

# Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

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



## **PASTOR**

REVEREND MICHAEL MURPHY

## **ASSOCIATES**

REVEREND JAMES BEIGHLIE, C.M.

REVEREND DONALD MOLITOR, RETIRED

## **DEACONS**

REVEREND DR. THOMAS GERLING

REVEREND MR. PAUL TUREK

## **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

MR. BOB ELLISON

## **GRADE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

MS. RENEE CHAUVIN

## **PSR COORDINATOR**

MRS. DEBRA O'DONNELL

## **PRESCHOOL COORDINATOR**

MRS. NANCY LORENZ

## **YOUTH MINISTER**

MRS. TERRY OSTLUND

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

DOUG BJORNSTAD

CLIFF BRANDT

JOANNE DAVID

VICKI DE LONG

CLAY GREGORC

TOM LAKIN

ARNIE LOHBECK

PAUL MCDONNELL

DENISE ORTMANN

RICH ORTMANN

## **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

**SUNDAY OFFERING**

Our Gifts to God and Parish Last Week

**New Building Fund**

Lavender Envelopes	\$	665.00
Total Received to date	\$	657,976.86

**Offertory**

Sunday Envelopes	\$	8,234.50
Sunday Loose	\$	524.02
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,758.52</b>
<b>Offertory Goal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>13,699.00</b>

Thank you for your generosity.

**As of July 26, 2010**

Contributions Year To Date	\$	41,679.38
Projected Year to Date Budget	\$	54,796.00

**Together We're Better Certificates**

Sales	\$	1,430.00
Profits/tuition reduction	\$	46.57

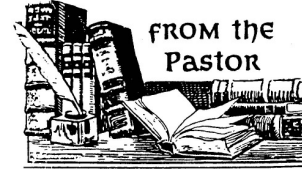
TWB Certificates are available in the Parish Office from 8am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday and every weekend after Mass.



*"Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."*

LUKE 12:15

The Gospel message today is so contrary to our modern culture where advertising continually tries to convince us that our value lies in the many things we possess. Jesus showed us that our true value lies in the way we live our lives. He challenges us to not store up or hoard material possessions. Rather, strive to be rich in that which matters to God.



Can you sing? If you can, we have a deal for you! How would you like to be on American Idol, become wealthy like a rock star, be chased and adored by thousands of starry eyed fans and get your picture on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine? If you would like to have all of this and more, you are in the wrong place! The deal we have to offer you is to become a member of Our Lady Queen of Peace Choir. We are looking to expand on something that is already awesome by increasing the number of members that participate in our choir. In the future we would like to have a dedicated choir for each mass and on special occasions, like Christmas and Easter, to bring all the choirs together to form something that will rival the Mormon Tabernacle Choir....well....maybe not that big, but close. All we need are willing souls who can sing or who *think* they can sing or who have fun trying to sing. You don't have to be great; you just have to sing better than Fr. Beighlie. If you are interested and need more information, please talk to Mr. Bob Ellison, Director of Music at OLQP. He will work with you and before long he promises that you will find yourself not only having a lot of fun serving your parish, but you will sing better in the shower and make a whole lot more money in Karaoke bars. Encourage those "angelic" voices that sit near you at church on Sunday to consider becoming part of our great choir!!!

-fr mike

**RCIA**

The RCIA, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, program will begin August 23rd at 7:00 pm in the Cafeteria meeting room, the old library. If you know of anyone interested in joining the Catholic faith or just want to know more about it, let them know about our upcoming sessions.

For more information: call: Deacon Paul, 677-4040.

**Peace Pantry  
School Supply Drive**

**Items needed most:**

- |  |                  |             |
|--|------------------|-------------|
| Backpacks                                  | Index cards      | Pencils     |
| Kleenex                                    | Tab dividers     | Scissors    |
| Art boxes                                  | Pens             | Glue sticks |
| Ziplock bags (qt.)                         | Highlighters     | Markers     |
| Colored pencils                            | Red pens         | Baby wipes  |
| Hand sanitizer                             | Erasers          | Scissors    |
| Spiral notebooks                           | Glue             | Glue sticks |
| Dry erase markers                          | 24 count crayons |             |
| Wide-ruled paper (looseleaf)               |                  |             |
| 2 pocket folders (with prongs and without) |                  |             |

Please drop off items at the Peace Pantry, 6672 Veterans Drive, Cedar Hill, MO 63016 Monday thru Thursday between 8 am and 1 pm. Supplies must be collected by Monday, August 9th. We will also accept cash donations for the supplies – please indicate gift is for school supplies.



