

My Dear Parishioners,

Herbert Hoover served as President of the United States from 1929 until 1933 and was in office during the Great Depression. His encouragement of big business led to a handful of companies (including Standard Oil) controlling a large proportion of the country's wealth. The Wall Street crash in October 1929 indicated the failure of this policy and the subsequent depression revealed Hoover's lack of political and financial foresight. He believed the setback was only temporary and he declared at the height of the collapse that: "the fundamental business of the country is on a sound and prosperous basis." Not surprisingly, he was decisively beaten in the next Presidential Election. Years later, speaking with the voice of experience, Hoover stated: "**Wisdom** consists not so much in knowing what to do in the ultimate as in knowing what to do next."

The word **wisdom** has many different meanings. It means going beyond mere knowledge to the depth and breadth of the mind-boggling fullness of life. It means understanding and insight. It means the best way for one to relate to God and to other people. It means seeing every thought, word and deed in relation to values of our life. It also means to be watchful; looking for the Lord. This concept is portrayed in our Scripture readings for today. The Lord comes to us in many forms and ways and we can easily miss Him if we are not watchful. Part of being watchful is seeking God in our daily life.

Today's first reading comes from the Book of Wisdom which was written by an unknown author about a hundred years before the birth of Christ. With elegant wording and finely crafted verses, the Book of Wisdom urges readers to seek the Lord above all else. The Book of Wisdom seems to have had its origin among Jews living outside of Israel. Their language was Greek and they lived surrounded by Greek philosophy, heritage and traditions. Yet the Book of Wisdom gives the Jews plenty of incentive to remain faithful to their faith in Yahweh, their culture and their traditions. The author of Wisdom holds that Jewish traditions are far superior to any wisdom the Hellenistic world might have to offer the Jewish people. The author promotes all the advantages enjoyed by those who serve Yahweh; chief among them-the promise of immortality. For the author true **wisdom** comes with a sincere commitment to Yahweh. **Wisdom** is "unfading" because its light comes from Yahweh.

In today's passage the author of Wisdom exhorts his audience to seek **wisdom** (that gift which holds life for the just but condemnation for the unjust). In verses 12-16, the author offers a description of **wisdom**. He personifies **wisdom** as an alluring mysterious woman who is never far from those who look for her. Lady Wisdom is near, she lingers at people's gates and doors, she waits to be consulted on all manner of things, she walks the streets looking for those who are worthy of her. She is portrayed not as a rare and elusive being but rather as a

resource within everyone's reach. Like common sense, she is a gift which humans actively seek out. Those who actively seek her will readily find her. However, she is invisible to those who do not expect to find her at the heart of experience.

When it comes to **wisdom**, many of us shy away from the subject in the belief that **wisdom** is solely the proper concern of philosophers or poets. But if **wisdom** about "knows what to do next;" it clearly concerns all of us. The possession of **wisdom** results in parents and families who take their vocation seriously, leaders who look to the needs of their people, and persons who take into consideration all the dimensions of life, including death. The parable of the ten bridesmaids and their oil lamps as portrayed in today's Gospel confirms this view.

Today's Gospel story of the wise and foolish virgins is part of the eschatological discourse that makes up Matthew's Gospel (Mt. 24-25). It contains some allegorical elements but they are limited. The focus of these chapters is on the Second Coming of the Son of Man (Jesus) and the apparent delay of that event taking place. Matthew reminds his audience that this delay should **not** be met with diminished enthusiasm and lack of preparation. Matthew reminds all that one must be ready at **all times** because one knows neither the day nor the hour.

Matthew speaks about five bridesmaids who are accounted "foolish" because they were not prepared for what happened next. In this story the bride awaits the arrival of the groom at her own home. Her friends (the ten bridesmaids) are to meet the groom when he comes with his friends. They then join in escorting the couple back to the groom's house where the wedding-feast will be celebrated. But as it happens there is a hitch-the groom is late. All ten bridesmaids have lamps but only the "wise" five have a reserve supply of oil. The "foolish" five have no reserve of oil and they are unprepared for any delay. At midnight the couple arrived for the wedding celebration. The "wise" bridesmaids were present but the "foolish" ones were absent as they had gone back home to get more oil for their lamps. The "wise" bridesmaids were invited into the feast while the door was shut for the "foolish" ones because they were not ready when it mattered. They were negligent and unprepared. The **wisdom** of the five "wise" bridesmaids consisted in doing what was expected of them in being prepared for the arrival of the groom. Their **wisdom** wasn't extraordinary but eminently practical. In the language of Herbert Hoover's maxim: "their **wisdom** consisted not so much in knowing what to do in the ultimate as in knowing what to do next."

