

My Dear Parishioners,

The modern author Parker Palmer tells the following story:

The plane taxied to the edge of the runway and stopped. Then the captain made the announcement every passenger dreads. A storm had shut down all major airports and because other aircraft had already filled the gates back to the terminal the plane had to remain on the runway. And to make matters worse the crew discovered that the airline's catering service had not restocked the plane. All the food and beverage compartments were empty. Naturally the passengers were angry and let the crew know it. Then suddenly one of the flight attendants did something extraordinary. She took the intercom mike and said: "We're really sorry folks. We didn't plan it this way and there's not much we can do about it. Some of you are really **hungry** and you were looking forward to lunch. Some of you may have a medical condition and really need some food. So here's what we're going to do. I have a couple of empty breadbaskets up here and we're going to pass them around and we're asking you to put something in the basket. Perhaps some of you brought a little snack along; something to tide you over, like crackers, candy bars, or chewing gum. Everybody put something in the basket and we'll reverse the process. We'll pass the baskets around again and everybody can take out what he or she needs." What happened next was amazing. The complaining stopped and tempers cooled. People started to rummage through their handbags, briefcases and pockets. Boxes of candy, snacks and even a ring of salami appeared and everything was shared. The flight attendant had transformed a mob focused on need and deprivation into a **community of giving and abundance**. When interviewed the flight attendant said that she got the idea from the Gospel story in which Jesus transforms a mass of hungry people into a **community of sharing**."

Today's Gospel passage is from St. John's sixth chapter (parts of which will be read for the next four Sundays.) Today's passage- the multiplication of the loaves of bread and fish with the feeding of the 5,000 constitutes one of the most important and highly regarded miracles of Jesus in the eyes of the early and modern Church. It is the only miracle of Jesus

recorded in all four Gospels and the only miracle assigned as a Sunday reading in each of the three cycles of the Liturgical Year. The version for today's liturgy comes from John and differs from the account presented in the Synoptic Gospels (Mark Matthew and Luke.) Jesus is totally in control of the situation. Jesus is the assertive one regarding food for the enormous crowd as He distributes the loaves and the fish and **feeds** the crowd.

Today's Gospel story of Jesus taking bread, giving thanks, and distributing the bread reflects the **Most Holy Eucharist**. The **Eucharist** is a special kind of bread: one which we need as much for the nourishment of our **spiritual life** as we need material bread for our bodily life. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "To the poor man, God does not appear except in the form of bread and the promise of work." The **Eucharist** renews the deepest springs of our humanity through bread broken which is eaten for the life of the world. The **Eucharist** makes us companions (literally "**bread-sharers**.") The miracle of the multiplication of the loaves shows God's **abundance** in which we recall the abundant wine of Cana, the abundant water which Jesus promised the Samaritan woman at the well, and the abundance of the Holy Spirit which would be poured out upon the apostles on Pentecost.

The miraculous multiplication of the loaves and fish is one of only seven miracles that John includes in his Gospel to reveal who Jesus truly is. The miracle of the loaves and fish supports a major theme of John's Gospel: Jesus is the way to eternal life. In today's passage John begins by telling us Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee to escape the crowds. There He ascended a mountain to be alone with His disciples. In Scripture a mountain is typically the place where revelation from God takes place. John next points out that the Jewish feast of Passover was near. Mention of Passover would be sufficient to remind his readers of the great leader Moses. It was Moses who led the Jewish people from the slavery of Egypt to the freedom of the Promised Land. During their forty-year trek through the desert Moses managed to provide for their physical hunger with bread from heaven in the form of manna at dawn and quail from the sky at dusk. John uses the setting to enable the reader to discover that Jesus is the **New Moses**. Jesus is The One

