

My Dear Parishioners,

In an article entitled “How God is Like the Back Porch Light”, Penelope Mark-Stuart describes who God is for her and how she envisions **God’s Love**. She presents numerous examples as follows.

Dad puts off watching the game or finishing the novel he’s waited all day to get back to and instead sits down with his teenage daughter to help her work out her geometry homework. After a couple of hours of his patient and clear explanations, his daughter finally grasps the theorems and is able to complete the assignment. Dad is not the numbers he has mastered or the theorems he explains. Dad is the **loving** father who wants the best for his daughter. He will do whatever is necessary with joy for her happiness.

Jim was once a homeless drug addict. With the help of the Religious Sisters who run the Parish Center and their dedicated volunteers he got his life back on track. He is now married and a father with a home and a good job. But he knows and understands what guests at the Parish Center are going through so he gives hours of his time to help them get their lives together. Whatever needs to be done he does: picking up food from the supermarkets after closing, arranging for job interviews for the unemployed, organizing fund raisers for the Center. Don’t call him the poster-boy for the American Dream or an example of pulling oneself up by one’s boot straps, or worse a Saint. Jim is a grateful soul who mirrors the **love** shown to him by returning that **love** to those going through the hard times he knew and experienced too well.

Sue spends hours cooking Sunday dinner for her extended family. Her greatest joy is to see her sons and daughters, their spouses and her grandchildren gathered at the family table. While she is not the feast, it is her **love** that brings such a joyful experience of family into being.

Today’s Solemnity of The Most Holy Trinity invites us to a state of enthusiasm for who God is and what God has done for each one of us. Today’s solemnity celebrates the many ways God makes His presence known in our midst, in the manifestations of His **love** in our lives and our world. God is the very **love** that creates, nurtures, and preserves; **love** that is Father/Creator, Son/Redeemer, and Spirit/Sustainer.

Today’s solemnity also acknowledges the fact that human language can never ultimately capture God’s essence nor can human minds completely comprehend and understand God’s perfect and complete love for us. However, our less-than-perfect metaphors do help us to begin to grasp and understand that **love** is the heart of our Trinitarian faith; the **Love of the Father** who created our world and fashioned it with care; the **Love of the Son** who passionately desired to become one of us and for a little while pitched His tent among us; and the **Love of the Holy Spirit** who could never leave us but remains with us to inhabit every moment of our existence.

Our readings today try to describe who God is and try to present a picture of **His Love** for us. Today’s First Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy presents Moses’ last words which offer a vision of a transcendent God who goes all the way back to creation and then across history. In today’s passage the Israelites have finished their wilderness wandering and have pitched their tents east of the Jordan River. All that remains for them is to cross over the river into the Promised Land. Moses’ concern is that once the Israelites experience the bounty of the land they will become complacent in their relationship with God. To ward against this, Moses urges the Israelites never to forget that their very existence is entirely due to God’s grace. Moses then admonishes the Israelites to commit themselves to Yahweh-the one true God. Moses does this by pointing out to them the singular majesty of the God who has taken such a personal interest in their welfare. He reminds them that God chose them out of all the nations and delivered them through numerous signs and wonders, a reference to the Exodus and Sinai events. Moses also reminds them that God’s **love** is everlasting and faithful.

Today’s Second Reading from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans reflects an early Christian recognition that the One God has three persons. Paul’s concern in this chapter (one of the most beautiful in the Bible) is the tremendous result of the Christian’s relationship to the triune God. We who are baptized, by reason of the presence of the grace of the **Spirit** within, enjoy a new relationship to the **Father**-that of adopted children and heirs through the **Son**. Paul clearly states that those who are children of God are so not because they obey the law but because they are led

(compelled or constrained) by the Spirit. Furthermore, we can say that it is with and through Christ that we become children of God. If Jesus can call God “Abba” (Daddy), then we who are joined to Him can as well. Finally, as children of God, we are heirs to the inheritance to which Jesus is heir; namely, the glory of God in the coming reign of God. It is our union with Jesus that entitles us to privileges and it is through the grace of the Holy Spirit we enjoy an intimate relationship with the Most Holy Trinity.

Today’s Gospel passage comes from the final scene of Matthew’s Gospel. In the finale of Matthew, the eleven apostles enter into an intimate relationship with Jesus as they share in His deliberations and mission. Matthew’s final scene is the great missionary commission of Jesus’ disciples. Its format comes from the commissioning of a prophet (Exodus 3; 7-17; 4:1-16). The apostles are told to make disciples of all nations. All social or cultural boundaries are dissolved; ethnic and gender restrictions are lifted. The way the apostles are to accomplish Jesus’ Commission is three-fold. The first is to make disciples of all nations, a world-wide outreach (dissolving social or cultural boundaries and lifting ethnic or gender restrictions) that gushes from and reflects the overflowing love of the triune God. Jesus’ second commission is that the rite of initiation should be **baptism** in the name of the Holy Trinity. Thus being a true disciple of Jesus involves being plunged into the “name” or the reality of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and that means participating in and being related to each of the divine persons. Thirdly, Jesus commissions the apostles to teach everything that He has handed on to them. Jesus inaugurated the reign of God, at the heart of which is a radically different way of life and this is to be the essence of the apostle’s teaching.

Today’s Solemnity of the Trinity reminds us that the more we discover about God the greater becomes the **mystery** of His presence and **love**. God makes His presence known in our midst as God is the very **love** that creates nurtures and preserves. God is the source of the forgiveness we give and receive and the reconciliation we work to bring about. God is the justice and peace we seek for every person we call brother and sister in His providence. God is the source of all good gifts we experience in our daily lives.