The message of today's readings is rather simple: if we do what we have to do conscientiously, we have no reason to fear or be afraid of the unexpected; even death. As St. Paul reminds the Thessalonians in our second reading, we need not grieve over Christians who have died or worry about our own death because we all enjoy the benefit of Jesus' Resurrection.

There is a great blessing in doing the ordinary with sensitivity, in doing the same and sensible thing, in acting with common sense and with prudence.

Let us all remember the immortal and profound words of the fourteenth century mystic Meister Eckhart: “ **Wisdom** consists in doing the next thing you have to do, doing it with your whole heart, and finding delight in doing it.”

Have a blessed and **wisdom**-filled week.

Love & prayers,

Fr. John

P.S. Today we celebrate **Redemptorist Vocation Day**. I ask you to pray for our Redemptorist Seminarians who are in our various Formation Programs. Also please pray that many more young men from our Parish will consider serving God as a Redemptorist. Finally please remember in your prayers all deceased Redemptorists especially those who have ministered in our Parish for the past 102 years. Thank you, Fr. John

P.S.S. Today we also celebrate Stewardship Sunday. The two-fold question that we have to ask ourselves is simply: “Am I using my **time, talent** and **treasure** to help spread Jesus’ Gospel message of love and what am I doing to build up the faith community at O.M.P.H.?”

I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to all our wonderful parishioners who have shared their **time, talent** and **treasure** with our faith community all these years. God bless you and may Our Mother of Perpetual Help continue to watch over and pray for you and your loved ones. Thank you, Fr. John

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES



Fr. John will bless the graves of our beloved deceased at Cedar Hill Cemetery on Saturday, November 18th at 10 am. All are invited to attend this blessing service.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND ELDERLY

A mass of the Anointing of our Sick and Elderly will be celebrated on **Sunday, November 26th at 2 PM** in our Church. We invite all caregivers to bring your sick and elderly family members and friends to this celebration so they can receive an anointing and special blessing. Thanks, Fr. John

CELEBRATING GIFTS

The annual Mass Celebrating the Gifts of People with Disabilities will be held on **Saturday, November 18, at 5 p.m.** at St. Joseph Church, 400 E Simpson St, Mechanicsburg. Bishop Ronald Gainer will be the celebrant and homilist. A light reception will follow the Mass. All are welcome to attend. Saint Joseph Church is accessible to persons with physical disabilities. A sign language interpreter and assistive listening devices are available.

MARRIAGE ANNULMENTS

The Tribunal of the Diocese will give a presentation concerning marriage, divorce and annulment according to Church teaching. This presentation is helpful for divorced Catholics; those divorced who wish to marry Catholics, those parish leaders involved in the RCIA process and others who may have an interest because of family or friends. This session will be held on **November 13, at 7 PM** in the Cardinal Keeler Center of the diocesan office building in Harrisburg. No prior registration is required. For further information, please call 657-04804, ext. 304, or email: tribunal@hbgdiocese.org

PARISH and SCHOOL MEMORIALS

Have you ever considered remembering our parish and or our school in your Legal Will? Have you ever considered asking family and friends to make a donation to our parish and or our school in memory of a deceased loved one (as you make their funeral arrangements) in lieu of flowers? If interested please contact Fr. John for more details or set up an appointment with him.
Thank you. Fr. John

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Giving thanks for a great marriage? Want an even greater one? In this season of Thanksgiving, why not celebrate your marriage and its many blessings by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend (WME)!

WME is a weekend dedicated to your marriage, helping husbands and wives to communicate more fully, renew their romance, and bring themselves closer to God and to each other. Led by seasoned leaders who have experienced the magic of a WME weekend, the retreat provides a peaceful environment for couples to spend time together away from the distractions and tensions of everyday life, while encouraging them to focus on each other and their relationship. Rediscover the best friend that you had on your wedding day!

Time: Friday evening, **December 1st** to Sunday, December 3rd.

