

Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

www.olqpparish.org

May 20, 2012



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

Ms. Renée Chauvin

PSR COORDINATOR

Mrs. Debra O'Donnell

YOUTH MINISTER COORDINATOR

Mrs. Terry Ostlund

PARISH COUNCIL

Thomas Broadbent, Jacob Bufka, Sandee Burkemper,
Joanne David, Bev Gregory, René Heibeck, Dave Mills,
Denise Ortmann, Rich Ortmann, Rebecca Pigue,
Jan Schultheiss, 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

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.

Welcome to Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish

We rejoice to have you with us, whether a long-time resident or newly arrived in our parish! Please fill out this form and return it to the Parish Office or place it in the Sunday collection basket if you would like to be a registered member of our parish. **If you have recently changed your status, married, moved out of your parents' home or graduated from college, you need to re-register.** Please help us keep our records in order.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Phone _____ # of people registering _____

email address _____

Please circle one: New Registration Address or phone number change Moving out of parish

Upcoming OLQP Parish Events

June

- Sat 9 OLQP Picnic
Thu 28 OLQP Blood Drive, Cafeteria

July

- Mon 9 Vacation Bible School starts - ends 7/12
Sun 15 Hope Builders
Mon 23 Athletic Assoc. Soccer Camp - ends 7/26

August

- Sat 18 Daughters Tailgate Sale
Knights Fairmont Horse Races

September

- Sat 22 PSR Chili Supper, Cafeteria
Sun 23 OLQP Quilt Social, Knights Hall

October

- Sat 6 Hoedown
Sat 13 Harvest Moon Auction, Knights Hall
Sun 14 Fall Festival, Cafeteria
Sun 28 Daughters Fashion Show, Cafeteria

November

- Thu 22 Thanksgiving

December

- Sat 8 Immaculate Conception
Tue 25 Christmas

If we get close to our goal, we will still accept donations after this deadline. We should know early next week what direction this project is going to go. Once again, if we fall short of our goal, all contributions will be returned to donors.

The Piarist Fathers

Next weekend, a missionary representative from the Piarist Fathers will be at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish to speak at all the Masses as part of the annual Missionary Plan of Cooperation. The Piarist Fathers were founded by St. Joseph Calasanz in 1617 to provide education for the poor. In the United States, they work in Appalachia, in Eastern Kentucky, with "the most economically depressed of America's poor". They run a high school in Floyd County, one of the poorest counties in the state. Taking into account the extreme poverty of the people, the Piarists's decided that the school would be tuition-free and dependent on the charitable contributions of the people of God for existence. Please be generous in supporting their work. (I will be looking for volunteers to transport our guest to and from the airport and to and from Liguori, where he will be staying. If anyone is available, please contact me.)

OLQP Strategic Plan

About a year and a half ago, a survey was given asking parishioners to state what they felt were the strengths of the parish and what needed to be changed or improved. The results of the survey were handed over to a special committee which has worked for over a year to develop a strategic plan based upon the data from the survey. The Strategic Plan is finished and is now being presented to the Parish Council for review and acceptance. It will then be published and presented to the parish.

Stewardship

Last Monday, the director of the Archdiocesan Stewardship office was present at Our Lady Queen of Peace parish to talk to us about Stewardship. After the presentation, I asked those who were in attendance to consider becoming part of our Stewardship Committee. We will hold a meeting on **Tuesday evening, May 29th, at 6:30pm** in the Cafeteria meeting room in order to get organized. If anyone is interested in being a part of this committee, please send me an email: frmurphy@olqpparish.org.

Fr. Mike

**FROM the
PASTOR**

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Sign Update

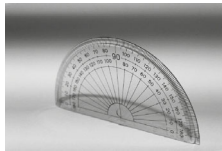
As of Monday morning, May 14th, we have raised a little over \$13,000 which is half of what is needed for the electronic sign. I set May 20th as a deadline for donations with the hope of actually getting the new sign up in time for our picnic.

