

My Dear Parishioners,

During her Monday morning class a professor noticed a student in the back row fast asleep. She said nothing and continued her lecture. At the end of class the professor asked the student to stay for a moment. The embarrassed student braced himself since falling asleep in class was the unpardonable sin. But the professor began their conversation by asking if everything was all right. The young man admitted that things had been tough. He had just returned from a quick trip home to be with his mother who had been in a very serious car accident. The pressure of school and home were taking a toll on this eighteen- year- old. The professor offered to talk with the young man's other professors, to contact student services for help, and to work out some alternatives in managing his course work. It was the first hope the young man had felt in a while; all because a teacher **looked**.

It was a scar in the middle of the block: a small strip of land between two apartment buildings that had become a dumping ground not only for trash but late at night for the homeless and drug addicts. A few residents of the neighborhood got together and talked to the building owners. Would they mind if they cleaned it up. Maybe plant a few bushes and flowers and install some benches? "Yea, sure, whatever," was the unenthusiastic reply. Over several weeks of hard work the eyesore was transformed into a small park with a community garden that produced a few vegetables for the nearby soup kitchen. No one could imagine anything good coming from that sad tract of useless earth; until someone **looked**.

Today's readings remind us that if we **look with the eyes of faith** and if we are **persistent in our prayer** we will be able to discover **joy** in any given situation. Our readings also remind us that our Christian vision of **faith** enables us to see and realize that God's compassion **is** present in our midst. God always provides us with His transforming hope and re-creating love to heal the brokenness within our lives.

Today's first reading is from the book of the prophet Jeremiah who was no stranger to adversity. God appointed Jeremiah as a prophet to steer the Kingdom of Judah back on the right path. Had the rulers and the people listened to Jeremiah's word the nation would have been spared the terrible experience of exile.

The first 25 chapters of Jeremiah's book speak of a message of doom for the Jewish people for their dried up hearts that refused to listen to God's word. But God wanted Jeremiah also "to build and plant" so today's passage is taken from a section that represents the sunny side of Jeremiah's "Little Book of Comfort."

Jeremiah's warnings had gone unheeded and the doom and destruction he had foretold had come true. Addressing the people of Judah who were exiled to what is now modern day Iraq, Jeremiah optimistically looks to the future when his people would come back to their homeland. Shouts of **joy** will replace the sighs of lamentation. Cries of despair will be replaced by proclamations of praise. The central theme of today's passage is the exuberant **joy** of that return; of an odyssey from spiritual blindness to sight. Opening with a solemn call to **joy**, Jeremiah uses strong words like "shout," "proclaim," and "praise." Jeremiah then speaks of the remnant which refers to the small number of those who escaped the calamity of defeat and exile and had been purified to constitute the new Israel who was **faithful** to her God. The returning remnant will consist of the most vulnerable-those who are blind or lame; those who are mothers or who are pregnant; all people who are utterly dependent on God. God will make their journey as pleasant as possible with plenty of refreshing water along the way. It will be through the **faith** of the remnant that God will **joyfully** restore the nation of Israel.

Today's Gospel story of Jesus healing the blind man Bartimaeus comes at the end of the lengthy section where Jesus predicted his Passion three times and attempted to explain His mission to His disciples without success (Mark: 8:27-10:45). The disciples could not grasp Jesus' true identity. In a sense the disciples remained blind to what it meant to be a true follower of Jesus. The blind man Bartimaeus comes along and has no reason to neither know who Jesus is nor follow Him. Yet Bartimaeus ends up **seeing** and becoming a true disciple. Obviously this irony is intended by Mark. This is typical of his Gospel where those who should know Jesus do not and those who have no reason to know Jesus actually do know Him. It is another example of the wrong people having the right answers while the right people seem to have the wrong answers.

