



Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church

132 Butcher Street, Bethalto, IL 62010

Website: <https://www.olqpbethalto.org/parish/>

Fr. Tom Liebler, Pastor

Rectory: 618-377-6519; **Cell:** 618-409-7444; **Email:** tliebler@aol.com

THE CHILD GREW
AND BECAME STRONG,
FILLED WITH WISDOM;
AND THE FAVOR OF GOD
WAS UPON HIM.

LUKE 2:40



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 27, 2020

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FAMILY

On this feast of the Holy Family, we want to offer all families blessings. “Family” may have a lot of different connotations these days. In the United States, the “father, mother, child” family is less common now, and large Catholic families are not as common as they once were. The concept of family is more fluid with many forms of blended families due to second marriages, multigenerational households, and other living arrangements. In a recent survey by the Pew research center, four in ten babies are born to single mothers. Other children are being raised by grandparents or foster parents. In today’s Genesis story, Abraham was ready to concede to another form of family, making the child of one of his servants his heir. The reading from Hebrews reiterates the story of Genesis, and “your descendants will be more numerous than the stars.” The Gospel relates the story of the presentation in the temple.

POWER IN PRESCRIBED RITUALS

Joseph and Mary presented Jesus in the temple at eight days old, as was prescribed by Mosaic law. For many Catholic families, baptismal gowns were handed down through generations, and a baptism was a time of great celebration. Sadly, in our culture, baptisms continue to decline. There are many reasons for this: fewer practicing Catholics, more interfaith marriages, more secular weddings, fewer weddings by clergy, and problems or misunderstandings that turn people away. Many have left the church altogether because of the way they were treated. For some the parish is not a welcoming place. For others baptism has become just a ritual they go through for the sake of the grandparents.

EXAMPLES IN OUR ELDERS

When someone does present a child for baptism, it can become too easy for others to pass judgment because the parents don’t know the rubrics well, or aren’t dressed better, or “why is that single mother having her baby baptized during Mass?” Notice that the Gospel says nothing about the priests of the temple and how they received Jesus. Rather it talks about Simeon and Anna. They are worth a study in themselves. Simeon is a devout man who is there waiting for a particular sign, and it is fulfilled when he see the Christ Child. Anna is just in the temple praying, as is her custom. After the presentation of Jesus, she does what she does best—she goes back to praying in the temple. Perhaps these readings teach us how we as a faith community can see the sacredness in those families presenting their children for baptism, and welcome them as did Anna and Simeon. May we all learn from their wisdom!

TODAY’S READINGS

Genesis 15:1–6; 21:1–3
Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 8–9
Hebrews 11:8, 11–12, 17–19
Luke 2:22–40 [22, 39–40]

PARISH OFFICE

Hours:

Mon.-Thurs.,
8:30—4:30
(closed 12-1
For lunch)

Email: church@olqpbethalto.org

Phone:

618-377-6519

Fax:

618-377-9550

Office Manager:
Terri Zykan
Secretary & SCRIP
Coordinator:
Bea Albarado

PARISH SCHOOL

Principal:

Steve Menke

618-377-6401,

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smenke@olqpbethalto.org
School Secretary:
Elaine Withers,

E-mail:

ewithers@olqpbethalto.org

Website:

www.olqpbethalto.org

The Holy Family

Mass Intentions

Sat., Dec. 26 4:30 pm	St. Stephen Tom Connoyer
Sun., Dec. 27 8:30 am 10:30 am	The Holy Family For the Parishioners Terry Tellefson
Mon., Dec. 28 8:30 am	The Holy Innocents Ray Matthews
Tues., Dec. 29 8:30 am	Fifth Day of Christmas Catherine Carrow
Wed., Dec. 30 6:30 pm	Sixth Day of Christmas Frank Visser
Thur., Dec. 31 4:30 pm	Seventh Day of Christmas Larry Paul
Fri., Jan. 1 9:00 am	Solemnity of Mary Mike Harmon
Sat., Jan. 2 4:30 pm	Sts. Basil & Gregory Ken Weber
Sun., Jan. 3 8:30 am 10:30 am	Epiphany of the Lord Nick Gray For the Parishioners

