

Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

www.olqpparish.org

May 4, 2014



PASTOR

Reverend Michael Murphy

ASSOCIATES

Reverend James Beighlie, C.M.

Reverend Donald F. Molitor, Retired

DEACONS

Reverend Dr. Thomas Gerling

Reverend Mr. Paul Turek, Sr.

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Mr. Bob Ellison

GRADE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Mr. Curt Baker

PSR COORDINATOR

Mrs. Debra O'Donnell

YOUTH MINISTER COORDINATOR

Mrs. Terry Ostlund

PARISH COUNCIL

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

Parish Office

671-3062

School

671-0247

Cafeteria

375-5335

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday Evening	5:00 pm
(Rosary before Mass - Fatima Prayers included on 1st Saturday)	
Sunday	7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am
Holy Days	as announced
Weekdays	8:00 am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS

Tuesday after 8:00am Mass

ROSARY

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 pm or by appointment

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

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

Welcome to Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish

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

Upcoming Parish Events

2014

May

Wed 7 **Confirmation**
 Sun 11 **Mother's Day**
 Wed 21 **8th grade Graduation**

June

Sat 14 **OLQP Picnic**
 Sun 15 **Father's Day**
 Thur 26 **OLQP Blood Drive**

July

Sun 7 **Hope Builders Week**
 Mon 28 **Vacation Bible School begins**

August

Sat 16 **Daughters of Isabella Tailgate Sale**
 Sun 24 **Knights of Columbus Ladies
 Auxiliary Quarter Auction**

September

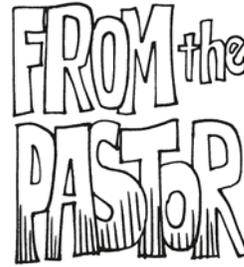
Sun 28 **OLQP Quilt Social**

October

Sat 4 **HoeDown**
 Sat 11 **Auction**

November

Sat 1 **Parish Dance (SH-Boom)**



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Parish Photo Directory

When I arrived at Our Lady Queen of Peace parish as pastor, one of the best things I was given was a parish photo directory. It helped me put names to faces and get to know the parishioners a lot faster. It comes in handy when I hear the name of a parishioner that I have not met and I can look their picture up in the directory. It is an invaluable aid for building community. It's been five years since the last directory was issued and now it is time to put together a new one. A team is being assembled to manage this important project and we are in need of two things.

- We need volunteers to help register families, assist on the days pictures are being taken and help with the layout of the directory.
- We need every family in the parish to make a commitment to have their pictures taken and included in this directory.



Kyle Beaman and Angelina Kothe
OLQP ~ May 24th, 2014

Parish Activities ~ May 5th to May 11

Mon	May 5	PSR, 6:15 - 7:30 pm PSR registration in Church, 6:15 pm
Tues	May 6	Perpetual Help Devotions after 8:00 am Mass Quilters, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, 6:00 - 8:30 pm
Wed	May 7	Confirmation, 7:00 pm, Church
Thur	May 8	Spring Concert and Talent Show, 6:30 pm, Cafeteria Choir Practice, 7:00 pm, Church
Fri	May 9	Book Fair begins, 3:00 to 5:00 pm, Cafeteria
Sat	May 10	Ministry of Consolation, 9:30 am, Cafeteria Meeting room Book Fair after Mass, Cafeteria
Sun	May 11	Mother's Day Breakfast serving after 7:30 and 9:30 am Masses, Cafeteria Book Fair after Masses, Cafeteria

Families and individuals will begin to have their pictures taken in early September. If you can help with this important project, please call Mary Luebbert, 636-274-1556. Please encourage parishioners that you know to have their picture taken.

