

My Dearest Parishioners,

There is a story about a devout Catholic woman who married a Jewish man. Despite the differences in religion and backgrounds it proved to be a very happy marriage. The woman prayed every day and night for her husband's conversion to Catholicism. She even enlisted the help of her extended family. More novenas were prayed, candles lit and prayers said, than one could imagine. Even though all their children were raised as Catholics her husband never expressed any interest in becoming a Catholic himself. However one day when he was on in years and alone in the house a Religious Sister came to the door conducting the Parish Census. The husband invited her in and she began a conversation by asking the names of all in the house and their religious affiliation. He replied, "They're all Catholic but me." The Sister took her reading glasses off looked him straight in the eye and asked, "And you, why aren't you a Catholic?" He replied, "Because no one ever asked me to become one." "Well I am asking," she retorted. "Would you like to become Catholic?" she asked. "Yes, very much so," he said, without hesitation. The Sister signed him up on the spot for Religious Instructions and he was baptized soon thereafter. His wife was overjoyed and was in seventh heaven. Later on after his baptism the wife came to the realization that although she and her family prayed hard and long for her husband's conversion not one of them ever thought of asking or inviting him to join the Catholic faith.

The theme of today's Liturgy is twofold: (1) **sharing our faith with others** and (2) **our calling to discipleship and ministry**.

In the first reading from the First Book of Samuel we see the old priest Eli **sharing his faith** and knowledge of the Lord with young Samuel. In our second reading we see St. Paul **sharing his faith** and knowledge of God's ways with the Corinthians. In the Gospel we see John the Baptist **sharing his faith** with two of his disciples and directing them towards Jesus, the Lamb of God. Later in that same Gospel story we see Andrew sharing his newfound faith with his brother Simon Peter. Andrew then brings Simon Peter to Jesus. In both instances the faith of an associate begins another's journey to

discipleship. If Eli had not shared his faith with Samuel Israel would not have had the effective transitional leader it needed between the age of the Judges and the era of the monarchy. If St. Paul had not shared his faith with the Corinthians and the non-Jewish world, whole nations and peoples (including our forbearers) may never have heard of Jesus Christ and experience His love. If Andrew had not shared his faith with his brother Simon Peter, someone else might have been appointed by Jesus to head the apostles and be His successor. Who knows how the Church would have developed without Simon Peter's leadership. Sharing our faith is so important we should never hesitate to do so (particularly with family and children.) If our faith is the single most important gift God has given us why are we so reluctant to discuss it and share it with those we love?

The theme of **vocation** as seen in **our calling to discipleship and ministry** is also central to today's Liturgy. **Vocation** involves a following and seeking; a desire to find and come to the place where the Lord dwells and to be with Him. Through our Baptism we all are **called** to follow Jesus and become His disciples. True disciples respond to Jesus' call and do something. They go and reach out to others and become witnesses of the Gospel. Through our Baptism we are called to "holiness." We achieve our "holiness" in how we live out our personal **vocations**: be it in married life, single life, priesthood or religious life.

God has all kinds of plans for us and we are free to follow or not. God speaks to us and communicates in different ways and we need to be listening for His voice. Sometimes God speaks to us in the silence of the night (like Samuel) or within the quiet of our heart. Sometimes He speaks to us in the bustle of everyday life and we need to seek out a wise mentor who can help us decide if God is calling us to a particular **vocation**. Sometimes we need to find a John the Baptist who can help guide us toward the next step for there are all kinds of ministry these days, for women and men; for single and married persons as well as ordained and consecrated persons.

In today's Scripture readings there are four sentences that are applicable to all of us in whatever **vocation** we live: "**Speak Lord, your servant is**

listening”, from our First Reading; **“Here I am Lord, I come to do your will”**, from the Psalm; **“You have been purchased at what a price!”**, from the Second reading; and **“What are you looking for?”** from the Gospel. We all have been called by God to do His work and ministry. Frequently we don’t hear God’s call because we don’t listen well. Our lives are full of clutter and our hearts are not open to God and His plan.

In today’s readings those who heard God’s call are invited to look, to see what is before them, and to realize **who is** in their midst. That same invitation is extended to us- Jesus’ disciples in this time and place. God calls us to “come and see”: to realize the presence of God in the goodness and generosity around us. God calls us to follow Him and to focus our attention on the needs of others rather than our own wants. God calls us to find purpose in bringing joy into the lives of others rather than in the pursuit of the things this world deems as important. As we continue our faith journey this year may we quiet the noise of this world so that we may be more open to hearing God speaking to us. May our lives become for ourselves and others a welcoming light, a guiding light, and a light signifying the presence of the Lord. And may we follow God faithfully and fully in whatever **vocation** in life we have chosen. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,

Fr. John

DAILY MASS: 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.



