

Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

www.olqpparish.org

April 24, 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 30 **Daughters Tailgate Sale**
 Sat 30 **Annual Catholic Appeal** begins

May

- Sun 1 **First Communion**
Youth Ministry Car Wash
 Sat 7 **Pasta Dinner** after 5 pm Mass
 Fri 13 **2011 Spring Fishing Tournament**
 Sun 15 **Daughters May Crowning**
Annual Catholic Appeal ends
 Sat/Sun 21/22 **Social Justice Carnival**

June

- Sat 11 **OLQP Parish Picnic**
 Thu 30 **Blood Drive**, 2-7 pm Cafeteria

July

- Tue-Sun 19-24 **Hope 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

PASTOR'S PEN.....**HE IS RISEN!**

He really is risen and He is alive here and now for us! We spent the last 40 days of Lent preparing for this moment; doing penance, praying, and helping the poor. Now it is time to celebrate. The season of Easter is celebrated for the next 50 days which is deliberately planned to outlast the forty days of Lent. The joy of celebration overcomes and outlasts the forty days of penance and sacrifice.

On behalf of the priests, deacons and staff at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, I want to wish all of you a very joy-filled and happy Easter Season! Please take time to invite Jesus to come more fully into your life.

PARISH PICNIC – June 11, 2011

Speaking of celebrations, our Annual Parish Picnic will be upon us before you know it. What will make this picnic special is that we are also celebrating the **50th Anniversary** of our parish this year. I want to make this picnic special by asking every parishioner to be involved with it. Our picnic, of course, is a fund raiser, but it is much more than that. It is an opportunity for all of us to come together as a parish family and work and play together. ***I would like to ask that every adult parishioner plan to sign up to work one hour at our picnic.***

You can sign up to work more hours if you want, but our picnic is the responsibility of ALL of us, not just the few who seem to carry us every year. There will be plenty of ways to get involved. We will need people to work in the game booths, the kitchen, to help set up, to help clean up, to work in the parking lot and to drive shuttle buses....etc.

In the upcoming weeks, you will be hearing and reading more about picnic plans.

Parish unity does not happen by accident. It is a choice we make. We priests will also be signing up to work at the picnic. In fact, I signed Fr. Molitor up for the dunking booth and Fr. Beighlie will be helping to babysit small children. (I haven't told them yet, but after they find out, they will probably be signing me up to clean the porta-potties!) Mark your calendars and get ready to have a great time, working and playing at our picnic this year.

Fr. Mike

**Young
at
Heart**

On Monday, April 25, we will enjoy our brown bag lunch at 11:30 am at the Knights Hall. See you there.



OLQP School News

- The 3rd and 4th graders participated in an Archdiocesan Music Festival on April 13th.
- The students will be off school on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Monday.
- Kindergarten testing for next year's kindergarten class will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 26th and 27th.
- The faculty and staff of Our Lady Queen of Peace School wish all of you a Blessed Easter!

OLQP Parish Email List

Subscribe to our **Parish Email List** and receive:

- Parish News
- Event Calendar & Reminders
- Death Notices
- Holy Day & Holiday Mass Schedules
- Event Cancellation Notices
- Urgent Messages
- And so much more!

It's easy and safe to subscribe and unsubscribe.

This email list is for parochial use only and will not be sold or shared with anyone!

Go to www.olqpparish.org and submit your name and email address in the form on the bottom of the home page

OR

Email your name and email address to:
frbeighlie@olqpparish.org



YOUTH MINISTRY

Remembering Brings Life!

When we remember, we bring life to situations. When God remembers, He brings life to Jesus and opens the gates to eternal life for all of us who choose it. When we take time to celebrate remembering at every Mass, as Jesus commanded at the Last Supper,

“Do this in memory of Me”, God brings life to the entire Church.

We are called to be an Easter people, sacrificing, serving, praying, giving and remembering the gift of God's love through the power of the Holy Spirit, the will of the Father and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Wow, that is so much to remember, which means there is so much God wants to bring to life in our Church and in our families.

God wants all families to remember how much He loves us so He can bring new life into our families. A grateful family is the perfect soil for growing faith. When your family schedules time to remember God's goodness at the Eucharistic meal every Saturday evening or Sunday and you remember to thank God for His daily blessings at the family dinner table each evening, you give God the opportunity to bring new life to your family. Enjoy remembering!