~ fr. mike

We Welcome New Parishioners

*Christopher and Jessica Gates
Oakcrest Drive*



New Members

We welcome into our faith through RCIA

*William David Colp
Rebecca Lynn (Duggan) Jacquin
Christina Rose (Politte) Stonecypher*

Congratulations on Your Marriage

William and Sabrina (Boyd) Pounds

Recent Baptisms

*Valerie Paige Michaelree
daughter of Matthew and Katie (Merklin)*

*Erin Grace Michaelree
daughter of Matthew and Katie (Merklin)*

*Patrick James Michaelree
son of Matthew and Katie (Merklin)*

*Cooper Sullivan Broadbent
son of Brian and Melissa (Bolte)*

*Aubrey Marie Hayhurst
daughter of Paul and Jenna (Kippenbrock)*

Youth Council News



Parish Collection for Hope Builders
May 17th and 18th

The weekend of May 17th and 18th the youth will be collecting your generous donations in the Church lobby. We thank you in advance for partnering with us so we can provide generous service to parishioners in need of our helping hands. God bless you all for your generous help over the past 5 years that has kept this program going.



Confirmation on May 7th

Please pray for our Confirmation candidates as they continue to prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday, May 7th. Bishop Rice will be confirming our youth.

High School Youth Group
May 4th

Sunday evening 6:00 - 8:00 pm
in the Cafeteria

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

**Early Bulletin Deadlines
for Bulletins May 18th and 25th**

I will be out of the office and need all articles for bulletins May 18th and 25th on Wednesday, May 7th. Thanks so much for helping me with this.

Bless you,
Linda

For Reflection...

Letting go. It is the hardest thing to do.



2014 Lenten Fish Fry Report

In Marks's Gospel, Jesus fed 5,000 people with 5 barley loaves and two fish. In the seven weeks of our Fish Fry's, we fed 6,073 people, but we needed, 3,200 pounds of fish, 125 loaves of bread, along with "tons"

of all the side dishes.

This year's Fish Fry again, was a great financial success. We had a profit of \$21,694.85.

It was a great "team" effort that was made up of over 150 men, women and children; young and old working together, making new friends and rekindling existing ones.

We saw the old pro breading team, teaching the youngsters how to bread.

The fryers kept up the quality and taste of our fish; the cooks kept our side dishes tasty and hot; so that now we hear our customers call our "Fry's" the best they've been to.

Thanks to all those who worked the serving lines in dine-in and carry-out; the hottest and hardest job of the Fish Fry's.

We saw some "grandma's and mom's" teaching young girls how to cut and wrap all those delicious desserts that kept coming to us Friday after Friday.

Then there's the "unsung" heroes who kept the tables clean and the trash cans empty.

There's also the cleanup crew, who seem to have the most fun of all, as they blitz through all the dirty pots and pans, and mop the floors.

The drive-thru again worked out great, thanks to the grade school kids and Boy Scout runners; we averaged over 100 more orders each week.

Our Lady Queen of Peace thanks each and every one of you for all your hard work!!

We're looking for new ideas and ways to improve the Fish Fry's. There will be a "post" Fish Fry meeting Friday, May 16th, at 6:00 pm in the Cafeteria.

If you're unable to make the meeting, please e-mail your ideas and thoughts to: Deacon Paul, deaconpaul@olqpparish.org.

By the way, Deacon Paul will be burning some dogs and brats for the meeting, so we will have an excuse to drink up the left over beer and soda from the Fish Fry's.

SOS ~ Help ~ SOS

We're looking for a few grass cutters, and yes trimmers also, for the summer "grass growing season".

There are some restrictions and training required. We have all the equipment but if you like to use your own, that would be fine. The more volunteers that we have the better, we can set up a rotation so as not to burden just a few.

Please call Deacon Paul, 314-954-0378, with any questions and to set up the training required.



Annual Archdiocesan Catholic Appeal

Through your charitable donations, the Archdiocese of St. Louis is able to assist:

- ◆ Our Elementary Schools
- ◆ Archdiocesan High Schools
- ◆ Our Seminary
- ◆ Catholic Charities
- ◆ Provide care for our Priests
- ◆ Parish Special Needs
- ◆ and many other worthy causes

Our Lady Queen of Peace has received special grants in the past from the Appeal to help us with unexpected expenses. Your donations help support Catholic programs and ministries throughout the Archdiocese.

Please consider making a donation to this worthy cause.

Volunteers will be in the Church lobby collecting donations and accepting pledges for the next 2 weekends. Thank you for your generosity.

