

My Dear Parishioners,

Today's Feast of Pentecost means many things; all of them having to do with the commemoration of God coming to meet the human race. Pentecost is a very ancient feast that goes back a thousand years before Christ. Among the ancient Jews, Pentecost was originally celebrated as a harvest festival (a feast in which God's generous abundance was celebrated with joy and thanksgiving.) Gradually it became the feast of Shavuot, which in turn was fifty days after that super-eminent feast of Passover that celebrated the Angel of Death passing over the Jewish homes in Egypt during one of the plagues. Because it was a day more than a "week of weeks" after Passover, it was also called the "Feast of Weeks." It marked the establishment of the Covenant of God with the Israelites at Mt. Sinai, recalling the moment when the Israelites came to constitute themselves as God's Chosen People. By the first century A.D. for the Jews Pentecost became known as the Festival of the Law.

Among Christians the word Pentecost comes from the Greek meaning the fiftieth day after Easter. Pentecost is known as the "birthday" of the Christian Church. (We could, of course, say with equal validity that several other days might be called the Church's "birthday"-for example, the Last Supper, when Jesus declared that He was sending His apostles forth as he Himself had been sent by His heavenly Father; or when, as St. John says elsewhere, from Jesus' side on the cross flowed blood and water; or Jesus' Resurrection, which is communicated to us by baptism.) For Christians, Pentecost is the festival celebration of our New Covenant with God. It is the Feast of the Holy Spirit honoring His coming upon the apostles and first believers in Christ. From this vantage point we see the Holy Spirit at first strengthening the faith of the early disciples; their faith in Jesus and their faith in themselves. Pentecost is also a celebration of our own particular giftedness: the bestowing of the variety of gifts of the Spirit upon individuals and our community. And Pentecost is the Last Sunday of the Easter Season signifying the end of that long and glorious time. It is the conclusion of the fifty days of the Easter season and it is the great solemnity that completes Jesus' mission on earth and inaugurates the life of the Church in His Holy Name.

In order to convey one of the essential meanings of Pentecost (as a sacred event connected with Easter) the Church chose today's Gospel reading from the evangelist St. John. Because we are so familiar with the story of the Easter night scene we often miss the strangeness of it. The apostles had locked themselves up in a room out of fear for their lives. They had witnessed Jesus' triumph in the beginning of the week turn to betrayal, pain, torment and death. They had been absent when Jesus needed them the most and now had all sorts of regrets seeking solace with one another. They were afraid that Jesus' fate could easily befall upon them. Suddenly Jesus appears in their midst and wishes them "Peace" with a new and deeper meaning than the traditional greeting of "Shalom." Jesus' greeting is not just a wish but rather a declaration-"I am with you!" This gift of peace implies a sacred wholeness. And, wonder of wonders, the apostle's fear turned to **joy**. This kind of intense **joy** is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, who is now for the first time revealed as a person. Next Jesus gives His apostles a mission: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Just as the Father had sent Jesus into the world to reveal His divine reality so now the apostles are given the same work. Their mission was to spread the love of God to the entire world. In giving His mission to the apostles Jesus **breathed** upon them. To us this may seem like a strange procedure but from the Jewish Scriptures the apostles were familiar with God doing this. (For example- in the creation account in Genesis, God's **breath** is described as a wind hovering over the primeval waters (Gen. 1); God created Adam forming him from dirt and **breathing** life into him (Gen. 2:7) and God's **breath** gave life to the dry bones scattered in the plain of Babylon as described in the Book of Ezekiel.) When Jesus **breathed** on the apostles and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained," He was sending to them the great gift of Divine life, making them children of the new creation, and empowering them to be carriers of this new life through the Gospel of salvation. With the bestowal of the Holy Spirit the apostles are commissioned to go forth declaring salvation and judgment and they are authorized to continue Jesus' mission of healing and forgiving sins. So to help make all things new Jesus gave the Church the authority to forgive sins even as

he did-or better, to transmit the forgiveness that only God could bestow.

The Spirit of God continues to **breathe** over us and our world. Through His Spirit, God creates, vivifies and propels people to leadership and stimulates religious enthusiasm. In short the Holy Spirit makes all things new. Signs of the Spirit's presence are His gifts of compassion, mercy, forgiveness, joy reconciliation, peace and witness. The power of the Holy Spirit is in the hands of those who choose to love and forgive and share the peace that is borne from above. As Adam came to life, as the dried bones in the book of Ezekiel came to life, and as the apostles' fear in the Upper Room turned to **joy**, so the wind and the fire of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior before the world.

