

My Dear Parishioners,

Did you ever notice how much **waiting** we do as we journey through life? Parents **wait** with growing expectation for the birth of their child. Elders sit in a nursing home **waiting** for a visit from family or friends. We **wait** on lines at the toll booth, the bank, at the supermarket and the gas station. We anxiously **wait** for news regarding our test results from the doctor or from our teachers. We **wait** at the airport and the bus or train station expecting the return of loved ones. Yes, much of our time is spent in **waiting** and often **waiting** tests the quality of our patience and our hope. **Waiting** is part of life and there is no life without it.

Advent is the time when we are reminded that we have to **wait** for God. We cannot grasp God. We cannot possess God. We can only **wait** for God to let Himself be known. And when we **wait** for God we confess our own incompleteness, we acknowledge that there is always more to God than what we know, and we proclaim our hope in a God that we seek to discover and love. When we **wait** for God our **waiting** is a prayer; we testify to our own poverty and to God's greatness.

In today's first reading we get a glimpse of the difficulty people face when their **waiting** for God seems to be in vain. Today's passage from Third Isaiah is part of a psalmist's longer communal lament (Is. 63:7-64:11) written at a time when Jerusalem was still in disarray and God seemed to be aloof from the Israelites. The Jewish exiles have returned from their captivity in Babylon spurred on by fresh **hope** that Yahweh will adopt them again as His people. But Jerusalem is a heap of ruins. God seems to have fallen in love with long distance and His people can see no signs to confirm their **hope**. They become exhausted with **waiting**; they grow tired of hearing nothing from God. The only thing they can do to renew their **hope** is to **remember** what God actually did for them in the past and to hold on to their relationship with Him: "You, Lord, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever." As Father, Yahweh is present to the cries and needs of His children (Israel). When the Israelites remember Yahweh as their Redeemer they bring their past into the present and that sacred memory acts like a light in

the midst of darkness. The memory of God's love is life. God's love gives the people a reason to **wait**; it builds up their **hope**. That is why their memories are so precious. They make the difference between despair and hope; between death and life. What they remember keeps them awake to what is still to come. God will live up to His ancient name and be the Redeemer of His people. Because they **hope**, they **wait**. And until the Redeemer comes, the people will not give up the habit of **hoping**.

Our second reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. This Letter was written around the year 57. A.D. In his letter Paul concludes his greeting by using the Old Testament formulary "**grace and peace.**" **Grace** connotes God's covenant favor while **peace** is a result of such favor. Paul expresses his gratitude for the many spiritual gifts God has given the community of believers. Paul is confident that God will keep the community of believers strong in their faith until Jesus returns.

Today's Gospel passage comes from Mark 13 which is sometimes called the "**Little Apocalypse.**" Its literary form is **apocalyptic** which seems to uncover the mysteries of the future. The content points to the "**last things**" which include **death, resurrection, judgment** and the **afterlife**. Even though the passage is brief and seemingly simple the Church chooses this passage to remind us that we will not be able to celebrate the anniversary of Jesus' birth at Bethlehem properly or receive Him into our hearts through prayer and the sacraments worthily unless we are prepared to meet Him at the Final Judgment. The Church reminds us that we must live each and every day prepared to meet the Lord whenever He comes.

The parable in today's passage is about a man who plans to travel abroad. He assigns to each of his servants individual responsibilities and asks them to perform them faithfully in his absence. The man represents Jesus who will soon return to His Father after His Passion and Death. The servants are Jesus' disciples. The point and meaning of the parable suggests that Jesus has assigned to each of His disciples a task in life and asks them to fulfill that task. His farewell advice is that all must be faithful to

their duties in life and not grow complacent, slack or negligent.

Today's readings are very much applicable to us as we celebrate this First Sunday of Advent; the beginning of a new liturgical year. We are between two times: between the First Coming of Jesus some 2000 years ago and His Second Coming on the last day. We remember the First Coming. We **wait** for the Second Coming. Today's readings tell us how to **wait**: we must **wait** together and be alert, be watchful and stay awake to the times we live in. We do stay alert and awake by living the values of the Redeemer in our own place and time. The memory of Jesus becomes **life** for us not only in the Eucharist but when we share with others the truth and values Jesus so readily handed unto us. Jesus' memory comes alive when we bring Him to the present tense. People can experience something of God's love and forgiveness through us. We all have been given a task and a mission in life that we call a vocation; be it single, married or religious life, priesthood or parenthood. God has assigned people to our care, be it family, neighbors or the needy of the world. During this Advent Season Jesus asks us to pay a little extra attention to our obligations and tasks so that when He returns He will truly find us watching in prayer, **waiting** in joyful hope and showing love for one another. Have a blessed and joyful Advent.

