

My Dear Parishioners,

Carpe diem is a phrase one learns while studying Latin in high school. **Carpe diem** simply means “**seize the day.**” What does “**seize the day**” mean for a high school student? For some it simply means that they have permission to act impulsively without worrying about repercussions and consequences. However for others this phrase means that they are to act **wisely**. Today’s Scripture readings remind each one of us that we must **act wisely right now**.

In today’s first reading from the book of Exodus Moses is called by God to “**seize the day**” and to **act now** by doing God’s work. Moses had fled from Egypt (after killing an Egyptian who was persecuting a fellow Israelite) and settled in Midian marrying the daughter of the wealthy pagan priest Jethro. He was content to live out the rest of his days there with his wife. However God wanted Moses to go back to Egypt and negotiate the freedom of His people with the great Pharaoh Ramses II. Moses was hesitant to return because he feared that he would be punished for his crime. He also was certain that his fellow Israelites would not listen to him. But we will see in today’s passage how Moses has a change of heart.

Moses was tending his father-in-law Jethro’s sheep when he discovers Mount Horeb. This mountain (where God speaks to Moses) is considered a holy mountain (“Remove your sandals”) because it is a place of divine revelation. Moses is told by a voice from a burning bush that the God of his ancestors wanted him to go back down to Egypt and release his fellow Israelites from bondage. At first Moses is reluctant to accept his mission; mindful of his past, he regards a return to Egypt as too dangerous. But each time he raises some obstacle God gives him assurance that everything will be fine. For example Moses complains he will not know what to say when people seek the name of his God. God removes this fear by revealing to Moses His divine name; a name that expresses God’s eternal existence. The name that God reveals is similar in sound and appearance to a form of the verb “to be.” It denotes continuing action and means “I AM always.” God’s name implies His continuing active involvement in the lives of His people. The promise of deliverance

identifies the way that God will be with His people. God will always present to rescue and deliver them.

Reassured that the God of His ancestors is the same God that is asking him to go on mission and liberate the Israelites, Moses accepts the call. He “**seizes the day**” and **acts** on God’s behalf. Moses was transformed as he came to realize that with God strengthening him he would be able to do anything and everything. The rest is history. Moses freed the Israelites from their Egyptian slavery and eventually they arrive in the Promised Land “flowing with milk and honey.”

In our second reading St. Paul calls on the Corinthians to “**seize the day.**” Paul warns the Corinthians about their over-confidence in their status as Christians since some of them had become spiritually complacent. Although baptism and Eucharist are means by which we come into union with God, these sacraments do not guarantee our automatic entrance into the Kingdom of heaven. Paul turns to the wilderness events to illustrate this. He reminds the Corinthians that many of their Jewish ancestors walked through the baptism of the Red Sea and were fed with the manna from heaven but still proved unworthy. The miraculous events in the wilderness were of no avail for most of the people of that generation. Likewise, the Corinthian’s own calling and initiation into its mysteries was, in itself, no guarantee of salvation. Paul reminds the Corinthians that they would have to **act now** and demonstrate their fidelity to Christ. Christian life always requires persistent Christian living all the time.

Repentance is a major theme throughout St. Luke’s Gospel. Luke is convinced that anyone who is willing to repent can be assured of God’s grace of forgiveness. But on the other hand, Luke does not think that forgiveness is automatic. Sinners must take ownership of their lives and act responsibly –or else pay the consequences of forfeiting God’s forgiving grace. Today’s Gospel passage illustrates that teaching from its episodes of tragic deaths and a parable about a fig tree. In His teaching stories Jesus is both compassionate and decisive as He calls on his fellow Jews to “**seize the day**” by repenting, turning away from sin and returning back to God.

