

My Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe. In a country that has no monarchy or royal family the notion of Christ the King may be hard to swallow. Even though we do not have kings or royal families in the United States, still there is something about that concept that appeals to us and our imagination. We pride ourselves on being a democracy and being able to choose our leaders but still many of us are intrigued by the prestige and honor given to the concept of a monarchy and royalty. Some of us might consider this solemnity to be a throwback to a time when kings used their power to conquer and plunder; to subdue and subjugate their own and those weaker. However today's liturgical celebration is about Jesus the King (who turns that whole notion upside-down) as He proclaims a different kind of power. We honor and celebrate a King who came to save us and conquer our hearts.

We celebrate Jesus Christ as **our** King. Jesus is not like any other kings we heard about or read about as we studied world history. His kingdom does **not** belong to this world. He does **not** force us to serve Him. He only asks us to love Him. He does **not** parade in gold or in royal robes. He doesn't need to. All creation and people belong to Him. All other earthly kings must eventually lay aside their power and return to God the Creator for their power is only temporary. However Jesus' kingdom is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away. His kingdom shall not be destroyed. But as our King, we are reminded that we owe Jesus our homage, our love, our obedience and our thanks. Today's Scripture readings help us grasp the meaning of Jesus' "Kingship" and Jesus' understanding of the "Kingdom of God."

While Jesus often spoke of the "Kingdom of God" it is interesting and informative to note that He never used the image of king for Himself in His preaching. The image Jesus felt best that described His role in God's plan of salvation was the "Son of Man." We find the origin of the "Son of Man" image in today's first reading from the Book of Daniel. This book was written sometime between 168 and 163 BC during the persecution of the Jews by the pagan King Antiochus IV. The Book of Daniel was written to help

strengthen the faith of the Jewish people suffering for their religious beliefs and to encourage them to persevere. For the safety of both author and reader the message was enciphered in codes and symbols to render it unintelligible to the Jew's enemies. The author of Daniel reflected upon the thoughts of the pious Jews with regard to their fate: Would the forces of evil have the upper hand or would God's people finally triumph? To answer this question the author in chapter 7 describes four beasts which refer respectively to the pagan empires of the neo-Babylonians, the Medes, the Persians, and the Greeks. The "little horn" refers to Antiochus IV. In a vision the author saw "one like a Son of Man" who appears in the majestic presence of God, trailing clouds and given the prerogatives of a king. Who was that "Son of Man"? The personification of the people of Israel? An angel in human form? An ethereal human being somehow glowing with the divine? People have claimed all those things. However the Book of Daniel would interpret the title "Son of Man" as referring to the One whom we know today as Jesus.

The Book of Revelation is an **apocalyptic** work in which the author holds out a message of **hope** for his audience during a persecution of Christians in Asia Minor in the last decade of the first Christian century. Today's portion of the Book concludes by telling us that God's personification on earth (Jesus) is the Alpha and the Omega. In the Greek language in which this book was written Alpha is the first letter of the alphabet and Omega the last. Alpha and Omega connote totality. Jesus comprises everything that ever existed. He transcends the limits of time. He is the almighty and the ruler of all. Thus, for all of us, Jesus is the beginning and the end. He is intertwined with everything we do and think and with every moment of our being. Jesus is our king who loves us unconditionally. He has freed us from our sins thru the shedding of His blood. Jesus has brought us- His beloved people into His kingdom. He has brought us into a kingdom of truth and life, of holiness and grace, and of love, justice and peace.

Today's Gospel passage is taken from John's Passion narrative. The concepts of "Kingship" and "Kingdom" play a dominant role. Jesus is being questioned and interrogated by the Roman governor Pontius Pilate who is directly responsible to the

emperor for keeping Roman rule in Judaea. The whole experience has been very frustrating for Pilate. He is supposed to be conducting a hearing to determine what to do with Jesus. Throughout the hearing Pilate constantly moves in and out of the praetorian talking to Jesus and then talking to the Jewish officials. Pilate is trying to save face as well as prevent a riot. Thus it is in utter frustration and not in belief that Pilate blurts out the question: "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus quickly responds to Pilate's question with one of his own: "Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about it?" Pilate is now placed between a rock and a hard place. If he hands Jesus over to the Jews, then he has compromised himself because Jesus has committed no crime against the state. But if Pilate lets Jesus go, then the Jews will inform the Roman authorities that Pilate released a person claiming to be king and this would be a crime against the state. Pilate literally does not know which way to turn or what to do. Jesus calls and challenges Pilate to face the truth of the question he has asked but Pilate is beyond troubling about the consequences of his own question. Instead Pilate defends himself by saying that he is not a Jew and that Jesus' own people have handed Him over. Still Pilate is very curious about what Jesus has done to engender such fierce hostility.

