

My Dear Parishioners,

Every year we probably listen and understand the **Easter** story a little differently. Perhaps every **Easter** a different character in the Resurrection story speaks to our hearts and spirits, our anxieties, our disappointments and fears, depending on the circumstances and situations we are dealing with. Where we are on our own journey to Jerusalem and Calvary affects **what** we hear in the Resurrection story and **how** we hear it. If we are celebrating the birth of a child or the safe return of a loved one, the empty tomb is the **assurance** of God's protection during the darkest nights along the most dangerous roads. If we are lamenting and mourning the loss of a spouse, a parent, a child or a dear friend, the angel's question about: "seeking the living among the dead" may be the first light of **hope** to illuminate our broken heart with the **promise** that the Risen Christ has lovingly taken our loved one to the dwelling place of the Father. If we have lost our job and our family is struggling financially, the moving of the immovable rock is a sign of God's **grace** enabling us to realize what is truly dear and important to you. In the sight of the stone rolled away, God extends His hand to **lift** us out of our despair, fear and hopelessness and help us realize the abilities and gifts we have that enables and empowers us to live our life with **meaning** and **purpose**.

**Easter** always begins in the darkness of the night. In all accounts of Jesus' Resurrection, Mary of Magdala (alone or with other compassionate companions-the Women or Peter and John)) came to Jesus' tomb to anoint His body while it is still dark. Mary feels the predawn darkness around her and within her; a void of hopelessness, a crushing sense of loss, grief that cannot be articulated in words. But **Easter** moves beyond the state of darkness into the day of unparalleled significance. The **Easter** celebration is so magnificent and wondrous that it touches the past, the present and the future. We remember the past in **faith**; we are called to live a **life of love** in the present; and we anticipate the future in **hope**.

In **faith** we look back to the past and remember Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. Since we were not eyewitnesses to His Resurrection, we embrace this truth on the authority of God's revelation which He has communicated to His Church thru the Sacred

Scriptures. In the Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew and Luke) angels or men dressed in white present the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection to the women who had come to the tomb. In John's Gospel (today's Gospel) Resurrection **faith** would spring forth from an experience of the "empty tomb" rather than from the actual appearance of the Risen Jesus. The Johannine story of the empty tomb involves three

people: Mary of Magdala, Peter, and the Beloved Disciple. This narrative unfolds in a different way from what is contained in the Synoptic Gospels. In John's account the Resurrection story begins with a report of Mary Magdalene's visit to Jesus' tomb. Mary arrives by herself unaccompanied by the other women. Upon arrival she sees that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb. She does not actually look inside the tomb nor does she enter it. Based on the evidence of the stone being rolled away Mary concludes that Jesus' body has been stolen. With that conviction she runs to Simon Peter and the Beloved Disciple and tells them her conclusion.

Details about Jesus' burial wrappings are very significant. The wrappings are still in the tomb but the body is not. If Jesus' body had been merely transported to another tomb the burial wrappings would still have been needed and taken along. Mary Magdalene believed that Jesus' body had been stolen by some grave robbers. 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 empty tomb and he "**sees and believes.**" He believes that the body is gone because Jesus has left death behind and returned to the Father. The Beloved Disciple becomes the model of all who see with the eyes of **Easter faith**. Eventually, Peter will also believe but (at this point) Peter and the other disciples have **not** fully understood what Jesus meant when he told them that the "Son of Man would have to suffer, die and rise on the third day."

We look at Jesus' Resurrection with an 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 than our own. After all, Jesus is the Divine Son of the Father who came into this world only for a short time to work out **our** salvation. 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 the Eucharistic Acclamation which is addressed to our 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 but only sin makes death a tragedy. Jesus has destroyed death by overcoming sin. Death will **not** be the final step into oblivion. Death will merely be a transition to a higher form of **our** existence as it was for Jesus.

Our well-founded **hope** is that our death will lead us to our 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 then we must live with Him **now**- the way He lived in our world. We understand clearly what that means. We know what Jesus' example is for us; to be unselfish, to be caring, forgiving and generous. We also must be devoted to prayer which we offer to the Father and be dedicated to service which we offer to our brothers and sisters.

We know that Jesus' Resurrection is **the central mystery** of our **Catholic Faith**. Jesus' Resurrection gives **hope** and **meaning of life** to those who are lost. **Easter** is the day that Jesus snatched victory from the jaws of death, vindicated His life and teachings, and confirmed our faith in Him. **Easter** is not only an event that happened in the past; it 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 to us. Today as we celebrate and remember Jesus' Resurrection let us acknowledge that our assertion of belief in His 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 lives. Our **faith** in Jesus (if we have developed it to maturity) will lead to involvement and happiness. As we renew our Baptismal Promises this **Easter**, let us ask ourselves: "Do we believe, think and live differently because our Jesus has risen from the dead?"