With our new life won by Jesus' saving death, resurrection, ascension and the gift of the Holy Spirit we (like the apostles) become truly alive. As the Holy Spirit spoke to the apostles on that first Pentecost and enlivened them, that same Spirit speaks to us today and gives us life. What is the Holy Spirit calling us (as individuals and as a Church) to do this Pentecost 2018? Perhaps we are called to forgive, to heal, to welcome, or lift someone up. The miracle of Pentecost is re-created every time the Church gathers; what happened to those terrified first apostles happens to us; what began with them continues with us. Once again the Holy Spirit speaks to us as individuals and as a community to bring His Word to life. My prayer for all of you, in the words of today's Solemn Blessing is simply: "May the Father of light who enlightened the minds of the apostles by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit bless you with the gifts of the Spirit. May the fire which hovered over the apostles as tongues of flame burn out all evil from your hearts and make them glow with pure light. May God strengthen your faith and fulfill your hope of seeing Him face to face. Amen" Have a blessed week. Happy and Blessed Pentecost!

Love & Prayers,

Fr. John

**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 May 10<sup>th</sup>, **361** households have pledged **\$95,012.10** and we have collected **\$69,888.09**. There are **1368 households** registered in our Parish. We still need **\$6,288.00** to accomplish our goal. 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. Fr. John

**KITCHEN HELP WANTED**

We are in need of good cooks 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*.



**PARISHIONER in NEED**

**A family in our Parish has experienced a devastating loss because of a fire. I would like to collect donations for them. I am looking for Boys clothing Size 12 Slim and Size 10, gift cards and monetary donations. A box for clothing will be in Church narthex and gift cards and monetary gifts can be brought to the Parish Office. Please pray for this family. Thanks, Fr. John**

### LEGION OF MARY

In the Legion of Mary there are active members and auxiliary members. **Active members** attend a Legion meeting once a week and perform works of service. **Auxiliary members** pray the rosary and the prayers of the Legion of Mary (the Tessera) for the intentions of the Blessed Mother and support the efforts of the active members through their prayers.

If you have an interest in joining the Legion of Mary visit the table in the narthex **this weekend May 19/20**. For additional information call Mary Leffler at 484-706-0627.

### QUO VADIS DAYS 2018

Attention all Catholic young men ages 15-25. Our Lord Jesus Christ has a great plan and mission for you! You are invited to attend the Diocese of Harrisburg's Annual *Quo Vadis Days* vocation discernment retreat to spend time with other young men your age as you listen to the Lord's call in your life while having fun. Activities include – Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, sports, games, great food, talks and more.

*Quo Vadis Days* will be held from June 24-27, 2018 at Mount St. Mary's Seminary. There is a \$50 registration fee; all other expenses are funded by the Diocese of Harrisburg. Registration forms can be found on our website at [www.hbgdiocese.org](http://www.hbgdiocese.org). You may also contact the Office of Vocations at (717) 657-4804, ext. 282 or email [vocations@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:vocations@hbgdiocese.org) with questions or for a registration packet. Deadline for registration is June 17, 2018.

### FIAT DAYS 2018

Attention all Catholic young women ages 15-25. Our Lord Jesus Christ has a great plan and mission for you! You are invited to attend the Diocese of Harrisburg's Annual *Fiat Days* vocation discernment retreat to spend time with other young women your age as you listen to the Lord's call in your life while having fun. Activities include – Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, sports, games, great food, talks and more.

*Fiat Days* will be held July 1-3, 2018 at Mount St. Mary's University and Seminary. There is a \$50 registration fee, all other expenses funded by the Diocese of Harrisburg. Registration forms can be found on our website at [www.hbgdiocese.org](http://www.hbgdiocese.org). You may also contact the Office of Vocations at (717) 657-4804, ext. 282 or email [vocations@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:vocations@hbgdiocese.org) with questions or for a registration packet. Deadline for registration is June 24, 2018.

### ANGELS AND DEMONS

Who they are and why they matter.

Adam Blai, peritus (meaning "expert") of religious demonology and exorcism for the diocese of Pittsburgh, will discuss the Church's teachings on angels and demons as part of the Defense of the Faith series hosted by the Order of Malta. The keynote address will follow a **7 PM Mass at St. John Neumann Catholic Church** in Lancaster on **May 24<sup>th</sup>**. This event is free to the public.



### MARRIAGE ANNULMENTS

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg will be giving 2 presentations within the diocese concerning marriage, divorce and annulment according to Church teaching. These presentations will be helpful for divorced Catholics, those divorced who wish to marry Catholics, those parish leaders involved in the RCIA process and any others who may have a vested interest because of family and friends.

