

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
By APPOINTMENT



THE MASS
LIVE STREAMED



MEETINGS - VIDEO CONFERENCING
ZOOM

OMPH NEWSLETTER

PASTOR'S LETTER

April 26, 2020

Dear Friends,

This last week I read a letter from Bishop Gainer that I really enjoyed. I'm getting to really enjoy the bishop's style of writing, he is down to earth and very pastoral. Since I enjoyed this letter so much, I want to pass it on to you - and most importantly, it has an Easter message. Enjoy!

EASTER LAUGHING

Professors and authors in the field of Homiletics seem to be divided in their opinions whether preachers should tell jokes within a homily. In my own experience when I do tell a funny story, I'm fairly convinced that it might be the only thing most listeners will remember from the homily.

In his book, *Images of Hope*, Pope Benedict XVI refers to a practice that originated in his native Bavaria and made its way throughout Germany in the 15th century. It's called "Easter Laughing" - *Risus Paschalis* in Latin. The Easter homily and homilies throughout the Easter Season had to contain a story that made people laugh. The church resounded with joyful laughter as a symbol of the joy Christians know in the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. It was reasoned that Isaac - an Old Testament image of Christ - came down from the sacrifice on Mount Moriah with laughter on his face - the laughter of redemption because his life was spared. That act of redemption pointed to the perfect redemption accomplished by the Paschal Mystery which should put a big smile on the faces of the faithful.

It was also considered that they were laughing at Satan. The Resurrection was seen to be a "trick" that God played on Satan. Because of Christ's death on the cross and his three days in the tomb, Satan was rejoicing in his apparent victory. However, his victory party was short lived. On Easter the tables are turned, and Jesus rose victorious. The Resurrection was God tricking Satan. The faithful mocked Satan with their Easter Laughing.

I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS!

Alleluia, Alleluia!



Unfortunately, funny stories or jokes within sermons came to a halt in the 17th century by a decree of Pope Clement X. It seems that the stories of many preachers were a tad bawdy – perhaps more than a tad – which offended the faithful and became an abuse of the Word of God.

Too bad this custom had to be placed under a papal ban. I think it would be wonderful to experience a church full of people – when that can happen again – and filled with uproarious laughter. I think such laughter would be a rightful expression of the joy that is ours in the knowledge that through the Paschal Mystery, sin, sorrow, suffering and death have lost their power to overcome us. As Saint Peter told us in the second reading for the Sunday of Divine Mercy, “You rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy (I Pt 1: 8).” Risus Paschalis – maybe it’s time to dust off the old custom and once more give it a try – with appropriate stories, of course.

In Christ,

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

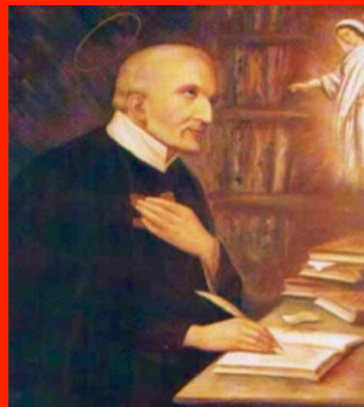
ENTERING PARISH BUILDINGS DURING TIME OF PANDEMIC

We ask you please do not enter any of the parish buildings unless authorized by Fr. John or Fr. Jim during this time of COVID-19. The buildings are sanitized, and for your safety and ours, we do not want to spread the virus. We know many of you have keys to the doors, but we ask you - PLEASE DO NOT ENTER ANY OF THE CHURCH BUILDINGS WITHOUT APPROVAL. Thank you, Fr. John

HOLY HOUR LIVE-STREAMED EVERY FRIDAY - 3:00 PM

Last Friday we started our first Holy Hour to pray for an end to the Pandemic, for the victims of the virus, and for all those who are sacrificing to keep us safe - first responders and health care professionals. During the Holy Hour we are also praying for all of the needs of our parishioners. During the hour of prayer we are having Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. This is a difficult time, but Our Blessed Lord has promised us that He would never abandon us - He is with us always, join us for this very special time of prayer.

