

Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

www.olqpparish.org

September 1, 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

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 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

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****September**

- Sat 21 PSR Chili Supper
 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
 Sun 20 Easter

May

- Sun 4 First Communion
 Wed 7 Confirmation

June

- Sat 14 OLQP Picnic

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It's Free, It's Free, I'll Say It Again....IT'S FREE!!

During the last two weeks, I have been approached by several parishioners who are upset that, with our budget struggles, we are spending money on the parish resource book (parish directory) and are questioning why we are spending money mailing it to every household in the parish. "That money could have been put to better use!" I have written about this before in the bulletin, I have mentioned it at the end of Mass several times and I have sent out parish emails explaining that that our resource book and our bulletin are put together and published (and mailed) by the J.S. Paluch Company AT NO COST TO US! It is totally paid for by advertisements from area businesses. In other words: It's Free! Every week in our bulletin we try to highlight one of the businesses that support us through advertising as a way of saying thank you to them and as a way of making parishioners aware of their patronage. Please familiarize yourselves with all the companies that have ads on the back of the bulletin (but not during the homily) and when possible, send business their way. Let them know that you saw their ad in our bulletin and thank them for it.

Speaking of Budgets and Stewardship

We have come a long way since last year when we were facing a \$210,000 projected deficit and drastic measures had to be taken to correct the problem. The projected deficit has been reduced by a HUGE amount and we are close to getting the budget balanced. Although this is a good thing for the financial health of our parish, it comes at a cost to people whose jobs were either eliminated or reduced. In a couple of weeks a report will be made available to every OLQP household, with details about finances, pastoral work and the general life of the parish. This report is a part of the effort to keep parishioners informed and to invite them to become more responsible for the pastoral, financial and spiritual life of the parish. It's called Stewardship. Each year at this time we are reminded that everything we have comes from God and that part of what we have received, we give back in order to support the desires and goals of Jesus in this parish. We will hear more about putting our talents, our treasure and our time to good use advancing the mission of Jesus Christ. Stay Tuned!

Parish Activities**September 2 through 8**

- Mon Sept 2 Byrnesville Cemetery Mass, 9:00 am
 Tues Sept 3 Perpetual Devotions after 8:00 am
 Mass
 Quilters, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm,
 6:00 - 8:30 pm
 School Board meeting, 6:30 pm,
 Rectory
 Wed Sept 4 "Protecting God's Children"
 workshop, 7:00 pm, Cafeteria
 Sat Sept 7 Box City begins, 4:00 pm
 SVDP Youth taking orders for Mums
 after Mass, Church lobby
 Sun Sept 8 1st Sunday Breakfast serving after
 7:30 and 9:30 am Masses, Cafeteria
 SVDP Youth taking orders for Mums
 after all Masses, Church lobby
 Box City ends at 1:00 pm

~ fr. mike

***First Sunday Breakfast
Moved to September 8th***

(due to the Labor Day weekend)

*Breakfast is served after the
7:30 and 9:30 am Masses in the Cafeteria.
This is an "All-You-Can-Eat" Breakfast.*

Menu:

*Scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes,
biscuits and gravy, cereal, fruit cup*

orange juice, milk and coffee

Adults \$6.50; Children (6-12) \$3;

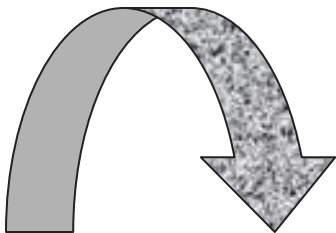
children under 5 eat free.

Byrnesville Cemetery Mass

Monday, September 2, 9:00 am

All are invited for Mass at 9:00 am at the Byrnesville Cemetery. In case of inclement weather Mass will be held in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church.

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)



***Early Bulletin Deadlines
Please plan ahead...***

I will be out of the office for the September 15th and 22nd bulletin deadlines. Please submit any articles you may have for those bulletins by Tuesday, September 3rd. Again thanks so much for your help, I appreciate all you do to help me make my bulletin deadlines..

Linda

Youth Council News

***Youth Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 3rd***

The Youth Council, under the leadership of Taylor Layton and David Holmes, will meet on Tuesday, September 3rd, from 6:00 - 7:00 pm in the classroom on the lower level of the school building.

***Confirmation Student BOX CITY Project
September 7th and 8th***

The Confirmation candidates will be taking up a collection for St. Patrick Center, the largest provider of Homeless services in the state of Missouri, after all the Masses the weekend of September 7th and 8th. We appreciate your donations to help St. Patrick Center help the homeless with positive permanent change.