June 5 - Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, Shippensburg, 7 pm, and June 14 - St. Patrick Parish, Carlisle, 7 pm No prior registration is required. For further information, please call 717-657-4804, extension 304, or [tribunal@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:tribunal@hbgdiocese.org); [www.HbgDiocese.org/annulments](http://www.HbgDiocese.org/annulments)

### SUFFERING SERVANTS OF FAITH

From the Archdiocese of Chicago our presenter will be Rev. Canon A. Gerard Jordan, O. Praem. who serves as the Diocesan Postulator for the Cause of Father Augustus Tolton. The workshop will be at 10 AM on Saturday June 30th at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. The workshop is intended to be a time of prayer, catechesis and motivation to encourage the participant to be active and to engage their faith.

The lives of six candidates for sainthood are used to connect with our past and the relevant concerns of our world today, e.g. racism, stewardship, education, immigration, health and wellness and other pertinent matters of catholic social teaching and concerns. There is no registration fee and snacks will be provided; kindly RSVP by calling (717) 657-4804 ext. 313 or email [jcurran@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:jcurran@hbgdiocese.org)

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Monday, May 21, St. Christopher Magallanes,  
Priest and Companions, Martyrs**

7:00 †Janet Eberly  
9:00 †Marie Grilli

**Tuesday May 22**

7:00      ✠Stella Clay  
9:00      ✠Nunzio Fiore

**Wednesday, May 23**

7:00      Jean Mash  
9:00      ✠Our Parish Priests

**Thursday, May 24**

7:00      ✠Intentions in the Prayer Box  
9:00      ✠Marilyn Pardo

**Friday, May 25, St. Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor of the Church; St. Gregory VII, Pope; St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, Virgin**

7:00      ✠William Hugenbruch  
9:00      33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Nonie & Raquel Versoza

**Saturday, May 26 St. Philip Neri, Priest**

9:00      ✠Tami & Tom Ruckle  
5:00      ✠Charles Hartman

**Sunday, May 27, Pentecost Sunday**

7:30      For the Parishioners  
9:00      ✠Jimmy Wasakoski  
11:00      ✠Kat Smith

**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.

**May 20:** Margaret Gardner, Brenda Crawford, Jennifer Ranker, Jean Givler, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Michael Lillis, Richard Warner, Kevin Kaiser, Jody Shimp, Joe Ferrara, Anna Lesher, Florence Windish, Gloria Reynolds, Anna Mae Finkey, Susan Buchler, Danny McGuire, William Oktela, Bill Garcedau, Gloria Reynolds, Tracy Yeakel, Paula Karem, Greg Garred, and Carolann Capizzi.



| Date    | Amount | Needed       | Difference |
|---------|--------|--------------|------------|
| 5-13-18 | \$     | \$           | \$         |
| YTD     | Amount | YTD Needed   | Difference |
| 5-13-18 | \$     | \$687,700.00 | (\$ )      |

**ADORATION OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Jesus has risen and is standing right in front of you. Seeing him again, alive but still wounded, brings back these memories. You cringe inwardly and wait for him to upbraid you for your unbelief—again. But instead, he says the last thing you expect: Peace be with you. No condemnation, no anger, not even a mild rebuke. Just pure meek-but-powerful mercy. He still loves you. He still treasures you. Then, Jesus says something else unexpected: As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Jesus is sending you to do the same thing? Jesus breathes on you: Receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is pouring God's love and mercy into your heart. That's how he is sending you out: forgiven, filled with his love, and equipped to share that love. Embrace your mission today on this great feast of Pentecost. Embrace the Holy Spirit.

*"Come, Holy Spirit! Make me your ambassador."*

**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 Isenberg Family.

**BENEVOLENT SOCIETY**

While we greatly appreciate each and every donation, below are some do's and don'ts for food bank donations:



**DO:** if you are buying more than one item, consider buying all of the same item. It is easier for volunteers sorting if we receive 6 cans of tomato soup rather than one can of tomato, one can of chicken noodle, etc.

**DO:** Buy nonperishable items you regularly serve to your family.

**DON'T:** donate any items that are opened, dented, leaking, or expired. Unfortunately, we cannot use these items and take up valuable volunteer hours sorting and discarding unusable items.

Currently, our food bank is in need of instant mashed potatoes, noodles, and any canned vegetables. Nonperishable food items can be placed in the food bank crate in the narthex of the church.

As always, we are humbled by our parishioners continued generosity!

**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.

**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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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](http://www.omph.org) or call the school office at 738-2414 for further information. **Find us on Facebook** at OMPH Ephrata!

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

**LCHS CROSS COUNTRY**

All boys and girls who will be in grades 7-12 in the fall and their parents are invited to attend a no-obligation informational meeting for the fall 2018 LCHS junior high and high school Cross Country seasons. **The meeting will be held today, Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM.** in the Catholic High School cafeteria. Contact Coach Simpson at [tsimpson@lchsyes.org](mailto:tsimpson@lchsyes.org) with questions."