The story of blind beggar Bartimaeus is set in Jericho. Jesus is traveling with His disciples and a large crowd headed towards Jerusalem for the Passover. In the story Bartimaeus is the assertive one since there is no indication that he had previously heard of Jesus or had any belief in Him. However, Bartimaeus (who is sitting by the roadside) hears that Jesus is passing by and cries out, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me." His unambiguous cry for mercy, along with a special name, "Jesus, Son of David" carries Bartimaeus' prayer right into Jesus' heart. The man who was blind already has the **eyes of faith** and he acts on this **faith** by publicly proclaiming it. The immediate response of the crowd is to shut Bartimaeus up and try protecting Jesus from yet another "crazy" person. They represent the school of thought which is content to leave the afflicted to suffer in silence. What is shocking to the crowd is that not only does Jesus hear the marginalized blind man calling out to Him but Jesus actually wants to stop and talk to him. Then in a gesture that speaks of Bartimaeus' faith as much as his words, Bartimaeus throws aside his cloak. This cloak is his greatest possession. He sits on it begging all day and wraps himself in it to sleep at night. He now leaves it and his past behind **joyfully** going to Jesus. Jesus asks him the question of all questions: "What do you want me to do for you?" "Master, I want to see," Bartimaeus replies, already acknowledging himself a disciple of Jesus. Jesus then responds: "Go your way; your **faith** has saved you." Saved by **faith** Bartimaeus uses his new **sight** to follow Jesus along the way.

Recognizing that Jesus is interested in all of us, we are to imitate Bartimaeus and come straight to Jesus. Bartimaeus is a symbol of all who desire to come to Jesus. He was a blind beggar, with no resources of his own, with only his need to impel him, and with no gift to offer in return. He heard about Jesus through the preaching of others and called upon Him as his Lord. He was rebuked by some people but paid no attention to them. He was told by others to come to Jesus and did so. Casting his fears aside and responded instantly, once he saw who Jesus was he fell silent. Then intrigued by the idea of his **faith** having healed him the newly liberated Bartimaeus followed Jesus realizing that there was even more to be **seen**.

Jesus expects us to come to see and grow in **faith**. Some people walk through life with their eyes

wide open, yet comprehend little of its meaning because they are inwardly blind or have tunnel vision. The physically blind are well aware of their handicap. Unfortunately the spiritually blind are not.

Jesus opens the eyes of our hearts enabling us to **see** our lives and our world with a vision of **faith**. Jesus empowers us to realize the opportunities we have to bring life and light, healing and peace along our way to the dwelling place of God. Jesus restores our **sight** to see God's sacred presence in our lives and heal us of our blindness to the sins of selfishness and hatred which we too easily rationalize. To have true **faith** means to be able to **see** with the human heart, to perceive in the spirit, and to comprehend in the wisdom of God. Have a blessed week.

Love & Prayers,
Fr. John

ALL SAINTS DAY

Thursday, November 1st is **The Feast of All Saints** and is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. The Vigil Mass for this Holy Day will be celebrated on Wednesday, October 31st at **7 PM**. Masses will be celebrated at **7AM, 9AM** and **7PM** on November 1st (the Feast day itself).

BLESSING of GRAVES

Fr. John will bless the graves of our beloved deceased at Cedar Hill Cemetery on **Saturday, November 3rd at 10AM**. All are invited to attend this blessing service.

ALL SOULS DAY

Friday, November 2nd is **The Commemoration of ALL the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day)**. Mass will be celebrated at **7AM** and **9AM**. In the back of the Church you will find our **Book of Remembrance**. Please list the names of **your beloved deceased** in this book and this book will be placed upon the altar during the month of November. Thanks, Fr. John

OMPH PARISH MINISTRY FAIR

November 10th and 11th after each mass in the Father Jackson Gymnasium.

Everyone is welcome to visit with all of our Ministries here at OMPH- See displays and meet members. Religious, Spiritual, Social, Educational Athletic Ministries to name a few. Please stop by, say hello and see the opportunities OMPH offers. Where Faith, Families and Community come together.

