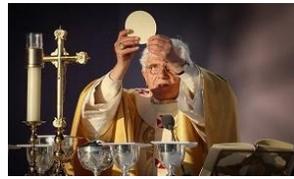




SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
By APPOINTMENT



THE MASS
LIVE STREAMED



MEETINGS - VIDEO CONFERENCING
ZOOM

OMPH NEWSLETTER

7th SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 24, 2020

Dear Friends,

During the shooting at the high school in Littleton, Colorado, one young victim was asked by the murderers, “Do you believe in Jesus?” She answered, “Yes,” and she was shot. At her funeral the pastor aptly referred to her as a present day martyr. And so she was. No one probably told her two years earlier that by believing in Jesus she was choosing to share not only in his life, but also in his suffering. However, when she was called upon to do so, she did so bravely.

We all desire to share in the life of Christ, but we must understand that his is the life of a Suffering Savior. When Jesus called the disciples, they did not receive an explanation of what lay ahead. They experienced the dust and grime of his travels and the joy and amazement of his miracles. They delighted in the wisdom of Jesus’ teachings, their increasing understanding, and in the glory that came with being a part of Jesus’ entourage. But they also experienced the judgment and hostility leveled at Jesus by his malefactors, and eventually the threat of death associated with his crucifixion.

With Jesus’ resurrection, and the subsequent indwelling of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost they took on his life in new ways. No longer were they simply accompanying him on his journey of ministry, now they were providing the teaching and miracles as Jesus lived out his life through them. The hostility which was previously directed at Jesus was still directed at him, only now he was indwelling in their bodies and the hostility had to go through them to get to him. Yet they never faltered, never thought of exchanging his life for escape.

Rather they gloried that they were able to share in his suffering knowing that his power was resting on them. The following anonymous poem says it well.



*“But as the Master so shall the
servant be,
And pierced are the feet that
follow me.
Can he have followed far,
Who has no wound, no scar?”*

Jesus prayed that we wouldn't be taken out of the world, thus escaping its misery and pain, but that we would be kept safe while in the world, making his life present to those experiencing the misery and pain of this world. St. Paul tells us in the second reading this weekend, “Rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly.” This last Thursday we celebrated Ascension Thursday - his glory was revealed and we rejoice exultantly!

Yes we are experiencing the cross during these dark days of COVID-19, but as we hear in this weekend's gospel, Jesus came to give us not only life, but eternal life - “Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that your son may give eternal life to all you gave him.”

May Mary our Mother of Perpetual Help watch over you and protect you always.

Fr. John

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTERING PARISH BUILDINGS DURING TIME OF PANDEMIC

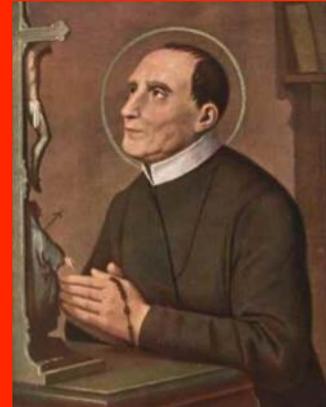
We ask you please do not enter any of the parish buildings unless authorized by Fr. John or Fr. Jim during this time of COVID-19. The buildings are sanitized, and for your safety and ours we do not want to spread the virus. We know many of you have keys to the doors, but we ask you - PLEASE DO NOT ENTER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

A NOTE FROM THE PARISH FOOD BANK

During the weeks since the pandemic has hit, the Food Bank has been forced to provide “drive through” distribution on Wednesdays. Consequently, the volunteers have noticed that we are servicing only approximately one-half as many families as we were prior to the pandemic restrictions.

As a result the Food Bank volunteers would like to remind the

St. Clement Mary Hofbauer



"Remember Your mercies of old, turn Your eyes in compassion upon the vineyard planted by Your own right hand, and watered by the tears of the Apostles, by the precious blood of countless martyrs, and made fruitful by the prayers of so many confessors and innocent virgins."

St. Clement Hofbauer, C.Ss.R.

1751-1820

OMPH parishioners that they can access the weekly Food Bank distributions every Wednesday starting at 5 pm until approximately 6:30 pm, until further notice. Also, for anyone who would like to donate food, there is a drop off box outside the church entrance.

NEW PARISH APP - *myParish*

Last weekend we invited our parishioners to download our new parish app, called *myParish*. Each week for the next 16 weeks we will highlight a different feature of the app. If you have an iPhone or and Android this is the app for you. It's simple to use, it helps our parish to be more connected and to deepen our relationship with the Lord Jesus.

Parish App Feature-of-the-Week



- Daily Mass readings
- Official NAB(re) version
- Easily bookmark readings to reread at a later time

Readings

Learn more or download our parish app at myparishapp.com

*Available on Apple and Android Phones.

FORMED

This Catholic website (formed.org) is truly one of the great treasures available to our parishioners - and it's free. All you need is go to the website formed.org and search for our parish and then register. On



formed.org you can access thousands of movies, religious programs, audios and books - instantly. Here you can watch some of the best Catholic movies, children programs, and engage in entertainment that supports a Catholic lifestyle.

