

CHURCH OF OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

*Diocese of Harrisburg
Staffed by the Redemptorists*

320 Church Avenue
Ephrata, Pennsylvania 17522
717-733-9641

HOPE & Promise



BUT YOU, BETHLEHEM-EPHRATHA LEAST AMONG THE CLANS OF JUDAH,
FROM YOU SHALL COME FORTH FOR ME ONE WHO IS TO BE RULER IN ISRAEL.

MICAH 5:1 — ADVENT 2022

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday (Sunday Vigil): 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (livestreamed) and 11:00 a.m.

Monday: 7:00 a.m. (livestreamed); Tuesday-Friday: 9:00 a.m. (livestreamed)

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. (livestreamed)

Holydays: Vigil Mass – 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. (livestreamed) and 7:00 p.m. (day of feast)

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00-4:45 p.m. or by appointment

ADORATION & HOLY HOUR

Adoration: Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Holy Hour: Friday, 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Call the parish office for a priest to anoint the sick.

If confined at home, call for a Minister to bring Holy Communion.

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor

FR. JOHN MURRAY, C.Ss.R.

717-733-9641 - Ext. 2 • Email: johnfrancis90@mac.com

Associate Pastor

FR. JIM SZOBONYA, C.Ss.R.

717-733-9641 - Ext. 3

Email: frjims61@gmail.com

FR. KEVIN MOLEY, C.Ss.R.

St. Clement's Mission House

717-733-6596

Deacon

DEACON JIM LAWSON

717-733-9641

Email: jhlawson@ptd.net

FR. TOM SICONOLFI, C.Ss.R.

St. Clement's Mission House

717-733-6596



WELCOME TO OMPH!

If you are new to our parish, we hope you enjoy your visit with us.

If you would like to know more about our parish or the Catholic faith, please call Deacon Jim with the RCIA at 717-799-0080.

God bless,
Fr. John

MISSION STATEMENT

To celebrate the real presence of Jesus Christ in our Eucharistic worship and empower ALL to be disciples of Christ.

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office	717-733-9641
Office Hours:	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
St. Clement	717-733-6596
Convent	717-733-1291
School	717-738-2414
Religious Ed Center	717-738-4517
Lancaster Catholic High School	717-509-0315

PARISH MINISTRIES

Adult Formation	
Theresa Novotnak	717-738-5061
Adult Volleyball	
Drew Geiss	717-733-6438
Altar Servers	
Dennis Wilczek	610-368-3689
Art & Environment	
Athletic Association	
Chris Sheaffer	717-471-4994
Baptisms	
Deacon Jim Lawson	717-799-0080
Benevolent Society	
Harry Lowe	717-733-9641
Bereavement	
Mary Burkholder	717-733-4989
Bible Study Series	
Deacon Jim Lawson	717-799-0080
Church Cleaners	
Sandy Kurz	717-733-9453
Coffee Corner	
Weiser Family	717-572-9402
Collection	
Kim Kernaghan	717-733-9641
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	
Mary Burkholder	717-733-4989
Finance Council	
.....	717-733-9641
Hospitality Group	
Rita Pfautz	717-341-1211
Knights of Columbus	
Jonathan Hogan	814-289-1646
Ladies Auxiliary K of C	
Rita Pfautz	717-341-1211
Legion of Mary	
.....	717-733-9641
Liturgy Planning Group	
Deacon Jim Lawson	717-799-0080
Live Streaming	
Scott Harper	717-201-1551
Pastoral Council	
Joe Kadingo	717-336-6936
Deacon Jim Lawson	717-799-0080
PTO	
Kathleen Stoltzfus	484-269-4530
Quilt and Craft Ministry	
Veida Wissler	717-271-9706



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 12th	Friday, December 16th
* Kelly Wright	9:00 a.m. ♦ Richard & Rita Leyo
7:00 a.m. ♦ Robert Borst	
Tuesday, December 13th	Saturday, December 17th
9:00 a.m. Dr. Michael McGee & Family	9:00 a.m. Rita Shirker
	5:00 p.m. ♦ Micki Lorenzo
Wednesday, December 14th	Sunday, December 18th
9:00 a.m. ♦ Bill Hecker	7:30 a.m. For the Parishioners
Thursday, December 15th	9:00 a.m. ♦ Charles Hero, Sr.
* ♦ Peter Donaghy	11:00 a.m. ♦ Adriana Joy Fittipaldi
9:00 a.m. ♦ Helen Sippie	

♦ = For the Repose of the Soul of ...