Awesome Youth

We have many awesome youth in our parish who are great leaders and role models at their schools. This is an example of a few of those awesome youth who were inducted into the Honor Society last Wednesday at Northwest High School. Congratulations to Jacob Bufka, Joshua Carbone, Joshua Donovan, Holly Heibeck, Mikaila Mikko, Donald Morris, Alex Mullins, Lauren Niemira, Mary Ostlund, Rebecca Pigue, Tyler Reineri, Nicole Reiter, Mary Shannon, Jodi Woolsey and their parents. Wow, keep up the great leadership.

Need a Car Wash?

On Sunday, May 1st, the Youth Group will be washing cars (weather permitting) during the morning Masses. We will be washing them by the basketball hoops. We will wash while you pray. There is no set fee but donations will gladly be accepted. The youth are raising money for their summer retreat, service week and summer camp. Thanks as always for your support.

Hungry for Pasta

The Whiteheads are bringing their delicious Pasta back to OLQP on Saturday, May 7th. This is Mother's Day weekend so bring your Mom to 5 pm Mass and stay for dinner. Mom eats free and does not have to cook the family dinner. Dinners are \$6 each, children 10 and under are \$4. Mark your calendars now!

Terry Ostlund, Youth Minister
314-566-8363

St. John's Mercy Medical Center Volunteer Nurse Program

Are you a dedicated nurse who would like to use your time and talent in a very meaningful way? Do you want to give back to your community and profession, but with a time commitment and schedule that you control?

If so, then the Volunteer Nurse Program at St. John's Mercy Medical Center may be just what you are looking for. To learn more about the program, go to www.stjohnsmercy.org or contact Sally Rundquist, RN Clinical Supervisor, 314-251-4268 or sally.rundquist@mercy.net.



Parish Corner

Every week a different organization is featured in the bulletin.

Divine Mercy

The Divine Mercy Ministry of OLQP is dedicated to promoting awareness of Divine Mercy by providing Divine Mercy materials to parishioners and by praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for the sick and those who have passed away.

The essence of Divine Mercy is learning to believe and **trust** in God's tremendous love for each and every one of us. Having faith in God's goodness, we simply ask for His mercy. In turn, we are called to be merciful in our own lives, through deeds, words, and prayer. Jesus even gave us a prayer, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, which can be recited using a rosary.

The Image of Divine Mercy in the back of Church was donated by members of the parish. The hope is that many find comfort in gazing at this image and remember God's tender love for us. The Feast of Divine Mercy is celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter, as Jesus desires. On that day He showers tremendous graces upon everyone asking for His mercy. Additional information is in the bulletin this week, and in the Church lobby as well.

Any questions, please call Mary Myers, 274-1717.



St. Vincent De Paul

The volunteers of OLQP - SVDP Society THANK YOU for your generous donations. You have made it possible for us to help many families in our area. This is how the funds were disbursed in March:

- SVDP annual dues - \$225.00
- Prescriptions - \$79.80
- Moved abused client to a shelter - \$45.00
- Sewer - \$50.00
- Propane - \$50.00
- Electric - \$300.00

Thanks again and have a Blessed Easter.

SVDP Volunteers



Stephen Ministry

Do you have a friend, neighbor, coworker or relative going through a difficult time? 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!

Tailgate Sale Sponsored by Daughters of Isabella Saturday, April 30 8 am to 2 pm OLQP Parking Lot

Spaces Available \$10 each
(\$15 day of sale)

Clean out your garage, basement or attic.
Raise money for your organization or you.

Lunch/refreshments available
To reserve a space contact:

Carol, 285-4450 or Joan, 285-3278

50th ANNIVERSARY NEWS

WANTED: OLQP PARISHONERS OF 1961

- 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.
- Look for our Alumni Booth at the Parish Picnic. We will also be selling items with our NEW 50th Anniversary logo at this booth.
- We will be taking orders for polo shirts with our NEW 50th Anniversary logo beginning May 8th. Watch for our table at the Mother's Day Breakfast.
- Mark your calendars...we are bringing back the Halloween Dance in celebration of our 50th Anniversary, October 29th, at the Knights of Columbus Hall.
- 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.

