

Dear Parishioners,

Your teenager is experiencing a moment of angst that is part of growing up: an impossible homework assignment, a bad day on the basketball court, a once promising relationship that has gone sour. By offering a sympathetic listening ear you catch them in your **net of support and affirmation** and get them through the storm.

Someone is new to the job, to the school, to the neighborhood, to the Parish. You take a moment to simply say welcome and offer any help you can. They start asking questions about simple things that you take for granted. You do not realize it but you have caught them in your **net of kindness and welcoming by** helping them make a start in their new life situation.

Someone is on the verge of doing something destructive that could cost them dearly. They are hurt and disappointed and are ready to lash out. They have good reason to be angry. But you know how this will end and it will not be good. So you quietly, calmly and gently gather them in your **net of experience and wisdom** and talk them down guiding them through their dilemma.

At first we may not see ourselves as “**fishers**” of men and women as Jesus called his first disciples to become. But the reality is that at our baptism Jesus called each of us by name to become “**fishers**” of His people! The reality is that we all possess “**nets**” that can catch the falling, rescue the endangered, welcome the stranger, and gather in the lost and forgotten. Today’s Scripture readings are intended to stir us to action in becoming God’s “**fishers.**” Our Gospel reminds us that the spread of Jesus’ kingdom depends as much upon **us** today as it did upon the Apostles after Jesus’ Resurrection and Ascension. Paul’s Letter to the Corinthians counsels us **not** to participate in factions and divisions within our Church. Isaiah reassures us that God’s light is always being offered to us as it was to the Jewish people who had suffered exile, oppression, fear and shame. Isaiah also reminds us that we must “**mirror**” God’s light and share it with others.

In today’s first reading Isaiah urges the Jewish people to place their faith and trust in Yahweh and not in foreign alliances. From a religious point of view Isaiah feared that any commitment to a foreign power would contaminate the purity of their monotheistic belief in Yahweh and signal a diminution of their confidence in divine providence. From a practical point of view he realized that stronger and larger nations would simply absorb Israel into their borders. King Ahaz and the northern kingdom tribes did not heed Isaiah’s advice and were overwhelmed by Assyria. The ten northern tribes (including Zebulun and Naphtali) were exiled to various parts of the Assyrian Empire where they lost their faith and national identity. They are referred to in history as “the ten lost tribes of Israel”.

Isaiah however **does** see an **end** to this sad state of affairs as he proclaims in today’s Scripture passage. God’s profound love for His people will not allow this to continue. There will come a day when God will restore the fortunes of Israel by sending a Messiah who will save His people. All the signs of oppression and despair (darkness, distress, gloom, burdens) will be replaced by signs of freedom, hope, and joy (“a great light”, lasting peace, and rich harvests). This will all happen when the people set aside their pride and choose instead to believe in God and serve Him. By putting the things of God first, His people will eventually discover advantages only God could bring them: removal of their fears and true and everlasting happiness.

St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians (second reading) gives insights into one of the consequences of the dawning of God’s light in Jesus. In this community of still immoral Corinthians several rivalries had arisen. Christians formed several cliques. One faction/cliقة followed Apollos, an Alexandrian Jew. Because he was eloquent, intelligent, and learned in the Scriptures he made a strong impression on the better-educated minority of Corinthian Christians and they paid allegiance to him. Another faction/cliقة (mostly Jewish Christians) claimed allegiance to Peter. The majority of people followed Paul. These were mostly Gentiles and people from the lower classes. A fourth

faction/cliقة called the “Christ” party consisted of a small number who self-righteously proclaimed themselves the best. Their fault would consist not in their saying that they belong to Christ, but rather in their implying that Christ belonged to them alone.

In today’s passage Paul twice refers to people who belong to cliques as “brothers”. When he asks them to be united in the same mind and in the same purpose he is saying many things. He is stating that to be united suggests a mutual adaption (a readiness to give in to one another for harmony’s sake.) He is asserting that disunity among Christians is a disgraceful disruption of the expected Christian “**koinonia**” (a special kind of loving community.). Christianity is not about Apollos or Peter or Paul. Christianity **is** Jesus Christ for it was Jesus who died for them and in whose name they entered the community. Therefore all must remember that the crucified Christ is the center and meaning of their lives. Christ’s cross brings them together as one.

Today’s Gospel passage from St. Matthew marks part of the beginning of Jesus’ ministry and a furtherance of “the dawning of the ages.” In a mere few lines Matthew points out some of its signs: the arrest of John the Baptist signals the beginning of the New Testament; Jesus’ preaching in Galilee and working out of Capernaum presents Him as the light of the nations; the calling of the first disciples begins the time of the Church; and the first healings by Jesus reveal the efficaciousness of the salvation He brings.

