

My Dear Parishioners,

Today is often referred to as **Good Shepherd Sunday** because every year on the Fourth Sunday of Easter we hear a passage from St. John's Gospel (Jn. 10:11-18) which refers to Jesus as the **Good Shepherd**. The Shepherd image runs all through Scripture, from the first book (Genesis) to the last book (Revelation). The Shepherd image is used to express God's unique relationship with Israel. In Genesis (48:15) as Jacob approaches death he speaks lovingly of God "who has been my shepherd from my birth." In Revelation (7:17) John describes Jesus as the one who will shepherd the elect to "springs of life-giving water." We all are familiar with Psalm 23: "The Lord is my Shepherd." The prophet Isaiah speaks of God as "a shepherd who gathers the lambs and leads the ewes." (40:11) The shepherd image was also carried over to God's special envoys. The prophet Jeremiah criticizes Israel's priests and kings, who were surrogates of Yahweh as "shepherds who mislead the flock." (23:1) Ezekiel condemns the priests and kings for "pasturing themselves instead of the flock and fattened themselves instead of their sheep. (34:1-6) Israel's two greatest leaders (God's chosen deputies) were both originally shepherds. Moses was tending his father-in-law Jethro's flocks when God called him. (Exodus 3:1-2) David was summoned to be anointed as King while watching his father Jesse's sheep. (1 Samuel 16:11-13)

In the New Testament Jesus freely applied the Shepherd image to Himself. The wandering figure of the **Good Shepherd**, anxiously tending his sheep to the point where he is willing to surrender his life for them, is the image Jesus uses about Himself in today's Gospel passage. Jesus as **Good Shepherd** contains the notion of one who is both noble and lovely. At one and the same time He is a strong leader and a gentle companion. He is strong enough to give His life for our wretched human race with a gentleness that must not be over-emphasized to the point of sentimentality. That mixture of tenderness and toughness, care and self-sacrifice, is one that summarizes Jesus' own practice of leadership. Jesus' leadership style is not a leadership of detachment and defensiveness; rather, it is a leadership of physical involvement and self-sacrificial love. In the **Good Shepherd's** foolish

extravagant love, his own life matters less than that of his flock. As shepherd Jesus is committed to the well-being of the sheep. He is willing to protect His flock even to the point of risking His own life for them. He has a mutual, intimate relationship with them based on the mutual, intimate relationship that He has with His Father. Jesus indicates that He does not just **surrender** His life for His sheep; He **lays His life down** for them. Out of love Jesus gives us His life **willingly**. As He said at the Last Supper: "no one has greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."

The Gospel of the **Good Shepherd** is a lesson in leadership that is centered in the servanthood of Jesus. The **Good Shepherd** is not an image of religious authority that is eternally pleased with its own importance; being blind to the useless pain it causes in those it leads. The authority of the shepherd costs the shepherd, not the sheep. The image of the **Good Shepherd** cannot be separated from how the **Shepherd** actually cares for His own sheep. His concern is not untroubled, His courage is not bloodless, and His love is not detached. When we see how Jesus **actually behaves** as a leader, we see His tenderness and courage.

Jesus calls all of us to the vocation of being "**Good Shepherds**" in His image of loving servanthood by freely and willingly placing ourselves at the service of others. Jesus calls each of us to realize that the gifts, talents, and abilities we have received have been entrusted to us (not for our own benefit, profit or aggrandizement) but rather to fulfill our vocations as "**Good Shepherds**" to those in need, to those who are lost and scattered, and to those victimized and persecuted. Jesus calls all of us to be "**Good Shepherds**" to one another. We all have responsibilities toward each other because it has pleased God to save us and make us "holy." Whether we are parents, educators, clergy, coaches, medical professionals, pastoral ministers, or care-givers, Jesus calls us to care for and lead those who have been entrusted to us. Jesus also challenges us to seek out and bring back the lost and forgotten. He empowers us to help others move beyond their fears and doubts so that they can be fully human. Jesus enables us to **willingly** pay the price for justice and mercy for all members of the "one fold." This week

let us all make a conscious decision to be “**Good Shepherds**” to all those we encounter in our life journey.. Have a blessed week!

Love & Prayers,

Fr. John

P.S. Today is also “World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.” Perhaps all of us can take some time today to offer up the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we ask you to bless our Diocese of Harrisburg with selfless hearts that are willing to serve You, by serving Your Church.

Lord Jesus raise up from our homes those called by the Father: courageous and humble men to the Priesthood and faithful women and men to the Consecrated Life.

Holy Spirit, help all of us to live our universal vocation to holiness, by listening to the Father’s voice and responding with a sacrificial love.