* Mass will be said in private at St. Clement's Mission House

Note: Monday 9:00 a.m. Mass Intentions have been moved to Monday 7:00 a.m. Mass.

BULLETIN SUBMISSION: Please submit announcements to Jeanne McAleer at perpetualhelp@omph.org by Friday morning, 10 days prior to publication.

Retirement Fund for Religious – December 10-11

There will be a second collection at Masses this weekend for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This collection allows the National Religious Retirement Office to distribute critical funding to hundreds of religious orders. Please prayerfully consider giving to those who have given a lifetime.



Parish Goal for the 2022 DAC is \$97,012

Current Gifts/Pledges are \$84,961

Amount Needed to Reach Goal is \$12,051Donate at <https://www.hbgdiocese.org/diocesan-annual-campaign/donate/> or scan the bar code here.

The 2022 Diocesan Annual Campaign – One Faith, One Family is ending soon and we have almost reached our goal! Please prayerfully consider making a gift to the 2022 Diocesan Annual Campaign. This campaign directly supports the ministries and programs that provide services to those in need, spiritual growth and education for our ordained men and religious women, and a Catholic educational foundation for our youth and adults. Without support from the faithful, we could not advance the Church in the Diocese of Harrisburg. By supporting the work of these important ministries and programs, you are answering the call and putting your faith in action. To learn more about the Diocesan Annual Campaign, please visit <https://www.hbgdiocese.org/diocesan-annual-campaign/>.



PARISH MINISTRIES, CONTINUED

RCIA	School Advancement Office
Deacon Jim Lawson	Teresa Hartman
717-799-0080	717-738-2414
Readers	School Enrollment Office
Scott Harper	Jen Francis
717-201-1551	717-738-2414
Religious Education Director	Seasons of Hope – Grief Support
Fr. Jim Szobonya	Dave Hugenbruch
717-738-4517	610-750-4749
Religious Education Coordinator	Trish Zimmerman
Emma Reynolds	717-629-1904
717-738-4517	Ushers
Sacristan	Bill Whiskeyman
Mary Burkholder	717-733-4497
717-733-4989	Yearlings
School Principal	Gloria Kreider
Mrs. Peggy Snyder	717-738-9098
717-738-2414	Youth Ministry
	Denise Duchesneau
	717-859-5835

POPE'S CORNER

Advent

How important it is to learn the art of waiting for the Lord! To wait for Him meekly, confidently, chasing away phantoms, fanaticism and clamor; preserving, especially in times of trial, a silence filled with hope.

Homily – November 4, 2021



Here is a new wonderful way to honor or remember your loved ones!

You are now able to make donations directly online for the altar bread and wine. The bread and wine that you provide to be offered at Mass will become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, the Gift of Life. To donate online, please go to <https://osvhub.com/omph/funds>! Your donation in honor or in memory of someone, will be listed in the bulletin.

SANCTUARY LAMP

You may have the Sanctuary Lamp burn for a sick or deceased loved one for a donation of \$5.00 to defray the cost of the candles. This week, the candle burns for a Special Intention.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS



We publish the names of your dear loved ones who are seriously ill or injured. After the period of one month, their names will be removed. If, at that time,

prayers are still needed, please feel free to contact the parish office, and we will be more than happy to continue prayers for your loved one's name.