Thanks Parish Family for the your kind expressions of sympathy, comforting prayers, and cards during the illness and loss of Rich's mother Viola Wilfong. We are greatly appreciative. May God Bless you all.

Rich and Nancy Wilfong

**We Need Advertisers  
for our 2011 Calendar**

We are once again looking for a few companies within our parish to sponsor the cost of our new calendars with an ad for their company. It would be a great way to remind our parishioners of your company on a daily basis. If you would be interested, please call the Parish Office at 671-3062.



**YOUTH MINISTRY**

**Multiplication of Service**

The week of July 18th God took 12 high school youth and adults from OLQP and multiplied us by 10 and we had Seedbearers. Seedbearers is an organization of high school youth and adults from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish in St. Charles that move into a community to do mini home make overs for homeowners in need of some help. This was the second year they came to our parish. This year once again, we were able to work on 7 homes in our area. We thank everyone who helped us in anyway reach out to help those in need in our community. You donated over \$3000 for this awesome work. We especially thank the Knights of Columbus who prepared dinner for the Seedbearers and their families on Thursday night. The dinner fed over 300 people. We thank everyone who donated money, services and items to help us out during this week. Thanks to our seven youth and 5 adults who joined forces with the 113 individuals from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish. Wow, when we say yes to God, He can do amazing things. Seedbearers week was an amazing experience of being the hands and feet of Christ.

Youth Night on Wednesday, August 4th from 6-9 pm in the Bear's Den.

Youth Mass on Sunday, August 8th at 6pm followed by a youth night until 8pm.

Terry Ostlund, Youth Minister  
636-671-0302 or 314-566-8363

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Our next Eucharistic Adoration is  
Wednesday, August 25  
From 1:00pm - 8:00pm.  
Please sign up for a Holy Hour.  
A sign up sheet is located  
in the Church vestibule.

# peace with the LORD

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

**Rosalie Pinson**

mother of Karen Palazzolia

**Patrick Rocchio**

brother of Vince Rocchio

**Joe Birmingham**

brother of Ann Mattingly

**Jessie Reams**

aunt of Donna O'Malley

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

## Latin America Apostolate

This Sunday, August 1, a special collection will be taken up for the Latin America Apostolate of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. This collection is the only source of funding for our 3 Priest who presently serve in Bolivia. Other than Haiti, Bolivia is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere. Our Priest Missionaries depend on us so that their missionary work may continue. Please support Bishop Casey, Father Hayden and Father Michler and the people of Bolivia whom they serve, thanks to our donations. May God reward you for your sacrificial gift and prayers!

## Daughters of Isabella Tailgate Sale Saturday, August 21, 8am to 2pm

If you are cleaning out your closets, attic or garage this summer and want to make a few bucks and get rid of the clutter at the same time, you can help the Daughters with their semi-annual Tailgate Sale!!

It will be held in the lower parking lot of OLQP. A space is the size of two parking spaces and cost \$10.

To reserve a space, please call Carol at 285-4450 or Fran at 375-3774.



## Parish Corner

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

No organization this week



The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary is raffling a boy's and a girl's backpack with a \$60 WalMart gift card in each one. \$1.00 a chance or 6 for \$5.00. The drawing will be after 11:30 Mass on August 8, 2010. Proceeds to the Parish votive candle fund.

Thank you.

## St. Vincent De Paul

### A Summer Afternoon



It is cook out time and you enjoy being host and hostess to your neighbors. You are pleased to have good friends to serve food and drink in the congenial atmosphere of your backyard. Their appreciation of your hospitality gives you a warm glow of satisfaction.

## Stephen Ministry

To learn how you can receive care please call Margaret, 314-2232-8751. All calls and sessions are confidential.



God bless you!