School News

Our twenty-five 8th graders, along with the PSR 8th grade students, were confirmed on Monday evening, May 7th. The ceremony was beautiful and well attended. A reception followed in the cafeteria. Your school family congratulates you on this very important occasion – full communion in the Catholic Church!

Field Day was held on Friday, May 11th. Teams made up of students from all grade levels dressed in team colors and participated in the events. Each child took home a Field Day 2012 participation ribbon.

The Duke University Talent Identification Program honored OLQP 7th graders, Cassidy Love and Zachary Morlock, at the 2012 Missouri Recognition Ceremony on May 18th at Drury University in Springfield. They were being recognized for their high ACT scores as part of the 7th Grade Talent Search. Of the 3,060 Missouri 7th graders who took part in this year's talent search, 1,653 qualified for state recognition. Congratulations, Cassidy and Zach!



OLQP Preschool Registration

The 2012-2013 OLQP Preschool registration is going on now! Please contact Mrs. Laura, 636-671-3062 for more information or to request enrollment forms. An early start is a bright start! We look forward to growing with you!



OLQP Preschool Summer Camp!!!

An exciting week of exploring, fun and learning await your child this June 4th - 8th, 2012. The camp is open to children three years old (potty trained) thru children who are entering Kindergarten in the fall. Call Mrs. Laura, 636-671-3062, today to save a spot for your little one.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Precious Metals Thank You

Thank you for donating to our monthly "Precious Metals Collection". You helped raise \$65 for OLQP Youth Ministry.

"IT" Group News

This week's meeting is a celebration!!! We will be welcoming the new 8th grade graduates. Join us for fun, food, and fellowship at 6 pm in the Cafeteria meeting room. All High School youth are invited to attend.

Have you signed up? - Don't delay; sign up today for our summer retreat at Camp Trinity, in New Haven, MO. Registration forms are due by June 1st so make sure you go online **Registration forms available on Facebook at the link below.**

"Speak for Your Servant is Listening" Summer Youth Retreat - July 6th - 8th, 2012 - Mark your calendars now to save the date!

Upcoming meetings and events:

May 20th - 8th Grade Welcome event - Be sure to join us Sunday night as we welcome our newest members into the group.

May 27th - Memorial Day weekend - No meeting - Enjoy some family time!!

Summer Hope Builders - July 15th - 20th, 2012

Parents:

Feel free to keep up with all of the "IT" happenings online. Join us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/olqpyouthgroup/

Never been to Youth Group?

We meet most Sunday evenings from 6 pm - 8 pm in the Cafeteria Meeting room. Watch the bulletin!

To become part of "The IT Group" - all you need to do is show up and you're in.

All teens in 9th - 12th grade are welcome to join us!
Everyone is invited!!

John and Sue Whitehead
314-954-7461

Terry Ostlund, Youth Minister
314-566-8363

**OLQP Blood Drive
Thursday, June 28th
2 - 7 pm in the Cafeteria**

Giving blood is a vital community service. Without dedicated volunteer blood donors, there would be no blood supply. Give the gift of life by giving blood regularly - it will be felt for a lifetime!

Donors are eligible to give whole blood every eight weeks (56 days). To donate at our drive your last donation must have been before May 3rd.

OLQP Motorcycle Riders

Once again the OLQP motorcycle riders had a great time riding together. Those who participated were: Tom and Margaret Gerling, Peter and Sandy Allen, Dave Mills, Kevin Miller and Ken Bohnert. We rode a few of the back roads of Jefferson County. Once again we stopped at the De Soto Dairy Queen for refreshments and fun conversation. We rode 59 miles and were out for about 2 hours. Our next ride is set for June 2nd or 3rd and may include a poker run put on by JoAnn David in honor of her late husband, Gary. If interested in joining us call Ken, 314-607-9802



Parish Corner

Every week a different organization is featured in the bulletin.

No organization this week.