**JOB OPPORTUNITY:**

St. Peter's Parish, Columbia, PA, is seeking a PT Maintenance person who will be responsible for the maintenance and cleaning of Buildings and grounds owned by the Church and the maintenance of cemetery. (Approx. 20 to 24 hrs. per week). If interested, email resumes and references to [dwickenheiser@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:dwickenheiser@hbgdiocese.org), or to St. Peter Catholic Church, 121 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Columbia, PA 17512.



**Religious Education Corner:**

**The Religious Education Program Would Like Congratulate All 2018 Graduates!**

**Please Look For RE Registrations Forms For The 2018/2019 RE Year Towards The End Of May Beginning Of June. Please Stay Tuned To The Bulletin For More Details Regarding Registration.**

**Please Remember Summer Break Still Includes Attending Mass On Sundays And Holy Days Of Obligation.**

**Please Visit <http://masstimes.org/> To Locate Parishes With Mass Times Both Here In The US And Worldwide.**

**OMPH RE Not Only Needs Our Mother's Perpetual Help, But Your Help As Well!**

Please Consider Joining The Exciting Adventure Of Passing On Our Wonderful Catholic Faith To The Next Generation By Assisting The RE Program As

A Catechist, Aide Or Occasional Substitute.

Please Contact Kelly Lawrence In The Religious Education Office If You Are Interested In Volunteering For The 2018/2019 RE Year.

Thanks!

*Please Note: All RE Program Volunteers Must*

### OMPH COMMUNITY MEALS

OMPH will be hosting our first and second Community Meals of the year. We are once again looking for volunteers to help. Our Community Meal Program provides free, freshly prepared and nutritious meals, to hungry residents of the Ephrata area. Our meals will be held on:

**1. May 31, 2018** at First United Methodist Church  
68 N Church St, Ephrata, PA

**2. June 7, 2018** at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
167 E Main St, Ephrata, PA

There is no special expertise required so if you can help out at either meal it would be great. Our volunteers will have varied duties from helping to set up the dining area, serving meals to our guests and of course cleaning up after the meal. Our meal program has been serving anywhere from 120 to 180 people so we usually need around 20 or so volunteers. Without our volunteers it would be difficult if not impossible to accomplish our mission. Whether you have helped in the past or this is your first time we would love to have you join us for this worthwhile and rewarding experience.

For those individuals who are unable to volunteer some of their time but still want to help out, monetary donations are always welcome for the “*OMPH Community Meals*“. If you are interested in volunteering or want more information please email Tara Montgomery at [jazzcat9@ptd.net](mailto:jazzcat9@ptd.net) or contact Pat or Georgia Hogan at 717-738-0825.

### KOFC BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

The Knights of Columbus will be launching their Baby Bottle Campaign this weekend to benefit our pro-life initiatives. We will be distributing baby bottles after all Masses. We ask that anyone taking a bottle fill it with loose change, cash, or checks between now and Father’s Day. We will be collecting the bottles on Father’s Day weekend in the narthex. The Knights are able to cover all cost of fundraising thru their other fundraising events, so 100% of your donations will be given to our own parish Respect Life Committee, as well as Mom’s House in Lancaster. Mom’s House offers single parents, facing an unplanned pregnancy, with a viable, practical alternative to the despair of abortion. Last year, thanks to your generosity, we raised \$3,200 which was

donated to the charities mentioned above. Thank you in advance for your support.



**Tickets may be picked up in the Parish Office  
Monday thru Friday from 9AM to 4PM.**

### THANK YOU TO OUR GOLF SPONSORS

OMPH School’s Annual Golf Tournament was another success! Thank you to Honeybrook Golf, all of the golfers, and the volunteers, including our student ambassadors, for helping make this an enjoyable day for everyone! We would like to especially thank the following sponsors:



#### **Beverage Cart Sponsor**

Akron Mobile Homes

#### **Eagle Sponsors**

Becker Engineering, LLC  
Dever Family Dentistry  
Kemper Equipment  
Thomas Martin, Ret. Sgt., NYPD  
Performance Roofing Associates, Inc.  
Stradling Funeral Homes Inc.

#### **Par Sponsors**

A. Anthony Kilkuskie Attorney-at-Law  
Jeff and Marybeth Tearpock  
Margaret Gardner

#### **Club House Sponsors**

Eddie and Beth Coyle

#### **Gifts in Kind**

Blue Ridge Communications  
Four Seasons Produce, Inc.  
Harrisburg Senators  
Hershey Bears Hockey  
Honeybrook Golf Club  
Lancaster Barnstormers  
Sean McAleer  
Pepperidge Farm  
Philadelphia Flyers

Philadelphia Phillies  
Philly Pretzel Factory  
Pittsburgh Steelers  
Reading Fightin Phils  
Reading Royals Hockey  
Royer's Flowers & Gifts  
Wild Wings & Pizza