High School Youth Group

September 15th and 22nd

Youth Led with Adult Support

Youth Group will meet two Sunday evenings a month during the school year from 6:00 - 7:30 pm. Youth may stay until 8:00 pm to play games if they wish but those needing to finish homework can leave at 7:30 pm. We will try to meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings of the month but in September we will meet on September 15th and 22nd because of Labor Day.

Parent Gathering During Youth Group

We are 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 high school youth are having Youth Group on Sunday evenings. This will allow the parents an opportunity 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. Don't just drop off your son or daughter at Youth Group, come and join us for the parent gathering.

Home and School Selling Entertainment Books

The Home and School Association will be selling Entertainment Coupon Books for \$30.00 each. The book includes discounts for many area restaurants, great entertainment offers, shopping discounts, and \$20 in coupon savings from Schnucks. Don't miss out on the savings. Any questions or for more information please contact René, 314-691-1203.

OLQP Big Ticket Raffle

Have you brought your Big Raffle Ticket yet? Your ticket makes you eligible to receive a chance to win in the quarterly prize (the first drawing is September 28th) and you will also be eligible for the Grand Prize. Tickets are available in the Parish Office Monday through Friday, 8:00 am until 4:30 pm and after all weekend Masses at the Scrip table. Your chance of winning the grand prize is 1 in 150!!



"Protecting God's Children" Policy

It is a policy of the Archdiocese of St. Louis that all clergy, employees and volunteers whose service in the Church brings them into contact with children must have a regular background check conducted through the Missouri Family Care Safety Registry and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for those who have lived outside the state of Missouri. They must also attend a "Protecting God's Children" Workshop and sign a "Code of Ethical Conduct."

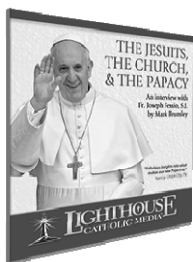
Any parent interested in volunteering to work with the school for any activity (class parties, field trips, coaching, boy or girl scout leaders) must be in compliance with these rules. Parent's status is listed on your family page in Fast Direct. New families in school will be checked shortly and their compliance box will be filled in as soon as possible.

A "Protecting God's Children" Workshop will be held here on Wednesday, Sept. 4th, in the Cafeteria from 7:00 till 9:00 pm. To register, please call Jan at the Parish Office, 636-671-3062. Registration is necessary so we will have enough handouts. Please show up 15 minutes early to fill out paperwork.

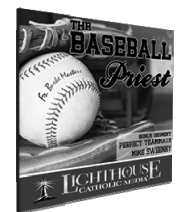
Grief Support "Seasons of Hope" Begins October 19, 9:30 - 11:30 am

OLQP Parish will host "Seasons of Hope", a unique support group for the bereaved. This program, rooted in Catholic tradition, conveys God's consolation through scripture, prayer reflection and sharing our faith. The next six week session begins Saturday, October 19, from 9:30 to 11:30 am. If you or someone you know would like more information, please contact Joan Ross, 636-677-3278, or Judy Holmes, momholmes@hotmail.com.

This program is open to all parishioners and the general public. There is no fee to attend but donations to help defray the cost of materials would be appreciated.



Brand new titles from Lighthouse Media



Now that the CD exchange is over we have a brand new selection of CDs from Lighthouse Catholic Media on our display in the lobby. *One featured in this group is "An Invitation to Consider the Catholic Faith". RCIA will be starting up soon, so if you know of anyone who might want to take a closer look at Catholicism, please share this CD with them, invite them to come, and pray for them. These CDs are a great way to share our faith, and help us to reach out to those searching for the Lord and longing for a sense of belonging.* A donation of \$3.00 for each CD is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your interest and participation in this program.



Lawn Equipment Needed

The parish is in need of:

- a good gas push mower
- a heavy duty gas line trimmer
- a heavy duty gas leaf blower

The equipment we have is worn out beyond repair. If you have any questions call Deacon Paul, 314-954-0378.

OLQP Quilters Bingo and Quilt Social Sunday, September 22

The OLQP Quilters invite parishioners, and the general public to their annual Bingo and Quilt Social. You will be playing Bingo for quilts, pillowcases and towels. All funds raised (except those used for supplies) goes to Our Lady Queen of Peace.