Love & prayers,  
Fr. John

**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

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, December 4 St. John Damascene, Priest  
and Doctor of the Church**

7:00 †Richard Sauers  
9:00 †Teresa Mary Pilley

**Tuesday, December 5**

7:00 †Phyllis Schmook  
9:00 †Lou Leone

**Wednesday, December 6, St. Nicholas, Bishop**

7:00 †Richard Leffler  
9:00 †Joseph Hudy  
7:00 †Souls in Purgatory

**Thursday, December 7, St. Ambrose, Bishop and  
Doctor**

**of the**

**church**

7:00 †Christine P. and family  
9:00 †Sue Eisenbise  
7:00 †Souls in Purgatory

**Friday, December 8, Immaculate Conception**

7:00 †Magloire & Cadet Families  
9:00 †Sagine Magliore

**Saturday, December 9, St. Juan Diego  
Cuahtatoatzin**

9:00 †Marion Antonico  
5:00 †John & Helen Phillips

**Sunday, December 10, Second Sunday in Advent**

7:30 For the Parishioners  
9:00 †Cathy Lowe  
11:00 †Greg Miller

**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.

**December 3:** Maria Mannino

**November 5:** Margaret Gardner, Jane Muldowney, Dakota Goshert, Brenda Crawford, Stephen Stanavage, Jennifer Ranker, Melissa Kurtz, Janet Tomko, Jean Givler, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield,

Brendan Holbitter, Michael Lillis and Richard Warner, Jim Lehmier, Tonya Stoner, Kevin Kaiser.

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](mailto:jmcgowan333@yahoo.com)

**CHURCH SUPPORT**

| Date     | Amount        | Needed            | Difference        |
|----------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 11-26-17 | \$ 12,431.03  | \$14,950.00       | (\$2,518.97)      |
| YTD      | <b>Amount</b> | <b>YTD Needed</b> | <b>Difference</b> |
| 11-19-17 | \$293,692.51  | \$ 328,900.00     | (\$35,207.49)     |

**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.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**



Welcome to Advent—a season of hope and expectation! Over the course of the next month, you may be part of family gatherings. You might reenact time-honored traditions: buying gifts, decorating homes, and preparing special meals.

And to crown all these observances, Jesus himself will come and visit you. As today's Gospel tells us, we may not know when he is coming, but he promises he will come. Even now, he is looking for new ways to touch your heart. Right now, he is preparing special gifts of grace and blessing for you—Advent and Christmas presents that he will give as you open your heart to him.

Do everything you can to be alert and ready to receive Jesus and his gifts. Try to spend a little more time in daily prayer and Scripture reading. Go to Confession so that you can get rid of anything that blocks you from receiving his love and his gifts.

**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.

**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



**YEARLINGS NEWS**

Join us on Tuesday, December 12 at 11:30 for our Christmas luncheon at Fox Chase. **Please call** Gloria at 717-733-9098 for reservations. Bring a \$5 wrapped gift to play a Christmas game.



**PTO BAKE SALE**

**December 9 & 10:**

Bake Sale after all Mass.



**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!



**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".

**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](mailto:hooverben4@gmail.com).

### 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.

### RESPECT LIFE

#### ANOTHER ADVANTAGE OF NFP

One prominent advantage of Natural Family Planning is that there is no toxic, cancer causing chemicals to ingest. It's healthy and has no negative side effects.

Hormonal contraceptives are now registered as Class 1 carcinogens, meaning they definitely cause cancer in humans. Dr. Janet Smith, PhD, notes that the first birth control pill was causing uterine cancers within two years of using it in clinical studies. The dosage was simply reduced and a warning posted on it. Hormonal Replacement Therapy, which uses a far lower dosage of estrogen than contraception, also is documented as causing cancer. Hormonal contraception is linked to breast, uterine and liver cancer.

In addition to causing cancer, the pill has a huge array of negative side effects, from death by blood clots to migraines to high blood pressure to permanent sterility. See the full array at [www.thepillkills.org](http://www.thepillkills.org). The incredible harm hormonal contraception causes women is largely hidden from the general public by the media.

Dave Olszewski and Andrea

Ostrowski



### OMPH YOUTH GROUP

Our next youth group meeting is Sunday December 3rd from 5-7:30 PM in the Bernadine Center. Its Tacos and movie night! Bring a blanket and a friend!



### 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](mailto:jillh@pregnancylancaster.com) your resume and/or to receive a comprehensive job description.



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 2017-2018 academic year.

Distinguished Honors: Anthony Andrews, Ella Cassidy, Kevin Draeger, Caroline Erb, Meghan Flynn, Devon Gerhard, Erin Haldeman, Rachel Houser, Johann Imperial, Kayla Lipson, Siobhan McShea, Sheridan Schreyer, Riley Smith, Anthony Quagliata, Connie Quagliata, Camille Zapata and Christian Zapata.

Honor Roll: Michael Fedorshak, Taylor Geiss, Ryan Hoover, Grace Isbrandt, Emma Kirchner, Erin Mohr, Angeline Rann, and Anthony Sivillo.

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



Religious Education Corner:

**Our RE Class Schedule For The Remainder  
Of 2017 And Beyond Is As Follows:**

**Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> – RE Classes In Session**

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – RE Classes In Session**

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – RE Classes In Session**

**Merry Christmas!**

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – NO RE Classes**

**Happy New Year 2018!**

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – NO RE Classes**

**Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> – RE Classes Resume**