John Mento, Maryann Wilk, Barbara Beebe, Barbara Szobonya, Phoenix Rann, Kim Tran, Mary Price, Gina Leone-Miale, Julie Leone, Sharon Johnson, Alexander Troichuk, Jimmy Condon, Cindi Staneski, Dennis Flemming, Joan Inshetski, Marty Holmes, Pete Kruszon, Jo Ward, Lori Ritz, Gary Muscatell, Joseph DeMarco, Dolores Pagerly, Carl Essenther, James Lehmier, Holly Lyle, Kelly Wright, Annie Gelles, Jean Merk, Jack Bigoski, Jeff Hostler, Lea Hydock, Georgia Hogan, Shannon Silver, Tony Cicero, Bill Sheaffer, Carol Kennedy, Joyce Sweisy, Carol Nicci, Barbara Hertz, Judy Welu, Michael Lynch, Francis Berletic

BLESSING OF THE BAMBINELLI

Join us on Sunday, December 18, at the 11:00 a.m. Mass for the Blessing of the Bambinelli. The faithful are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figurines from their home Nativity sets to Mass for this special blessing.



MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Pope Benedict XVI spoke the following words in his homily when he was made Bishop of Rome April 24, 2005:

The pastor must be inspired by Christ's holy zeal: for him it is not a matter of indifference that so many people are living in the desert. And there are so many kinds of desert. There is the desert of poverty, the desert of hunger and thirst, the desert of abandonment, of loneliness, of destroyed love. There is the desert of God's darkness, the emptiness of souls no longer aware of their dignity or the goal of human life. The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast. Therefore, the earth's treasures no longer serve to build God's garden for all to live in, but they have been made to serve the powers of exploitation and destruction. . . . The Church as a whole and all her Pastors, like Christ, must set out to lead people out of the desert, towards the place of life, towards friendship with the Son of God, towards the One who gives us life, and life in abundance.

Pope Benedict's words give us a great place to start reflecting on the words from Scripture this Third Sunday of Advent, but especially the first reading from Isaiah. We all have deserts in our lives, the question is, what do we do when we encounter them? At times, many of us have found ourselves in the deserts of loneliness, desolation and emptiness, or perhaps even fear. We all desire that our deserts be turned into gardens that are flourishing like in today's first reading: "they will bloom with abundant flowers?"

Sometimes we get so caught up in our daily lives we simply find ourselves in the desert, or we simply love our way because of bad habits or we forget we are children of God created in His image, and then it's too late, we're in the desert!

When we find ourselves in the wilderness, we realize we are lost, and are all alone. No one is there to save us, nothing can take away our problems. But all is not lost, this is when we are ready to meet God, to reach out to Him, to open our hearts to Him, to put our total trust in Him. This is the opportune time to ask ourselves – *in what ways have we resisted transforming our own inner deserts into places of abundant life?*

This is what Advent is all about, opening our hearts to meet the Lord Jesus. As we reflect on the deserts in our life, the letter to James offers us some good advice – "to be patient" because the Lord's "coming is at hand." He is our Savior!

The first two weeks of Advent have reminded us that we have been in the desert preparing a way for Lord. This weekend we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. This weekend we rejoice as we look to Christ because He is the light that shines in the darkness of all those desert experiences, He is the only one who can bring forgiveness to those longing to be set free from sin, and He is the one who can bring lasting peace to those in sadness and pain.

Today we rejoice because by His birth, our Savior has conquered sin and death. We rejoice because our Savior will come again in Glory. We rejoice because our Savior comes again and again. Let us pray always that we be ready to greet Him when He comes!

Come, Lord Jesus,
God bless, Fr. John

CHURCH SUPPORT

DATE	2021	2022
November, 4th Week	\$11,350.80	\$11,544.35
YTD Totals	\$286,216.25	\$284,823.49

Thank you for your generosity!



ONLINE GIVING COMPARISON

	<u>Average Weekly Amount Donated for 4th Week of November</u>	<u>Average # of Donors</u>
2021	\$3,400.80	92
2022	\$3,620.35	92

If you would like to set up online giving, please visit <https://osvhub.com/omph/funds>.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS & ONLINE GIVING

Are you unable to attend Mass?

- You may mail your weekly offering to the Church at 320 Church Avenue, Ephrata, PA 17522
- **TEXT-TO-GIVE** by texting the amount you would like to give to our number, 717-401-4159, and hit "send" or
- Sign up for Online Giving at <https://osvhub.com/omph/funds>.

