

My Dear Parishioners,

Moneyball is a best-selling book and a hit movie about the “little baseball team that could.” Moneyball is based on the true story of Billy Beane the general manager of the Oakland Athletics. Following a near-championship season in 2001, the Athletics lost their best players to big-money teams like the New York Yankees and Los Angeles Dodgers. Billy Beane sets out to rebuild the Athletics with a third of the budget of big-market franchises. His staff of baseball veterans starts evaluating available rookie players but Beane knows the old system can’t work for small-market teams like the Athletics. He is at a loss as what to do until he meets Peter Brandt a shy numbers guy who had just graduated with a degree in economics from Yale. Brandt is a nerdy computer whiz who looks like he should be crunching numbers at an accounting firm. Over the years he has analyzed decades of baseball stats to prove that game-winning qualities are not always the ones veteran scouts are looking for. Brandt’s detailed work convinces Beane to hire undervalued players (so called freaks and losers) who nevertheless manage to get on base. “Never mind whether a player looks right for the part, has the right stance on the mound, or has the right swing. Can the guy get on base? Can the guy throw strikes? Forget the baseball card images” Brandt tells Beane. Together, Billy Beane and Peter Brandt begin rebuilding the Athletics for the 2002 season. Although the season starts out badly the Athletics eventually get it right and this “island of misfit toys” (as Brandt calls them) defies the baseball gods. They’re not pretty but they begin to win again.

Beane and Brandt and the baseball team they assemble mirror the profound teachings found in today’s Scripture readings. Today’s readings focus on the important issue of: not what we possess in terms of talents, treasures, and abilities but what we **do** with what we have been given. Our readings challenge us to commit whatever talents, strengths and resources we have and use whatever wealth we possess to bring the hope and peace of the Kingdom of God into our hurting and desperate world. Our readings remind us that our place in the reign of God will depend on our stewardship of those talents, gifts, and abilities God has given us (whether we **bury** them in fear or selfishness or **use** them readily to reveal God in our

midst.) Whatever our skills and resources enable us to do the challenge of today’s readings is to be ready and willing to respond to the opportunities we have to give joyfully and generously for the sake of others: whether we hit a home run or just manage to get on base with a walk.

The Book of Proverbs (today’s first reading) is a collection of wise sayings. Some sayings are attributed to King Solomon while others were written by many people over a period of 500 years up to a few centuries before Christ. Today’s beautiful and poetic portion honors the **worthy** wife as she represents Lady Wisdom. Today’s passage is a small foretaste of Jesus’ theme of praising those who use their talents for the sake of the Kingdom of God. In today’s passage we have a beautiful description of the **ideal wife** and **mother** who is the center of family happiness. Truly this woman is the force that keeps everyone and everything together on a day-to-day basis. This poetic passage explores all the blessings the worthy wife and mother bestows on her husband and children. She deserves their praise and love for she puts their needs before her own. She takes the initiative for good. She is tireless in her efforts to provide food, shelter, clothing and protection for her family. But her way of going about her responsibilities makes all the difference. She is happy and does not find her duties burdensome. Instead she discovers that these tasks are life-giving. She is creative and acts her way not only into the lives of those around her but also into the very order of the cosmos. She nourishes and blesses not only her immediate family but also the larger community, especially the poor and needy. In every instance she uses her gifts and talents so that others may benefit. This passage shows that the worthy wife and mother is the model of energetic faithfulness to the small tasks which God gives all of us every day. Like the profitable servant in Jesus’ parable, the worthy wife takes what has been given to her and improves upon it. In doing so she improves the lives of all those persons she encounters.

In today’s second reading (St. Paul’s Letter to the Thessalonians) Paul addresses another question that concerns us all: “When are we going to have to answer for our talents and gifts?” The Thessalonians had been overly concerned with **when** Jesus was going to come back again. Against the chance that Jesus’

return was imminent some had quit their jobs and were idly waiting for His return. Paul speaks of the **sleep of indifference**, which is deadly. He warns the Thessalonians to keep busy in order to be prepared for **“the day of the Lord.”** Naturally everybody wanted to know **when** this awesome day would come. Paul uses two striking similes to describe its suddenness: (1) It will come “like a thief at night” and (2) “like the onset of labor pains for a pregnant woman.” Paul does not seek to terrify but rather to **encourage**. However he gives no excuses for anyone not being prepared for Jesus’ Second Coming.

