

My Dear Parishioners,

The Greek philosopher Diogenes was regarded by many who knew him as being a somewhat eccentric teacher. Diogenes believed that virtue consisted in the avoidance of all physical pleasures and that pain and inconvenience were conducive to goodness. When Alexander the Great visited him Diogenes was living in a large earthenware tub in one of Athens suburbs. Few people could accept Diogenes' teaching or his way of life. When someone asked him the reason for this pointless conduct he replied: "I am exercising the art of being rejected." Diogenes experienced plentiful rejection in his time. Whether he ever became accustomed to being rebuffed and rejected still remains an open question.

Our God reveals His Word of hope, joy, love and reconciliation through **prophets** who often experienced personal suffering and rejection; especially painful rejection from their own family, friends and neighbors. Throughout Israel's history God ministered through the **prophets** (from Elijah to Isaiah to Jeremiah to John the Baptist to Jesus) expanding the boundaries of the hearts of God's people to include the poor, the weak, the forgotten and foreigners. True **prophets** acted out of love, courageous commitment, and openness to all of God's people. In doing so they often experienced rejection, intimidation, ridicule, betrayal, suffering and even death. Our readings for today remind us of **our** call to be **prophets** of God's Word. Our readings also point out the challenges and difficulties that **we** might encounter as **we** answer God's call.

Jeremiah received his **prophetic** call around the year 627 B.C. Today's first reading is an account of Jeremiah's **prophetic** call. This account stresses God's intimate relationship with Jeremiah, the enormous difficulties of Jeremiah's mission, and God's assurance of help and support for Jeremiah. Before Jeremiah's conception God designated him to be God's confident/**prophet**. Yet Jeremiah actually received his call to be God's **prophet** when he was a young adult of about nineteen or twenty years of age. Jeremiah's country, Judah, was a puppet in the hands of Assyria. Contrary to what the Israelites thought (those who liked to consider themselves alone as God's "Chosen People") God was calling Jeremiah to

be a **prophet** not only to the people of Israel but to **all** nations. Whatever the personal cost Jeremiah must proclaim God's Word to **all** people.

God told Jeremiah that his opposition would be formidable since he would have to oppose the power structure of his day. People would reject him and fight against him. Jeremiah was by inclination unskilled in confronting his hardened opponents, the entrenched political and religious leaders. But against such opposition Jeremiah will enjoy the best of God's military hardware (God's images of strength into which God had made him: "fortified city, pillar of iron, a wall of brass"). God assures Jeremiah that the opposition would not prevail for the simple reason that God will support Jeremiah through thick and thin. Because Jeremiah's love for God was immense he generously accepted God's call and gave himself completely to his searing assignment.

The **prophetic** St. Paul's praise of **love** as found in his passage to the Corinthians (today's second reading) is one of the best-known biblical passages. Recall that in last Sunday's passage Paul insisted that all gifts bestowed upon individuals by the Spirit function for the building up of the community. In today's passage Paul concentrates on the gift of **love**. **Love** is God's greatest gift to humanity since it is meant to be the "**most excellent way of life**" for Christians. And besides, **love** lasts forever.

Today's Gospel continues Luke's programmatic statement in 4:16-30. It presents in outline form the major ingredients that will appear in Jesus' future mission and ministry.

In today's passage we see how Jesus (after preaching in the synagogue in Nazareth) is rejected by his own townspeople. Recall last week's Gospel passage. Jesus went to His hometown synagogue on the Sabbath after His baptism and time in the desert. Jesus is invited to read a passage from Scripture and chooses Isaiah 61:1-2 which outlines a three-fold ministry of "preaching the Good News to the poor," "bringing liberation to the oppressed and captives," and, above all, giving "recovery of sight to the blind"- a phrase from one of the Servant Songs (Is. 42:1-9) that presented a servant who came for **all** nations. This passage announces the ultimate age of fulfillment. It provides a glimpse into the kind of Messiah that Jesus

will be; namely one who will refashion society for the sake of the poor and oppressed. This passage also insists that God's love goes beyond the confines of Israel into the territory of the Gentiles. What is shocking to His townspeople is not what Jesus read but what Jesus said about what He read. Jesus declared that: "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus' townspeople are amazed, confused and shocked. This passage was understood to be about the coming **prophet** of the end-time. It brought to mind the great **prophets** of the past, Elijah and Elisha. How is it possible that Jesus could declare that this Scripture passage was, in fact, about Him and was at this very moment in the process of being fulfilled?

At first Jesus' townspeople approve of His words but then they remind themselves of His identity and say: "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" Jesus is not free from local gossip, prejudice, and suspicion. His townspeople complain that He does not perform any local wonders (miracles) while at the same time letting Him know that they disbelieve in Him. Jesus accepts their criticism and rejection and reminds His townspeople that: "No **prophet** is accepted in his own native place." Then Jesus adds fuel to the fire by offering examples of God choosing Gentile causes over Jewish concerns. He tells two stories; one involves the **prophet** Elijah and the other features the **prophet** Elisha. Both stories show God's **prophets** choosing to help Gentiles, the widow of Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian-within the context of Jews also in need of help. Even though His townspeople criticize Jesus for helping Gentiles in Capernaum, He points out that He is simply doing what God's **prophets** before Him have done. In offering the example of the two stories Jesus is extending the boundaries of God's love beyond the Jews to **all** people. This concept filled the people in the synagogue with fury and they rose up against Jesus, driving Him out of His own home town and casting Him out of their midst.

