

Dear Parishioners,

Much of life is based on the consolation of **promise** and **hope**. Perhaps at one time or another we have found ourselves saying: “I wasted too much time tonight looking at senseless television but I **promise** it won’t happen again.” “I am sorry I disappointed you but I **promise** I will do better next time.” “I **promise** to be true to you in good times and bad, in sickness and in health and I **promise** to love you and honor you all the days of my life.” “I **promise** to study harder and get better grades next semester.” “I promise to clean my room later.” “I **promise** that I will...” We make **promises** but sometimes our **promises** are just merely empty meaningless words.

God’s **promises** are **never** empty words carried off by the wind soon after they are uttered. From the beginning of time God has backed up His divine **promises** with action. God’s words always lead to a ratifying action. God’s divine word is backed up by a divine deed. We can see this so clearly in today’s Scripture readings.

Our first reading is from the Book of Genesis. In previous chapters of this book God protected Abram (later called Abraham) in Egypt and granted him victory in the land of Canaan. Even though God did all this for Abram, the great patriarch hesitates to put his total trust in God. In today’s passage God gives Abram the assurances that he very much needs. God makes two awesome **promises** to Abram: a multitude of descendants and a vast expanse of land to be given to his descendants. At first it looks like God’s **promise** to Abram of a multitude of descendants seems doomed because Abram and his wife Sari were childless. However, God counters by **promising** Abram not only a son but numerous descendants. To calm Abram’s fears God invites him to look up at the night sky. There Abram could see stars so great in number that no

one could ever possibly count them. Equally countless will be Abram’s future descendants in time to come.

God also **promises** Abram the gift of land for his descendants. However, Abram had no evidence that this **promise** would ever be fulfilled so he asked God for some assurance. He seeks a sign from God. To allay Abram’s concern God prepares an elaborate covenant with him. This was the first solemn covenant in all of human history and the beginning of what we now call Salvation History. In ancient times a covenant was ritualized in a ceremony. Animals were slain and divided, leaving an intervening passage. Those who were party to the covenant passed through the divided animals invoking the fate of dying in the same way if they didn’t live up to their obligations. The walking between the divided animals was a symbolic way of saying: “may the same thing happen to me (as to this animal) if I am unfaithful to my word.” In today’s Scripture passage only God (represented as fire) moves between the divided animals. This ritual scene is so dramatic that it sets aside any lingering doubts in Abram’s mind because God gives Abram real assurance that the **promises** He made to him would be fulfilled.

God’s **promise** contained in events such as Jesus’ Transfiguration (which the Church presents in every year’s Gospel on the Second of Lent) has to be understood in connection with Jesus’ suffering, death and resurrection. This year we have St. Luke’s account of Jesus’ Transfiguration. St. Luke’s account of the Transfiguration captures a crisis in Jesus’ life. St. Luke links his account with the preceding scene (9:18-27) where Jesus announces and reveals His passion, death and resurrection to His disciples. The disciples seemed to be confused with Jesus’ announcement so they question Him. Jesus replies to the disciple’s question about His

identity and what others were saying about Him. Thus the story of the Transfiguration addresses the question of Jesus' identity head-on. The primary purpose of the Transfiguration Story is to clarify Jesus' identity as being **God's Chosen Son** and the **Promised One**. Luke's version of the story relies on Moses and Sinai typology connected with a tradition of a new exodus. In the background is also the tradition found in Deuteronomy 18:15-19 which promises that a prophet like Moses eventually will speak in God's name.

The visual event of the Transfiguration takes place in the presence of Peter, James and John on top of a mountain- a traditional place for a theophany (a manifestation of God). We are told with a minimum of words that while Jesus was praying, He was transfigured ("His face changed in appearance and His clothing became dazzling white."). Then the great Old Testament prophets Moses and Elijah appear- mediators of God's word and God's **promise** to His Chosen People through both the law and deeds. The Law and prophets constitute the fullness of God's Old Testament revelation. The "exodus" of which they speak is Jesus' own death, resurrection and ascension; all of the important **promises** in God's eternal plan of salvation for humankind. Luke then tells us that Jesus would have to leave this world in order to enter into the glory that was ahead. This discussion indicated that Jesus' death was not a tragic mistake; something that He was unable to avoid. The notion of "exodus" also recalls the liberation of the Israelites under Moses' leadership. In a way, Jesus will lead a new exodus, a new liberation with the saving event of His death and resurrection.