We are all held and cared for in God’s **love**; a **love** too perfect and complete for us to understand. God’s **love** for us transcends the **love** of creator for his or her creation. God’s **love** becomes fully human for us in the person of Jesus, who taught us that God **loves** us like a parent who **loves** their beloved sons and daughters. In His Resurrection Jesus shows that God’s **love** for us extends beyond this world into the next. And in the gift of the Holy Spirit we experience the fullness of God’s **love** in one another. May today’s Solemnity of the Holy Trinity be a re-connection for us with the many ways God makes His **loving presence** known in our lives Have a blessed week!

Love & Prayers

Fr. John

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



**DIOCESAN WOMEN'S  
CONFERENCE**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocese of Harrisburg Women’s Conference will be held, October 20, at Bishop McDevitt High School. This event is open to all women 18 years of age and older. Registration Fee will be \$30 per person which includes Continental breakfast and box lunch.

**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 28**

7:00 † Jimmy Wasakoski

9:00 † Kat Smith

**Tuesday May 29**

7:00 † Jim & Maryann Wasakoski

9:00 † Jimmy Kirby

**Wednesday, May 30**

7:00 † Ron Slover

9:00 † Joseph Fuentes

**Thursday, May 31, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

7:00 † Madelyn McKenna

9:00 † Chi Yoo Rella

**Friday, June 1, St. Justin, Martyr**

7:00 † Linda Scofuri

9:00 † Catherine King

**Saturday, June 2, Sts. Marcellinus and Peter,**

9:00 † John Ward

5:00 † Donald Eckert

**Sunday, June 3, Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**

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.

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

**CHURCH  SUPPORT**

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
5-13-18	\$14,669.51	\$14,950.00	(\$280.49)
<b>YTD</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>YTD Needed</b>	<b>Difference</b>
5-13-18	\$628,856.86	\$687,700.00	(\$58,843.14)

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
5-20-18	\$11,948.00	\$14,950.00	(\$3,002.00)
<b>YTD</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>YTD Needed</b>	<b>Difference</b>
5-20-18	\$640,804.86	\$702,650.00	(\$61,845.14)

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

*Father.* Revealing himself as our heavenly Father, God proved that he is not a distant, fickle, or vindictive god. He is a God for whom family is everything.

*Son.* When God came to earth, he didn't come in power and majesty. Rather, he "emptied himself" and became one like us. Jesus came as brother and friend. He established his kingdom, not by force, but by self-sacrifice. His message of mercy is meant to melt our hearts, not make us cower in fear.

*Holy Spirit.* God didn't disappear when Jesus ascended to heaven. Quite the opposite: he became even closer. God dwells in your heart! He is always with you, always ready to pour out his love and to make you more like him. He is always with the Church, feeding us with word and sacrament. He is always in the world, forming us into one family in Christ.

*"Holy God, we praise your name! Lord of all, we bow before you!"*

**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 George & Mary Bakajza.

**BENEVOLENT SOCIETY**

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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.



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

## 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.

### SCOUTING FOR FOOD ~ THANK YOU

The members of Crew/Troop 363 would like to thank the parish for all the donations that we collected on May 12th & 13th. We are very pleased to say that the Benevolent Society was given 1800 pounds of food! All the food collected will be used to help feed those in our community who are in need of assistance. Thank you for your generosity and making this food drive a success!

Gretchen Hartman Crew 363  
President Jennifer Hartman Crew 363 Advisor

## 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.

## K.O.F.C. 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.

**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

Thank You to all those who took prayer pamphlets your Auxiliary membership is important! To those who want to be Active Members, thank you too! **See you Wednesday at 7:30 PM.**



ATTENTION: Auxiliary and Active members: Our **INDOOR PICNIC** is **June 23 from 12-2 PM** at St. Leo's (church building) Route 23/Marietta Ave. in Lancaster. Want to share a ride? Call or Text: Mary at 484-706-0627.

**SENIORS 55 AND OLDER**

Would you enjoy a 5% discount on your car insurance for the next three years? Who wouldn't! Well, in Pennsylvania it is mandatory that if you take the AARP Smart Driving Course, the insurance company must give you a 5% discount. To get the discount, all you have to do is show up at the course, spend two four hour sessions and at the end you will get a completion certificate to give to your insurance company, there are no tests. You cannot fail. It is all in the classroom — NO on the road driving. The cost per person is \$15 for AARP Members and \$20 for non-members. If both husband and wife are on the insurance policy, both must take the course. For example, if your insurance cost for the year is \$1000 you would get a \$50 Discount for each of the next three years. So, for an investment of \$15 or \$20 you would save \$150. If you are interested in saving some money and learning about ongoing changes in yourself, vehicles, the roads, the driving laws and refreshing your memory on some safety strategies you might have forgotten, call the number below to register. We have now set up an eight-hour course for OMPH on Saturday, June 16 and Saturday, June 23 from 8:00 am to 12 noon. You must attend both days. For those who have previously taken the eight hour course, we will be holding a four-hour refresher course on Saturday, June 9, from 8:00 am to 12 noon. To be able to take the refresher course, you must have taken the course three years ago and not longer than four years ago. If interested or have questions call Charlotte and Bob Galgon at 717-733-4369.

LEGION OF MARY NEWS

