



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



*As we celebrate the birth of our Lord,
May we share with others,
the love He came to bring.*

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,
Fax: 618-377-6146

Email:

smenke@olqpbethalto.org
School Secretary:
Elaine Withers,

E-mail:

ewithers@olqpbethalto.org
Website:
www.olqpbethalto.org

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions

Sat., Dec. 19	Advent Weekday 4:30 pm Betty Bast
Sun., Dec. 20	Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:30 am Virginia Forehand 10:30 am For the Parishioners
Mon., Dec. 21	Advent Weekday 8:30 am Steve & Virginia Ostanik
Tues., Dec. 22	Advent Weekday 8:30 am Nina Folsom
Wed., Dec. 23	Advent Weekday 6:30 pm Ray Matthews
Thur., Dec. 24	Advent Weekday 4:30 pm Jerry Durbin 9:30 pm Charles Calhoon
Fri., Dec. 25	Nativity of the Lord 9:00 am For the Parishioners
Sat., Dec. 26	St. Stephen 4:30 pm Tom Connoyer
Sun., Dec. 27	Holy Family 8:30 am For the Parishioners 10:30 am Terry Tellefson

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 Calhoon, 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. Every year we depend on the Christmas Day collection as the most important part of our fundraising. What better day to remember the children who, through no fault of their own, are less fortunate than our own. 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.

Christmas & Holy Day Mass Schedule



Dec. 24: 4:30 pm; 9:00 pm
Dec. 25: 9:00 am
Dec. 31: 4:30 pm
Jan. 1: 9:00 am

(To comply with Covid restrictions, the first 100 people will be seated in the church. All additional people will be seated in the gym, and Mass will be live streamed to be watched there. Holy Communion will be brought over by a Eucharistic Minister.)



Dear Parishioners,

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent and our time of preparation for Christmas is almost over with the coming of our Lord's Nativity this coming Friday. Even though this has been an unprecedented year, we still can take great joy in the birth of Jesus in the stable of Bethlehem. As we think of all the hardships that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph had to go through, we see that our own hardships can be united with their hardships. As we see the great blessings that the Holy Family endured we can also see the blessings that have been our blessings over these past months. As we take hope in the promises of Christmas let us take renewed hope that the coming New Year will be filled with peace and good health for all. May the blessings of this Christmas be with all of us here at Our Lady Queen of Peace and with our families.

Father Tom



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Bethalto Council #4688, 4th Degree #203, Grand Knight:
 Ryan Frazier; Email: bethaltoknight@gmail.com
 Website: www.bethaltoknights.org

Buy SCRIP—Last Call!

We still have SCRIP available for purchase in the parish office this week, through Wednesday, December 23, 8:30—4:00 each day. And, if you just don't know what type of SCRIP to buy someone, we offer generic SCRIP gift certificates in any amount you choose. **Give us a call before you stop by, and we will get your order ready for you—377-6519.**

Knights of Columbus Vocations Raffle

The deadline to turn in tickets & money for this raffle has been extended to mid-January. Through this Raffle, the Knights of Columbus in Bethalto Council and throughout the state raise funds for Seminarians in our Diocese and across the state. For each book of 15 tickets sold \$6 goes to the State KofC Vocations fund and \$9 remains here in our council. The State KofC share of the money is used to support seminarians in Illinois. We send them Birthday and Christmas gifts, money for educational expenses, we purchase their Ordo, and host an annual seminarian basketball tournament and dinner.

Return tickets/money to Parish Office As a local parish incentive, we will take all of the completed books (DO NOT separate the individual tickets) and have a local drawing for \$50 in Scrip.

Please consider buying or selling a book or two or more this year if you are able. More books can be obtained from the Church entrances. Thank you for your support of our Seminarians!

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December 20, 2020

The following reflection is from One Bread, One Body
courtesy of Presentation Ministries © 2020

God's Broken Promises?

"I have sworn to David My servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations."

