

My Dear Parishioners,

Every adult generation has important truths that it wants to pass on to bring about the proper growth of its youth. To attract youth, we use alluring literary forms. Among these literary forms are fables and **parables**, short fictitious stories, usually homely and simple that illustrate spiritual truths (usually a single one) with not every detail being important or true. Mark Twain's **Adventures of Huckleberry Finn** (for example) through a boy named Huck and his friend Jim memorably portrays a historical period and the various classes of people who lived along the Mississippi River.

Scripture often draws upon the natural world to exhibit lessons in faith. The prophet Ezekiel used the image of the trees in the forest to teach the leaders of Israel about the power of God. Jesus used nature **parables** to reveal and explain that the reign of God is growing throughout creation and that it is manifested in people and in the ordinary things of everyday life.

Our first reading is from the Book of the prophet Ezekiel who served as a divinely appointed watchman over Israel. It was Ezekiel's responsibility to warn the Israelites of approaching threats to their safety and show them how best to defend themselves. Of course the most reliable defense was their **right relationship** with God. But the leaders of Israel refused to listen to Ezekiel and looked for security in an alliance with Egypt. This plan brought their kingdom to ruin. The first half of Ezekiel 17 retells this history through an elaborate allegory about a tender shoot plucked by an eagle and transplanted elsewhere. The eagle is the empire of Babylon and the tender shoot was Israel's king who was taken into exile. Today's passage (17: 22-24) is an allegory about God and His loving plan for Israel. God will select a tender shoot from a tall cedar tree representing the royal family of Israel. Like a tender shoot planted in fertile soil, this ideal king will thrive on God's holy mountain. His kingdom will increase and grow like a majestic cedar tree. Thus God's plan for Israel will yield a greater, stronger, grander restored kingdom for Israel.

In the eyes of the world, the Gospel of Jesus Christ seems to be filled with contradiction, mystery, and paradox. And yet, ironically, these very qualities reveal the beauty, intricacy, and force of the Gospel. As a result, Jesus does not want to diminish this mystical dimension of the Gospel. Jesus wanted to teach followers His message in a way they could understand. That is to say, He used the device of comparative story and creative imagery to prompt

people to see how present, active and involved God is in their everyday experiences. Jesus used **parables** to serve as an apt way for followers to understand the Gospel because they root divine revelation in the familiar. By making the ordinary the principle for His preaching, Jesus guides us to use what is already well-known to us as the standard for coming to know what is revealed only in Him. In this way, **parables** help to make the power of Jesus' message even more compelling. In other words, Jesus' **parables** are a great gift of consolation. Jesus' **parables** reassure us that the great riches of Heaven are accessible to us through our attention to God's interaction with us.

Jesus told many **parables**. Some of His **parables** might better be termed 'riddles' (which the crowd loved) but whose point the sophisticated humorless Pharisees didn't get. To understand New Testament **parables** we have to remember three contexts: the context of the Gospel itself, the context of the Church before the Gospel was written but after the time of Jesus, and the context of the time when Jesus told them. We must understand what was going on in the Church when the Gospel writers wrote. For example, when St. Mark put Jesus' two **parables** found in today's Gospel passage into writing, Mark had seen the death of the two great apostles of Rome, Peter and Paul. The expected Parousia (Jesus' Second Coming) had not arrived and people were discouraged. Emperor Nero had blamed the burning of Rome on the Christians and persecuted and decimated them. It looked as if the Church was doomed. St. Mark provides today's **parables** which provide an insight into Jesus' kingdom on earth and its growth. They also provide **encouragement** and **hope** for the listener.

In the first **parable** Jesus compares the kingdom of God (more accurately translated as "the reign of God") to what happens when seed is sown by a farmer. Once the seed is sown the farmer waits for harvest time. The cycle of growth follows its own secret rhythm; how it all happens the farmer does not know. Even though nothing much seems to be happening, the miracle of growth is taking place. The farmer cannot improve the crop by staying awake at night and worrying. The seed is nurtured in its own silence. The harvest will not be rushed. Neither will the kingdom of God be advanced by those restless for instant results. Just as the harvest comes in its own time so too the kingdom will reach its completion in God's appointed time. The lesson from the **parable** is twofold: (1) although we do not always perceive God's action and sometimes think He has abandoned us, He never ceases to act and if we open our hearts to the word of God and (2) as we allow the Spirit of God

to work within us (without our knowing how) our faith will deepen and the kingdom of God will spread.

In the second **parable** Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed that grows into the largest shrub so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade. In the ancient world the size of the mustard seed was a buzzword for the smallest and most insignificant thing anyone could imagine. In Jesus' **parable** the contrast is made between the smallness of the seed and the exuberance of growth. His **parable** proves that unremarkable beginnings can make for mighty achievements and that littleness is no index of importance. The small mustard seed grows to become a shelter for **all** the birds of the air. It is worth noting that the phrase "birds of the air" was a traditional Jewish expression for the Gentiles, all non-Jews. In today's First Reading the prophet Ezekiel speaks of the universal openness of God's welcome in the image of the tree where all birds can find a resting place: "Birds of every kind shall dwell beneath it, every winged thing in the shade of its boughs." Similarly in Jesus' **parable** the teaching is that the kingdom of God is open to all peoples. The greatness of the kingdom, which grows from such a small beginning, is for the benefit of all people. God's kingdom is **not** the exclusive domain of any one flock.

