



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
 3:30 - 4:30 Saturday
 (In the church)



THE MASS
 Sat vigil - 5:00 PM
 (In the church)
 Sunday - 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00
 Mon-Sat - 9:00am



MEETINGS - VIDEO CONFERENCING
 ZOOM

OMPH NEWSLETTER

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 9, 2020

Dear Friends,

I have to admit, there have been times during this pandemic when I was afraid. Especially in the beginning when so many people were dying where I was born and grew up - Queens and Manhattan, NYC - Yes, I was afraid. Of course the nightly news didn't help with all the sad accounts of overcrowded ICU'S and morgues running of places to store their caskets.

I am not alone in experiencing a range of emotions during this painful and uncertain time. All of us have been and continue to be tested in so many ways, and that's why I believe this weekend's gospel passage is so important for all of us. Look at the men who were hand picked by Jesus himself to be the first leaders of the Church. Look at Peter who chosen by Jesus to be the rock - the first pope of the Catholic Church. Through their weaknesses, their imperfections and lack of faith, all except Judas would become great saints.

The disciples were alone and out at sea when the boat began to be tossed about by the sea - at that time Jesus came walking toward them on the water. When the disciples saw Jesus they thought it was a ghost and **"they were terrified."** Jesus immediately responded, **"Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid."**

Like the disciples, we can become afraid and even terrified at times. We're not sure what's around the corner, will this pandemic strike us in our neighborhood? Will I be infected by this virus? What will will happen if someone in my family is infected, will I ever see them again? We need to hear the calming words of Jesus today, **"Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid."** When our imagination starts going wild, and the questions go unanswered, we need to remember the words of Jesus today, **"Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid."**

St. Augustine of Hippo, in one of his sermons, provides us with some encouraging words:

"Meanwhile the boat carrying the disciples - that is, the church - is rocking and shaking amid the storms of temptation, while the adverse wind rages on. That is to say, its enemy the devil strives to keep the wind from calming down. But greater is he who is persistent on our behalf, for amid the vicissitudes of our life he gives us confidence. He comes to us and strengthens us, so we are not jostled in the boat and tossed overboard. For although the boat is thrown into disorder, it is still a boat. It alone carries the disciples and receives Christ. It is in danger indeed on the water, but there would be certain death without it. Therefore stay inside the boat and call upon God. When all good advice fails and the rudder is useless and the spread of the sails presents more of a danger than an advantage, when all human help and strength have been abandoned, the only recourse left for the sailors is to cry out to God. Therefore will he who helps those who are sailing to reach port safely, abandon his church and prevent it from arriving in peace and tranquility?" (excerpt from SERMON 75.4)

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

Fr. John

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our 'New' Parish Bulletin Has Returned

Next week the new parish bulletin will be arriving at OMPH. All those who have been receiving an electronic version of the newsletter will now receive the parish bulletin. And we will have hardcopies available after all the Masses next weekend.

We have made many changes in the new bulletin. We hope the bulletin will be more informative and engaging. The bulletin also serves as a launching pad to the parish website, because in the bulletin we are limited in space - we direct you to the website to see more! We hope to communicate with you what's happening in the parish with colored print and photos. There will be special features each week; ***The Pope's Corner*** - recent words from Pope Francis, ***Saint of the Week*** - brief description of a saint for that week. We are open to suggestions, please send any comments using the email found on the parish website - Thank you!

To all those who are presently advertising in the bulletin, thank you for your support of OMPH. I'm sure many more people will be attracted to our new bulletin. If you know anyone who might be interested in taking out an ad in the bulletin please have them call our parish office (717-733-9641).

ENTERING PARISH BUILDINGS DURING TIME OF PANDEMIC

We ask you when you enter any of the parish buildings to please follow the Diocesan guidelines set forth during the time of pandemic.