SECOND COLLECTION

The annual collection for Aid to the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and Africa will be taken up in parishes in the Diocese of Harrisburg **today**. This combined collection supports the Catholic Church in several different parts of the world, funding catechesis, youth ministry and seminarian education.

HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE

We will have a Holy Hour for Life on Friday, **January 19th** from 11AM till Noon time. Please come out and spend some time with Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament praying for the Sanctity of Life.

THAT MAN IS YOU
Men, the new semester of THAT MAN IS YOU (TMIY) starts January 20th at St. James in Lititz. Free breakfast at 6:30 AM. We wrap up at 8:00 AM.

This is a good time for a New Year’s resolution, to step up in the Church and in the home. Show your children and grandchildren what a good Catholic man looks like.

Please come out and give it a chance. Let’s have a good showing from OMPH. Vincent Mento 610-420-2781.

Join us for a Mass celebrating African & African American Catholic Faith and Culture and to remember Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his fight for civil rights in our country. Holy Mass will take place at **Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish**, 558 West Walnut Street, Lancaster, PA 17603 **today, January 14**, at 10:30 AM. All are always welcomed! Refreshments and fellowship to follow. For more information, please contact Gwen Summers at 954-4620, or Jaclyn Curran at 657-4808 ext. 313 or jcurran@hbgdiocese.org



Monday, January, 15

7:00 ✠ Dick Wager
9:00 ✠ Steve Lehmier

Tuesday, January, 16

7:00 ✠ Jill Cleary
9:00 ✠ Bob Jones

Wednesday, January, 17, St Anthony, Abbot

7:00 ✠ Helen Seppie
9:00 ✠ Larry Lehmier

Thursday, January, 18

7:00 ✠ Leo Ehrensberger
9:00 ✠ Jack Lewis

Friday, January, 19

7:00 ✠ William Pratt
9:00 ✠ Thomas Pagerly

Saturday, January, 20

9:00 ✠ Frank Joseph Cropper
5:00 ✠ Maynard & Minerva Eisenhart

Sunday, January, 21, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Fabian, Pope & Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr

7:30 For the Parishioners
9:00 ✠ Marriane Bellamy
11:00 ✠ William Redd

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

We will be publishing the names of your dear loved ones who are seriously ill or injured. 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 7: Maria Mannino, Margaret Gardner, Jane Muldowney, Brenda Crawford, Stephen Stanavage, Jennifer Ranker, Melissa Kurtz, Janet Tomko, Jean Givler, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Michael Lillis, Richard Warner, Jim Lehmier, Tonya Stoner, Kevin Kaiser Jody Shimp.

14 January: Declan Morgan



Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
1-7-18	\$13,441.30	\$14,950.00	(\$1,508.70)
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
1-7-18	\$379,759.01	\$418,600.00	(\$38,840.99)

**Learning To Hear God's Voice
HOW TO HEAR GOD SPEAK**

ADOPTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
God doesn't usually speak to us with an audible voice. Rather, he often chooses natural means, including our consciences and our imaginations. Sometimes our thoughts and feelings—even mental images we see—have their source in God. Keep that in mind as you go to Mass. If you feel your heart being moved—even if it's by only one phrase from the homily—don't chalk it up to your own emotion. Take note. It could be the Spirit stirring within you. If a thought flashes across your mind like "That person seems anxious," it could be that the Lord is asking you to comfort them. Likewise, if the name of a coworker pops into your mind during the prayers of the faithful, you might take that as a cue to pray for them. As you keep leaning into him, trust that the Lord will give you ears to hear his voice.

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 Maynard & Minerva Eisenhart.

RADIATE YOUTH GROUP

Our next youth group meeting will be **Sunday, January 14th** at our new time 6-8 PM the topic for the evening is New Year Resolutions. God bless! In His Service, Denise Ives

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY



We are constantly reevaluating our needs at the OMPH Community Food Bank run by our parish Benevolent Society. We are currently in need of Peanut butter, jelly, boxed dinners, egg noodles, & tuna. Please place items in the food bank crate in the narthex of the church. We are amazed and thankful for the support of our parishioners.



HORSE RACING, FUN AND FOOD

Join the Knights of Columbus for their K of C Derby, Saturday, **January 27th**. 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.

