

My Dear Parishioners,

Our God could work alone if He wanted to but God doesn't work alone since He calls and chooses people to help do His work. From the beginning God engaged people in the works of creations and salvation: Adam named the animals, Noah built the ark, Abraham and Sarah birthed a nation and Moses led God's Chosen People to freedom. The prophets, priests and kings of Israel all were given a job: to encourage and challenge their people to be faithful to God, to love one another and to care for the earth that was entrusted to Adam and Eve. Our God **does** interact with His people through other people. Our God chooses and calls people to continue doing His work.

In **today's** first reading we are introduced to one of the great characters of the Old Testament, Amos a farmer turned prophet. Amos lived in the eighth century B.C. and he came from a small village in the hill country of Judah in the Southern Kingdom. He experienced a call from God that wrenched him away from his work on his land, impelling him to work for God as a prophet in the Northern Kingdom. Around the year 760 B.C. Amos arrived at one of the most prestigious sanctuaries on the Northern Kingdom, Bethel. It was a time of great material prosperity and power in Israel. The land was full of plenty, the cities were elegantly built, the palaces were strongly defended and the rich had their villas adorned in costly ivory. Unfortunately at the same time there was falling social and religious standards characterized by widespread corruption and immorality. The poor were afflicted, exploited, and even sold into slavery. There was an absence of justice and pity in the land; the judges were corrupt and the innocents betrayed. In the midst of all this luxury and misery, religion flourished. People thronged to the shrines at festival time to practice elaborate ritual. Amos regarded the religious services as a counterfeit enterprise abhorrent to God so he spoke the word of God: "I hate and despise your feasts; I take no pleasure in your solemn festivals. I reject your oblations and refuse to look at your sacrifices of fattened cattle. Let me have no more of the din of your chanting..... (Amos 5: 21-24).

Called the "**Prophet of Social Justice**" Amos spoke out against the economic, religious and social ills of his day. However, Amos had three things going against him. First, his message of "**social and economic justice**" was unpopular among the high-living wealthy who were the ones benefiting most from the extraordinary economic expansion at the time. Second, Amos was a simple Southern dirt-farmer from Judah now in the royal shrine of Bethel, one of the sophisticated Northern territory of Israel's most prominent sanctuaries. And lastly, Amos, poor himself, spoke aloud of his insights that the evils around him stemmed from greed. The reactions against Amos were no different than they are **today** in those places where there is a huge gap between rich and poor or where the words of prophecy come from people who have no official standing. As we heard in **today's** reading the powerful priest Amaziah attacked Amos bitterly and told him to leave and never show his face there again. Amos' humble answer was that he was no professional prophet. He did not become a prophet by self-appointment or by royal appointment; he was conscripted by God for the declared purpose of announcing God's message and doing God's work. Amos' loyalty to God's word has clear priority over any other loyalty in his life and because of his loyalty to God's word he is eventually expelled from Israel.

According to the author of Ephesians (our second reading) God chooses and calls people to be members of His council. God calls His confidants to share in His work and decision making. The author argues that salvation in Christ is not an afterthought; it was God's plan from the beginning. Furthermore, the believers were not chosen **because** they were holy and blameless but because **that they might become** holy and blameless. For unfathomable reasons, God has chosen us for blessings which are otherwise found only in heaven. Why did God choose to give us so many spiritual blessings? The author gives three reasons: God wants us to be **holy**-to be set apart, to be different from the ordinary; God wants us to be **blameless** -to be respectable and worthy; and God wants us to be filled with His kind of **love**- to know we are redeemed and share the message of redemption with others. The author insists that all this was done

so that God's plan would finally be brought to fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

St. Mark reminds us that God chooses and calls people to be His disciples and missionaries. In Mark 1; 16-20 Jesus summoned four fishermen (Peter, Andrew, James and John) and immediately they left their fishing boats and pointed their lives in a new and challenging direction called **discipleship**. In **today's** Gospel passage Mark describes the process Jesus used to call others to **discipleship** and the number is increased to twelve. Jesus summons His twelve apostles and sends them out on a missionary tour to do His work. Jesus authorizes and empowers them to assist Him in the work of proclaiming the Good News in word and by deed.