There are bible stories, stories of saints, documentaries, and sacramental preparation materials. What's great, you can watch it anywhere - just enter the pass

word.

How We are Reaching out to our Parishioners

- ◆ 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: omphfin@omph.org
- ◆ We have started to **LIVE STREAM** all of our Masses. You can access all our live-stream activities at: omphchurch.com. We are live-streaming the 9:00 and 11:00 Mass on Sunday and the 9:00 weekday Mass. Also, we are live-streaming a Holy Hour every Friday at 3:00pm. We are praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and praying for an end to this pandemic and for all those who are on the front line during the Holy Hour. During the Holy Hour we also pray for all those suffering from the effects of the deadly virus. We also pray for a greater trust and hope in God's providential care during this difficult time.
- ◆ Fr. Jim has started a **VIDEO SERIES** based on the family and it can be viewed on Facebook. Next video will be announced.
- ◆ Fr. John's next teaching on Spiritual Communion will be Thursday, March 28, at 10:30am.

PARISH ACTIVITIES DURING PANDEMIC

HOLY HOUR & DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET LIVE-STREAMED EVERY FRIDAY - 3:00 PM

This will be our fifth Holy Hour with the Blessed Sacrament exposed praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. We're also praying 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 also reading a Visit to the Blessed Sacrament by St. Alphonsus Liguori with a prayer of Spiritual Communion. 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.



FR. JIM'S FLOURISHING FAMILY LESSONS

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 and on the parish website - please watch for times on the parish website and Facebook.

TEACHING ON SPIRITUAL COMMUNION "A Time of New Eucharistic Hunger"

Part 2 of the Spiritual Communion teaching was postponed this last Thursday, it has been rescheduled to this Thursday at 10:30am.

The second part of this talk will focus on the teaching of Spiritual Communion from the viewpoint of various saints and Church Fathers. This talk will also focus on the spiritual gifts received and from Spiritual Communion and the disposition required to make Spiritual Communion. Finally, there will be different examples of Spiritual Communion from different saints.

Especially during this time while you are away from receiving the sacramentally, this is a very important method to deepen your relationship with the Lord Jesus, the Bread of Life.



All of Fr. John's and Fr. Jim's previous talks can be viewed on the parish website (omphchurch.com).

NOVENA TO OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

This last Wednesday we started to pray our Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help after Mass. We are so fortunate to have OMPH as our patroness here at our parish. The Wednesday Novena is always a good reminder to me of all the graces that flow through our Blessed Mother to us to protect us and to keep us safe. She truly is our mother, may we continue to run to her in total confidence and trust.

THE PARISH BELL

Some of you may hear the parish bell ringing at 12:00pm. When we hear the parish bell we should be reminded to pray to Angelus. Although the angelus has been prayed traditionally three times a day, even once a day (at 12:00 noon) would be a great practice.

The Angelus reminds us of the Annunciation when the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary with great, (if somewhat startling), news! As we read in Chapter One of Luke's Gospel, (Luke 1:26-38) God wished Mary, truly a model of humility, to be the mother of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ! We pray the Angelus to remember the wonderful gift of our salvation, and to give thanks to Mary our Mother for saying, "Yes"



The Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with Thee;
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen*

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary, etc.

V. And the Word was made Flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, etc.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.



NEW PARISH WEBSITE

Please do not forget to visit our new parish website (omphchurch.com), we are constantly updating it with new information, such as the latest videos from Fr. Jim and Fr. John, the weekly newsletter, church and local news, new photos, calendar changes, and so much more. Also, there is a place for you to make suggestions to the pastor or to make any comments you wish - we want to stay connected the best we can.

DEANERY ZOOM MEETING WITH BISHOP GAINER

- ◆The Bishop told the pastors to listen to the Governor for instructions as to when to open the church doors for services. One of the main reasons we have to listen to civil authorities - insurance claims.
- ◆We heard what it has been like for some parishes that have begun regular weekend Mass in northern PA. These parishes are offering one outdoor Mass and one indoor Mass each weekend. Very few parishioners have come out to either Mass. But all those who attended Mass were very *appreciative, cooperative* and *supportive* of the efforts made by the clergy and ministers.
- ◆Presently, Lancaster county is in the RED PHASE (*stay at home order in effect*), we discussed how we would move to the YELLOW PHASE (*the church opening*). There is also a Green Phase (*total opening*).
- ◆We will be putting together a PARISH TEAM to organize the parish coming back together in the most practical and safest manner.
- ◆The Sacrament of Reconciliation - With confessions there is a slight, but important change. There is still no regularly scheduled time for confessions. If you feel however, that you need to have your confession heard, please call the parish office to make an appointment with one of the priests. The confession will take place outdoors with social distance requirements in place. We ask you to bring your own mask, when you make the appointment the priest he will let you know where the sacrament will be celebrated.
- ◆We will keep you informed if we have any additional information regarding our parish moving to the YELLOW PHASE (*church starting to open*).