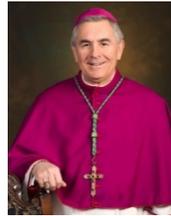
**LANCASTER CATHOLIC NEWS
LANCASTER CATHOLIC ACTIVITIES FAIR**

Lancaster Catholic will be hosting an Activities Fair on **Saturday, January 27th from 1-3 PM**. All aspects of Lancaster Catholic's culture will be highlighted, from the Fine and Performing Arts department to the vast options of clubs including Mini-Thon and Respect Life to Athletics and Campus Ministry.

ONE LUCKY FAMILY

One lucky family that is looking to join the Lancaster Catholic community for the 2018-2019 school year, by attending the Activities Fair, will be awarded one year's paid tuition upon completion of their application. For more information about the day or the admissions process, please contact Kyla Hockey at khockley@lchsyes.org.

**ANNUAL SANCTITY OF LIFE MASS
January 22, 2018**



The Lancaster Region of the Order of Malta extends an invitation for you participation in this special Liturgy. A free will offering will benefit "A Women's Concern."



Host Bishop & Concelebrant is Most Rev. Ronald Gainer, Diocese of Harrisburg, and the Celebrant and Homilist will be the Most Rev. William E. Lori, S.T.D. Archdiocese of Baltimore.

St. Joseph's Church on Cabbage Hill in Lancaster will be our location again this year with **Mass starting at 7 PM**. We will be providing offsite parking with shuttle bus service to and from St. Joseph's for your convenience. **Contact Gerry Ganse 717-577-2735 for shuttle information.**



Religious Education Corner:

**Our RE Class Schedule For The
Remainder of January Is As Follows:**

Sunday, January 14th –NO RE Classes

Sunday, January 21st – RE Classes Resume

Sunday, January 28th – RE Classes In Session

at www.hbgdiocese.org/institute to access the schedule and registration information. Courses and sessions are available via live webinar, allowing you to participate remotely, and recordings of sessions enable you to access formation at your convenience. Contact Ryan Bolster at rbolster@hbgdiocese.org or (717) 657-4804, ext. 225 for information.

45th MARCH FOR LIFE- JANUARY 19



Four buses will leave from St. Leo's parish in Lancaster at **8 AM and returning at 9**. Suggested bus fare is \$10 a person, and per family of 3 or more, with reduced and plenty of free bus seats available. To reserve a **seat call Rosie Gross at 717-397-6966**



**ALL ARE WELCOME!
MARCH FOR LIFE LANCASTER**

The **Lancaster County Annual March for Life** will be held on **Friday, January 19** at St. John Neumann Church, 601 E. Delp Road in Lancaster. The day will start at **9 AM and end at 3:30 PM**, and will consist of a **Prayer Service, music, speakers and videos**. There will be coffee and pastry at 9 AM, and lunch will be served. A free will offering will be taken to cover expenses and to support the ministry of OFF THE STREET.

Call or email Tom Ramsbottom
717-468-3822 - tramsbottom354@comcast.net

Volunteers are needed for one mass a month or as little as four times a year. The Nursery is also looking for a new coordinator, who would schedule volunteers and help maintain the nursery. If you are interested in volunteering or coordinating please call Laura Kauffman at (717) 575-8221 or email omphnursery@yahoo.com to get more information.

**LANCASTERCATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
ONE DAY OF GIVING**

Save the Date! **On Tuesday, January 30th**, Catholic High will provide opportunities for students, faculty, staff, families and businesses throughout the community to participate in the One Day of Giving.

Every dollar raised will go directly to the students that are attending LCHS. You get to make an impact in the lives of these students by helping to provide them a well-rounded and God-filled education. With each contribution, the next generation of cross-bearers, critical thinkers, community leaders and global citizens is empowered by you: parents, alumni, family and friends.

Donors are Matching Your Gift

Thanks to some very generous benefactors, the contributions we receive on January 30th will be matched dollar for dollar! So when you give online on your contribution will be *doubled*!

The Goal? 100% Participation

Lancaster Catholic is asking for 100% participation from its alumni, families, students and classes. Remember, it's not how much you give, but *that* you give to the Annual Fund on this One Day of Giving.

Sponsors of the Day:

Throughout the One Day of Giving, generous sponsors have donated items to be raffled off at various points. To be entered into the raffles, all you need to is donate! If you want to become a sponsor, please contact Joe Sahd at [717.509.0313](tel:717.509.0313) (ext. 206) or jsahd@lchsyes.org.

ROSMARIAN YEARBOOK AWARDS

The Scholastic Yearbook and Magazine Awards 2017 and the American Scholastic Press Association announced that last year's yearbook "Something More" won awards in two categories: First Place for Senior High Schools with an enrollment of 500-1000 and a Special Award for Outstanding Division Pages.