Location: Hampton Inn, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

Early registration is advisable as space is limited. For more information or to register please go to www.yourmarriageisworthit.org or call 412-635-7775.



AN EXTRAORDINARY EVENING

Abby Johnson, former Planned Parenthood Director turned pro-life activist and international speaker will be coming to the DoubleTree Hotel in Lancaster on **November 14, 6-7 PM** for a fundraiser to benefit Historic St. Mary's Church! Cost is \$25 per person for general admission or \$100 per person for VIP admission. Visit ProLifeLancaster.com, or call 717-392-2578, for more information. We hope to see you on the 14th!

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
11-5-17	\$15,470.85	\$14,950.00	(\$520.85)
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
11-5-17	\$257,097.22	\$284,050 .00	(\$26,952.78)

MATTHEW 25 SECOND COLLECTION

Next weekend **November 18/19th** the second collection will be for Matthew 25. All of the funds collected benefit local needs of food, shelter and clothing.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 13, Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin

- 7:00 ✠Mary Hull
- 9:00 ✠Beverly Adelizzi

Tuesday, November 14

- 7:00 ✠Mary Brossman
- 9:00 ✠Martha Moran

Wednesday, November 15, St. Albert the Great

- 7:00 ✠Helen Starry
- 9:00 ✠Fr. John Dorff, CSSR

Thursday, November 16, St. Margaret of Scotland & St. Gertrude

- 7:00 ✠Fr. Thomas Loftus, CSSR
- 9:00 ✠Dave Rufe

Friday, November 17, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious

- 7:00 Special Intention
- 9:00 ✠Norman Brumbaugh

Saturday, November 18, Dedication of the Basilicas of SS. Peter and Paul; St. Rose Philippine Duchesne

- 9:00 ✠Gretchen Brandt
- 5:00 ✠Richard, Catherine & Irvin Hornberger

Sunday, November 19, 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30 For the Parishioners
- 9:00 ✠Joseph Ward Sr.
- 11:00 ✠Richard Dieckhaus

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.

November 5: Margaret Gardner, Jane Muldowney, Dakota Goshert, Brenda Crawford, Stephen Stanavage, Jennifer Ranker, Melissa Kurtz, Janet Tomko, Jean Givler, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Brendan Holbriiter, Michael Lillis and Richard Warner Jim Lehmier, Tonya Stoner, Kevin Kaiser.

October 22: Frank, Carol & Karen A. Wank, Robert Hubler.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Staying alert and awake. Keeping our lamps aflame. Maintaining a good supply of oil. These are all ways of saying the same thing: Jesus wants us to keep our faith alive every single day. How can we do this? We can take our cue from St. Paul, who promised, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." We have an opportunity to check our faith when we proclaim the Creed every Sunday at Mass. Actually, we can do this every day in our personal prayer. We can be sure that whenever we confess and believe, we bring a smile to God's face. Even if our faith is imperfect or incomplete, the Lord still smiles, and we can hear the angels announce, So let's proclaim our faith. Let's fill up our oil flasks by announcing our belief in Jesus, our Savior.

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 Miale Family.

WE NEED ACCOMPANISTS

The OMPH Music Ministry is in need of some more pianists and organists to play at the weekend Masses. You can do as little as 1 Mass per month or as many as 1 every week. You'll be scheduled according to your availability and preferences. There is a small group of singers who can sing with you and song suggestions and sheet music are provided. The music ministry is a great way to meet other parishioners and to become more involved in our faith community. If you are willing to share your talent, please call or email Jill McGowan at 336-5578 or jmcgowan333@yahoo.com



YEARLINGS NEWS

Join us this Tuesday, **November 14** at 11:30 for lunch at **Bright's 1025 S. State St. in Ephrata**. Please call Gloria at 733-9098.

YOUTH GROUP



Our next youth group meeting is Sunday, November 19th from 2:30-4:30 in the Bernadine Center. Weather permitting; we will be having prayer time around a campfire, S'mores and games. Bring a friend! Please dress weather appropriate. Where OMPH youth are, God is in the midst! In His Service, Denise Ives

RESPECT LIFE

The largest 40 Days for Life campaign so far has ended – and here's a huge thank you for helping save so many lives! Reports are still coming in ... but local 40 Days for Life leaders tell us that as of now, they're aware of **492** mothers in 375 locations around the world who have rejected abortion and chosen life for their babies! In many cases, all it took was the simple act of showing up to pray on the sidewalk.

