

PRINCE OF PEACE CATHOLIC PARISH



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The Lector Ministry *Giving Their Time to Share the Scriptures*

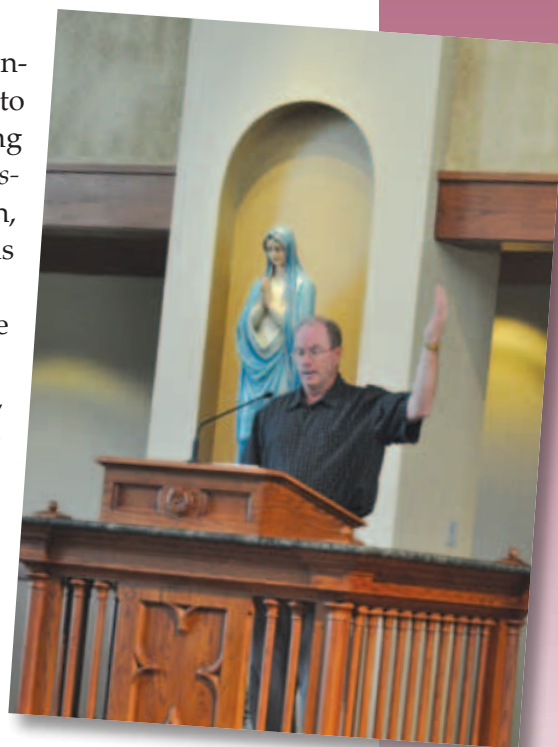
As the lector approaches the ambo and opens the Lectionary during the Liturgy of the Word, he or she prepares to perform one of the most sacred duties on Earth: proclaiming the Word of God. As the *General Instruction to the Roman Missal* states, "When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his own word, proclaims the Gospel."

Accordingly, many lectors at Prince of Peace take this role very seriously.

"I enjoy reading the Scriptures, and when I am the lector, I concentrate even more on the readings," says Beverly Putman, who has served as a lector for 10 years. "Sometimes, it is hard to understand exactly what the readings are saying and trying to tell me, so I have to go over them four or five times before I read at Mass."

The lector ministry has been blessed with several people who are willing to give their time and talents to serve our parish liturgical celebrations. There are four Masses every weekend, and lectors can sign up to serve at the Mass they normally attend. Typically, each lector serves approximately once a month.

Thorough instruction is given to lectors before they begin reading at Mass. Sally Ann McCarthy, a member of the ministry, individually trains each prospective lector. She gives guidance on all aspects of being a strong lector. Lectors are only added to the schedule after they have completed the training.



Understanding the New Roman Missal *The Introductory Rites*

Last month in the parish newsletter, we introduced the Third Edition of the *Missale Romanum* (Roman Missal) that will be implemented in United States parishes starting on Nov. 27, 2011. In that introduction, we discussed the history of the English-language Roman Missal since Vatican II, as well as the reasons for the new translations and the work that has been done to finalize them over the last 10 years. This month, we will briefly touch upon some of the major changes that Catholics can expect during the introductory portion of our daily and weekly liturgical celebrations.

Although the words that we say at Mass have undergone translation, the order of the Mass will not change. The Liturgy will be broken up into four parts: Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, and Concluding Rites. This article will highlight some of the notable revisions to the Introductory Rites.

After the opening hymn or antiphon, the first words that we are used to hearing at Mass are the priest leading us in making the Sign of the Cross, to which we respond "Amen." The priest then has several formulas from which he can choose to greet the people, the most familiar of which is "The Lord be with you." These words will not change, but our response to them will. Instead of saying "And also with you," as we have done in the past, we will now respond, "And with your spirit."

This revised response more closely corresponds to the one that currently exists in many other languages, and is directly inspired by Sacred Scripture. Moreover, as Fr. Paul Turner points out in *Understanding the Revised Mass Texts*, it is a richer response that more fully places us in the presence of Christ. "The purpose of this greeting is not just to say, *Hello* or *Good morning*. It alerts participants that they are entering a sacramental realm and reminds them of their responsibilities during this time we will spend at prayer" (Turner 8).

