

My Dear Parishioners,

There are times in all of our lives when we come face to face with the stark reality of our own shortcomings, failures and brokenness. We see and acknowledge our own sins and we know that we can't fall back on our own resources to put things right. We feel disabled in a very real way and the prospect of change is more than a dream away. Our energies are crippled and our hope is in the emergency-ward. There doesn't seem to be any forward. We might wonder if anyone has noticed the cause of our depression. Emily Dickinson put it well when she wrote: "A great hope fell. You heard the noise? The **ruin** was within."

When we carry our **ruins** within us we have no reason to go sightseeing for the architectural ones. We can journey within and our insight is enough to keep us busy. We can all pass the time inspecting the details of our own **ruins** and prospecting for a few new ones. It is a short trip from there to wondering whether God could possibly have time for the likes of us. Why should God be **bothered** with accomplished sinners like us? Simply put; it is because God **loves** us unconditionally. God is not afraid to use us even though we all are sinners. On the contrary, God tells us not to be afraid because He loves us and is with us all the time. We must realize that God is delighted to work with us as we are; in our sinfulness and weakness. We must realize to be in God's 'presence is an awesome experience. Today's readings direct our attention to three men who have had this awesome experience: Isaiah, Paul and Simon Peter. Their experience of God's presence, love, mercy and forgiveness can be instructive for all of us.

Isaiah's prophetic call was significant for both its time and place. The time was 739 B.C. (the reign of King Uzziah) and the threat of neo-Assyrian attack was uppermost in the kingdom of Judah. The place was the Temple in Jerusalem, where the Holy One of Israel (one of Isaiah's favorite expressions) resided. Isaiah has a visionary experience during a liturgical celebration in the Temple. A theophany, a divine manifestation takes place. The theophany includes such elements as the of incense smoke, the light of a fire, and the shaking of the door frame. Yahweh, the God of Israel, is depicted as supreme among all other gods since only the mightiest would

be sitting on the heavenly throne. Angels surround Yahweh praising His glory. Isaiah suddenly becomes acutely aware of Yahweh's all-encompassing holiness and his own lack of holiness and the lack of holiness in God's people. Isaiah sees God's holiness as a beautiful reality that highlights his own sin and leads him to depression. Thus, his immediate response to God was one of **fear** and **unworthiness**. However God overcomes Isaiah's **fear** and **unworthiness** by having an angel touch his lips with a burning coal. Once his sinfulness is purged Isaiah presents himself as a most willing prophetic candidate. Isaiah's **conviction** of the reality of God's **love, mercy** and **forgiveness** frees him to respond to God's call and challenge. Isaiah is no longer preoccupied with his own unworthiness. God's forgiveness has released him for mission so that he can offer himself: "Here I am, send me." It is worth noting that this intimate experience of God's holiness and love and God's subsequent dedication never left Isaiah during a prophetic career that spanned approximately forty years.

St. Paul in his various writings often alludes to his own **sinfulness** and **unworthiness** to be an apostle. Paul was a notorious persecutor of Christians, having a deep hatred for Jesus and His Church. However, Paul overcomes his sinfulness, hatred and sense of unworthiness through God's grace (Paul's experience of God's grace and love on his travels along the road to Damascus) and Paul then becomes the great indefatigable worker to the Gentiles. Today's section of Paul's Letter to the Corinthians was prompted by the belief among the Corinthians that the resurrection of the body is impossible. Paul begins his reply to the Corinthians by stating the message he preached to them and the way they responded in faith to his message. Paul forthrightly quotes the tradition which he himself received, a tradition which is linked with Christian interpretation of Old Testament texts. Paul witnesses to God's grace at work by preaching what has been handed on to him: namely that Christ died for our sins, was raised from the dead, and that the Risen Christ appeared to important witnesses (Peter, the Twelve, to more than five hundred brothers, to James and all the apostles and then to himself, the least of all the apostles.) Paul's final statement in today's passage is most telling. It makes no difference who preaches the Gospel as long as others hear it and believe in it.

Today's Gospel passage describes St. Luke's version of the call and commissioning of the first apostles. Luke's version of the apostle's call differs significantly from Mark 1:16-20. Luke's version will strongly emphasize Jesus' **authoritative word**. That **powerful word** will attract, engage and capture Simon Peter and the other apostles.

