

My Dear Parishioners,

Today's liturgical celebration of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) is over 700 years old. Since Holy Thursday (the day Jesus instituted the Eucharist) focuses on Jesus' Passion and Death, the Church set aside this special feast today to reflect on the Eucharist itself-the gift of Jesus to His Church.

In parts of the world today's feast is marked by elaborate processions around the church. In our current North American culture it seems that religious processions are a relic left from bygone days. However, in the small charming town of Oldenburg, Indiana the Catholic community has been holding their Corpus Christi procession for 171 consecutive years. It remains a solemn but joyous celebration. The crowds have increased every year as this celebration of the Body and Blood of Christ has become more popular. The crowds celebrate the Real Presence of Jesus in their lives. They remind themselves of the divine relationship that never ends.

The Corpus Christi procession in Oldenburg begins immediately following the 10 AM. Mass. The procession of believers then proceeds to visit seven shrines in the local area. At each shrine people pray, sing hymns, and celebrate Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The believers walk through the village streets, through the surrounding woods and through the convent grounds of the Franciscan Sisters. Even though our modern culture may disdain religious processions the annual Corpus Christi procession remains a truly "hearth and home" event in the lives of the people of Oldenburg!

Our Scripture readings for today point to three aspects of the core mystery of our faith regarding the Holy Eucharist: the Eucharist as Nourishment for our Souls, the Eucharist as the Source of our Unity, and the Eucharist as being the Real Presence of Jesus in our midst.

Today's first reading is from the Book of Deuteronomy. While the Israelites were encamped at the east side of Jordan River preparing to cross into the Promised Land Moses gives them some very important last minute instructions. Moses fear is that the Israelites (once they get comfortable in the Promise Land) will become complacent and forget the God on whom they depend upon. Because of his fear Moses tells the children of Israel "to **remember**" how gracious and kind God had been to their ancestors as they wandered in the desert. Moses reminds his people how God always provided for

their ancestor's needs and their own needs. One of the most dramatic examples of God's graciousness and kindness occurred when the present Israelite's ancestors thought that they would die of starvation in the desert. God provided them with manna-"bread from heaven". The word "manna" comes from the Aramaic words "man hu" meaning "what is this?" which expresses the wonder of the discovery that God's love and providential care that kept His chosen people alive on bread. Manna was not only material food giving physical life but was also a symbol of God's word which was the means of a superior spiritual life: the life of communion with God through the covenant.

Moses also reminds the Israelites of all the protection they enjoyed from God in the past. God delivered them from slavery and provided healing for them when they were bitten by the fiery serpents. God also gave them water from a solid rock to quench their thirst and He gave them manna to give them strength as they marched towards the Promised Land.

The Eucharist nourishes us like the manna in the desert mentioned in today's passage from Deuteronomy. God provided food to nourish the Israelite's physical bodies and God provides us with the flesh and blood of His Son, Jesus, "the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation" to nourish and strengthened our souls. The Eucharist is "esca viatorum"-food given to help us on our journey of life; leading us to eternal life with our God.

Today's words of St. Paul to the Corinthians (second reading) are a wonderful confirmation of the early celebration of the Eucharist and of the early mature understanding of Jesus' presence in the Eucharist. Paul reminds the Corinthians that faith isn't just a matter of saving one's own soul but rather it is something greater and deeper through which believers share in the salvation of all. Paul reminds the Corinthians that at the Eucharistic meal we actually participate in Jesus' life. By sharing in the body and blood of Jesus Christians are linked with Jesus and with each other. Since each member shares the One bread and the One cup, Jesus then becomes the communal possession joining all together. Thus the Eucharist draws all believers together into a community and **is** the source of unity.

