



Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church

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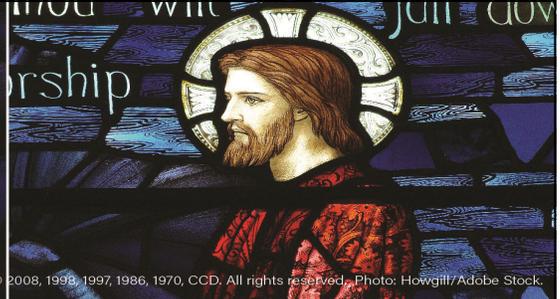
Website: <https://www.olqpbethalto.org/parish/>

Fr. Tom Liebler, Pastor

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

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

MARK 1:12-13



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BAPTISM

Today's readings suggest two different meanings and experiences of baptism. The second reading (from 1 Peter) makes an analogy between Noah's ark and Christian baptism: just as Noah and his family were saved from death by going through the waters of the flood in the ark, Christians are saved from sin and death by going through the waters of baptism. The first reading, from Genesis, portrays the world after the flood: washed clean of its prior wickedness, embraced by God's promises that the world will never again be destroyed by water. The psalmist expresses a desire to follow the ways of God, as if re-establishing the harmony between God and humanity destroyed by sin. This peaceful scene is very different from the drama and urgency in Mark's description of Jesus after his baptism. Jesus battles demons, receives sustenance from angels, and begins preaching: "Repent. The kingdom of God is at hand."

GOOD MORNING! WELCOME TO LENT!

You probably did not get that greeting from your priest today, and you probably did not expect it. Isn't Lent a time of reflection and repentance? Somber purple, no "Alleluias"? Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; attending to one's relationship with God?

True enough; however, there are Lenten practices that have a festive air woven into these penitential elements. One example is in the Church's retrieval of ancient Lenten practices that made up the final preparation of persons elected to receive the Easter sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and eucharist. Jesus' urgent preaching in today's passage from Mark comes soon after his own baptism and reminds us that these sacraments still signal a dramatic change in a person's life: they have responded to Jesus' preaching of the kingdom and are now publicly professing themselves to be disciples of the Lord and fully initiated members of his visible church. The prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent were part of that preparation. Repentance was then, and remains today, important also for those already fully initiated; the work of repentance, of prayerfully examining our lives and making changes in anticipation of God's reign, is an ongoing aspect of our life in Christ.

A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION

Other changes with baptism are more subtle and personal. When Noah and his family emerged from the ark, they saw that the floodwaters had receded after cleansing the world of human sinfulness. Everything was clean and fresh—a new creation, with a rainbow to guarantee God's promise to never again destroy the world with water. So, too, will the newly baptized emerge from the font and be anointed with chrism. Like the earth after the great flood, they are a new creation. Washed clean of sin and anointed with chrism, they are renewed in the embrace of the God of covenant love.

This is why Lent is always a festive anticipation of Easter and always about baptism, just as it is always about the repentance that draws us more deeply into God's kingdom.

TODAY'S READINGS

Genesis 9:8-15
Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:12-15

FIRST LENT
SUNDAY OF
FEBRUARY 21, 2021

First Sunday of Lent

Mass Intentions

Sat., Feb. 20 4:30 pm	Saturday after Ash Wednesday Bob Fuhler
Sun., Feb. 21 8:30 am 10:30 am	First Sunday of Lent Nick Gray & Margaret Woelfel For the Parishioners
Mon., Feb. 22 8:30 am	Lenten Weekday Bob Schley
Tues., Feb. 23 8:30 am	Lenten Weekday Bob Luedde
Wed., Feb. 24 6:30 pm	Lenten Weekday Ray Matthews
Thur., Feb. 25 8:30 am	Lenten Weekday Sharon Forrester
Fri., Feb. 26 8:30 am	Lenten Weekday John Nagy
Sat., Feb. 27 4:30 pm	Lenten Weekday Ray Matthews
Sun., Feb. 28 8:30 am 10:30 am	Second Sunday of Lent Virginia Forehand For the Parishioners

Prayer Requests

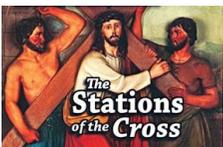
 **The sick:** Conor Vogel, Keita Salantai, Mary Wagner, Charlie Mattingly, Noah Rogers, Becky Gray, Marguerite Hufker, Dan McRae, Mary Overton, Don Laird, Maxine Calhoon, Gloria Matthews, Dianne Morin, Vi Perkhiser, Jane Rood, Bev Randolph, John Richter, Tim Zacha, Bob Maronie, Jennifer Price, Bob Graham, Kenneth Korsmeyer, Kennedy Stalcup. **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**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

Preschool Registration

Now through Friday February 26, we are offering parishioners a chance to pre-register new students for three and four year old preschool for the 2021/2022 school year. For more information call the school office (377-6401) no later than Friday February 26th. After that date any remaining spots will be filled on a first come first served basis.



Everyone is welcome to attend **Stations of the Cross** during the Lenten Season. They will be held on Fridays at 6:30 pm.

Dear Parishioners,



Lent has begun. However, it seems that we have been in an entire year of Lent already. Last March 18th was when the bishop suspended public masses and only private masses by the priest were allowed. Hopefully by the end of this Lent, we will see a return to a more normal way of celebrating mass, and a more normal way of living our daily lives. However, let us be patient until that happens. With the beginning of Lent let us recall the spirit of Lent which is prayer, alms giving, and fasting. We could easily make the excuse that we have already been in a Lent for so long why add more? Let us not give in to that way of thinking. Let us embrace the true spirit of Lent today and throughout the coming days and make this season of Lent a time of blessing and a time for spiritual growth and renewal.