Please Patronize Our Sponsors

We wish to thank **Rockwood Bank** for being a sponsor for our bulletin. Because of their generosity we do not pay to have our bulletins printed. Please remember to patronize our sponsors when in need of their type of service.



St. Vincent De Paul

Today as we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension we are reminded that Christ's saving work on earth continues through His disciples...and now through us.

Thank You From Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus Fr. Jeremiah Murphy Council #6435 would like to thank Our Lady Queen of Peace parishioners, grade school, PSR, and the community in raising \$8,000.00 and climbing for the Pro-Life ultrasound initiative. Congratulations to Lora Randell on winning the raffle. Anyone with baby bottles are encouraged to return them, empty or full, to the church or call Mike Heller 636-274-2733.

**OLQP Building and Facilities
Wish List**

1. Repair fencing on top of; and paint retaining wall behind the dumpster at the Field House
2. Repair and paint fencing at; and clean out area in the sewerage treatment plant. Prepare area for new treatment equipment.
Call Deacon Paul for info: 314-954-0378

Parish Strategic Plan for Renewal and Growth Soon to be Published

Our Lady Queen of Peace is a parish of approximately 1,200 registered families, 400 of whom are estimated to be active Mass attendees. While accurate census data needs to be obtained, an overall goal for the parish, determined by the recent parish survey, was to increase active participation in parish life, both in Mass attendance and through participation in parish projects and activities. In the Strategic Plan for Renewal and Growth, 62.5% of areas addressed by the plan in some way involve increasing active participation in prayer, service and social aspects of parish life. Presently active families are being entrusted with making this happen. We are hoping to increase the vitality of our parish through Evangelization and Welcoming efforts, Stewardship programs, and inviting all to active roles in the liturgy and prayer life of the parish.

Our Lady Queen of Peace School is dedicated to become the Catholic presence and the school of choice in this area of Jefferson County. The plan calls for continuous improvement in educational programs that will meet or surpass the educational opportunities available in the best public schools in our area. It is our goal, through comprehensive marketing efforts to increase enrollment to over 200 students by the school year 2014/2015.

Provision of a parish center/school/athletic complex has been identified as the number one priority of the entire parish according to 2 recent parish surveys. The surveys also indicated recognition of the need to stabilize parish finances before we would be able to move ahead with any building project. A restructured Finance Committee and a new Stewardship effort are already working to accomplish this stabilization so that the Building Committee, charged with revisiting building plans and parish needs, can move forward with the final capital campaign to allow us to build the needed facilities.

Parish surveys and the visioning committee recognized many good activities taking place in our parish – prayer and formational opportunities, service and outreach efforts, and social opportunities. In all of these activities, there was a perceived fragmentation, a lack of communication and coordination of efforts. The Strategic Plan attempts to build parish unity and identity by addressing the need to be more organized, coordinated and intentional in what we do. The plan provides for not only organizational structures to guide us, but builds into these structures clear lines of communication that will foster cooperation among individuals, committees and organizations in promoting a unified parish life. In fostering this sense of intentionality and cooperation, the plan envisions a welcoming and inclusion of all parishioners, old and young, married and single, in ministries, organizations, and parish decision making committees.

Throughout the diocese and the whole Church in the United States there is a growing movement of Evangelization. The Strategic Plan for Our Lady Queen of Peace envisions stressing Evangelization as the key to living our mission as a believing community. The plan calls for the creation of a Parish Evangelization Commission charged with maintaining an hospitable and welcoming atmosphere in the parish community; coordinating efforts with formational/educational groups to share the Good News with active Catholics, inactive Catholics, non-Catholics and non-believers, inviting people to constant conversion to Jesus and to embracing the mission to spread the Gospel message and, in imitation of Jesus, meet the needs of others.

Again, in promoting unity and establishing a sense of parish identity, the Strategic Plan looks to eliminate a perceived “invisibility” of parish youth. The Plan calls for a revitalization of the Parish Youth Ministry, the creation of youth and young adult groups that serve the needs of the young people of the parish, and an active outreach on the part of all parish organizations to invite and welcome young people to their rightful places in the activities and life of the parish.