Register Now...Annual Missouri Catholic Conference Assembly Saturday, September 28th At our State Capitol in Jefferson City "Francis, Rebuild My Church"

Over the years the MCC Annual Assembly has become known as a premier event for Catholics to attend. It is not just about becoming better informed; the assembly offers an opportunity for Catholics to meet and share the challenges they face in their own communities and parishes. The bishops of Missouri are on hand and the day closes with an inspiring Mass at historic St. Peter Church across from the Capitol.

The theme of this year's assembly is "Francis, Rebuild My Church!" and draws inspiration from the example of our new Holy Father and the saint whose name he has adopted, St. Francis of Assisi. The keynote speaker will be the Most Reverend Richard Pates, bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa. Bishop Pates chairs the U.S. Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace. He has dealt extensively with the question of how Catholics can act in solidarity with the poor and marginalized, including immigrants and those living in poverty in emerging nations.

To register for this free event (FREE lunch also) and learn more about the Missouri Catholic Conference go to their web site at www.mocatholic.org.



Aluminum Collection September 7th and 8th

Our monthly collection is next weekend, September 7th and 8th. The trailer will be in the lower parking lot. We cannot accept aluminum foil, pans, glass, tin, plastic bottles or steel. Your continued support is always greatly appreciated!



St. Vincent De Paul

Members of our parish who wish to contact SVDP may do so by calling the Parish Office, 636-671-3062, and request that a member of SVDP call.

We would like to thank Knights of Columbus Council 6435

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.

St. Vincent de Paul Youth

In an effort to raise much needed funds for SVDP of our parish, the SVDP youth are selling beautiful, hardy mums. The mums are available in a rainbow of colors and are very reasonably priced at \$6 for an 8" potted plant. The youth will be taking orders after all Masses this weekend (August 31 - September 1st) and next weekend (September 7th - 8th). For more information or to place orders, please contact Mary, 636-274-1717.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to help those in need. All proceeds will stay with our SVDP. Thank you for your generosity.



27th Annual Harvest Moon Dinner & Auction
Saturday, October 12, 2013

Beginning Saturday, September 7, 2013 and Sunday, September 8, 2013, tickets will be available to purchase for the Annual Harvest Moon Dinner & Auction. Tickets are \$35 and will be available to purchase after all Masses.

Available only the weekend of **September 7th and 8th**, you will not only have the opportunity to purchase your tickets, but also, if you buy an entire table, you may choose where you and your guests will sit. This is a great opportunity to purchase your tickets early and also be able to sit right up front and see our auctioneers in action!

Tables may be purchased for 8 to 10 people. The entire amount is due at the time of purchase. Tickets purchased after the above mentioned weekend, tables will be assigned accordingly. So call your friends, put your money together, purchase an entire table and pick your table location!

If you have any questions or need additional ticket information, please contact Joyce Beck, 314-303-8134. For auction donation information, please contact Phyllis Kenney, 636-677-4364.

Thank you for your continued support!

Carol O'Shea Says Thank You...

To all who sent cards, gave hugs and congratulations on my award. Special thanks to Fr. Mike, friends and family for attending the service. That meant so much to me! "It is not what you have in life, but who you have that counts". OLQP Parish and community are blessings.

God Bless,
Carolejean

Retrouvaille of St. Louis

Has your marriage or the marriage of a loved one fallen on hard times? **Retrouvaille of St. Louis** offers a retreat for couples in challenging marriages to learn valuable tools to rediscover and rebuild a loving marriage relationship. **Retrouvaille of St. Louis** has a retreat scheduled for **September 20-22, 2013**. To register, contact Kieran and Dacia Gutting, 314-283-5055, or visit www.retrouvaille.com. Hope is a phone call away.

Pure Fashion
7th and 8th Grade Girls
Registration Now Open
Fun, Fashion and Friends!

Registration is now open for the 2013/2014 school year. 7th and 8th grade girls are invited to participate in an eight month program that helps girls discover why God cares about what they wear. Be a part of the **Fashion Bash - Photo Shoot**, runway walking, makeup, exercise and nutrition at **Ellipse Fitness**, fashion instruction at **Nordstrom's BP Dept.** and more! The program kicks off in September and concludes with a **Fashion Show** in March.

Pure Fashion is sponsored by the St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Youth Ministry and you can check out all the exciting details at www.smmaparish.org. Register soon, there are only 24 openings! See the website for contact information and details on how to register, or call 314-359-2459.

Justice for Immigrants *Maria's story*

A few years ago I received a phone call from a friend who asked me to go to O'Hare airport the next day to pick up an immigrant woman, Maria, who was self-reporting to ICE (U.S. Agency for Immigration and Customs Enforcement). Maria had been promised by the immigration officer who arrested her that she would receive a reduction in her sentencing if she self-reported.

