

Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

www.olqpparish.org

August 11, 2013



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/PRESCHOOL

Mr. Curt Baker

PSR COORDINATOR

Mrs. Debra O'Donnell

YOUTH MINISTER COORDINATOR

Mrs. Terry Ostlund

PARISH COUNCIL

Thomas Broadbent, Sandee Burkemper, Bev Gregory,

René Heibeck, David Holmes, Taylor Layton,

Dave Mills, Donna Otzenberger, Jan Schultheiss,

Tim Webb, Linda Weber

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 Sat.)

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 each month after 8:00 Mass

For peace every Monday evening at 7:30 pm

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 OLQP Parish Events***2013****August**

- Thur 15 **Assumption**
 Sat 17 **Knights of Columbus Fairmont Horse Races**
Daughters of Isabella Tailgate Sale
Used Book Sale
 Sun 25 **Ladies Auxiliary Quarter Auction and Vendor Fair**

September

- Sun 22 **OLQP Quilt Social**
 Sun 29 **Fall Festival**

October

- Sat 12 **Harvest Moon Auction**
 Fri 25 **Trunk or Treat**

November

- Wed 13 **Personal Finance Seminar**
 Wed 20 **Personal Finance Seminar**
 Thur 28 **Thanksgiving**

December

- Mon 2 **Blood Drive**
 Sat 7 **Advent Retreat**
 Sun 8 **K of C Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale**
 Mon 9 **Immaculate Conception**
 Wed 25 **Christmas**

2014**April**

- Sat 12 **All Day Confessions**

June

- Sat 14 **OLQP Picnic**

up. He has also taken charge of moving and re-organizing the school library with the assistance of some of our 8th grade students. Last spring we purchased a modular trailer from St. Michael's parish in Shrewsbury for \$1. (It cost us \$4,800 to have it moved to our parish grounds, but it was money well spent considering that we will no longer have to pay rent on the other two trailers.) Several volunteers from the parish worked hard all summer to re-assemble the trailer, improve the roof, paint the rooms, and install an entrance deck, carpeting, and plumbing for the restrooms...etc.

We would also like to welcome the following new personnel to Our Lady Queen of Peace staff for the 2013-14 school year:

Mr. Curt Baker will be our new principal. Mr. Baker will also teach history to the upper grade students.

Mrs. Becky Ramsey will be the new school secretary. Mrs. Ramsey previously worked for Washington University in the Dermatology Division. She has been working since July 1st and has done a great job learning her new job responsibilities.

Ms. Savannah Barger will be our new art teacher. Savannah will teach Art on Tuesday, and will also serve as a substitute teacher when she is available. Savannah is a graduate of Nerinx High School and received her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Art Education. She is a graduate of the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Mrs. Florence Gibson will be our new music teacher. She will teach Music to our children on Thursday's. She is also currently employed at St. Bridget of Kildare Parish in Pacific. She serves as the school's music teacher for levels Pre-K through 8th grade.

Mrs. Kathleen Fischer will be our new Learning Consultant. She has been in the office with Sister Malia learning her job responsibilities. Mrs. Fischer has her Master of Arts in Communication Disorders and Learning Disabilities. Her most recent position was at St. Clement of Rome School in Des Peres. She has also worked at St. Francis of Assisi and for the Special School District in St. Louis County. With her experience she should be a valuable resource for our teachers, and should work well with our entire student body.

Don't forget, next Sunday, August 18th, the school will host an Open House for parents and parishioners.

~ fr. mike

Parish Activities ~ August 12 - 18

- Thur Aug 15 **Assumption** (Holy Day of Obligation)
 Sat Aug 16 Daughters Tailgate Sale, lower parking lot
 Knights Fairmount Horse Races
 Used Book Sale after Mass
 Sun Hospitality Sunday
 OLQP Open House
 Used Book Sale after all Masses

Pastor's Pen... School Is Out For The Summer!!

No, wait.....Classes resume next week?...what? Does anyone know what happened to the summer? It's true, on Monday, August 19th, the new school year will begin and a lot has taken place since last May. We have proceeded with plans to remove the two modular trailers that were used for classrooms and for the library and computer rooms. This will save the parish over \$14,500 a year in rent. Fr. Beighlie has been busy all summer moving computers to their new home and setting them

Final PSR Registration

2013-2014 school year

Kindergarten through 8th grade
in the PSR office

***Wednesday, August 21 and
Thursday, August 22
from 6-7:30 both nights.***

If you have any questions,
please call Debbie O'Donnell
636-677-8945.