Today's passage from Luke's Gospel brings to light two very important theological concepts. First Luke wants all to understand that Jesus is indeed a **prophet** very much along the same lines as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Elijah and Elisha-but even more so. Jesus is God's **eschatological prophet**. Jesus is an innocent **prophet** who will be rejected, condemned and killed. Jesus is, in fact, the long-awaited Messiah. The

rejection that begins in His home town of Nazareth will continue throughout His earthly ministry since some people will have a narrow view of how God works and the way that God unfolds His plan of salvation. Secondly, Luke wants all to understand that salvation is not limited to one people, nation, race, or religion. Salvation is universally available to all those who have faith in Jesus, God's **Messianic prophet**.

Our God reveals His Word of love and reconciliation through unexpected **prophets**. God raises up parents, teachers, friends, coaches, preachers, and family members to help us realize **our** own call to be **prophets** of God's Word, to embrace God's grace enabling us to transform our own homes, schools, work places, and towns into God's dwelling place. More often than not, the **prophets** we do not accept are ourselves: we are too fearful, too intimidated, too self-absorbed to realize the responsibilities of our baptism to be ministers of God's compassion and love. May all of us possess the grace to act **prophetically** with love and forgiveness; may we embrace the wisdom to hear God speaking to us in the example of the **prophets** in our midst; imitating their "proclaiming" the love of God in their love of others and the justice and peace of God in the selfless integrity of their lives among us. Have a blessed and **prophetic** week.

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 4

- 7:00 †George Stafford
- 9:00 †Jaden Truskey

Tuesday, February 5, St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

- 7:00 †Joseph & Ann Notaro
- 9:00 Kathy Snyder

Wednesday, February 6, St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs

- 7:00 †Jaden Truskey
- 9:00 †Beth Ann Cook

Thursday, February 7

- 7:00 †Jamie Heston
- 9:00 †Ricardo Jumarang

Friday, February 8, St. Jerome Emiliani, St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin

- 7:00 Day of Prayer and Penance
- 9:00 Mena Zappoli

Saturday, February 9

- 9:00 †Deceased Redemptorists
- 5:00 †Ruth Joos

Sunday, February 10, 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30 For the Parishioners
- 9:00 †Phillip Cardin
- 11:00 †John Fanale

There are a few masses that have not been scheduled for an intention available for next week.

CHURCH SUPPORT

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
1-27-19	\$19,904.04	\$14,300.00	(\$5,604.04)
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
1-27-19	\$394.695.77	\$443,300.00	(\$48,604.23)

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 12th** 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

Paul also acknowledges that none of us love perfectly. Using analogies, he calls our love childish. It's as if we were looking at life through a dark, distorted mirror. Paul acknowledges, in other words, that we all make mistakes. We all use bad judgment. We all hurt other people—especially our loved ones. We try our best, but sometimes our best just isn't good enough. Not yet, at least.

Love understands all of this and can heal all of this—even the mistakes and poor judgments that are more a matter of bad choices than sins. If you have been hurt, remember that your love can bring healing, both to yourself and to the one who hurt you. Even if your love is partial or tinged with some regret or a bit of anger, it can still make a difference. Jesus always sees the love, and he always blesses it.

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 James Guthrie.

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.



SAVE THE DATE

Lancaster Catholic's Purple & Gold Gala will be held on Saturday, **April 6th**, from **6 pm – 11 pm** at the Lancaster Country Club. This year's Saint John Paul II Excellence Award honorees are Father Allan Wolfe and Marilyn Berger. For more information please contact Lancaster Catholic's Department of Advancement at 717-509-0313.

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 1st 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 7:00 PM. This event is free and open to all in the community. We look forward to seeing you

and your friends, to start the Lenten season by benefitting from this wonderful, uplifting message.



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.

Our current needs are: applesauce, spaghetti sauce, and Mac & cheese.

SAVE THE DATE

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

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

News from Radiate Youth Group: Next youth group meetings are February 10th and February 24th. We will meet in the Bernadine Center from 3:30-5:30. Grades 7-12 welcome!

In His Service, Denise Ives

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 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 th	propagation
Initial	No date	initial

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

SPAGHETTIDINNER

The Knights of Columbus will be holding its annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, **February 23rd, 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 Aufer at 717-572-1160 with any questions.



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 RE Class Schedule For The Month Of February Is As Follows:

Sunday, February 3rd – RE Classes In Session From 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM This Week Only

**Sunday, February 10th – RE Classes In Session
Second Weather Make-Up Class If Needed Otherwise**

Sunday, February 17th – NO RE Classes

Sunday, February 24th – 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.

Kelly Lawrence

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 11th 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 12th 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 1st, 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 8th grade.

To learn more about our school please visit our website at 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.

A WOMAN'S CONCERN

Thanks to the Knights of Columbus, A Woman's Concern is looking to expand our medical services and staff at A Woman's Concern. Please see attached Job description and include in next weeks bulletin if at all possible.

Thank you so much for your support
Mary Ann Albertini

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