

My Dear Parishioners,

Each year as the fall season comes to an end and winter approaches, the liturgical year also draws to a close. Next Sunday we will celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King (the last Sunday of this present liturgical year.) The following Sunday will be the First Sunday of Advent and will be the start of a new liturgical year. And every year at this time the Church asks us to consider, ponder, meditate upon and pray about the “**last things**,”- the end of time. Scientists agree that the world will one day pass away and cease to exist as we know it. Perhaps it may be a long time (according to their calculations) for this to occur but it **will** happen. The Church asks us to reflect upon and pray about that inevitability. Even though most of us do not expect this phenomenon to happen soon we **should** always be **ready** to greet God when He summons us. For while the end of our world is in all likelihood not imminent; we have no surety over the timing of our **own death**. The Church’s point in offering this **eschatological theme** of “the end time of the world” is not to frighten us but rather it is to **prepare** us so that we will be ready.

The end of the Church’s liturgical year directs our attention to what Scripture says about the end of time and the Second Coming of Christ. Two of the words used to describe these texts are not part of our ordinary vocabulary: **apocalyptic** (which refers to receiving a “**revelation**” in a vision of something concealed up until now) and **eschatological** (which points to events of the final age- the **eschaton**, when the evil powers make their final struggle with God and are defeated.) Our Scripture readings have one important point to make: that all will be well. God is in charge even when it seems that everything is coming to a catastrophic end. This point is so evident in today’s Scripture readings.

Our first reading is from the Book of Daniel. The Book of Daniel is classified with the prophetic literature in the Old Testament; although it is really closer in style to **apocalyptic** literature. Generally written during times of persecution, **apocalyptic** literature seeks to interpret the present in terms of the future. **Apocalyptic** writings try to provide solace and insight amid current difficulties by offering hope for and assurances of better things and times to come. The

Book of Daniel was written during the reign of Antiochus IV who ruled over the Holy Land from 175-164 B.C. In an effort to unite his empire Antiochus imposed a universal religion and culture upon the people he ruled. He considered himself a principal god in his new syncretic religion. He insisted that only Greek ways (Hellenism) be the dominant culture. This led to persistent problems and persecutions for the Jews who clung tenaciously to their monotheistic faith in Yahweh and their practice of Jewish customs and traditions. Antiochus plundered the Jews Temple, erected and placed a statue of Zeus in the heart of the Temple, and decreed that all Jews had to worship this pagan idol under the pain of death. Details of the Jews unspeakable suffering are recorded in the First and Second Books of Maccabees.

Today’s passage from Daniel comes from the last of Daniel’s four visions. The time of “unsurpassed distress” refers to the persecution of the Jews by Antiochus IV. To rouse flagging Jewish spirits Daniel makes mention of Michael the archangel being revered as the special protector of Israel. With Michael’s heavenly help Daniel intimates that the powers of this made diabolical pagan king (Antiochus) cannot long endure. There **is** hope for those Jews who are currently suffering. For those who have already become victims to this terrible persecution (“those who sleep in the dust of the earth”) there also **is** hope. The dead will return to life. In one of the earliest and strongest references to the resurrection of the body in the Old Testament, Daniel stoutly avers that those who have perished in the persecution “will awake and shine brightly and they will live forever and be like stars in the firmament.” Because they have offered their lives for their faith the persecuted will live forever. Daniel’s prophetic words are surely a message of **hope** and reassurance for the beleaguered Jews and for anyone who suffers persecution for his or her faith.

Our second reading is from the Letter to the Hebrews. The author of this Letter presents an explanation of the unique sacrifice of Jesus Christ which re-interprets an understanding of the Jewish practice of **sin-offering**. The Old Testament priests offered daily sacrifices for the forgiveness of sins. However, Jesus offered **one perfect sacrifice** for our sins. The singular status of Jesus the **priest** and the inestimable value of Jesus the **victim** set His sacrifice

apart from all others. Total and complete expiation has been accomplished through Jesus. He has decisively expiated all sin and evil. He has been able to accomplish what the sacrificial system of Israel (despite its preeminence) has been unable to achieve. Therefore Jesus takes His seat next to the Father in glory as His **one** offering makes perfect all those who follow Him.