Youth Council News

High School Youth Group

Sunday, August 18th

***from 6 - 7:30 pm in the Cafeteria
Youth led with adult support***

Youth Group will meet two Sunday evenings a month during the school year from 6:00 - 7:30 pm. We will try to meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings but in September we will meet on September 15th and 22nd because of Labor Day weekend.

We are also starting a parent gathering on our youth group nights throughout the school year, thanks to Maureen and Joe Turney. They will be leading a parent faith sharing while the youth are having Youth Group on Sunday evenings. This will allow the parents to build community, strengthen their faith and pray for our youth without any extra trips or gas. We will all gather in the Cafeteria, youth and parents for some praise and worship music. The parents will split off to meet with each other while the youth have their program. The evening will end about 7:30 pm. So on August 18th don't just drop off your son or daughter at Youth Group, come and join us for the parent gathering.

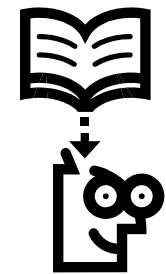
<p><i>Assumption Masses Thursday, August 15 Holy Day of Obligation 6:15 am, 8:00 am Noon and 7:00 pm</i></p>



On Monday, August 12, we will enjoy lunch at Marty's Bistro (on High Ridge Boulevard) at 1:00 pm. Hope to see everyone there.

Venture Crew News

Thanks to Julie Miller for coordinating the Venture Crew float trip on Monday, July 29th. We also thank our amazing chaperones for transporting the 18 Venture youth safely to and from Eminence, MO for an awesome float on the Current River. Fun was had by all.



8th Grade Class Sponsors

Used Book Sale

August 18th and 19th

The OLQP Eighth Grade class will be sponsoring a Used Book Sale after all Masses the weekend of August 18th and 19th in the Cafeteria. There will be a wide variety of titles and genres available of

used and not so used books, VHS tapes and DVD's. So come and browse. You never know what "treasure" you may discover to complete your summer reading!

Knights of Columbus

Ladies Auxiliary Quarter Auction

August 25, K of C Hall

This auction is a cross between a auction, a raffle and a home party. Part of the process is you hold up a paddle to bid on an item that you are trying to win.

Proceeds to benefit St. Vincent de Paul, OLQP Church and School and the Peace Pantry.

Questions please call Krista, 636 - 274-1968 or Jane, 636-671-2939.

Daughters of Isabella Tailgate Sale
Saturday, August 17
8:00 am - 2:00 pm

The Daughters of Isabella is sponsoring a Tailgate Sale at Our Lady Queen of Peace in the lower parking lot with refreshments available in the Cafeteria.

Outside spaces are available for \$15 with reservations or \$20 without a reservation. Inside spaces are \$25 with reservations or \$30 without reservations. To reserve a space to sell your items please call Denise, 636-671-9220 or Debbie, 636-399-2066.

All proceeds will go to charitable organizations and OLQP Church.



Mark Your Calendar!!!
Free Personal Finance Seminar
November 13th and 20th
7:00 until 8:15 pm

Congratulations Carolejean O'Shea!

Carolejean O'Shea has been nominated by the Parish Council of Our Lady Queen of Peace and will receive the *Servant to the Poor Award* at the 2013 Catholic Women's Recognition Ceremony sponsored by The Office of Laity & Family Life of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis. The Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis and Ms. Nancy Werner, Chancellor, Archdiocese of St. Louis, will present the award.

SPECIAL OFFER
LIMITED TIME
LIGHTHOUSE CDs
EXCHANGE

Any CDs you have listened to and haven't passed along to a friend or family member, or if you have any CDs you no longer want and would like to listen to one of the previous ones we have had for sale; here is your chance to listen to more for less. For the next few weeks we will have a basket on the CD table. You can drop off any extra CDs you may have and select another, from the basket, for just a \$1 donation each. The donations will help us defer the cost of shipping, which has put us slightly in the hole with this project. You will also have an opportunity to give us feedback on any of the talks you have heard thus far.

We will continue with new selections after this sale. Thank you for supporting this excellent means of evangelization.



