



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

Jesus said,
"Destroy this temple
and in three days
I will raise it up."

JOHN 2:19



THE LAW

Today's reading from Exodus tells of God giving the Ten Commandments to Moses; this passage is well known to Christians, but it is only the introduction to the entire Mosaic Law, or Torah. The Psalm is a small section of the longest in the Psalter—172 verses—which are generally couplets (two lines) praising the Law as perfect, true, just, right, and so on. The Law is both the source of Jewish identity and the centerpiece of the Jewish intellectual tradition. Paul briefly compares this tradition with those of the Greeks, the two groups in the church at Corinth that were often quarreling. The passage from John's Gospel shows Jesus' righteous anger as he chases the moneychangers from the temple. His actions are a sign of Jesus' own reverence for "my Father's house," which in turn reflects his deep appreciation for the Law.

"THE LAW OF THE LORD IS PERFECT . . ."

For pious Jews in first-century Palestine, the Mosaic Law prescribed the way every action in life is dedicated to God. Today's reading from Exodus tells how the Ten Commandments, the introduction to this larger legal code, is given to Israel as a gift from God.

In the Gospels Jesus is portrayed as a rabbi, or someone learned in the Law. A rabbi's learning ideally included both the precepts of the Law and its reverent contemplation as a divine gift, within which one could hear God's own voice. This was the way rabbis through the centuries used the Law to adapt to changing circumstances. This seems to be what Jesus was doing with the moneychangers in the temple.

JESUS, THE LAW, THE JEWS—AND US

When Jesus accused the moneychangers of sacrilege and cleared them out of the temple, the onlookers asked for a sign of his authority to do such a thing. After all, wasn't it a sacrilege to purchase animals for sacrifice with pagan coins? Wasn't this how the Jews adapted to Roman rule? Jesus says nothing about that; he only knows that this commercial activity inside the temple was a sacrilege. Elsewhere in the Gospels Jesus is criticized for not being strict enough with the Law, as when he ate with prostitutes and tax collectors, but here he is prescribing something stricter, something "more."

Jesus is doing something extraordinary, contrary to ordinary practice, prompting the onlookers to request a sign, evidence that God is acting here through Jesus. His insistence that the moneychangers depart, his clear vision regarding "my Father's house," and his cryptic reference to himself as a temple, are signs of his contemplative intimacy with his Father that is the source of his authority about the Law.

Catholics, like first-century Jews, have our regular means for living in God's presence. We have the liturgy, sacraments, devotions, and personal prayer. During Lent, we are asked to be a little stricter with ourselves, listening for God's own voice. If we do, we might discover that we, too, are being called to something "more."

TODAY'S READINGS

Exodus 20:1–17 [1–3, 7–8, 12–17]
Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11
1 Corinthians 1:22–25
John 2:13–25

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

THIRD LENT
SUNDAY OF
MARCH 7, 2021

Third Sunday of Lent

Mass Intentions

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
Mon., Mar. 8 8:30 am	Lenten Weekday Bob Luedde
Tues., Mar. 9 8:30 am	Lenten Weekday Communion Service
Wed., Mar. 10 6:30 pm	Lenten Weekday Virginia Forehand
Thur., Mar. 11 8:30 am	Lenten Weekday Herman & Slecka Families (Deceased)
Fri., Mar. 12 8:30 am	Lenten Weekday Bob Schley
Sat., Mar. 13 4:30 pm	Lenten Weekday Lee Bernt
Sun., Mar. 14 8:30 am 10:30 am	Fourth Sunday of Lent 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, 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 re-joy128@gmail.com



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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays: 2:20 pm & 6:30 pm

Sacrament of Confession

Father Tom is available for Confession every Saturday at 3:30 pm until 4:15 pm. In addition, he will be available these dates and times during Holy Week:

March 29	7:45 am—8:15 am
March 30	7:45 am—8:15 am
March 31	5:30 pm—6:15 pm
April 1 & 2	Immediately following Mass on Holy Thursday and Good Friday Service (at approximately 8:30 p.m.)

If none of these options work for you, he is also available for Confession by appointment. Just give him a call.

Dear Parishioners,



It is Tuesday morning, March 2, and I just finished reading the Catholic Times that came in the mail today. It was the Christmas edition of CT. It seems that the mail is just a little late. Even though it was two months late, it still had some interesting articles. In every edition of the Catholic Times we can find many timely articles and items of relevance for our spiritual journey. The bishop's column always has something that can be beneficial for our discernment, and also an explanation of any new direction for the diocese. I hope that we take the time to read the Catholic Times so that we can stay up to date on what is going on in our diocese. I also hope that we can support this ministry of our diocese with our financial support for our own personal subscription.