Today's Gospel passage (Mark 13: 24-32) is part of what is commonly called the **Eschatological Discourse**. However the tone of today's passage is decidedly more **apocalyptic** in nature. Chapter 13 is the most difficult section of Mark's Gospel using **apocalyptic symbolic language** that usually points to some ensuing catastrophe. Mark uses this literary form to describe the Temple's coming destruction, the persecution of believers that will follow, and the presence of what he calls a great tribulation. Mark's Gospel was written around the year 70 AD at the very time the Jerusalem temple was being destroyed by the Romans.

Mark's Chapter 13's language and concerns have much in common with Daniel (chapters 7-12) and the Book of Revelation. At the same time, Mark 13 is also the longest speech given by Jesus. It is like the farewell speeches of Moses and David. Such farewell discourses often referred to the dangers and sufferings of the future. Mark's purpose in chapter 13 is twofold: he wishes to show that when Jesus returns He will fulfill the Old Testament prophecies about the end and he wants to warn his audience **not** to anticipate the Parousia (Jesus' Second Coming) by means of carefully calculated signs.

Regarding today's passage (vs. 24-32), some commentators believe that Jesus is speaking of the end of the world. However, most think that Jesus is referring to the future destruction of the Jerusalem Temple and the persecutions that will follow. The **apocalyptic** imagery and symbols that Jesus uses would seem to best fit this interpretation. According to this view, the imagery of the sun is being darkened, the moon not giving light, and the stars falling from the sky, is **not** meant to be taken literally and so it does **not** refer to the world's end. The imagery is rather an attempt to capture the earth-shaking effects of persecution; things so horrible that people's worlds

would indeed seem to be unraveling and coming to an end. Here Jesus forewarns His disciples of persecutions. He does so not to frighten them but rather to fortify them with the assurance that persecutions too will come to an end.

Using the title "Son of Man" from the Book of Daniel (7:13-14) Jesus promises to come upon the clouds and gather His chosen ones from the four winds. Jesus tells them when these things happen the end is near. In **apocalyptic** literature the end typically refers to the end of persecution, **not** the end of the world. Hence what Jesus is saying is that persecutions will invariably come but then Jesus will soon return to be with His Church and these persecutions will eventually come to an end. Beneath the surface of this language is a message of **hope**. The Coming of the "Son of Man" in great power and glory heralds the advent of the New Age. The time of the coming of this New Age is shrouded in mystery. Only God the Father knows the exact timetable. The lesson to be learned from all this is simply being **patient** and be **prepared** since Jesus will return in the future and all will be well.

As people of faith we all are called to be **discerners**. What we are certain of from today's readings is the following: that the world as we know it will come to an end, that Jesus will come in His glory, that the dead will rise, and that there will be a Final Judgment. Further, the unity toward which all time is tending isn't solely a property of a future event but rather it takes place just as absolutely in the present, certainly for each of us when we die. Our challenge for today is to judge the times of our lives in terms of God's ultimate realities. We must take part in an aspect of "on-going creation"- the bringing of God's justice, love, and mercy to everyone. With a sense of urgency we must be **prepared** for own death or for the end of the world (whichever comes first) by working toward the realization of God's plan. To **prepare** for this we must serve God and one another in faith and love. Have a blessed week.

Love & Prayers,

Fr. John

**STATEMENT ON SURVIVORS'
COMPENSATION PROGRAM**

On November 8th, Bishop Ronald Gainer announced that the Diocese of Harrisburg is moving forward with the development of a Survivor's Compensation Program. The Diocese of Harrisburg has engaged attorney Kenneth Feinberg and his associate, Camille Biros, to administer the program. Fr. Feinberg specializes in administering similar programs and has successfully run the Archdiocese of New York's Independent Reconciliation Compensation Fund, as well as the 9/11 Victim Compensation fund. The diocese pledges that the resources for this fund will not come from the money you so generously donate to Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish and to the Diocese. The money for this program will come from the Diocese's reserve, unrestricted Diocesan Accounts and the yield from the Diocesan's investments. More details on the program, including a video message from Bishop Gainer, can be found on the Diocese's website at www.hbgdiocese.org.