In the beginning of today’s Gospel passage Matthew makes a reference to John the Baptist’s arrest. The full story does not appear until Mt. 14:1-12. The purpose here is to give full attention to Jesus who has gone to Capernaum to live. Matthew sees this as a fulfillment of the Isaiah’s prophecy with its reference to Zerbulun and Naphtali. The message Jesus embraced and proclaimed during His ministry in Capernaum and other places is summarized as: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” This is based on the same message that John the Baptist preached when he was active. The difference is that for John the Baptist the advent of the kingdom of heaven was still a future reality. Jesus radicalizes John’s message by making the kingdom a present reality. It is already here, at least partially. This adds

a sense of urgency to Jesus’ ministry. Much of the remainder of Matthew’s Gospel shows Jesus proclaiming that message in a variety of ways.

In the second part of today’s Gospel passage Matthew writes about the call of the first disciples. Jesus understood His ministry to be collaborative. His ministry would be carried out in conjunction with others; referred to as disciples. Jesus issues the call to Peter, Andrew, James and John and their response is immediate and positive. They leave everything and follow Him. There is no indication that these men had ever heard of or seen Jesus previous to this moment. There are no questions asked and no discussion is required. There is no period of discernment. So why would these men respond like this to a stranger? Why would they give up everything to follow a seemingly itinerant preacher without a plan? Logic and reason do not suffice. Matthew does not provide us with an answer. It has nothing to do with knowledge, persuasion, ideology or adventure. However there is something charismatic about the person of Jesus that serves as a magnet and it draws the disciples to Him. The answer can only be found in their hearts.

As Jesus called His first disciples to follow Him and become “**fishers of men**” so too He calls each one of us. He calls each one of us to be “**fishers of people**” using whatever “**nets**” we possess in whatever ocean and seas we find ourselves. He calls us to employ our gifts, talents, and expertise to “**fish**” for those who are working hard to build fulfilling and meaningful lives for their families. He calls us to dedicate our time and treasure to “**fish**” for those who are struggling to survive. He calls us to “**fish**” for those who have lost hope. Our baptism was our acceptance of that invitation to take on the work of discipleship into our homes, classrooms and workplaces. Let us all continue “**fishing**”- doing the work and ministry of Jesus! Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,

Fr. John

Monday, January 23rd has been designated by the Catholic Conference of United States Bishops as a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. I urge everyone to take a moment to pray for the protection of Unborn Children and to pray for the end of legalized abortion in our country. God Bless America. Thank you, Fr. John



O.M.P.H.
Church and School Website
Our new Website for our
Parish and School is up and
running. Our new website is:
www.omph.org

SCHOOL BUS DRIVER NEEDED



OMPH needs a School Bus driver to transport parish students from OMPH to Lancaster Catholic High School mornings and afternoons. Preferred would be a certified school bus driver. If interested please contact Fr. John or Barry Horner.

RALLY FOR LIFE

January 22, 2017 marks the 44th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the Supreme Court decision making abortion legal for all 9 months of a woman's pregnancy. **This January 22** there will be a peaceful, prayerful **rally in front of the Lancaster County Courthouse**, 50 N. Duke St., from 3to 5 pm to declare the sanctity of life within the womb. Please join us in defending the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters!! Pray to end abortion.

If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact me via email or call 293-0236. If I am not home, leave a message.

Blessings, Julie English



PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

Membership Sunday is – February 5. Your participation helps to spread the hope-filled, saving message of Jesus to billions of people who do not know Christ, and supports priests, religious and lay catechists in mission countries worldwide who offer them the Good News.

MARCH FOR LIFE 2017



The 44th annual March for life will be held in Washington D.C., on Friday, **January 27** to protest the evil of legalized abortion in our nation. Members of the

THE POWER OF ONE Catholics Defending Life of Lancaster PA (CDL) are sponsoring four buses to the March for Life, leaving on that date for D.C. at 8:15 AM, and returning to Lancaster at 9:30 PM, using St. Leo the Great Church as the home-base.

Mass will be celebrated, before departure, at 7 AM at St. Leo's. Suggested bus fare is \$10 per individual and \$25 per family of three or more persons, with reduced-fare and free seats available for the mere asking. If you are unable to go to the March, consider sponsoring an individual or a family, willing to go but short-on-cash, by donating their bus fare. If you can go to the March, please call Rosie Gross at 397-6966 to reserve a seat aboard one of the busses.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER



This Valentine's Day why not give your spouse a gift that lasts, one that you can both enjoy day after day?

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is returning to the Diocese of Harrisburg on **Valentine's Day weekend, February 10 – 12, 2017.** Thousands of couples from across the country can attest that a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend will enrich both you and your spouse, giving you a happier, more fulfilling marriage. The weekend gives you both the time and tools to revitalize your romance, deepen your communication, and nourish the spirituality of your marriage.