designated by God to lead all people safely to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Eventually the crowd track Jesus down and gather on the mountain to listen to Him and seek His healing power. Jesus notices the crowd and then the dilemma begins: how will all these people be fed? John's story presents for our consideration three people and their solutions for the "feeding dilemma." Jesus asks Philip what to do about feeding the crowd and all Philip could see were the difficulties: "a half year's wages wouldn't buy enough food for each of them to have a little bit." Philip concludes immediately and correctly that it would be impossible to feed such a huge crowd. Like some of us, Philip seemed reluctant to get involved in a problem/difficulty that looked too big to solve. Andrew knew the logistics too but his attitude was a bit more optimistic, pointing to a boy who had five barley loaves and two fish. Barley was the cheapest kind of bread (the "bread of the poor.") Mention of the barley loaves sets the miracle against the backdrop of our First Reading (2 Kings 4:42-44) in which Elisha miraculously feeds a hundred men with twenty barley loaves. It's hard to tell what Andrew had in mind in bringing forward the loaves and fish but he had faith in Jesus and felt it was worthwhile to take a chance. Then there was the unnamed boy who had fish for himself or perhaps he had purchased it for his family. The boy had the innocence, trust, and openness which were among the qualities that Jesus admired in children. The boy came forth and as far as he knew, if he gave up his food he wouldn't be getting anything back. But he gave his bread and fish to Jesus and the miracle happens. Not only does everyone get fed but there is an abundance of leftovers filling twelve baskets. The response of the people who had been miraculously fed was to proclaim that Jesus was truly the **Prophet** who was to come into the world and that He **is the One** who provides sustenance in abundance to all in need. Jesus' action discloses that He **is** the revelation of God on earth.

The multiplication of the loaves and fish did not start with nothing. Jesus was able to feed the crowds because one unnamed boy was willing to give all that he had and share it with others. From the boy's gift (small though it was) Jesus worked a miracle. **Eucharist** is possible only when self defers to

community, only when serving others is exalted over being served, only when differences dissolve and the common and shared are honored above all else. In the **Most Holy Eucharist** we seek to become what we receive: one bread, one cup, one body, one family. Christ calls each of us to become the **Eucharist** we receive: giving thanks for who we have received by sharing with one another those gifts-our talents, riches, ourselves-working our own miracles of creating communities of faithful charity. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,

Fr. John

#### MISSIONARY COOPERATIVE COLLECTION

We welcome Rev. Andrew Berinyoy, Sch.p next weekend to our Parish. Fr. Berinyoy is a priest who ministers in Africa. He will share with us stories about his essential mission ministry there. Hear about his challenges and successes. Hear how he is making a difference in helping the lives of the people he serves. **We** can make a difference by sharing with him our prayers and financial support. There will be a Second Collection at all our masses next weekend to support Fr. Berinyoy's ministry. Thank you.

#### MASS INTENTIONS

##### Monday, July 30

7:00 †Sidney Mash

##### Tuesday, July 31, St. Ignatius pf Loyola, Priest

7:00 † Leon Dion

##### Wednesday, August 1, St. Alphons Liguori

7:00 Redemptorist Fathers

9:00 †John Semmer

##### Thursday, August 2, St. Eusebius of Vercelli,

**Bishop, St Peter Julian Eymard, Priest**

7:00 †Jeanne Marie Donely

##### Friday, August 3

7:00 †Avelina Imperial

##### Saturday, August 4, St. John Vianney, Priest

9:00 †John Semmer

5:00 †John & Helen Phillips

##### Sunday, August 5, 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 For the Parishioners

9:00 George & Eileen Vazquez

11:00 †Intention of the 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, 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, Don Tellam, George Seuber, Jeff Gorman.

**CHURCH  SUPPORT**

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
7-22-18	\$	\$	\$
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
7-22-18	\$	\$	\$

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**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Over the next few Sundays, we will hear how Jesus explains this miracle and how important it is for us. He'll tell us that this multiplied bread points to the true Bread of Life—his own Eucharistic flesh, which he will give “for the life of the world” (John 6:51). He'll tell us that this special Bread of Life is greater even than the manna that Moses gave the Israelites in the desert (6:32). And best of all, he'll promise to raise up “on the last day” everyone who eats this bread with faith and trust in him (6:54). These are only three of the many promises Jesus has made to us. He promises to be with us, to teach us, to heal us, and to lift us up. He promises to feed us with his very life, and after this life, he promises to open heaven itself for us. This is how good Jesus is!