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!!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

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 35	Feb. 27-28, 2021	Total to Date
Loose Envelopes	\$540.00	\$7,297.49
On Line Giving	\$11,383.00	\$304,256.16
Young People	\$2,118.00	\$92,480.00
Total	\$1.00	\$58.00
Operating Budget	\$14,042.00	\$404,091.65
ACSA Budget	\$13,713.46	\$479,971.10
	\$1,421.12	\$49,739.20
Difference	(\$1,092.58)	(\$125,618.65)
Envelopes received: 135 of 801 Building Maintenance Fund Donations: \$60.00 Other Charitable Donations: \$1,040.00		

March 7, 2021

A Day of Lenten Reflection With St. Serra Vocations Club

Wed., March 10, 11 am—2 pm, St. Ambrose Church & Community Center, Godfrey. This event includes: Mass, 2 reflection talks, lunch and opportunity for Sacrament of Confession. The retreat director will be Father Tom Donovan, and the topic will be *'Traveling Together on Our Lenten Journey'*. \$15/person for lunch and RSVP required. To register, call or email Carolyn at: casimansky@gmail.com or 618-463-1793.

ATTENTION LADIES OF THE PARISH

Join other women of the parish at the annual Women's Retreat, March 26-28, 2021, held at King's House Retreat Center, in Belleville, IL. To register or for more information, call Ange Shemwell, 618-402-0609.

Opportunity for Prayer For Lent

OLQP has adopted **FRI., MAR. 19** (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. Text Mary Terry, 618-830-0104 to pick your hour. Thanks and bring a partner and experience a change.

Our Sincere Thanks

We want to thank the Knights of Columbus for generously providing those delicious chicken dinners (and Marce & Brenda Tebbe for delivering them). We can't tell you enough how much we appreciate your thinking of us!

OLQP Seniors

'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.

Area Lenten Penance Services

In addition to the extra opportunities for Confession with Father Tom, the following churches in our Deanery will be holding Lenten Penance Services:

St. Boniface, Edwardsville	March 14, 2:00 pm
Mother of Perpetual Help	March 16, 6:45 pm
St. Gertrude, Grantfork	March 17, 6:30 pm
St. Paul, Highland	March 24, 6:30 pm

St. Mary's, Alton, will hold a "Mercy Marathon" on Saturday, March 20 where confessions will be available from 7:00am-8:00pm.

Third Sunday of Lent Jesus, Friend of Outsiders (John 2:13-25)

What do a Samaritan woman, a cleansed temple and a fig tree have in common? These three Gospel stories illustrate Jesus' commitment to the outcast over the insider. People were shocked that Jesus spoke with the woman at the well: a foreign female sinner! But Jesus always had more time for the outsider than those who were sure they didn't need saving.

A LENTEN MEDITATION

When I was growing up the neighborhood kids would get together for a game of baseball, football, canicas (marbles) or other game. We had a rule that each person had a "do over". An action taken in the game could be undone by calling "do over". You could then take the action over again. Silly rule, but perhaps it grew out of our innate understanding that not every action defined us and we had a chance to redeem ourselves once in every game.

I think of Lent as God calling us to a season of "do overs". Beginning on Ash Wednesday when we mark ourselves with ashes, an outward sign of an inward desire to have a "do over" of the way may have been living or not living life. That is what repent means: to turn around, to experience "metanoia" (to put on a new mind). A new mind which helps us see God's desire to be more closely connected with us and allow us to know more fully God's love and mercy. But, putting on a new mind or having a conversion of heart requires more than good intentions. As with any "do over" new action is required. This metanoia brings with it action and developing new habits.

Jesus gives us a road map leading us to conversion of heart or metanoia: a road map to make our "do over" stick. In all these we are turning the focus from ourselves to others and to God. The 3 actions are:

- Give alms (give to the poor) secretly with only God as a witness. This helps minimize the influence of selfish motives like self-aggrandizement.

- Pray privately with only God as a witness. This lets us be honest with God and ourselves. The "Our Father" is good place to start. Prayer is our deliberately lifting our minds and hearts to God.

- Fast with only God and ourselves as witnesses. Again, this circumvents the propensity to fast with the hopes of gaining the esteem of others. Fasting is a discipline of self denial for spiritual growth.

So, in this season of "do overs" let's turn these actions of alms giving, prayer and fasting into disciplines which give us new minds. These disciplines can turn our desire for a "do over" into real, substantive and lasting change. Perhaps at the end of our 40 days of Lent we will have truly put on a new mind, with God having given us new hearts as well; the heart and mind of a God's beloved daughter or son.

What do I need to call a "do over" for this Lent?

How will I weave the disciplines of almsgiving, prayer and fasting into my life?

Submitted by:
Anthony "Tony" Deosdade
ACTS Spiritual Companion Program, Director
Oblate School of Theology



