

My Dear Parishioners,

At the first pre-season workout, the new baseball manager meets with this year's team. The previous year was a disaster. This year's squad is made up of a few veterans whose best years are behind them. The rest are players who did not see much action last year and some rookies. The manager says to his work-in-progress: "There is a great deal of talent in this locker room. I know **you can play**. You wouldn't be here if I thought otherwise. We can surprise this league by playing to the level we are capable of. Our goal is to be Champions. Nothing less."

The director of the laboratory at a major research university welcomes the new post-docs and research associates she and her team have recruited. They are understandably nervous and overwhelmed on their first day. The director tells her new recruits: "My colleagues and I have been working on finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease. We think we're close. You all are here for a special reason because we believe **you can help us find a cure**."

The campaign director has called a meeting of the interns and volunteers. The director thanks them for their time and effort and says, "If you're here to get our candidate elected, fine. But that's not what this is about. Yeah, it may sound phony and pretentious but we're here not just because we want to win an election. Oh make no mistake, we want to win and we will do everything we can to win. But our team wants more. We want to **make this a better country**. If that's why you're here, welcome. If not, thanks for coming. You're going to be disappointed if all you want to do is win this election."

All of the above scenarios involve **ordinary** people who are challenged to do **extraordinary** things. Today's Scripture readings remind all of us that God challenges His followers to do **extraordinary** things in **ordinary** situations. We are challenged to "share our food with the hungry, shelter the homeless, and cloth the naked." We are reminded that we are called to be "salt for the earth" and "light for our world."

In today's first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah the importance of sharing our light is stressed. The background to this reading is important. The Jewish exiles have returned to Jerusalem after spending many years in Babylonian Captivity. Upon their return the Jews experienced the same social immorality which was evident before their exile. They complained to God: "Why have we fasted if you did not see, why mortify ourselves if you never notice?" The prophet Isaiah then challenges the Jews to become an authentic light. They are not to merely be preoccupied with the externals of the law but rather they are to be careful to fulfill the heart of the law-which is love of God and neighbor. The returning Jewish exiles thought that they would become a light for the nations if they merely rebuilt Jerusalem and the Temple. However Isaiah tells them that they would only become an authentic light and make a difference in the world if they became a community of justice. Isaiah reminds them that genuine "fasting" is related not only to God but to their neighbor. Their "fasting" should include sharing their food with the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, relieving the plight of the oppressed, and doing away their intent to commit violence. When they do these things- "Then their light will shine like the dawn and their wound will be quickly healed over." If the returning exiles take care of the needy and less fortunate then God will heal them of their spiritual wounds and weaknesses. God will protect them serving as a "rear guard" that shields them from furtive influences that would do them harm. God will always be close to the exiles and answer them whenever they call out for help from Him.

St. Paul, in today's second reading, demonstrates the call to be a light in the world. Paul reminds the faithful in Corinth how he conducted himself when he first came to them. Paul makes no special claims for himself but simply preaches the message of the Crucified Jesus Christ. The persuasiveness of his preaching came solely from his utter submission to the spirit of God. Paul's ministry was to bring people to Christ and then step humbly and completely out of the way.

In today's Gospel passage from St. Matthew Jesus describes the mission of His disciples by using

three simple but powerful metaphors from His time. Jesus reveals what His followers are called to be like: the **salt** of the earth, the **light** of the world, and like a **city** set on a mountain. These images emphasize the disciple's call to be engaged with the world. The time for hiding, quiet caution and fear is over. Now is the time to be **bold**, to shine **bright**, and to let everyone **know** what His disciples stand for.

In Jesus' time, **salt** was used as a purifier, preserver, and enhancer. As a purifier, it was placed in wounds as an antiseptic. It was used to kill bacteria and as a preventer of diseases. As a preserver salt was used to keep meat and fish fresh as there was no refrigeration at Jesus' time. As an enhancer salt was used to give zest and flavor to food. Metaphorically, Jesus invites and challenges His followers to be like salt: purifying and cleansing themselves of sin, preserving their community from moral corruption, and becoming people who add zest to life by giving it God's flavor.

