

Dear Parishioners,

Aunt Mary is at a wedding reception looking her **best**. She had spent the morning stationed in front of the mirror persuading wrinkles to disappear, making hiding-places for grey hairs, and highlighting her best features. The mirror agreed that the end result was a credit. She is now greeting relatives and friends at the reception. She is ever so delighted when her niece says to her: “Oh Aunt Mary, you look so young, amazing and beautiful!” And then she hears another voice from behind her: “Hey you, old lady in the blue dress. Move out of the way so I can get a picture of the newly married couple!” Aunt Mary loses some of her stature, as we all might. None of us likes being addressed as “Hey you” and identified by something we are wearing. We like people to get our name right and we get touchy when they spell it wrongly. Our image, names, and titles are important to us.

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah knows very well how important image, names, and titles are to people. In Isaiah’s time (500 B.C.) the Temple had been lying in ruins for generations and it seemed that the Israelites were forsaken, and abandoned by a silent God. The Israelites had become small-minded, jealous and miserable living in Babylonian Captivity. They had become mindful of the warnings of previous prophets that destruction is exactly what their infidelity to God would bring on them. In the midst of this despair, doom and gloom Isaiah proclaims an oracle (today’s first reading) about a New Jerusalem. Isaiah’s oracle is God’s love song in which God says that He would forgive the Israelites sins and God invites the exiles to return home. With that, Jerusalem’s vindication is as bright as the dawn and her victory would not be overlooked. Nations and kings will witness this splendor. Jerusalem will be a beautiful crown which Yahweh (God) will proudly hold in His hand. Jerusalem is promised a new name and this implies a new creation. To a caring God who has a tender love for His people, Jerusalem is given a new name: it will no longer be “apsibah” (Desolate and Forsaken) but “Hepsibah” (My Delight and Espoused). The good news is that the Israelites are not going to be stuck with their old image and name “forsaken” for there is going to be a wedding: “As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry

you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so shall your God rejoice in you.”

Just as a bride changes her name at the wedding so the Israelites are going to get a brand new name. Isaiah promises that the time **will** come when God will take His people to Himself like a bridegroom takes his new bride. There will be great rejoicing in this new relationship. So it is that Israel waits for the day and the hour when this great event will take place. They wait in hope for the big wedding.

The image of God marrying His people is an important biblical image and is the best symbol from our own human experience that can be best used to describe the love and intimacy God desires to have with His people. This image prepares the way for St. John’s Gospel account of the marriage feast of Cana and the image of Jesus as being the Bridegroom. The story of the Wedding Feast at Cana relies on the marriage imagery and symbolically manifests the new everlasting covenant between God and His people.

According to St. John’s Gospel Jesus’ hour is the time when He will be manifested in all His glory. The culmination of this hour will take place when He is lifted up on the cross. However, throughout His ministry there will be times when aspects of this glory will be manifested. The changing of water into wine at the wedding feast of Cana is one such time. The story of the wedding feast of Cana is part of John’s **Book of Signs** (Jn. 1:19-12:50). For John, the event at Cana is a **sign**, not just merely a miracle. A **sign** points to a deeper reality than the surface meaning of a miracle. A **sign** reveals the presence of God in the words and deeds of Jesus. A **sign** is a manifestation of divine glory, and one must look beyond the event to discover its meaning and value. Jesus’s **signs** were never mere exhibitions of supernatural power but rather they were revelations of the in-breaking of the reign of God. For those who witness a **sign**, the response may be acceptance or rejection. Acceptance leads to salvation but rejection leads to self-condemnation.

At the festival of a Jewish wedding in Cana Jesus reveals His glory through His first great **sign**: turning the water into wine. The Cana wedding is an unusual wedding for there are two bridegrooms

present. There is the newly married bridegroom and there is Jesus who is the **real** Bridegroom. Jesus is an invited guest at the wedding but he is the long-awaited bridegroom of Israel. Jesus will transform this private Jewish wedding into a great **sign** to show that the time has come when God will take His people to Himself in a new way. Jesus has come as the Bridegroom to claim His bride, Israel.