If you are coming to Mass:

- ◆ Please be sure to enter the church using the center - front door only
- ◆ Please exit the church using the same door
- ◆ Please be sure to wear a mask for your safety and those around you
- ◆ If you wear a plastic mask shield we ask you to wear a cloth mask underneath it
- ◆ Please be sure to sanitize your hands when coming into church
- ◆ Please be sure to safe distance when on church property
- ◆ Please follow the usher's instructions for seating and receiving communion
- ◆ Families living in the same household do not need to distance from each other
- ◆ Responding with *prayers-responses* at Mass is encouraged
- ◆ During this time singing is not encouraged - please ***listen*** prayerfully to the music and the Word
- ◆ Coming to Communion - please follow the instruction of the ushers
- ◆ Please be sure to keep safe distance - unless you are with members of the same household
- ◆ At the end of Mass you may leave on your own - but please be mindful of the person who may want to remain and pray
- ◆ Please do not congregate inside or outside of church at this time
- ◆ If you are not feeling well we ask you please not to come to church. We are live-streaming the 9:00am and 11:00am Mass for all those who cannot come to church

A NEW PARISH SECRETARY AT OMPH

Starting on August 31st OMPH will once again have a full time parish secretary. Jeanne McAleer comes to us from OMPH Catholic School where she was in charge of the Development Office for a number of years. Jeanne is married with three children and a parishioner of OMPH. Jeanne will be in the office from 8:00am - 3:00pm, Monday - Friday. This year her son graduated from OMPH and received his diploma on the front lawn of St. Clement's. We are very fortunate to have Jeanne pick up the reigns from Rose, she is familiar with the parish and a wonderful connection to the school. Thanks to Rose again for laying the foundation, and many prayers go out to Jeanne in her new role.

OMPH Religious Education Coordinator Moving On

Kelly Lawrence served at OMPH for over 10 years, last Friday was her last day at OMPH. We thank Kelly for all her many years of dedication and service to the Religious Education Ministry at OMPH. We ask Mary of Mother of Perpetual Help and all the Redemptorist Saints to watch over Kelly and protect her as she journeys forward. Also, Fr. Jim will be taking over the responsibility of the Religious Education Ministry for the next year. We pray for Fr. Jim and all the catechists as they prepare for a new year - may they be strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit to faithfully hand on the pearl of great price, our faith, to our young people - *Fr. John*

OMPH Youth Ministry Leader of 8 years Resigns

Denise Ives was the Youth Ministry Leader at OMPH for 8 years, congratulations for all her hard work and many hours she brought to this ministry.

Working with young people can be very challenging, but Denise brought an energy and a deep sense of faith to her ministry that enabled her and the youth to thrive.

- Thank you for the passion you brought to this ministry, and be assured that we will be praying for you and your mother during this difficult time - *Fr. John*

NEW OMPH Youth Ministry Leader

Congratulations to our new Youth Ministry Leader - Denise Duchesneau. Denise is no stranger to youth ministry, she has been involved in various aspects of youth ministry over the years, including here at OMPH. She has also been volunteering in the school cafeteria.

Denise's enthusiasm and love for the faith is contagious. Young people are attracted to that fire, the fire of God's love - *Fr. John*

Parish Office - GETS A NEW COAT OF PAINT

We're almost finished painting the parish office. We closed the office last week, and we had some people come in to help us do the work. Last Tuesday we had a big shot in the arm when a group of young people came in to help who are on what they call "*a work of mercy*" or WOM. Eleven teenagers came to help perform service projects in our parish, they were from a group of about 70 local Catholic teenagers doing "*Works of Mercy.*" Six of the eleven teenagers worked in our parish office painting, and the other four worked in front of OMPH school cleaning out the gardens.

I was really impressed with the young people, especially when they began their day of work with a moment of prayer led by one of the teenagers.

- Thank you for your work, but more importantly for your witness - *Fr. John*

OFFICE HOURS

If you would like to visit the parish office (*mass intention, meeting, or other parish business*):

◆ Parish secretary's hours ***until* August 31: Tuesday and Friday, 8:00am - 3:00pm**

◆ Parish secretary's hours ***starting* August 31: Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 3:00pm**

Please note: please be sure to wear a mask

Church Ministry Takes on New Responsibility During Pandemic OMPH Church Cleaners - Sanitizing the Church

The Church Cleaners at OMPH have volunteered to sanitize the church after the weekend masses on Saturday and Sunday. The Church Cleaners are a ministry in our parish and they perform a wonderful ministry of cleaning the church. They come into the church, they do their work and they are gone, they are truly humble servants.

They will be assigning different members of their group to each weekend Mass, but they are looking for more members to join their ministry team - 'many hands make light work' as the expression goes!