RESPECT LIFE

88 Babies Die Each Day by Abortion in PA As you drove into church, you saw 88 white crosses, representing the 87 babies that die by abortion each day in Pennsylvania alone. Did it seem like less than other years? It is! There has been a significant drop from more than 100 abortions a day down to 88 (according to the 2014 statistics, the most recent available.) Yet 88 babies are still far too many precious lives! These crosses bear silent witness to the hidden lives snuffed out too early. Their deaths are invisible to society, as these babies have no graves, no wreaths, no funerals. The parents grieve in silence, because society says the abortion was just another "choice," as if it was no big deal to brutally kill a child. Yet we plant these crosses every year to proclaim that each of those little lives was precious in

the eyes of God. Each baby was deserving of dignity. We honor their memory and vow to bring to light the horror of abortion, so that it might end. We pray for the day when no mother or father sees abortion as an "answer." We pray to speak up always for the dignity of all babies, because silence is consent. There have been 59 million deaths by abortion in our country since 1973.

Pray each day for the babies scheduled to die by abortion. Beg God to save them. Participate in the March for Life, Jan 19, by attending or doing your part to overcome the media blackout around the event. Post on Facebook, talk about it in your workplace, or with friends. Watch it on EWTN. Pray a rosary, offer up a sacrifice. Say a special prayer each time you see these crosses. Here's a great resource to check out:

<http://www.abort73.com>

Here's a great prayer from Blessed Fulton J Sheen: "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby whom I have spiritually adopted, who is danger of abortion."

Andrea Ostrowski

OMPH COMMUNITY MEALS FOR 2018



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 2017 meals. You all did an outstanding 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 new Community Meals for 2018. They are as follows:

1. **May 31, 2018** at *First United Methodist Church*, Ephrata. 68 N. Church Street, Ephrata.
2. **June 7, 2018** at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 167 East Main Street in Ephrata.
3. **October 11, 2018** at Bethany United Church of Christ 140 East Main Street, Ephrata, PA.

It has been a blessing and a privilege to have worked with such a great group of folks. 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.



ONE DAY OF GIVING

On **Tuesday, January 30th**, OMPH will provide opportunities for students, faculty, staff, families, and businesses throughout our community to participate in the **ONE DAY OF GIVING**. This event being held across the nation by much needed funds for Catholic education see our website <https://www.omph.org> **school-overview or Facebook page ON JANUARY 30TH for the link in which to donate to OMPH School**. Remember, it's not how much that you give to the Annual Appeal on the of Giving. Any questions, please contact Jeanne McAleer, Development Director, OMPH School at 717-738-2414 or jmcaleer@omph.org.

be an Open House and the opportunity to meet the faculty and visit the school. You can also schedule a personal tour of the school for any day, at your convenience, by contacting the Development Office.

To learn more about our school, please visit our website at www.omph.org or call the school office at 738-2414 for further information. Find us on Facebook at OMPH-Ephrata! Financial aid is available to qualifying families.

DISCERNMENT RETREAT

Friday, January 26 (6 PM) to Sunday, January 28 (1 PM), One Day Villa Maria House of Studies (IHM Motherhouse), Immaculata, PA

Young women (18-35) are invited to join us for this retreat which focuses on the IHM Charism and the importance of listening to God's call and discovering the many ways that God speaks to us. Time will be included for personal and communal prayer as well as the opportunity to interact with the sisters in Formation. (Contact: ihmvoc@aol.com or 610-889-1553)

Please add the clip art you have been using. If you are able to forward it to me I will add it each

OMP Selection of your child's school is among the most important choices you will make. OMPH School partners with parents in providing a faith-based education for the children of our parish. We have a strong tradition of academic excellence, but more importantly, the gospel message and spirit of Catholicism permeate the school day. Our children are blessed to have daily interaction with the Redemptorist Fathers serving our parish.

Registration is now open to all parish families **for Preschool through Grade 8 for the 2018-2019** school year. The Preschool program, for children who are 3 and 4 years old by September 1st, provides developmentally appropriate activities in a Catholic environment and offers a Munch Bunch school lunch program. **Our full day Kindergarten program, for children who are 5 years old by September 1st**, provides daily Religion class along with skill development in Language Arts and Math and special classes in computer, library, physical education, art, and music. Students in grades 1 through 8 experience an education noted for academic excellence in an environment which reinforces our Catholic identity. An on-site after school program is available for all students in Preschool through 8th grade. Interested parish families are encouraged to **register by February 1st; registration will then open to non-parishioners.**

Please join us on **Sunday, January 28th** as we celebrate the gift of Catholic education in our parish at the 9 AM Mass. Following the liturgy, there will