Knights of Columbus
Night at the Races at Fairmount Park
August 17, 2013

Cost is \$40 per person which includes buffet dinner, racing form, transportation to and from Fairmount. A Chartered bus leaves OLQP parking lot at 4:45 pm. and returns around midnight. Seats are limited. When the bus is full, reservations will be closed. For reservations please contact Arnie Lohbeck, 636-274-4072.

*Knights of Columbus
Ladies Auxiliary
School Back Pack Raffle*



The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary will be selling tickets after Masses August 10th and 11th for their "Back to School" Girl's and Boy's Back Pack each with a Wal Mart Gift Card. Tickets are \$1 for one or \$5 for 6. The drawing will be after 11:30 Mass on August 11th. Proceeds benefit our Parish and School. Thank you for your prayers and support.

*Pauline Books and Media
Available on Parish Webstore*

Pauline Books and Media products are now available on Parish Webstore, too! Our parish will receive 12% on each sale! Here is more information:

- Parish Webstore and Lighthouse Catholic media are partners.
- Parish Webstore is an online resource and retail store that carries the widest array of faith-filled goods and resources, and further promotes the Church's call to evangelization by all of its member.
- Purchase faithful Catholic products from Parish Webstore such as: Books and ebooks, DVDs, CDs MP3s, rosaries, bibles, jewelry, medals, apparel and art.
- Our parish earns 12% from every purchase.
- Free shipping on most items!
- No expense for the parish
- It is a one-stop shopping store with faithful Catholic products from over 30 vendors and publishers (and perfect for those who love to shop online!!)

*Harvest Moon Auction
Auctioneer Wanted!*

The year's Harvest Moon Auction will be Saturday, October 12th. We are in need of an auctioneer! If you would like to help out in this capacity, we would love to have you. Experience not necessary! Interested person, please contact Phyllis Kenney, phyllis106@charter.net or 636- 677- 4364.



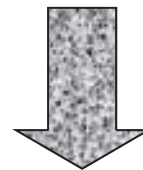
OLQP Big Ticket Raffle

There is still time to buy your Big Ticket Raffle ticket and be eligible to receive a chance to win in the first quarterly prize and you will also be eligible for the Grand Prize. Tickets are available in the Parish Office Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm and after all weekend Masses. Your chance of winning is 1 in 150!!



St. Vincent De Paul

When we pray to Our Father, we ask God to provide our food. The majority of us receive sufficient food. Others do not. We can be our Father's instrument by providing "bread" for the needy. You do this by your contributions to St. Vincent de Paul.



**We would like to thank
Big 3 Auto Parts and Salvage**
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.

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

2013 Parish Picnic Results

The picnic committee, along with Father Mike, would like to thank everyone for supporting the Parish Picnic. From the guests to the volunteers, it would not have been a success without everyone coming together. Thanks to your prayers, the weather was beautiful. We were sandwiched in between two weekends of storms. The Sunday after the picnic was rainy and the parish lost power for several hours.

Everyone enjoyed the entertainment and games. There was plenty of food for those that came with an appetite. From a Fried Chicken or Roast Beef Dinner, to a Burger or BBQ Beef sandwich, topped off with a famous Deacon Paul funnel cake or ice cream cone, plus many other choices.

Our Grand Raffle winners were:

1st place - Sandy Million

2nd place - Janet Bachmann

3rd place - Kevin Miller

4 pm - Tom Gerling

5 pm - Scott Reimer

6 pm - Janet Bachmann

7 pm - Greg Love

8 pm - Vince Rocchio

Though the weather was beautiful, the picnic attendance was less than previous years. This did not dampen our efforts to make a profit to help support the parish. The final profit, after picnic expenses, was \$17,735.56. This amount is roughly \$2,000.00 more than last year's picnic profit, with the income from the picnic being about \$6,200.00 less than the income from 2012. Once again, this would not be possible without the support of our picnic sponsors, guests, and volunteers.

Not only do we like to think of the Parish Picnic as a fundraiser for our church, but also as a way to share with our community, bring together family and friends for a wonderful day of fun and fellowship.

We appreciate your comments and suggestions. The picnic committee is already working on the 2014 Parish Picnic. We are working on several new ideas for next year. We are investigating the possibility of adding rides as we try to keep in mind the cost increase that would have to be passed on to the picnic guests. This year we worked hard to streamline the food and beverage booths, as well as the cafeteria dining. Our volunteers did their best with food preparation as well as trying to keep the lines moving quickly, which is not easy during peak times. We have all been to restaurants where we have had to wait 30 minutes to an hour just to be seated. For weeks before the picnic and even on the day of the picnic, we are struggling to fill all of the volunteer positions needed. We tried to condense the amount of volunteers needed to a bare minimum, but still find it hard to get every 2 hour shift filled. Thank you to those that stepped up, especially those that offered to work several different shifts to keep things running smoothly.

