

My Dear Parishioners,

Fr. Pat McGarrity, C.Ss.R. has graciously accepted my invitation to share his thoughts on our Scripture Readings for the next two Sundays. Thank you Fr. Pat for your inspiring thoughts and words.

Once again, the liturgy brings us back to reflections on that greatest of sacraments, the Holy Eucharist. Today's readings remind us that we who receive the Eucharist are to "Taste and See the goodness of the Lord" (Responsorial). This food prompts us to, "Get rid of all bitterness, all fury and anger, harsh words, slander and malice of every kind (Ephesians 4:31), and, like Elijah, who was strengthened by miraculous food in the first reading, continue our journey to the mountain of the Lord.

The first reading (I Kings 19:4-8) tells the story of Elijah's 40-day flight across the desert. The Introductory verses (1-3) reveal why Elijah is fleeing. King Ahab had told his wife, Queen Jezebel, how Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal, the fertility god, to a test that would show which god, Baal or Yahweh, was the true God. Although the Israelites believed in Yahweh, they thought of Him only as their Warrior God, and still had not been convinced, in spite of all of God's teachings through His prophets, that He is the only God. Having settled in the land of Canaan and engaged in farming to provide a living, they imitated the Canaanites in their worship of Baal as the god of the fields. Queen Jezebel was a Canaanite. Her husband, Ahab, now told her in verses 1-3 how Elijah had demonstrated that Yahweh was the only God by having Him send fire from heaven to consume a bull that was placed on the altar as sacrifice. The prophets of Baal had called on Baal the whole day long, asking him to show his power, but nothing had happened. After Elijah demonstrated that Yahweh was the true God, he put all the prophets of Baal to death (according to Israelite law found in Deuteronomy 18:20) Jezebel sent a message to Elijah that, within the next 24 hours, she would have him killed. To our amazement, we are told that, in fear, Elijah fled for his life (v.3). As the story continues, we see that there is more than fear involved. He is frustrated and fed up with God's People. He recognizes that, like the prophet before him, he has failed, and that he proved "no better than my fathers." With that recognition he calls on God to take his life.

In the desert now, and exhausted, he lays down under a broom tree, expecting to die. But God sends an angel to him with miraculous food, and insists that Elijah eat and drink. Nourished and strengthened in more than a physical way by God's food Elijah then travels 40 days through the desert to the mountain of God. On the mountain, the same mountain where God appeared to Moses and presented him with the covenant, Elijah experienced God in a new way. "Taste and See the goodness of the Lord.

The story of the miraculous feeding of Elijah is suitable preface to Jesus's revelation in the Gospel of John of how God will feed His People with the Bread of Life.

Eight times in this Chapter 6 of the Gospel of John, Jesus speaks of Himself as having come from Heaven. That the crowd understood what He was saying is evident from their reaction. They met His revelation with murmured protest: "How could He come from heaven? This is Joseph's boy. We know His father and mother. How dare He claim to have come from Heaven!" (John 6:41-51.)

"Stop your murmuring," Jesus tells them, and says that the only ones who can come to Him are those who are taught by God. He is referring to God's teachings in the Scriptures. He is referring to those who have tasted and seen God's goodness.

The crowd before Him was composed of people who listen often to the Scriptures read in their temple. They knew the Scriptures but obviously they did not understand; they had not truly tasted. The whole scene suggests a parallel and comparison with us. We hear the Scriptures. We know the Scriptures. But then, where is our enthusiasm and/or commitment? Have we rid ourselves of bitterness, fury, anger, malice?

Jesus tells them: "I am the Bread of life...the bread that comes down from Heaven...if anyone eats this bread, he shall live forever! The bread I will give is my flesh, for the life of the world."

If we truly taste this Bread, then this Bread will enable us, as the miraculous food fed to Elijah, to find the strength to continue our journey to the mountain of God. Blessings to all, Fr. Pat

Feast of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



August 15th is The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This day is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Vigil Mass for the Assumption will be celebrated on Tuesday, August 14th at 7 PM. Masses will be celebrated on August 15th at 7AM, 9AM, and 7 PM.

ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS



The Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg is hosting a night for **young adults' ages 21 to 40** from throughout the region called **Get Connected on Saturday, September 22**. The evening will begin with a 5 pm Vigil Mass at Saint Rose of Lima Church, York, followed by lite fare and a social at the Veranda Room at the York Fairgrounds. Registration and detailed information may be found at: www.hbgdiocese.org/getconnected or follow this event on Facebook.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

This week (August 13-16) the Parish Office will **only** be open from **9AM until Noon time**. Please note that the Parish Office **will not** be open on **Friday, August 17th**.
Thank you. Fr. John

RECENT BAPTISMS

Our OMPH Family has welcomed these children who have received the Sacrament of Baptism:

July-December 2017: Max Anthony Brubaker, Jacob John Rebilas, Anna Maria Leshner, Ari Irudaya Sarath, Mariella Frances Schillaci, Finley Rose Schulze, Anderson Reese Schulze, Sadie Rose Chernigo, Finley John Forsyth, Alexis Lynn Pickel, Clara Marie Nichols, Logan Stanley Nichols, Greyson Garrick Wolf, Harmony Elizabeth Pierce, Magnus Michael Pierce, John Matthew Woods, Madison Renee Haws, Penelope Aurora Hummer, John Edward Soley.

January-July 2018: Madilyn Claire Czarnecki, William Reed Sheakley, Olivia Ann Fryberger, Madelyn Grace Ridall, Emma Mikus-Cartagena, Aliyah Lynn Shue, Alice Margaret Ober, Lily Elizabeth Ober, Kellan Donald Pisker, Craig Donald Hall, Rose Marie Wickersham, John William Vazquez, Blair Douglas Boyer, Miles William Scott, Tyus Mukherji, Addison Malin Yancoskie, Sophia Jolin Yancoskie, Benjamin Finn Price, Quinn Eloise Keefer, Cordelia Rose Burkhart.

UPCOMING BAPTISMS

For parents planning to have their child receive the Sacrament of Baptism please know:

- If you choose a godparent who is a practicing Catholic from OMPH parish, no sponsor certificate is needed
- If you choose a godparent who is a practicing Catholic at another Catholic Church, they will need to obtain a sponsor certificate from their Pastor before scheduling the Baptism at OMPH
- Baptisms are scheduled as part of the celebration of Mass during the 1st and 3rd weekends of the month: Saturday, 5:00 p.m., Sunday, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- There are 3 steps in OMPH's Baptisms: Welcoming (a Baptism Companion visits the family, Gathering (Baptism class given by our priest) and the Baptism
- Dates for the upcoming Gathering sessions (Baptism class) are: August 26, September 30, and October 28.
- November 25, December 16.
Ben & Par Dangelo schedule the Baptisms with guidance from Fr. John. Please Call Ben or Pat at 717-738-0272.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 13, Sts. Pontian & Hippolytus

7:00 ✠Leo Tubay

Tuesday, August 14, St. Maximilian Kolbe

7:00 ✠Jean Givler

7:00 ✠Byron Gift

Wednesday, August 15, Assumption of the Blessed

Virgin Mary

7:00 ✠Stephanie Mash

9:00 ✠John Semmer

7:00 ✠Bill Barshinger

Thursday, August 16, St. Stephen of Hungary

7:00 ✠Dan & Jean McCune

Friday, August 17

7:00 ✠Gloria Potente

Saturday, August 18

9:00 ✠Lucy Marrone

5:00 ✠Tom & Lillian Gallina

Sunday, August 20, Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 For the Parishioners

9:00 ✠Frances Caminiti

11:00 ✠Andy Zipfel

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, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Michael Lillis, Richard Warner, Kevin Kaiser, Jody Shimp, Anna Leshner, Florence Windish, Gloria Reynolds, Susan Buchler, Bill Garcedau, Gloria Reynolds, Tracy Yeakel, Paula Karem, Greg Garred, Mary Hohowski, Don Tellam, George Seuber, Jeff Gorman, Wanda Rutt, and Pat Fry.