The dramatic moment of the Cana wedding feast comes when the wine runs out. This would have been a shameful embarrassment for the host couple. Mary brings this problem to Jesus' attention. Jesus' initial response to Mary seems to indicate that He is not interested and intends to do nothing. Mary sees it otherwise and tells the servants: "Do whatever He tells you," recognizing Jesus' supreme authority and knowing that He would respond to the need. What Jesus does is significant. He chooses six large stone jugs used to provide water for the Jewish ritual of cleansing. Jesus tells the servants to fill these to the brim and after they do this they discover that the water has been changed into fine wine. We are given no indication of what Jesus did to the water or how He did it. All we know is that when the headwaiter tastes the wine he compliments the bridegroom for keeping the best wine until last-but he is complimenting the wrong bridegroom. Jesus is the one who has supplied choice wine in abundance and in doing so has revealed His glory. When the disciples see what has happened they begin to believe in Jesus.

So what does all this mean? First of all, it is significant that the abundance of **new** wine has replaced the water in the Jewish purification jars. The **new** has replaced the old. Why so much wine? Messianic banquets with an abundance of wine are often symbolic in the Bible of the final time, the **eschaton**. Here, however, John wants us to make the connection between the abundance of wine and Jesus who produced it. An abundance of wine at the messianic banquet symbolizes salvation. It will flow to all nations like rushing mountain streams. Jesus is here revealing that He is that abundance of salvation. Secondly, the Cana story gives us a marvelous image of the loving relationship we have with God through Jesus. Jesus came to claim us as God's own and He is generous in the gifts He brings. Of course the ultimate generosity of Jesus is shown in "His hour"-the Paschal Mystery of His death and resurrection. When Jesus opened His arms on the cross to embrace all of us, He (the Bridegroom) laid down His life for His bride and

gave His whole self in generous abundant love to us. He continues to give us His body and blood in the Eucharist so that we can be united with Him and with our Father. So, let us rejoice today that we know the name of the Bridegroom and that He knows our name in love. Have a blessed week.

Love & Prayers,
Fr. John

P. S. **Tuesday, January 22nd** has been designated by the Catholic Conference of the United States Bishops as a **Day of Prayer** for the **Legal Protection of Unborn Children**. I encourage everyone to take a moment to pray for the protection of **Unborn Children** and pray for the end of legalized abortion in our country. God bless America.



BISHOP GAINER HOST LISTENING SESSIONS

Bishop Ronald Gainer will host listening sessions throughout the Diocese of Harrisburg in January and February of 2019. He encourages anyone with questions regarding the Grand Jury Report, the Diocese's response to abuse, our path forward, or any other questions or concern to attend one of these sessions. Each session will include opening remarks from Bishop Gainer and retired PA State Police Capt. Janet McNeal, recently hired to oversee the youth protection efforts of the Diocese. Following their brief remarks, the floor will be opened for questions. The scheduled session for our deanery will be held on Tuesday, February 12, at St. Leo the Great Parish 2427 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster PA at **6:30 PM**. In order to make the sessions welcoming and to encourage discussion, video and audio recording will not be permitted. Thank you

BE NOT AFRAID

"We are created to walk with and support one another; we don't need to fear reaching out in love. Help your friend experience the strength of God's message that resounds throughout time: "Do not fear I am with you" (Isaiah 41:10).

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 21, St. Agnes Virgin & Martyr
 7:00 †Stella Clay
 9:00 †Jack Lewis

Tuesday, January 22, Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
 7:00 †Colleen Smalley
 9:00 †Mary Swain

Wednesday, January 23, St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin
 7:00 †Beatrice Gomez
 9:00 †Joseph Miletics

Thursday, January 24, St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
 7:00 Intentions in the Prayer Box
 9:00 †Tony Blake

Friday, January 25, Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle
 7:00 †Judy Berkowitz
 9:00 †Robert Reed

Saturday, January 26, St. Timothy & St. Titus, Bishops
 9:00 †David Maxey
 5:00 †John & Helen Phillips

Sunday, January 27, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 For the Parishioners
 9:00 Benefactors of OMPH School
 11:00 †Those grieving the loss of a loved one

CHURCH  SUPPORT

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
1-13-19	\$9,861.00	\$14,300.00	(\$4,439.00)
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
1-13-19	\$364,694.01	\$414,700.00	(\$50,005.99)

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.

