

My Dear Parishioners,

During the bitter and terrible conflict between the Hutus and Tutsis tribes in Rwanda, a small band of refugees from the Hutus tribe stumbled into the path of the much larger group of refugees from the Tutsis tribe. Both groups of refugees were near the point of starvation. However the children of the Hutus tribe had found some edible roots which they gnawed on as they trudged along. The Hutus feared that the Tutsis would attack and kill them, taking what little they had. But when the children of the Tutsis saw the Hutus children eating they rushed forward and asked them for some of their food. It is an African custom to share and (though bitterly hungry themselves) the Hutus children instinctively shared what little they had without question or complaint. The adults on both sides simply looked on from a distance and then moved on without altercation. The Hutu children's **generosity** had saved the day and in all likelihood the lives of their Parents and elders.

Today, as we celebrate **Stewardship Sunday**. Our Scripture readings remind us that we should recognize and acknowledge God's **generosity** towards us **and** we should strengthen our resolution to share our **blessings** with others. In our readings both the prophet Elijah and Jesus observe the **generosity** and **caring** of some of society's less fortunate (poor widows) while at the same time they recognize the hypocrisy of some in positions of authority and religious leadership. Our readings remind us that as Christians we are called to be like the caring widows who **generously** share their blessings with others, **giving out of their need, not their surplus**.

Widows are a Bible favorite. Three of the Old Testament books bear women names-Esther, Judith and Ruth-two of whom are widows. In the patriarchal society of biblical times widows were imperiled. They were looked upon as more powerless and unprotected than others; having no male protector and having to stretch and save their resources carefully.

In our first reading (the Book of Kings) we are introduced to the widow of Zarephath who lives with her son in the territory of Phoenicia during a time beset by a severe drought and famine. One day the Jewish prophet Elijah encounters her and asks for a

drink of water. The Phoenician woman (a pagan who did not know that Elijah was a prophet) without hesitation complies with Elijah's request. Elijah then goes further and asks her for some bread. To Elijah's presumptuous request, the woman laid out her situation: she was a widow, she had nothing, and she expected that shortly she and her son-her only child-would die. Elijah had the chutzpah to ask her to take care of him first and assured her that then the God of Israel would in turn take care of her and her son. With a **generosity** that was simple, complete and reckless, the poor widow did as Elijah asked and willingly shared her last morsel of food with him. This wonderful woman, who had no religion to make her good but who shared respect for Elijah's religion by referring to "the Lord your God", fed the prophet even before she fed herself and her son. Though a Gentile pagan, she showed through her humanitarian gesture that deep reverence for God and love for neighbor existed even outside of Israel. For her extraordinary charity to a fellow human being in need, indicative of her complete trust in God, Elijah promises in God's name full sustenance for her and her son throughout the duration of the drought and famine. As with the children in Rwanda, the widow's **generosity** to the point of seeming folly brings unexpected and extraordinary rewards.

In our Second Reading the author of the Letter to the Hebrews contrasts the temple in Jerusalem with the heavenly temple. While the high priests performed their sacrificial duties in the earthly temple, the exalted Jesus entered the true sanctuary. The high priests reenacted the ritual of sacrifice every year on the Day of Atonement. However in contrast to this, Jesus **generously** offered Himself once for all and His sacrifice was unrepeatable.

In today's passage of St. Mark's Gospel, people in the forefront of religious practice don't give a very good example of goodness, while someone less learned in religion (a widow) gives of herself totally. The opening verses of today's Gospel are Jesus' remarks against experts in religion-the scribes. Jesus makes a series of charges against them. Jesus criticizes the scribe's habit of wearing distinctive dress, which marks them as different from others and is calculated to win people's deference. Jesus criticizes the scribe's habit of taking the places of honor at religious and

civil functions. He criticizes their habit of long-winded prayers, made not to God but to their immediate audience. He denounces their practice of exploiting helpless widows by living off their savings. Jesus says that religious leaders who behave like this will face a more severe sentence than the sinners they readily condemn.

In contrast to the counterfeit piety of the scribes, Jesus acknowledges and honors the true piety in the **generosity** of a poor unnamed widow. The pious frauds (scribes) who abused their religious status by devouring the property of vulnerable could take a lesson from a poor widow who had no status in religion or society.