Jesus refuses to satisfy Pilate's curiosity but points out that His Kingship is not in the realm of political struggle. Jesus' claim to be king therefore can hardly affect national security. Clearly Jesus makes no claim to be a secular king in the mode of Caesar. If that were the case then His followers would have emerged in large numbers to protect Him from being handed over to those wanting to kill Him. That has not happened because Jesus has no interest in such kingship. Jesus' Kingship is much greater than anything found in this world. Jesus' Kingship is in the realm of witnessing to the truth. His Kingship is rooted in the Kingdom of God. His mission has been to be in the world revealing the truth of God's Kingdom. The Jews have rejected the truth and so they want Jesus to be killed. Pilate too will ultimately reject this truth and allow Jesus to be killed.

Today as the current Church's liturgical year comes to a conclusion I would like to share a few of my observations with you. First, in our pluralistic

society it is well-nigh impossible for us to have any form of government with God as its head. Nevertheless, it must be our wish to acknowledge Jesus' Kingship in our world today. Jesus and His values must be the core of our private and public life, our individual and social life, our economic and political life. That means not merely in sentiment but by way of principle. Secondly, what we do know is that Jesus' unfailing witness to the truth marks His true Kingship. As His followers we will be judged on how we have witnessed to His truth, His love and His way. For a place in His Kingdom we will be questioned on our own attitudes and behavior. And finally, Jesus' Kingdom is not found in the world's centers of power and authority but rather it is written within human hearts. Jesus' Kingdom is built not by deals among the brokers of power but by dedicated and generous hands. Jesus reigns neither by influence nor by wealth but by compassion, humility and justice. Therefore we who have been baptized in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus are called to build and maintain His Kingdom in our own time and place. We are the kingdom that God gave to Jesus so we must be a kingdom of justice, of love, of peace. When we live as Jesus lived and love as He loved then Jesus lives, loves and reigns in and through us. Let us all be worthy of being that kingdom. Have a blessed week.

Love & Prayers,

Fr. John

ADVENT ANOINTING
of our
SICK and ELDERLY

A Mass of the Anointing of our Sick and Elderly will be celebrated on **Sunday, December 9th at 1:00PM** in our Church. We invite all caregivers to bring your sick and elderly family members to this special celebration.
Thanks, 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

**COMMUNITY HOLIDAY SERVICE of
REMEMBRANCE**

A Holiday Day Prayer Service of Remembrance will be held on **Sunday, December 2nd** at the Ephrata Church of the Brethren located at 201 Crescent Ave., Ephrata. All those who have experienced the death of a loved one these past years are invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served after the Remembrance Service. For more information please contact Mary Burkholder at (717) 733-4989.

**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 26

- 7:00 †Barbra Crosbie
- 9:00 †Eleanor Kennedy

Tuesday, November 27

- 7:00 †Janet Eberly
- 9:00 †Those grieving the loss of a loved one

Wednesday, November 28

- 7:00 †Bernie Mack
- 9:00 † Those grieving the loss of a loved one

Thursday, November 29

- 7:00 †James Barry
- 9:00 †Theresa S. Nahozny

Friday, November 30, St. Andrew

- 7:00 †Helene G. Barry
- 9:00 †Jim Mondo
- 7:00 In thanksgiving for Blessed Mother

Saturday, December 1 Companions, Martyrs

- 7:00 For the Parishioners
- 9:00 †Mary A. Garrett
- 5:00 †John & Helen Phillips

Sunday, December 2, 1st Sunday of Advent

- 7:30 For the Parishioners
- 9:00 †Maria Chen
- 11:00 †Mura, Doman & Chaballa Families



Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
11-18-18	\$	\$14,300.00	\$
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
11-18-18	\$	\$300,300.00	\$

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

**PARISH BULLETIN
TRANSMISSION SCHEDULE**
The Christmas bulletin will be sent to the printer on December 13th.

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

**ADDORATION OF THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT**

Today's Feast of Christ the King is special. It's the celebration of a new kind of King, who is ushering in a new kind of kingdom. Jesus' kingship is unlike any we have ever seen. Instead of exerting power over his people, he submitted himself to their power, even if it meant letting them put him to death. And because he refused the temptation to lord it over his people, God raised him up and established him as the one true King over all of creation. And the kingdom Jesus rules? It's a kingdom of converted hearts. It's a kingdom of people who have renounced sin and violence and who are striving to live in peace and justice. We're not perfect. We still commit sins. We still resort to violence—even subtle forms of violence—to get our way. But rather than use the threat of external violence to force us to behave, Jesus our King treats us with kindness and unexpected, undeserved, mercy. Jesus, King of the Universe, has come to overthrow sin through love, violence through peace, and injustice through mercy. This kingdom is not of this world. It's far more glorious!

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

Bernie Mack.

DAILY MASS



In the event of bad weather during the week, if school is cancelled, know that Mass also is cancelled. If school is

delayed, then we will only have a 9 o'clock Mass, but please use your judgment whether or not to attempt to attend.

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 & John Mento.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER:

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

Sunday, November 25th – NO RE Classes

Sunday, December 2nd – RE Classes Resume

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 thecookiesale.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

LCHS HONOR ROLL



The Faculty of OMPH extends congratulations to graduates of OMPH School and members of OMPH Parish who were recognized for their outstanding academic achievement at LCHS. We are very proud of our students who received honors for the first quarter of the 2018-2019 academic year.

Distinguished Honors: Anthony Andrews, Alexis Baker, Michael Brezina, Ella Cassidy, Kevin Draeger, Caroline Erb, Jacob Fertal, Erin Haldeman, Adeline Hibshman, Rachel Houser, Mathias Hummer, Emma Kirchner, Riley Smith, Connie Quagliata, Anthony Sivillo, David Vasquez-Cabrales and Camille Zapata

Honor Roll: Isabelle Caramenico, Maria DeTrempe, Daniel Duchesneau, Michael Fedorshak, Johann Imperial, Allie McCormac, Jake Mercer, Alexis Pickel, Daniel McTamney-Prexta and Isabelle Titzer.

Ella Cassidy was also recognized as a "Student of the 1st Quarter".

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.

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	12/16/2018	flowers
Solemnity of Mary	12/25/2018	christmas
	1/1/2019	solemnity

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

OMPH COMMUNITY MEALS FOR 2019

As we are about to start another new year, we would like to thank all of our Community Meal Volunteers for saying yes and making a commitment to lend a hand for our 2018 meals. You all did an outstanding job. We welcomed and served a lot of hungry people and it couldn't have been done without your commitment and support.

Please save these dates for our new Community Meals for 2019. They are as follows:

1. **February 21, 2019** at *First United Methodist Church*, Ephrata. 68 N. Church Street, Ephrata.

2. **October 10, 2019** at Bethany United Church of Christ 140 East Main Street, Ephrata, PA.

3. **December 5, 2019** at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 167 East Main Street in Ephrata.

It has been a blessing and a privilege to work with such a great group of folks. We are look forward to working with you again in 2019. Thank you for serving our God, our church and our community. Until we see each other again; May God bless you and grant you peace.

PRISON CHRISTIAN GROWTH GROUP

This organization that brings the message of Christ to inmates in prisons throughout Pennsylvania will be holding a Symposium on **Saturday, December 15, beginning at 8:30 AM** at the Diocesan Center, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg PA. Internationally known motivational speaker, John Foppe will speak as well as our Bishop Ronald W. Gainer. Learn how you can be energized in your faith and hear how you can serve Jesus Christ by serving others. The registration fee of \$25 includes coffee, donuts and lunch. See the flyer in the narthex for details.