Time: Friday evening, February 10th to Sunday, February 12th.

Location: Hampton Inn, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

Early registration is advisable as space is limited. There is a \$100 application fee to reserve your spot
"FRESH EXPRESSIONS."

Are Our Families the Problem or the Solution? **Join Bishop Gainer on March 16 & 17 at the Cardinal Keeler Center, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg,** for a conference on evangelization and family life with an ecumenical group called “Fresh Expressions.” Christian churches of all denominations will gather to rethink their approach to evangelization, and to help reach people on the periphery. Monsignor Renzo Bonetti of the Amore Project in Italy will challenge those attending to view the family as our greatest resource for spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. A host of other Catholic and Protestant thinkers, including Christopher West & Reverend Tory Baucum, will discuss how we can reimagine our ministry to families & youth while refreshing our own faith.

Call the Family Life office at 657-4804 or visit <http://freshexpressionsus.org/amorelaunch> for more info.

MASS INTENTION

Monday, January 23, Day of Prayer for the legal protection of Unborn Children

- 7:00 ✦Stella Clay
- 9:00 ✦Joseph Miletics

Tuesday, January 24, St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

- 7:00 ✦Donald Leffler
- 9:00 Intentions in the Prayer Box

Wednesday, January 25, The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

- 7:00 Helen Sippie
- 9:00 ✦Matilda & Louis Leal

Thursday, January 26, Sts. Timothy & Titus, Bishops

- 7:00 Abby Lowe-Critchfield
- 9:00 ✦Stella Clay

Friday, January 27, St. Angela Merici, Virgin

- 7:00 ✦Jean Falgatoari
- 9:00 ✦Max Kessler

Saturday, January 28, St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church

- 9:00 ✦Gertrude Hauser
- 5:00 ✦Helen Phillips

Sunday, January 29, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30 For the Parishioners
- 9:00 Benefactors of OMPH School
- 11:00 ✦Max Kessler

We will be publishing the names of your dear loved ones who are seriously ill or injured. We will keep them in the bulletin for one month. After the period of one month their names will be removed. For example, names announced in the bulletin the third week of the month will be removed the third week of the following month. If at that time prayers are still needed, please feel free to contact the parish office, and we will be more than happy to re-publish your loved one’s name.

January 22: Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Anna B., Karen & Frank Wank

January 15: Alec Masluk, Robert Coleman, Jean Givler

January 1: Anthony Tassa, John Mento

CHURCH SUPPORT

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
1-15-16	\$11,219.55	\$14,326.00	(\$3,106.45)
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
1-15-16	\$400,256.35	\$415,454.00	(\$15,197.65)

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

At the Last Supper, Jesus prayed that his people would be united. He prayed that the mark of his disciples would be their love for one another. The single most compelling thing that will move people to believe in Jesus is our love for each other.

Unity doesn’t mean agreeing on every issue. It means honoring and respecting everyone—including those we disagree with. That’s because, as the Catechism teaches, the dignity of every human person doesn’t depend on whether we like each other. It depends on the fact that we have all been created in the image and likeness of God.



SANCTUARY LAMP

You may have the Sanctuary Lamp burn for a sick or deceased loved one for a donation of \$5 to defray the cost of the candles. This week the candle burns for the living and deceased members of the Miller Family.



As we start another new year, we would like to thank all of our Community Meal Volunteers for saying yes and making a commitment to lend a hand for our 2016 meals. You all did a magnificent job. We welcomed and served a lot of hungry people and it couldn't have been done without your commitment and support.

Please save these dates for our Community Meals for 2017. They are as follows:

1. **March 16, 2017** at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 167 East Main Street in Ephrata.
2. **July 20, 2017** at Bethany United Church of Christ 140 East Main Street, Ephrata, PA.
3. **October 26, 2017** at Bethany United Church of Christ 140 East Main Street, Ephrata, PA.

It was a blessing and a privilege to have worked with such a great group of people. We are look forward to working with you again this year. Thank you for serving our God, our church and our community. Until we see each other again; May God bless you and give you peace.



January 27th March for Life: This year's theme is "**The Power of One,**" highlighting how important each individual is in the struggle to reclaim our culture. To abolish abortion, it must not only be **illegal**, but more importantly, **unthinkable**. We must tirelessly promote the dignity and worth of every baby and every mother. We must promote the joy that comes from the virtue of chastity, of ordering our sexual desires to unselfish ends. We must highlight the beauty of sexuality within marriage.

This year's March in DC will be energized by Speaker Paul Ryan's recent movements to defund Planned Parenthood and repeal Obamacare. Planned Parenthood commits an average of 897 abortions each day. Ninety-four percent of its pregnancy-related services are abortion. Its executives have been caught haggling over baby body parts. Investigators have also caught Planned Parenthood aiding child sex traffickers and covering up sexual abuse. For more info, see <http://marchforlife.org> and lifesitenews.com Andrea Ostrowski

In the event of bad weather during the week, **if school is cancelled, know that Mass also is cancelled.** If school is delayed, then we will only have a 9 o'clock Mass, but please use your judgment whether or not to attempt to attend.