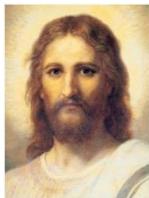


MARRIAGE ANNULMENTS

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg will be giving a presentation concerning marriage, divorce and annulment according to Church teaching. This presentation will be helpful for divorced Catholics, those divorced who wish to marry Catholics, those parish leaders involved in the RCIA process and any others who may have a vested interest because of family or friends. This session will be held on **November 5, at 7 PM, in the Diocesan Conference Center** of the diocesan office building in Harrisburg. No prior registration is required. For further information, please call 717-657-4804, ext. 304, visit www.HbgDiocese.org/annulments or email: tribunal@hbgdiocese.org

ALL IN FOR JESUS

The annual Diocesan Catechetical Conference is **Saturday, November 10**, at the Diocesan Center, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, 17111. **Doors open 8 am. The theme is All in for Jesus:** Toward an Evangelizing Catechesis. The Keynote Speaker is Dr. Bob Rice. Bob Rice is Professor of Catechetics at Franciscan University of Steubenville, as well as the Director of the MA program in catechesis and evangelization. Rice is also well known in national Catholic circles as a speaker and musician. Bishop Ronald Gainer will act as Principal Mass Celebrant and Homilist. There will be 28 workshops presented over four sessions by a blue-ribbon panel of speakers. Conference fee is \$30, which includes breakfast and lunch. Registration deadline is November 5. While geared especially for catechists, this conference is for anyone interested in learning more about his or her Catholic Faith. Only the first 450 registrants are guaranteed admittance. For information or to register, please go to



www.hbgdiocese.org/cat_conference. Don't miss the grace...register now!



ELECTION DAY - NOVEMBER 6

Form your conscience before you vote. Election Day resources are available at, www.hbgdiocese.org These include candidate responses to survey questions as well as the U.S. Bishop's document, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship." Other resources Include: www.dos.state.pa.us See who is on the ballot by searching the Candidate Database. www.votespa.com Find out where your polling place is, and learn about your voting rights. As Catholics, we are part of a community with profound teachings that help us consider challenges in public life, contribute to greater justice and peace for all people, and evaluate policy positions in light of the Gospel in order to help build a better world. We have a moral obligation to participate in the political process. Mark your calendar for Election Day on November 6. Then exercise your faithful citizenship and VOTE!

A PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

(Written by Rita Thiron, Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions)

Heavenly Father, in every age, you have been our refuge. Yet again and still, we stand before you asking for your protection on your holy Catholic Church: For the victims of abuse and their families, pour out your healing and your peace.

For the Bishops of our country, continue to inspire their decisions and guide them with your Spirit.

For the thousands of good and faithful priest who have followed your call to serve you and your people in holiness, sustain them by your grace.

For the faithful laity who are angry, confused, and searching for answers, embrace them with your love, restore their trust, console them

with your clear Gospel message, and renew them with your sacraments.

We place our Church in your hands, for without you we can do nothing. May Jesus, our High Priest and true compass, continue to lead her in every thought and action-to be an instrument of justice, a source of consolation, a sacrament of unity, and a manifestation of your faithful covenant.

Grant this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, October 29

- 7:00 ✠Neil Gruber
- 9:00 ✠Neil Gruber

Tuesday, October 30

- 7:00 Special Intention
- 9:00 50th Anniversary of John & Margaret

Gaughan

Wednesday, October 31

- 7:00 Friends & Family that don't practice their faith
- 9:00 ✠Edward Wolfe
- 7:00 ✠Joseph & Anita Miletics

Thursday, November 1, ALL SAINTS DAY

- 7:00 ✠Charles & Lucy Marrone
- 9:00 ✠Mary Lou Shessler
- 7:00 Bill Pentz

Friday, November 2, All Souls Day

- 7:00 ✠Stephanie Mash
- 9:00 ✠Neil Gruber

Saturday, November 3, St. Martin de Porres,

Religious

- 9:00 ✠Anna (Gaines) Krolick
- 5:00 ✠John & Helen Phillips

Sunday, November 4, 30th Sunday in Ordinary

Time

- 7:30 For the Parishioners
- 9:00 ✠Eleanor Hughenbruch
- 11:00 Johann Imperial

CHURCH SUPPORT

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
10-21-18	\$10,666.22	\$14,300.00	\$3,633.78
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
10-21-18	\$210,495.28	\$243,100.00	\$32,604.72



2019 DAILY MASS RECORD BOOK

The parish office is ready to take your Mass Intentions and Sanctuary Lamp Intentions for 2019.