OUTREACH MINISTRY

I promised you an update from the outreach ministry group, this summary is from Jim Lawson

From the moment we were unable to gather together for Mass, Fr John, with pastoral concerns for the parish, called a video meeting to strategize a response to the needs of the church. And ever since then, the parish, though empty, has been a flurry of activities. High tech cameras, accompanied by complicated computers, were installed in record time. A new website, with a new parish app, as well as an email blast of 3000, was added all to bring spiritual comfort in our troubling times.

As good as these efforts were, a question arose. "What about those who are not receiving these updates, and how are our parishioners doing?" It was immediately agreed to start an Outreach Ministry that would call every home in the parish, beginning with the oldest and most vulnerable parishioners. The Outreach committee consisting of eleven volunteers went to work. First, to develop a resource guide and training program to assist the thirty-one call volunteers. The goal of the calls is to make sure no one is isolated from the pastoral care of the community, especially the most vulnerable. We aim in our conversations to be an expression of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Using the guiding principle of Pope Francis, "A bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just."

The first group we called were 75 parishioners who are 85 years and older. Next, we called 248 parishioners between the ages of 75 and 84, followed by 448 calls to the ages of 65 to 74. We are currently reaching out to ages 64 and younger.

The universal response from the calls has been one of gratitude. One couple I called who are both in their 90's best expressed the results of the calls. After chatting with the wife about how they were doing, she asked if I would mind talking with her husband because of how much better she felt by the call. He spoke with me and thanked me for cheering them both up. I wondered who was cheering up whom as I continued our conversation with a smile on my face. Before ending the call, I updat-

ed their email address so they can receive the newsletter and instructed them on how to Live-stream the Mass. After they assured me their family was keeping in close communications and had plenty of food, we ended with a simple prayer; God bless you.

OMPH SCHOOL MASS & RELIGIOUS ED. STUDENTS

We started the School Mass again on 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.

We will most likely be having our school Mass through the summer.

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

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic School COVID-19 Tuition Assistance Fund

As a result of the Coronavirus, our families are facing significant challenges in their lives, including unemployment and loss of income. Our students had to transition from a traditional classroom education to at home distance learning.

Our OMPH School community remains steadfast in our support of our students during this pandemic. Our faculty continues their commitment to our children with digital instruction and support. Our faith community is kept strong with online Daily Prayers, the Weekday Rosary, School Mass and Family Flourishing Lessons.

To support our students and their families in need, Our Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic School has established the COVID-19 Tuition Assistance Fund.

A gift to this specific fund can lessen the financial burden for our families so that we may continue to empower our students to reach their fullest potential, spiritually and academically.



DONATE NOW AT

<https://osvonlinegiving.com/4431/Home/NewQuickGive>

www.omph.org, Facebook @OMPHEphrata

OR Mail donation to: Our Mother of Perpetual Help School - Development Office

Prayer for Families

We bless your name, O Lord,
for sending your own incarnate Son,
to become part of a family,
so that, as he lived its life,
he would experience its worries and its joys.
We ask you, Lord,
to protect and watch over this family,

We ask you, Lord
to protect and watch over this family,
so that in the strength of your grace
its members may enjoy prosperity,
possess the priceless gift of your peace,
and, as the Church alive in the home,
bear witness in this world to your glory.
We ask this thought Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SOMETHING NEW



Each week we'll be giving you a very simple outline for reading, reflecting and sharing the gospel message with your family members. You can also do the exercise on your own. This is a wonderful way for the family to grow together in faith.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Theme: We remain at the heart of Jesus mission.

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's 2nd Reading from Peter

Step One: Listen to the Word

What words or phrases in today's reading touch your heart and mind? What feeling do you have after hearing the instructions of Peter

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: Jesus helps us be strong in our faith.

When do you need to be really strong in faith?

Question for Youth: Prayer is essential to being a disciple, because it is the way we build our relationship with God—through talking and listening. What is one way you can take more time this week to listen to God in prayer?

Question for Adults: In these heartfelt instructions from a leader of the church, what are the ways in modern life that we sometimes suffer for our faith? Or are there no such ways?

In our Thought and Prayers

Jane Muldowney, Anna Leshner, 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, Jude Oniskey, Dawn Rap-



Religious Education Corner:

Observing Memorial Day
Thank You To All Those And The Families
Of Those Who Made The Ultimate Sacrifice
In Service To Our Country.

*No one has greater love than this to
lay down one's life for one's friends.*

John15:

Stay Hopeful, Have Courage, And Be Well!
Holy Mary, Health of the Sick, pray for us!
St. Joseph, Hope of the Sick, pray for us!
St. Rocco, protector against epidemics, pray for us!
May God bless you & your families!

Kelly Lawrence

omphreled@dejazzd.com | 717-738-4517

The family is the "Domestic Church." This is the first 'church' where we are taught to come together and pray - perhaps in new and different ways. 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 saints including St. Alphonsus Liguori.

MAY 22 2020

SUGGESTED WEBSITES: STRONG CATHOLIC FAMILY FAITH

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

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.

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