VOLLEYBALL
**Volleyball Registration
Held in the Field House**
Thursday, April 28th, 6 to 8 pm

Volleyball is open to all boys or girls who will be in 3rd through 8th grade in the Fall. For further information, please contact Robin Turek, 636-274-2665.

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

PARENTS NIGHT OUT!!

Do you desire to eat a quiet dinner? Is there a movie you want to see?

Do you long for a night away from the kids?

If so, then this is for you!

The 8th grade class of 2011 is sponsoring a Parent's Night Out!!!

On Friday, April 29th, you can drop your children off with the 8th grade students and parents. We will entertain your children while you have a care-free evening!

Cost: \$15.00 per child (this covers juice, pizza dinner, and snacks)**Date:** Friday, April 29, 2011**Time:** 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm**Location:** OLQP School Cafeteria**Questions/Reservations:** Call Jackie Osborne at 314-348-0247



I wish to thank everyone for all the cards and well wishes from my recent mishap that left me with two broken ankles. I am well on the way to getting back to normal again and can't thank everyone enough for their concerns. Special thanks to God for such a wonderful parish family.

Mary Copeland

Health Fair

Saturday, April 30, 9 am to 1 pm
Northwest High School

Screenings for adults: Asthma, blood glucose, blood pressure, cholesterol (9 am to noon only-participants should fast after midnight the previous day), bone density, hemoglobin A1C, mammogram (appointment required – please call 314-747-7222 or 1-800-600-3606), body fat, BMI glaucoma, and prescription drug take back.

Activities for kids:

Ambulance and fire equipment tours, Army rock climbing wall, car/booster seat safety checks by certified technicians, CHIP program fire department safe house helicopter landing, helmet checks (free safety helmets to the first 50 children present), and amblyopia vision screening.

For more information please contact Kim Tierney, 636-274-0555 x729 or Cindy Hayes, 636-677-8186.

Seven Days of Inspiration

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

You always give someone
or something your best!

Treat yourself well!
You are special.

Pay yourself a few
compliments.

Today make a few
memories you will cherish.

Angels are never
far away!

Linger over a cup
of tea. It'll do
you good.

Something good comes
from every change!

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 27
 from 1 - 8:00 pm.

Dear Parents and All Parishioners,

We will be holding elections for the Our Lady Queen of Peace Board of Education in the next few weeks. We will elect three parishioners at the end of this school year.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else to become a board member, please have your nomination in by April 27, 2011. As we strive to move the day school, pre-school, and PSR to the next level, please consider a position on the Board of Education. The duration of one term of a Board of Education Member is 3 years.

Meetings are held monthly or bi-monthly, as necessary, during the school calendar year. If you have any additional questions please contact Fr. Mike or Ms. Chauvin. You can send your nominations into the school office or parish office in an envelope marked "OLQP Board of Education".

Once all nominations are received, we will issue ballots to all parishioners and voting will take place May 2-8, 2011. If elected, your term will begin July 1, 2011. Also, all newly elected Board Members must attend an orientation provided by the Archdiocese.

Nominee _____

Contact Information for Nominee

Phone _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____

Email: _____

Tell us about yourself and what you would like to accomplish by becoming a member of the OLQP Board of Education. _____

Our Gifts to God and Parish Last Week

Special Collections

Catholic Home Mission	\$	57.00
Catholic Relief	\$	27.00
Holy Land	\$	27.00
Regina Cleri	\$	5.00

New Building Fund

Lavender Envelopes	\$	1,030.48
Total Received to date	\$	695,861.97

Offertory

Sunday Envelope	\$	9,874.00
Sunday Loose	\$	592.00
Above and Beyond	\$	26.00
Present and Future	\$	10.00
Total Offertory	\$	10,502.00
Offertory Goal	\$	13,699.00

Thank you for your generosity.

As of April 18, 2011

Contributions Year To Date	\$	493,597.74
Projected Year to Date Budget	\$	575,358.00

Scrip Gift Cards

Sales	\$	2,760.00
Profit/tuition reduction	\$	129.03

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**

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth." Colossians 3:1-2

Easter is a good time to recommit ourselves to a simpler lifestyle - concentrating more of our efforts on what God wants from us and less of our efforts on what we want for ourselves. Jesus sacrificed everything for us. What can we sacrifice, not just at Lent, but every day, so that we can better serve Our Lord?

