

Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

www.olqpparish.org

April 10, 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

April

- Sat 16 **Parish All Day Confessions**
9 am - 4:45 pm
- Sun 17 **Athletic Association Trivia Night**
Palm Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt, KC Hall
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**
- Thu 30 **Blood Drive, 2-7 pm Cafeteria**

July

- Tue-Sun 19-24 **Home Builders**
(Youth Ministry)
- Mon-Thu 25-29 **Soccer Camp, Athletic Field**
- Sat 23 **50th Anniversary Mass with**
Archbishop Carlson

August

- Sat 20 **Daughters Tailgate Sale**

September

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

October

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

November

- Sat 5 **K C Meat Shoot**

December

- Sun 4 **Advent Tea KC Hall**

2012

January

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



Something Looks Different!

I would like to thank all those who participated in the Parish Pride Cleanup last Saturday. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed. Thanks to all of you, the parish grounds look a lot better and it saved the parish a lot of money. THANK YOU!!!

What's Up With The Trees??

In 1914 the poet Joyce Kilmer published the following poem called:

TREES

*I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;*

*A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;*

*Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.*

Trees certainly are powerful examples of God's creative beauty and it is sad when they are cut down for whatever reason. But recently we had to cut down two trees on the parish grounds. One was dead and the other, although still partially alive, was rotting from within and posed a safety hazard to children and parishioners, especially in strong winds. I'm happy to say that another tree that we thought was diseased, turned out to be fine and was spared. Hopefully, we will be planting some new trees in the future to take the place of the ones we lost.

Fr. Mike





OLQP School News

- The students in grades 1-7 are taking the Gates-MacGinitie Reading Test between April 4 - 13. Also, the Northwest R-I School District donated their GATES tests to us since they no longer use them. We are well supplied for YEARS now and are even able to test the 7th graders, which we have not done in the past. We are grateful to the Northwest R-I School District for their generosity.
- Health screenings for grades K - 8 occurred last week. "Thank you" to Cardinal Glennon Hospital and the volunteer nurses who helped out.
- In case you missed it, Kindergarten registration for 2011 - 2012 has begun! If you have a kindergartner and are interested in him/her attending OLQP, please contact the school office, 671-0247 for registration and kindergarten screening information.



On Monday, April 11, we will meet to enjoy lunch at Marty's Bistro (on High Ridge Blvd.) at 1 pm. Hope to see everyone there.



We meet every Monday evening at 7 pm in the Cafeteria meeting room. All parishioners or guests are invited to sit in on any of our sessions when the topic being discussed might interest them.

Upcoming Sessions:

- April 11 - The Meaning of Holy Week
- April 16 - RCIA Retreat
- April 18 - No Classes
- April 23 - Holy Saturday – Reception of the Sacraments



YOUTH MINISTRY

Welcome to our Newly Confirmed

We welcome our newly confirmed 8th grade youth of the parish as full members of the Catholic Church. On Wednesday, March 30th, Bishop Rice confirmed 31 youth from Our Lady Queen of Peace.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Alicia Barringer | Delaney Lawson |
| Rebecca Beck | Tyler Mantia |
| Craig Berry | Lena Montileone |
| Andrea Brown | Ian Mottert |
| Kali Chafin | Scott Niemira |
| Lucas Diffey | Terry Niemira |
| Christopher Dohack | Hanna Osborne |
| Mitchell Fasnacht | Jessica Queen |
| Alexandra Gal | Kaitlyn Robertson |
| Bailey Ginger | Taylor Sparks |
| Anthony Grisham | Jordyn Stewart |
| Kiersten Hahn | Jessica Tarter |
| Nicole Hanson | Justin Thomure |
| Rachel Haug | Mary Turney |
| Madisyn Hirth | Clayton Wideman |
| | Ashlie Winkler |

Thanks to everyone who helped make this a beautiful celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. We especially thank the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard, Gina Schmidt our photographer, the talented choir, the servers, the teachers, the sponsors, the parents, the clergy and Bishop Rice. The 7th grade youth did a great job putting on the reception after Confirmation. We especially thank Liz Duff from Duff Catering for donating her time and talent to cater the reception.

Wednesday Youth Nights

All newly confirmed are invited to join us on Wednesday nights from 6 to 8 pm in the Bear's Den.

