

My Dear Parishioners,

Easter always begins in the dark. In all accounts of the Resurrection Mary of Magdala (alone or with any number of her companions) comes to Jesus' tomb while it is still dark. She feels the predawn darkness around her and within her. She feels a void of hopelessness, a crushing sense of loss, grief that cannot be articulated in words.

Easter begins in the dark of night. If you have ever kept vigil (worried to death at the bedside of a loved one), if you have ever been unable to sleep because of what was to come, if you have ever been overwhelmed by doubt or grief, Easter has dawned in your life. God has been with you through those long hours. God has embraced you in your isolation. God has come in the morning.

Easter begins in the dark earth. **Easter** is a seed planted in the new spring soil that struggles through the winter hardness to blossom. If you ever struggled to change or worked hard to remake your life in the wake of loss, hurt, pain or devastation, **Easter** has dawned in your life. **Easter** is that light that reveals death is not the final ending but the passage way to God, who first breathed life into you.

Easter begins in ashes. If you have ever been swallowed up in hopelessness or fear or if you have ever been paralyzed by hurt or ill-treatment, **Easter** has dawned in your life. No matter how hard we fall, no matter how broken we are, no matter how deep the chasm into which we have fallen, **Easter** is the **Risen Jesus** walking in our midst in the compassion of loved ones, the support of family and friends, and the dedication of saints.

Easter does begin in the darkness of night, in the seeming finality of earth, and in the hopelessness of ashes. But **Easter** moves beyond these states since it is a day of unparalleled significance. The **Easter** celebration is so great that it touches the past, the future, and the present. We remember the past in **faith**; we look to the future in **hope**; and we are called to live a life of **love** in the present.

In **faith** we remember the past, Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. Because we were not eyewitnesses of Jesus' Resurrection, we embrace this truth on the authority of God's revelation which He has communicated to His Church thru the Scriptures. In the first three Gospels (Mark, Matthew and Luke)

angels or men dressed in white give the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection to the women who had come to the tomb. In John's Gospel (the Gospel proclaimed today) Resurrection faith would spring forth from an experience of the empty tomb rather than from an appearance of the Risen Lord. In John's account the Resurrection story begins with a report of Mary Magdalene's visit to Jesus' tomb. No explanation for her visit is given. Details about the burial wrappings are significant. They are still in the tomb, the body is not. If the body had been merely transported to another tomb the burial wrappings would still have been needed and taken along. Mary Magdalene believes that Jesus' body has been stolen. Peter arrives at the tomb and sees the discarded wrappings and is not sure what to make of it. The Beloved Disciple (John) looks into the tomb and he "sees and believes." John becomes the model of all who see with the eyes of **Easter faith**.

We look at Jesus's Resurrection with any eye on the future with **hope**. This **hope** is a conviction that we (like Jesus) will be raised from death to the fullness of eternal life. Perhaps we find it easier to accept Jesus' Resurrection rather than our own. After all, Jesus is the Divine Son of the Father, who came to this earth only for a time to work out our salvation. It seems only natural that His death should lead to resurrection. We mere mortals are another case. And yet **faith** in Jesus' Resurrection leads us to **hope** in our own resurrection. An **Easter** celebration of Jesus' Resurrection is devoid of significance unless we have a firm **faith** and **hope** about our own resurrection. This **hope** to which God invites us is based on the truth contained in one of our Eucharistic Acclamations which is addressed to the Risen Lord: "Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free." Death is the ultimate, inevitable act of this life. We cannot escape it. Only sin makes death a tragedy. Jesus has destroyed death by overcoming sin. Death will not be the final step into oblivion. It will merely be a transition to a higher form of existence as it was for Jesus.

Our well-founded **hope** is that our death will lead us to resurrection. Since Jesus' Resurrection provides us with a confident **hope** in the future it leads us to a life of **love** in the present. If we want to live with Jesus in eternal happiness we must live with Him now the way He lived on this earth. We understand clearly what that means. We know what the example of Jesus is for us: to be unselfish; to be caring and

generous, and to be devoted to prayer which we offer to God and be dedicated to service which we offer to our sisters and brothers.

We know that Jesus' Resurrection is the central mystery of our faith, our chief festival of life. It gives **hope** to those who have lost it. It is the day that Jesus snatched victory from the jaws of death, vindicated His life and teachings, and confirmed our faith. It isn't only an event that happened once in the past. **Easter** is the power of God that is seen constantly in people's inner experience of newness of life. Jesus' Resurrection is the sign of God's loving interest in our world and His gift of happiness and everlasting life for us. As we celebrate **Easter** today let us remember that our assertion of belief in Jesus' Resurrection is not merely an abstract intellectual consent but rather it is a liberating and transforming experience of salvation that changes the way we live. Our faith in Jesus (if we have developed it to maturity) will lead to involvement and happiness.