**Fr. William Scheid Priest Play  
August 20–22, 2010**

The Catholic Youth Apostolate and the Fr. William Scheid Players will celebrate 30 years of performances in 2010 with Cole Porter's "Anything Goes", featuring our former pastor, Msgr. Norb Ernst. Performances will be on Friday, Aug. 20th, Saturday, Aug. 21st, and Sunday, Aug. 22nd. All performances will be at the Florissant Civic Center. Tickets are \$14 each, or \$12 for seniors and groups of 25 or more. Contact Sarah at 314-792-7611.

**BRIDGES – a life changing  
experience of God's love**

The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius Loyola in everyday life will be offered at Assumption Catholic Church on Mattis Rd. beginning September 2010 – May 2011.

The Bridges Foundation, Inc. will conduct an information session at Assumption on Thursday, August 5 @ 7:00p.m. If you have any questions, please call Cheryl Rauschenbach @ 636-225-8433 or [Cherylrauschenbach@yahoo.com](mailto:Cherylrauschenbach@yahoo.com).

**Calendar Scheduling**

If you have not submitted the times and dates you plan to use our facilities please send a list (in writing) or email ([parishoffice@olqpparish.org](mailto:parishoffice@olqpparish.org)) to the Parish Office. Sometimes we have experienced conflicts with organizations wanting to use the same facilities. By scheduling early we can avoid most of these disappointments. Just a reminder, even if you always had the same time and place for your meeting we will not know that you intend to continue to meet. Typically we redo the calendar at the beginning of our fiscal year, July 1st.

Thank you so much for your help in keeping our parish calendar up to date and running smoothly.

**Our Lady Queen of Peace  
PARISH DANCE**

*Featuring*



**Music From the 50's, 60's & 70's**

[www.sh-boom.com](http://www.sh-boom.com)

**Saturday, August 21, 2010**

**Knights Of Columbus Hall**

**7 pm - 11:00 pm**

Doors open at 6:00 pm

\$10/person in advance

\$15/person at the door

**Price includes Beer & Soda**

(Burgers, Hot Dogs, Fries & Nachos  
can be purchased)

For Tickets call: 636-671-3062

M-F 8 am - 4 pm

or email: [dance@olqpparish.org](mailto:dance@olqpparish.org)

or purchase in the Parish Office

**Purchase your tickets soon as they will go on sale  
to neighboring parishes beginning in August!!**

**St. Patrick's Old Rock Church  
Annual Picnic  
Sunday, August 15th**

Please join us for Mass starting at 11:15am. The picnic will run from Noon till 6:00 pm. Family style Chicken and Beef dinners will be served. Prices are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12.

There will be a Country Store and Raffle—1st prize, \$500; 2nd price, Handmade Quilt; 3rd prize, \$100. Entertainment will be provided by Missouri Valley Boys.

Directions: 5 miles South of Pacific, Mo. Hwy. 44, Exit 257. Go East on Osage (south side of I-44), south on MO Hwy F. Stay left on MO Hwy O at split to left on MO Hwy. NN. Left at split to stay on MO Hwy. NN to right on Rock Church Road.

**Discovering God in Our Lives  
2-Day Women's Retreat**

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows

Retreat Presenter: Heather King

Fri., Sept. 10th and Sat., Sept. 11th

For more information, please contact:

Diane Gren at 1-800-233-6264 or e-mail:

*dgreen@oblatesusa.org.*

**The Art of Pro-Life Persuasion  
Immaculate Conception Church  
Saturday, Aug. 7**

A workshop entitled "The Art of Pro-Life Persuasion" will be presented by Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs, on Saturday, August 7, 2010 from 9:00am—3:00 pm with a break for lunch. It is free to the public and we are inviting all to attend this instructive event to promote the cause of Pro-Life.

We request an RSVP by August 1 to reserve both a manual and a lunch.

For questions, call: John Harper, 636-296-8766 or Barbara Schaumberg, 314-650-6039.

**Seven Days of Inspiration**

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

You are not only  
good to yourself,  
but the cause of  
goodness in others.

~~~~~  
Tell someone special  
"I love you".

~~~~~  
If you smile when  
no one else is around,  
you really mean it.

~~~~~  
Stress may keep calling,  
but you don't have  
to answer.

~~~~~  
You're the best  
friend someone  
could have.

~~~~~  
Nothing is worth  
more than this day.

~~~~~  
A friend is someone  
who gives you total  
freedom to be yourself!