Prayer Requests

The sick: Conor Vogel, Keita Salantai, Mary Wagner, Charlie Mattingly, Noah Rogers, Becky Gray, Marguerite Hufker, Dan McRae, Mary Overton, Don Laird, Maxine Calhoun, Gloria Matthews, Dianne Morin, Tim Friedel, Vi Perkhiser, Derek Trent, Jane Rood, Bev Randolph, Gloria Hall, John Richter, Tim Zacha, Bob Maronie, Jennifer Price. **For prayer requests in the bulletin, call the parish office, 377-6519. For prayer requests to be added to the email prayer chain, send requests to Marie at rejoy128@gmail.com**

Catholic Children's Home

The mission of the Catholic Children's Home is to aid, protect and care for the needs, education and welfare of dependent, neglected, abused or otherwise hurting children and families without regard to poverty, riches, race, religion or national origin. Your monetary donation to the Catholic Children's Home is a wonderful way to ensure that we will continue to bring help to the most needy children and ensure that they have a brighter hope for the future. Thank you!

A Very Sincere Thanks From OLQP Charitable Fund

The generosity of our parish has made it possible for our Charitable Fund Committee to help people in our community and surrounding area with rent, utilities, medicine, and other necessities. There is a great need in our area and thanks to the people of OLQP, we have been able to help in your name. You are a wonderful people of God and we thank you!

Charitable Fund Committee of Our Lady Queen of Peace



Solemnity of Mary Mass Schedule

December 31: 4:30 pm

January 1: 9:00 am

(Please Note: There will not be an 8:30 am Mass on Thursday, December 31.)



Dear Parishioners,

With the beginning of the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines, the bishops of the United States have anticipated the moral concerns of the people over how these vaccines were created i.e. did they use fetal cell lines in their production. They have issued the following statement.

"In view of the gravity of the current pandemic and the lack of availability of alternative vaccines, the reasons to accept the new COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna are sufficiently serious to justify their use, despite their remote connection to morally compromised cell lines. Receiving one of the COVID-19 vaccines ought to be understood as an act of charity toward the other members of our community. In this way being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good. With regard to the AstraZeneca vaccine, the bishops found it to be "more morally compromised" and consequently concluded that this vaccine "should be avoided" if there are alternatives available. "It may turn out, however, that one does not really have a choice of vaccine, at least, not without a lengthy delay in immunization that may have serious consequences for one's health and the health of others," the bishop chairmen stated. "In such a case... it would be permissible to accept the AstraZeneca vaccine." At the same time, the bishops also warned that Catholics "must be on guard so that the new COVID-19 vaccines do not desensitize us or weaken our determination to oppose the evil of abortion itself and the subsequent use of fetal cells in research. The full statement from the bishops can be found on their web page, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Another useful website is with Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph. D., Director of Education at The National Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

Father Tom

Quincy University

In 2020, Quincy University celebrated 160 years of providing an exceptional educational experience that prepares students for lives of purpose and service to others, guided and shaped by Franciscans encouraging Catholic students to consider QU among their college options and ultimately enroll. To be eligible for consideration for either of these scholarships, a candidate must: 1) Belong to a parish in the Diocese of Springfield; 2) Apply to Quincy University and be admitted by March 15, 2021

The Bishop's Scholarship (\$10,000): This scholarship is awarded to one student on the recommendation of the Bishop of Springfield. In addition to confirming membership in a parish, the candidate for this scholarship must also submit a statement describing their involvement in their local parish, the Diocese, or the Catholic Church by April 15, 2021. This is renewable for up to 8 semesters as long as the recipient remains enrolled full time and maintains a 3.3 GPA at Quincy University.

The Diocesan Scholarship (\$500): This scholarship is awarded to any student who is a member of a parish in the Diocese of Springfield. Upon receipt of confirmation of membership in a parish, the scholarship will be added to the students' financial aid awards. The recipient of the Bishop's Scholarship will be ineligible for this award. To apply for either of these scholarships, go to: quincy.edu/apply

A Message From Our Principal

The Christmas season is upon us. As I reflect on the first part of the school year, I am thankful for the time we have spent together in school. Our students have enjoyed participating in various activities such as Red Ribbon Week, Halloween Parties, Veterans Day Parade, Weekly Advent Prayer Service, Posadas Celebration, and Christmas Parties. I am grateful for the hard work of our school staff as we work tirelessly to provide the education our students deserve whether it be here at the school or remotely for the students who can not join us at this time. As we enter this Christmas Season, let us thank God for the blessings he has provided us and look forward to the gifts that are to come in 2021.