Today let the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection open our imaginations to new possibilities. Let the light that illuminated the darkness of the cave illuminate our hearts to see our lives transformed in God's grace. Let the Spirit of God release in us a **hope** that we dare not imagine, a **joy** that we fear will be betrayed, and **dreams** that we doubt can ever be realized.

As we continue our life's journey let us realize that **Easter** is more than a one day event. **Easter** is an attitude. **Easter** is liberation. **Easter** is new life. **Easter** is God's triumph of life over death, hope over despair, light over darkness, joy over sadness, and goodness over evil. And so today as we renew our belief in God's triumph and renew our baptismal promises, let us re-examine our lives and ask ourselves: "Do we think and live differently because Jesus rose from the dead? Have a **Happy** and **Blessed Easter**."

Love & Prayers,
Fr. John

**MENS RETREAT
NEUMANN UNIVERSITY**

Join other men from OMPH on **June 23-24** at Neumann University, Aston PA. Something new for ALL MEN! The weekend includes enriching talks, fellowship, food, prayer, and a fun game of football. Men, what will your Legacy be? Come and find out! **Call Vince Mento at 610-420-2781.**

**Lenten Appeal
2018-19 Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal
"LOVE MADE VISIBLE."**

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am asking you to consider making a **gift** to our 2018-19 Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal. Our Parish assessment goal for the 2018-19 fiscal year is **\$101, 300**. As of March 26^h **301 households** have pledged **\$75,107.09** and we have collected **\$52,091.59**. There are **1368 households** registered in our Parish. I hope and pray that **every household** will contribute to our appeal, enabling us to reach our goal and support the mission of our Church. Remember, all **gifts** that **exceed** our assessment goal will be **returned** to our Parish and placed in our Parish Savings Account.

May you and your loved ones be abundantly blessed by our God for your continued commitment and sacrifices to Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish and to our Diocese of Harrisburg. Be assured of my prayers, blessings and love.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. John

**TEACHING POSITION OPEN
AT OMPH SCHOOL**

Our Mother of Perpetual Help School in Ephrata, PA is seeking a **fifth grade** teacher for the **2018-19** school year. Interested candidates must be a **practicing Catholic** holding a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree and PA Instructional I teaching certificate. Applicants **must** complete the online **Youth Protection Program of the Harrisburg Diocese** and **provide current clearances (PS State Police, Child Abuse Clearance and FBI Fingerprinting)** along with employment information compliant with **Pennsylvania Act 168 Regulations**. Benefits include medical coverage, dental plan, life insurance policy and 401K plan. For more information please contact Rev. John McLoughlin, C.Ss.R. (Pastor) at (717) 733-9641 or e-mail: johnmack57@hotmail.com

DIOCESAN SCOUT MASS

A Mass followed by a reception for all of the Scouts of our Diocese and their families will be celebrated on April 22, 2018 at 2:00 pm at Good Shepherd Parish, 3435 Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA. Scouts who have completed any of the Catholic religious awards in the past year will be recognized for their accomplishments, but all Scouting families are encouraged to attend. The deadline to pre-order the commemorative patch and to register is April 13, 2018. For more information and to register please go to <https://www.hbgdiocese.org/youth-and-young-adults/catholic-scouting>.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

The Diocese of Harrisburg is committed to the safety of children. We take very seriously the protection of youth in all Church related activities and programs. We are working to make the Catholic Church one of the safest institutions in the country.

To report the suspected abuse of a minor you must notify both law enforcement and the Church. First, call the PA Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-932-0313. To report suspected abuse of a minor by a Church official, employee or volunteer, no matter when it happened, call the diocesan toll free hotline at 1 (800) 626-1608.

In the Diocese of Harrisburg we:

- Have zero tolerance for anyone who is guilty of even one instance of abuse.
- Offer opportunities to help victims to heal.
- Screen all employees and volunteers before they can begin service.
- Educate our youth on how to stay safe.
- Train employees and volunteers on how to recognize and report abuse.
- Disclose all allegations to local civil authorities.
- Exceed State and national requirements.
- Undergo an annual independent audit of our procedures.

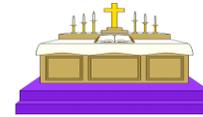
To learn more about what you can do to prevent abuse, how to report abuse, assistance available to victims and Youth Protection efforts of the Diocese, please visit: www.hbgdiocese.org/safeyouth.