Like the prophet Amos who had been sent to preach **social justice** and Paul who had been sent to preach **repentance** to the Gentiles, Jesus' chosen apostles were sent to bring the Word of God as a **challenge** to all. In their mission the apostles traveled knowing that they had the authority and power of Jesus to drive out unclean spirits, heal the sick, teach, and preach repentance to all. The apostles were to go forth in such utter simplicity, complete trust, and phenomenal generosity that they weren't to take much more with them than the clothes on their backs and they were always to give of themselves. They weren't to demand anything in return but had the right to rely upon other's hospitality. Not creating any message of their own, the apostles were to present Jesus' own meaning of life: conversion of heart, a total and radical reorientation. Disturbing to those whose way of life was just a dawdling toward death, this meant a vigorous turning around of one's whole value system-away from self and in the direction of intense service in behalf of God and others. And when a town rejects their message, the apostles are to shake the dust from their feet-a symbolic act of ridding themselves of any unclean substance that might profane the land of Israel.

Just as God called Amos, Paul and the Apostles to service so too we are called to service. God continues to choose to send us out as He did with the prophets and the first disciples. The world needs God's message more than ever: God wants a family

that will be faithful to Him, loving each other and caring for His creation. God calls us all to drive out the evil spirits of racism, selfishness, and prejudice in ourselves and in our community. God calls us to heal-to bring hope and joy to the bereaved, the rejected, the depressed, and the overwhelmed among our families, friends, and neighbors. God calls us to preach the Good News of God's love for all, not necessary in words but in acts of charity. God calls us to trust in Him and not worry about material things. God wants a holy people. This holiness (grace) comes as a gift from God, if people accept it. For this message to get out people are needed. Therefore, God calls all of us to be His messengers and help Him with His work. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,

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 19th and Thursday, September 20th. 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). 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 and click on the Fall Conference link. We'll see YOU in September!

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, July 16, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

7:00 • Magurite Tubay

Tuesday, July 17

7:00 • Sabina Krajewska

Wednesday, July 18, St. Camillus, de Lellis, Priest

- 7:00 •Felix Zawadzki
- 9:00 •Charles Rosini Sr.

Thursday, July 19

- 7:00 •Jean Givler

Friday, July 20, St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr

- 7:00 •John Semmer

**Saturday, July 21, St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest
and Doctor of the Church**

- 9:00 •Florence Lynch
- 5:00 •Peter Byrne

Sunday, July 22, 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30 For the Parishioners
- 9:00 •Janet Tomko
- 11:00 Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict

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.

June 24: Phoenix Rann, Margaret Gardner, Brenda Crawford, Jennifer Ranker, 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, Don Tellam, George Seuber.

CHURCH SUPPORT

YTD	Amount	Needed	Difference
7-1-18	\$14,312.50	\$14,300.00	\$12.50
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
7-1-18	\$14,212.50	\$14,300.00	\$12.50

YTD	Amount	Needed	Difference
7-8-18	\$13,972.89	\$14,300.00	(\$327.11)
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
7-8-18	\$28,285.39	\$28,600.00	(\$314.61)

PARISH OFFICE

**The Parish office will be open
July 16-20 from 9 to Noon**

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

When we hear that God chose us before the foundation of the world, it can sound so theoretical. We think of "us" as a universal group: God's people. And while we are all part of this large group, we are not just anonymous members of the crowd. God's love for us is not generalized. It is personal and specific. He loves you for who you are. He loves you in the best way you can be loved. As overwhelming as this may sound, let this truth sink in today. Even if there were 100 trillion people, it doesn't matter. You—with all your quirks and idiosyncrasies—were in God's mind and in his heart from the beginning. He created you with a specific purpose, and he longs for you to be with him forever! Here's one way to ponder this amazing truth: take today's second reading, and wherever you see the word "us," substitute your name. For example, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed [your name] in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose [your name] in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him".

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 Margaret Strubel Kauffman.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are asking for volunteers to wash windows in the church. If you can help call Sandy at 717-733-9453



THANK YOU FROM YOUR....

Have you ever looked at the food bank crate in the narthex as you walk into mass on the weekend?