Remember to believe in the magic of the season. The peacefulness of winter, the closeness of family and friends... some of the best gifts are held in our hearts, not in our hands. May the simple joys of the Christmas Season be yours as we wish for peace, love, and prosperity in 2021. Everyone have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Steve Menke
OLQP School Principal

'The Real Thing'

He came to the temple now, inspired by the Spirit, and when the parents brought in the Child Jesus to perform for Him the customary ritual of the law, he took Him in his arms and blessed God." —Luke 2:27-28

Some orthodox Jews have the custom of using the birth of a baby boy as an occasion to discourse on the coming of the Messiah. An older relative traditionally starts the conversation with the question: "Could this baby be the Messiah?" Then various relatives wax eloquently about the coming and the glories of the Messiah. Some people may have thought that Simeon and Anna were only engaging in this traditional conversation when they were talking about the Child Jesus "to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem" (Lk 2:38). Simeon and Anna may have then even more vehemently insisted that Jesus was "a revealing Light to the Gentiles, the Glory" of Israel (Lk 2:32). But people may have thought this was part of the game. Then Simeon and Anna would have tried to tell them this wasn't a game, but the real thing. This Baby was the Messiah! We face a similar situation in our day. When we proclaim Jesus as Messiah and Lord, people think this is merely the religious game and the standard church-talk. Yet we, like Simeon and Anna, must be filled with the Holy Spirit and proclaim that this is the real thing. Jesus is the Messiah. Christmas is real. God has become a man. We are saved. Jesus is Lord and God (see Jn 20:28).

Prayer: Father, may our family life be so holy that it shouts Jesus is the Messiah.

Promise: "He remembers forever His covenant which He made binding for a thousand generations." —Ps 105:8

Praise: "Observe, my son, your father's bidding, and reject not your mother's teaching" (Prv 6:20). Jesus, we thank You for modeling humility and obedience in family life.

This reflection is from One Bread, One Body courtesy of Presentation Ministries © 2020.

A Prayer

"Lord Jesus, you are my hope and my life. May I never cease to place all my trust in you. Fill me with the joy and strength of the Holy Spirit that I may boldly point others to your saving presence and words of eternal life."
Amen.



Altar Poinsettia Memorials



Beste & Waeltz Families,
Terry Tucker

By Don & Carol Beste

Calhoon Family

By Maxine Calhoon

Mike, Celeste, Marie Costello, Jean Greer

By Mary Liticker

William and Josephine Drew, Thomas Rexing

Lucinda Wolff, Henry and Florence Rexing, Genie Collins

By Norman and Rose Mary Rexing

Phil Foeller

By Sean & Barbara Williams

Warren & Virginia Forehand,

James Myer, Dorothy Forehand

By Paul, Donna & Andrew Myer

Helen & Virgil Fritz

Nelson Gregory, Joe & Esther Chiado

By Donna Gregory

John L. Holmes, Kiskak Family, Cynthia Evans

By Anna Holmes

Clifford H. Lee

By Robin Friedrich

Jane & Robert Magee,

Jim & Joy Zimmermann

By Kris & Mike Magee

John Nagy, Nagy & Olson Families

By Helen Nagy

Rudy Papa

By Jackie Papa Family

Simon & Zimmerman Families

By Paula Fraley

Dick Stalcup

By Helen Stalcup

Maria Timpe, Beverly Johnson

By Joe & Lesia Kuykendall Family

Harry Williams

By Sean & Barbara Williams

Kathleen Williams

By Sean & Barbara Williams

Meredith Wilson, Beverly Wilson, Ralph Roberts

By Diane Waldo Family

Bob Zakrzewski, Jerry Flowers

By Dee Zakrzewski

(Note: Memorial Donations made after printing date of this bulletin (12/17/20) will be published in 1/3/21 bulletin.)

Parishioner Information

(New Members & Changes)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Please check the appropriate item(s):

New Parishioner New Phone—Email
 New Baby Change of Address
 Leaving Parish Wish Father to call

NAME: Our Lady Queen of Peace Church
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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Please add this email address to our List: Mstein21@charter.net

**Please email this bulletin to all of our parishioners, whose email addresses previously provided, and send us 300 printed copies of this bulletin. Thank you. Questions, call Terri Zykan
618-978-2986**