Peter, James and John miss much of what had happened because of their drowsiness. When fully awake, Peter has no idea what has happened and mistakenly guesses that this visual event is similar to the Jewish Feast of Booths (which celebrates the giving of the law to Moses on Mt.

Sinai.) Thus, Peter wants to build a tent for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. However, his suggestion is cut off by the onslaught of a cloud, out of which comes God's voice: "This is my **Chosen Son**; listen to Him." God's voice not only authenticates who Jesus is but also instructs the disciples to listen to His words regardless of how challenging or perplexing they might be. The response of Peter, James and John is silence since it will take time to grasp what has been seen and what has been heard. It will take the actual unfolding of the events of Jesus' "exodus" for them to fully understand its meaning. God's divine word and **promise** is backed up by Jesus' divine deed (His passion, death and resurrection).

The Transfiguration is God's **promise** of future glory for His Son Jesus. St. Paul gives a **promise** of future glory for all of us when he tells us in his exhortation to the Philippians (our second reading) that "our citizenship is in heaven." We know that we are only tourists in this world and it is **not** our true home. We always must be ready because we do not know when God will call us home. Paul reminds us that God will keep His **promise** and bring us home to Him. God "will change our lowly bodies to conform with His glorified body by the power that enables Him also to bring all things into subjection to Himself." Unlike the enemies of the cross, we know that we have to embrace the cross, and then, with Christ's Second coming, we will be transformed into His glory and become citizens of Heaven. That's quite a **promise**. And, remembering all the limitations of our earthly bodies, God's **promise** is very consoling.

God has a special affection for each one of us and He **promises** to be with us as we struggle along the pilgrim road of life. Along the sidelines we hear voices-some from others, the worst from inside ourselves. The worst voices say, "You are a fool and a nobody." But we can also hear God's voice saying, "You are **my child**, the delight of my soul." Our relationship with

God is more than a mere covenant. It is even more than our being citizens of heaven. In our relationship with God (by our baptism) we are transformed into the image of Jesus Christ. Let us pray as we continue our Lenten journey we will continue joyfully through our penances to rely on God's **promises**. Have a blessed week.

Love & Prayers,

Fr. John

P.S. Have a **blessed** St. Patrick's Day!

FORMED

ACCESS CATHOLIC FAITH ON THE GO

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 McCuskey, 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

PALM SUNDAY MEN'S RETREAT

 Men you are invited to join us **Malvern Retreat House** **April 12-14**, for a Palm Sunday weekend Retreat in Malvern, PA. It is a beautiful oasis amid 125 acres of natural woodlands. This a great time to step aside, relax, rest, and look at the important things in your life. Strengthen, renew, or discover your personal relationship with Jesus. The theme for 2019 is Encountering the Divine Physician, Jesus Christ. Malvern has a proud tradition whereby no retreatant is turned away based on financial need. To make your reservation please call Jim Lawson 717-799-0080 or go online at www.malvernretreat.com.

2019 DIOCESAN ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

The **2019 Diocesan Annual Campaign**, previously known as the **Bishop's Lenten Appeal**, will begin **this week** with the in-pew solicitation. The theme for this year is **Faith Forward**. During these challenging times, our faith is central to who we are. Like the Disciples, we are called to remain **faithful**, demonstrate our **commitment** to our **faith** by word and deed, and spread Good News. You will be receiving a letter from Bishop Gainer asking for your support. I have pledged to Bishop Gainer my assistance in achieving our Parish goal of **\$101,300**. As you prayerfully consider your support of both our Parish goal and the overall Diocesan goal, I hope you will join me in supporting these important ministries and services that the Diocese provides to our Parish, parishioners, and community. By our collective efforts from parishioners and parishes throughout the Diocese, a multitude of programs and ministries are offered to those in need. We are relying on your generous support to insure that these programs and ministries continue. Bishop Gainer and I thank you in advance for your loyal and steadfast support.

Monies collected by our Parish support the programs and ministries that are Diocesan led, Parish implemented and Parishioner supported. **No funds given to the Diocesan Annual Campaign are directed to the Survivors Compensation Fund or legal fees.** Any funds collected in excess of our Parish goal of **\$101, 300.00** will be returned to our Parish Savings Account. Thank you and God bless. Fr. John

MUSIC ACCOMPANISTS NEEDED

The OMPH Music Ministry is in need of an accompanist, preferably piano or organ, for the Adult Choir. Practice is only once a week (Tuesdays from 7-8 pm) and we sing at 1 or 2 Masses per month. 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 717-336-5578 or jmcgowan333@yahoo.com.