The opening scene of today's passage focuses on Jesus proclaiming the **word of God** to a crowd of eager listeners. Jesus then notices two fishing boats with the fishermen preparing to close down for the day by washing their nets. The story does not indicate that Jesus knows these fishermen. Simon Peter and his companions were in the final stages of concluding a failed day of fishing when Jesus encounters them with a strange request. Jesus wants to use Simon Peter's boat as a podium from which to do His teaching. Jesus gets into Simon Peter's boat, instructs him to move it out from the shore, sits down, and continues teaching the people. Then (after He has finished teaching) Jesus makes an even stranger request of Simon Peter. Jesus tells Simon to go out to the deeper water and lower his nets. Simon replies that they had been fishing all day and caught nothing. But then he agrees to do what Jesus commanded. Simon obeys Jesus and the **authoritative word** of Jesus comes home to him when they do catch a large amount of fish. The **authoritative word** and the great catch of fish quickly led Simon to identify Jesus as someone extraordinary. In turn this also led to Simon's realization of his own sinfulness and unworthiness. Quickly this recognition spread to the other fishermen. Simon's pastoral advice to Jesus is to go away and not be bothered with the likes of him and his companions.

Happily, Jesus does **not** take Peter's advice to put distance between Him and sinners. Jesus has come "to seek out and save the lost." (Lk. 19:10) Jesus travels **into** people's lives, not away from them. Jesus entertains sinners. He enters their homes, meets their families, eats at their table, listens to their stories, and calls them to a new way of life. Throughout His life Jesus is never far from sinners. Most importantly on the cross Jesus will die for all sinners.

Jesus wants Simon and his companions to be His followers and share in His mission and ministry. He reassures them that they have no need to **fear**. Jesus

calls them away from their fixation with their own sinfulness and unworthiness. No longer will they be casting their nets for fish but rather they will be casting their nets for people and bringing them closer to God. People are more important than fish. The apostles will trade their nets for the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

Simon Peter and his companions move from discouragement through exhilaration to renunciation. The dynamic behind this is the **authoritative word of God** spoken by Jesus. Our Gospel story climaxes with the single-minded commitment of Jesus' new followers: "They left everything and followed Him."

There is a marvelous teaching and lesson here for all of us. Jesus does not write us off because we are sinners. Jesus is broadminded when it comes to working with people because He does not believe that people should be summarized by their sin. Jesus has other plans because He believes that sinners have a future, not just a past. Jesus can and does see beyond the sin to the worth of the sinner. As St. Paul proclaims: "Christ died for our sins." Christ loves us so much that He thought we were worth dying for. We can stop dotting on our past sinfulness and weaknesses only when we are **convinced** of the central Gospel message: Christ died for **our** sins because He loves us. Have a blessed week.

Love & Prayers,  
Fr. John

**A Monthly Pocket Prayer for February**

Keep this little prayer in your pocket and say, to help get you through each and every day.

Blessed Mother,  
Now that the need is at the greatest and the powers of darkness, seem to have free reign.  
We come to you with childlike confidence and implore your help and powerful protection.  
Preserve us in the Love of your son Jesus and protect us from the wickedness and evil in this life and Guide us Safely to the Heart of God.  
Amen.

**FORMED**

As we prepare for the Lenten and Easter Seasons I would like to make you aware of the many excellent Catholic programs that are available to you for **free** thru

our parish program FORMED. Lenten and Easter movies, video studies, inspiring talks, audiobooks, testimonies and e-books are available for your spiritual enrichment. Lenten programs such as **Forgiven, Presence**, and the **Footprints of God: Jesus** are now available to you to ensure that this Lent and Easter will be a truly rewarding spiritual journey for you and your family. New books written by notable Catholic authors Dr. Scott Hahn, Dr. Edward Sri, Paul McCusker, and Jennifer Fulwiler are now available for you and your family's Catholic faith development. To access these Lenten and Easter programs and other amazing Catholic materials simply visit **omph.formed.org** and click "**Register**" and enter your name, email address and desired password. You will then be ready to access all the inspiring and engaging Catholic content on **FORMED**. Enjoy and God bless. Fr. John

**BISHOP GAINER  
HOST LISTENING SESSIONS**

Bishop Ronald Gainer will host listening sessions throughout the Diocese of Harrisburg in January and February of 2019 He encourages anyone with questions regarding the Grand Jury Report, the Diocese's response to abuse, our path forward, or any other questions or concern to attend one of these sessions. Each session will include opening remarks from Bishop Gainer and retired PA State Police Capt. Janet McNeal, recently hired to oversee the youth protection efforts of the Diocese. Following their brief remarks, the floor will be opened for questions. The scheduled session for our deanery will be held on **Tuesday, February 12, 2019** at St. Leo the Great Parish 2427 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster PA at **6:30 PM**.