**Please note that on Wednesday, April 13th we will NOT have a Youth Night because many of our youth are being inducted into the National Honor Society at Northwest High School

Terry Ostlund, Youth Minister
314-566-8363

50th ANNIVERSARY NEWS

WANTED: OLQP PARISHONERS OF 1961
Look for our Alumni Booth at the Parish Picnic!!

If you were an Our Lady Queen of Peace parishioner in July of 1961 please let us know. Contact Denise, 671-0454 or email OLQP50th@olqpparish.org.

If you graduated from OLQP School or know someone who did, please check the list in the back of Church to make sure your name is there.

Thanks to everyone who has sent in pictures! And we could use more!! If you have pictures of parish events from the last 50 years we would love to see them. You can email them or bring them to the parish office. If you have questions please call Denise, 671-0454 or email OLQP50th@olqpparish.org.

**TIME CHANGE
Good Friday Fish Fry
Noon to 6:30 pm**

Due to the Good Friday Service beginning at 7 pm, the Fish Fry will stop serving at 6:30 pm to allow workers time to clean up before the service begins. If there is anyone who would be willing to give an extra hand at cleanup that evening, please join us in the Cafeteria about 6:15 pm and help out so everyone can attend the service.

Thanks!

HELP WANTED:

IL RETIRIO *Franciscan Retreat*

We are looking for one or two people to help plan and prepare meals. This position is part time and on as needed basis. Most of the work is on weekends and involves preparing meals for small and large groups. For more information please contact Fr. Paul Gallagher, OFM at 636-274-0554 or fr.paulgallagher.ofm@gmail.com.



**Knights of Columbus # 6435 Council
9th Annual Easter Egg Hunt
Palm Sunday, April 17, 12 noon
Knights of Columbus Hall**

**Arrive early to enjoy the clowns, ride the train
and fellowship (it's free). Hunt starts promptly at 1:30 pm**

All Parish and Knight children (0 -12 years of age welcome)
Three age groups (newborn - 3 years of age) 4 - 7 years) (8-12 years)

In the event of snow or rain we will reschedule the event.

Prizes

Candy

Food

Clowns

Fun



Catholic Home Missions Appeal

There are many dioceses right here in the United States whose parishes struggle to keep their doors open. These dioceses are classified as home missions and cannot maintain pastoral programs like catechesis, youth ministry and seminary formation on their own. The Catholic Home Missions Appeal supports these dioceses by funding essential ministries, including aid to vulnerable parishes. Please be generous to this Appeal and help strengthen the Church at home.



Stephen Ministry

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

God bless you!

Lenten Workshop Series on Prayer

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

April 13 - Adoration – "Can You Spend an Hour with Me?"

April 20 - no workshop

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.



Parish Corner

Every week a different organization is featured in the bulletin.

Ushers

Ushers volunteer their help at weekend Masses and other services. They welcome the worshipers, help with seating (if needed), take up the collection, distribute the bulletins and tidy up the Church after each Mass. To volunteer or for more information please call Cliff, 636-274-1838.



St. Vincent De Paul

The love of our neighbors is a safe and rather accurate measure of our love of God. You are a sign of God's love to those who are suffering and you give them hope and joy.

Seder Meal

Sunday, April 17, 4 pm Knights of Columbus Hall

Please join us to celebrate the Seder Meal. Bring a dish (to feed 12)

A-H - Vegetable

I-Q - Dessert

R-Z - Pasta or Potato

to share and a set of candles for your table as part of the tradition of the meal. The parish will provide the meat, salad and drink. This is a special time to come together as a parish for fellowship, a meal and to remember our Christian roots. Please sign the book in the Church lobby so we will know how many people will be attending.

**Free Easter Bunny Pictures
Saturday, April 16, 10 am to 4 pm**

Come join the fun at Pam's Monogram and The Hobby Girls (next to Price Chopper in House Springs).

Profits from any sales that day will be donated to "Crisis Nursery of St. Louis". Extra pictures can be ordered to send to friends and family. Don't miss out on the fun. Any questions pleased call 636-222-0042.