**Cookin' New Orleans Style  
Immaculate Heart of Mary  
New Melle  
August 20th**

Announcing the 4th event in the Friday Night Out Series. Taking place at the Grand Hall at Immaculate Heart of Mary in New Melle. Join us for New Orleans style cuisine prepared by Chef Brian Manhardt and Dixie Land Jazz music performed by the South Main Street Jazz Band. Tickets are \$25 per person (reserve a table of 10!). Doors open at 6:30, dinner at 7:30, music and dancing 8:30–11:30. For more information, call 636-398-5270.

**Magnificat Women's Prayer Breakfast  
Saturday, Sept. 11, 9-noon,**

Kathleen Beckman, Speaker  
Cardinal Rigali Center, Fleur de Lis Rm.  
Kathleen Beckman serves on the Magnificat Central Service Team and has written several books, including "Rekindle Eucharistic Amazement", "Behold the Lamb", and most recently, "Only for Love: The Sacred Heart, Priesthood and Purity."

Registration ends Friday, Sept. 3, so please call soon to reserve your place at 314-427-7786 or email [janeuenther@archstl.org](mailto:janeuenther@archstl.org). \$15 includes breakfast.

**The Memories of Elvis  
Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010  
Doors open 7:30pm  
Show Starts 8:00 pm**

"The Memories of Elvis" starring Steve Davis and his Mid-South Revival Band will be held at the Knight of Columbus Hall, 6000 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO. Admission is \$23.00 in advance—\$25.00 at the door (reserved seating available for pre-paid guests). Beer and soda is included, a cash bar is available. For more information call: Jim Reiter, 636-376-8247 or Walter Lee at 636-677-7136.

**Jonah Team Training**

Jonah Team Training to build up ministry teams that pray with individuals will take place on Saturday, Sept. 11 and 18th from 12:30 to 4:00 pm at St. Rose Phillippine Duchesne, 1210 Paddock Dr., Florissant, MO. Both sessions are required. Training is sponsored by the Archdiocese of St. Louis Healing and Deliverance Office.

For more information, contact: Sr. Charlotte Struckhoff, 314-427-7786.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one:

New Registration                      Address or phone number change                      Moving out of parish



**Parish Activities**

Mon	Aug 2	Rosary for Peace, 7:30pm, Church PSR Registration, 6-7:30 pm, School
Tues	Aug 3	Devotions after 8am Mass Quilters, 9am - 3pm, 6 - 8:30pm, Activity Center Board of Education, Rectory, 7pm
Thurs	Aug 5	Daughters of Isabella, 7:30pm, cafe
Sun	Aug 8	Youth Mass, 6pm, Church

**Mass Intentions**

Mon	Aug 2	8:00am	Victor & Josephine Blecha
Tues	Aug 3	8:00am	Irene Weber
Wed	Aug 4	8:00am	Tony Duda
Thurs	Aug 5	8:00am	Robert Lenzen
Fri	Aug 6	8:00am	Dina Martin
Sat	Aug 7	8:00am	Shannon Beam
		5:00pm	Lena Vande Ven
Sun	Aug 8	7:30am	Dorothy O'Brien
		9:30am	Otto Riney
		11:30am	People of the Parish
		6:00pm	Dee Mayher

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

<b>Jackie Nappier</b>	<b>Robert Pratt</b>	<b>Eddie Skaggs</b>
<b>Val Leiber</b>	<b>Charles Bacher</b>	<b>Vince Ferrara</b>
<b>Bud Waeltermann</b>	<b>Bill Bierman</b>	<b>Debbie Collins</b>
<b>Debbie O'Brien</b>	<b>Mary Coughlin</b>	<b>Ray Budo</b>

- Mike Sale, brother-in-law of Judy Holmes
- Msgr. Thomas Worachek, former pastor of OLQP
- Joe Graham, friend of Carl and Patsy Boyer
- Allen Chott, nephew of Judy Mottert
- Carol Brennan, sister of Katie Tutass
- Cindy Swafford, niece of Alan and Mary Myers
- Sam Mayberry, friend of Patrick Rawlins
- Jimmy Rawlins, son of Lynette Rawlins
- Jeffery Rawlins, grandson of Lynette Rawlins
- Rachel Preston, granddaughter of Lynette Rawlins
- Christine DeClue, daughter of Bill and Linda Weber
- Anna Ade, mother of Angie Ecker
- Kay Oestman, sister of Maureen Turney
- Shirley Hussey, sister-in-law of Cathy Eimer
- Louise Gunter, mother of Lynette Rawlins
- Susan Keilholz, mother of Ann Riley
- Mary McFarland, mother of Jan Hussman

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.