Finally, to facilitate the work of all parish agencies and to promote a common identity, the Plan calls for the creation of a Communications Commission whose role will be to design and carry out communication campaigns for the parish as a whole and for all of its organizations and agencies, fostering cooperation among all individuals and groups and working to overcome the fragmentation that has been perceived.

Our Lady Queen of Peace parish exists for and because of its members. We depend on each other. We work together as a community of believers sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and living Gospel values. All of us are being called to do our part in the renewal and growth of our parish.

Peace Pantry Monthly Collection

Due to the generous donation from the US Postal workers food collection, there will be no monthly collection this month.



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

Something to ponder...

Is Jesus the center of your life?

Your defeats in the eyes of the world are so often your victories in the eyes of God.

Seven Days of Inspiration

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

We have 50,000
thoughts a day. Each
one is a new chance to
think positive!

You are destined
to succeed.

Cheer yourself on the
way you root for
everyone else.

A welcome change
is on its way.

A small kindness
can make a big
difference.

Just for today,
ignore your to-do list.

Give yourself a
reason to smile.

Il Ritiro Retreat Center

Mass of Anointing of the Sick

The Franciscan Community of Il Ritiro, Dittmer, has a 10 am Mass for Anointing of the Sick the fourth Sunday of every month at its Chapel of Our Lady of the Cedars. All those who are sick and in need of reception of this healing Sacrament are invited to come.

"By the sacred anointing of the sick and the prayers of the priests the whole Church commends those who are ill to the suffering and glorified Lord, that He may raise them up and save them". (Catechism of the Catholic Church)

The Il Ritiro Retreat is located in Dittmer on Eime Road and St. Francis Lane. For additional information, please call, 636-274-1736.

Memorial Fundraiser for Cancer Research

The 6th Annual Pizza Shack Fundraiser in memory of Gary David will be held Saturday, June 2nd, at Pizza Shack restaurant in St. Clair at 130 Highway AB on the service road. This year's Cruising for a Cure Poker Run will begin and end at the Pizza Shack. Registration begins at 11 am. There is an entry fee of \$25. All vehicles welcome. Food, fun, 50/50's prizes and raffles are also included at the restaurant throughout the day until 8 pm. So come out for a good time even if you do not cruise for the Poker Run. All proceeds will go to Cancer Research at the Siteman Cancer Center. For more information, please call Joanne David, 636-274-0590.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our next Eucharistic Adoration is
Wednesday, May 30th,
from 1:00 – 8:00 pm.

Come visit with Jesus. He is waiting for you in the Eucharist. His love flows from Him, saturating you completely. In the stillness of the sanctuary, in the Presence of Christ, offer your heart.

OLQP Parish Email List

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

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

It's easy and safe to [subscribe](#) and [unsubscribe](#).

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

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

OR

Email your name and email address to:

frbeighlie@olqpparish.org

Our Gifts to God and Parish**Special Collections**

Communications	\$	35.00
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Offertory

Sunday Envelopes	\$	10,191.00
Sunday Loose	\$	748.00
Above and Beyond	\$	25.00
Ascension	\$	145.00
Present and Future	\$	95.00
Total Offertory	\$	11,204.00
Offertory Goal	\$	14,000.00

Thank you for your generosity.

1,178 registered members

238 online, loose and envelopes used this week

As of May 14, 2011

Contributions Year To Date	\$	559,591.36
Projected Year to Date Budget	\$	644,000.00

Scrip Gift Cards

Sales	\$	1,600.00
Profits/tuition reduction	\$	62.64

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

Catholics Come Home®

The recent successful *Catholics Come Home®* initiative increased Mass attendance by 8.3% (approximately 37,000 individuals) in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. In an effort to inspire all of us to witness to our Catholic faith and gain a greater appreciation for the gift of our faith, the Archdiocese is planning to share stories from individuals who have recently *come home* to the Catholic Church. **If you know one of these individuals willing to share his or her story, please contact Seth Jansen at 314-792-7178 or sethjansen@archstl.org.**

Please pray for the success of this evangelization effort. Thank you.