Women do not choose abortion because they think it's good. They choose it because they think they have **NO OTHER** choice. That's why people praying outside a clinic has such a powerful effect on the women considering abortion. It is a living sign of hope to break through the despair. One woman shared how she saw a man praying out a window and thought, "He cares more about my baby than I do." And she then chose life. Keep praying for the unborn babies in danger of abortion.

Andrea Ostrowski

KOF C OPEN HOUSE



There will be an open house today, November 12th starting at noon in Father Kuhn Hall. There will be food and beverages provided and of course there will be football on TV. This is an opportunity for anyone to ask questions about the Knights or the Ladies Auxiliary and what we do for our church and community. The entire family is welcome so drop in for something to eat. See you there!

KARAOKE NIGHT

The K of C will be hosting a karaoke night, sure to be filled with good music and good times. All proceeds will be used in the local Knights program to purchase an ultrasound machine for "A Woman's Concern" in Lancaster. The event will be held on **Saturday, November 18th** in the **Bernadine Center**. Doors will open at 6 PM with singing starting around 6:30. The ticket price of \$15 includes beverages and light snacks. Tickets will be on sale at the end of the school hallway the first two weekends in November, or call Bill Hydock at 717-336-6935. Come help us "**Sing out for Life!**"

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY



Can you help? Our food bank is currently in need of: instant potatoes, boxed dinners and Mac and cheese!

Please place items in the FOOD BANK crate in the narthex of the church.

Your continued generosity is amazing. Thank you!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Corner:

Our RE Class Schedule For The Next Four Weeks Is As Follows:

Sunday, November 12th – RE Classes In Session

Sunday, November 19th – RE Classes In Session

Sunday, November 26th – NO RE Classes

Sunday, December 3rd – RE Classes Resume



All Parish Families Are Invited To The Father Jackson Center On Sunday, December 3rd After The 9:00 AM Masse During Coffee Corner To Make A Family Advent Wreath.

This Is A Great Way To Begin Preparing For The Coming Of The Lord And Have Some Family Time Together.

We Will Supply Everything You Need And Will Show You How To Make The Wreath As Well.

We Hope To See You There!

Kelly Lawrence

ADVENT CALENDARS



The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary will be selling **Advent Calendars** after all of the **Masses the weekend of November 18/19**. 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



Lancaster Catholic Field Hockey team is sponsoring a "Do As You Please" bus trip to New York on Sunday, December 3. Bus departs from the parking lot of Catholic High at 7 am. We will be dropped off in the theater district, which is also close to many shops and attractions. Departure from New York is 7 pm. Cost is \$52 per person which includes the gratuity for the driver. **Deadline Nov. 17th**. Please call Diana at [717-509-0316](tel:717-509-0316) or email danater@lchsyes.org with questions or to signup. help we will be able to spoil them and offer them a Christmas to remember. Calendars will be \$5. Thank you!

The Ladies Auxiliary

UPCOMING PTO EVENTS

December 2: Join us from 9-11 AM in the Bernardine Center **SAINT NICOLAS** to celebrate the life of St. Nicholas! Enjoy a continental breakfast. Hear the "Legend of St. Nicholas" and participate in the "Blessing of the Candy Canes." There will be a craft and special treat. St. Nicholas will be available for photos. The OMPH Choir will join us for celebratory songs. A "Giving Tree" will be present in honor of Benevolence. **Tickets** will be available after the masses on November 18/19th and November 25/26th. Prices are \$10 per adult \$6 per child (ages 3-7th Grade) ages 2 and under, free and included in the event, coffee, tea, cocoa, juice, cider, muffins, danishes, cinnamon buns, cookies, bagels/cream cheese, assorted breads/cheeses/meats/smoked fish, fresh fruit, yogurt bar, and seasonal items. Children will receive a treat from St. Nicholas as well.



December 9 & 10: Bake Sale after all Mass.

BULLETIN TRANSMISSION SCHEDULE

The Thanksgiving bulletin must be transmitted to the printer on **November 16 for the Sunday, November 26 bulletin.**

The Christmas bulletin must be transmitted to the printer on December 14 for the December 24 bulletin.

New Year's: The bulletin must be transmitted to the printer on December 28 for the January 7, 2018 bulletin.