CHURCH  SUPPORT

| Date | Amount | Needed | Difference |
|------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 8-5-18 | \$ | \$14,300.00 | \$ |
| YTD | Amount | YTD Needed | Difference |
| 8-5-18 | \$ | \$85,800.00 | \$ |

FORMED

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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

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

In a matter of days, Elijah went from complete jubilation to complete depression. He went from fearless confidence in God to fearing for his life. He went from feeling like a special messenger of God to feeling like a fruitless and worthless vine. It was so bad that Elijah even asked God to take his life.

In this dire moment, God sent some food and an angel to help Elijah. Like Elijah, we all have moments of jubilation and moments of discouragement. We may be in prison, we may be dealing with difficulties at work or at home, we may have lost our confidence and feel like a failure. These moments of hardship can sap the life right out of us.

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus telling people that he is the Bread of Life "that came down from heaven". Even greater than the food that God provided for Elijah, Jesus offers us living bread, his own flesh. He offers us his own life in the Eucharist so that we don't ever have to lose hope. As we take and eat, Jesus can minister to our fearful and broken hearts.

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 Robert Governanti.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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



Religious Education Corner:

The RE Regular Tuition Rate Is Now In Effect Through Friday, August 31st

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



Thank you to the anonymous charitable parishioner for weeding the flower bed around the peace pole. God bless you.

**BLACK CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE
SUMMER PICNIC**

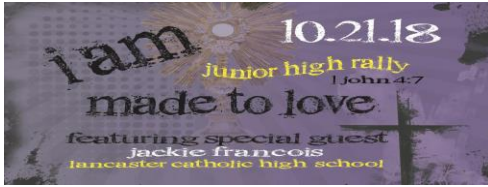
The Black Catholic Apostolate in sponsoring a family and friends picnic that will be held on Sunday August 26 at noon at the River Front Pavilion on City Island, Harrisburg. *All are invited!* Meat and drinks will be provided. Those attending are asked to bring a favorite covered dish or dessert to share. Also bring your favorite games to play. For additional information and to RSVP, please contact Gwen Summers at (717) 954-4620, or email jcurran@hbgiocese.org

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Over many years, our family has planted flowers at the Our Mother of Perpetual Help monument in the Cedar Hill Cemetery. Now it's time to find someone else to take over. It really doesn't take a lot of time. Anyone interested, or for more information, please call Nancy McGowan at 717-336-6425. Thank you

YEARLINGS

We will meet for lunch at the **Rivera Restaurant** in Reamstown at **11:30** 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**.



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

Please Save The Date

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

On Sunday, October 21st Lancaster Catholic High School Will Host The 6th Annual I AM Rally.

All OMPH 6th Grade Students Will Be Expected To Attend The Rally Including RE Students, OMPH School Students, And Home School Students. There Will Be No 6th Grade RE Classes That Week So That All 6th 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 omphred@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 Highly

OMPH RESCUES!

On behalf of the dozen adults, 35 teen helpers, and 70 children that attended Vacation Bible School this summer, we would like to say THANK YOU to the parish for all of your support. The theme for this year's VBS was When you are Shipwrecked, JESUS RESCUES! Through out the five nights of VBS the children played games, watched skits, listened to bible stories, learned about saints, made crafts, enjoyed themed snacks and sang songs! All of the supply donations, monetary donations, help with setting up, and prayers from the wonderful parishioners at OMPH made our VBS a wonderful



success. In addition to the parishioners we would also like to thank the Knights for their generous donation which allowed each family that attended VBS to go home with a CD of all the songs the children sang through the week.

RETROUVAILLE WEEKEND

Stress in Your Marriage? – Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This program has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about or to register for the next program beginning with a weekend on Sept. 14-16, in Mechanicsburg. Call 800-470-2230 or visit the website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com

CALLING ON YOUNG ADULTS!
We need you!
We are looking to form a Youth Council for OMPH
We need talented, outgoing, and creative young adults
We'll be hosting an information session soon!
Want to hear more?
Contact: Megan Williams, Megan207@gmail.com



Get Involved!

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. 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.

FOOD BANK REMINDER!



While we greatly appreciate each and every donation, below are some do's and don'ts for food bank donations (or any organization collecting multiple items.)

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.

~Lastly, we are in need of a few items for our food bank: Noodles, instant mashed potatoes, green beans, canned corn, and baked beans. Please consider purchasing some during your next grocery trip!

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!