YOUTH CHOIR NEEDS YOU

Our Youth Choir is currently taking a short break while we find someone to take over directing duties. If you love music and want to help inspire the children of our parish, this is a great opportunity. Music is a wonderful way to get kids more involved in Mass. This position does require clearances but I will happily help you get them if you are interested. Please contact Jill McGowan at 717-336-5578 or jmcgowan333@yahoo.com.

ACOLYTES

On Sunday, February 24, 2019, 37 diocesan deacon candidates were instituted acolytes by Bishop Ronald Gainer. **Mr. Jim Lawson** of **our Parish** was one of these candidates. The General Instruction on the Roman Missal (GIRM) states “The acolyte is instituted for service at the altar and to assist the Priest and Deacon. It is his place principally to prepare the altar and the sacred vessels and, if necessary, to distribute the Eucharist to the faithful as an extraordinary minister.” The acolyte may also purify the sacred vessels. While many of these services may be shared by other laypersons, the acolyte bears a particular responsibility to the ministry at the altar. Bishop Gainer and the diaconal formators request that all the Faithful of the Diocese welcome the ministry of our new acolytes and pray for them and their families as they continue their discernment and their formation for ordination. Please keep **Jim Lawson** and his wife **Helen** and all the deacon candidates and their wives in your prayers. Thank you. Fr. John

DIOCESAN MEN'S CONFERENCE

Men of the Diocese of Harrisburg and beyond...the



Diocesan Men's Conference is Saturday, **April 6, 2019**, at Bishop McDevitt High School. The theme is **Men Called to be Saints**. The Keynote Speaker is **Dr. John Bergsma**, noted

Catholic author, speaker, Bible expert, and theology professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville. The title of his keynote address is **The Top 3 Reasons I Became Catholic and Always Will Be: Perspectives from a Former Protestant Pastor**. Besides the keynote, the Men's Conference includes 40+ workshops from a blue-ribbon panel of speakers, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with benediction, opportunity for Confession, beautiful music, good food, numerous Catholic vendors, Mass with Bishop Gainer as Principal Celebrant and Homilist, and fellowship with up to 1,000 men from around the Diocese of Harrisburg and beyond. Each of the past two years we have had 1,000 men attend this conference. We expect another large crowd this year. Please register now at www.hbgdiocese.org/men. We'd love to see you at the Men's Conference on April 6th!

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 18, St. Cryil of Jerusalem

- 7:00 †Betty Battisti
- 9:00 Fr. Paul Bryan, CSSR

Tuesday, March 19, St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 7:00 †Edgar A. Barry
- 9:00 †Margaret Summers

Wednesday, March 20

- 7:00 †Carol Kinney
- 9:00 †Betty Lou Mellinger

Thursday, 21

- 7:00 †Michele Olimpo
- 9:00 †Gerald Wolfe

Friday, March 22

- 7:00 †Joseph & Anna Hoholick
- 9:00 †Jack Muldowney

Saturday, March 23, St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

- 9:00 †Sokolowski Family
- 5:00 †John & Helen Phillips

Sunday, March 24

- 7:30 For the Parishioners
- 9:00 †Intentions in the Prayer Box
- 11:00 †Robert & Katie Burkholder



Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
3-10-19	\$12,545.35	\$14,300.00	(\$1,754.65)
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
3-10-19	\$470,149.38	\$529, 100, 00.	(\$58,950.62)

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 Thomas Garrett Hewes IV.

There are 21 openings to have the Sanctuary Lamp burn for your intention.

LEGION OF MARY NEWS



Legion of Mary ACIES (Rededication Service to the Blessed **Virgin Mary**) will be held at **Holy Trinity, Columbia on 23 March at 1 PM**. All active and auxiliary members are encouraged to attend. Calls will be made to determine attendance.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT**

And in the Gospel, Jesus gives Peter, James, and John a vision of his heavenly glory. He knew he was headed for the cross and that his death would shake them to the core. So he gave them this vision to strengthen their faith and encourage them, even as they saw him arrested, tortured, and killed. Jesus wants us to fix our eyes on heaven as well. He wants us to focus on his glory and his promises as we pray each morning. He knows that if we do, we'll give the Holy Spirit the opportunity to write these promises on our hearts. We'll let the Spirit show us Jesus' love and mercy so that we can stay close to him during the day.

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 Lesher, Florence Windish, Gloria Reynolds, Patrick Michael Ward, Carlos Luciano Sr., 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, Jennifer Ranker, Jean Mack, Gloria Kreider, Lori Ritz and, Ellen Moran.