Stewardship**Start With Prayer**

"This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen Him going into heaven." Acts 1:11

How strong is your faith? Do you believe that Jesus will return? In the Gospel Jesus tells us that He will return and when He does He will separate us into sheep and goats, depending on how much we used our blessings to help those in need. So how strong is your faith? The answer can be found in how much you give.

Parish Activities

Mon	May 21	Rosary for Peace, 7:30 pm, Church
Tues	May 22	Devotions after 8 am Mass Quilters, 9 am - 3 pm, 6 - 8:30 pm Finance meeting, 6:30 pm, Rectory
Thur	May 24	Choir Practice, 7 pm, Church
Fri	May 25	OLQP last day of school
Sat	May 26	Grief Support, 9:30 am, Cafeteria meeting room
Sun	May 27	Pentecost Sunday No "IT" Youth meeting

Mass Intentions

Mon	May 21	8:00 am	Virginia Hilgert
Tues	May 22	8:00 am	Rita Wende
Wed	May 23	8:00 am	Erma Slack
Thurs	May 24	8:00 am	Warren & Bernice Dierks
Fri	May 25	8:00 am	Nelda Berendzen
Sat	May 26	5:00 pm	Patrick & Florence Heller
Sun	May 27	7:30 am	Rita Wende
		9:30 am	People of the Parish
		11:30 am	Deacon Tom Murphy

May 26th and 27th

Special Ministers of the Eucharist

5:00 pm	Bev Gregory, Ralph Munzlinger, Shirley Tenny, *Barb & *Joe Nenninger, Maryann Turek, Katie Tutass
7:30 am	Gerald Bachmann, *Mary Bjornstad, Michele Huff, Andrea Lawson, Richard Ortmann, Joyce Stenger, Linda Weber
9:30 am	Clay Gregorc, Trish Guethle, Joyce & Michael Ruopp, Jan Schultheiss, Kelly Smith, *Paul Stonecypher, *Nancy Wilfong
11:30 am	Debbie Cleek, Angie Ecker, *Barb Oppelz, Lynette & Patrick Rawlins, Joan Ross, *Sharon Schmidt

* You are responsible to clean the vessels after Mass

Proclaimers

5:00 pm	Youth Ministry
7:30 am	Scott Reimer, Ann Riley
9:30 am	Dale Andrews, Tom Mattingly
11:30 am	Christine Janos, Judy Janos

Servers

5:00 pm	Rachel Cundy, Michael Reiter, Dylan Werner
7:30 am	Marissa & Mitchell Ginger, Zachary Morlock
9:30 am	G. Anderson, Hayden Conley, Gabrielle Lucas
11:30 am	Tom Carbone, Don Constantz, Darby O'Donnell

Ushers

5:00 pm	Youth Ministry
7:30 am	Carl Boyer, Donna Clifton, Ted Hempten, Larry Lammert, Steve Morlock, Vince Rocchio
9:30 am	Tom Broadbent, Lee Hoffman, Butch Mattingly, Sam Pierceall, Jeff Queen, Ralph Schultheiss
11:30 am	Larry Bottchen, Don Brooks, Gary Freihaut, Paul McDonnell, Don Reno, Ben Slodkowski

Please pray for those who are ill

(parishioners are in bold)

Frieda Siebel-Spath	Maria Stonecypher
Maryann Barnett	Audrey Hastings
Bill Dicus	Bill Giblin
Samuel James	Vince Rocchio