My friend explained that ICE had raided a poultry packing factory the previous week, and Maria was swept up in the raid. Her husband, Miguel, a poultry packer was already serving time on the same charge.

Maria and Miguel were caring for their three small children, all under ten years of age and two elderly parents. The children, born in the U.S., were with their grandparents, who were unable to work.

Once in the terminal, I had no difficulty finding her, she was crying and visibly shaken.

Her children had never lived in Mexico. What would they do if she was deported? Her parents were undocumented. Would the US Government take her children away and put them up for adoption? "Mexico is my country, but we cannot feed our children there", she cried. "There is no work in Mexico. We work hard here in the poultry factories where Americans do not want to work. We pay taxes. We are never in trouble with the police. Why send us back where we will not be able to work and take care of our children?"

She prayed that God would help her and her family. She prayed for Miguel, that the Virgin Mary would protect him. She prayed to St. Joseph for her parents. She prayed to the Child Jesus for her children. Although Maria had been working for 11 years in the poultry factory, she was "illegal" and would eventually be deported. Her children could remain US citizens but, without family supervision, they would either be sent to foster care or Maria would have to take them with her to Mexico. Her husband's resistance to arrest would prevent his ever re-applying for legal entry to the US.

One Sunday, I arrived at Maria's prison only to discover that she had been deported.

Maria's family is now together in Mexico. Her children are learning Spanish and adjusting to a new country. They don't understand the circumstances of their being torn from the country of their birth. Maria and her husband, Miguel struggle to find work every day just to seek out a living to meet the family's basic human needs. From time to time, they talk about the food days they shared in Illinois. But, those days are fading fast from memory as the daily grind of life in their besieged country demands more and more of their attention and energy.

Seven Days of Inspiration

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

Day 1

Think of yourself as
a sunrise: new and
beautiful every day!

Day 2

You are remarkable!

Day 3

Miracles can defy
all odds.

Day 4

Angels always do
their job well.

Day 5

Let the right path
rise up to meet you.

Day 6

You are the wind
in someone's sails.

Day 7

Meaning can be
found in the most
ordinary days.

Retreat For Divorced and Separated

A three-day Koinonia Retreat for those who have experienced the pain of separation and divorce will be held September 27 - 29, 2013 at the Villa Maria on Lake Springfield, Illinois; beginning with dinner, Friday at 5:30 p.m. \$110 includes meals and lodging for the weekend. For more information, please contact Deacon Patrick O'Toole at Office for Marriage & Family Life, Diocese of Springfield, Illinois at 217-698-8500.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our next Eucharistic Adoration is
Wednesday, September 25,
from 1:00 – 8:00 pm.

Come visit with Jesus. In the stillness of the sanctuary,
in the Presence of Christ, offer your heart.

Upcoming Wedding
Our Lady of Sorrows
Jeffrey Miller and Tara Chafin
September 7, 2013

St. Anthony Padua Fall Fest
(High Ridge)

Friday, September 20th, 6:00 pm - 12 pm

Live music (Fred and the Rangers) food beverages and games. Saturday begins with parade at noon followed by games and inflatables for all ages, food, beverages, pony rides, Starbound and Clarkson Irish dancers, Fried Chicken Dinner, and washer tournament. Live music from Tower Music and an evening show from Black Tie Affair. Information on sponsors or donations please call Jim, 314-596-6202.

CRAFTERS NEEDED!
Big River Nursing and Rehab
Saturday, October 19th

Big River Nursing and Rehab in Cedar Hill will be hosting our first annual Fall Festival! We need crafters for several booths! The booth will not cost anything to the crafter, and any sales you make are yours to keep! We will ask each booth to donate one item (\$10-\$20 value) for door prizes, and you can put your business card on the item so the winner will know where to get more of your craft!

Please Call Jenn Lessor, 636-671-2763; or email Paula at bigriver_act@yahoo.com to reserve your spot! Spots are limited so please reserve early!

Mark your calendars for October 19 from 1- 4 pm. We suggest you arrive by 12 pm (at *the latest*) to set up.