To continue the success of our parish picnic, your help is needed. You can help by being a picnic sponsor or asking your employer to be a sponsor. You can help by donating to our plant booth or country store. You can help by donating to our game prize booth. You can help by donating a dessert. You can help by joining the picnic committee. The number one way that you can help is to volunteer. We typically need approximately 300 - 320 volunteers. This includes picnic set up Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and about 250 volunteers needed on Saturday. Your help is what will make the picnic a huge success!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH!

Archbishop Carlson

"Current Events: A Blessing in Disguise?" Archbishop Robert Carlson will address this paradoxical question at the buffet dinner & lecture sponsored by 'Credo' at 6:00 pm, August 11, at the Rigali Center. Prosecution for declining to bake for a gay wedding; teaching 'gay-is-good' to kids in schools; the HHS Mandate. All this and much more manifests an aggressive push to enforce a new set of cultural and legal norms that pose grave threats to our religious freedom. Is there a way these challenges could prove to be a blessing in disguise? \$35 registration required before Wednesday, August 7th, at credostlouis.org, call 314-481-2512, or e-mail events@credostlouis.org. For more information, visit: <http://credostlouis.org/files/2013/07/ArchbishopCarlsonFlyer.pdf>

Young Catholic Musicians

The 70-member orchestra and choir of The Young Catholic Musicians will hold auditions during August. Singers and instrumentalists (age 10-17) are welcome to audition. The YCM learns liturgical music and leads the singing of congregations during Mass at a different parish each month. For additional information, email Fr. Bruce Forman at revycm@charter.net or call 314-231-7464.

Dance at Concord Hall Saturday, August 24

Arise Ministry of Jefferson County, Inc., a non-profit corporation, (formerly, Jefferson County Separated, Divorced & Widowed Catholics) will host a dance on Saturday, August 24, 2013 at Concord Hall, 10140 Concord School Road, St. Louis, MO 63128; doors open at 7 pm, music 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Cost of \$10 includes snacks and prizes; cash bar; must be at least 21 to attend. Music: DJ: Juke Box Productions. Call Carol, 314-775-1253 with questions or for more information.

Seven Days of Inspiration

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

Day 1

You are someone's treasure!

Day 2

It's okay to pay attention
to your own needs once
in a while!

Day 3

You're pretty and smart.
Yes, you are!

Day 4

Say "thank you" a few
more times today. It makes
everybody feel good!

Day 5

Look at something
lovely. It lifts you up.

Day 6

Your life is about
to change for the better.

Day 7

Make something happen!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our next Eucharistic Adoration is
Wednesday, August 28th
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.

***Annual Silver and Golden
Wedding Jubilee Mass***

All are invited to attend the Annual Silver and Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass on Sunday, October 13, 2013 at 2:30 pm at the Cathedral Basilica on Lindell Blvd. This year, Bishop Edward Rice will be our celebrant. Couples celebrating 25, 50, or 50-plus years **during 2013**, who register by September 13, will have their names and wedding date printed in the program and receive a certificate of congratulations.

Online Registration is available by visiting www.archstl.org/laityandfamilylife and clicking on **Golden/Silver Jubilee** from the menu. If you prefer to register by phone, please call the Office of Laity & Family Life, 314-792-7170.

Thank You !!!

To all of my friends at OLQP:

Thank you for the prayers, notes, cards, and gifts that you prepared for me as a “thank you” and “goodbye”. I was very touched by your thoughtfulness. It was truly an honor to serve at OLQP for so long. Although I will be at another school this year, OLQP and all of you will continue to occupy a special place in my heart. You will be missed and fondly remembered.

Sr. Malia

Our Gifts to God and Parish

759 registered members
226 online, loose and envelopes used this week
We appreciate your generosity!!!