The Eucharist **is** the Real Presence of Jesus and this is the teaching of the sixth chapter of St. John's Gospel. John's chapter six is referred to as the "Bread of Life Discourse". John's Gospel has no institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper as does

Mark, Matthew, and Luke's Gospel narratives. Chapter Six is John's Eucharistic treatise and he takes a different approach from the other Gospel writers. For John, Eucharist is abundant feeding that brings with it eternal life because the food is the Son of God-Jesus Himself. In John's theology, the Eucharist is about **presence** and **relationship**. Our Catholic theology of the Eucharist focuses on those same two aspects: **presence** and **relationship**. Through the Eucharist we experience an intimate relationship with Jesus in that He remains/dwells in us and we remain/dwell in Him and with one another. The **presence** we experience in the Eucharist is really Jesus' Flesh and His Blood. Our spiritual life requires our eating and drinking of His Flesh and Blood.

Reminiscent of the manna story (today's first reading) the sixth chapter of John's Gospel begins with the only miracle recounted by all four Gospel evangelists- the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves of bread and fish to feed the multitude of hungry people. This is to remind one of the great feeding of the Israelites in the desert with manna from heaven. After the miracle of the multiplication of the bread and fish and feeding the hungry crowd Jesus crosses over to the other side of the lake to rest and pray. When the crowd (curious miracle-seekers) followed on foot around the lake and found Him Jesus tried to raise their hearts from self-preoccupation to the true and real meaning of the Eucharist.

In today's Gospel passage (vs. 51-58) John offers a discourse aimed at unfolding the deeper meaning behind Jesus' feeding of the five thousand and its eventual connection with the Eucharist. John focuses more on the personal dimension of the Eucharist. The dynamic of John's narrative uncovers who Jesus really is- the **Living Bread** that completely satisfies one's hunger and leads one to eternal life. To feed on the flesh of Jesus and to drink His blood is to remain in Him. Hence to receive the Eucharist is to be grounded in the life of Jesus.

In today's Eucharistic passage Jesus asks the crowd to remember the manna that was given to their ancestors in the desert and then he claims that He is this "bread" in person. Jesus declares that His flesh is true food and His blood true drink. Then Jesus points out that unlike the manna that was given to their ancestors in the desert which could only satisfy their hunger for a short time, the **Living Bread** which is Jesus Himself can completely satisfy their hunger for it brings eternal life: "The one who feeds on **My flesh** and drinks **My blood** has life eternal."

Today's celebration of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ encourages us to **remember**. Let us **remember** all of the associations of the Eucharist: the manna in the desert, the multiplication of the loaves, the Last Supper and Holy Mass. Let us **remember** that the Eucharist is God's idea and gift to us. Let us **remember** that the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist isn't physical but rather it is sacramental and deserves our reverence and respect. Let us **remember** that if our hearts are open we will discover Jesus present in the Most Holy Eucharist speaking to us. Let us **remember** that in the Eucharist we commune with Jesus' life, death and resurrection. And finally let us **remember** that our desire for being fed with the Eucharist is symbolic of our wanting to live by the **Word of God**. As St. Augustine said: "It is no use feeding on Christ with our teeth if we are not feeding on Him with our minds," that is, by **faith**. Our union with Jesus and with one another only takes place through the Eucharist. 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 God continue to bless you in your Vocation of Fatherhood.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL LENTEN APPEAL  
UPDATE  
"I GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE"  
John 13:15

We began our Annual Diocesan Lenten Appeal on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Our Parish assessment figure for this year is **\$104,900**. As of June 15th **388** families/households have pledged **\$103,749.76** and we have collected **\$79,163.43**. I want to express my appreciation and gratitude and say **Thank you** to all those who have already made pledges and have given to this year's appeal.

As you can see we are **\$1150.24** short of our goal. According to our recent Parish Census there are approximately **1200** families/households in our community. I humbly ask and pray that those who have **not** made a pledge as of yet will kindly consider doing so. This way we will be able to make our assessment. You do **not** have to pay off your pledge all at once. You can pay it off weekly or monthly. If you need a Pledge Envelope you may pick one up in the Parish Office or in the Church narthex.

The funds collected for the Lenten Appeal help support the numerous Pastoral, Charitable, Educational, and Spiritual Programs in our diocese. Please note that funds collected during this year's Appeal that surpass our Parish assessment figure will be returned to us and placed in our Parish Saving's Account. Likewise, if we do not meet our assessment figure, funds will be taken out of our Savings Account to make up the difference. May God bless you and your loved ones for your kindness, generosity and support of this year's appeal.