You are welcome to help the Church Cleaners sanitize after the weekend Masses even though you are not formally a member of the ministry team.

As we hear in the Gospel, ***"To anyone who has, more will be given."*** You will receive a hundred fold for your kindness.

If you're interested in joining the Church Cleaners, please call Sandy Kurz at 717-733-9453

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



- Catholic world news
- Daily current events
- Connect with the Church throughout the world

Learn more or download our parish app at myparishapp.com

*Available on Apple and Android Phones.

First Friday Holy Hour

Dedicated to the Canonization of Rev. Michael J. McGivney. Join us in prayer every First Friday at 3:00 as we pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament for the canonization of the Founder of the Knights of Columbus - Rev. Michael J. McGivney

A Holy Priest is Closer to Sainthood

A Connecticut priest who founded one of the largest Catholic organizations, the Knights of Columbus, is one step closer to sainthood.

On May 27th, Pope Francis recognized a miracle attributed to the intercession of Michael J. McGivney, who died at 38 of pneumonia in 1890 during a pandemic.

The first American parish priest to be beatified, McGivney will soon be declared "blessed." An additional miracle would need to be attributed to him in order for McGivney to be canonized as a saint, the Vatican said.

A portrait of Connecticut priest Father Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, dressed in 19th century cassock with Roman collar. (Courtesy Knights of Columbus Multimedia Archives)

The Knights of Columbus said the miracle recognized by the pope concerned the medically inexplicable cure of a baby with a life-threatening condition. The baby was healed in utero in 2015 "after prayers by his family to Father McGivney."

He was best known for founding the Knights of Columbus in 1882 in New Haven.

Today, with more than 2 million members around the world, the charitable organization has provided critical relief during the coronavirus pandemic, donating millions of dollars to food banks, supplying hospitals with ventilators and financially supporting Catholic dioceses.

McGivney, born in Waterbury in 1852, played a vital role in the growth of the Catholic Church in the U.S., serving a largely Irish-American and immigrant community in New Haven, Catholic News Service reported.



"Fr. McGivney has inspired generations of Catholic men to roll up their sleeves and put their faith into action. He was decades ahead of his time in giving the laity an important role within the Church," Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said in a statement.

"Today, his spirit continues to shape the extraordinary charitable work of Knights as they continue to serve those on the margins of society as he served widows and orphans in the 1880s." (from Fox News)

FORMED



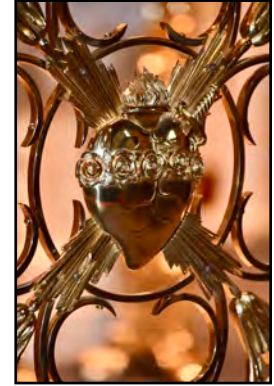
This Catholic website (formed.org) is truly one of the great treasures available to our parishioners - and it's free. All you need to do is go to the website formed.org and search for our parish and then register. On formed.org you can access thousands of movies, religious programs, audios and books - 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.

PARISH ACTIVITIES DURING PANDEMIC

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

I really look forward to the Holy Hour each Friday with the Blessed Sacrament exposed as we chant 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).

NOVENA TO OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

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. As we celebrate our parish feast we are particularly thankful for all the graces we have received through the loving arms of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

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.

COVID-19 Tuition Assistance Fund

Thank you to all who have donated to this fund

You have helped lift the burden of many a family, thank you - Fr. John

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.

Please don't forget to wear your masks at church, thank you!



SOMETHING NEW

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Theme: If we believe, we will be saved.

Breaking Open the Word

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

Step One: Listen to the Word

Listen carefully to this reading. What word or image catches your imagination in it? What sense do you take away from this reading about faith?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: What does God's voice sound like when you pray and listen to Jesus?

Question for Youth: In today's Gospel, Peter began to walk on the water when he was focused on Jesus. He began to sink when he got distracted by the storm. What is your life like when you are focused on Jesus and your relationship with God? How is it different when you get caught up in other things?

Question for Adults: Tell about your experiences of hearing God speak in "tiny voices" rather than in the winds and earthquakes of life.

Prayer for the Canonization of Father Michael J. McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your venerable servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (*here make your request*). Through Christ our Lord. Amen. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

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.

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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.

Photos from Office Painting

Assisted by WOM - Works of Mercy



AUGUST 9 2020