Jesus also calls His followers to be a **light** of the world. Like salt, light is precious. In Jesus' time, the average home was one room with very small windows. Light came from a small oil lamp. It was placed on a stand or ledge above everyone's head so all could see and profit from it. Light was also used in lanterns to guide travelers at night and keep them from mishap. Light was also used to warn people of danger, much as flares are used today. Torches were used in port channels to keep ships at night away from shoals. Metaphorically, Jesus invites and challenges His followers to be light: reflections of Jesus who is the Light of the world, leaders who bring people to praise God and disciples who help others steer a clear course away from danger and evil and towards God.

Lastly, Jesus challenges His followers to be like a **city** set on a mountain. In Jesus' time, most cities were built on a hilltop so they could be easily seen and be more easily defended. Cities were centers of commerce which attracted travelers and traders. With few maps, poor roads, and no directional sign posts, an elevated city could more easily be found. Metaphorically, Jesus invites and challenges His followers to be like a city on a hilltop. They should be a beacon drawing others into their community of

faith and they should allow God's goodness be seen through their good works not for their own pride but so as to glorify their Heavenly Father.

As Catholics God invites and challenges us to do **extraordinary** things in our **ordinary** daily living. God wants us to be like precious salt to a corrupt and insipid world, be like a vital light to a dark world, and be like a city set on a mountain to a jaded world. We can answer God's call and challenge simply by caring for the poor, hungry and homeless, bettering our marriages and family life, teaching and forming our youth, and using our gifts and talents to make our community a better place. To be a true Catholic is to be salt for the earth, to make God's presence and grace realities in our own time and place. To be a true Catholic means we must be a light for our world- illuminating the dark, hopeless corners of society with peace, joy, hope and love. Have a blessed and **extraordinary** week.

Love & prayers,

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**



On behalf of our Parish Community and our Church Cleaners I want to thank Liz and Bob Garrett for their most generous donation of four new vacuum cleaners. God bless you.

Fr. John



PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

By our Baptism, we are all one family in mission – called to share our faith in Jesus Christ with our family and friends, with our neighbors, indeed, with the whole world.

This Sunday we are invited to make a special commitment as missionaries. We are invited to join in the worldwide mission of Jesus by joining the Propagation of the Faith

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**. 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.

MINISTRY TO HOMOSEXUAL PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Spiritual care for Catholics experiencing same-sex attraction is available through the Catholic Church-approved Courage international Movement, which assists its participants in their relationship with Jesus Christ according to biblical truths and Church teaching. Parents, friends and family members of homosexual persons are invited to join the adjunct Encourage group. Both groups meet regularly under the leadership of Father William M. Weary. Contact him at 242-2781 or e-mail at fwearny@sacredheartlewisstown.com.



"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.

Men of the Diocese of Harrisburg – Please save the date of April 1, 2017 for the Diocesan Men's Conference at Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg. The theme is: **Fools for Christ: Men Called to Glorify God through His Catholic Church.** Keynote Speaker is world-renowned Catholic author and speaker, **Dr. Peter Kreeft** from Boston. His keynote is *Seven Reasons Why Everyone Should be Catholic*. **Bishop Ronald W. Gainer** is Principal Celebrant and Homilist for Mass and will also be presenting two workshops on St. Thomas More as a Model for Conscience Formation. There are thirty+ workshop choices over three sessions, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with the Rosary and Benediction, more than 20 Priests available for Confession, plus good music, food, and fellowship. Last year we had 925 men who attended this event. This year we are hoping for 1,000 men. **Registration materials are coming soon to your parish.** Please join us, and invite a friend or three to come with you! Thank you!