In the first section of today's Gospel passage Jesus presents to His followers two important teachings. The first is that every tragedy does **not** signify a sin. There are two incidents to which Jesus refers. The first involved some Galileans who were executed by Pontius Pilate in an especially gruesome way. They were offering sacrifice in the Temple when suddenly some soldiers came in and killed them. The Galileans' blood mixed with the very sacrifices that they were offering. The second tragedy to which Jesus refers involved some people who were killed by a tower that collapsed upon them. In speaking of these two tragedies (one an atrocity perpetuated by a public official, the other an accident) Jesus is saying that these people were not necessarily the greatest sinners in Galilee. Every tragedy does **not** signify or happens because of a sin. However, the suddenness of tragedy and the possible unpreparedness of the victim remind all that they need to be reconciled with God and others. In other words all are in **need of repentance** since we do not know the day or the hour when we will face calamity, tragedy or death.

Jesus' second teaching is that although every tragedy does **not** signify a sin; every sin **is** a tragedy. We may not be able to completely control the circumstances of our life but we can make decisions about the circumstances of our soul. Through sin we can cut off our life with God and experience spiritual disaster. Spiritual disaster does not come from the things that happen to us but from the things we do. However all is **not** loss. God's mercy, love and forgiveness give us hope in spite of our sinfulness. Jesus tells a parable about a fruitless tree to explain His teaching. In Jesus' parable there is a fig tree that has consistently failed to produce fruit. The tree has been given the traditional three-year period usually required for fig trees to bear fruit but this tree has remained barren. The conclusion is reasonable-cut it down since it is consuming resources and yielding nothing. However the gardener pleads with the owner to allow for one more year of grace. The point of the parable is that **grace** overrides judgment. Jesus tells us that the threat of divine retribution is never God's final word. There is always the hope of **mercy** and **forgiveness**. God is consistently generous with His **mercy** and **forgiveness** so we should **act** and respond to His call of **repentance** immediately.

As we continue our Lenten journey we are encouraged to "**seize the day**" and **act now**. God is calling us to turn to Him, repent, have a change of heart and bear fruit. Life is short and it is precious and precarious. The brevity of life calls us to take seriously the time we are given to know, love and serve God in this life so to be happy with Him in the next. May we continue to "**seize the day**" and see every day as an opportunity to grow closer to God and grow closer to others right **now**.

Love & prayers,

Fr. John

PALMSUNDAY MEN'S RETREAT

Men you are invited to join us **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.

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.

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!

50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Were you married in 1969? In honor of your 50th Wedding Anniversary, there will be a special Mass and reception on Sunday, **July 14, at 2:00 p.m.** at Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill. Bishop Ronald W. Gainer will be the celebrant. To receive an invitation, please contact your parish office. **Deadline April 25th.**



SURVIVOR COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The Diocese of Harrisburg is committed to helping survivors of clergy sexual abuse find healing. In addition to mental and spiritual assistance, the Diocese has opened its Survivor Compensation Program.



This Program is administered by Commonwealth Mediation and Conciliation, Inc. (CMCI), an independent organization with decades of experience managing similar programs. Survivors of clergy sexual abuse that occurred in the Diocese of Harrisburg are encouraged to learn more about the program by visiting www.commonwealthmediation.com, www.youthprotectionhbg.com, or by calling 1-800-540-2624 or emailing Harrisburg@commonwealthmediation.com. Please be aware that Survivors known to the Diocese are not automatically enrolled in the Program and must apply through the program administrator CMCI.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

St. James Parish will have a **3 PM Mass** on Divine Mercy Sunday, **April 28**, and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 25, Annunciation of the Lord