In order to make the sessions welcoming and to encourage discussion, video and audio recording will not be permitted. Thank you

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, February 11, Our Lady of Lourdes**

- 7:00      ✠Fr. John Biermann, S.A.C.
- 9:00      ✠Maria Mannino

**Tuesday, February 12**

- 7:00      ✠Donald Leffler
- 9:00      ✠Francis Fordacarro

**Wednesday, 13**

- 7:00      ✠Rev. Joseph Kuchar, S.A.C. & family
- 9:00      ✠Katherine Murphy

**Thursday, February 14, Sts, Cyril. Monk and Methodius, Bishop**

- 7:00      ✠Sue Eisenbise
- 9:00      ✠Patrick Drury

**Friday, February 15**

- 7:00      ✠Spang, Mura & Doman Families
- 9:00**      ✠Lou Leone

**Saturday, February, 16**

- 9:00**      ✠Lou Leone
- 5:00      ✠Ruth Joos

**Sunday, February 17, 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- 7:30      For the Parishioners
- 9:00      ✠Theresa Rozario
- 11:00     ✠Edward Stanley Hydock



**CHURCH SUPPORT**

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
2-3-19	\$11,611.25	\$14,300.00	(\$2,688.75 )
<b>YTD</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>YTD Needed</b>	<b>Difference</b>
2-3-19	\$406,307.02	\$457,600.00	(\$51,292.98 )

**PRESIDENTS DAY**

**If you have information for the February 24 bulletin please have it to the parish office by February 14th.**

**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.



**ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY**



As a service project our second grade would like to reach out to active duty military personnel and their families. Please send contact

information to the school office at 330 Church Avenue,  
Ephrata PA17522

## YEARLINGS NEWS

We will meet for lunch on **February 12<sup>th</sup>** at 11:30 at Keystone Villa, Please call Mary Burkholder at 717-413-0497 for reservations. Very important! All are invited.

## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Anything that brings you closer to God or moves you further from sin is the result of God pouring his grace into your heart. Anything that makes you more loving, kind, and compassionate comes from his grace. In fact, if you were to stop and review your day, you'd probably find that his grace was all around you. Today is a new day and the beginning of a new week. Take advantage of this fresh [start](#). Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to all the grace that God has stored up for you this [week](#). And when you find that grace, welcome it with your heart. Be aware of the Spirit working in your life.

## 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 a Special Intention.

## 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.

Fr. Paul Bryan CSSR, Margaret Gardner, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Michael Lillis, Richard Warner, Anna Leshner, Florence Windish, Gloria Reynolds, Patrick Michael Ward, Carlos Luciano Sr., Mary Kay Hensel, Gerald Gigliotti, Francis Gatti, Antonia Scribani, Jean Mash, John Mento, Joe Lewis, Joe Ferrara, Joan Dever, Alicia Craig, Robert Bevans, Chris Hohowski, and Jody Shimp, Kathy Snyder, Jennifer Ranker, and Lori Ritz.



## BENEVOLENT SOCIETY FOOD BANK

Have you ever looked at the food bank crate in the narthex as you walk into mass on the weekend? The crate is ALWAYS overflowing with non-perishables donated by YOU, the OMPH parishioners.

We are extremely humbled by the unending support of our parish in our quest to help those struggling in Northern Lancaster County. So, THANK YOU!

Our food bank is open on Wednesday evenings from 5-6:30 pm on the grounds of St Clement Mission House. If you know of any local families who can use help with food, please send them to one of our distributions to see if they qualify. Any parishioner who needs help with food is welcome at any time without any need for financial qualification.



## Purple & Gold Gala

On *Saturday, April 6*, from 6-11 pm Lancaster Catholic will celebrate its 5th Annual Purple & Gold Gala at the Lancaster Country Club. This is Lancaster Catholic's biggest fundraiser event and there will be live and silent auctions in addition to great company and excellent food.

This year, we will celebrate The Saint John Paul II Excellence Award Winners, Father Allan Wolfe and Marilyn Berger '50. These remarkable individuals have made a difference in the lives of Catholic High students through their hard work and dedication to their professions.