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

Bill Barshinger.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
ENDS ON NOVEMBER 3rd**



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

What the world offers can leave us restless, unfulfilled, always searching, always looking for the next best thing to make us happy. All too often, our desires for God's peace and love become fleeting moments that get shouted down by the influence of the crowd. Each day, in certain ways, we face opposition similar to what Bartimaeus faced. He was wrapped in a "cloak" of comfort (Mark 10:50). The crowd told him to stay put and to be content with his blindness. "Jesus cannot help you; you're not worth his time." But Bartimaeus was desperate. He refused to listen to the crowd. As a result, Jesus heard him, and Bartimaeus gladly threw off his cloak and ran to where Jesus could wrap him in divine love.

Follow Bartimaeus' example! The crowds of the world want all of your time, but you don't have to follow them. Today and every day, you can throw aside the

“cloak” of partial comfort and spring up to meet Jesus (Mark 10:50). Let him wrap you in a cloak of grace and healing

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.

Bishop Ronald Gainer, Phoenix Rann, Margaret Gardner, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Michael Lillis, Richard Warner, Anna Leshner, Florence Windish, Gloria Reynolds, Patrick Michael Ward, Jeff Gorman, Wanda Rutt, Pat Fry, Carlos Luciano Sr., Margot Arden, Jennifer Ranker, Mary Kay Hensel, Gerald Gigliotti, Barry Ranker, Robert Bevan, Fr. Paul Bryan, CSSR, Gloria Keider, Francis Gatti.

4TH ANNUAL ROCK THE CHURCH

For the fourth year, Rock The Church brings together music groups from city churches **Nov. 30, 7 PM**, in St. Anthony of Padua Church. **Rock the Church Lights Up Christmas** features the St. Anthony and San Juan Bautista music groups along with the Resurrection Singing Saints, and local rising star Liz Fulmer, music leader and pastoral assistant at Grandview United Methodist Church. She grew up Catholic; in fact, our principal taught her at Our Mother of Perpetual Help! The concert is sponsored by One2One Computer Services, Knights of Columbus Council 867, Certified Carpet/Go ‘N Bananas and Charles F. Snyder Funeral Homes & Crematory. Get your Christmas season started off right and join us for this evening of great church music!

**LET THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
BAKE YOUR HOLIDAY PIES!**

**OUR BAKER IS BROTHER KNIGHT TIM WEISER
FROM WEISER’S MARKET IN AKRON!**

ALL PIES ARE 10”



Order forms are in the bulletins this week and next week. Completed forms will be collected after Masses on Oct. 27/28 and Nov. 3/4. Distribution will be on Nov. 20 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM in the hallway in front of the church office.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
**Knights of Columbus
Father Daley Council 4191
www.kofc4191.org**



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER:

**Our RE Class Schedule For
This Week Is As Follows:**

Sunday, October 28th

All Grades Meet At The Normal RE Class Time.

**Confirmation Two Students Will Present
Their Saint Reports In Their Class And To All
Younger Students Towards The End Of Classes.**

**Speaking Of Saints...All Saint Day Is This Week,
Thursday, November 1st. All Saints Day Is A Holy Day Of
Obligation. Masses Will Take Place
On Wednesday, October 31st At 7:00 PM And Thursday,
November 1st At 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, And 7:00 PM.**

Kelly Lawrence



The OMPH Benevolent Society Food Bank is currently in need of peas, tuna, noodles spaghetti sauce, spaghetti, and pancake mix.

Please put items in the food bank crate in the narthex of the church. Thank you for your continued amazing support!