Psalm 89:4-5

Nathan prophesied to David: "The Lord said: 'Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before Me; your throne shall stand firm forever' " (2 Sm 7:16). After this prophecy, David's house was split by civil war and suffered many other tragedies for about a thousand years. God's promise to David did not seem true. One day, "the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David" (Lk 1:26-27). The angel told Joseph's wife, Mary: "You shall conceive and bear a Son, and give Him the name Jesus. Great will be His dignity and He will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of David His father. He will rule over the house of Jacob forever and His reign will be without end" (Lk 1:31-33). The Lord's promise to David that his house and kingdom would last forever was fulfilled in Jesus, the foster-Son of Joseph of the house of David. The Lord's seemingly broken promises were fulfilled when Mary said: "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say" (Lk 1:38). If we, by faith, decide to become servants of the Lord and let Him do whatever He wants in our lives, we too will find the Lord's impossible promises fulfilled in our lives. "Let it be done."

Prayer: Father, let surprises, conviction, persecution, sacrifice, and all else be done to me as You say.

Promise: "She who was thought to be sterile is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible with God." —Lk 1:36-37

Praise: "O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at Your will the gate of heaven: come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead Your captive people into freedom."

Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Fr. Albert Langheim, O.F.M.,** Franciscan Priest who served in our diocese. May God grant him eternal rest.

Many Thanks too all who continue to support our parish and school! We could not keep going without you!

Parishioner Information

(New Members & Changes)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Please check the appropriate item(s):

____ New Parishioner ____ Send Envelopes

____ New Phone—Email ____ New Baby

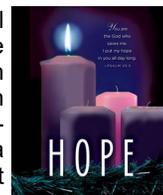
____ Change of Address ____ Leaving Parish

____ Wish Father to call ____ Illness in Family

A Meditation for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

The following reflection is courtesy of Don Schwager © 2020. Don's website is located at Dailyscripture.net

Does the proclamation of the Gospel message fill you with joy and hope? When the Lord comes to redeem his people he fills us with his Holy Spirit, the source of our joy and hope in the promises of God. When God made a covenant with David as King over Israel he made a promise to David and to his descendants that David's dynasty would endure forever through the coming of the Messiah King (2 Samuel 7:16). This King would establish an everlasting kingdom of peace and security for his people.



We often think of peace as the absence of trouble. The peace which the Messiah brings cancels the debt of sin and restores our broken relationship with God our heavenly Father. The new era of salvation begins with the conception and birth of Jesus. We see the fulfillment of God's unfolding plan of redemption in the events leading up to the Incarnation, the birth of the Messiah King. The new era of salvation begins with the miraculous conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. This child to be born is conceived by the gracious action of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, who finds favor with God (Luke 1:28). This child will be "great" and "Son of the Most High" and "King," and his name shall be called "Jesus" (Luke 1:31-32), which means "the Lord saves." "He will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). The angel repeats to Mary, the daughter of the house of David, the promise made to King David: "The Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end" (2 Samuel 7:12-16, Isaiah 9:6-7, Luke 1:32-33).

Mary is a true hearer of the Word of God. How does Mary respond to the word of God delivered by the angel Gabriel? She knows she is hearing something beyond human capability. It will surely take a miracle which surpasses all that God has done previously. Her question, "how shall this be, since I have no husband" is not prompted by doubt or skepticism, but by wonderment! She is a true hearer of the Word and she immediately responds with faith and trust.

Mary's prompt response of "yes" to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. Mary is the "mother of God" because God becomes incarnate when he takes on flesh in her womb. When we pray the Nicene Creed we state our confession of faith in this great mystery: "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man".

God gives us the grace to say "yes" to his will and to his transforming work in our lives. What is the key that unlocks the power and grace of God's kingdom in our personal lives? Faith and obedience for sure! God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willing obedience and heartfelt trust as Mary did. When God commands he also gives the help and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Do you believe in God's promises and do you yield to his grace?

"Heavenly Father, you offer us abundant grace, mercy, and forgiveness through your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Help me to live a grace-filled life as Mary did by believing in your promises and by giving you my unqualified 'yes' to your will and plan for my life."



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