The scene is set—a poor widow sits in one of the Temple courts, where there were many collection boxes, each labeled for a different need: “For incense,” “For Animal sacrifices,” “For Building maintenance,” and so forth. Many wealthy people put in large sums of money—some, no doubt, trumpeting and bragging about the size of their contribution. A poor widow, who had little to give, puts in two small coins—the lepton, the smallest copper coin made, worth about one-sixty-fourth of the daily wages of a laborer. She gives quietly, from a loving heart. The two small coins make up the total of her resources. She could have kept one but she doesn’t. Her reckless **generosity** cannot be bettered. The widow’s offering is worth more than all the other contributors because they give from their surplus and she gives everything. For Jesus, true **generosity** is measured not by what people give but what they have left after they give. The poor widow leaves herself with nothing. She cannot give more for she has nothing more to give. In Jesus’ estimation the poor widow is a mighty religious person since her wholehearted **generosity** demonstrated her absolute trust in God. And so Mark’s passage that opened with Jesus’ condemnation of the false piety of the unscrupulous scribes closes with Jesus’ praise of the genuine piety of the simple poor widow.

As Christians we are called to imitate the **generous** and **selfless sacrificial** love of Jesus. We can do that by being like the widow of Zarephath and the poor unnamed widow in Mark’s Gospel. We are called to be **generous** with our **time, talent, and**

treasure. Fortunately few of us are ever called to give of our sustenance, only of our surplus. But how **generous** are we even with our surplus? Before giving, most of us set aside enough money for whatever we consider essential: our children’s education, our summer/winter vacation, a night out on the town, a new car or a new addition on our home. These are all important purchases but are purchases most people in our world can’t even dream of ever doing. God doesn’t ask for our last penny. But can we and should we do more than we are presently doing? Today let us **all** ask ourselves: “What am I doing with the blessings that God has given to me? How can I enable my family and church become a more vibrant, faith-filled, Eucharistic community? And can I give **more** of my **time, talent, and treasure** towards ministry to God and His People helping to promote the Gospel values of Jesus Christ. Have a blessed week.

Love & Prayers,

Fr. John

PS. Today we celebrate the annual **World Day of Prayer for Redemptorist Missionary Vocations.** We remember and celebrate the day (November 9th) that the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (the Redemptorists) was founded by St. Alphonsus Liguori and we give thanks for the **286** years of witness to the Redeemer and His Gospel lived by generations of Redemptorist missionaries across the world. We also pray that many more young men will consider becoming a Redemptorist Priest or Brother and many more young women will consider becoming a Redemptoristine Sister.

PSS. Today we also celebrate **Veteran’s Day.** We remember and honor those men and women who have served or who are presently serving in our United States Armed Forces at home and around the world. Thank you for **generous effort** in protecting our freedoms. God bless you and your loved ones.

VETERAN’S DAY PRAYER SERVICE

OMPH School Community would like to invite those men and women who have served or continue to serve in our United States Armed Forces to attend a Special Prayer Service on **Monday, November 12th at 2 PM** in our Church. Thank you for your service.

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.

SPIRITUAL SWORD OF OUR LADY

Join us this **Sunday, November 11 at 4:00** in the parish library to have the explanation of Our Lady's favorite devotion: the rosary. This film, *The Rosary, Spiritual Sword of Our Lady*, which surveys the entire history of the rosary, including its greatest victories and champions. With the rosary in your hands, you will have the power to transform the future, defeat the enemies of Christ and His Church, and be a warrior for truth. A rosary a day keeps the devil away! See you there, bring a friend!

**A MONTHLY POCKET PRAYER
FOR NOVEMBER**

Keep this simple little prayer in your pocket and say, to help get you through each and every day.

Walk with me Jesus
My Jesus, my Friend, walk with me today.
Hand, in hand, guide me to learn and to know what is good.
Arm in arm, help me to grow in my faith and in love for others.
Side by side, stay by me to protect me and show me Your ways.
Heart to heart, help me pray...and to be all that you want me to be.
Thank You, Jesus for the special love you have for me. Amen.

Author Unknown



**THANKSGIVING
THURSDAY and FRIDAY**

Please note that Mass will **only** be celebrated at **9:00 AM on Thanksgiving Thursday (November 22)** and **9:00 AM on Friday (November 23)**. Fr. John

**FORMED
YOUR DAILY DOSE OF TRUTH,
GOODNESS, AND BEAUTY**

I am happy to announce that we have renewed our Parish Subscription to **FORMED** which is an online platform that provides access to the **best Catholic** movies, talks, e-books, audio, and video-based studies from trusted providers such as Augustine Institute, Ignatius Press, Catholic Answers, Sophia Institute Press and St. Paul Center-**right at your fingertips**. **FORMED** provides amazing **Catholic content 24/7** so that individuals and families can grow in their **Catholic faith**.