PRINCIPAL POSITION AT OMPH SCHOOL

The Diocese of Harrisburg Catholic Schools Department has announced a Principal Opening for the 2018 – 2019 school year: for: Our Mother of Perpetual Help School, Ephrata (www.omph.org);

Qualifications: Practicing, knowledgeable Catholic; Thorough understanding of Catholic School Philosophy; Commitment to modeling the values of Catholic Educational Leadership; PA Administrators Certificate (or in process); Catechetical Certification (or in process) and 5 years teaching experience. For more information see the Employment listings on the Diocese of Harrisburg website: www.hbgdiocese.org.

Send resume and letter of interest by March 31, 2018 to: Livia Riley, Superintendent of Schools; Diocese of Harrisburg; 4800 Union Deposit Road; Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710 or by email: lriley@hbgdiocese.org.



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, April 2

- 7:00 †Charles & Lucy Marrone
9:00 †John O'Blaney

Tuesday, April 3

- 7:00 †Stephanie Mash
9:00 †Jeannie Reiley

Wednesday, April 4

- 7:00 †Jill Cleary
9:00 †Beverly Adelizzi

Thursday, April 5

- 7:00 †Lawrence Lehmier
9:00 †Nancy Frick

Friday, April 6

- 7:00 †John O'Blaney
9:00 †Edward Brady

Saturday, April 7

- 9:00 †Zofia Sarnowska
5:00 †Colette McAlamney

Sunday, April 8, Divine Mercy Sunday

- 7:30 For the Parishioners
9:00 †Kathy Brandt-Wiley
11:00 †Maria Mannino

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.

April 2: Margaret Gardner, Jane Muldowney, Brenda Crawford, Jennifer Ranker, Janet Tomko, Jean Givler, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Michael Lillis, Richard Warner, Tonya Stoner, Kevin Kaiser, Jody Shimp, Joe Ferrara, Anna Leshner, Pat Frey, Florence Windish, Gloria Reynolds. Anna Mae Finkey, Susan Buchler, Danny McGuire, William Oktela,



Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
3-18-18	\$11,993.57	\$14,950.00	(\$2,956.43)
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
3-18-18	\$514,187.69	\$568,100.00	(\$53,912.31)

Mark your calendars and save the date for this year's **Vacation Bible School July 16-20, 2018!** At this year's VBS our kids will get Shipwrecked and discover how JESUS RESUCES. As we gear up for this great week we are looking for a few more adult volunteers to make it an amazing week for the kids. If you are interested in helping out please contact Laura Kauffman at (717) 575-8221.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT**

Peter says something even more surprising: God had commissioned him and the others “to preach to the people and testify”. Rather than making a proclamation from heaven for all to hear, God chose ordinary, everyday people to share his good news. In other words, he chose people just like us.

First, Jesus wants us to experience his love through each other. He wants us to feel his presence through the generosity, the affection, and the humility of his followers. That’s why he has called us to be a Church—so that he can work through us to change the world. It’s why he calls us to gather around the altar as brothers and sisters.

Second, Jesus trusts us. He was confident that, with the help of his Spirit, Peter and Mary Magdalene and the rest could accomplish something grand and beautiful for him. In the same way, he trusts you. He knows you won’t always get it right, but neither did the apostles. Still, he knows that if you set your heart on loving people as he loves them, you will make a difference.

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 Julie Leone.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY



We are constantly reevaluating our needs at the OMPH Community Food Bank run by our parish Benevolent Society. We are currently in need of Peanut butter, jelly, boxed dinners, egg noodles, & tuna. Please place items in the food bank crate in the narthex of the church. We are amazed and thankful by the support of our parishioners.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018



**OMPH CYO ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
2ND ANNUAL DESIGNER BAG BINGO**

\$20 Ticket Price - 20 Bingo Games
Raffles, Special Bingo Games
Food and Drinks for Sale
Saturday 4/28/18, 1-4



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER:

**Our Religious Education Class Schedule
For The Remainder Of The RE Year Is**

As Follows:

Happy Easter!

Sunday, April 1st – NO RE Classes

Sunday, April 8th – RE Classes Resume

Sunday, April 15th – RE Classes In Session

Last RE Classes Of The Year

Sunday, April 22nd – RE Classes In Session

YEARLINGS NEWS

The April Luncheon will be held at Hoss’s 100 Airport Rd. in Lititz on **April 10th at 11:30.** ALL ARE WELCOME! Call Gloria at 738-9098 for reservations.

