

My Dear Parishioners,

Today we begin the most sacred week of the Church's entire liturgical year by celebrating Passion Sunday. We all have memories of Passion (Palm) Sunday from our childhood. What is the most memorable part of that day for you? Is it when you received the palms? Do you remember braiding the palms into a cross and wearing it on your clothes for the rest of the day? Do you remember taking the palms home and putting them behind a religious picture or a crucifix on your bedroom wall? Is your most cherished memory of Palm Sunday listening to the readings and perhaps playing the part of one of the characters in the Gospel reading? What is this most striking part of the readings for you? I believe the most striking part of the Passion Sunday readings for most is the sudden shift from the joyous acclaim the crowd gives Jesus on His entrance into Jerusalem to their insistent and sinister call for His suffering, **crucifixion** and death.

Today we gather again to recall the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and hear and reflect upon again the story of His **passion, suffering, crucifixion** and **death**. We recall that Jesus enters Jerusalem for the final and climatic chapter of His Messiahship when God will vindicate His Son's teachings on selfless love, His exaltation of humble service, and His revelation of God as the Father of reconciliation and compassion. Today we gather together not only to remember Jesus' Passion but to enter into the mystery of it. We gather to hold holy the love that opposed violence and the love that endured violence; the love that made its way with a **cross** on its back. We gather to profess our gratitude for that love and also to stand in solidarity with all those people whose courageous love makes them victims of hate and violence.

Today the Church presents to us the evangelist Luke's Passion narrative for our meditation and reflection. Luke's Passion Narrative is based on the earlier version found in Mark's account. While he felt a necessity to honor the overall structure Mark provided, Luke shaped that material for his own purpose and the needs of his community. Luke uses his literary skills to shape the passion narrative in a unique way. We need to keep in mind that Luke started preparing us for these final days of Jesus in chapter 9:51 when Jesus set His face to go to Jerusalem. This journey was understood to

be a divine necessity by which Jesus would fulfill His unique prophetic mission. Throughout his Gospel, Luke has been emphasizing the message that Jesus is God's specially chosen prophet sent to save the very people who would reject him. Throughout Luke's passion narrative Jesus is portrayed as calm, collected, and always in control. Jesus is not only a prophet; He is an **innocent** prophet. Pontius Pilate will declare Him innocent as well as the centurion who is at the foot of the cross when Jesus dies. Luke also emphasizes Jesus' **forgiving** nature: "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." Luke makes a special point in showing how Jesus refuses to save Himself in order that He might save others. Truly Jesus is a King and His royalty will be demonstrated in His **innocent suffering** and **unending forgiveness**.

Some of the questions that arise from Luke's narrative could be stated as follows: Could Jesus have avoided the cross? Could Jesus have made a detour around Calvary and continued on His way? Could Jesus have evaded suffering, **crucifixion**, death and settled for a quiet existence in His own region of Galilee?

Jesus did not look for the cross. It was the world that looked to the cross as the way to eliminate Him and His message. The cross was not the idea of His Father. The cross was the final solution thought up by a world opposed to Jesus' way. God the Father did not plan the destruction of His Son. In letting go of His Son the Father had to be vulnerable to what would happen to His Son at the hands of others. All parents have to take that risk. God the Father, no less, did likewise.

Jesus could have avoided going to Jerusalem and thus avoided the cross. He could have taken the advice of His disciples who warned Him about the fate that would surely befall Him there. But instead of avoiding His fate Jesus welcomes and accepts it with open arms. Why? Because of His great love for His Father and for us! Love does not demand the cross but in the life of Jesus love ends up on the cross. That is what actually happened and that is what continues to happen to self-forgetful love. Love chooses not to avoid suffering that emerges from its commitment. Jesus' committed love for the Father and for us brought Him to Jerusalem to suffer and die. His committed love brings suffering and death to the forefront. For Jesus to have avoided suffering, the cross and death He would

have had to avoid confrontation with the authorities. He would have had to suppress the real anguish and suffering of people and settle for the conspiracy of silence. His love for us makes Himself vulnerable to suffering. He could only have removed Himself from pain and suffering by keeping Himself untouched by other's pain and suffering, by making Himself invulnerable, and by removing Himself from human relationships.

Luke's narrative challenges us to ask ourselves: Why should we remember the passion of Jesus? Why should we keep alive the memory of such anguish and pain? Aren't we supposed to forget about past pain and hurts and let them disappear if they can? What does Jesus' suffering and death mean for our lives?

As Christians we are committed to be a people who **do** remember the passion of Jesus: "Whenever you do this, do it in memory of me." When a community chooses to remember suffering their memory becomes a protest. Remembrance of pain demands a future that is more than a repetition of the past. Remembrance of Jesus' passion also serves to make a community aware of the suffering and crosses that are present in their midst. The memory of Jesus' passion educates them to pay attention to the suffering of others. The cross demands that attention should be paid. Therefore, as we walk with Jesus this Holy Week from Bethany to Jerusalem, from the temple to the upper room, from Gethsemane to Calvary, from the hill of the cross to the garden tomb, let us not only pay attention to the sufferings of Jesus but also pay attention to the sufferings of all who are victims of hate and violence.