Another small, but notable, change that may initially cause some confusion will be a new translation of the Confiteor during the Penitential Act. The Confiteor is the communal prayer that begins "I confess to almighty God, and to you my brothers and sisters..." Instead of



saying "that I have sinned through my own fault" as we did in the previous translation, we will now use the phrase "that I have greatly sinned." Furthermore, a new stanza will be added between the words "in what I have done and in what I have failed to do" and "I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin." The assembly will now pray the following, according to the official *Order of the Mass*:

*in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
(And, striking their breast, they say:)
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
(Then they continue:)
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,*

At first glance, this new translation of the Confiteor appears to encourage us to offer a much more heartfelt repentance for our sins, which must be a lot more serious than they were during past liturgical celebrations, right? Not necessarily. According to Fr. Turner, "The guiding principle of the translation is a closer adherence to the words in Latin—not a sharper critique of our virtue. The new translation does have us express more grandly the seriousness of our sin and the sincerity of our contrition. It offers a humbler way to collect ourselves before stepping any further into prayer" (Turner 11).

Next month, we will explore some of the changes to the Liturgy of the Word in the new translation of the Roman Missal. In the meantime, please visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Web site at www.usccb.org/romanmissal for more information and resources regarding the Third Edition of the *Missale Romanum*.

Embrace the Holy Spirit

Dear Parishioners,

You've all heard homilies about Pentecost, which comes on June 12 this year. Pentecost was the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles while they were gathered for prayer in Jerusalem.

Coming 10 days after Jesus' Ascension into heaven, the descent of the Holy Spirit turned the apostles from a collection of fearful followers looking for some direction into a band of courageous witnesses ready to declare their faith in Christ to the whole world.

You've heard that Pentecost is the birthday of the Church, because that was the day when, newly filled with the Holy Spirit, St. Peter preached the first Christian sermon, inviting his listeners to turn to Jesus as their Savior and their Lord. Those who accepted the invitation were baptized and "were added" to the Church (Acts 2:41). That day marked the beginning of the Church's public mission, which continues to the present.

But the Holy Spirit's actions in the Church were not limited to the apostles in an ancient time. He remains active down to the present, guiding the pope and the bishops as they go about their work of sanctifying, teaching, and ruling in the Church. The Holy Spirit acts in the sacraments to make them effective signs of grace. We see the Holy Spirit's work in the witness of the saints, through whom He continues the work of salvation.

The Spirit, moreover, acts not only in the Church as a corporate body, but also in the lives of individual Christians. We become temples of the Holy Spirit at our baptism. Then, at Confirmation, which is our own personal Pentecost, we receive the seal of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit unites us more closely to Christ, increases the spiritual gifts we have been given, and strengthens us to spread and defend the Faith.

The point I'm trying to get across is that Pentecost is not merely a feast celebrating something that happened a long time ago. Of course, the coming of the Spirit we read about in Acts 2 took place just once. But the Holy Spirit remains active today, guiding the Church as a



whole, but also working in the life of each individual Christian to make us holy.

But, you say, you don't feel like the Holy Spirit is working in your life? Well, God the Father gave us free will, so we can choose whether or not we'll obey Him. And God the Holy Spirit, being united in the one God with the Father and the Son, honors that freedom. He'll never force us to turn away from sin or compel us to obey

God's commandments. The Spirit offers us grace. He will beckon us toward heaven, and occasionally we may feel Him nudging us along, but we always have the freedom to choose God or to reject Him.

Perhaps you've made a commitment to worship at Mass at least weekly and spend some time each day in prayer. Maybe you have promised to use some of your talents in parish ministries and service to the community. You may even have turned in a card at our last Stewardship Renewal to indicate your pledge of a portion of your treasure to be used in God's service.

I hope you've done all of these. If so, both the Holy Spirit's grace and your response were involved in your decision. And the Holy Spirit will give you the strength to fulfill your commitments.

This Pentecost, make the verse we'll sing just before the Gospel your personal prayer:

Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful; and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

If you do, you'll find the Holy Spirit working even more strongly in your life. You'll be happier, and the world – at least your little corner of it – will be a better place.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Father Ken". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Fr. Ken Kuntz
Pastor

A Celebration of



Class of 2010

The end of the school year is often a chaotic time. Students are rushing to finish papers and projects and studying for final exams, while also daydreaming about long summer days of being with friends. Teachers are busy as well, grading papers, evaluating the year's curriculum, and making plans for the fall. But as everyone else looks to the summer or plans for the next school year, the seniors face the biggest changes.