CUPCAKE SALE

Today after all masses! Also, free pamphlets and information is available. Thank you for your continued support of the Respect Life Ministry.

SAVE THE DATE

Calling all OMPH alumni! Join us **on Saturday, September 16.** All classes welcome to celebrate the schools **60th year!** For more info- find us on Facebook under OMPH reunion. Thank you! Lauren DePaul Caramenico.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

We saw 33 families one week this month and 3 of those families were new. Two of those families stated that their situation had changed and were now in desperate need of food. It is a constant struggle for some in our community.



The Benevolent Society's Food Bank is there for those people and others in dire situations trying to figure a way to buy their medications and pay their rent and keep food on their tables.

But now the food bank has some empty shelves! We need canned fruit, boxes of mashed potatoes, and tuna fish. Please drop off your donations in the food bank crate in the narthex of the church. We are grateful and humbled by your continued generosity.

HORSE RACING, FUN AND FOOD

Join the Knights of Columbus for their **K of C Derby, Saturday, January 28.** The evening will consist of 11 exciting horse races with pari-mutuel betting, door prizes, food and beverages. Tickets are \$20 and include a chance to win \$50 in one race and a chance to win up to \$1000 in Race 11. **Doors open at 6 PM** and post time for the first race will be 7 PM. For tickets or further information contact **Ben Hoover at 808-1115 or email at hooverben4@gmail.com.** (Preferred)



DAILY MASS

www.omph.org (Church & School)

RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION

Religious Education Corner:

Our RE Class Schedule For The

Join Lancaster Catholic High School during Catholic School's Week for the following events:

- Open House on Thursday, **February 2** from 6:30-8:00 p.m. - Preregistration is preferred at www.lchsyes.org/admissions/open_house.
- CYO & Basketball Fun Night on Friday, **February 3**. Free admission and snack voucher for 6th/7th/8th graders in our Catholic schools and parishes. Schedule will be girl's junior varsity at 4:00pm, girls Varsity at 6:00 pm, and boys' varsity at 8:00pm. Enjoy raffles and activities between games!
- Catholic High Night at Sky Zone Lancaster on Monday, **February 6** - drop in anytime and prospective students will receive a discounted rate of \$6/hour. Students and staff will be available to answer any questions about Catholic High!

All students in 8th-11th grade in public schools or other private schools are invited to join us for a Group Shadow day on Thursday, **February 9**. Come see what Lancaster Catholic is all about - a free lunch is provided for all prospective students when they visit! Register for a shadow day by visiting www.lchsyes.org/admissions and clicking on "Admissions Events" on the left hand side.

MIRACLE HEALING SERVICE

"Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God." (John 11:40) **Saint Leo the Great**, 2427 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, PA, will host a Miracle Healing Service on **February 4th (Snow Date-February 25th)** from 1-4 pm with the Sacrament of Penance available from 2-4 pm. Dr. Bob Sawyer comes to us from Baltimore, MD and has the support of Most Reverend William Lori, Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore, MD. This service is about Jesus, not about Bob or the Healing Prayer Team working in this ministry who all can witness to JESUS' INCREDIBLE HEALING POWER. For more information, contact Bob or Linda Metz at 285-7635.

BOOK STUDY FOR WIDOWS



In **Walk with Me, Jesus: A Widow's Journey**, the author, Ronda Chervin, uses the stories of women saints who suffered the loss of a husband and encourages women in their new state in life while leading them on the journey to healing and interior joy.

UPCOMING BAPTISMS

For parents thinking about their child receiving the Sacrament of Baptism please know:

- If you choose a godparent who is a practicing Catholic from OMPH parish, no sponsor certificate is needed.
- If you choose a godparent who is a practicing Catholic at another Catholic Church they will need to obtain a sponsor certificate from their Pastor before scheduling the Baptism at OMPH.
- We schedule the Baptism as part of the celebration of Mass during the 1st & 3rd weekends of the month: Saturday- 5pm, Sunday- 9 AM & 11AM.
- There are 3 steps in OMPH's Baptisms: Welcoming (a Baptism Companion makes a visit to the family), Gathering (Baptism class given by our priest) and the Baptism.

Ben & Pat Dangelo schedule the Baptisms as guided by Fr. John. Please call Ben & Pat at 738-0272.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK AT LCHS

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Church
Ephrata PA

January 22, 2017
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

This book study will be held six Tuesday evenings at **7 PM beginning March 7.** To register, please **call St. Mary's rectory office in Lancaster at 392-2578.**