Father Tom

Parish Food Pantry

Our Parish Food Pantry normal hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 am to 11:00 am. If you, or anyone you know, needs help from our pantry, please check in at the church office, who will then direct you to the pantry. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mary Ann Klunk or Mary Ann Magac. Thanks to all who support this much needed OLQP ministry!!



Lenten Friday Fish Fry

Drive thru service will be from 4-7 PM in the church/school parking lot. There will be 4 fish options and 2 sides for \$10. Our fish options will include white fish, fried cod, buffalo, and catfish nuggets. All proceeds go to Our Lady Queen of Peace School. Please consider supporting us this Lenten season.



Sunday Offerings

Week 33	Feb. 13-14, 2021	Total to Date
Loose Envelopes	\$273.00	\$6,665.49
On Line Giving	\$8,333.00	\$286,055.16
Young People	\$3,431.00	\$88,822.00
Total	\$0.00	\$54.00
Operating Budget	\$12,037.00	\$381,596.65
ACSA Budget	\$13,713.46	\$452,544.18
	\$1,421.12	\$46,896.96
Difference	(\$3,097.58)	(\$117,844.49)

Envelopes received: 123 of 801
Building Maintenance Fund Donations: \$35.00
Other Charitable Donations: \$231.00

KC Carry Out Chicken Dinner—Today

Sunday, February 21, 2021

11:15 A.M. – 2:00 P.M

Chicken Strips w/ 1 Side - \$10

2-Piece White or Dark Fried Chicken
w/ 2 Sides - \$10

4-Piece Mixed Fried Chicken
w/ 3 Sides - \$15

Side Options: Mac & Cheese,
Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Public Welcome

CARRY OUT ONLY:

Please enter from Prairie Street
into the school parking lot for pickup.

Proceeds go to Bethalto K of C Charities & OLQP Parish.

Opportunity for Prayer For Lent

OLQP has adopted **FRIDAY, MARCH 19th** (1pm-6pm)
Our prayer time is for the demand of abortions to be
gone. Go to www.40daysgc.com to see the numbers of
babies being saved. Please text Mary Terry at 6188 830
0104 to pick your hour. Thank you. Bring a partner and
experience a change.

Journey with us this Lent

Go to dio.org/lent as we feature six stories of people
who will challenge you and offer you six challenges that
will change you! A new story and new challenge will
come every week during Lent.

‘Dive Deep’

Why fast? Why 40 days? Why purple? Why ashes? Why
no meat on Fridays? Lent is full of symbolism, rooted
deep in Catholic theology. Join Dive Deep, the official
podcast of the Diocese of Springfield, for Lent 101. While it may
sound like an introductory class, Dive Deep will teach you
things about Lent you’ve never heard before. Go to
dio.org/podcast to listen and subscribe.



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tion for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe! This
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the future in more than 25 countries. If you missed the
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giving website, www.givecentral.org, you can donate
there or go to www.usccb.org/ccee.

First Sunday of Lent
Jesus, strong against temptation
(Mark 1:12-15)

*Into every life, the devil comes. My devil may look dif-
ferent than yours, but it’s the Tempter all the same. Some of us are tempted to fear or insecurity. Others develop hard hearts or burn with greed. Call upon the Spirit to lead the way when the devil makes you an of-fer.*

**Seven Lenten Practices
To Bring You Joy**

1. **Start all prayers with praise and thanks.** God’s goodness existed before your need. Even the Our Father begins with “Hallowed be thy name” and only asks later for “daily bread”. Praise and thank God for the gift of God’s saving love, for Baptism, for sunshine and all the gifts of life. You finish the list.
2. **Take time with God in a beautiful place.** Go to your favorite park, overlook, natural setting, art museum, etc., to experience God in the beauty of nature or human artistry. If you can’t go out, enjoy a lighted candle, fresh flowers or photo of a loved one. Open yourself to God’s goodness and beauty and let your Lenten resolutions flow from that.
3. **Don’t carry all the world’s pain on your own back.** Yes, we must find and serve God in the poor and suffering. But never forget the overarching gift of God’s beauty and love. Let the Good Shepherd, who loves the sheep, walk with you even in the dark valleys—and your step will grow lighter.
4. **Fast for the sake of richer food.** Set your alarm early or cut back on your lunch break to make room for that greater banquet—the daily Eucharist. Give up a TV sitcom and read a Gospel chapter instead. Skip that “night out” and go to the parish communal penance service.
5. **Reach out, either in person or by calling, to a sick person or someone who has been isolated.** Share a joke or a clipped cartoon or some other surprise with a friend or co-worker who feels low. Be careful: You may forget that it’s Lent—and find yourself slipping into a more joyful mood yourself! But then, isn’t Christianity about joy?
6. **Try to reconcile with an estranged friend.** Treat an “enemy” or someone with whom you’re at odds to a cup of coffee, a chocolate or a glass of wine (if possible). Says Franciscan Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns of Brazil: “Jesus showed us that the most creative way to overcome enemies is to make them our friends!”
7. **Compliment someone for making the world better.** Congratulate him or her personally or send a note of praise—or write an affirming letter to your newspaper or television station. As Pope John XXIII put it: “Look at the good there is, and try to encourage it as much as possible. That itself will lessen the bad.”

Questions to ponder....

1. Why is it difficult for some to think of Lent as time for joy?
1. In what ways does prayer add joy to your life?
2. How can acts of penance and charity lead to joy in your life?

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St. Anthony Messenger Press





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