Holy Mary, Queen of Priests and Religious Sisters and Brothers, sanctify them and obtain for us many more. Amen.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY

Our parish second grade children will be receiving their First Holy Communion on **Sunday, April 29th** at the **11 AM** mass. Please keep these children in your prayers as they prepare to receive Jesus for the very first time in the Most Holy Eucharist.

Thanks, Fr. John

HEALING MASS

On **Sunday, May 6th** Fr. John will celebrate a Mass with the **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** at **1 PM** in our Church. We invite all parishioners and their family members who are afflicted by illness and all our beloved **elderly** to attend this special Eucharistic celebration. Come and receive Jesus’ healing power and love.

Thank You “Thank you to the Knights of Columbus Ladies Axillary for purchasing the new chapel decoration for the Easter Season
for your Kindness



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 **328 households** have pledged **\$86,894.10** 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



YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Discerning God’s Will in my Life Designed for anyone in their 20s & 30s, single or married, this retreat taking place at **Refreshing Mountain Retreat Center in Stevens, PA** will begin with dinner on **Friday, May 11** and end shortly after dinner on **Saturday, May 12**.

Retreat directors, Father Brian Wayne and Sr. GERALYN Schmidt, SCC will explore the reality that discernment is an ongoing process in which God calls us to do something and how prayer allows and nourishes authentic discernment. During this retreat, you will learn about practical methods of discerning God’s will, particularly following the rules of St. Ignatius. For more information and to register online, visit: <https://www.hbgdiocese.org/event/young-adult-retreat-discerning-gods-will-life/>

**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 to Livia Riley, Superintendent of Schools; Diocese of Harrisburg; 4800 Union Deposit Road; Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710 or by email: lriley@hbgdiocese.org.

**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

LCHS ENGLISH TEACHERS NEEDED

Lancaster Catholic High School seeks 2 full-time English teachers for the 2018-2019 school year. Minimum qualifications include a PA secondary certification (or equivalent) in English and appropriate clearances. Preferred qualifications include a master's degree in English, and experience in teaching English at the high school level. Experience in teaching Advanced Placement and/or dual enrollment college classes a plus. A pastor's recommendation will be required.

Interested applicants should forward a cover letter, resume, certifications and list of references to Mrs. Cecile Carr, ccarr@lchsyas.org, by May 4.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, April 23, St. George, Martyr, St. St. Adalbert, Bishop & Martyr

7:00 †Intentions in the Prayer Box

9:00 †Jeff Montgomery

Tuesday, April 24. St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest & Martyr

7:00 25th Anniversary of Margaret & Jason Henkles

9:00 Andy Marvin

Wednesday, April 25, St. Mark, Evangelist

7:00 †Deacon Arthur Colonell

9:00 †Andy Zipfel

Thursday, April 26

7:00 †Andy Zipfel

9:00 †Andy Zipfel

Friday, April 27

7:00 †Leon & Willa Godbold

10:00 GRANDPARENTS DAY

Saturday, April 28 St. Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr; St. Louis Grignon de Montfort, Priest

9:00 †Andy Zipfel

5:00 †Maria Mannino

Sunday, April 29, Fifth Sunday of Easter

7:30 For the Parishioners

9:00 †Ian James West

11:00 †Luther Shimp

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, Brenda Crawford, Jennifer Ranker, Jean Givler, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Michael Lillis, Richard Warner, Tonya Stoner, Kevin Kaiser, Jody Shimp, Joe Ferrara, Anna Leshner, Florence Windish, Gloria Reynolds, Anna Mae Finkey, Susan Buchler, Danny McGuire, William Oktela, Bill Garcedau, Gloria Reynolds, Paula Karin, and Greg Garret.

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
4-15-18	\$ 11,323.40	\$14,950.00	(\$3,626.60)
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
4-15-18	\$569,412.63	\$627,900/00	\$58,487.37

Next week, we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Right now, over 40 percent of dioceses in the United States are considered home mission territory because they are unable to fund the essential pastoral work needed in their communities. Your support of this appeal helps ease the struggle of these dioceses. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. www.usccb.org/home-missions.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Jesus wants us to do good deeds each day. He wants us to go out and help people who are in need. As Pope Francis said, "What matters for Jesus is, above all, reaching out to save those far off, healing the wounds of the sick and restoring everyone to God's family" (Homily, February 15, 2015).

As our Holy Father often reminds us, there is an intimate relationship between our being filled with God's love and our desire to do good deeds for people. The more we are filled with God's love, the more we will want to give back to him—with gifts of praise and gifts of deeds.