Parish Activities

Mon	April 25	No PSR Rosary for Peace, 7:30 pm, Church
Tues	April 26	Devotions after 8 am Mass Quilters, 9 am - 3 pm, 6 - 8:30 pm Church History class, 7pm, Cafeteria meeting room
Wed	April 27	Eucharistic Adoration, 1 - 8 pm, Church Youth Night, 6 - 8 pm,
Thurs	April 28	Choir Practice, 7pm, Church 8th grade Performance, 1:30 & 7 pm, Cafeteria
Fri	April 29	"Parents Night Out", childcare, Cafeteria
Sat	April 30	Daughters Tailgate, 8 am - 2 pm
Sun	May 1	Youth Car Wash after Masses First Communion, 2 pm, Church

Mass Intentions

Mon	April 25	8:00 am	Joseph G. and Norma Smentkowski
Tues	April 26	8:00 am	Lou Duchinsky
Wed	April 27	8:00 am	Alice Nahlik
Thurs	April 28	8:00 am	Warren and Bernice Dierks
Fri	April 29	8:00 am	Nancy Childs Family
Sat	April 30	5:00 pm	Martin Lampe
Sun	May 1	7:30 am	Joseph/Mary Smentkowski
		9:30 am	People of the Parish
		11:30 am	Rosalie Pinson

April 30th and May 1st**Special Ministers of the Eucharist**

5:00 pm	*Christine Camden, Peggy Mikko, *Katie Tutass, Joe & Barb Nenninger, Rich & Denise Ortmann
7:30 am	Gerald Bachmann, Mary Bjornstad, Ann Riley, *Ken Bohnert, Patsy Boyer, Jo Jahnsen, *Marie Strayhorn
9:30 am	*Tom Broadbent, *Joanne David, Trish Guethle, Margaret Gerling, Rich Rousseau, Kelly Smith, Helen Salamone, Kent Sturhahn
11:30 am	Sandee Burkemper, Dan & Kim Horn, Paul McDonnell, Sharon Schmidt, Connie Stubits, Denise Witt

* You are responsible to clean the vessels after Mass

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

Jackie Nappier	Scott Beck, Jr.
Mary Slodkowski	Christine Dower
Ron Oermann	Butch Mattingly
Mary Coughlin	

Christine De Clue, daughter of Bill and Linda Weber
Larry Scheiter, friend of Katie Tutass
Jean Unwin, daughter of Andy and Jackie Nappier
Delores Michael, stepmother of Geraldine Little
Donna Henslee, friend of Geraldine Little
Debbie Laird, friend of Geraldine Little
Baby Henley, relative of Geraldine Little
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	Bev Gregory, Sandy Munzlinger
7:30 am	Vicki De Long, Linda Weber
9:30 am	John Holmes, Tom Mattingly
11:30 am	Mary & Tom Heeley

Servers

5:00 pm	Kali & Mark Chafin, Nicole Diener
7:30 am	Allyson & Kaitlyn Bridges, Zachary Morlock
9:30 am	Hayden Conley, Rose Haug, Hannah Voisey
11:30 am	Kaitlyn & Melissa Esch, Johnny Gibson

Ushers

5:00 pm	Larry Bottchen, Bill Clifton, Arnie Lohbeck, Ralph Munzlinger, Jerry Sheets, Helen Stewart
7:30 am	Doug Bjornstad, Carl Boyer, Robert De Long, Jeff Eschbach, Ted Hempen, Larry Lammert
9:30 am	Steve Freihaut, Lee Hoffman, Dale Sudholt, Larry Whitworth, Ron Williams, 1 needed
11:30 am	Don Brooks, Don Reno, Jim Robertson, Al Schuld, Benny Slodkowski, 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)



Cathy Morlock,
Debbie Stephens
and Chyree de Roode

**Second Sunday of Easter
Cycle A**



THEME: In joy, we embrace our call.

The Liturgy of the Easter Season explores and celebrates growing resurrection faith and what it means to live that resurrection faith. Throughout the season, the first reading is regularly taken from Acts of the Apostles, Luke's ideal picture of what the believing community can be when it is open to the guidance of the Spirit and lives its commitment to Jesus.