**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>
Catholic Relief	April 7th	Catholicrelief
Easter Flowers	April 14th	easterflowers
Holy Land	April 19th	holyland
Catholic Home Missions	April 28th	homemissions
Easter	April 21st	easter

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



Religious Education Corner:

This Week's Corporal Work of Mercy

Clothe The Naked:

Donate money to programs that help to get clothing to those who need it.

Only purchase clothing that your family truly needs.

Clean out your closets and donate your family's old clothing to an organization that helps get clothing to people who lose their clothing in fires.

This Week's Spiritual Work of Mercy

Correct The Sinner:

Try not to judge others but show them the right way through your actions.

Show mercy not conceit when correcting someone.

Correct your own sinfulness before pointing out some else's sinfulness.

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

Sunday, March 17th – RE Classes In Session

Sunday, March 24th – RE Classes In Session

Sunday, March 31st – RE Classes In Session

Kelly Lawrence

ARTICLES FOR THE BULLETIN

Announcements for the Palm Sunday (April 14) bulletin should be **submitted to the parish office by the end of the day on Thursday, April 4.**

Announcements for the bulletin for Easter Sunday (April 21) should be **submitted to the parish office by the end of the day on Thursday, April 11.**

PRAYER VIGIL

Please join us in a Holy Hour March 24, 12 noon, in front of Planned Parenthood, 31 S Lime St. Lancaster, during the Lenten "40 Days for Life" campaign. The clinic is closed but the prayer is powerful. With different state legislatures pushing to legalize abortion up to birth, and beyond, which is infanticide, our visible pro-life presence is more important than ever. This radical onslaught against born and unborn children is a clear sign that Planned Parenthood and its allies are desperate. But it's also a reminder that **our work is not done yet.** Check out the vigils being held in 377 cities around the world. <https://40daysforlife.com/browse-campaigns/> Pray and fast for these precious babies being killed.
Andrea Ostrowski

**HOLY CROSS ALUMNAE
OF SACRED HEART ACADEMY**



The annual Spring luncheon of the Holy Cross Alumnae of Sacred Heart Academy will be held on Saturday, April 13 at the Stockyard Inn in Lancaster. Social hour will begin at 12 noon, and luncheon will be served at 1 PM. Alumnae and guest are welcome. Anyone who ever studied at the Academy is invited to attend or to join the Alumnae Association. It is not necessary to be a graduate. Music students are also welcome. Please call Romaine Frey for reservations at (717) 581-7437. Call Dianne Danz at (717-940-2401 for further information or to receive the semi-annual Holy Cross Alumnae newsletter.

**ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION PRESENTS
DESIGNER BAG BINGO**

Join us on Saturday April 27 1-4 pm, doors open at 12 NOON! Tickets - \$25 -20 Bingo Games with Designer bag prizes Other chances to WIN: 50/50 • Games • Door Prizes 2 special Bingo • Raffle Snack bar open for food and drink purchases!

For Tickets - Contact Lisa
Sheafferlisaksheaffer@gmail.com

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, in the Parish Office after Sunday Masses, or in person at the school office. Sales end April 24th.

NEEDED

GOLFERS AND SPONSORS

for

**Our Mother of Perpetual Help School
27th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament**

May 8, 2019

Honeybrook Golf Club



Enjoy a fun filled day of golf at a first class course.

Prizes and contests including a chance to win a trip for two to the 2020 Super Bowl or \$15,000 cash.

A single golfer is only \$90 and includes golf at Honeybrook Golf Course, cart, range balls, contests, prizes, light breakfast, delicious lunch and refreshments.

Advertising through sponsorship reaches members of surrounding business communities as well as school families and friends and is available by contacting the School Development Office at 717-738-2414 or www.golfgenius.com/ggid/omphgolfouting.

HERSHEYPARK

Hersheypark Discount Ticket Offer! Discount tickets to *Hersheypark* are available to the friends and families of the parish for **significant savings**.

Gate admission for Regular is \$69.80; our price is **\$35.50** (ALL ages 3+).

*ADD-ON discount *Hersheypark* Meal Tickets at a savings of up to 30% off retail prices - **\$11.99 each** and *ADD-ON Snack Vouchers - **\$3.50 each**.

Orders must be received at the parish by **Monday, April 29, 2019.**

Parishes will receive tickets by Friday, May 24, 2019. Order forms can be found on the table in the Narthex. *Also, keep an eye out for an order form in the bulletin soon!*