**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 **omph.formed.org**
- . 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 19

- 7:00 †Gretchen Brandt
- 9:00 †Robert Jeffery

Tuesday, November 20

- 7:00 †Cecelia Hunter
- 9:00 †Robert Jeffery

Wednesday, November 21, The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 7:00 †Thomas Clay
- 9:00 †Esteban Dimaano

Thursday, November 22, St. Cecelia, Virgin & martyr

- 9:00 For the Parishioners

Friday, November 23, St. Clement I, Pope & Martyr; St. Columban, Abbot; Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro, Priest & Martyr

- 9:00 For the Cadet Family

Saturday, November 24, St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest & Companions, Martyrs

- 9:00 Intentions in the prayer box
- 5:00 †Irvin Hornberger

Sunday, November 25, Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe

- 7:30 For the Parishioners
- 9:00 †Neil Gruber
- 11:00 †Thomas Breisinger



Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
11-11-18	\$11,833.30	\$14,300.00	(\$2,466.70)
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
11-11-18	\$250,041.94	\$286,000.00	(\$35,958.06)

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

ADVENT CALENDAR SALE



The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary will be selling **Advent Calendars after all of the Masses this weekend 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

When Jesus said that “no one knows” when the Second Coming would happen, was he saying that even he didn’t know? It sure seems that way. Maybe he was reminding us that he had submitted to the limitations of being human, just like us. Yes, he was fully divine, but he was also fully human.

Repeatedly throughout history, people have tried to predict the end of the world. Not surprisingly, many of these people then recalculated the dates after their first predictions didn’t come true, only to have their followers disappointed again. Some believers are more cautious. They point to certain signs—a war in the Middle East, a drought in Africa, earthquakes in Peru, or some other disaster. When those signs occur, it means that Jesus is very near. St. Francis had a different take on the subject. Once, when he was working in the garden, a friar asked, “What would you be doing now if you knew that Jesus was coming back today?” Francis replied, “I would keep hoeing my garden.” Francis knew he was trying his best to be ready, and there was nothing more he could do. This week especially, give thanks to God for all the blessings we have received!

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

Ron Barranco.

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, Jean Mash.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD



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

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

News from Radiate Youth Group: **Saturday, November 17th**, Radiate Youth Group will be attending the Fan the Fire Youth Rally in York, PA. Come, Holy Spirit! Next youth group meeting in the Bernadine Center is Sunday December 9th from 3:30-5:30 pm. Holiday gifts will be wrapped and delivered to bring Christmas joy to a family in the parish. Grades 7-12 welcome to participate. In His Service, Denise Ives



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.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER:

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

Sunday, November 18th – RE Classes In Session

Sunday, November 25th – NO RE Classes

Sunday, December 2nd – RE Classes Resume

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!

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.



KIDS HELPING KIDS

Buy a \$15 cookie tray and feed 375 impoverished



children. OMPH Parish will be participating in **The Cookie Sale on December 9, 2018**. We will join with

other parishes in our Diocese to feed thousands of children in Haiti and try and break the cycle of poverty that plagues that small country.

100% of the proceeds from the sale of these cookies will be used to purchase meals to be distributed to

children in Haitian schools during the school day in 2019. Last year The Cookie Sale provided over 3.6 million meals to impoverished children.

Please visit thecookietray.com to learn more about this wonderful local charity that began in Lancaster at St. Joseph's Church twenty one years ago. If you would like more information or would like to help with the sale in any way, please contact Marybeth Tearpock 717-940-1633



Happy Thanksgiving

PARISH BULLETIN
HOLIDAY TRANSMISSION SCHEDULE

If you have an article you would like in the bulletin for **November 25**, it must be received in the parish office by this Monday morning. The bulletin will be sent to the printer this Thursday, November 16.



The Christmas bulletin will be sent to the printer on December 13th.



The January 6 bulletin will be sent on December 27st.

**ARE THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
BAKING YOUR HOLIDAY PIES?**

If so, please pick them up on
**Tuesday, Nov. 20 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM in the
hallway in front of the church office.**



Thank you for supporting our council,
and enjoy your pies!

**Knights of Columbus
Father Daley Council 4191
www.kofc4191.org**

**ONLINE GIVING – NEW WAYS TO GIVE
TEXT-TO-GIVE!!!**

We are keeping up with technology! With 97% of smartphone users texting at least once a day, our parish has decided to add the option to give via text. You can text an amount to **717-401-4159**, and your transaction will be processed through the Online Giving account associated with the phone number. If you do not have an account set up, you will receive a text back with a link to set up an account.

Step 1 – Text the amount you would like to give to our number – **717-401-4159**

Step 2 – Hit “send”!

Instructions on how to give to second collections via text-to-give will be in the bulletin prior to each collection.

Online Giving App

Manage your online giving account with the new app! Download the online giving app today at OLGApp.com.

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>
Retirement for Religious Christmas Flowers	12/9/2018	retirement
Christmas Solemnity of Mary	12/16/2018	flowers
	12/25/2018	christmas
	1/1/2019	solemnity

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