THE READINGS:

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

The reading from Acts of Apostles comes from early in the book. After narrative developments, Luke regularly includes summary statements and today's reading is the first such summary in Acts. Luke's story of the early Church begins with the Ascension followed by the disciples' return to Jerusalem where they find a replacement for Judas. Luke's implication is clear: the believing community must make up what is lacking in its midst in order to be fully open to the direction of the Spirit. When this is accomplished, Luke narrates the story of the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost and its immediate aftermath. Peter takes up his preaching ministry and the number of believers begins to grow. Today's reading from Acts provides closure for this first part of Luke's story of the early Church. The teaching and healing ministry of Jesus continues in the early Church. The first believers devoted themselves

to the teaching of the Apostles and witnessed the signs and wonders done through them. They shared in the Eucharist, the Breaking of the Bread, and in prayer. They shared in a communal life and met each others needs.

We are a believing community, a community formed by resurrection faith. We are fed on the teaching of Christian tradition and on the Bread of Life in the Eucharist. We are a people called to form community and within that community to look out for the needs of each other. In this we, like the disciples of old, continue to do what Jesus did.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

The second reading is taken from the First Letter of Peter. In general, the First Letter of Peter is a word of encouragement to the newly baptized to persevere in the face of hardship and persecution. These ideas are clearly evident in today's reading. Those addressed by the letter have experienced new birth (baptism) and through the resurrection embrace a new life, a new hope. Eternal life with God is held out before them as the final goal of their Christian life, but the reality of the present moment is not ignored. There are trials and difficulties in the present moment – for the original audience of the letter, even actual persecution because of their faith. Perseverance in the face of such trials is the key to living into the promised life of salvation. While this passage can speak directly to Christians throughout the world today who are experiencing hardship and persecution for the sake of their faith, encouraging perseverance in the face of trial, it also speaks to all Christians who, enlivened by Easter Faith, must await the final fulfillment of God's design and live in the midst of a world where poverty and injustice impact members of the believing community, where life is supported through hard work, where economic and social conditions are less than ideal. The believing community, even though not directly persecuted, can find itself wondering whether the new life of baptism that we share makes any real difference in the world, whether resurrection faith is alive and effective. In these situations, the First Letter of Peter offers the advice to persevere. It encourages us to face the reality that the story is not yet over, that more is to come, that there is a road ahead into deeper resurrection faith and a deeper experience of God's salvation. In the face of problems, the First Letter of Peter encourages all Christians not to lose heart.

GOSPEL READING: John 20:19-31

The Gospel reading, common to the Second Sunday of Easter in all three cycles, is John's story of the "Doubting Thomas." Jesus' ultimate mission was to effect salvation and eternal life through the forgiveness of sin. The commission of the disciples to carry on this mission in John is reserved until after the resurrection itself. In Matthew, the commission was given to Peter in response to his confession of Jesus' true identity just prior to Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem. Resurrection appearances, in all the Gospels, serve to highlight the role and responsibilities of the believing community in the light of resurrection faith. The believing community is to continue the mission of Jesus – in this case by continuing to offer salvation through the forgiveness of sin. To be forgiving and a means of God's mercy to others is what we are called to do in the light of the faith that forms us as a community.

The remainder of the story concerns Thomas, his initial absence at Jesus' first appearance, his reluctance to believe, his need for concrete evidence. Typical approaches to this story highlight the contrast between Thomas, one of the original Apostles who was so reluctant to believe, and later believers who were convinced even though they had not personally heard or seen Jesus. Some scholars have even suggested a certain polemic in the story directed against developing Gnostic tendencies, as evidenced in the Gospel of Thomas, and see a denigration of Thomas against the more orthodox John. Such approaches, it seems to me, depart from the logic and literary artistry of the story itself.

As readers of John's Gospel story and as members of the believing community, we have just been commissioned to be forgiving. This is a concomitant attribute of resurrection faith. Immediately we are confronted with the story of a fellow member of the community who is slow to believe and the initial reaction is to judge this person harshly, to immediately abandon our commission. That cannot be. The episode ends with what sounds like a summary conclusion for the whole Gospel story – and this may have been an original ending to John, supplemented later with a further resurrection appearance story set by the shore of the sea. What we have to deal with, however, is the final form of the text of the canonical Gospel. As the Gospel now stands, this is not the ending. The mention of the words and works of Jesus that are recorded in the Gospel now function as an answer to Thomas, an answer to all who may be slow to believe, and as a resource for the believing community in carrying out our commission. Herein lies concrete evidence, the story of our salvation, that can be used in bringing others to full resurrection faith, to a full and loving commitment to Jesus Christ that is so central in John's Gospel.