Kids Helping Kids

From Thursday, May 1st until Monday, May 12th, SVDP Youth will be selling chances in classrooms for 4 tickets to the June 16th Mets/Cardinals game, 2 adult and 2 youth Cardinal T-Shirts, and the book, "St. Louis Cardinals: Yesterday and Today", a prize package worth \$165. Tickets will also be available in the school office at the start of PSR Monday, May 5th and May 12th. All proceeds will be donated to the Jefferson County Education Committee to provide school supplies for underprivileged children in our area. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

Easter Flowers in Memory

Arleen Lammert
Jim Schroeder

**Aluminum Collection
May 3rd and 4th**

Thank you for donating your aluminum cans every month (on the first full weekend). The proceeds help the youth with their activities. We can accept aluminum, copper and brass only. We cannot use glass, tin or steel, they can recycled at Byrnesville Recycling (or any recycling center).

VOLLEYBALL



Athletic Association

Volleyball and Soccer Sign ups

The OLQP Athletic Association is currently holding sign ups for The 2014 Soccer and Volleyball seasons. Registration forms are available through the website at www.olqpraiders.com. You may also sign up after Mass next weekend, May 10th and 11th.

Soccer



**St. Vincent De Paul
1st Quarter Report**



During the 1st Quarter 2014 St Vincent DePaul has provided the following assistance to 18 needy families in our community. Your generous donations are greatly appreciated, and will help the Society of St Vincent DePaul continue to provide for those in need.

Thank you and may God bless you.

Prescription	132.00
Misc.	170.60
Utilities (water/ gas).....	489.13
Ameren UE.....	514.39
Total	1,306.12

Mother Day Cards

The Mother's Day Cards to benefit Birthright of Hillsboro is available in our Church lobby. Enclosed with the card is a self addressed envelope to send a donation directly to Birthright. Thank you for your support in giving life to the unborn.



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

**We would like to thank
AB Certified Heating and Cooling**

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

**Our Big Ticket Raffle
Grand Prize Drawing
Saturday, June 28th**

Our Big Ticket Raffle is still going on. With the ticket (\$250) comes a dinner for two on June 28th at the Knights of Columbus Hall. The grand prize winner (\$5,000) will be drawn at the dinner. Please contact the Parish Office, 636-671-3062, or visit the Scrip table after Mass to purchase your ticket.

First Sunday Breakfast
(for May only)
Mother's Day Breakfast
Sunday, May 11
after 7:30 and 9:30 am Mass

Menu

Scrambled Eggs and Sausage
Hash Browns
Biscuits and Gravy
Fruit Cup, Cereal
Milk, Orange Juice, Coffee

Say Cheese

It is time to update our family album, our OLQP Parish Directory that is! We are forming a team to assist with this project. People are needed to register families, assist on days of photography and the layout of the updated directory. Photography will start early in September. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Mary Luebbert, 636-274-1556.



Retrouvaille

Marriage Challenges? Retrouvaille (a French word meaning rediscovery) is a program to help couples heal and renew their marriages that offers tools needed to rediscover a loving marriage relationship. It has helped thousands of couples with marital problems and crises, even couples who are separated and divorced. The next program begins with the **weekend of June 6-8, 2014**. For further information, please call 1-800-470-2230 or visit <http://www.helpourmarriage.com/>.

OLQP Picnic June 14
Plants Needed!!!

The Plant Booth is looking for plant donations. This can be indoor or outdoor plants, vegetables or flowers, annuals or perennials and even tropical or aquatic...

We want all different varieties of plants! For your convenience we will come to your home to pick up the plants, and even dig them up out of the ground. For more information please call Debbie Stephens, 314-799-5168.

*Attention: Knitters, Woodworkers,
Cooks and all other Crafty People*

Our Annual Parish Picnic is quickly approaching (June 14th)! The Country Store needs your help to fill the shelves so get out your needles, brushes, scissors and pots and get creating those one of a kind items.

We are looking for new items that you have created with your God-given talents such as: jams and jellies, crocheted blankets, birdhouses, etc. Items big and small can be dropped off in the Parish Office between now and the day of the Picnic. Any questions, please contact James Bolte, 314-805-9622.