GROUP SHADOW DAY

Lancaster Catholic's 1st Shadow Day is approaching and all interested students are encouraged to spend a day at Catholic High. This allows students to experience



our community for themselves. Students in eighth through eleventh grades in public schools, or other private schools, are encouraged to join us for a Group Shadow Day. Group Shadow Days for 2018-2019 are **November 8**, February 7 and May 9, though we are happy to accommodate students on any day that best fits their schedule. A **FREE LUNCH** is provided to all prospective students when they visit. You can register for a shadow day at www.lchsyes.org or by contacting Kyla Hockley at khockley@lchsyes.org.

FALL PLAY



Lancaster Catholic is proud to announce its Fall Play is the audience interactive murder mystery/comedy by Billy St. John, "Murder's in the Heir."

Turn the game Clue into a play and you have the masterfully entertaining Murder's in the Heir! Almost every character in this hilarious mystery has the weapon and opportunity to commit the unseen murder. And it's up to your audience to decide who actually did it! Each of the heirs to the tyrannical billionaire Simon Starkweather has the motive to do away with him. "**Murder's in the Heir**" will be taking the Main Auditorium Stage from **November 15-17th at 7:30 PM**. Tickets are \$13 for Adult General Admission and \$7 for Students. Tickets will be available for purchase at the door or in advance.

LANCASTER CATHOLIC NEW OPEN HOUSE

Who can you become in our colors? Our annual Open House will take place on **Sunday, October 28 from 2:30-4:30 PM**. 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. Register at www.lchsyes.org/open/.



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The administration and faculty of OMPH School extends congratulations to members of our parish and to our school graduates who were recently inducted into the *St. Thomas Aquinas Chapter of the National Honor Society* at Lancaster Catholic High School. New members include: Anthony Andrews, Kevin Draeger, Adeline Hibshman, Rachel Houser, and Riley Smith. We are very proud of our students for their academic achievement!



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

St. Anthony of Padua in Lancaster will hold its 33rd annual **Christmas Bazaar Nov. 10, 8 AM to 2 PM** featuring the St. Anthony's ensemble singing Christmas songs for a special shopping experience.



With the theme Christmas at the Manger, much is offered: wreath and garden, trim-a-tree, crafts, religious items, gift shop, children's crafts, and gift baskets.

The popular baked goods table, all donated by St. Anthony's parishioners, includes homemade breads, jams, jellies, pies, cakes, cookies, candy, chocolates and more. Also a shopper favorite, the jewelry table features bangles and all the baubles imaginable for just a few dollars.

Raffle items are valued at a minimum \$50. For \$1, take a chance on a 32-inch TV, a smart speaker (Echo), Fitbit, handmade child's wooden wagon, necklace and earring sets, designer handbag, Norman Rockwell needlework, and many gift cards to local restaurants and businesses. Not listed on tickets, but available as write-in raffles are item **A**, an olive wood nativity set; item **B**, a handmade mosaic cross; and item **C**, an e-book reader (Nook). **Raffle will be drawn at 2 p.m. when the bazaar closes.**

Food will be offered throughout, including authentic Vietnamese eggrolls soup and sandwiches. Contact Livia Riley, [717-299-6617](tel:717-299-6617) for information.



Treasures Abound!

Find your treasure at
OMPH School's

Treasure Island Auction on
Saturday, November 3rd!

Purchase your tickets in advance for \$20 and receive 5 Treasure Tickets at the door! For more information or to purchase tickets call or stop by the School Office (738-2414). Bring your friends and get ready for an evening of fun, food, and winnings!

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Auctioning begins at 7:00 p.m.

It is never too late to donate!

The list of items received this year is growing ...

Kalahari Resorts Stay, Coach Bag,

Large Screen TV,

Canoe Trip, Laserdome Party Orthodontics Gift

Certificates,

Go N Bananas Passes, Theme Baskets

Restaurant Gift Certificates

AND SO MUCH MORE TO COME!!!!

**If you have a treasure you would like to share
please contact the**

Development Office at 738-2414.

Tickets will be sold after all Masses the weekend of

October 27/28

in the Narthex!

Must be 21 or over to attend.