- Lucy Alma DeClue, mother of Ken DeClue
- Iris Neuman, friend of Katie Tutass
- Gary Wilfong, brother of Rich Wilfong
- Trudy Girard, sister of Lynette Rawlins
- Holly Smith, daughter of Lynette Rawlins
- Rachel Preston, granddaughter of Lynette Rawlins
- Louise Gunter, mother of Lynette Rawlins
- Jim Rawlins, husband of Lynette Rawlins
- Michael Patchin, son of Ella Silve
- Peyton Carley, granddaughter of Mark & Cathy Carley
- Kevin McBroom, son of Sharon McBroom
- Ione B. Thomas, of our community
- Maryann Stewart, sister of Tim Lodes
- Allen Chott, nephew of Judy Mottert

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)**



Diane Yocom,
Susan Whitworth,
Joanne David,
Joan Thompkins
and Helen Stewart



**Our Lady Queen of Peace
House Springs, MO
June 9th, 2012
Noon – 10pm**

Sponsors

Please consider sponsoring a booth, game or the main stage. Help make our picnic a success! Call Bobbi Jo 636-677-6641

PARKING

NEW: There will be some reserved parking at a cost of \$20.00/car. This does not include in & out privileges.



OLQP youth - it's time to sign up for this year's Minute to Win it Challenge We're looking for 7th thru 12th graders to sign up as contestants. Players will be teamed up, or you can sign up with your friend as a team. Limited to the first 20 People; your team will be competing against the other teams for some great prizes. Games to be announced closer to the event, don't hesitate to sign up. Must be available at the picnic from 4pm to 5 pm to play. Contact John and Sue at 636-677-7461 or whitehead.jw@gmail.com to sign up.



FRIDAY NIGHT FUN

Join us Friday evening, June 8th, to kick off the Picnic festivities. There will be music and fun from 7pm - 11pm. Food and drink will be available for purchase. THIS IS FOR ADULTS ONLY.

Donations Needed!

Basket Raffle, Game, Plant, and Craft Booths are Currently looking for donations. Please drop donations in the Parish Office

Pie Bakers & Tasters Wanted!!!
Please contact Jane Saggio to sign up
636-692-3650

Picnic Volunteers Needed

Meet new people and enjoy time with friends by signing up to work at the picnic. It is also a great way to acquire service hours or spend some one on one time with your child. Sign ups begin after all masses or online.



Entertainment Schedule

- Noon – Welcome message/Opening Prayer
- Noon – 12:30 – Ms. Jeannie Dance Studio
- 1:00pm – 4:00pm – Kingdom Brothers Band
- 6:00pm – 10:00pm – Sh-Boom Band
- 10:00pm - Fireworks

Bracelets for unlimited use of Inflatables and Laser Tag can be purchased in Parish Office or after masses. \$20/ea or buy 3 get the 4th 1/2 price in advance only. Day of event \$25/ea

**Pentecost Sunday
Cycle B**



THEME: Our Mission Begins.

On Pentecost, the Season of Easter draws to a close and we move into Ordinary Time, the time of the Church, our time. Pentecost itself celebrates the beginning of the work of the Church. The followers of Jesus, commissioned by Him to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth are empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfill their mission. On Pentecost we are reminded again and dedicate ourselves again to our task of caring for the needs of others and bringing God's offer of love and reconciliation to all the world.

THE READINGS:

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-11

The first reading for Pentecost Sunday is Luke's account of the coming of the Holy Spirit from Acts of the Apostles. The description of the mighty wind and the tongues of fire make it clear that Luke views the coming of the Spirit as a demonstration of the power of God. The description recalls Old Testament theophanies – manifestations of God in His power for the sake of His people.

In Luke's conception, the miracle of Pentecost is that all people, whatever their languages or backgrounds, could understand the apostles. What we have to offer as witnesses to Jesus does not depend on human words and human language, but on the presence of the Spirit in our lives. If we live the message of Jesus Christ, if we adhere to His command of love, what we have to offer others within the believing community, what the believing community has to offer to the world will be obvious. The Spirit will create unity out of diversity.