Special Collections

Latin America	\$	500.00
Sudan Mission		312.00

New Building Fund

Total received to date	\$	761,991.89
------------------------	----	-------------------

Offertory

Sunday envelopes	\$	17,031.01
Sunday loose		611.00
Parish Enrichment		556.00

Total Offertory	\$	18,198.01
------------------------	-----------	------------------

Offertory Goal		to be determined
-----------------------	--	-------------------------

As of August 5, 2013

Contributions Year to Date	\$	70,071.01
Projected Year to Date Budget		to be determined

Scrip Gift Cards

Sales	\$	1,695.00
Profits/Tuition Reduction		73.58

Script gift cards are available in the Parish Office from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday and every weekend after Mass.

Stewardship***Start With Prayer***

“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”
Luke 2:34

Jesus encourages us to build up our treasure in heaven. The world encourages us to build up our treasure in real estate, investments, and material goods. How much time are you investing in building up a worldly treasure? How much time are you investing in building up a heavenly treasure? To invest more time in the things of heaven, you must let go of some of the things of this world.

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

Audrey Hastings	Paul McDonnell
Ray Wieschhaus	Alice Aubuchon
Leonard Hirtz	Greg Hirtz
Glenda Clayton	Helen Maloney
Ellen O'Brien	Tom Mueller
Ralph Schultheiss	Wally Freihaut
Danielle Enghauser	Jo Ann Vess
Andy Nappier	Jackie Nappier
Cannan Pylinski	Mary Schmitt
Christine Dower	Fran Mills
Jan DeClue	Jim Jasper
Hattie Krieger, infant daughter of Kevin & Andrea	

Gene Gillman, friend of Jim/Sharon Jasper
 Phil Ambrose, father of Michelle Adams
 Lenard Nugent, cousin of Betty Oermann/Helen Wendt
 Carolyn Jordan, niece of Viola Hoeft
 Ralph Michael, father of Gerri Little
 Hilda Bowler, mother of Dave Bowler
 Peggy Bauer, sister of Katie Tutass
 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.

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)



Please pray for the repose of the soul

Fran Scanga, mother of Tony Scanga
 Gene Corley, husband of Fran

Mass Intentions

Mon	Aug 12	8:00 am	Larry/Glenda Clayton Intentions
Tues	Aug 13	8:00 am	Arleen Lammert
Wed	Aug 14	8:00 am	Tom Marrah
Thurs	Aug 15	6:15 am	Dot Hirtz
		8:00 am	Elvera Walker
		Noon	Marie Hindert
Fri	Aug 16	7:00 pm	Otto Riney
		8:00 am	Monsignor Paul Anthony
Sat	Aug 17	5:00 pm	Deceased Members of Huckshold Family
Sun	Aug 18	7:30 am	Alice Nahlik
		9:30 am	Jim Vess, Sr.
		11:30 am	People of the Parish

August 17th and 18th

Special Ministers of the Eucharist

5:00 pm	7 needed
7:30 am	*needed, *needed, 5 needed
9:30 am	*Bruce Gallion, *needed, 5 needed
11:30 am	*Larry Bottchen, *Margaret Bottchen, 5 needed

*** You are responsible to clean the vessels after Mass**

Proclaimers

5:00 pm	Barb and Joe Nenninger
7:30 am	Jim England, Linda Weber
9:30 am	Vicki De Long, Trish Larson
11:30 am	Christine Janos, Barb Oppelz

Servers

5:00 pm	G. Anderson, Amanda Kohne, Michael Reiter
7:30 am	Cameron Beck, McKenzie Beck, Alyssa Block
9:30 am	Hayden Conley, Matthew Grimes, Alec Poulsen
11:30 am	Jeremiah Pigue, Anna Reno, Joey Scanga

Ushers

5:00 pm	Don Brooks, Ken Ganey, Ben Slodkowski, Bill Clifton, Donna Clifton, Bart Heinzer
7:30 am	Doug Bjornstad, Steve Morlock, Vince Rocchio, Jeff Eschbach, Larry Lammert, John Nahlik
9:30 am	Larry Whitworth, Trish Larson, Chuck Phillips, Mary Turney, Bridget Turney, Lee Hoffman
11:30 am	Cristina Duncan, J. Younkings, Gary Freihaut, Becca Mose, Jim Robertson, Al Schuld

August 16

Cathy Morlock,
 Debbie Stephens,
 Chyree de Roode,
 Cheryl Brinker
 and Carol Delue



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C



THEME: "I come to bring division."

