



Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church

132 Butcher Street, Bethalto, IL 62010

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

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Fr. Tom Liebler, Pastor

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



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Sirach 27:5

As the test of what the potter molds
is in the furnace,
so in tribulation is the test of the just.

**Eighth
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time**

February 27, 2022

PREPARING FOR LENT

As we approach the season of Lent, Paul's first letter to the Corinthians gives us a sneak peek of Easter, waiting for us on the other side: "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" Paul's conclusion, telling us to remain steadfast and devoted to the Lord's work, could serve as a Lenten motto. The reading from Sirach provides a series of adages regarding discipline of the tongue, and of our speech. Maybe not a bad Lenten practice to observe. Even Jesus in Luke's Gospel gets into the act, encouraging a cleansing of the heart ("A clean heart create for me, God" we will sing in Psalm 51 during Lent), so that from the goodness of our heart we will bring good into the world. Of course, these insights from Sirach, Paul, and Luke serve us quite well year-round. What we truly do "in the Lord" is never done in vain.

IS THIS ON THE TEST?

Today's reading from Sirach reminds us not to praise others before they speak, "for it is then that people are tested." Jesus, in Luke's Gospel, takes it a step further, reminding us that we are also known by the fruit borne in our lives. It doesn't take long to think of a person or group of people who speak beautiful, praiseworthy words, and yet their lives are unfruitful, or their lives outright contradict their speech. This is the class of people we call "hypocrites," and it's clear in all the Gospels that Jesus has no time for them. Our speech does test us, but the test is really to demonstrate that there is a connection between what we say and how we live. Expressed another way, this is the age-old discussion about faith and works. A truly deep-rooted faith will bear fruit in the works, in the actions of our lives. As happens so often in discipleship, we are dealing with the both/and, not either/or.

TALKING HEARTS

As disciples who follow Jesus, we believe that we are following God's very Word-made-Flesh. The theological term for this is In-carnation, the "in-flesh-made" second person of the Trinity. As followers of the Word, our words are truly important. Our hearts and mouths are wired together, as Jesus tells us today: "from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." This is yet another echo of the wisdom of Sirach: "Speech discloses the bent of a person's heart." Eventually, our words—and the other actions of our lives—will convey what is truly in our hearts. Perhaps the ultimate test of our discipleship is not merely our words, or even our actions, but on a deeper level the test is whether or not others will find in us God's word "in-flesh-made." Our mission is to be the Word-made-flesh, in the flesh again in our own place and time.

TODAY'S READINGS

Sirach 27:4-7
Psalm 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16
1 Corinthians 15:54-58
Luke 6:39-45

Mass Schedule

Monday.....8:30 am
Tuesday.....8:30 am
Wednesday.....6:30 pm
Thursday.....8:30 am
Friday.....8:30 am
Saturday.....4:30 pm
Sunday...8:30/10:30 am

Confession

Saturday.....3:30 pm
Also, by appointment

Baptism

Parents of infants to be baptized, call parish office to request a meeting with Fr. Tom.

Parish Office

Hours:
Monday through Thursday
8:30 am—4:00 pm
(Closed 12-1, Lunch)
618-377-6519
618-377-9550 (fax)

Email:
church@olpbethalto.org
Office Manager:
Terri Zykan
Secretary/SCRIP Coord.:
Bea Albarado

School Principal:

Steve Menke
618-377-6401

Email:
smenke@olqpbethalto.org

School Secretary:

Elaine Withers

Email:
ewithers@olqpbethalto.org

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

Sat., Feb. 26	Weekday in Ordinary Time
4:30 pm	John Perkhiser
Sun., Feb. 27	Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 am	For the Parishioners
10:30 am	John, Missy & Dominic Cafazza
Mon., Feb. 28	Weekday in Ordinary Time
8:30 am	Communion Service
Tues., Mar. 1	Weekday in Ordinary Time
8:30 am	Communion Service
Wed., Mar. 2	Ash Wednesday
8:30 am	Larry Paul
6:30 pm	Don Beste
Thur., Mar. 3	St. Katharine Drexel
8:30 am	Mary Cremeens, Darlene, Gladys & Victor Huebener
Fri., Mar. 4	St. Casimir
8:30 am	Martha Smith
Sat., Mar. 5	Lenten Weekday
4:30 pm	John Perkhiser
Sun., Mar. 6	First Sunday of Lent
8:30 am	For the Parishioners
10:30 am	George Wilson



Prayer Requests

The sick: Conor Vogel, Keita Salantai, Mary Wagner, Charlie Mattingly, Noah Rogers, Becky Gray, Marguerite Hufker, Dan McRae, Mary Overton, Maxine Calhoon, Gloria Matthews, Dianne Morin, Vi Perkhiser, Robert and Pauline Lange, Elli Wiemers, Toni Stanford, Tim Phillips, Kennedy Stalcup, William Henderson, Peggy Ruhmann, Mike Byers, Bea Albarado, Lyla Ross, Debra Walker, Audrey Wolff, Renee Harshbarger, Lisa Curtis, Brooke Randolph Carden, Pam Kaizer, Larry Militello, Karen Simpson. **For prayer requests in the bulletin, call the parish office, 377-6519. For prayer requests to the email prayer chain, send to Marie at rejoy128@gmail.com**



Preschool Registration

Preschool registration for parishioners continues through February 28 for the 22/23 school year. Call the school office, 377-6401 no later than February 28. Remaining spots will be filled on a first come first served basis.