BINGO

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

American Cancer Society Relay for Life

Everyone welcome

May 6th, 6 pm until May 7th, 6 am

Faith Community Church

www.relayforlife.org/nwjeffersoncomo

Any questions please call 1-800-227-2345

Seven Days of Inspiration

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

Plant a seed of
friendship, reap a
bouquet of happiness.

~~~~~

Beautiful world,  
beautiful day,  
beautiful you!

~~~~~

If you love life,
life will love you back.

~~~~~

Instead of counting  
minutes, make every  
minute count.

~~~~~

Prayer is the nectar,
hope is its flower.

~~~~~

There's a whole world  
of wonder tucked  
inside of you!

~~~~~

You are precious
simply because
you are you!

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, April 13,
from 8:30 am – 8:00 pm.

We still need Ministers!!
Palm Sunday and Holy Week
Sign Up Booklets

The signup booklets for Palm Sunday and Holy Week are in the lobby of Church. This is such a holy time of the year and this provides us with an opportunity to participate in the celebration. Please sign up for the service you wish to participate in.

Lenten Schedule**Adoration on Wednesdays of Lent**

8:30 am - 8 pm

Stations of the Cross

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

Fish Fry's

Every Friday of Lent 3 to 7 pm
Good Friday, April 22, noon to 6:30 pm

Parish All Day Confessions

Saturday, April 16
9am - 4:45 pm

April 17, Seder Meal, 4 pm, KC Hall

April 21, Holy Thursday Mass, 7 pm

April 22, Good Friday Service, 7 pm

April 23, Easter Vigil, 8pm

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

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

Catholic Relief Services	\$	1,074.00
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New Building Fund

Lavender Envelopes	\$	519.00
Total Received to date	\$	692,258.49

Offertory

Sunday Envelopes	\$	12,326.00
Sunday Loose	\$	496.29
Present and Future	\$	394.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$	25.00
Total Offertory	\$	13,241.29
Offertory Goal	\$	13,699.00

Thank you for your generosity.

As of April 4, 2011

Contributions Year To Date	\$	483,095.74
Projected Year to Date Budget	\$	547,960.00

Scrip Gift Cards

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

Stewardship
Start With Prayer

"So they took away the stone." John 11:41

Perhaps one of Our Lord's greatest miracles was the raising of Lazarus. Yet, we see that even in this great miracle Jesus calls others to act. He tells the crowd to roll away the stone from the tomb. And they protest, saying it will stink. How often do we think that something God is asking us to do might "stink" - whether it is giving more of our time, our talent or our treasure? Yet if we are willing to follow Our Lord's command and take away the stones that block us from participating in God's work, we can expect great miracles in our lives.

Parish Activities

Mon	April 11	PSR, 6:15 - 7:30 pm RCIA, 7 pm, Cafeteria meeting room Rosary for Peace, 7:30 pm, Church
Tues	April 12	Devotions after 8a m Mass Quilters, 9 am - 3 pm, 6 - 8:30 pm Church History Class, 7 pm, Cafeteria meeting room
Wed	April 13	Eucharistic Adoration, 8:30 am - 8 pm Lenten Prayer Workshop, 7 pm, Cafeteria meeting room
Thurs	April 14	Choir Practice, 7pm, Church Home and School Meeting, 7 pm, Cafeteria
Fri	April 15	Stations after 8 am Mass and 2:15 pm Fish Fry, 3 - 7 pm, Cafeteria
Sat	April 16	Confessions 9 am - 4:45 pm, Church
Sun	April 17	Children's Liturgy during 9:30 am Mass, Cafeteria Hospitality Sunday Blood Pressure Screening after Mass, Cafeteria meeting room Seder Meal, 4 pm, K C Hall

Mass Intentions

Mon	April 11	8:00 am	Denise Chalmers
		6:30 pm	Poor Souls
Tues	April 12	8:00 am	Dale Robinson
Wed	April 13	8:00 am	Russell Hesser
Thurs	April 14	8:00 am	Deceased Members of the Geatley Family
Fri	April 15	8:00 am	Teresa Ottiger
Sat	April 16	8 :00 am	Oscar Buchheit
		5:00 pm	Grace Sanderson
Sun	April 17	7:30 am	Dale Robinson
		9:30 am	Lester Jahnsen
		11:30 am	People of the Parish