**August 7th and 8th**

**Special Ministers of the Eucharist**

5:00 pm	Pam Frank, Peggy Mikko, Sandy Munzlinger, Barb & Joe Nenninger, Shirley Tenny
7:30 am	Scott Beck, Carl & Patsy Boyer, Ruth Haen, Michelle Huff, Linda Weber
9:30 am	Dale Andrews, Mary Copeland, Bruce Gallion, Margaret Gerling, Pat Hoskins, Deb Pigue, Helen Salamone
11:30 am	Debbie Cleek, Vicki De Long, Joan Ross, Lynette & Patrick Rawlins, Paula Schroeder

**Proclaimers**

5:00 pm	Larry Bottchen, Barb Nenninger
7:30 am	Dave Mills, Frieda Siebel-Spath
9:30 am	Jo Ann Vess, Maria Webb
11:30 am	Mary Heeley, Judy Janos

**Servers**

5:00 pm	Brent Ambrose, Briar Bolte, Dylan Vancil
7:30 am	Ann & Jane Kenney, Zachary Morlock
9:30 am	Hannah Mraz, Jessica Queen, Claire Webb
11:30 am	Allie & Nicholas Gal, John Myers

**Ushers**

5:00 pm	Bill & Donna Clifton, Ralph Munzlinger
7:30 am	Jerry Sheets, Helen Stewart, Katie Tutass, Gerald Bachmann, Ray Brune, Wally Freihaut, Steve Morlock, John Nahlik, Vince Rocchio
9:30 am	Thomas Broadbent, Tim Diffey, Terry Filicsky, Lee Hoffman, Don Reno, Ray Wieschhaus
11:30 am	Robert De Long, Gary Freihaut, John Holmes, Kevin Huss, Paul McDonnell, Andy Nappier

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



Mary Jo Dawson,  
Mary Ann Whitecotton,  
Angie Tarter,  
Debbie O'Donnell  
and Carol Delue



Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Cycle C



**THEME:** “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for.”

We want to know. We want to know that our lives have meaning, that they matter. We want to know that death isn't the end, that eternity awaits us, an eternity with a loving God. We want to know that God is present to us, involved in our lives, in our world. We want to know. And in wanting to know, we hope. We hope for peace and security in our world. We hope for the well-being of those we love. We hope for resurrection. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for. Faith is an act of trust, of confidence in what we can't know. It is the trust and confidence that allows us to hang on in the face of doubt and insecurity. It is the choice to find meaning in our lives, to find meaning in the presence of the loving God we cannot see.

**THE READINGS:**

FIRST READING: Wisdom 18:6-9

The first reading comes from the Book of Wisdom. The

Book of Wisdom dates from the Greek and Roman periods in Israel, roughly the last two centuries before the birth of Christ. In the book, Wisdom has been identified firmly with God's word, especially the word of Torah. The outlook of the book is extremely positive and its meditation on God's word is presented as a kind of lens through which Israel can view and interpret its experience in the larger Greco-Roman world. Today's reading from Wisdom focuses on the Exodus event. God's word had commanded Moses to announce the Passover, to lead the people out of bondage, and to guide them to enter into a relationship with their God at Mt. Sinai. In the face of a hostile world, the people trusted in God's word. They had hope and their hopes were fulfilled. Their identity was maintained. They were God's chosen people who covenanted with Him. In its immediate context, the reading offered hope for Jews living in the Greco-Roman world, hope that they could and would remain a people special to their God, that their present circumstances in the world, just as their ancestors' past experiences in the world of Egypt, were but an opportunity for living their relationship with God, living their election. God's word to Moses and their ancestors gave them hope; their trust, their faith in God's word, gave them the assurance to move on, to leave Egypt, to undertake an arduous journey, to enter into a covenant relationship. God's word in Scripture, especially in the Torah, gives the people in the day when the Book of Wisdom was written hope, hope for maintaining their identity in their world, hope for living their commitment and relationship with their God. As God had dealt with and cared for their ancestors in the past, so he would deal with and care for them. For us today, the consistency of God's care for his people still gives us the assurance to trust that what we hope for will work itself out, will come to be. God's word and will for us, His word and will found in Scripture, His word and will found in the meaning and message of Jesus Christ gives us hope; and the consistency of God in dealing with His created world gives us faith, the assurance that our hopes will be fulfilled.