All are welcome to attend! Tickets are on-sale now and can be found at [www.lchsyoes.org](http://www.lchsyoes.org). Questions? Please contact Lori Wagner, Special Events Coordinator, at 717-509-0313.

## Community Swing Dance Night

Lancaster Catholic High School's Fine and Performing Arts Department is hosting a Swing Dance Night on February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7-10 pm that is open to all ages and the Lancaster Community! Temple Avenue jazz quintet will provide the music for the evening with dance lessons from Lancaster Swing Dance Club. Admission by donation to the FPA Program. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Please RSVP by Tuesday, February

20<sup>th</sup> to Tony Brill at [tbrill@lchsyes.org](mailto:tbrill@lchsyes.org) or call 717-509-0310 with your name, phone number and how many will be attending.

### FAITH'S HEALING POWER

The Knights of Columbus Council 4191 are pleased to welcome Jennifer Hubbard, whose life was forever changed on the day of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, CT. On December 14, 2012, Jennifer was the parent of two children in that school, 8 year old Frederick, and 6 year old Catherine. Catherine was one of twenty 1<sup>st</sup> graders and six adults who lost their lives that day.

Jennifer shares a message about the mercy and hope that God provides even in the face of unimaginable life events. You will learn how she turned to her faith to find peace and found that God provided the answers that she needed.

Jennifer is a contributing writer for the Magnificat magazine and founder of the Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation, an animal sanctuary.

Jennifer will be speaking at OMPH Church, located at 320 Church Avenue, Ephrata, PA **on Friday, March 8 beginning at 7 PM.** A free-will offering will be taken up to cover some of the expenses. We look forward to seeing you and your friends, to start the Lenten season by benefitting from this wonderful message.

### OMPH COMMUNITY MEALS

OMPH will be hosting our first Community Meal of 2019. We are once again looking for volunteers to help. Our Community Meal Program provides free, freshly prepared and nutritious meals, to hungry residents of the Ephrata area. Our meal will be held on. **Feb. 21, 2019 at First United Methodist Church 68 N Church St, Ephrata, PA**

There is no special expertise required so if you can help out at either meal it would be great. Our volunteer will have varied duties from helping to set up the dining area, serving meals to our guests and of course cleaning up after the meal. Our meal program has been serving anywhere from 120 to 180 people, so we usually need around 20 or so volunteers. Without our volunteers, it would be difficult if not impossible to accomplish our mission. Whether you have helped in the past or this is

your first time we would love to have you join us for this worthwhile and rewarding experience.

For those individuals who are unable to volunteer some of their time but still want to help out, monetary donations are always welcome for the "OMPH Community Meals." If you are interested in volunteering or want more information, please email Tara Montgomery at [jazzcat9@ptd.net](mailto:jazzcat9@ptd.net) or contact Pat or Georgia Hogan at 717-738-0825.

### 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>
Propagation of Faith	February 10 <sup>th</sup>	propagation
Initial	No date	initial

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

### SAVE THE DATE

OMPH CYO *Athletic Association* will be having a Designer Bag Bingo on Saturday, **April 27** 1-4pm. Ticket **Price \$25**

### SPAGHETTI DINNER

The Knights of Columbus will be holding its annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, **February 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 3:00 to 7:00 PM.** Cost for the dinner is \$9 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under. Children 3 and under are free. All tickets will be available at the door. Contact Matt Auker at 717-572-1160 with any questions.



### ALPHA

Course, a life-changing experience, an opportunity to cultivate our relationship with God, with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. A fun 10-week program with lite dinner, music, fellowship and MORE! Free babysitting included!

Begins Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup> At St. James Catholic Church 505 Woodcrest Ave., Lititz, PA Contact: Georgie Weese at 717-380-9407. Come explore the Alpha Course, a life-changing experience! An opportunity to cultivate our relationship with God, with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. A fun 10-week program with lite dinner, music, fellowship and MORE! Free babysitting included! Begins Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> At St. James Catholic Church 505 Woodcrest Ave., Lititz, PA Contact: Georgie Weese at 717-380-9407

### OMPH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Selection of your child's school is among the most important choices you will make. OMPH School partners with parents in providing a faith-based education for the children of our parish. We have a strong tradition of academic excellence, but more importantly, the gospel message and spirit of Catholicism permeate the school day. Our children are blessed to have daily interaction with the Redemptorist Fathers serving our parish.