In today’s Gospel passage from Matthew we are introduced to Jesus’ parable of the talents. The parable is about an absentee landowner who entrusts rather large sums of money to his servants while he travels abroad. He is an enterprising employer, who hopes that his own flair and daring in business matters will be reflected in his servants’ attitude to the challenge he presents to them. He gives each servant a quantity of money (talents) and asks them to invest his money so that his profits would increase. He does not instruct them on how to do it but rather allows them to use their own initiative and imagination. The first two servants are enterprising and so they double their employer’s investment. They are rewarded because they have used their abilities for the employer’s benefit. Their fidelity in small matters leads the employer upon his return to entrust them with greater matters. On the other hand, the third servant is totally inactive and complacent. He refuses to involve himself in the spirit of the enterprise. He refuses to take any risks, plays it safe and simply buries the money waiting for his employer’s return. Like all of us (when we haven’t done what we should) the “worthless” servant rationalized excuses. For one, he thought of his employer as a “demanding person”. The servant’s second excuse was that he claims he was ‘afraid’. The truth of the matter is the servant was lazy and unproductive. For failing to appreciate his gift and putting it to good use in the service of his employer, the servant is severely criticized and punished.

The point of today’s Gospel is that God has invested much in us by bestowing talents and abilities upon us. God expects us to use these gifts to fashion our world and build up the kingdom of God. God created the universe and set it on its course but part of

His plan is for humankind to help shape the world. God expects each of us to use our abilities, strengths and talents to make the world a better place. We can strive to build a community in which all people live as God taught us (as children of God) or, through indifference, complacency and neglect, we can allow our community to succumb to savagery and selfishness. Because investments are risky we sometimes hold back from readily investing our time, talents, treasure, and our love in our family, in our parish and in those we encounter on a daily basis. Although it appears that “hiding or burying our gifts” is safer, accepting Jesus’ invitation to action and allowing our actions to touch others is the only way that the Lord can spread the fruit of the Gospel. What we receive as gift, we must risk passing on.

Today’s readings focus on the critical question of not what we possess in terms of talent and ability but rather on our **willingness** to use those skills to make the Kingdom of God a reality here and now. We may have the skills to be a brilliant surgeon or we may be able to bring healing to others by our simple but under-appreciated ability to listen to them in their pain. We may have the opportunity to influence the lives of many people or we may be simply a good mom or dad to our children. We may have the skills to manage big organizations that accomplish much good or we may take a regular turn at the local soup kitchen. The Spirit of God prompts us to use our talents/abilities for the common good: to bring healing to the broken, to bring Good News to the poor and to establish the Kingdom of God in our time and place. Such an investment is demanding work. Whatever we can do, whatever our skills, talents, gifts, abilities and resources enable us to do, the challenge of the Gospel is to be **ready** and **willing** to respond to the opportunities we have to give **joyfully** and **generously** for the sake of God’s Kingdom. Have a blessed week!

Love & prayers
Fr. John

**THANKSGIVING THURSDAY and
FRIDAY**

Please note that Mass will only be celebrated at **9 AM on Thanksgiving Thursday (Nov. 23) and Friday (Nov.24).**

Thank you
Fr. John

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
MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 20

7:00 ✦ Eleanor Rufe
9:00 ✦ Beverly Adelizzi

Tuesday, November 21, Presentation of the Blessed

Virgin

Mary

7:00 Jane Muldowney
9:00 ✦ Thomas Clay

Wednesday, November 22, St. Cecelia, Virgin & Martyr

7:00 ✦ Cecelia Hunter
9:00 ✦ Joseph Sullivan

Thursday, November 23, St. Clement Pope & Martyr; St. Columban, Abbot; Blessed Niguel Agustin Pro, Priest & Martyr

9:00 For the Parishioners

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

7:00 Intentions in the Prayer Box
9:00 ✦ Lou Leone

Saturday, November 25

9:00 ✦ Lou Leone
5:00 ✦ Nina Tollis

Sunday, November 26, Christ the King

7:30 For the Parishioners
9:00 ✦ Mike Kizeik
11:00 ✦ Philip Cardin

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.