Gratefully,  
Fr. John

MASS INTENTIONS

**Monday, June 19, St. Romuald, Abbot**

- 7:00      † Charles & Joan Tucker  
9:00      † Thomas Pagerly

**Tuesday, June 20**

- 7:00      † Dorothy Huber  
9:00      † Martha Moran

**Wednesday, June 21, St. Aloysius Gonzaga,  
Religious**

- 7:00      † Souls in Purgatory  
9:00      † Dave Huff

**Thursday, June 22, St. Paulinus of Nola, Bishop;  
Sts. John Fisher, Bishop and Thomas More,  
Martyrs**

- 7:00      † Souls in Purgatory  
9:00      Wedding of Maggie & Sean  
McMahon

**Friday, June 23, The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**

- 7:00      † Charles & Elizabeth Tucker  
9:00      † Jim Hondo

**Saturday, June 24, The Nativity of St. John the  
Baptist**

- 9:00      Intentions in the prayer box  
5:00      † Teresa Peters

**Sunday, June 25**

- 7:30      For the Parishioners  
9:00      † Ron & Mary Theresa Brynarsky  
11:00     † Mary Linck

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

We will be publishing the names of your dear loved ones who are seriously ill or injured. *We will keep them in the bulletin for one month.* 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.

**June 4:** Melissa Kurtz, Janet Tomko Alex Masluk, Elizabeth Farnquist, Anthony, Jean Givler, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Richard Warner, Brendan Holbritter, Anthony Tassa, John Griffis, Duane Hartman, Byron Gift,

Jack McGowan

**May 28:** Ramon Stief, Robert Christian,

**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 Lloyd & Mary Hull.



Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
6-11-17	\$12,055.60	\$14,326.00	(\$2,270.40)
YTD	Amount	YTD Need	Difference
6-11-17	\$696,899.45	\$716,300.00	(\$19,400.55)

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Every time Mass is celebrated, a miracle is performed right before our eyes. The host is transformed into real flesh and the wine into real blood. While faith in what we do not see is essential, sometimes we need a little help. One Sunday in 1263, a German priest, Peter of Prague, was celebrating Mass above the tomb of St. Christina in the town of Bolsena, Italy. When he raised the host, blood started to trickle over his hands and onto the altar. A year later, after investigation and authentication, the miracle was confirmed, and it moved Pope Urban IV to institute the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. The white, blood-stained linen corporal cloth can still be seen in the Orvieto Cathedral north of Rome. Today, as we celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi, let's thank Jesus for this great and wonderful gift—his Body and his Blood. Let's keep our eyes and our hearts open as we witness the Eucharistic miracle take place on the altar of our own churches!

Please Save The Date

**Attention All Families Of Students**

**Entering 6<sup>th</sup> Grade This Fall:**

On Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> Lancaster Catholic High School Will Host The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual I AM Rally.

All OMPH 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Will Be Expected

To Attend The Rally Including RE Students, OMPH School Students, And Home School Students. There Will Be No 6<sup>th</sup> Grade RE Classes That Week So That

**ATTENTION MUSICIANS**

The OMPH Music Ministry invites you to share your musical talents with our parish family. We always welcome new singers, guitarists, pianists, organists, etc. The music ministry is a great way to meet other parishioners and to become more involved in our faith community. If you are interested in learning more about the many different opportunities we have available, I'd be happy to discuss details with you. Just email me, Jill McGowan, at [jmcgowan333@yahoo.com](mailto:jmcgowan333@yahoo.com)



**HERSHEY PARK TICKETS**

You may pick up your Hershey Park tickets in the



Religious Education Corner:

**The Early Bird Rate Deadline Is Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>!**

New Registration Forms (Blue) Can Be  
Found In The Narthex Of The Church  
On The Small Blue Table.

**The New Registration Forms should be used if:**

Your Oldest Child Is Entering Into Public First  
Grade For The 2017/2018 School Year.