Today is a perfect day to fix your eyes on Jesus, the Bread of Life offered at Mass, and thank him for everything he has promised you. It's also a perfect day

to tell him that you want to keep following him so that you can receive each and every blessing he has in store for 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 the Bakajza, Walk, Hoover, & Daubert Families.

**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 on 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:**

**The Early Bird Rate Deadline Is Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>!**

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

**The New RE Registration Forms Should Be Used If:**

Your Oldest Child Is Entering Into Public First Grade For The 2018/2019 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.

We Are Also Running Our Kindergarten Home-Study Program Again For The 2018/2019 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 Pink Registration Papers Found In The Narthex Of The Church On The Small Blue Table And Return Them To The RE Office.

**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**

**LCHS CLASS REUNION**

Save the date for the LCHS Class of 1978 40th Reunion! - Football Game Friday October 12th @ LCHS stadium and the class gathering on October 13th 2018 @ the Barnstormer Stadium. Please contact [mari.himmelright@gmail.com](mailto:mari.himmelright@gmail.com) with any questions. Look forward to seeing you!



**This Year's I AM Rally Theme:**  
**"made to love"**

**Please Save The Date**

**Attention All Families Of Students In 6<sup>th</sup> Grade For The 2018/2019 School Year:**

On Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> Lancaster Catholic High School Will Host The 6<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 All 6<sup>th</sup> Grade RE Students Can Attend The Rally.

**Please Note: Any Seventh Or Eighth Grade Student Who Was Unable To Attend A Previous Rally Is Expected To Attend This Year's Rally.**

**A Mailing About The Rally Will Be Sent Out Soon!**

Please Contact Kelly Lawrence In The RE Office With Any Questions [omphreled@dejazzd.com](mailto:omphreled@dejazzd.com)

**Attention Previous I AM Rally Attendees:**

**Any Seventh Or Eighth Grade Student Who Would Like To Attend The Rally Again This Year Is U:LL.**

**YEARLINGS**

We will meet for lunch at the Rivera Restaurant in Reamstown at 1:30 on Tuesday August 21. Because of not having a meeting in September we are setting a later than usual date. All are welcome. Call Gloria at

717-738-9098.



### RESPECT LIFE

Judge Brett Kavanaugh is an excellent nominee for the Supreme Court, with a solid history of conservative rulings and a respect for the constitution. A highly respected judge, you can read about his many credentials at [catholicvote.org](http://catholicvote.org), or at the special website of priests for life to promote his confirmation: [www.SupremeCourtVictory.com](http://www.SupremeCourtVictory.com). You will find numerous resources to read and share in regards to the confirmation process of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, including a prayer and action items. Grassroots pressure on Senators is encouraged for them to hold a fair and speedy confirmation hearing. Because the media and many Democratic Senators vocally oppose any candidate nominated by President Trump, it is important to let our Senators know our approval of Judge Kavanaugh. Here's contact info for the Senators we need you to call:

Senator Majority Leader Mitch McConnell Phone: (202) 224-3135

Sen. Chuck Grassley, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee Phone: (202) 224-5225  
When you contact their offices, please tell them that you stand with them and support their efforts to quickly to confirm Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court.

Senator Robert Casey Phone: (202) 224-6324  
Tell Senator Casey to support Brett Kavanaugh, as his current website blasts any possible nominee from President Trump with insults and name calling. He is up for re-election this fall.  
The Supreme Court could be returned to its function as ruling on the laws, rather than it' recent functions a creating "rights" from thin air. Pray for our country!  
Andrea Ostrowski

### 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. 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.