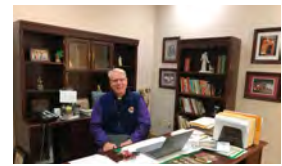




**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**  
By APPOINTMENT



**THE MASS**  
LIVE STREAMED



**MEETINGS - VIDEO CONFERENCING**  
ZOOM

# OMPH NEWSLETTER

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 31, 2020

Dear Friends,

This last Friday I celebrated the school Mass in the parish. I mentioned at the beginning of my homily that my message was meant for everyone, not only the children. The gospel that day helped me to find the words to speak. It was the passage where Jesus asked Peter if he loved him - three times!

Like us, Peter and the disciples were in a 'phase,' they didn't call it a 'red phase' of course, but after the crucifixion and death of Jesus they were confused and uncertain of the future - certainly a type of 'phase.' After his death and resurrection Jesus appeared to his disciples, like in Friday's gospel to Peter.

In this passage Jesus knows Peter's heart, he knows Peter loves him, but he knows Peter probably feels guilt and shame for denying him three times. Compassionately, Jesus gives Peter the opportunity to take back his betrayal by Peter telling him he loves him three times.

And as Paul Harvey used to say, "And now for the rest of story" - Christianity sprouted throughout the world and Peter was the rock upon which this new church was built - he became the first pope of the Catholic Church. **God had a plan.**

As a county (Lancaster) and as a church community, we plan on moving from one phase (red) to another (yellow) June 5. As a result of this move, our parish community will become more active, I would like to give you an idea of some of our upcoming parish activities:

### **Mass**

June 6th - Public Mass in school parking lot at 5:00 pm

June 7th - Public Mass at OMPH Church at 9:00 am *(also live-streamed)*

June 8th - 13th - Public Mass at OMPH Church at 9:00 am *(also live-streamed, daily Mass will continue)*



### **Confessions**

Confessions will be heard by appointment only. Please call the parish office to make an appointment with one of the priests and the priest will schedule an appointment with you. Social distance and masks will be required. Confessions will be heard outside, face-to-face or anonymous.

### **First Communion and Confirmation**

This coming week we will be meeting to plan dates for First Communions and Confirmations. We can only have small groups of people in the church at one time, so we will be in touch with families to schedule convenient dates when your children can receive the sacraments.

### **RCIA**

Same as above - we will be touch with the leaders of RCIA and the families of those who are making the RCIA journey.

We will schedule times and dates with them so they can receive all the necessary sacraments.

### **OMPH 8th Grade Graduation**

I'm happy to say that the 8th grade graduates of the OMPH class of 2020 will receive a proper Graduation Ceremony. The location will be outdoors, the venue is still to be determined. We are all very proud of this class and we wish them God's speed.

### **OMPH Catholic School Opening**

OMPH Catholic School is set to open in the Fall. There are many people working to ensure that your children come back to an environment that is safe and conducive to learning in a traditional Catholic setting. The challenges are great, but the rewards are even greater for your children.

As part of our preparations to move into the next phase we have formed a **Parish Strategy Leadership Group** to assist us in developing a policy and strategies for a safe environment as we open our church. We will have a Medical Doctor, a Registered Nurse and a half a dozen other parishioners who will assist us in assuring that the parish is safe as possible for the June 6-7 opening.

As we move from the red phase to the yellow phase some of you may feel apprehensive, or afraid to come to Mass - that's ok. Remember, the first disciples were also filled with fear, they were also human, they didn't know what to expect when Jesus left them and when he was crucified.

Perhaps as we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost this weekend, we can pray for ourselves and each other that we receive an 'extra' outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit guide us and strengthen us with all the gifts that we received at Baptism to help us as we move ahead, for us, and our children.

*May Mary our Mother of Perpetual Help watch over you and protect you and your loves ones always.*

*Fr. John*

### **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*

## 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 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 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**



- Access to online giving
- Quick and convenient
- Help support our parish with the tap of a button

**Giving**

Learn more or download our parish app at [myparishapp.com](http://myparishapp.com)

\*Available on Apple and Android Phones.

#### 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](mailto:omphfin@omph.org)
- ◆ We have started to **LIVE STREAM** all of our Masses. You can access all our live-stream activities at: [omphchurch.com](http://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.

## FORMED



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

## PARISH ACTIVITIES DURING PANDEMIC

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

This will be our sixth 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.

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

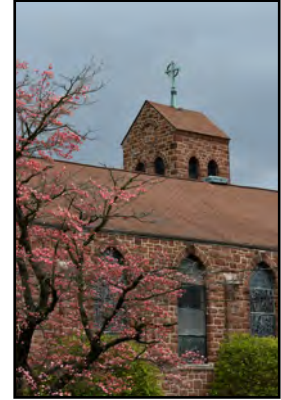
### NOVENA TO OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

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](http://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.

## **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](http://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.*

### Pentecost Sunday

**Theme:** We have been given the breath of God - the gift of the Holy Spirit.

#### Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's 1st Reading from Acts

#### Step One: Listen to the Word

As you listen to this dramatic reading again today, what image strikes you in the story? What single word or phrase catches your ear or touches your heart?

#### Step Two: Look into Your Life

**Question for Children:** When have you heard your inner voice or conscience guiding you to do what is right?

**Question for Youth:** On Pentecost, the apostles were able to speak in a language that everyone could understand. As a young person, you have your own way of communicating Jesus' importance in your life. How will you make Jesus more known to others in your own way this week?

**Question for Adults:** Share about times when you felt the power of the Spirit, giving you the right words, giving you insight into a dilemma, or in other ways.

### In our Thought and Prayers

Jane Muldowney, Anna Leshner, Florence Windish, Gloria Reynolds, Patrick Michael Ward, Jody Shimp, Megan Kreider, John Men-to, Anna Finkey, Phoenix Rann, Joanne Dever, Josie Novotnak, Mary Stanava-ge, Mary Ann Wilk, There-sa Foley, Tom Trachte, Kody Ingham, Mary Kay Guthrie, Diane Lerman, Ron Pogwist, Philomena Rozario, Beverly Benning, Joe Columbo, Lael Swank, Barbara Beebe, Sean Han-raham, Mary Crawford, Barbara Szobonya, Pat Fry, Margaret Gardner, Jude Oniskey, Dawn Rapchinski, Irene Miller, Ben Dangelo, Nathan Snyder, Mike Bernek, Carlos Torres and Carlos Torres



### Religious Education Corner:

Observing The Solemnity Of The Most Holy Trinity:

This Great Feast Celebrates The Three Divine Persons That Make Up The Holy Trinity: God The Father, God The Son, And God The Holy Spirit.

Please Visit The Following Web Sites For more Information About This Great Feast And On

How To Celebrate This Feast With Your Family:

<https://www.catholicicing.com/trinity/>

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2020-06-07>

<https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=11701>

Stay Hopeful, Have Courage, & 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!

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 be-low, it is loaded with many wonderful and var-ied 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.

***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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