For the believing community, Easter is a reality. Jesus is risen as He had said would happen. While this is reason for rejoicing, the response of the Christian is not to be

mere joy at what we have but an embracing of the commission to continue to do what Jesus did, to offer God's love, mercy, forgiveness and salvation to all others. In doing this we have the Gospel message and this is understood as Scripture, as God's word in Jesus Christ, present and effective for us now, forming us, commissioning us, enlivening us. Again, we are an Easter people and, as an Easter people, we are to be forgiving as Jesus was forgiving, we are to be revealing as Jesus was revealing, we are to be a means for others to enter into a loving relationship with the Father as Jesus was.

FOR REFLECTION:

- In what ways do you experience the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit in your life? How open are you to the guidance of the Holy Spirit?
- For the community to be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it must first make up what is lacking in its' make-up. What is lacking in our Christian community? How can we fill this lack? How will filling the lack make us more open to the Holy Spirit?
- What do I do to make sure that I am fed by the Christian tradition and the Bread of Life? How does this lead me to continue to do what Jesus did?
- The Easter story sounds a note of closure. What Jesus came to accomplish is done. But there is still a long way for us to go to share eternal life with the Lord. In what areas of my Christian life do I need to be more persevering? Why is such perseverance difficult?
- Where do I encounter a slowness to believe in people around me? How easy is it for me to judge and dismiss these people? What would help me to be more patient, more compassionate, more forgiving of those who seem to miss the heart of the Christian message?

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

May 1, 2011

**Blessing of Image of Divine Mercy at all Masses
Chaplet Of Divine Mercy and
Veneration of Image and First Class Relic of St Faustina
immediately following each Mass**

The Feast of Divine Mercy is a celebration of God's love and mercy. Imagine our God, so immensely loving, that when we approach Him with true sorrow for our sins, He forgives everything and washes away the punishment for our sins as well. That's Divine Mercy Sunday in a nutshell.

Jesus gave St. Faustina, His apostle of Mercy, a message for the world: God's love and mercy belongs to every soul ever created. He revealed to her the *Image of Divine Mercy*, the *Divine Mercy Chaplet* (a prayer recited on ordinary rosary beads), the *Three o'clock Hour of Mercy*, and much more. Jesus specifically said the first Sunday after Easter is to be celebrated as the *Feast of Divine Mercy*. After all, Easter is the greatest celebration of our faith; Jesus' Resurrection opens the gates of Heaven and assures us of our chance for salvation. Christ has done all to prove His love for us, now all that's left is for us to believe, trust, and ask. **"The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open."**

How do you prepare to receive these graces on Divine Mercy Sunday?

- 1) *Sincerely repent* of all your sins; *go to Confession* (preferably before Easter or before Divine Mercy Sunday).
- 2) *Receive Holy Communion worthily* on that day, having committed no mortal sins since your last Confession.
- 3) *Be merciful* to others - if you desire the Lord's Mercy, you must practice mercy in your own life first.
- 4) *Venerate the Image of Divine Mercy* (this will be done during each Mass).
- 5) **TRUST** in God's mercy! Nothing delights Jesus Christ more than a soul who trusts in His love and forgiveness.

Although not a requirement to receive the graces of Divine Mercy Sunday, Jesus taught St. Faustina a prayer, the *Chaplet of Mercy*, which He asked to be *prayed as a novena* before the feast, *beginning on Good Friday and ending on the Saturday before Divine Mercy Sunday*.

Take heart in the beauty of this feast. Immerse yourself in the love of our God and the ocean of mercy waiting for you on Divine Mercy Sunday. ***No sin is greater than the love God has measured for each soul!***

Divine Mercy materials are available in the Church lobby. Any questions call Mary, 274-1717.

Information Page

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Our Lady Queen of Peace
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Special Instructions: Please only send 150 extra bulletins for Easter, 2011