners 18 and older are asked to consider attending one of the four scheduled conference times; Sunday, March 13th at 8:30 am or 10:30 am, Monday, March 14th at 6:30 pm or Wednesday, March 16th at 6:30 pm. The Conferences will be held in the Cafeteria meeting room and will take about an hour.

### **BINGO**

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

### **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.

#### **Revised Upcoming Sessions:**

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

### **Wheelchair Veterans Meat Shoot Sunday, March 6**

The High Ridge Elks Lodge 2455 (located on High Ridge Blvd.) is having an Old Fashioned Meat Shoot for the Wheelchair Veterans on Sunday, March 6, 2011. The Shoot starts at Noon, so grab your rabbit gun, (no pull downs .678 chokes), open sights only, 32" barrel length limit, shooting at 62 feet and to help keep you from waving the barrel around like me, you can use a bench rest.

Food and refreshments available. For more info call Ken DeClue at 636-671-0398 or 314-723-0117.

**Tuition Assistance  
Application Deadline April 1**

Any **Catholic** family wishing to apply for tuition assistance, from the parish or the Archdiocese, for the 2011-2012 school year **must** obtain a "FACTS" application from the Parish Office.

Students must attend an Archdiocesan or Parochial Elementary School or an Archdiocesan or Parochial High School to be eligible. The due date for the application is April 1, 2011 and **must** include a copy of your 2010 Income Tax Return.

Grants for the 2011-2012 school year are made possible through the generosity of the Returning God's Gift Campaign and the Annual Catholic Appeal. The Catholic Education Office appreciates the support of the ACA and all of its donors.

**IL Ritiro Help Wanted**

IL Ritiro is looking for housekeeping and maintenance help! Both positions are part time and on as needed basis with flexible hours. If interested please contact Fr. Paul at 636-274-0554 or [fr.paul.gallagher.ofm@gmail.com](mailto:fr.paul.gallagher.ofm@gmail.com)

**Senior Citizen Prom  
Northwest High School  
Saturday, April 9, 5 to 9 pm  
RSVP no later than April 2**

Hosted by Northwest High School's Student Council. The formal occasion has a "Viva Las Vegas" theme. If you are young at heart and want to enjoy great food, dancing and fun please come and be our guest.

For more information or any questions please call 274-0555 ext. 148 or email [lromaine@nwr1.k12.mo.us](mailto:lromaine@nwr1.k12.mo.us)

**Seven Days of Inspiration**

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

This day bears many  
gifts. Some are  
especially for you.

You are just as special  
as you make everyone  
else feel.

Angles fly on  
wings of hope.

Expect success!

New dreams are  
born every day.

Daydream a little.  
It's good for you.

Give someone's day an  
instant makeover. Smile!

**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 16  
From 8:30 am – 8:00 pm.

**Recent Baptisms**

Congratulations to the following children

**Eleanor Elizabeth Quigley,**

daughter of Michael and Pamela (Gansmann) Quigley

**Tanner Edward Smith,**

son of Travis and Janel (Bolte) Smith

**Lenten Schedule****Ash Wednesday, March 9, Masses**

6:15 am, 8 am, noon, 7pm

**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

(except March 18)

**Fish Fry's**

Ash Wednesday, March 9th, noon to 7 pm

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**

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

**John Kaletta, Sr.,** father of Steve and Johnny  
grandfather of Hannah and Kyle Kaletta

**Joan Masterson,** cousin of Pat Hoskins

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

## Our Gifts to God and Parish Last Week

### 235 Envelopes Used

**Special Collections**

St. Louis Review	\$	23.00
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**New Building Fund**

Lavender Envelopes	\$	310.00
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Total Received to date	\$	689,728.10
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**Offertory**

Sunday Envelopes	\$	12,021.00
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Sunday Loose	\$	670.00
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Above and Beyond	\$	317.00
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First Offering	\$	10.00
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Present and Future	\$	5.00
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<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>13,023.00</b>
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<b>Offertory Goal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>13,699.00</b>
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Thank you for your generosity.

**As of February 28, 2011**

Contributions Year To Date	\$	424,121.89
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Projected Year to Date Budget	\$	479,465.00
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**Script Gift Cards**

Sales	\$	3,105.00
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Profits/tuition reduction	\$	130.24
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Script gift cards are available in the Parish Office from 8am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday and every weekend after Mass.