Our Gifts to God and Parish

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

Special Collections

Mission	\$	50.00
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Building Fund to Date	\$	762,268.30
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Offertory

Sunday envelopes	\$	13,778.90
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Sunday loose		659.00
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Assumption		124.16
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Parish Enrichment		15.00
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Total Offertory	\$	14,577.06
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Offertory Goal	\$	13,200.00
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As of August 26, 2013

Contributions Year to Date	\$	103,834.22
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Projected Year to Date Budget	\$	105,600.00
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Scrip Gift Cards

Sales	\$	6,885.00
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Profits/Tuition Reduction	\$	203.56
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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

"Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you." Luke 14:14

We have a difficult time with the concept of giving without expecting something in return. Even when we give to charity we often want something in return – a raffle ticket, a dinner, or a chance to play golf. Yet, as Christian stewards we need to remember that the true reward for our giving awaits us in heaven.

*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	Ellen O'Brien
Ralph Schultheiss	Danielle Enghauser
Christine Dower	Fran Mills
Jan DeClue	Wally Freihaut
Bernard Henning	Brian Bueter
Gerry Bufka	Adolph Gillman

Ed Rabbitt Sr., father of Tammy Groppe
 Allen Chott, nephew of Judy Mottert
 Mary Jane Ortmann, mother of Richard Ortmann
 Shirley Clinrrd, friend of Helen Wendt
 Ralph Michael, father of Gerri Little
 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.

Mass Intentions

Mon	Sept 2	9:00 am	Jeanette Ellison
Tues	Sept 3	8:00 am	Ed Carley
Wed	Sept 4	8:00 am	Delores Diederichsen
Thurs	Sept 5	8:00 am	Poor Souls
Frii	Sept 6	8:00 am	Gene Corley
Sat	Sept 7	8:00 am	Tom Finder
		5:00 pm	Al and Mary McFarland
Sun	Sept 8	7:30 am	Alice Nahlik
		9:30 am	Arleen Lammert
		11:30 am	People of the Parish

September 7th and 8th

Special Ministers of the Eucharist

5:00 pm 7 needed
 7:30 am *Jim England, 6 needed
 9:30 am *Bruce Gallion, *Maria Webb, 5 needed
 11:30 am 7 needed

* You are responsible to clean the vessels after Mass

Proclaimers

5:00 pm Peggy Mikko, Terry Soer
 7:30 am Jim England, Scott Reimer
 9:30 am Bruce Gallion, Maria Webb
 11:30 am Margaret Gerling, Laura Huss

Servers

5:00 pm Reagan Becnel, Augie Eimer, Sara Eimer
 7:30 am McKenzie Beck, A. Block, Cameron Gerber
 9:30 am G. Lucas, Sara Osborne, Noah Sudholt
 11:30 am M. Bruggemann, S. Marting, Lexi Schmidt

Ushers

5:00 pm Bart Heinzer, Jeff Heibeck, Pat Hoskins,
 Helen Stewart, Dixie Garrett, Katie Tutass
 7:30 am Ted Hempten, Vince Rocchio, Tim Webb,
 Jerry Terry, Doug Bjornstad, Steve Morlock
 9:30 am L. Whitworth, Trish Larson, Chuck Phillips,
 Mary Turney, Bridget Turney, Lee Hoffman
 11:30 am Jim Robertson, Al Schuld, David Witt,
 Larry Bottchen, John and David Holmes

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

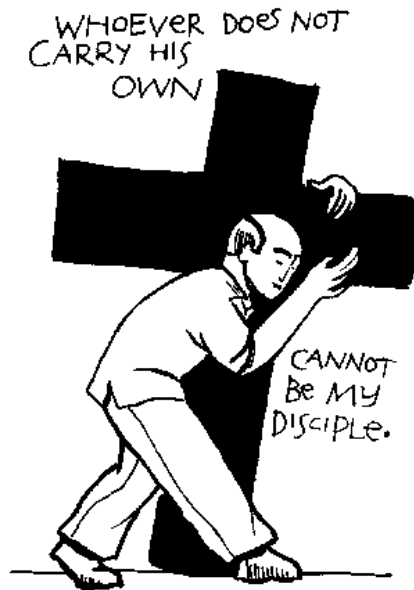
Please pray for the repose of the soul

*Leona Rogers,
 friend of Chuck and Georgia Phillips
 Arlan Huegler,
 brother-in-law of Dave Bowler*



September 6
 Donna O'Malley,
 Theresa Haug,
 Mary Copeland,
 Ed Kelemen
 and Darlene Allmeroth

**Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C**



THEME: “People were taught what pleases you and were saved by Wisdom.”