St. Alphonsus Ligouri



TO LOVE JESUS CHRIST IS THE GREATEST WORK THAT WE CAN PERFORM ON THIS EARTH BUT IT IS A WORK AND A GIFT THAT WE CANNOT HAVE OF OURSELVES; IT MUST COME TO US FROM HIM AND HE IS READY TO GIVE IT TO THOSE WHO ASK HIM FOR IT . . . A DAY WILL COME . . . WHERE WE SHALL FIND UNITED WITH US MANY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SOULS WHO AT ONE TIME DID NOT LOVE GOD BUT WHO, BROUGHT BACK TO HIS GRACE BY MEANS OF US, WILL LOVE HIM AND WILL BE FOR ALL ETERNITY A CAUSE OF GLADNESS TO OURSELVES. SHOULD NOT THIS THOUGHT ALONE SPUR US ON TO GIVE OURSELVES COMPLETELY TO THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST, AND TO MAKING OTHERS LOVE HIM? I FINISH BUT I COULD GO ON FOREVER FROM THE DESIRE I HAVE THAT I MIGHT SEE YOU ALL FILLED WITH LOVE FOR JESUS CHRIST, AND WORKING FOR HIS GLORY.”
-ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI,
FOUNDER OF THE
REDEMPTORISTS
CONGREGATION

NEW PARISH WEBSITE

Our new parish website is active, we hope you enjoy it. We have tried to make it more inviting and more informative. We hope the new website will help us reach out to God’s people, bringing them the Good News especially during this very difficult time of Covid-19. During this time, while we are confined to our homes, I believe it is even more important that we develop ways of reaching out to one another - reminding ourselves and others that we are not alone, that we are connected - we are God’s Family.

The new parish website is not complete, so please be patient. The new website is designed to show the activity and life of OMPH parish, so until we come back together, the website might look a little empty. The new website also seeks to provide spiritual nourishment to our parishioners during this trying time.

If you have any questions or comments please let us know. You can reach us by sending us an email by pressing **“TELL US YOUR CONCERNS”** on the home page of the website.

The new parish website: omphchurch.com

LIVE-STREAMING UPDATE

Live-streaming continues to go well. We are now live-streaming weekday and weekend Masses and a Holy Hour on Friday afternoon. We are also live-streaming a special home series on the Domestic Church by Fr. Jim once a week.

Jim Lawson, our first camera person is busy training a group of other camera technicians. I continue to receive compliments from many people telling me how much they enjoy the camera work of the different services.

Many of you have taken time to write letters or cards acknowledging your appreciation, thank you for your kindness.

FR. JIM’S VIDEO SERIES & SCHOOL MASS

I want to thank Fr. Jim for putting together such wonderful video programs for our families during this difficult time. While Fr. Jim is focusing on the family, he is also reaching out to the children in the parish on a separate day. You can see Fr. Jim’s programs on Facebook - please watch for times on the parish website and Facebook. By the way, over 800 people watched one of Fr. Jim’s presentations - thanks for spreading the Good News Fr. Jim.

How We are Reaching out to our Parishioners

- ◆ A parish response team has been formed - **OMPH CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE TEAM** - to come up with ways to reach out to OMPH parishioners. We will be meeting on ZOOM. Our first meeting was Friday, March 27.
- ◆ We have created a new **MINISTRY TEAM** to reach out to parishioners who may be in need at this time. If you would like to part of this team *please notify us at* (church email- omphfin@omph.org)
- ◆ We have started to **LIVE STREAM** daily and weekend Mass as of March 29. We will live stream the 9:00 and 11:00 Mass on Sunday and the 9:00 weekday Mass. Also, we will have a Holy Hour every Friday at 3:00pm that will be live-streamed. Classes, instructions, holy hours, etc. eventually will be available via live streaming. Schedule will be published. Live streaming can be accessed on our parish website and Facebook.
- ◆ Fr. Jim has started a **VIDEO SERIES** based on the family and it can be viewed on Facebook. Next video will be announced.

OMPH SCHOOL MASS & RELIGIOUS ED. STUDENTS

We started the School Mass this Friday, April 17, at 9:00 am in the church. It was a different celebration, but a wonderful one. Although the children were not with us physically, they were with us spiritually, and I'm sure they enjoyed the Mass. As I have said before, Let us never forget the students in the Religious Education Program. Although we don't see them or hear them in the hallways of OMPH during normal times - they are as dear to us as our OMPH students.

May the prayers of our children rise to heaven and may the angels of God protect us and keep us from harm. Amen

OUTREACH MINISTRY

To be honest, I have not received an update from the new Outreach Ministry Team, but I do know (if they haven't already), they are close to finishing the first round of calls - that's a lot of calls. We will be meeting this week and I will get an update of all the calls.

I would like to mention something truly amazing, and it is how God's grace works. On Tuesday, Fr. Jim talked about the outreach ministry here at OMPH in his homily and a friend of mine was watching the Mass from OLPH in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. I was stationed in that parish and Katie was on the Parish Pastoral Council when I was Pastor. She was so moved by what she heard the outreach ministry team has been doing here at OMPH that she spent three hours on the phone that day calling people in her parish. Other people in the parish found out what she was doing and now they are putting together lists of people to call.