**SECOND READING:** Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

The second reading is taken from the Letter to the Hebrews. The material in the Letter to the Hebrews alternates between Christological statements, drawing largely on the image of the Levitical Priesthood, and practical advice on Christian living. The Christological arguments are developed in the context of God's saving actions on behalf of His people and His gift to them of the priesthood to care for their needs. Within the history of God's saving plan, it is faith that allows His people to appropriate His gifts. In developing the relationship between faith and the reception of God's gifts, Hebrews focuses in on Abraham, the Father of Faith. Abraham received the promises of many descendants and a homeland. In his story these gifts were only glimpsed, only partly fulfilled.

Yet, in faith, Abraham trusted; he adhered to God's promises and directed his life in accordance with them. He was even willing to trust God and put all he held dear in jeopardy because he had faith enough to believe that God's will would work itself out in God's own way.

As the Levitical Priesthood answered the hopes of the ancient Israelites, ministered to them and fostered their relationship with God, so, in the context of the people to whom Hebrews was addressed, Jesus Christ answered their hopes, ministered to them in the heavenly Jerusalem, and assured them of an eternal relationship with God. Hebrews speaks to us of hope, hope for our world, hope for our personal lives, hope of eternal life. Faith allows us to trust God, trust His plan, trust that Jesus Christ will fill all our needs and usher us into eternal life. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for.

**GOSPEL READING:** Luke 12:32-48

"Do not be afraid... for it is your Father's pleasure to give you the kingdom." In Luke's Gospel, Jesus gives us the assurance that, with faith, we can live without fear, we can live in confidence and hope.

The early Christians believed that Jesus had achieved our salvation. They believed that he had died, risen, returned to his Father, and would come again to establish the kingdom. By Luke's time, it had become evident that the immanent return of Jesus was delayed, that Christians needed to make their way in the world of everyday life, needed to live their faith and find hope in the world as they knew it.

What happens when what we hope for gets delayed? It is easy to sink into the mundane and routine, to focus on the here and now and ignore the future, ignore the object of our hope. But, for Luke, this was not an option. How we live in the here and now makes a difference. It is necessary to be ready for what we hope for, especially when what we hope for is of eternal significance. We can live in our world in fear – fear of terrorism, fear of economic crisis, fear of failure, and hurt, and sin. We can live with our hearts focused

on the present moment. Or we can live with our hearts set on what ultimately matters, trust God's fidelity, have confidence that the kingdom is coming and that it is, according to God's good pleasure, ours and trust that what we do now matters, what we do now has eternal significance. More than this, we have to live this way, for, as the Jesus of Luke's Gospel says, we have been gifted in the here and now and from those who have much, much will be demanded.

**FOR REFLECTION:**

- What are the areas of uncertainty in my life? What do I want to know? What do I hope for - for myself, for those I love, for my world?
- How do I approach the words of Scripture? Do I find hope in God's word? Do I see in the stories of the Bible idealistic fantasies or real possibilities for what my life with God can be? What wisdom do I find in Scripture?
- When have I experienced God's love and care for me? When has God seemed distant or even uncaring, uninvolved? Can I see a consistency in God's relationship with me? Does that consistency give me hope? Hope for what?
- Abraham is held up as a model of faith. He received God's promises, but commanded to leave all behind and go to a new land where he would become the father of a great nation, he took along Lot and all his possessions. Being old and not seeing the promise fulfilled, he tried to substitute Ishmael, the son of a slave girl for the son of the promise. Facing famine in the new land, he left and stayed in Egypt. Abraham dealt with doubts and took matters into his own hands. In my life with God, in what He has in store for me, what are my doubts? Where do I try to take control and make things work out the way I want? What, in my life and hopes, do I need to let go of to make room for God to fulfill His promises in His way?
- What are my long-range hopes? What, in my life, do I have to wait for to be fulfilled? How easy is it to wait? How easy is it to lose track of the object of my hope when it is delayed? How can I build up treasure in heaven?

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