- 7:00 ✦ Virginia Andrews
- 9:00 ✦ Robert Jocham

Tuesday, March 26

- 7:00 ✦ Isabel Eisenbise
- 9:00 ✦ Gerald Wolfe

Wednesday, March 27

- 7:00 ✦ Marion Dunn
- 9:00 ✦ For those grieving the loss of a loved one

Thursday, 28

- 7:00 ✦ Helen Gentile
- 9:00 ✦ Katherine Murphy

Friday, March 29

- 7:00 Special Intention
- 9:00 ✦ Thomas O'Reilly

Saturday, March 30

- 9:00 ✦ Carol Kinney
- 5:00 ✦ Edward Murphy

Sunday, March 31

- 7:30 For the Parishioners
- 9:00 ✦ John Coleman
- 11:00 ✦ Jack Muldowney

CHURCH SUPPORT

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
3-17-19	\$13,126.00	\$14,300.00	(\$1,174.00)
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
3-17-19	\$483,275.38	\$543,400.00.	(\$60,124.62)

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 Marilyn Monath.

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**

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT**

When Jesus came, he focused his ministry on the mercy and graciousness of his heavenly Father as well. But even more important, he showed himself to be the very mercy of God. He refused to condemn a woman caught in adultery. He welcomed tax collectors and sinners as disciples. And best of all, he promised the thief on the cross, "Today you will be with me in Paradise". It's no wonder that one of the most common sentences Jesus heard while he was on earth was "Have mercy on me!" It's a prayer he cannot help but answer!

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, Ellen Moran and Lisa Crills.

**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	holylnd
Catholic Home		
Missions	April 28th	homemissions
Easter	April 21st	easter

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

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.**

**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.**

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!*



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 24th – RE Classes In Session

Sunday, March 31st – RE Classes In Session

Kelly Lawrence

FORMED

ACCESS CATHOLIC FAITH ON THE GO

As we draw closer to Holy Week I would like to make you aware of the many excellent and outstanding 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. Programs and movies such as **I Thirst, Seven Secrets of a Good Confession, Mary of Nazareth, Along the Way of the Cross, The Paschal Mystery Study, Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead, and The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy** are now available to you to ensure that Holy Week and the Easter Season will be a truly rewarding spiritual journey for you and your family. Children movies and cartoons are available too! To access these programs, movies

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

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS RETREAT
**Our yearly Retreat Evening is Wednesday April 3rd
7PM in the church Call Mary Burkholder 717-733-4989**

YEARLINGS NEWS

We will meet for lunch on **April 9th** at **11:30 AM** at the Wyomissing Restaurant & Bakery 1245, Penn Avenue in Wyomissing. Call if you need to car pool. We can meet in the church parking lot. Call Gloria at 717-738-9098. All seniors are welcome to join us.



CARING FOR CAREGIVERS

Join us for the 7th Annual Day for Caregivers on April 27 at St. Anne's Retirement Center, in Columbia for a day that will provide an opportunity to refresh body, mind and spirit. REGISTRATION REQUIRED email: mdiffendall@stannesrc.org. or call 717-285-6539

GIFT CARDS

Gift Cards are now available for purchase in the Parish Office!
Gift cards to local grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies and restaurants are now available for purchase in the Parish Office every Sunday from 8am to 11am. It costs nothing extra to purchase these gift cards, and OMPH School earns a percentage of the value of the gift cards purchased! The funds raised through the gift card initiative are directed to the School Support Scholarship program. Purchases can be made using cash or a check made out to OMPH School. Please join us in supporting our gift card program!

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED FOR 2019-20

Host families are needed for several Nacel Open Door international students who would like to attend Lancaster Catholic High School for the upcoming school year. These F-1 visa students speak English,

have their own travel health insurance, and bring their own pocket money for personal expenses. Host families provide room and board and receive a generous, monthly hosting stipend. For more information please contact the local representative Linda Ferrara through email at LFerrara@team.nacelopendoor.org or call her cell phone 267-241-9512.

CRUSADER EXPERIENCE

Come experience what it is like to be a Crusader on April 11 and May 9th during our Group Shadow days. Students in eighth through eleventh grades in public schools, or other private schools, are encouraged to join us. A FREE LUNCH is provided to all prospective students when they visit. Contact Kyla Hockley at 717-509-0313 or email khockley@lchsyes.org for more information.



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.