| Date | Amount | Needed | Difference |
|----------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| 11-12-17 | \$10,614.56 | \$14,950.00 | (\$4,335.44) |
| YTD | Amount | YTD Needed | Difference |
| 11-12-17 | \$267,711.78 | \$ 299,000.00 | (\$31,288.22) |

MATTHEW 25 SECOND COLLECTION

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

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

In today's first reading, St. Paul tells us that there will never be perfect peace or absolute security in this world. Wars will rage. Families and friends will suffer divisions. Poverty, disease, and suffering will persist until the end of time. So that means there will always be opportunities to reach out and help! Jesus is asking us to join him in building his kingdom here on earth. He is asking us to take all that he has given us and put it to good use, and not just for ourselves and our families. The world is in such deep need of peace and security. Our contributions—of intercession, of mercy, of generosity, and of love—can make a significant difference. We can see dramatic returns if we partner with the Lord. We can do great things for God.



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 John & Helen Phillips.

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



YOUTH GROUP

Our next youth group meeting is



TODAY 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

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

ARE THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

BAKING YOUR HOLIDAY PIES?



If so, pick up is this Tuesday, Nov. 21, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm in the hallway in front of the church office

QUESTIONS? Call Scott Harper at 717-201-1551. Visit us on the web at www.kofc4191.org or follow us on Facebook

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

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!

BULLETIN TRANSMISSION SCHEDULE

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 bulletin.

HORSE RACING, FUN AND FOOD

Join the Knights of Columbus for their K of C Derby, Saturday, January 27th. 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 808-1115 or email at hooverben4@gmail.com.

GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree will be in the narthex from November 18-26. If you take a tag please return it with the gift by December 10th. The gifts will help families and seniors in the Lancaster Community Action Program. For any questions please call Judy Weiser at 717-336-1313. Thank you!



UPCOMING PTO EVENTS

December 2: Join us from 9-11 AM in the Bernardine Center to celebrate the life of St. Nicholas!



SAINT NICOLAS Center 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.

LIGHT UP FOR CHRIST

The Knights of Columbus will be holding its annual Light up for Christ event on Thursday, December 7, starting at 7PM. The event will be held in Father Kuhn Hall. The Knights would like to invite all members of the parish to join us for an evening celebrating the true meaning of Christmas. There will be fun activities for the children, caroling, and milk and juice will be provided. We ask that those attending bring a dozen cookies to share with others. We would also like to encourage all those attending to bring a non-perishable food item, which we will be delivering to the parish food bank. We hope that you can attend and help us "Keep Christ in Christmas".

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING

Help is needed for decorating the church Christmas tree in the narthex on Tuesday, December 12 from 6:30-8PM. And also removing the tree the second week in January. The time required for setting up and taking down the tree has been perfected over the years, minimizing the hours to complete this fun project. Our current decorating crew has been helping for many years and a new younger energetic crew of 6 to 8 people would be welcomed to continue this great tradition. Please contact Susan Lowe at 717-738-1356 if you are interested. Thank you.



Religious Education Corner:

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

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 (Gym) On Sunday, December 3rd After The
9:00 AM Mass 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

A WOMAN'S CONCERN

A Woman's Concern is seeking a creative, dynamic and passionately pro-life Advancement Manager to work with team to promote "life." If you have at least 5 years' experience in marketing, development, fundraising and social media and want to work for a non-profit ministry that every day makes a difference in the lives of our clients, please apply today. Position is part-time (24 hours). Please email Jill Hartman at jillh@pregnancylancaster.com your resume and/or to receive a comprehensive job description.

celebration so they can receive an anointing and special blessing. Thanks, Fr. John

COMMUNITY HOLIDAY SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

For those whose loved ones have died during the past years, join us **December 10 at 2 PM.** at the Ephrata Church of the Brethren, 201 Crescent Avenue. Refreshments will be served. Childcare is available. Fr. John will be giving the Benediction.

If you can volunteer to be a greeter call Mary Burkholder at 717-733-4989.

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**.

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