HORSE RACING, FUN AND FOOD



Join the Knights of Columbus for their K of C Derby, Saturday, **January 26th**. 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 717-808-1115 or email at hooverben4@gmail.com

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



It's possible that all Jesus had to do was say, "Come after me" to get Peter and Andrew to drop their nets, leave their families, and become disciples. But it's far more likely that this story is the climax of a number of other encounters Jesus had with them. This observation can teach us two things.

First, our decision to follow Jesus is never a onetime choice. *Second*, our decision to help other people follow

Jesus is never a onetime choice. No matter how mature our yes is, the Holy Spirit wants to take it to a deeper level. He wants to help us mature in our commitment to him so that we can know him better and become more effective servants of his kingdom.

This principle applies to our call to help other people follow Jesus. It's always possible that our children and friends will immediately take our advice and give their lives to the Lord. But knowing human nature, it's more likely that they will need more time and attention than one simple invitation. This means we need to be consistent in mirroring Jesus to them. Never stop showing them your love. Never stop caring for them. Never stop telling them that Jesus is about love and mercy, redemption and reconciliation.

Jesus is calling you to follow him today. He is asking you to keep evangelizing people with love and compassion. It's a challenging call, but you don't have to do it alone. Jesus has all the grace you need.

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 Eisenhart Family.

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.



Fr. Donald Bender, Fr. Paul Bryan CSSR, Margaret Gardner, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Michael Lillis, Richard Warner, Anna Leshner, Florence Windish, Gloria Reynolds, Patrick Michael Ward, Carlos Luciano Sr., Mary Kay Hensel, Gerald Gigliotti, Francis Gatti, Antonia Scribani, Jean Mash, John Mento, Joe Lewis, Joe Ferrara, Joan Dever, Alicia Craig, Robert Bevans, Chris Hohowski, and Jody Shimp.

IS OUR LADY CALLING YOU?



If you have an interest in going on a Pilgrimage to Medjugorje, please contact me for details: Carol Foltz, 717-859-1218 or carolfoltz1218@gmail.com Date is **April 29, 2019 - May 9, 2019. Cost is \$2499.00** (from Newark NJ airport) - air, lodging, and meals.

TEXT-TO-GIVE SECOND COLLECTION CODES

Second collection text-to-give is easy! Just text the amount you would like to give followed by the "code word" for each specific collection. For example, "10 flowers", makes a gift of 10 dollars towards our flower collection. Each week before a second collection, the "code word" will appear in the bulletin for your convenience.

The code words for the next few weeks:

<u>Collection Name</u>	<u>Collection Date</u>	<u>Code Word for Text-To-Give</u>
Initial	No date	initial

Reminder the Text-To-Give phone # is **717-401-4159.**

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Have you ever looked at the food bank crate in the narthex as you walk into mass on the weekend? The crate is ALWAYS overflowing with non-perishables donated by YOU, the OMPH parishioners.



We are extremely humbled by the unending support of our parish in our quest to help those struggling in Northern Lancaster County. So, THANK YOU!

Our food bank is open on Wednesday evenings [from 5-6:30pm](#) on the grounds of St Clement Mission House. If you know of any local families who can use help with food, please send them to one of our distributions to see if they qualify. Any parishioner who needs help with food is welcome at any time without any need for financial qualification.

Our current needs are: applesauce, peas, canned corn, and Mac & cheese.