Attention All Ladies of the Parish

Please join all ladies of our parish for a Potluck Dinner on **Thursday, March 3**, 6:30 pm, in the church basement. Just bring your favorite covered dish! This will be an evening of fellowship and a time to make new friends and/or catch up with old friends. If you have any questions, call Linda Zacha, 377-5725. Please come!!!

Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Helen Nagy**, longtime parishioner of OLQP and **Joan Huck**, daughter of Irene Connoyer, sister of Susan McRae and Lynn Brown. May God grant them eternal rest.

Dear Parishioners,

LENT! For so many people the word means depriving ourselves of something that we like. While that is true, it is only a fraction of what Lent is all about. Lent is a time when we recognize the suffering of our Lord, Jesus, and thus we unite ourselves with His suffering by giving up something that we like. That is the reason behind giving up something. However, the season itself is more about how we can get closer to Jesus...how we can deepen our spiritual life during this holy journey of forty days. It is a time when we can add graces to our souls by the spiritual actions available to us during Lent. It is a time to take time out of our busy schedule to simply be quite as we open ourselves up to the presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. So let us think about what we want to give up, but more importantly let us think about what we want to do to get closer to Jesus during this coming Lent.

Father Tom

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Mass Schedule

8:30 am & 6:30 pm



Stations of the Cross

(Fridays)

2:25 pm & 6:30 pm

Lenten Fast/Abstinence Regulations

Everyone age 14 & older is required to abstain from meat on **Ash Wednesday** and **all Fridays of Lent**.

Fasting

Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 required to fast **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**. On these 2 days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is permitted. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each person's needs, but together these two should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids (including milk and fruit juices) are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the obligation of the regulations is modified.

Sunday Offerings

Week 34	February 19-20, 2022	Total to Date
Loose	\$432.90	\$14,480.62
Envelopes	\$11,306.00	\$386,500.83
On Line Giving	\$4,937.00	\$94,736.00
Young People	\$3.00	\$225.20
Total	\$16,678.90	\$495,942.65
Operating Budget	\$14,477.83	\$492,246.22
Tithe to Diocese	\$1,384.62	\$47,077.08
Difference	\$816.45	(\$43,380.65)

Total Envelopes received: 165 of 754
 Building Maintenance Fund Donations: \$200.00
 Other Charitable Donations: \$335.00

Liturgical Ministries

4:30 pm	Saturday, March 5
Lector	Teresa Toner
E. Ministers	Tim Zacha, Jim Albarado
Ushers	Rich & Sue Hayes
Music Rosary	Craig/Kathy/Tami Tim Zacha
8:30 am	Sunday, March 6
Lector	Brenda Tebbe
E. Ministers	Brenda Zacha Marie DeClue
Ushers	Loren & Raeann Summers Steve Norris
Music Rosary	Craig/Becky/Kris Joe Grabowski
10:30 am	Sunday, March 6
Lector	Carrie Albarado
E. Ministers	Sonya Hagaman Brad Fulk
Ushers	Don & Terri Militello Kathy Murphy, Deana McDonough
Music	Praise Team

A Very Big THANK YOU!

To everyone who donated, volunteered, attended, made generous bids and much more! TOGETHER we raised approximately \$45,000!!!!!! Our parish school will proceed with plans to update their curriculum and our Family Life Ministry will begin planning for the pavilion to be built on our empty lot. We have an amazing parish!

You're Invited

Next Tuesday, FAT Tuesday, parishioners are going to lunch at Wiggler's Bar and Grill at 11:00. Everyone is welcome. Please call Sharon Pritchett, 618-692-6810, to rsvp so space may be reserved.

Italy Pilgrimage

September 4—17, 2022: If you have not registered yet and are planning to go, please do so soon. This trip will happen unless a travel ban is imposed. Register at: <http://ciaoromattravel.com> or call Amy, 618-444-7715.

Collection for Church in Central & Eastern Europe

Support for this collection helps many people in this region of the world, especially programs for people with disabilities, to break down the walls of isolation, separating them from their communities and from each other. Please be generous to this collection if you can. Thank you for your help to restore the Church and build the future in Central and Eastern Europe.