May our reflection on Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection this week remind us that (unlike other dramas or stories) we are not mere spectators, but rather we are participants. We are invited to ask ourselves, "Am I like Pilate? Am I like Judas? Am I like Peter, Am I like Veronica? Am I like Simon the Cyrenian, Am I like the Blessed Mother Mary and above all, Am I like Jesus?" Do I follow Jesus in suffering-in my attitude toward the disappointments, pains, failures, and anguishes of my life? Do I reflect the victory over suffering and death that He showed us in His total composure throughout His passion? Though suffering may have no value in itself, what does have value is the

attitude toward suffering which the sufferer has (or more precisely) the attitude toward God which the sufferer achieves in suffering. And as we remember the passion of Jesus, may we also embrace those who are **crucified** every day in our community: those enduring **crucifixions** of illness, fear, persecution, and poverty. May God bless us as we journey with Jesus and may we all have a Blessed Holy Week.

Love & Prayers,
Fr. John

EASTER TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil/Mass constitute the Easter Triduum. *These are the 3 highest holy days in the Catholic calendar.* We urge every parishioner, wherever you may be on these days, to attend the main service on each day: Mass on Holy Thursday (the Mother of all Masses), the Good Friday Liturgy Service (commemorating Jesus' death), and the Easter Vigil and Mass (celebrating redemption and resurrection).



HOLY THURSDAY - APRIL 18

Tenebrae 9 AM (Latin for "shadows" or "darkness") is service celebrated on the evening before or early morning of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, which are the last three days of Holy Week. The distinctive ceremony of Tenebrae is the gradual extinguishing of candles while a series of readings and psalms is chanted or recited.

THE LORD'S SUPPER MASS 7:00

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 14

Tenebrae 9:00 AM

Liturgy of the Passion 3:00 PM

Stations of the Cross 7:00 PM



HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 20

Tenebrae 9:00 AM

Easter Basket Blessing Tradition 11 AM

EASTER VIGIL MASS 8:00 PM

EASTER VIGIL

This Saturday during the Easter Vigil we welcome into full communion with the whole church members of our parish.

The Lord has called them by name from all eternity.
*You, and all of us, shall be called GOD'S DELIGHT
because your God rejoices in you!*

We also wish to celebrate all those men and women who over the years have come into full communion with us. May the Holy Spirit always guide them closer to Jesus.

**EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 21
7:30, 9:00, 11:00 Masses**

Young Adult Retreat: Authentic Friendships in Christ
- Designed for anyone in their 20s & 30s, single or married, this retreat will take place at Refreshing Mountain Retreat Center in Stevens, PA from Friday evening, April 26, 2019 until Sunday morning, April 28, 2019. The weekend will include daily Mass, Eucharistic Holy Hour and confessions, a time for personal reflection and prayer, large and small group discussions and time to relax and unwind. For more information and to register online, visit: www.hbgdiocese.org/youngchurch

**A MONTHLY POCKET PRAYER
FOR APRIL**

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

For the sake of his sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
Prayer from the diary of St. Faustina

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, April 15, Monday of Holy Week

- 7:00 Day of Prayer and Penance
- 9:00 For those who have lost their faith

Tuesday, April 16, Tuesday of Holy Week

- 7:00 †Leffler Family
- 9:00 †Daugherty Family

Wednesday, April 17, Wednesday of Holy Week

- 7:00 †Anna Totaro
- 9:00 †In thanksgiving to St. Anthony

Thursday, April 18, HOLY THURSDAY

- 9:00 Tenebrae
- 7:00 For the Priesthood

Friday, April 19, GOOD FRIDAY

- 9:00 Tenebrae
- 3:00 Liturgy of the Passion

7:00 Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 20, HOLY SATURDAY

- 9:00 Tenebrae
- 8:00 Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 21, EASTER SUNDAY

- 7:30 For the Parishioners
- 9:00 For the Parishioners
- 11:00 For the Parishioners

The word 'tenebrae' is Latin for shadows. The purpose of the Tenebrae service is to **recreate the emotional aspects of the passion story**, so this is not supposed to be a happy service, because the occasion is not happy.



Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
3-31-19	\$10,657.02	\$14,300.00	(\$3,642.98)
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
3-31-19	\$511,345.35	\$572,000.00	(\$60,654.65)

**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>
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**.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE
LORD**

At the passion, if Jesus fell prey to one split second of resentment or one moment of anger, he would not have

been able to save us. Everything would have been lost. But he didn't. Throughout this ordeal, as unjust as it was, Jesus acted like a lamb led to slaughter. He didn't defend himself. He didn't fight back. Instead, all Jesus did was say, "Father, forgive them"
All of us will face false accusation or abuse or betrayal at some point in our lives. It's likely that most of us already have. As we hear the passion today, let's resolve to be as merciful as we can to everyone who has hurt us, ridiculed us, betrayed us, or tarnished our reputations. Let's also agree never again to undermine someone or hurt someone.