Karen Witt is the Development Director at Prince of Peace Catholic Education

System, and also has a child graduating this year.

"The end of the year is always crazy," she says. "There are celebrations for the seniors and their accomplishments. But it's a time of transition; a bittersweet time."

Prince of Peace Catholic School provides a specific Senior Day of Reflection for students at the end of the year. This off-site retreat is a time for the students to think about their tenure at school and to ponder the various changes in their lives.

"It's a day set aside for our seniors to reflect on their relationships with God, themselves, and friends and family," Karen explains. "It is a time to say 'goodbye,' and to say 'hello' to the future."

Karen acknowledges that despite the excitement of graduation, the end of the school year can be tough on seniors. For the Day of Reflection, parents are invited to write letters of encouragement to their senior children, which can have a huge impact on seniors facing the unknown.

"They come back with a sense of calmness," Karen says.

All of the seniors of the parish were also recognized at Mass on May 15. As seniors face the future with a mixture of trepidation and excitement, it's important for them to stay grounded in faith. Knowing that their Church and their parish support them is of great encouragement.



A little fun never hurt anyone.

the School Year

It's also important for the entire school to come together to celebrate a successful year of learning and growth. The All-School Mass and Awards Assembly was held on May 18. This school-wide program recognized the dedication and hard work of students in non-academic areas. Teachers, coaches, and club advisors presented awards ranging from Citizenship to Perfect Attendance.

"We do it to acknowledge the efforts of our students," Karen says. "These are awards that any student can accomplish. It's another way for students to shine."

Of course, the highlight of the end-of-the-year activities is graduation, the culmination of 13 years of education. The traditional Baccalaureate Mass was held Wednesday prior to the ceremony, which was followed by a senior dinner. The celebratory dinner was a time of reminiscing for both students and teachers. Graduation itself was May 22, and marked the first time the ceremony was held in the new church.

June marks another successful year of completing the school's mission. With great pride and sincerity, we say "congratulations" to all of the students and staff at Prince of Peace Catholic School for a wonderful academic year. Have a great summer, and be at peace. You did it!



Spring Band Concert



HS Service Day



2011 Prom



Stewardship Summer Giving

We've stopped the newspaper. We've stopped the mail. We've taken the dog to the kennel. The iron is unplugged, and the stove is turned off. Is there anything else we need to do before we leave on vacation?

Aren't you forgetting something? Did you remember to write a check to your parish for the Sundays you'll be gone?

"But I won't be at Mass at home those Sundays. Can't I skip those envelopes when I'm away? After all, I'll put a dollar or two, or maybe even five, in the collection at the church where we visit. Isn't that enough?"

Many Americans, whether we have school-aged children at home or not, mentally operate on a school-year calendar. We assume our organizations operate September through May and then take it easy during June, July, and August. And to some extent, many parish activities do function on such a schedule. Our parish may not hold Faith Formation classes during the summer. Our choirs frequently take a break. Even many of the parish staff members take summer vacations! Can't our giving go on vacation during the summer, too?

Even as we form the question in our minds, we know the answer. The prime reason for keeping up our commitment to giving all summer is that God doesn't go on vacation. He continues to sustain us throughout the summer months. He persists in pouring out blessings on us, even during the hottest weather. He keeps



on meeting us in His sacramental presence when we go to Mass wherever we travel. As God remains faithful to us during the summer, we are called to be faithful in our commitments to Him and our parish family, even during our vacation time.

God's steadfastness in giving to us is the primary reason for us to respond by being faithful in our stewardship toward Him. But there is also a practical reason why we need to keep up our commitments of time, talent, and treasure throughout the summer: the Church needs our involvement year-round.

Even though some parish activities are reduced during the summer months, the parish's expenses are not. After all, there are still Sunday Masses and daily Masses, too. The parish staff members still need their salaries. And, of course, we

need to run the air conditioning in our church during the hot summer months. Despite the fact that some parish functions are suspended, there can be some extra activities, such as Vacation Bible School. And although the regular parish Faith Formation program may be suspended, the summer expenses are often the highest, as textbooks and other supplies are bought for the coming school year. Our parish has to pay its bills on a year-round basis, just like your family.

Our parish plans a budget for the year, taking into account the commitments you, the members, have made. If parishioners do not live out their financial commitments to the parish, the budget will not balance.