Unlike Peter, it's doubtful that we will be arrested and put in jail for doing good deeds in the name of Jesus. But like Peter, our good deeds will have the same effect on people today that they had on the people back then. They will melt people's hearts. They will help them believe that God's love is real and is powerful. They may spark some opposition, but not even that will diminish the power of your witness.

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 Grace Jabon.

All of the months of May, June & July the Sanctuary Lamp is available for you intentions.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

The OMPH Benevolent Society's community food bank is in need of: Instant mashed potatoes, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, and canned vegetables: corn, peas, green beans, carrots, mixed vegetables. Please place these items in the food bank crate in the narthex of the church. The underserved families in our community served by our food bank appreciate your donations!



MARY'S SPACE PLAN FROM HEAVEN

Have you heard that Our Lady's peace plan for the world is the daily Rosary? Have you heard about Fatima, but didn't know the details? Do you want peace in your life? Do you want to learn how to pray the Rosary? Then join us! **May 5: 9:00 AM Mass followed by viewing of the Fatima movie, refreshments, and discussion of the movie/Rosary workshop, ending around 12:30.** See the poster in the narthex for details, and to RSVP or contact Susan Strosser at susan@strosserfamily.com/717-203-1070

OMPH CYO ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

2ND ANNUAL DESIGNER BAG BINGO

\$20 Ticket Price - 20 Bingo Games Raffles, Special Bingo Games Food and Drinks for Sale
This Saturday April 28th 1-4 PM

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** for more information.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018

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 RESCUES**. 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.

Hersheypark Discount Ticket Offer!

Discount tickets to *Hersheypark* are available to the friends and families of the parish at a **significant savings**. Gate admission for Regular is \$67.80; our price is **\$34.85** (ALL ages 3+). discount *Hersheypark* Meal Tickets at a savings of up to 30% off retail prices - **\$11.99 each** and *ADD-ON snack Vouchers - **\$3.25 each**. Orders must be received at the parish by **Monday, April 30**. Parishes will receive tickets by Friday, May 25.

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, a 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

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!



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 18, 2018 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 Schedule For The Remainder
Of The RE Year Is As Follows:**

Final RE Classes Of The Year

Sunday, April 22nd – RE Classes In Session

Saturday, May 5th – RE Closing Mass At 5:00 PM

**A May Crowning Will Take Place Shortly Before
Mass Begins. There Will Also Be An Ice Cream
Social Following Mass For All RE Families.**

Kelly Lawrence

Exciting News!



Pennsylvania will follow the Federal tax legislation signed into law on December 22, 2017, which includes several new provisions related specifically to 529 plan accounts, beginning with the 2018 tax year:

- Account owners can use assets to pay for qualified K-12 expenses up to \$10,000 per year, per student.
- Account owners can treat K-12 withdrawals as qualified education expenses with respect to federal tax and PA PIT purposes.
- Account owners can roll over 529 plans to Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) savings plans (an IRC Section 529A plan), up to the ABLE annual contribution limit as determined under IRC Section 2503(B). However, a taxpayer may not claim a deduction for the rollover amount on their PA-40 return.

- Once again the Pennsylvania tax law follows the Federal tax law, the same as before, and allows the deduction for the expanded 529 plans. For more information, please see https://revenuepa.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/3399/kw/529%20withdrawals/session/L3RpbWUvMTUxODYzOTc2MS9zaWQvWXBpQnJqRm4%3D.

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Please feel free to share and contact the Development Office with any questions.



The Faculty of OMPH extends congratulations to graduates of OMPH School and members of OMPH Parish who were recognized for their outstanding academic achievement at LCHS. We are very proud of our students who received honors for the third quarter of the 2017-2018 academic year.

Distinguished Honors: Ella Cassidy, Kevin Draeger, Caroline Erb, Jacob Fertal, Devon Gerhard, Erin Haldeman, Adeline Hibschan, Johann Imperial, Emma Kirchner, Kayla Lipson, Siobhan McShea, Jake Mercer, Sheridan Schreyer, Riley Smith, Anthony Quagliata, Connie Quagliata, Lizbeth Stephan and Camille Zapata.

Honor Roll: Anthony Andrews, Nathan Collins, Cecilia Deel, Daniel Duchesneau, Meghan Flynn, Taylor Geiss, Rachel Houser, Peter Hughes, Grace Isbrandt, Ava McTamney-Prexta, Erin Mohr, Angeline Rann, Anthony Sivillo, David Vasquez-Cabrales and Christian Zapata

Ella Cassidy was also recognized as a “Student of the 3rd Quarter