Like I said in my homily today, the virus is super contagious, but even more contagious is God's love. Keep up the good work **OUTREACH MINISTRY!**

OMPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

While our school is closed, we are continuing our student's learning through online remote learning. Our goal is to prevent our students from suffering any educational loss during this unpredicted time out of the classroom.

OMPH is currently accepting registrations for the 2020-2021 school year and we would love for you to join our family in our new school.

During our closure, we will still be able to respond to emails. If you are interested in information about the 2020-2021 school year please contact our school principal, Mrs. Patricia Foltz, MM, - pfoltz@omph.org

PALMS AND HOLY WATER

- ◆ Palm were blessed on Palm Sunday, and will be given out at a later date.
- ◆ Water will be blessed at the Easter Vigil and saved for parishioners.

PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY



Pope Francis Prayer

Seeking Mary's Protection
During time of Pandemic

*O Mary,
you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain,
keeping your faith firm.
You, Salvation of the Roman People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.
Under your protection, we seek refuge,
Holy Mother of God.
Do not disdain the entreaties
of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger,
O glorious and blessed Virgin.*

**A Prayer to Combat the Coronavirus
Pandemic**

Family Prayer

*God made us a family.
We need one another.
We love one another.
We forgive one another.
We work together.
We play together.
We worship together.
Together we use God's word.
Together we grow in Christ.
Together we love all people.
Together we serve our God.
Together we hope for heaven.
These are our hopes and ideals.
Help us to attain them,
O God, through Jesus Christ our
Lord.*

Most merciful and Triune God,
We come to you in our weakness.
We come to you in our fear.
We come to you with trust.
For you alone are our hope.

We place before you the disease
present in our world.
We turn to you in our time of need.

Bring wisdom to doctors.
Give understanding to scientists.
Endow caregivers with compassion and
generosity.

Bring healing to those who are ill.
Protect those who are most at risk.
Give comfort to those who have lost a
loved one.

Welcome those who have died into
your eternal home.

Stabilize our communities.
Unite us in our compassion.
Remove all fear from our hearts.
Fill us with confidence in your care.

Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you. 5
Amen.

The family is the “**Domestic Church.**” This is the first ‘church’ where we are taught to pray and to love God. This is an opportune time for families to come together and pray - perhaps in new and different ways. Please check out the website below, it is loaded with many wonderful and varied prayers.

Also, I have enclosed at the end of this newsletter a program for ***Sunday Prayer at Home*** that can be prayed by the entire family. Since families are unable to receive the Eucharist at this time, the faithful are encouraged to make a ***Spiritual Communion*** (enclosed) which is encouraged by many of the saints including St. Alphonsus Ligouri.

<http://www.catholicfamilyfaith.org/praying.html>

I have enclosed two new websites for spiritual nourishment that I think you might find helpful especially at this time.

**NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CATHOLIC YOUTH
MINISTRY**

<https://nfcym.org/covid19/>

**THE UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF THE
CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

<https://www.cgsusa.org/homepage/covid-19-response/>

MASS INTENTIONS

Masses that were scheduled will still be said in private. To schedule a new Mass intention, please call the Parish Office at 717-733-9641.



In our Thought and Prayers

Jane Muldowney, Anna Leshar,
Florence Windish, Gloria & Basil
Reynolds, Patrick Michael Ward, Jody
Shimp, Megan Kreider, John Mento,
Anna Finkey, Phoenix Rann, Joanne
Dever, Josie Novotnak, Mary Stanavage,
Mary Ann Wilk, Theresa Foley, Tom
Trachte, Kody Ingham, Mary Kay
Guthrie, Diane Lerman, Ron Pogwist,
Philomena Rozario, Beverly Benning,
Julie Leone, Joe Columbo, Lael Swank,
Diane Lerman, Barbara Beebe, Sean
Hanrahan, Mary Crawford, Barbara
Szobonya, Pat Fry, Margaret Gardner
and Jude Oniskey.





Religious Education Corner:

**I Hope That You And Your Families
Are Having A Great Easter Season!**

Please check out the following links:
Each Video is fifteen minutes or less.

The first four are better for students Fourth Grade or younger. *Even though these days have passed for this this is a nice way to review the information.* The last one is better for students Fifth Grade or older.

1. The Allelu Show Palm Sunday Edition

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9cxJCsFuv8>

2. The Allelu Show Holy Thursday Edition https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IB_F-XffNFE

3. The Allelu Show Good Friday Edition

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pk9eI-Qe27o>

4. The Allelu Show Easter Edition

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqiCdigLpZU>

5. The Veil Removed <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOLZDaTgIaM>

Stay Hopeful, Have Courage, And Be Well!

Kelly Lawrence

omphreled@dejazzd.com | 717-738-4517

Prayer to our Patroness for Protection

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.

We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.
Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.
For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.
In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.
We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.
Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.