In ancient Israel, wisdom was understood as the order of God’s plan manifesting itself in the world around us. Human beings were viewed in a very positive light. We can learn this wisdom; we can learn the lessons of God’s order in the world and live good lives, lives of balance and peace. Still, wisdom was always realistic. Some things are beyond us. We are limited. We are not God. To realize this, to learn from God’s word and plan, to know our place in the greater scheme of things – this is wisdom.

THE READINGS:

FIRST READING: Wisdom 9:13-18

The first reading comes from the Book of Wisdom, a late wisdom writing that was intended to direct the people of Israel to live well in the larger Greco-Roman world. The subject matter of today’s reading is very similar to the great poem to wisdom in chapter 28 of Job. Wisdom is seen as a gift, a gift achieved through careful attention. Humans can come to understand the ways of life on earth, but only because they are capable of seeing God’s order and plan in the world around them. But who has traced out the heavens? That is the realm of God

and that is beyond us. By the time the Book of Wisdom was written, God’s wisdom had become identified especially with His word in scripture and most especially with the Torah. The primary meaning of *Torah* is *teaching* and this teaching has allowed people to set their ways right on earth, to find salvation through God’s wisdom. That salvation is caught up in making the most of our lives, making the most of what we can know and working to achieve what knowledge we can, but also living within our limits, living a right relationship with our God, acknowledging that what we can know and master is a gift, a gift contained in God’s order, wisdom, and teaching.

SECOND READING: Philemon 9-10, 12-17

The second reading comes from Paul’s Letter to Philemon. Philemon is considered one of the captivity letters, a letter coming from the end of Paul’s life prior to his martyrdom in Rome. It seems that a certain Onesimus, a run-away slave of Philemon, has found his way to Paul and been converted to Christianity. Paul appeals to Philemon to receive him back, not as a run-away slave to be punished but as a brother in Christ. In his teaching about the Christian life, Paul has said that there is no longer slave or free, Jew or Gentile, male or female, but that all are one in Christ. Here, then, is a practical example. If we can see God’s will and plan working itself out in the world around us, then our relationships with each other are radically altered. All people have a place in God’s plan; all people can become brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. This means that all people deserve to be treated with the dignity, love and respect accorded to family. In concrete terms, here is one example of God’s wisdom, His teaching about what brings peace and balance to life in the world as we know it. Paul does not speak for or against slavery, but for treating all others with love and dignity, whatever their personal circumstances, because of the intimate connection we have with other people in Jesus Christ. This is a lesson of God’s wisdom.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 14:25-33

The Gospel reading from Luke also presents concrete examples of human wisdom versus ultimate significance. The passage begins with a pronouncement that following Jesus can entail severing ties with family and sacrifice. In the early days of the Christian movement, this pronouncement merely reflects reality. To become Christian often meant severing ties with family and friends – whether in the Jewish or Gentile world. There was a price to pay for becoming a follower of Jesus. Was it worth it? Luke gives two illustrations of human wisdom. No one would set out to build a tower without first calculating whether he had the resources to finish the project and no king would set out for battle without having the troops to have a chance to win. We know how to plan and live in this world with an eye to success. We weigh the cost of what we want against the final benefit and determine if it is worth the price, worth the risk. Do we do the same for what has ultimate significance?

In the end, Luke's Jesus makes another pronouncement, "None of you can become my disciple unless you give up all your possessions." This is a hard saying, but true. Possessions give us a sense of mastery over our world. With the right resources we can build a tower or whatever we want. We can enjoy the good things of this world. With enough resources we can conquer an enemy, achieve power, enforce our will on others, be in control. But that power and control is transitory. It belongs to this world and passes with our death. What have we ultimately achieved? But renouncing power and control in this world, looking beyond what our possessions can achieve for us, opens us to the possibility of living for eternity, living for what we can't buy or earn or conquer. There's a price to pay for this, the price of rejecting the ways of this world for the sake of the world to come, for the sake of the Kingdom of God. What we can achieve here is limited. Can we let go of the limited for the sake of the timeless and

unlimited? Can we accept the wisdom of God's teachings?

FOR REFLECTION:

- What is my place in the greater scheme of things? What does God's Wisdom have to say to me?
- Where do I confront my limitations? Where am I tempted to go beyond my limitations? When do I need to remind myself that I am not God?
- Can I see all people in the Christian community as brothers and sisters? Do I make distinctions? How does making distinctions keep me from fully living my call to discipleship?
- What is the cost of discipleship for me? What do I need to give up for the sake of following Jesus more fully?
- How do I balance Luke's call to renounce possessions with the need to make a living, care for my family, provide for the needs of others?