40 Days for Life, Harrisburg From March 1 through April 9, you're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Hillcrest Women's Medical Center, 2709 North Front Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and also to help spread the word about this important community outreach. If you'd like more information – and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact: Kathy O'Donnell at Harrisburg40Days@Gmail.com

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Post Abortion Healing- This is an opportunity to examine your abortion experience, identify the ways that the loss has impacted you in the past and present, and helps to acknowledge any unresolved feelings that may struggle with after abortion. Because of the emotional numbness and secrecy that often surrounds an abortion experience, conflicting emotions both during and after the event may remain unresolved. These buried feelings can surface later and may be symptoms of post abortion trauma. Married couples, mothers, fathers, grandparents and siblings of aborted children, as well as persons who have been involved in the abortion industry have come to Rachel's Vineyard in search of peace and inner healing. The weekend is a lot of work but yields a fruitful harvest for all who are willing to labor there. Please accept this gift of healing as only our Lord can offer. Come and let the healing begin: April 21 – 23, 2017. Please Contact Becky at Undeateadccourage@gmail.com
All inquiries and registrations are strictly confidential

Encounter: A Retreat Experience Especially Designed for College Aged Young Adults and Recent Graduates will be held Saturday, March 25 from 9:30 am until 4:00 pm at the Cardinal Keeler Center, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg. Lent is a perfect time to get away to refresh and renew ourselves while growing in relationship with our Lord and with other Young Adults. For more information contact your Catholic Campus Ministry/Newman Club or the Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at: oyyam@hbgdiocese.org or call 717-657-4804 ext. 327. WWW.HBGDIOCESE.ORG/youngchurch

CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
The Harrisburg Guild of the Catholic Medical Association along with The Saint Thomas More Society of Central Pennsylvania will co-host A Lenten Reflection on Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 9 am to noon at Cardinal Keeler Center 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA. The day includes Holy Mass, light refreshments, and Reflection by Bishop Ronald Gainer *To be Zealous for The Lord*. For further information or to RSVP please contact cathmedhbg@aol.com

MASS INTENTION

Monday, February 6, St. Paul Miki, and Companions, martyrs

7:00 †George Givler
9:00 †Jamie Heston

Tuesday, February 7,

7:00 †Nelson Kelsey
9:00 †Frank Cropper

Wednesday, February 8, St. Jerome Emiliani

7:00 Fr. Pat McGarrity, CSSR
9:00 †Maria Camerino

Thursday, February 9

7:00 †Benny Luciano
9:00 †Stanley Runcavage

Friday, February 10, St. Scholastica, Virgin

7:00 †Ellen Renzi
9:00 †Rosina Morelli Guadio

Saturday, February 11, Our Lady of Lourdes

9:00 †Lou Liebl
5:00 †Helen Philips

Sunday, February Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 For the Parishioners
9:00 †Kay Spang
11:00 †Robert Michalik

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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.

February 5: Margie Willwerth, Anthony Tassa, John Griffis

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

January 15: Alec Masluk, Robert Coleman, Jean Givler

CHURCH  SUPPORT

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
1-29-16	\$14,103.26	\$14,326.00	(\$222.74)
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
1-29-16	\$327,445.26	\$444,106.00	(16,660.74)

YEARLINGS

Join us on March 14, at Gus's Keystone Diner at 11:30 Call Gloria for reservations 738-9098

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



The challenge of today's Gospel reading: to show the joy, the love, and the peace of Jesus. It's a challenge for each of us to live like Christ and to show the world just how distinctive and fulfilling a redeemed life can be. In a very real way, our credibility—as well as the credibility of Jesus' message—is on the line every single day. And a credibility gap hinders our ability to help other people come to embrace Jesus in their hearts. Ask Jesus to increase your faith.

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 Helen Philips.

OMPH COMMUNITY MEALS FOR 2017

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

DAILY MASS



In the event of bad weather during the week, **if school is canceled, know that Mass also is canceled.**

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.



**RESPECT LIFE
THE DEVIL'S LIE: A POEM**

Gleaming steel, razor sharp teeth. Tool to silence sweet little voice.