Our giving needs to be maintained throughout the summer, just as God maintains His generosity to us. Our stewardship is a response to God's gifts. And God pours out His gifts and His grace upon us all year long.

❖ Prince of Peace Parish also offers the convenience of electronic giving, so your church giving can continue automatically, even if you are away on vacation or can not attend Mass due to illness. Parishioners can schedule regular electronic donations or make periodic credit/debit card payments, or complete an Electronic Transfer (ET) Form through the Parish Web site (www.jcpop.org). Contact the Parish Office at 563-242-3311 if you have questions about electronic giving.

Offering Charisms for the Common Good *Called and Gifted*

Most ministries benefit the whole parish community. But there's one ministry at Prince of Peace that especially has the potential to energize every other.

The "Called and Gifted" program supports every other ministry at the parish, including those that don't yet exist. That's because Called and Gifted helps parishioners discover their own charisms and talents that can benefit others.

The program springs from an insight of St. Paul: "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

That means that every one of us has something to offer. Called and Gifted is a way to discover what that is.

"At first, it was hard to understand and believe that there was something special He had in store for me," says Bernie Koch, a Called and Gifted participant. "Through the span of time, these classes gave me inspiration, joy, and the possibility of knowing that I can make a difference."

Called and Gifted participants progress through two phases, each consisting of five meetings. The first phase addresses "Initial Discernment," when parishioners learn more about what it means to be a lay apostle, the nature of spiritual gifts, the basics of their discernment, and how discerning those gifts helps one find happiness in life as one discovers his or her individual call from God.

After the first phase, participants move to the second, "Discernment in Depth." Here, each person methodically discerns and "tries out" his or her individual gifts.

"The whole process is proof of the magnitude of God's love for all of us," says Ellen Bentley, coordinator of the program. "He alone could enable each of us with such individuality and sense of community."

Even if you aren't sure that Called and Gifted is for you, it might be worth considering more closely.

"At first, the title of the program made me pause, so I pondered joining the group for several days before signing on," says Sandy Herrington, another participant. "But over the first few meetings, I realized that I was being called to recognize what I thought was merely just my personality, but was actually an introduction into what God had given me to strengthen my faith and the people I touch everyday."

For Sandy, Called and Gifted also helped her recognize that charisms come in many different forms, and are not always immediately obvious.



"I didn't have to be a great teacher or leader, because I had a purpose, which the Called and Gifted program made me recognize in my faith journey," Sandy says.

The Called and Gifted program can be thought of as a process to help individuals discern their spiritual gifts, also called "charisms." The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains that charisms are "graces of the Holy Spirit which directly or indirectly benefit the church."

"Charisms are gifts given for the sake of others," Ellen explains. "When we operate out of a charism, we will usually feel energized; that we have 'found our place' in life or that we 'fit.'"

Identifying those charisms from our many talents is part of the Called and Gifted process.

"I have discovered the difference between God's gift for me – a 'charism' – and any talent that I may have," Bernie says. "I've also learned how to put into action the combination of my charisms and talents for the good of God and mankind."

Like any process of discernment, Called and Gifted takes some time, but the benefits are immense – and long lasting.

"This class is a must for all Christian adults," Bernie says. "It offers awareness of God's love for us, how to recognize gifts, and how to use them to the best of our ability for the good of God and His people."

To participate in the next Called and Gifted program, please contact Ellen Bentley at 563-357-2630 or lnrn_emt@yahoo.com.



Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace Catholic Parish

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Mass Schedule

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

The Lector Ministry *continued from front cover*

"Sally Ann does a great job of training new lectors on how to speak, place the microphone, and project," Beverly says. "I also go over the guidelines for readers with them before they serve at Mass for the first time.

Given that public speaking is a big fear for so many people, it is no wonder that first-time lectors are often a bit anxious.

"At first, I was a little leery of doing this, and then I thought 'I can do it,' and I really enjoyed it once I got past the nervousness," Beverly says. "I realized you really have to read and learn the Scripture passage for each week, and it takes practice to do it properly. Now, I enjoy it."

The Liturgy of the Word is a key component of the Mass, during which Christ teaches and leads His Church through His Word, which is relevant and true in all ages. As the parish continues to strive to live the stewardship way of life, it is always looking for more lectors to step forward and share their gifts of proclaiming the Word.

Anyone interested in becoming a lector is encouraged to contact the parish office at 563-242-3311.