Day of Lenten Reflection with Serra Club

Wednesday, March 9, Saint Ambrose Church, 11:00 – 2:00 (*confessions begin at 2:00*) The day includes Mass, 2 Reflection Talks, Lunch & Confessions. COST for meal \$15.00 per person, RSVP for a lunch required. Please confirm your attendance by March 2. Leave a message at: 618-463-1793

A Reflection on the Readings

The following reflection is courtesy of Don Schwager © 2022.
Don's website is located at Dailyscripture.net

Are you clear-sighted, especially in your perception of sin and the need for each of one of us to see ourselves correctly as God sees us - **with our faults, weaknesses, and strengths?** Jesus' two parables about poor vision allude to the proverb: Without vision the people perish! (Proverbs 29:18) What can we learn from the illustration of a blind guide and a bad eye (the log in the eye)? A bad eye left untreated and a blind guide can cause a lot of trouble that will only end in misery and disaster for us! We can only help and teach others what we have learned and received from wise teachers and guides. And how can we help others overcome their faults if we are blinded by our own faults and misperceptions? **We are all in need of a physician** who can help us overcome the blind spots and failing of own sins, weaknesses, and ignorance. **Overcoming blind spots in our own lives** The Gospel of Luke was written by a disciple who was trained as a physician. Luke, with keen insight, portrays Jesus as the good physician and shepherd of souls who seeks out those who desire healing, pardon, and restoration of body, mind, and spirit. Like a gentle and skillful doctor, the Lord Jesus exposes the cancer of sin, evil, and oppression in our lives so we can be set free. A key step to healing and restoration requires that we first submit to the physician who can heal us. The Lord Jesus is our great Physician because he heals the whole person - soul and body, mind and heart - and restores us to abundant life both now and for the age to come. **Thinking the best of others** The Lord Jesus wants to heal and restore us to wholeness, not only for our own sake alone. He also wants us to be his instruments of healing, pardon, and restoration for others as well. **What can hinder us from helping others draw near to Jesus** the divine Physician? The Rabbis taught: "He who judges his neighbor favorably will be judged favorably by God." **How easy it is to misjudge others and how difficult it is to be impartial in giving good judgment.** Our judgment of others is usually "off the mark" because we can't see inside the other person, or we don't have access to all the facts, or we are swayed by instinct and unreasoning reactions to people. It is easier to find fault in others than in oneself. A critical and judgmental spirit crushes rather than heals, oppresses rather than restores, repels rather than attracts. **What you give to others will return to you** Jesus states a heavenly principle we can stake our lives on: what you give to others (and how you treat others) will return to you (Mark 4:24). The Lord knows our faults and he sees all, even the imperfections and sins of the heart which we cannot recognize in ourselves. Like a gentle father and a skillful doctor he patiently draws us to his seat of mercy and removes the cancer of sin which inhabits our hearts. Ask the Lord to flood your heart with his loving-kindness and mercy towards your neighbor. **Producing good fruit versus bad fruit in our lives** Why does Jesus set figs and grapes over against thorns and brambles (Luke 6:33-35)? The fig tree symbolized fertility, peace, and prosperity. Grapes produced wine, the symbol of joy. Thorns and brambles were only good for burning as fuel for the fire. There's a proverbial saying that you know a tree by its fruit. Likewise a person will produce good or bad fruit depending on what is sown in the heart. **Jesus connects soundness with good fruit.** Something is sound when it is free from defect, decay, or disease and is healthy. Good fruit is the result of sound living - living according to moral truth and upright character. The prophet Isaiah warned against the dangers of falsehood: Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness (Isaiah 5:20). The fruits of falsehood produce an easy religion which takes the iron out of religion, the cross out of Christianity, and any teaching which eliminates the hard sayings of Jesus, and which push the judgments of God into the background and makes us think lightly of sin. **How do we avoid falsehood and bad fruit in our lives?** By being true - true to God, his word, and the grace and help he gives us so we can turn away from evil and wrongdoing. And that takes character! Those who are true to God know that their strength lies not in themselves but in God who supplies everything we need to live as his disciples. The Lord strengthens us with the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit - faith, hope, love, justice, prudence, fortitude and temperance. Do you want to bear good fruit in your daily life? Allow the Holy Spirit to train you in godliness and the wisdom to distinguish good fruit from bad fruit (1 Timothy 4:7-8, Hebrews 5:14). **"O Father, give us the humility which realizes its ignorance, admits its mistakes, recognizes its need, welcomes advice, accepts rebuke. Help us always to praise rather than to criticize, to sympathize rather than to discourage, to build rather than to destroy, and to think of people at their best rather than at their worst. This we ask for your name's sake. (Prayer of William Barclay, 1907-1978)"**

NAME: Our Lady Queen of Peace Church
132 Butcher Street, P.O. Box 100
Bethalto, IL 62010

PHONE: 618-377-6519

CONTACT: Terri Zykan

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Please add this address to our mailing list: ilv3cats@att.net

Please email this bulletin to all of our parishioners, whose email addresses previously provided, and **send 450 printed copies.** Thank you. Questions, call Terri Zykan,
618-978-2986