RADIATE YOUTH GROUP

News from Radiate Youth Group: Our next youth group meeting is Sunday April 8th from 3-5:30. Have

your teen bring \$5 to meeting to participate in going bowling at Dutch Lanes. Prayer service to follow game. Also, during Holy Week, I encourage the youth to take part in the blessings of all the special services offered during this very special time. If they need a ride or someone to sit with, please contact me at 717-989-8900. Thanks! God bless! In His Service, Denise Ives

THE MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE



On **Saturday 12 May** we will depart at 7 AM (OMPH side parking lot) Return approximately 6 PM (leaving DC at 3 PM) **COST \$47, NON-REFUNDABLE** (this includes driver

tip.)

THE BUS IS FILLING UP WE ONLY HAVE 24 SEATS AVAILABLE.

The Museum of the Bible is a museum in Washington D.C. which documents the narrative, history and impact of the Bible. *The museum opened on November 17, 2017.* There are 2 places to eat on the premises and a gift shop we will receive **20% off purchases at the gift shop.**

The last day to reserve and pay for your seat is **April 14th**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Rita Pfautz at 717-341-1211** or email at ritapfautz@yahoo.com

Check out the museum website, you'll be glad you did.
<https://www.museumofthebible.org/>

LCHS SPRING MUSICAL

"Crazy For You" is a romantic comedy musical and is this year's Lancaster Catholic High School's Musical. "Crazy For You" will be hitting the Old Main Auditorium stage on April 26th-28th at 7:30 PM and **April 29th at 2 PM. Tickets are \$17** for reserved seating, \$15 for adult and \$7 for students. Please contact Tony Brill at [717.509.0310](tel:717.509.0310) for more information.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY THE CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF ST. BENEDICT



FESTIVE MASS AND DINNER SATURDAY, APRIL 21 AT 5 PM

During the First World War, Sister Jadwiga Jozefa Kulesza saw destruction, the tormented people and the many children left orphan. So under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit she set out to found a group of like minded women using the spirituality of St. Benedict. Thus The Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict was approved on June 24, 1917.

During the following years the Sisters and their orphan children had many struggles with the Bolsheviks. The Second World War bringing much more ferocity and hardship for the Sisters and their children and the many others affected by the cruelty and suffering of war.

By the grace of God, and their persistence and after a hundred years, the Sisters continue their caring, educational, pastoral, and missionary work in the Church. They have gone from the Ukraine and Poland to Brazil, the United States, Libya, Ecuador.

They now give thanks to God who was with them in such difficult times and invite you to join with them and Mother Superior Mary Marcellina from Poland on **Saturday, on April 21 at the 5PM Mass** and to share a Festive Polish Dinner with them afterwards.

That we may prepare well, we ask you to kindly sign your family name and the number attending on the sheets in the lobby or call the parish office at 717 733 9641 by the end of this week.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Please join us in a celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday on **Sunday, April 8th at 3 PM** in the Church. Fr. Pat will lead us in praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet and share some highlights with us about the gift of God's Mercy.

OMPH SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2018-

19

WE ARE ENROLLING! Registration is now open to all parish families for Preschool through Grade 8 for the 2018-2019 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 an after-care 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, 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 also available.

Come see why so many families choose OMPH Catholic School for their children! Personal tours can be scheduled by calling the Development Office at 717-738-2414. Financial aid is available to qualifying families through FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment.

To learn more about our school, please visit our website at www.omph.org or call the school office at 738-2414 for further information. Find us on Facebook at OMPH Ephrata!

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Please join in the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday on **April 8th**, at **St. Anne Parish** in the church. Beginning at 2:45, the celebration will include the singing of the Divine Mercy Chaplet lead by the St. Anne's music ministry, the opportunity for confession, and a presentation on the Divine Mercy Message of the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confession.

Guest presenter - Art Bamert, Associate Director of Campus Ministry at Lancaster Catholic High School.

Thank you,
Christina Brennan
St. Anne Church
sbrennan@hbgiocese.org
717-392-2225

- \$4K** Average Financial Aid award, almost half the cost of tuition
- 54%** Students receiving Financial Aid
- \$80K** Avg Family Income receiving aid Even families over \$120K earn aid
- 90%** Families that complete Financial Aid application who receive aid
- 62%** Eligible Students receiving more than \$4,000
- \$** \$5,500 average tuition paid per student

If you want a Catholic High education, we'll make it work. Visit us online at www.lchsyes.org



WERE YOU MARRIED IN

1968?

In honor of your 50th Wedding Anniversary, there will be a special Mass and reception on Sunday, **July 8, at 2 PM**, at Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill. Bishop Ronald W. Gainer will be the celebrant. To receive an invitation, please contact your parish office.

NEEDED GOLFERS AND SPONSORS



For Our Mother of Perpetual Help School 26th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament May 9 at 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 2019 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, grilled 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.