Your Child Is In Grades 1-8 And  
Does Not Attend Catholic School.

You Are New To The Parish And  
Your Child Is In Grades 1-8.

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We Are Also Running Our Kindergarten Home-  
Study Program Again For The 2017/2018 RE Year.

This Program Is Intended For Families Whose  
Oldest Child Will Be Attending Public  
Kindergarten This Year.

To Register For This Program Please Complete The

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Calling all inventors! The Maker Fun Factory Robot is "gearing up" for a fantastic VBS July 9-13.

However, the Robot really wants a name. Can you help? Create a name for our Robot and place your "name invention" with contact information in the Think Box by the Robot in the narthex. If the Robot likes your name invention best, you will receive a \$10 gift card to Dairy Queen. Enter as often as your imagination allows. Tune in the first week of July to discover the results!



RESPECT LIFE

David Daleiden single-handedly changed the conversation on abortion in America when he exposed Planned Parenthood's illegal sale of aborted baby body parts -- a federal felony. He got them on the record confessing to manipulating their abortion procedures to "preserve" the most marketable parts of children's bodies. He recorded conversation after conversation proving that Planned Parenthood profits on both sides of abortion by charging women for their "services" and then selling the remains of their murdered children to the highest bidder.

Planned Parenthood responded by dispatching their pro-abortion ally, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, to do their dirty work by charging David with 15 felonies.

Life Legal Defense Organization has a petition you can sign to protest this travesty of justice, here: [https://secure.giveworks.net/lifelegal/sign\\_the\\_petition\\_now2](https://secure.giveworks.net/lifelegal/sign_the_petition_now2)

Pray for David and his defense team as they face the army of Planned Parenthood's lawyers, the prospect of years in jail

Andrea Ostrowski

A Woman's Concern is seeking a part-time receptionist for our N. Duke St. location. The receptionist is the first connection person for individuals seeking pregnancy help and



support and must be passionately pro-life and have excellent communication and computer skills.

We are also seeking a Marketing & Events intern from September-November. This person must be either a current college student or recent graduate.

Please contact our office for a full job description and application for either position at 394-1561.

### LEGION OF MARY FAMILY PICNIC

All active and auxiliary members and their families are invited to the Annual Indoor Picnic will be held on June 24 from 11 AM – to 1 PM at St. Leo's in Marietta. Air condition, chairs, bathrooms, bug free. Reserve your spot or get a ride by calling Mary Leffler at 484-706-0627.



### OMPH ALUMNI

We will be having a school reunion Saturday, September 16 in the gym for anyone in the classes of 1960-2009. This is a 21 and over event. Flyers are available in the narthex. More information can be found on our Facebook page: OMPH Reunion or by calling Lauren (DePaul) Caramenico (Class of '94) at 314-1806.

### 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, July 29, 2017 and Saturday, August 5, 2017 from 8:00 am to 12 noon. You must attend both days. If interested call Charlotte and Bob Galgon at 717-733-4369.



Lancaster Catholic High School seeks a part-time Admissions & Marketing Communications Assistant to join the Advancement Team. The qualified candidate will need strong critical thinking skills in order to integrate into our vibrant and passionate team and will assist the Public Relations Director and Admissions Counselor to carry out various Admissions and Marketing tactics for Lancaster Catholic High School. Please contact Kevin Carver or Kyla Hockley or call .509.0315 (ext. 126)

### SACRED HEART PARISH

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lancaster is seeking a person with organ/choir experience by July 1. Approximately 15 hours /week. Music degree desirable. We have a Three – manual Gundling pipe organ.

**Responsibilities include:** Weekend and Holy Day Masses, special liturgies and services, funerals and weddings.

**Choir responsibilities include:** adult choir, and cantors.

For a complete job description call the rectory at 394-0757 or email us at [@sacredheartsch.org](mailto:@sacredheartsch.org). Salary commensurate with experience.

Thank you.

### OMPH SCHOOL REGISTRATION 2017-18



WE ARE ENROLLING! Registration is now open for all parish families for Preschool through Grade 8 for the 2017-2018 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 738-2414.

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!