Fr. Ferdinand Wesloh
50th Ordination Anniversary

On March 14th, Father Wesloh, our former pastor, celebrated the 50th Anniversary of his ordination to the Sacred Priesthood. The occasion will be commemorated by a celebration of a Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, May 25th, at 2:00 pm at St. Martin de Porres Church at 615 Dunn Road in Hazelwood. A reception in the Parish Center will follow Mass until 4:30 pm. If you will be attending please contact Father, 314-835-9612. If he does not answer please leave a message with your name and the number of who will be coming.

**Community Electronic and Appliance
Recycling Fair**

(sponsored by Northwest R-1 School District
website: www.nwr1.k12.mo.us)

**Saturday, May 10th
9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

Valley Middle School
(4300 Gravois Rd, 63051)

(formerly Northwest Valley Center-4300 Gravois)

The Northwest R-1 School District is sponsoring a community recycling event. Individuals will have the opportunity to bring in the following items: computers (NOTE: all hard drives are destroyed), monitors, all electronic devices, rechargeable batteries, TVs and all appliances including refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers, hot water tanks, mowers and AC units.

All electronics and appliances are taken for FREE (limit of 1 TVs or monitors per car, additional TVs or monitors \$15 each).

For more information about electronic and appliance recycling call 636-931-3930 (MRC Recycling) or go to the website: www.midwrc.net.

**St. Anthony Fried Chicken Dinner
Sunday, May 4th, 2014**

Serving from 11:00 am-3:00 pm

St. Anthony of Padua Cafeteria

Address: 3009 High Ridge Blvd, High Ridge

Serving: Adult and children plates
by dine in and carry out

SFBRHS Position Available

St. Francis Borgia Regional High School is currently accepting applications for a member of the Maintenance team. The position includes light maintenance and groundskeeping work. To inquire or apply, please contact Mike Kruse, 636-239-7871 ext. 125, or email mike.kruse@borgia.com.

Seven Days of Inspiration

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

Day 1

Any day can be
a great day!

Day 2

You're awesome!

Day 3

Life will always
bring you new
blessings to count.

Day 4

You deserve the best.
Why settle for less?

Day 5

Setbacks never last.

Day 6

Never underestimate
the power of a kind word.

Day 7

Give your dreams more
attention than
your worries!

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)**

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our next Eucharistic Adoration is
 Wednesday, May 28,
 from 1:00 - 8:00 pm.
 Come visit with Jesus; He is waiting for you
 in the Eucharist. In the presence of Jesus,
 offer your heart.

Some Gentle Reminders

- no chewing gum during Mass (this breaks the Communion fast of one hour)
- please do not leave early from Mass (Judas was the first to leave early)
- please remember to turn off cell phones

**Great Opportunity!!
 Fundraising Idea**

Help the Parish/Help Each Other

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

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

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

General Handyman Raffle

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

\$5.00 per chance (please enclose with coupon)

Our Gifts to God and Parish

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

Special Collections

Africa Missions	2,318.27
Holy Land	5.00
Home Missions	50.00
Regina Cleri	50.00
Rice Bowl	394.50

New Building Fund.....764,445.71

Offertory

Sunday Loose	615.00
Sunday Envelopes	8,461.33
First Offering	5.00
Parish Enrichment	345.00
Total Offertory	9,426.33
Offertory Goal.....	13,200.00

As of April 28, 2014

Contributions Year To Date.....	555,310.19
Projected Year to Date Budget.....	567,600.00

Reflection...

The goodness of God is unending and He will never be outdone in His generosity. Give all you can. He will give more.

Stewardship

Start With Prayer

"Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the scriptures?" Luke 24:32

How often do we take the time to see what Jesus wants from us? Are our prayers always petitions, asking Jesus to do things for us? If so, that's a one-sided relationship. Living our faith means developing a personal relationship with Jesus. So, just like any friendship with another person, there is give and take, each side listening to the other and helping each other out. Take time in silence to listen to what Jesus is saying to you.