SECOND READING: I Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

The second reading is taken from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Paul's message to the Corinthian community is a meditation on the effects of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believing community. Disunity was a problem in the Corinthian community. Some were claiming that special gifts and abilities were the true signs of membership and the possession of the Spirit. Against this, Paul stresses that there are many gifts, that each member of the community has something to offer, that all the diverse gifts are given by the same Holy Spirit for the building up of the community. Paul preaches that God's offer of salvation and His gift of the Spirit to enliven the believing community, is not intended to reduce all to one, but rather to build up the community, to forge a unity out of a diversity of talents, abilities, and gifts. Diversity and diverse gifts and contributions are not meant to be a means of separating people, but of creating a unity characterized by a richness of human experience, a richness of expressions, a richness of human talents and contributions, a richness of the Spirit's gifts poured on all for the sake of all.

or Galatians 5:16-25

For Cycle B, the alternate second reading is taken from Paul's Letter to the Galatians. The reading draws on one of Paul's key themes – freedom from the Law. His basic point is that the Law prohibits evil actions. The Spirit, however, fills us with gifts that, if lived,

render such prohibitions useless. Those who are filled with the Spirit, with the life of God within them, will be loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, generous, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled. For such people, there is no need to control evil impulses because they live in a way that renders such impulses meaningless.

It is this Spirit, bearing fruit within the community of believers and enlivening the Church for the good of all members, that is the heart of the Pentecost message and celebration. The Spirit enables us to live well as followers of Jesus, as members of Christ's body, and as a means of God's love and presence in the world.

GOSPEL READING: John 20:19-23

The Gospel for Pentecost is John's account of the first resurrection appearance to the gathered disciples. In His death and resurrection, for John, Jesus is glorified by His Father. His glorification brings His earthly mission to a close. In this resurrection appearance, Jesus commissions His disciples, He sends them just as the Father had sent Him. They are to proclaim a forgiveness of sin, a reconciliation of people with God that has been definitively accomplished in Jesus Christ. Here is the new creation. At the beginning, God breathed on the world to bring creation into being. Now Jesus breathes on the disciples, imparts to them God's Spirit, to begin the new creation, the creation of a world at one with the Father through Jesus Christ, the Son who revealed the Father.

or John 15:26-27, 16:12-15

The alternate Gospel reading for Pentecost in Cycle B is from John's Farewell discourse. The reading contains Jesus' promise to send the Spirit to His disciples once He has been glorified. The promised Spirit will guide the community of believers to all truth. The truth is that Jesus and His Father are one, that those who know Jesus also know the Father, that Jesus, in His passion and resurrection, has established a loving relationship between people and God, and that the Spirit who

proceeds from the Father will enable Jesus' disciples to live Jesus' final commandment, the commandment to love others as He has first loved us.

In Cycle A, the readings for Pentecost all speak to us about reverencing and living the unity that the Spirit creates out of diversity. The alternate readings for Cycle B focus on how the Spirit empowers us to live in the Christian community as disciples of Jesus, sons and daughters of our common father, how the Spirit transforms us and places in us attitudes and gifts that enable us to live Jesus' command of love and body for His presence to a hungry world.

• **FOR REFLECTION:**

- What is my understanding of the presence and action of God's Holy Spirit in the world? How have I experienced the Spirit directing my life? In what ways has the Spirit led me beyond myself to be a part of living God's plan of spreading the Good News and serving the needs of others?
- How well am I able to reverence and appreciate the gifts of others? In different gifts, different opinions, different approaches to problems and living the faith, do I see the action of the Holy Spirit or differences to be overcome?
- In my life with God, do I need rules to follow, ways to overcome impulses, or am I filled with the Spirit and live joyfully and lovingly? Is Paul's idea of "freedom from the law" an ideal or a real possibility in my life, in the life of my parish?
- In John, the starting point of Jesus' commission to His disciples to continue His mission is to proclaim forgiveness. How forgiving am I? What do I need to overcome to be more forgiving?
- We proclaim that God's Spirit is active in the Church, guiding the community of believers. How do I understand the human elements and shortcomings in the church in light of the belief that the Spirit guides us?

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