It's **free** for all our Parish Subscribers **and it is easy to register** for this program:

. Visit **formed.org** and use our **Parish Code 4BG4H2**

. Click **“Register”** and enter your name, email address and desired password.

. You will then be ready to access all the inspiring and engaging content on **FORMED**. Look for wonderful movies and stories for the Advent and Christmas Season.

Enjoy! Fr. John

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 12, St. Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr

7:00 †Van Bazille
9:00 †Ricardo Cadet

Tuesday, November 13

7:00 Intention of the donor
9:00 Fr. Richard Knapik, CSSR

Wednesday, November 14

7:00 †Bernie Mack
9:00 †Margaret Albert

Thursday, November 15

7:00 †Robert Wager
9:00 †Souls in Purgatory

Friday, November 16

7:00 †Phillip Cardin
9:00 Mike & Mary Walk

Saturday, November 17

9:00 †Joseph Held
5:00 †Brandon & Mary Ellen Phillips

Sunday, November 11, 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 For the Parishioners
9:00 †Jean Temke
11:00 †Maria Viviana Mannino

CHURCH  SUPPORT

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
11-4-18	\$ 11,891.04	\$14,300.00	\$2,408.96
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
11-4-18	\$238,208.64	\$271,700.00	\$33,491.36

**REDEMPTORIST VOCATIONS
COLLECTION**

We will have a Special Collection this weekend to help support the education and training of Redemptorist Seminarians throughout the world. Thank you for your generous support. Fr. John

2019 DAILY MASS RECORD BOOK
The parish office is ready to take your Mass Intentions and Sanctuary Lamp Intentions for

ADVENT CALENDAR SALE

The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary will be selling **Advent Calendars after all of the Masses the weekend of November 17/18**. All proceeds from the sale will go towards helping our adopted family. With your help we will be able to spoil them and offer them a Christmas to remember. Calendars will be \$5.00. Thank you! The Ladies Auxiliary

ADDORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The widow in today's Gospel had nothing to offer people. She had no money, no social status, no influence that would help anyone get ahead. She was probably too old to care for children or to do even menial housework. All anyone could do was give to her—care for her, protect her, and treat her with respect and honor. Jesus himself seemed to have a special love for widows. He went out of his way to raise the son of a lonely widow from the dead. Jesus has commanded us also to have a special care for widows—along with widowers, orphans, the vulnerable, and the needy as well. Some of them are hanging on by a thread, and they need our help. What's more, caring for God's beloved poor also has the power to rescue us from selfishness, pride, and self-sufficiency. It teaches us to serve as Jesus does. In the end, it just may be what will save us.

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

Mike & Mary Walk.

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, Carlos Luciano Sr., Margot Arden, Mary Kay Hensel, Gerald Gigliotti, Fr. Paul Bryan, CSSR, Gloria Kreider, Francis Gatti, Walter Benning., Antonia Scribani, Marleen Battisti.

BETHLEHEM OLIVEWOOD SALES

After all the Masses this weekend, November 10 and 11, the Al Sahouri Family will display a collection of handmade carved olivewood religious items that are for sale. The profit goes to support Christianity in the land of Christ. Please take a minute after Mass and look at this beautiful collection of items.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD



Troop/Crew 363 will be in the parking lot at the Scout Trailer collecting dry/canned goods after all Masses on November 17 & 18. As always all donations go to the Benevolent Society to help those in our community.

OUR DEEPEST LONGING

Looking for something interesting to do? Want to meet some interesting people? Come to the School Library on **Sunday, November 18 at 4:00** for a book study. The book is Prayer: Our Deepest Longing. Books are available at the gathering. Questions-Call Theresa at 717-738-5061.

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.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY NEEDS FOOD BANK



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!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER:

**Our Religious Education Class Schedule
For The Next Four Weeks Is As Follows:**

Sunday, November 11th – RE Classes In Session

Sunday, November 18th – RE Classes In Session

Sunday, November 25th – NO RE Classes

Sunday, December 2nd – RE Classes Resume