RADIATE YOUTH GOUP NEWS



On **Sunday, January 27th** from **3:30-5:30 pm** in the Bernadine Center we will begin our study of Theology of the Body. Grades 9-12 are welcome to attend these meetings throughout the upcoming months. His Service, Denise Ives

OMPH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

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 2019-2020 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, Spanish, 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 27th** as we celebrate the gift of Catholic education in our parish at the 9:00 am Mass. Following the liturgy, there will 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 717-738-2414 for further information. Find us on Facebook at OMPH-Ephrata! Financial aid is available to qualifying families.

YEARLINGS NEWS



We will meet for lunch on February 13th at 11:30 at Keystone Villa, \$10 for buffet or menu. Please call Mary Burkholder at 717-413-0497

for reservations. Very important! All are invited.



Religious Education Corner:

**We Will Be Taking A Break From The RE Valentine's Basket/Bake Sale This Year.
Thank You To All Who Have Contributed,
In Any Way, To This Fundraiser In The Past.
Your Contributions Have Been
Most Greatly Appreciated.**

**Our RE Class Schedule For The
Remainder Of January And The
Month Of February Is As Follows:**

First Weather Make-Up Class If Needed Otherwise

Sunday, January 20th – NO RE Classes

Sunday, January 27th – RE Classes Resume

**Sunday, February 3rd – RE Classes In Session *From 1:00
PM – 2:30 PM This Week Only***

Sunday, February 10th – RE Classes In Session

Second Weather Make-Up Class If Needed Otherwise

Sunday, February 17th – NO RE Classes

Sunday, February 24th – RE Classes Resume

Kelly Lawrence

NATIONAL EDUCATION CONTEST

Lancaster Court Queen of Peace #1023 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas invites all youth in grades 4-12 from all schools to enter our 2019 National Education Contest. This year's themes are: "HERE I AM LORD, I COME TO DO YOUR WILL." Ps. 40 and "DOING MY BEST TO DO GOOD". Enter one or more contests: ART, ESSAY, POETRY, COMPUTER ART, MUSIC, and PHOTOGRAPHY in your division. Go to



to <http://www.catholicdaughters.org/> and click on [Education Contest Forms](#) (also available in Spanish) under Frequent Downloads for contest rules and details. Entries must be postmarked by or delivered to Margaret T. Giordano, Education Contest Chairman, 1530 Hollywood Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601 by February 1, 2019. Please note: all 1st place local winners will be entered in the state education contest,

and 1st place state winners will be entered at the national level. An awards ceremony for local winners will be held in early June. (Please feel free to leave a voice message at 717-390-9035 if you have any questions.)

and Marilyn Berger. For more information please contact Lancaster Catholic's Department of Advancement at 717-509-0313.



LANCASTER CATHOLIC'S WINTER OPEN HOUSE

If you are thinking about who you can become in our colors, join us at our Winter Open House on Thursday, **January 31st**, from **6:30-8:00** p.m. This is a unique opportunity to tour Lancaster Catholic with one of our students, observe our faculty and students in classroom activities and enjoy performances from a variety of our student ensembles.

Go to www.lchsyes.org/openhouse/ to register for this event!

If you can't make it to the Open House but would still like to see LCHS, join us for a day in the shoes of a current Lancaster Catholic Crusader during our group shadow day on February 7th.

Contact Kyla for more information at 717-509-0313 or email khockley@lchsyes.org.

PIANO BARN NIGHT

Lancaster Catholic's Fine & Performing Arts



Department will be hosting a Piano Bar Night on Saturday, **January 26th at 7:30** in Lancaster Catholic's Cafeteria. Snacks and drinks will

be served. This is a 21 and older event. Admission by donation to the FPA Program. Please **RSVP by Tuesday, January 19th** to Tony Brill at 717-509-0310 or email tbrill@lchsyes.org with full name, number of attending and phone number. To reserve a table, you must have 8-10 people in your party. All others will be able to choose your seating when you arrive to the event.

SAVE THE DATE

Lancaster Catholic's Purple & Gold Gala will be held on Saturday, **April 6th**, from **6 pm – 11 pm** at the Lancaster Country Club. This year's Saint John Paul II Excellence Award honorees are Father Allan Wolfe