The crate is ALWAYS overflowing with non-perishables donated by YOU, the OMPH parishioners.

We are extremely humbled by the unending support of our parish in our quest to help those struggling in Northern Lancaster County. So, THANK YOU!

Our food bank is open Wednesday evenings from 5-6:30pm on the grounds of St. Clement Mission House. If you know of any local families who can use help with food, please send them to one of our distributions to see if they qualify. Any parishioner who needs help with food is welcome at any time without any need for financial qualification.

Our current needs are: instant mashed potatoes, green beans, canned corn, and baked beans.

Religious Education Corner:

Please Look For RE Registrations Forms For The 2018/2019 RE Year Soon. Please Stay Tuned To The Bulletin For More Details Regarding Registration. An Email Will Also Be Sent Once The Forms Have Been Sent And Are Available.

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.

Email: omphreled@dejazzd.com

Phone: 717-738-4517

Kelly Lawrence

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

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 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.

TREASURE ISLAND DONATION WISH LIST

The Development Office of OMPH School is starting to plan for their annual Treasure Island Auction on Saturday, **November 3**. The event benefits the students of OMPH School. Anything you can donate to assist in making these events successful is appreciated.

Vacations/House Rentals
Parties/Events
Once in a Lifetime Experiences
Tickets
Travel
Electronics
Jewelry
Sports & Leisure
Outdoor Equipment
Accessories
Art
Amusement Parks
Theme Baskets
Gifts Certificates

Donations can be dropped off to the Development Office. Any questions, please call the Development Office at 717-738-2414. All Donations are tax deductible. OMPH School thanks you for your generosity!

CHARISMATIC DAY OF RENEWAL



The Harrisburg Diocesan Charismatic Day of Renewal will be held at the Cardinal Keeler Center, on Saturday, September 22 from 8AM – 4 PM.

Theme: Wind and Fire of the Holy Spirit
Topics: The Holy Spirit & Biblical Living and Discernment & Healing.

Keynote Speaker – Sister Pamela Smith, SS.C.M., Ph.D., Secretary for Education and Faith Formation for the Diocese of Charleston, SC.

"For over 40 years, Sr. Pam has served in education and administration in several dioceses. At present, in the Diocese of Charleston, SC, she oversees Catholic schools, parish religious education, youth ministry, young adult ministry and campus ministry across the state. Sr. Pam is the author of twelve books and numerous articles and poems dealing with spirituality, morality, and Sacred Scripture. She holds a Ph.D. in theology from Duquesne University. Her volunteer ministry is with the St. Francis Center at St. Helena Island. She resides with five other sisters from her community in Bluffton, SC."

Registrations can be made by downloading and completing a registration form and mailing it with a check in the amount of \$20 per person made payable to Diocese of Harrisburg Charismatic Renewal, c/o Jackie Curran, Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, 4800 Union Deposit Rd. Harrisburg, Pa. 17111 or call Joyce at 717-308-7245 for a registration postcard or questions. On-line registrations or a registration form download can be made at aliveinthepirit.net or you can also register online at hbgdiocese.org/renewal. Registrations made prior to September 10 will include lunch. Please do not call the Diocese to register. Additional information can be found at aliveinthepirit.net.

EPHRATA CARES INITIATIVE

Bringing awareness of addiction and the hope of recovery to our community. The *Ephrata Cares Initiative* will be holding a **Family Movie Night** on **Saturday, July 21**. There will be activities for children beginning at 8PM with the movie starting at 9PM at the Ephrata Public Library. This is an outside

event but will meet in the library in case of rain. **The movie being shown is *The Secret Lives of Pets*.**

We are looking for individuals or groups that would be willing to sponsor a free activity for children. Examples: face painting, games, etc. Ephrata Cares is a community based group of people who are committed to fighting the opioid crisis in our area. We would love for your congregation, youth group or small groups to join us as we bring the hope of recovery to our community. Please contact **Kim Warner** Ephrata Cares Volunteer at 717-344-2307 or respond to this email with any questions or if your congregation can help.

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://revenue-pa.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/3399/kw/529%20withdrawals/session/L3RpbWUvMTUxODYzOTc2MS9zaWQvWXBpQnJqRm4%3D.

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