



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



FEBRUARY 28, 2021

*Jesus was transfigured
before them, and his clothes
became dazzling white.*

Mark 9:2-3

THE BELOVED SON

Today's first reading, known as "the Binding of Isaac," refers to the way Isaac is bound and laid upon the wood of the altar of sacrifice. God directs Abraham to offer his son in sacrifice, killing the beloved son that had been a special gift to him and Sarah in their old age. How could God ask Abraham to do such a thing? Abraham offers no resistance, but in preparing for the sacrifice, Abraham may have agreed with the psalmist that he was "greatly afflicted." Saint Paul's letter to the Romans refers to Jesus as God's beloved Son, which is also how God identifies Jesus to Peter, James, and John at the Transfiguration. Afterward, Jesus tells those disciples not to mention the event to anyone until after his resurrection from the dead. The event, together with Jesus' comments, leaves the disciples thoroughly confused.

HOW COULD GOD ASK ABRAHAM TO DO THAT?

Through the centuries, Christians and Jews alike have found the Binding of Isaac one of the most difficult passages in the Bible. Even though God intervenes to save Isaac, the whole episode strikes some readers as cruel. However, Abraham, the ultimate man of faith, raises no objection, offers no resistance as he simply goes about preparing for the trip and the sacrifice.

Today's other readings might help us see that text differently. In Mark's description of the Transfiguration, Jesus' clothes become white and shining, and Moses and Elijah appear with him. Moses was the great liberator and lawgiver who led the Jews out of bondage in Egypt and into the wilderness, forming them into the people of Israel by giving them the Law he received from God. Elijah was among Israel's greatest prophets, so close to God that, at the end of his life, he was taken up into heaven by a fiery chariot. Together, Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, the ultimate authority for the Jews in the conduct of their daily lives.

LOVE AND GENEROSITY

The Law, the Prophets—and Jesus. For Paul, Jesus is someone quite different from the other two. The reading from his letter to the Romans is short, but rich in meaning. When Paul declares that God "did not spare his own Son," and when God praises Abraham "who did not withhold from me your own beloved son," it is the same Greek word for "spare" and "withhold." God's voice at the Transfiguration identifies Jesus as his "beloved Son"—the same way God refers to Isaac as Abraham's beloved son. Ultimately, God spares Isaac but not his own Son, whom he "handed over for us." Even if we are disturbed that God tested Abraham like this, Paul says we should be overwhelmingly grateful that God did for us what, in the end, he did not require of Abraham. Jesus, God's Son "handed over to us" in love and generosity, is already a sacrificial gift, signifying that God wants to give us "everything else along with him."

TODAY'S READINGS

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Psalm 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19
Romans 8:31b-34
Mark 9:2-10

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@olqpbethalto.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

LENT

SECOND
SUNDAY OF

Second Sunday of Lent

Mass Intentions

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
Mon., Mar. 1 8:30 am	Lenten Weekday Ed Pilgrim
Tues., Mar. 2 8:30 am	Lenten Weekday David Green
Wed., Mar. 3 6:30 pm	Lenten Weekday Ray Matthews
Thur., Mar. 4 8:30 am	Lenten Weekday Nelson Gregory
Fri., Mar. 5 8:30 am	Lenten Weekday Ed Pilgrim
Sat., Mar. 6 4:30 pm	Lenten Weekday Ray Matthews
Sun., Mar. 7 8:30 am 10:30 am	Third Sunday of Lent For the Parishioners Michael Forsting

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, Don Beste. **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**

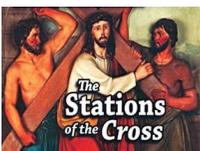


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Website: www.bethaltoknights.org

School Registration for New Families

If your child is not currently attending OLQP and you are interested in sending them to our parish school for the 2021/2022 school year, we ask that you contact the school office as soon as possible. In addition, **Preschool Registration** is now open and being filled on a first come, first served basis. For more information call the school office (377-6401) at your earliest convenience.



Everyone is welcome to attend **Stations of the Cross** during the Lenten Season. They will be held on Fridays at 6:30 pm. Also, there is room for a few parishioners to attend Stations at 2:30 pm on Fridays with the school kids.

Dear Parishioners,



This last Sunday was the Rite of Sending and Election for our catechumens in the RCIA...the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The three catechumens of our parish family are now called the Elect and they begin their final preparations for the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. These three Sacraments are also called the Sacraments of Initiation, for they make a person a full member of the Catholic Church and our own parish family. As such, we have an obligation to keep our Elect in our prayers as they go through Lent and prepare for Easter and their decision to become Catholic. Let us take this obligation seriously for the welfare of our future brother and sisters in faith.

Father Tom

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.



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 618-830-0104 to pick your hour. Thank you. Bring a partner and experience a change.

‘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.