If you would like a 2010 Contribution statement  
please call Linda, 671-3062.

## STEWARDSHIP

### START WITH PRAYER

*"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock."*

Matthew 7:24

Our Lord gives us two distinct commands today. We must listen and we must act. We listen when we participate in Mass. We act when we participate in the ministry of the parish. We need to do both for a strong foundation. Participating more fully in the liturgy and life of the parish may require some changes on our part. We may have to move away from our current lifestyle so that we can move closer to God.

**Parish Activities**

Mon	March 7	PSR, 6:15-7:30 pm RCIA., 7pm, Cafeteria meeting room Rosary for Peace, 7:30 pm, Church
Tues	March 8	Devotions after 8am Mass Quilters, 9am - 3pm, 6 - 8:30 pm, Activity Center "Church History" class, 7 pm, Cafeteria meeting room Parish Council, 7 pm, Rectory
Thurs	March 10	Choir Practice, 7 pm, Church Bible Study, 7 pm, Cafeteria mtg. room
Sun	March 13	Awareness Conference, 8:30 & 10:30 am, Cafeteria Children's Liturgy during 9:30 am Mass, Cafeteria Sponsor/Candidate Retreat, 2 pm, Cafeteria Youth Mass, 6 pm, Church

**Mass Intentions**

Mon	March 7	8:00am	Deceased Members of Geatley Family
Tues	March 8	8:00am	Jim & Michael Woolsey
Wed	March 9	6:15am 8:00am 12:00pm 7:00pm	Rick Strothkamp Tyler Freihaut Martin Lampe Ruth Hudson
Thurs	March 10	8:00am	Wally & Geneva Freihaut Intentions
Fri	March 11	8:00am	Annabell T. Redel
Sat	March 12	8:00am 5:00pm	Oscar Buchheit Martin Lampe
Sun	March 13	7:30am 9:30am 11:30am 6:00pm	People of the Parish Val Leible Joyce Clayton Sandy & Lisa Ottomeyer

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

<b>Jackie Nappier</b>	<b>Andy Nappier</b>
<b>Vince Ferrara</b>	<b>Ann Bevard</b>
<b>Martin Ponder</b>	<b>Janet Bachmann</b>
<b>Rich Leiber</b>	<b>Gerry Schroeder</b>

**Margaret Bottchen**

Ralph Michael, father of Geraldine Little  
Baby Henley, relative of Geraldine Little  
Tracy Musselwhite, niece of Lynette Rawlins  
Rachel Preston, granddaughter of L. Rawlins  
Jimmy Rawlins, son of Lynette Rawlins  
Madalyn Pohlman, relative of Kathy Morgan  
Chris DeClue, daughter of Bill & Linda Weber  
Anice Nixon, mother of Ruth Barbato  
Hubert Taylor, father of Nancy Wilfong  
Donald Abell, brother of Helen Maloney  
Debbie Laird, friend of Geraldine Little  
Donna Henslee, friend of Geraldine Little  
Buck Thomas, husband of Donna Thomas  
Alyssa and Ashlyn Stark, granddaughters of  
Jim and Judy Winfrey

Kay Oestman, sister of Maureen Turney  
Dave Haig, friend of Ken and Jan DeClue  
Shirley Hussey, sister-in-law of Cathy Eimer  
Louise Gunter, mother of Lynette Rawlins

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

**Church Cleaning**

Marie Strayhorn,  
Debby Maloney-Reeves,  
Nancy Wilfong,  
Lee & Kay Hoffman

**March 12th and 13th****Special Ministers of the Eucharist**

5:00 pm	*Margaret Bottchen, Donna Clifton, Clay Gregorc, Bev Gregory, * Maryann Turek, Ralph & Sandy Munzlinger
7:30 am	Ken Bohnert, Carl & Patsy Boyer, Ann Riley, * Andrea Lawson, *Joyce Stenger, S. Tenny
9:30 am	Dale Andrews, *Fran Corley, *Carol Delue, Trish Guethle, Pat Hoskins, Barb Perez, Sharon Reineri, Jan Schultheiss
11:30 am	Debbie Cleek, Angie Ecker, Tom Mattingly, *Denise & Richard Ortmann, Len Reinhardt, Joan Ross