This **Easter**, as we stand at the empty tomb with Mary Magdala, Peter and the Beloved Disciple, we wonder what it all means. Jesus' Resurrection confronts us with the most difficult question of **faith**: Do we dare **hope** beyond our own tombs? Do we see a meaning to our lives that transcends our mortality? On this **Easter** day, God's compassionate love for us bursts forth from an empty tomb in Jerusalem a long time ago. Today is what our **faith** is all about: that God has re-created us and the world and in Jesus' Resurrection. Despite the jealousies, the injustices, the hatreds that Jesus faced the love, forgiveness and justice He taught and died for ultimately triumphed-and still triumphs today. Jesus is Raised and He **is** present to us in every breath we take and moment we live. In Jesus' Resurrection the Father touches us with His inexplicable love, giving us **hope** and **purpose** and **reason for joy**. The empty tomb is the sign of **perfect hope**-that in Jesus all things are possible, that we can make our lives what we want them to be, and that we can face not "a whole pile of nothing" but **life eternal** in the dwelling place of God. May the Risen Christ continue to bless us all. Have a Happy and Blessed Easter!

Love & Prayers,  
Fr. John

**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**. 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](http://www.hbgdiocese.org/youngchurch)

AMONTHLYPOCKETPRAYER  
FORAPRIL

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



We are in need of a weekend cook for *St. Clements Rectory*. If you are interested in a part time position cooking for 10-15 priests, brothers and guests at the parish rectory, please call *Kim at 717-733-6596 ext. 111*. We would love to speak to

those willing to provide fresh and nutritious meals and *serve with a smile*.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, April 22**

- 7:00      ✦ Sue Eisembise
- 9:00      ✦ Jaxon Williamson

**Tuesday, April 23**

- 7:00      ✦ Stephanie Mash
- 9:00      ✦ Dominick Mitchell

**Wednesday, April 24**

- 7:00      Intentions in the Prayer Box
- 9:00      ✦ David Seas

**Thursday, April 25**

- 9:00      ✦ Charles & Lucy Marrone
- 7:00      ✦ Loretta Hocko

**Friday, April 26**

- 7:00      ✦ Jill Cleary
- 10:00     Grandparents Day

**Saturday, April 27**

- 7:00      ✦ For those grieving the loss of a loved one
- 9:00      Orloski Family

**Sunday, April 28, Divine Mercy Sunday**

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



Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
4-7-19	\$14,872.66	\$14,300.00	\$572.66
<b>YTD</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>YTD Needed</b>	<b>Difference</b>
4-7-19	526,218.01\$	\$586,300.00	(\$60,081.99)

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

Jesus said, “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest” (11:28). And “I will not reject anyone who comes to me” (John 6:37). It’s an open invitation. There are no conditions, no strings attached. Jesus wants everyone to come to him, just as they are.

Today, as you [celebrate](#) the most important event in human history, accept Jesus’ invitation. Run to him. Don’t hold back because you think you’re not worthy. Run to receive his overflowing mercy. Run to receive him as the Living Bread at Mass.

When Peter and John ran to the tomb, their hearts were filled with hope. On this Easter Sunday, let’s also place our hope in the One who “is seated at the right hand of God” (Colossians 3:1). When we run to Jesus, we will find him. He has risen. He is alive. He wants to help us just as much as he helped all those people who ran to him.

**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 A. Sikie.

**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 Leshner, 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, Ray Ward, Caroline LaMacchin and Andy Marvin

**2019 Diocesan Appeal**

On March 17<sup>th</sup> we began our 2019 Diocesan Appeal which supports numerous ministries and programs in our Diocese. As of April 14<sup>th</sup> **only 257 families/households** have made pledges in the amount of **\$69,605** and we have collected **\$48,028**. I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to those who have already made pledges and given money to the Appeal. As you know our Parish Assessment

is **\$101,300**. There are approximately **1250 families/households** in our Parish. I humbly ask those who have **not** made a pledge yet to kindly do so. Pledge envelopes can be found in the Church narthex or can be picked up in the Parish Office. Thank you and God bless. Fr. John

**HERSHEYPARK**<sup>®</sup> 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.*

### THANK YOU



We would like to thank our OMPH family for all the cards, flowers, love, and prayers and kind words, due to the loss of our beloved granddaughter Adriana Joy Fittipaldi.

Please pray for our continued healing, God Bless You!  
The Wanchalk, Fittipaldi & Southward Families

### SCHOOL 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 24<sup>th</sup>**



### Religious Education Corner:

### Isaac's Fundraiser To Benefit OMPH RE

Thank you to everyone who dined at or picked-up takeout from Isaacs on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 to benefit the RE Program. You helped to make this another successful fundraiser for the RE Program. Hope to see you in October for our fall Isaac's Fundraiser.

### **Our RE Class/Mass Schedule For The Remainder Of The Year Is As Follows:**

**Happy Easter!**

**Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> – NO RE Classes**

**Last RE Classes Of The Year**

**Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> – RE Classes Resume  
Also RE Closing Mass 9:00 AM With Reception  
To Be Held During RE Class Pickup Time.**

**Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> First Holy Communion Mass  
5:00 PM Mass**

**Kelly Lawrence**

### 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**

**Our Mother of Perpetual Help School  
27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

**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](mailto:carolyn@ensingerprinting.com)