What did these **parables** mean for the early Church and what do they tell us today? In regards to the early Church the **parables** were addressed to the Apostles and disciples who wondered how they could ever hope to establish and spread the kingdom of God on earth. The **parable of the sower** reminded those in the early Church that God would plant His kingdom and allow it to grow. The disciples' task is to spread the seed, be faithful, and then trust in God to do the rest. The **parable of the mustard seed** was intended to assure the early Church of its eventual success. Its point was to show that even the number of faithful followers might initially be few, God would ultimately see to its increase. And so it happened. From twelve simple uneducated men the Church did spread to all the ends of the earth.

For us today the two **parables** remind us that while we live we are to be aware of the **mystery of growth**. This **mystery** is within us as well as all around us. For us it applies particularly to our growth as persons, which is the greatest perfection of all. Today's readings indicate that our growth comes from God but we are responsible for working it out. God reveals His power to those who are in human eyes the weak, the insignificant, the poor and that may be us. God gives us opportunities of bringing forth new life and growth amid the change and endings we

experience. In our generosity, kindness, support and consolation to others we can bring the Risen Jesus into our own hearts and homes. Jesus asks us today to embrace the faith of the Gospel farmer and the hope of the mustard seed. We are called to readily plant seeds of kindness and joy wherever and whenever we can in the certain knowledge that it will (in some way) result in a harvest of God's life and love. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,  
Fr. John

P.S. I want to wish all the Fathers in our parish a very Blessed and Happy Father's Day! May the God Lord continue to watch over, guide and protect you as you live out your Vocation of Fatherhood. God bless you.

### WELCOME

It is with great joy that I want to announce that Rev. Edmund J. Faliskie, C.Ss.R. will be joining our Parish



Ministerial Staff. Father Ed comes to us with a great amount of enthusiasm and varied ministerial experience. Fr. Ed graduated with a degree in Business Management from Scranton University and then began his studies for the Redemptorist Priesthood. He

professed his vows as a Redemptorist in September 1987 and graduated with a Master's degree in Divinity from Washington Theological Union in 1991. Fr. Ed was ordained on May 11, 1991 and has much experience as a priest. He was the Associate Pastor at St. Wenceslaus Parish in Baltimore from 1991-93 and then became the Vocation Director for the Redemptorists from 1993-99. From 1999-2005 he was the Pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Desruisseaux, St. Lucia in the West Indies. Fr. Ed served on our Redemptorist Provincial Leadership Council from 2005-2011 and was the provincial Procurator from 2008-17. In 2017 Fr. Ed became the Associate Pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Baltimore and will now serve in such role here at Our Mother of Perpetual help Parish. Welcome Fr Ed to OMPH! We are so glad you will be with us. God bless you and your ministry here at OMPH. Fr. John

**SUMMER WEEKDAY MASS  
SCHEDULE**

Please note that beginning on **Monday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> until Friday August 24<sup>th</sup>** we will be on the Summer Weekday Mass Schedule. Mass will be celebrated on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays **only at 7 AM**. On Wednesdays mass will be celebrated at **7AM and 9AM** with our OMPH Novena. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place following the **9AM** mass on Wednesday **until 12NOON**. Saturday morning mass will be celebrated at **9AM**.

**Thank you.**

**ATTENTION  
MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

A meeting for the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist will be held on June 27 at 7 pm in the Church.

(Please Bring your Albs for a parish minister photo.)  
We will start with a reflection on how we Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist can support our parishes Mission and Vision statements.

**Our Mission**

*“To celebrate the real presence of Jesus in our Eucharistic worship and empower ALL to be Disciples of Christ.”*

**Our Vision**

*“To be a welcoming community, witnessing our faith in Christ and growing in our relationship with Jesus as we journey together toward eternal salvation.”*

Next, we will review the basic as well as new procedures of serving at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

We will conclude with a brief reflection on the privilege of serving in the Sanctuary.

2018-19

**BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL UPDATE**

As of June 11, 2018, **371** families/households have pledged **\$100,062.10** towards this year's Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal. I want to express my **appreciation** and **gratitude** to those who have already generously supported this year's appeal. As you know our Parish Assessment is **\$101,300** so the difference is **\$1238**. We have over **1300** families/households registered in our Parish. We **need** everyone to contribute something so we can reach our Assessment Goal. If you have **not** already made a pledge I humbly ask you to do so. Pledge envelopes can be found in the Church Narthex and in the Parish Office. A **reminder**: every dollar received that **exceeds our Assessment Goal** will be given back to us and placed in our Parish Savings Account.