Please pray for those who are ill

(parishioners are in bold)

Danielle Enghauser	Audrey Hastings
Paul McDonnell	Mary Schmidt
Greg Hirtz	Ellen O'Brien
Maryann Barnett	Wally Freihaut
Alice Boeger	Cri Watson
Jackie Nappier	Andy Nappier
Fran Mills	Alice Wood
Ed Kelemen	Bruce Gallion
Ray Wieschhaus	Jennifer Younkins
Tim Lodes	Vicky Duckworth
Mary Jo Dawson	Al Jensen
Lorraine Mace	Carl Grimwood

Brenda Meredith, aunt of Dixie Garrett
 Chuck Hampton, cousin of Dixie Garrett
 Vince Mendenez, friend of Dixie Garrett
 Kathy Garrett, sister-in-law of Dixie Garrett
 William Voss, father of Margaret Ganey
 Joseph Barnes, uncle of Angie Henning
 Byron Nichols Jr., nephew of Don and Kathy Constantz
 Sue Johnston, sister-in-law of Patricia Slais
 Peg Bauer, sister of Katie Tutass
 Carol Brennan, sister of Katie Tutass
 Gregory Gunter, brother of Lynette Rawlins
 Bess Shanders, cousin of Angie Henning
 Robert Bokern, brother of John Bokern
 Dave Landers, brother-in-law of Bernie Henning
 Joe Politte, brother-in-law of Ken DeClue

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

**Pray for the Deceased**

We offer sympathy and the assurance of our prayers to the family of

Kathleen Hause, mother of Beth Martin

Shirley Emerson, of our community

Charlie Wieschhaus, nephew of Ray Wieschhaus

Allen Chott, nephew of Judy Mottert

Mass Intentions

Mon	May 5	8:00 am	Doctors and Nurses (St. Clare ICU) Special Intentions
Tues	May 6	8:00 am	Dorothy Rudloff
Wed	May 7	8:00 am	Betty Hooser
Thurs	May 8	8:00 am	Cameron Stewart
Fri	May 9	8:00 am	Otto Riney
Sat	May 10	5:00 pm	Ann Suda
Sun	May 11	7:30 am	Jeanette Ellison
		9:30 am	People of the Parish
		11:30 am	Poor Souls

May 10th and 11th**Special Ministers of the Eucharist**

5:00 pm	John Holmes, Mary Copeland, Dixie Garrett, Pat Hoskins, Janice Hussman
7:30 am	Jo Jahnsen, Mary Bjornstad, 3 needed
9:30 am	Carl Boyer, Patsy Boyer, Trish Guethle, Jan Schultheiss, Barb Perez, Helen Salamone
11:30 am	Thom Ecker, Angie Ecker, Carol Freihaut, Greg Love, Joan Ross

Proclaimers

5:00 pm	Tom and Mary Heeley
7:30 am	Rich Ortmann, Terry Soer
9:30 am	Patricia Larson, Maria Webb
11:30 am	David Holmes, Thom Ecker

Servers

5:00 pm	Madelyn Hicks, Sophia Leahy, Zachary Mikko
7:30 am	McKenzie Beck, Marie Kenney, Cameron Beck
9:30 am	Sophia Kershaw, Gabrielle Lucas, Noah Sudholt
11:30 am	Christopher Dutton, Jesse Mose, Cierra Payne

Ushers

5:00 pm	Ben Slodkowski, Bill and Donna Clifton, Bart Heinzer, Jeff Heibeck, Helen Stewart
7:30 am	Butch Mattingly, Dave Mills, Doug Bjornstad, Steve Morlock, Jeff Eschbach, Larry Lammert
9:30 am	Steve Freihaut, Tom Mattingly, Larry Whitworth, Trisha Larson, Chuck Phillips, Patrick Craig
11:30 am	Larry Bottchen, John Holmes, David Holmes, Kevin Huss, Paul McDonnell, Mary Buckley

**May 9**

Marie Strayhorn,
 Debby Maloney-Reeves,
 Denice Bufka,
 Bob De Long
 and Mary Copeland

**Next Sunday's Readings
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Cycle A**



THEME: We are an Easter People. What difference does that make to me?

With the Fourth Sunday of Easter, a subtle shift occurs in the focus of the Liturgy. The Gospels no longer recount resurrection appearances and the focus of the preaching stories in Acts begins to be directed more to the response of the listeners than to the message of the Proclaimer. With the Fourth Sunday of Easter we begin to look at our response to being formed by Easter faith and the practical difference that such Easter faith must make in our lives.