Sunday Offerings

Week 34	Feb. 20-21, 2021	Total to Date
Loose Envelopes	\$92.00	\$6,757.49
On Line Giving	\$6,818.00	\$292,873.16
Young People	\$1,540.00	\$90,362.00
Total	\$3.00	\$57.00
Operating Budget	\$8,453.00	\$390,049.65
ACSA Budget	\$13,713.46	\$466,257.64
Difference	\$1,421.12	\$48,318.08
	(\$6,681.58)	(\$124,526.07)

Envelopes received: 93 of 801
Building Maintenance Fund Donations: \$160.00
Other Charitable Donations: \$950.00

Tuition Assistance—2021/2022

Parish Families who wish to apply for financial assistance for the upcoming school year are asked to do so as soon as possible, on line at: online.factsmgt.com/signin/3glyj Please note that all applications are kept in the strictest of confidence. If you have questions/need assistance, call parish office, 377-6519.

Bookkeeper Position Needed

St. Mary's Parish in Edwardsville is currently in the need for a part time Parish Bookkeeper. This is a part time position with a degree of flexibility in the hours. It is expected that the position would average no more than 10 hours a week. This is an hourly position and pay is commensurate with experience and relevant background. This position is necessary to provide the parish, pastor, and finance council complete, timely, and accurate financial records.

The Bookkeeper will assist the Business Manager, as directed, in initiation, recording and preparation of all accounting transactions involving payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and general ledger. The position requires a High School Diploma and related experience in general accounting activities, working knowledge of Microsoft Word, EXCEL, and QuickBooks payroll accounting system. The Bookkeeper will be directly accountable to the Pastor and work closely with the Business Manager, Finance Council Chairperson and school bookkeeper.

If you have any interest in this position, please contact the Parish Office at St. Mary's for more information and application at 618-656-4857.

I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.
Psalms 116:9

Dioc. Victim Assistance Coordinator

And liaison between the Diocese and anyone with an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor, Alison Smith, 217 -698-8500, ext. 162.

Second Sunday of Lent Jesus, Full of Light (Mark 9:2-10)

The Transfiguration was a unique event in salvation history, but smaller transfigurations happen all the time. Did you ever see a disabled child liberated while at play? Did you ever see the Madonna in a pregnant teenager? Did you ever see joy on the faces of the dying? Look for the light. It's under the surface of everything.



A Reading From St. Peter Chrysologus

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving or mercy, the key penitential sacrifices of Lent, are here explained by one of the greatest preachers of the early Church. Saint Peter Chrysologus declares that to pray is to knock at the door, to fast is to obtain, and by almsgiving, we receive. He shows how these three aspects of Lenten sacrifice are one, and they give life to each other.

There are three things, my brethren, by which faith stands firm, devotion remains constant, and virtue endures. They are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Prayer knocks at the door, fasting obtains, mercy receives. Prayer, mercy and fasting: these three are one, and they give life to each other.

Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving are Inseparable—Fasting is the soul of prayer, almsgiving is the lifeblood of fasting. Let no one try to separate them; they cannot be separated. If you have only one of them or not all together, you have nothing. So if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others. If you do not close your ear to others you open God's ear to yourself. When you fast, see the fasting of others. If you want God to know that you are hungry, know that another is hungry. If you hope for mercy, show mercy. If you look for kindness, show kindness. If you want to receive, give. If you ask for yourself what you deny to others, your asking is a mockery.

Let this be the pattern for all men when they practice mercy: show mercy to others in the same way, with the same generosity, with the same promptness, as you want others to show mercy to you. Therefore, let prayer, mercy and fasting be one single plea to God on our behalf, one speech in our defense, a threefold united prayer in our favor.

The Sacrifice of Oneself—Let us use fasting to make up for what we have lost by despising others. Let us offer our souls in sacrifice by means of fasting. There is nothing more pleasing that we can offer to God, as the psalmist said in prophecy: A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; God does not despise a bruised and humbled heart. Offer your soul to God, make him an oblation of your fasting, so that your soul may be a pure offering, a holy sacrifice, a living victim, remaining your own and at the same time made over to God. Whoever fails to give this to God will not be excused, for if you are to give him yourself you are never without the means of giving.

Watered by Almsgiving—To make these acceptable, almsgiving must be added. Fasting bears no fruit unless it is watered by mercy. Fasting dries up when mercy dries up. Mercy is to fasting as rain is to earth. However much you may cultivate your heart, clear the soil of your nature, root out vices, sow virtues, if you do not release the springs of mercy, your fasting will bear no fruit. When you fast, if your mercy is thin your harvest will be thin; when you fast, what you pour out in almsgiving overflows into your barn. Therefore, do not lose by saving, but gather in by scattering. Give to the poor, and you give to yourself. You will not be allowed to keep what you have refused to give to others.

This reading on almsgiving or mercy and its accompanying Lenten sacrifices is by St. Peter Chrysologus and is an excerpt from his Sermon 43: PL 52, 320, 322. It appears in the Roman Catholic Church for the Office of Readings for Tuesday of the third (3rd) week of Lent along with [Exodus 32: 1-20](#).



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