April 16th and 17th

Special Ministers of the Eucharist

5:00 pm	Peg Mikko, volunteers needed
7:30 am	Volunteers needed
9:30 am	Tom Broadbent, Lee Hoffman, Carol Delue, Bruce Gallion, Jan Schultheiss, volunteers needed
11:30 am	Carol Freihaut, Patrick & Lynette Rawlins, volunteers needed

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

Dorothy Rudloff	Jackie Nappier
Mary Slodkowski	Carol O'Shea
Scott Beck, Jr.	Lloyd Young
Ron Oermann	

Susie Denney, sister of Glenda Clayton
 Mark Dennis, son-in-law of Larry & Glenda Clayton
 Trudy Girard, sister of Lynette Rawlins
 Rachel Preston, granddaughter of Lynette Rawlins
 Tracy Musselwhite, niece of Lynette Rawlins
 Jimmy Rawlins, son of Lynette Rawlins
 Louise Gunter, mother of Lynette Rawlins
 Hubert Taylor, father of Nancy Wilfong
 Buck Thomas, husband of Donna Thomas
 Kay Oestman, sister of Maureen Turney
 Dave Haig, friend of Ken and Jan DeClue
 ~ 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	Richard Ortmann, Barb Nenninger
7:30 am	Helen Salamone, 1 Volunteer needed
9:30 am	Tom Mattingly, Lee Hoffman
11:30 am	Maryann Turek, Andrea Lawson

Servers

5:00 pm	Helen & John Paul Myers, Joe Wigge
7:30 am	McKenzie Beck, Ann & Jane Kenney
9:30 am	Brent Ambrose, Olivia Berry, Cierra Payne
11:30 am	Joey & Tommy Carbone, Johnny Gibson

Ushers

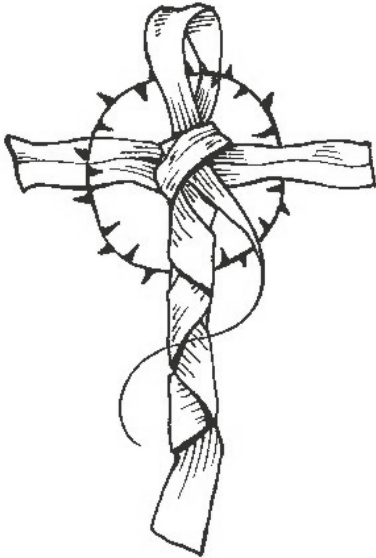
5:00 pm	Bill & Donna Clifton, Katie Tutass Ralph Munzlinger, Ben Slodkowski, Ken Ganey
7:30 am	Gerald Bachmann, Doug Bjornstad, Carl Boyer, Wally Freihaut, John Nahlik, Vince Rocchio
9:30 am	Tim Diffey, Cal & George Flynn, Butch Mattingly, Tom Mattingly, R. Wieschhaus
11:30 am	Don Brooks, John Holmes, Don Reno, Jim Robertson, Al Schuld, David Witt

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)



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

**Sixth Sunday of Lent
Palm Sunday
Cycle A**



THEME: Self-Sacrifice is the Way to Glory.

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 PROCESSION WITH PALMS:

Matthew 21:1-11

The liturgy for Palm Sunday begins with the blessing and distribution of palms and a re-enactment of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. In Cycle A, the Gospel account of Jesus' triumphal entry comes from Matthew. The story begins with a "small miracle." Jesus foresees that an animal is available for His use and He sends two disciples to get it. It happens just as He foresaw. In Matthew, details in miracle stories are kept to a bare minimum. Matthew focuses, instead, on the faith and response of the one for whom the miracle was performed. Jesus rides into Jerusalem on the donkey for the sake of the crowds and they respond with resounding Hosannas.

Matthew's Gospel also makes extensive use of fulfillment quotes. These quotes from Scripture do not prove who Jesus is, rather who Jesus is and what He does points to the constancy of God's word. He brings God's word to fulfillment. God promised that a humble king would come to His people, and here He is.

But finally, there is consternation and confusion in Jerusalem occasioned by Jesus' arrival. Who is this humble king? And the crowds who proclaimed Jesus as blessed, conclude that He

is a prophet. What they see falls short of the reality. Matthew's whole story of Jesus is the story of God being with us and the crowds see a messenger of God, but not God's presence. The way is open for rejection.