THE READINGS:

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14, 36-41

Once again, the first reading is taken from Peter's Pentecost proclamation in Acts. Now, however, the

reading begins to draw attention to the response of the listeners. They were cut to the heart; they asked what they should do. And those who heard Peter and took his words to their heart were baptized so that three thousand new believers were added.

A central theme in Luke's presentation of the early Church is that believers must be bold in speaking the Gospel message – no matter what difficulties they will face for it. Peter gives a clear example of such boldness. But another central theme in Luke's presentation of the Good News is that we have all that we need in the words of Scripture and in the breaking of the bread. With the shift in thematic focus, we are to look to ourselves and ask whether or not we are allowing God's word to cut to the heart, to change and form us, to draw us beyond ourselves and into the fellowship of the baptized, those who have died and risen with Jesus Christ.

SECOND READING: I Peter 2:20-25

The second reading is from the First Letter of Peter. The First Letter of Peter offers encouragement to the newly baptized to persevere in the face of trial. Again, at approximately the half-way mark in the Easter season, the Liturgy begins to shift its focus away from joy at the resurrection of Jesus to the community of believers being formed by and living its Easter faith.

The reading from I Peter develops the shepherd imagery from the responsorial psalm with the call to imitate our shepherd by acting with righteousness and good will, even in the face of injustice, even in a world where the love and good will we have to offer are not always accepted. If we are formed by Easter faith, I Peter reminds us that the path to resurrection led through suffering and death and that, as followers of Jesus, the full experience of the life and joy we celebrate in this season requires us to sacrifice also, to put ourselves on the line for the sake of the believing community and for the sake of the whole world that Christ came to redeem.

GOSPEL READING: John 10:1-10

The Gospel reading from John is from one of the last speeches of Jesus in the first half of the Gospel, the Book of Signs. The speech continues to deploy the shepherd imagery that is central to today's Liturgy. In simplest terms, in this speech John characterizes Jesus as both the shepherd and the gate, the one who leads and cares for His flock, and the way that opens for the flock for shelter and protection, for entering into life.

John's understanding of the mission of Jesus is that He came to reveal the Father, to make God present to His people. In John's theological outlook, Jesus is the sole means of approaching the Father, of entering into a loving relationship with Him, a relationship that brings with it eternal life. Symbolically, Jesus is the gate – the way that leads to this relationship with the Father, but He is also the shepherd, the one who leads us to eternal life. We are to follow where Jesus leads. But again, this speech brings the Book of Signs to its conclusion; it ends the section of the Gospel that dealt with Jesus' earthly mission and ministry. In the next section of the Gospel, the Book of Glory, Jesus moves inexorably towards His passion, death and resurrection, to the fulfillment of His mission. Where He has gone, as our shepherd, we are to follow.

On this Fourth Sunday of Easter, in the midst of joyous celebration of the resurrection, in the middle of a time when we are called to embrace new life, we begin to see that this life we celebrate takes work and sacrifice, that, as an Easter people, we are not revelers, but participants in the Paschal Mystery we celebrate, that there is a cost in terms of commitment to Easter faith and the experience of God's life and love. Like the man in the parable who found a pearl of great value, we have to pay a price to accept and embrace this life we value. We are called to follow Jesus Himself, the giver of life, to live as He lived, to love as He loved.

FOR REFLECTION:

- Eventually, with any significant experience in life, we are led to ask, "What does it mean for me?" Do I want to hang on to it, or let it go? Do I choose to hang on to Easter faith? Does it make a difference to me? How do I live that difference?
- In the Words of Scripture and the Breaking of the Bread we have all that we need. Do we allow God's word to cut to the heart, to change us and form us, to draw us beyond ourselves and into the fellowship of all believers? Are we bold in proclaiming our faith and the difference it makes to us?
- Ghandi said, "An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind." Can we meet injustice in our world with righteousness, compassion and forgiveness? How is striving to do that a response to our Easter faith?
- How are we to understand "shepherd Imagery?" Are we to be blind followers? As followers of the Good Shepherd, what is the role of free choice and responsibility in our lives?
- How true is it that Easter faith makes us participants in the Paschal Mystery? When I realize that the Paschal Mystery involves not only Resurrection but the path to Resurrection that led through suffering and death, am I still willing to rejoice in Easter Faith? Am I still willing to be a participant in the Paschal Mystery?