I want to see in Christianity peace. I want to understand Jesus' message as a call to love. I want to celebrate unity, harmony, contentment, and joy. I find the idea of division uncomfortable. I find what Jesus' words ask of me difficult and discouraging. Yet, my world is filled with values and priorities that counter the words of Jesus, that negate His command to love and to accept His call to be His follower does place me at odds with people who choose a different path. We are free to choose and the choices we make set us against each other. Choosing for Jesus does cause division.

THE READINGS:

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 38, 4-6, 8-10

The first reading, from the Book of Jeremiah, tells of Jeremiah's personal plight because of answering God's call. Jeremiah was a prophet in Jerusalem in the late days of the monarchy, before the Babylonian Exile. He was a man torn apart by his loyalties. Jeremiah was a man of his people, fiercely devoted to the people of

Israel, intent on being a prophet, a messenger for them. He loved his people. But he was also a man with a fierce love for his God and took his prophetic mission seriously. He was a man caught in between. His love and devotion to his God set him against his people. He was called to speak against them, to show them the folly of their choices, to announce the inevitable consequences of those choices – destruction at the hands of Babylon. And because of his message, his people hated him; they set out to silence him. His love for his country, for the people of Israel, made God's call distasteful and hard. Yet, his love for his God would not let him ignore his call, would not allow him to withhold God's word.

Jeremiah lived division. His story speaks to us of our call to be a means of God's will and word in the world around us and shows us what we can expect. We can show people where bad choices will lead and we can know that no one likes to have their failings pointed out. We can expect rejection and division simply for trying to choose what is good. But to act otherwise is to reject the will and word of God.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:1-4

The second reading, from the Letter to the Hebrews. This is one of the passages in the letter aimed at giving practical advice to the readers on how to live the Christian life. On the model of Christ, who suffered once and for all for sinners, who offered the one, perfect sacrifice to forgive sin, Christians are to combat sin and evil. This means sacrificing, paying a price. And, the letter assures us, though that price is difficult, it is nothing compared to the sacrifice of Jesus Himself. Whether sin and evil are encountered in our personal lives or in the world around us, we are to imitate Jesus who died for sinners. We are encouraged not to grow weary or lose heart, for the confrontation and hostility we face matters, it has value, it makes us sharers with Jesus in working towards what accomplishes God's will, overcomes evil, and brings God's peace and forgiveness to all.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 12:49-53

The reading from Luke's Gospel presents a paradox. Jesus, who came to announce that the Kingdom of God was near, who, in Luke, is guided by the Holy Spirit to offer love, hope, acceptance and forgiveness to all people, especially the poor, the outcast, the sinner, and the unwanted in human society, proclaims that He has come for division. Yet, in Luke's day, what Jesus describes literally was happening. Within a household, those who accepted Jesus, proclaimed Him as the Messiah, and embraced a way of life that went against accepted norms and customs, were ostracized by their families. Division over who and what Jesus really was, over how to live a relationship with God, over God's will and word spoken in the world and the predominant values of the world did occur and regularly. Yet out of division, out of brokenness room was made for the Spirit to work and the number of believers continued to grow. It is only by embracing and living division that alternatives become apparent; it is only by embracing and living division that we become a sign of God's love, acceptance, mercy and forgiveness for all, even those the world might deem unworthy. It is only by sacrificing for the sake of others, by paying the costs of discipleship, by setting ourselves apart that we share in the mission and ministry of Jesus and build the kingdom, build it out of the broken pieces of humanity, build it out of what has been divided for the Spirit to fashion into a new creation.

FOR REFLECTION:

- What is my image of the mission and ministry of Jesus? Do I see Jesus' mission as a mission of love and unity or a mission of confrontation and division? What has been my experience of division caused by choosing for Jesus?
- How is my role in the believing community, in the world, a prophetic role like that of Jeremiah? How am I caught in between my connectedness with God and my connectedness with other people - my family, friends, fellow parishioners, people in my neighborhood and workplace? When have I chosen good and faced rejection?
- How am I a voice against evil in the world? Do I grow weary and lose heart? Do I withdraw, do what I can to live a good life for myself and ignore the poverty, hunger, oppression, violence and injustice in the world around me?
- Does the way I live offer the world alternatives? Can people see in me a better way? Is God's love, His mercy, His will for all creation apparent in my life? Am I willing to live God's presence boldly, or merely privately?
- What has been my experience of the Holy Spirit being active in the world? How have I seen the Spirit building unity out of division, wholeness out of brokenness? Do I find hope in Jesus' words that He came to cause division or discouragement and fear?