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, or the people of Israel as a whole. What is clear is 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: Matthew 26:14-27:66

The Gospel reading for Palm Sunday is proper to each cycle, one of the accounts of Jesus' Passion. For Cycle A, the reading is taken from Matthew. Matthew's account begins with Judas' betrayal of Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. In Matthew's Gospel, we know that Judas is the betrayer, but we never really learn why.

The story continues with Matthew's version of the Last Supper. In the course of the meal, Jesus announces that one of His followers is about to betray Him. We know that the betrayer is Judas, but Jesus explains that He is to be betrayed by the one who dips in the bowl with Him. Significant here is that in the Passover ceremony, all the disciples would dip in the bowl with Jesus. There is a suggestion that all of His followers have a part to play in Jesus' betrayal, all are in some way disloyal to Him. They will somehow share in the fickleness of the crowd who welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem and then, not truly seeing Him for who He really was, turned on Him and demanded His death.

After the meal, Jesus takes his disciples with Him to the Garden of Gethsemane where He tells them that they will all desert Him. A process is beginning here that leads to Jesus' total isolation in fulfilling the will of His Father.

Just as the disciples had denied that they would betray Jesus, so Peter denies that he would ever abandon Him. And that, too, will not be the case.

Jesus prays three times to His Father that He can avoid the suffering that lies ahead and each time finds His select friends asleep, unable to support Him in His final hours, unable to see what is really happening. In His baptism and Transfiguration, the voice of God is heard, proclaiming His pleasure in His Son. In this highly charged moment of intimate communion with His Father, God's voice is ominously silent.

The arrest scene follows in which Jesus is betrayed by Judas with a mark of friendship and relationship. His kiss highlights the depth of the betrayal, the infidelity. One of the disciples draws a sword and attempts to fight against God's will. In words that recall the temptation of Jesus at the beginning of His public life, the Lord states that He *could* call on legions of angels to save Him, but that this is not to be, that it is not God's will. Faced with the reality that it is impossible to fight against God's will, the disciples run from it instead.

While Jesus is being questioned in the house of the high priest, we again see the actions of two disciples. In the courtyard outside, Peter denies even knowing Jesus, as Jesus had predicted he would. In response to this betrayal, Peter goes out and weeps bitterly. Confronted with his lack of faithfulness he is filled with remorse. Judas, likewise, wants to reverse his betrayal. He takes back the thirty pieces of silver, but the deed is done. His lack of faithfulness leads him to despair and he kills himself. He succumbs to the ultimate lack of faith and hope. Who will betray Jesus? The one who dips in the bowl, the one who shares fellowship with Jesus, is the betrayer, and that includes all the disciples. How do we respond to our lack of faithfulness, to sinfulness in our lives? With Peter we can feel remorse and accept the mercy of God. With Judas, we can lose hope and sink into ultimate isolation and despair.

The scene now shifts to the trial before Pilate. Here is the non-Jew, the representative of Rome, the representative of the power and culture of the Gentile world. Here is a man faced with a moral dilemma. He sees no evil in Jesus, no crime that He has done and yet he condones Jesus' condemnation. He washes his hands, absolving himself of guilt in the death of an innocent man. Matthew's meaning is quite clear. Such absolution is impossible. To see evil in the world and walk away, to say that the evil is done by others so I am not guilty, is to enter into a complicity of silence.

Matthew has consistently developed the theme that the Church, the new Chosen People, is composed of those who accept Jesus, His mission, His ministry, His revelation of the Father. Jesus' coming was intended to break down barriers that kept people apart and at His birth, Jesus was visited by and honored by foreigners from the east. But now a foreigner sees good in the world, an innocent man, and does nothing to prevent injustice and hatred. He sees but does not accept. Jesus' own people are turning against Him, His disciples have betrayed and abandoned Him, and now the wider world, in the person of Pilate, turns its back on Him. Jesus is stripped naked and nailed to a cross. Everything and everyone on whom He could rely were gone. He began His public life with a desert experience, with a stripping away of all distractions in order to conform Himself to His relationship with His Father. In His passion, Jesus undergoes the ultimate desert experience and the final isolation comes on the cross in the seeming absence of God Himself – "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" And yet, it is at the moment of His death that the power and presence of God is revealed. The

curtain of the temple is torn in two. The old ways of sacrifice and relating to God are replaced by the person and sacrifice of Jesus. Tombs are opened and new life is possible. The centurion, a foreigner, proclaims, "Truly, this is the Son of God." Women from among His followers had stood by and witnessed His death and observed His burial. Joseph of Arimathea, a rich disciple, took Jesus' body and accorded it a burial. In reverse order, the abandonments and betrayals are being undone. There is still the possibility of responding, of accepting, of seeing God with us in the very death of His Son. And there is still the possibility to reject, to refuse to see that presence of God, to place a guard so that God's will and love cannot penetrate our defenses.