But I will make it sound good and call it ...a choice.

Modern technology extracting joy that is full from the womb.

Vicious pull, leaving only a cold, lifeless tomb.

Partial birth abortion you say? Just keep it from sight.

Shhh! We won't tell. Cease the tapping tiny feet and call it ... a right.

Pain, depression, no peace in you.

God would forgive but I'll hide that too.

Oh, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Satan, Prince of Darkness and Vice.

If we tell the lie long enough this plague will spread like lice!

Shhh! But we won't tell.

Dave

Olszewski

STEWARDSHIP BOOK DISPLAY



Check out all the new selections! All new booklets, including Lenten devotions and St. Therese the Little Flower, as well as books by Peter Kreeft.

As Valentine's Day approaches, take time to ponder what true love is like. Spend a little time getting to know the One who loves you best – our Lord & Savior. Check out the new CD's about the Book of Revelation or Divine Mercy. And pick up something for your valentine as well! Thank you for your generous donations to our display. Andrea Ostrowski



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.



LEGION OF MARY NEWS

Meetings are on Wednesdays at 7 PM in the Parish Library. Visitors are welcome! **HEADS UP!** The Annual Acies ceremony for Active and Auxiliary members will be 2 PM on Saturday, March 25 at St. Anthony's in Lancaster. Fr. Deo will speak Reception to follow.

HAVE A HEART

Have a Heart and Help OMPH School! Throughout the month of February, the OMPH School Giving Tree will be in the church narthex. This tree is adorned with hearts, representing classroom educational aids, materials, and wish list items from each classroom at OMPH School. If you would like to share your love with OMPH School, please: ♥ Select a heart from the tree ♥ Write a check payable to OMPH School for the amount indicated ♥ Place the tag you selected and your check in an envelope ♥ Turn in your donations at the OMPH school office.

Thank you for your support of OMPH School and Catholic education!

SAVE THE DATE



Cold weather getting you down! **Our Mother of Perpetual Help School** is hosting its **25th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament** on **Wednesday, May 10**, at Honeybrook Golf Club, 1422 Cambridge Road, Honey Brook, Pennsylvania. The cost for the Tournament is \$90.00 and includes greens fee, cart, range balls, contests, prizes, Thank You gift, light breakfast, lunch, beverages and the **satisfaction of knowing that you helped OMPH School** while having fun!



Religious Education Corner:

Religious Education Upcoming Events:



**Valentine's Basket/Bake Sale After All Masses
Next Weekend Saturday, February 11th And
Sunday, February 12th.**

Our RE Class Schedule For The

Month Of February Is As Follows:

**Sunday, February 5th – RE Classes In Session
From 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM This Week Only**

LCHS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 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.lchsyas.org/admissions and clicking on "Admissions Events" on the left hand side.

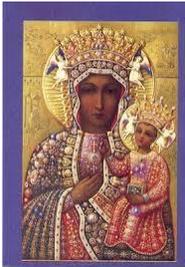
UPCOMING BAPTISMS

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.

OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA



Tour of National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa With Court Queen of Peace #1023, Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

On Saturday, May 20, 2017, Court Queen of Peace #1023, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, is hosting a trip to

the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. The trip costs \$50 per person and includes transportation on a charter bus, continental breakfast on the bus, a donation to the site, Mass at the shrine, lunch, and a snack on the bus home. We will leave at 9:15 am and return about 6:30 p.m. Monies will be due by April 28. The bus will leave from the parking lot of Valentino's Restaurant at 132 Rider Ave, Lancaster, PA 17603. If you are interested in going or have questions, please call 717-203-3441 and ask for Rita.

Rita Smith-Wade-El, Ph.D., Professor, P.O. Box 1002, Millersville, PA 17551-0302 Phone: 717-871-7277 | Fax: 717-871-2480 | rsmithwade-el@millersville.edu | www.millersville.edu