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 Richard Hornberger.

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.

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, Jody Shimp, Jean Mack, Gloria Kreider, Ellen Moran, Lisa Crills, Jayne Wenger, Marianne Kurtz, Connie Scanlon and Ray Ward.

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



Religious Education Corner:

Isaac's Fundraiser To Benefit OMPHRE

On Wednesday, April 17, 2019, now all day from **10:00 AM – 9:00 PM**, Isaac's Famous Grilled Sandwiches (Ephrata) will host a fundraiser to benefit the Our Mother of Perpetual Help Religious Education Program. BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY to enjoy homemade soups, grilled sandwiches, and fresh green salads. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the cost of your meal will go directly to the OMPHRE Program. Dine-In, takeout and online orders apply! You will need the special form that has been inserted in the bulletin this week. Want to help us earn even MORE? Add an Isaac's Gift Card to your check and 15% of the gift card sale will be added to the fundraiser! Gift card must be used on future visit. Hope to see you there! Thanks!

This Week's Corporal Work of Mercy Bury The Dead:

Send a card or note to someone who has recently lost a loved one.

Visit the cemetery plot of a lost loved one.

Pre-Plan your own funeral Mass for your loved ones.

This Week's Spiritual Work of Mercy Pray For The Living And The Dead:

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for your loved ones living and deceased.

Have a Mass celebrated for a lost loved one of a family member, friend, or neighbor.

Ask a family member, friend or neighbor if they have any special prayer intentions and then pray for them.

Our RE Class Schedule For The Remainder Of The Year Is As Follows:

Sunday, April 14th – RE Classes In Session

Happy Easter!

Sunday, April 21st – NO RE Classes

Last RE Classes Of The Year

Sunday, April 28th – RE Classes Resume

Kelly Lawrence

Wanted: Volunteers who can sew, or knit, or crochet.



Your time and talents are needed to make lap quilts or afghans for seriously ill veterans. We will furnish the supplies you need. Call Jean Summers at 717-553-3161 or Kathy Baker at 484-888-3772 for details.

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

ACCESS CATHOLIC FAITH ON THE GO

As we begin 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**. Holy Week 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

ISSAC'S FUNDRAISER

OMPH RE invites all parishioners, their families, and friends to join us at Isaac's in Ephrata on Wednesday, April 17th for a Community Fundraiser which now runs all day from 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM. Twenty five percent (25%) of the cost of your meal will go directly to the OMPH RE Program. Dine-In, takeout and online orders apply! Please see the article and insert and in the

bulletin for more details. Hope to see you there! Thanks!

OMPHEASTEREGG HUNT

Easter is just around the corner. Time for bringing families together, sharing stories and the joy of Easter egg hunts!!! The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary will again be helping to organize the OMPH Easter egg hunt, and would like to thank everyone for previous candy donations, and plastic eggs. So gather the family and come on out and enjoy another family fun event! The Easter Egg hunt will be held rain or shine on Saturday, **April 20th, Promptly at 1 pm** in the Field of Dreams - behind OMPH. If it rains, or too cold the egg hunt will be held indoors, at the Father Jackson Center (OMPH Gym). Ages for the Easter Egg hunters are 0-10. This is a great family tradition for children.



We are in need of donations of plastic eggs, and candy for the egg hunt. A donation box will be in the church narthex. Please contact me, Sherri Schlotterer at **717.951.6473** if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!!

The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary's Annual Peanut Butter Egg Sale made with Wilbur Chocolate. This year we will have even more Dark Chocolate and Milk Chocolate to choose from. Each box



will contain 12- 1/2oz. Peanut Butter Eggs for only **\$9.00** No need to pre-order this year we will have plenty. **Eggs will be available after all masses on April 13th and 14th** Don't miss out on these fabulous eggs. Any questions you may contact Rita Pfautz at **733-9247**.

Psst !!!!!!!!! They go quick!!!!!! Get them while you can!!!!!! The Ladies Auxiliary

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.**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

OMPH Vacation Bible school is looking for volunteers!! IF you are an adult or teen who likes working with kids or crafting, building sets ... we have a job for you! Please consider sharing your gifts and talents with the children of our parish. VBS will be held July 14-18 from 5:45 p.m. to 8:20 p.m. We can use help for the whole week, a few days or even help ahead of time cutting out decorations or even working on bigger projects. Any questions please call Carolyn at 799-8222 or email carolyn@ensingerprinting.com

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.



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.



OMPH Golf Outing May 8th

Not a Golfer?

**Can't take time off to participate
in this year's**

27th Annual Golf Tournament?

There is another way to participate and support this important school fundraiser.

We are in need of donations for door prize items, such as:

**New Golf Equipment
Golf Day Spirit Items
Sports Theme Items**

Sponsorships are still available.

Golf Registration Deadline is May 1st

What a great way to support the school while advertising for your business.

Contact the Development Office at 717-738-2414 for more information.