Matthew's Passion narrative presents Jesus' death in light of the image of the Suffering Servant from Isaiah. It draws on the lament of Psalm 22 to draw us into the sense of abandonment felt by Jesus, to bring home to us the horror of what our infidelities and sinfulness cause. It fleshes out the meaning of Jesus emptying Himself and in so doing entering into glory that was presented in the Philippians hymn. But even more, it presents a wonder. It presents the story of people, people seen at their worst in fighting against God's will, in denying and abandoning a relationship with God, in absolving themselves of responsibility for their choices, in losing hope. And, just when people are at their worst, just when their infidelity and trust and courage are at the lowest point, God shows Himself to be with us and offers us hope, offers us love, accepts the sacrifice of His Son, and opens the way for us to have life. And we get a glimpse of how true and how possible this hope is by seeing briefly those people who have not run away, who have seen the presence of God with us, and who, not knowing where all this will lead, have remained true and hopeful.

FOR REFLECTION:

- On Palm Sunday, the crowds welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem with joy. Less than a week later, they screamed for His death. What has been my experience of backsliding, of turning away from the commitments I have made to my God? How do I respond to the fact that, despite my continued sinfulness, Jesus chose to die for me anyway?
- Do I reject or denigrate those who challenge me to change? Have I been ridiculed and ignored when I have tried to show others that there are alternatives, that there may be a better way?
- Does my faith and commitment to Jesus celebrate His resurrection and His glory more than His suffering and death? In accepting Jesus' promise of life, do I also accept His call to embrace suffering for the sake of others?
- How do I find hope in the story of Jesus' Passion? How do I find hope in my weakness and sinfulness? How do I use my failings as a means to strengthen my brothers and sisters?
- In Matthew's story, we get a brief glimpse of those who have not run away. And again, these are not the people we expect to see as remaining loyal. Would I have stood at the foot of the cross or run away? Could I see the presence of God in the suffering of Jesus or would I have sought self-preservation? Could I have been present at the crucifixion and found hope?

OLQP PICNIC NEWS

We need YOU to make this Picnic a HUGE success!

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS
SATURDAY
JUNE 11th, 2011
12 PM TO 10 PM**

Basket Raffle

Donations of baskets or items for baskets are needed for the Picnic Basket Raffle. We have some baskets to fill if any are needed. Last year there were so many wonderful baskets. We hope to do the same or better this year.

Everything is appreciated.

Please call Maryann Schuld, 636-677-4683.

We're looking for a few



Good Sponsors.....

Sponsors available at the following levels:

- Platinum.....\$500 +
- Gold.....\$499 - \$250
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Each family or organization will be recognized on a banner or a flyer at the event.

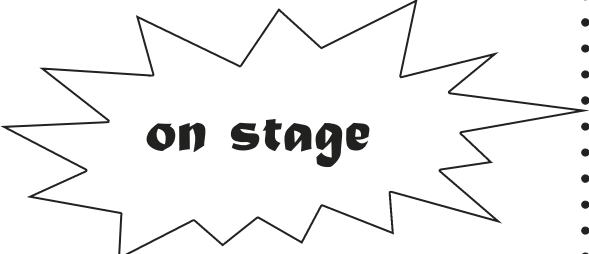
To help sponsor this event please contact Bobbi Jo Sudholt, 636-677-6641 or for more information.

Prize Donations Needed!

We are in need of donations for prizes for the kid's games. These can include but are not limited to new stuffed animals, jump ropes, balls, small toys or games, bubbles, etc.

Please contact Tammy Groppe, 636- 671-7290.

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6 pm until 10 pm

FIREWORKS START AT 10 PM

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