Thank you and God bless you.  
Fr. John

**Stewardship: A Mission of Faith Fall Conference**  
Stewardship: A Mission of Faith, invites you to join Fr. Michael Gaitley, Jason Evert, Christopher West, Damon Owens, Msgr. John Esseff, Marty Rotella, Devin Schadt, Mark Forrest, Megan Murphy, Bishop Alfred Schlert and many more, for an adult conference this fall. The event will be held on Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. One and two-day tickets are available. The conference will be held in Elizabethtown, PA, at the beautiful Stone Gables Estates which features the historic Star Barn Village and Ironstone Ranch ([www.stonegablesestate.com](http://www.stonegablesestate.com)). In between the 6 keynote talks, 24 workshops, daily Mass and evening adoration, you can enjoy 275 acres of God's creation including horseback riding, wagon rides, campfires, an outdoor stations of the cross, Marian grotto, vineyard and more! For complete information, visit us at [www.stewardshipmission.org](http://www.stewardshipmission.org) and click on the Fall Conference link. We'll see YOU in September!

**SECOND COLLECTION**

**CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN**

This week, our second collection is for the Catholic Communications Campaign. This campaign connects people with Christ, here and around the world in developing countries, through the internet, television, radio, and print media. And 50% of funds collected remain in our diocese to support local efforts. Be a part of this campaign to spread the gospel message, and support the collection today! To learn more visit [www.usccb.org/cc](http://www.usccb.org/cc)

**THANK YOU**

**I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to our Knights of Columbus Council (Fr. Daley #4191) for their generous donation of one thousand dollars to our school and a donation of five hundred dollars to our Religious Education Program. I also want to express my appreciation and gratitude to the Ladies Auxiliary of our Knights of Columbus Council for their generous donation of one thousand dollars to our school. God bless you.**

**Thanks, Fr. John**

**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 Mary Hohowski.



**This Information Will Be In Next Week's Bulletin**

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
6-3-18	\$15,390.00	\$14,950.00	(\$440.00 )
<b>YTD</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>YTD Needed</b>	<b>Difference</b>
6-3-18	\$666,333.66	\$732,550.00	(\$66,216.43 )
Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
6-10-18	\$12,287.87	\$14,950.00	(\$2,662.13 )
<b>YTD</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>YTD Needed</b>	<b>Difference</b>
6-10-18	\$678,621.53	\$ 747,500.00	(\$68,878.47)

- MASS INTENTIONS**
- Monday, June 18**  
7:00     ✦ Kathleen Kilkuskie  
9:00     ✦ Kathleen Kilkuskie
- Tuesday, June 19, St. Romuald, Abbot**  
7:00     ✦ Deceased members of the Leffler Family  
9:00     ✦ Aleyda Buitrago
- Wednesday, June 20**  
7:00     Rosa Juanita Casas-Garza  
9:00     ✦ June Schelz
- Thursday, June 21, St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious**  
7:00     ✦ Kathleen Kilkuskie  
9:00     Intention of the donor
- Friday, June 22, St. Paulinus of Nola, Bishop; Sts. John Fisher, Bishop & Thomas More, Martyrs**  
7:00     Intention of the donor  
9:00     Intention of the donor
- Saturday, June 23**  
9:00     ✦ Samuel Carnell  
5:00     ✦ Teresa Peters
- Sunday, June 24, Nativity of St. John the Baptist**  
7:30     For the Parishioners  
9:00     ✦ Jim Mondo  
11:00    ✦ Intentions in the Prayer Box

**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.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Do you forgive people from the heart—or at least try to? Do you try to see God in the people around you? How about going into a small booth and telling a man all of your sins? Who does those things?

Of course, you're not quirky. You're only doing what God created you to do: love him and love your neighbor. But to many people, you are a mystery. And that's exactly how Jesus wants it.

St. Mark tells us that Jesus himself spoke in riddles and parables to the people around him—he even mystified his closest disciples! This was part of his strategy: to provoke his listeners to think more deeply about God and about their lives. He wanted to awaken in them a hunger for God so that they would come ask him for more. Then, when they were ready, he could open their hearts to the “mystery of the kingdom of God”.

**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 Janet Tomko.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018**

Mark your calendars and save the date for this year's **Vacation Bible School July 16-20!** 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.

### VBS DONATIONS

THANK YOU to all parishioners who donated items to Vacation Bible School this year. This weekend students will be in the narthex after all masses collecting monetary donations for VBS, to help cover the cost of the program and supplies for the week. Thank you in advance for your support!

### FORMED

Enjoy a free subscription to formed.org – an incredible online gateway to the best Catholic content, all in one place!

1. Visit formed.org with a web browser
2. Click on Register (lower right of page)
3. Enter Parish Access Code: **4BGYH2**
4. Enter your email and create a password (you need this to log in later)
5. Go to STUDY and watch FORGIVEN Episode



### Religious Education Corner:

**Please Look For RE Registrations Forms For The 2018/2019 RE Soon. 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 Have Their Required Diocesan Clearances Which Can Be Easily Obtained Through The RE Office.*

### LEGION OF MARY NEWS

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.**

### HERSHEYPARK TICKETS

**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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 717-738-2414 for further information. Find us on Facebook at OMPH Ephrata! Please feel free to share and contact the Development Office with any questions.