Registration is now open to all parish families for Preschool through Grade 8 for the 2019-2020 school year. The Preschool program, for children who are 3 and 4 years old by September 1st, provides developmentally appropriate activities in a Catholic environment and offers a Munch Bunch school lunch program. Our full day Kindergarten program, for children who are 5 years old by September 1<sup>st</sup>, provides daily Religion class along with skill development in Language Arts and Math and special classes in computer, library, physical education, Spanish, art, and music. Students in grades 1 through 8 experience an education noted for academic excellence in an environment which reinforces our Catholic identity. An on-site after school program is available for all students in Preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

To learn more about our school please visit our website at [www.omph.org](http://www.omph.org) or call the school office at 717-738-2414 for information. Find us on Facebook at OMPH-

EPHRATA! Financial aid is available to qualifying families.



### Religious Education Corner:

**We Will Be Taking A Break From The Religious Education Valentine's Basket/Bake Sale This Year. Thank You To All Who Have Contributed, In Any Way, To This Fundraiser In The Past. Your Contributions Have Been Most Greatly Appreciated.**

**Our Religious Education Class Schedule For The Remainder Of February Is As Follows:**

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

**Second Weather Make-Up Class If Needed Otherwise**

**Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> – NO RE Classes**

**Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup> – RE Classes Resume**

***Family Religious Education Session On Lent For All First – Seventh Grade Families. One Parent Is Expected To Attend This Session Along With His Or Her Child(ren) As This Is A Family Session. Please See The Additional Information Distributed***

### YOUTH GROUP

News from Radiate Youth Group: Sunday February 10th from 3:30-5:30 pm in the Bernadine Center movie time! Watching "The Greatest Showman" movie. Pizza, wings, popcorn, and chocolate candy provided.



For the past year, Radiate Youth Group has been running the OMPH coffee and doughnut corner the first Sunday of each month during the school year. All teens in the parish, grades 7-12, are welcome to join us to help serve in this way. It's also a great way to get service hours needed for Confirmation students. We are blessed to be able to serve the parish. Also, starting this Spring, Radiate Youth Group will be taking over the care of the flower garden at the OMPH Memorial Monument in Cedar Hill Cemetery. It's a great way for us to give back to the parish for all their generosity in the past years with monetary support towards our Steubenville trips. God bless! **In His Service, Denise Ives**

**OMPH SCHOOL'S  
LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE**



The OMPH School Development Department and PTO are excited to announce a new and exciting Fundraiser - The May 2019 Lottery Calendar! Purchase a raffle ticket for \$10 and if your ticket number comes out straight on the Pennsylvania Lottery Pick 3 Evening Drawing in May, you win the amount marked on the calendar for that day. Tickets can be purchased through any OMPH School family, after masses in February in the Narthex or in the Parish Office, or in person at the school office. Sales end April 24<sup>th</sup>.

**GRACE**

Moving with the Spirit: A Current of Grace [On Friday, February 15 from 7:00-9:30 PM](#) at St. John Neumann Church Social Hall, [601 East Delp Rd., Lancaster PA](#) come and join together with others in the community and in the world through an international online participation of unity for an outpouring and intervention of God's grace in our lives and in the world.

Live broadcast streaming from Ark and Dove Retreat House, Gibsonia PA See: [arkanddoveweek.com](#) for weeklong free events February 11-15.

**2019 CRUSADER SOFTBALL**

REGISTRATION ages 6-14 is open! Sign up your players for 8U, 10U, 12U or 14U. Registration will end February 13, 2019, late registrations may be accepted with a late fee. Multiplayer (3 or more) family discount applies. *Crusader Softball Feeder Program* is open to students from all Lancaster county Catholic schools and parishes. Register at: <https://stleos.weshareonline.org/> and select Softball Registration. Any questions and if you are interested in coaching contact the Softball Coordinator Jude Krady at [SaintLeoSoftball@gmail.com](mailto:SaintLeoSoftball@gmail.com) or 717-314-5965.

**A WOMAN'S CONCERN**

A Woman's Concern, your local pregnancy and parenting resource center, is expanding its staff! We are looking for a Part Time Medical Services Manager. This person will ensure the quality and medical compliance of day-to-day client medical services including, but not limited to; limited ultrasound, pregnancy testing, OSHA compliance and other client medical testing as needed. This position oversees and maintains professional medical standards of care for A Woman's Concern. For more information and an online application go to [www.pregnancylancaster.com/jobs](http://www.pregnancylancaster.com/jobs)