\* You are responsible to clean the vessels after Mass

**Proclaimers**

5:00 pm	Barb & Joe Nenninger
7:30 am	Vicki De Long, John Holmes
9:30 am	Margaret Gerling, Helen Salamone
11:30 am	Tom Ecker, Maria Webb

**Servers**

5:00 pm	Madison & Reagan Becnel, Christine Gregorc
7:30 am	Alyssa Block, Cameron Haug, K. Robertson
9:30 am	Sarah Marting, Kimberly Queen, Joey Scanga
11:30 am	Johnny Gibson, A. Mattingly, Claire Webb

**Ushers**

5:00 pm	Larry Bottchen, Arnie Lohbeck, Rich Rousseau, Helen Steward, Katie Tutass, Ronald Williams
7:30 am	G. Bachmann, Robert De Long, Wally Freihaut, Ted Hempen, Steve Morlock, Vince Rocchio
9:30 am	Tom Broadbent, Terry Filicsky, Ray Graf, Butch Mattingly, Sam Pierceall, R. Schultheiss
11:30 am	Gary Freihaut, Michael Harris, Kevin Huss, Paul McDonnell, A. Nappier, Ben Slodkowski



**First Sunday of Lent  
Cycle A**



**THEME: Our most basic human need is for God.**

The readings for the First Sunday of Lent all focus on human nature, especially fallen, sinful human nature in need of salvation. Thematically, the readings can be said to deal with the concept of “Original Sin.” Original sin is not to be understood in the sense of acts of selfishness and turning away from God on the part of humans – that concept refers to actual sin, but to the basic need of humanity for its God, to the basic fact that we are limited, that we cannot achieve life with God on our own, but that we need the mercy, compassion and love of our Creator God.

**THE READINGS:**

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

The reading from Genesis is part of what is called the Primeval History, the stories of Creation and the Fall. These stories, found in the first eleven chapters of the book, express the belief that God has created a good and ordered world and placed it into our hands to care for and enjoy. But the stories in the Primeval History are mythic in nature. A myth is to be understood as a story that brings together things that are opposite. If God has created this good and ordered world for us, why does it take so much hard work to enjoy the good

things of creation? Why is there pain and suffering and death? Why is there violence and war?

The mythic stories of the Primeval History all have the form of Crime and Punishment stories. Such stories have a basic pattern: 1) people sin; 2) God acts to judge – usually in absolute terms; 3) people are led to admit they have done wrong; and 4) God relents and the judgment is mitigated. The basic theme of Crime and Punishment stories is that human actions have consequences, but God’s mercy and forbearance is always the final word.

So, what went wrong in God’s original plan for creation? Humans sinned; they crossed boundaries. The stories of Creation and the Fall depict humanity as the high point of creation, but humans are not God. We are limited, we face boundaries that we can’t cross. We can’t know everything. We can’t master everything. And yet, as the stories try to demonstrate, there is a drive in human nature to kick against boundaries, to want to know, to master, to control, to be like God.

The first Crime and Punishment story in the Primeval History is the story of Adam and Eve. This story concerns the crossing of boundaries. The point isn’t that they disobeyed and ate forbidden fruit; the point is that they grasped for knowledge that was beyond them, that they wanted to be like God. The Genesis story suggests that this drive for knowledge, even knowledge that is beyond us, is part of human nature, something in our make-up that needs to be controlled. It is a drive to master fate and be in charge. It is a drive towards an independence that does not need God and the story-teller in Genesis makes a simple point: we are limited and we do need God. Our science and philosophy isn’t enough, our skills and culture won’t master the universe, our political, social and economic structures are limited and imperfect. Human nature, the high point of God’s creation, is still a created entity in need of a sustaining, loving, forgiving and reconciling creator.

On this first Sunday of Lent, the reading from Genesis recalls God’s original plan for creation and the limitations of our human nature. It affirms again our basic need for God and asks us simply to acknowledge that need.

**SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19**

The second reading from Romans is Paul's meditation on the nature of humanity as depicted in the story of Adam and the difference that Jesus Christ makes. *Ha adam* (the generic Hebrew term for the human race) brought human nature into the world, flawed, limited human nature. Through Moses the Law was given so that humanity could know God's will and know what was right, but the Law does not overcome human nature; it lets us know when we are wrong. But in Jesus Christ, God Himself entered the world and lived human nature perfectly and this perfection opens the way for us to be made perfect, to have eternal life with God, to receive the transformation we can't achieve for and of ourselves. The story of flawed, limited humanity is not a story of hopelessness and defeat, but a story of hope and life.

**GOSPEL READING: Matthew 4:1-11**

In all three cycles of readings, the Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent is one of the accounts of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness after His baptism by John. Today's Gospel account is from Matthew. At the beginning of His public life, Jesus retreats to the wilderness for forty days. This forty day sojourn clearly recalls Israel's wilderness traditions, that time of stripping away all that distracts us from relating to and relying solely on our God, a time away from the normal world of society and its creature comforts, a time of preparation to live with purpose, a purpose defined by our relationship with God. At the end of the forty days, Jesus is tempted, tempted to indulge some of the most basic drives of human nature. "Command these stones to be turned into loaves of bread." He could do it. He could take His gifts and abilities and use them to satisfy Himself, to further His own ends. In the first temptation, we are asked to consider what God has placed in our hands, to consider our gifts, abilities and talents. How much do we use God's gifts to further our own ends and satisfy ourselves to the exclusion of others? "Throw yourself down." Take a risk. Some risks are worth taking, even necessary. Entering a relationship is risky. Forgiving an enemy is risky. But there are risks that can damage relationships and destroy well-being. Risks that, again, are self-serving. Risking health and life with drugs and alcohol for an artificial high; risking the livelihood of the family by excessive gambling; the risk to self and others through the use of violence to solve problems or dominate situations. Negative risk taking is a crossing of boundaries, ignoring consequences in the hope of some personal gain. How willing are we to sacrifice our well-being and the well-being of those we love by ignoring consequences and taking needless risks, looking for an easy way to achieve our aims rather than a right way? "All the kingdoms of the world I will give you." Here is the drive to power, the drive to control. And the power

would come from worship, from what we devote ourselves to – money, ambition, corporate success, domination in relationships. How strong is our drive to be on control, to control all aspects of our lives? And to what will we devote ourselves to get that control? On this First Sunday of Lent, the community of believers is asked to look at our human nature and acknowledge our need for God, our need for salvation. We are asked to consider our basic drives and values, our very sense of self and to begin on the road to transformation. And we are asked to surrender. The transformation we seek is reconciliation and a loving relationship with our God, and we can't achieve this by a drive to be in control, by a drive to independence, by a drive to cross boundaries and get there on our own. It is God who works the transformation and it can happen only if we surrender to His love and His will for us.

**FOR REFLECTION:**

- What is my understanding of "original sin?" If I view original sin as "inherited guilt," does it seem to me that God is fair? How is original sin related to our common humanity?
- Does the pattern of biblical "Crime and Punishment" stories fit the pattern of my life? What are the boundaries I am tempted to cross? Do I believe that in all of life, God's mercy is the final word? How do I envision God's original plan for creation and what do I see as my part in this plan?
- Do I agree that the story of flawed, limited humanity is not a story of hopelessness and defeat, but a story of hope and life? In what practical ways do I see our story as hopeful and life-giving?
- How do I understand and embrace the season of Lent as a "wilderness journey?" What is my personal wilderness journey? What distracts me from what is really important in life? What distracts me from living my relationship with God fully?
- What Lenten practices do I adopt? Why? What do I hope to accomplish by "giving something up" or "doing something extra" for Lent?

**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.

The format will be the same as before, a blind buddy draw, where each fisher person weighs in their fish individually and then partners are drawn to add up the total stringer weight that will determine the winners.

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 middle of March to secure our rooms and space is limited. Each person is responsible for making their own reservations. Please contact Jeff Littrell 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](http://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.  
Dinner and stories about the ones that got away begins at 6:00.

For more information call or email:  
Jeff Littrell at 314-607-4121 - [ljd124@AOL.com](mailto:ljd124@AOL.com)  
Deacon Paul at 636-677-4040 - [dconpaul@charter.net](mailto:dconpaul@charter.net)

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