ADVENT PREPARATION

**St. Andrew's Novena**

Prepare this Advent to welcome Christ by praying the St. Andrew's Novena. St. Andrew's Novena begins on the feast day of St. Andrew (November 30th) and ends on Christmas Day.

The St. Andrew's Novena isn't actually a prayer you say to St. Andrew; this prayer is focused on the birth of Christ, rather than on the saint whose feast day begins it.

Through this Novena, you can pray that Christ grants your deepest needs and desires at the moment that you enter into the celebration of His birth at Christmas.

NOVENA PRAYER:

"Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires...through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen."

While most Novenas are recited once per day over nine days, the St. Andrew's Novena prayer is said **fifteen times** each day.

You can say the prayer fifteen times all at once, or throughout the day – that's up to you!

Remember, this is a very powerful prayer. Tradition holds that your requests will be answered if you pray this Novena with devotion.

Even if it seems like God has not heard your prayers in this Novena, have faith that He has heard you. Trust that He is lovingly preparing to give you all you need.

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Advent/Christmas Schedule



Quiet Longing for Christ (2022 Theme)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays, 4:00 p.m.

Wednesdays, December 7, 14, and 21 immediately following
9:00 a.m. Mass (until 11:00 a.m.)

(There will be no Confessions on Saturday, December 24)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. *(ending with Benediction)*

Fridays, 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. *(ending with Benediction)*

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

December 22nd – 7:00 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

December 3rd-4th

(after 5:00 p.m., 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. Masses)

*(For those who desire to receive this sacrament,
please read the bulletin for more information.)*

LECTIO DIVINA PRAYER

Introduced and prayed at Friday Holy Hour during Advent – 3:00 p.m.

PROPER PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY ADVENT MASSES

A short reflection (from USCCB) will be given after Thursday 9:00 a.m. Mass

BLESSING OF THE BAMBINELLI (baby Jesus)

Parishioners are invited to have their baby Jesus statue blessed at the
11:00 a.m. Mass on December 18th

SHORT REFLECTION AT SUNDAY MASS

1st Sunday – *Preparing to receive Christ before Mass*

2nd Sunday – *Preparing to receive Christ in the Word*

3rd Sunday – *Preparing to receive Christ in the Eucharist*

4th Sunday – *How to keep Christ in our hearts as we go out into the world*

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Vigil Masses (December 24th) – 5:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Masses (December 25th) – 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Keystone Villa – 10:30 a.m.

OMPH YOUTH MINISTRY

Contact Denise at duchesneau@earthlink.net, 717-715-3496 (cell/text), or 717-859-5835 (home) for information and reservations for the following activities:

EXCITING NEWS! Introducing the Life Teen Youth Ministry Program at OMPH!

Beginning on Sunday, January 8, 2023, the Feast of the Epiphany, OMPH will begin the Life Teen Youth Ministry Program for our youth in grades 7-12!

Life Teen is a dynamic youth ministry program that invites teens to worship and minister at a weekly Mass followed by a "Life Night" – a meeting where they can deepen their Catholic faith through interactive activities, discussion, Bible Study, service projects, and social events. Our weekly Life Teen Program will include a NEW Sunday Mass at 5:00 p.m., with dinner and a Life Night afterwards from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Feeling called to help? Questions? Contact Denise Duchesneau for more information! More details to follow!

Winter Clothing Donations

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Catholic Worker House! Since we were unable to deliver the items before the deadline, we will be taking the items to the Matthew 25 Thrift Shop in Lititz. Thank you for your understanding!

Operation Christmas Child Update

Thank you to the youth and adults who helped pack 61 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child on November 13! Thank you to everyone who donated shoe boxes, items, and \$80.00 donations for shipping. Thanks also to Ann, Theresa, and Fr. Jim for their help loading the boxes for transport to Washington Avenue Bible Church for processing, and finally delivery all over the world. Many children, families, churches, and communities will experience the love of Jesus because of you!



CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION

As we all know, our families are the first school of Christian and social virtues. The CGA is established to encourage and assist grandparents to pass on the faith to the family, to grandchildren, to keep prayer and the call to holiness at the heart of family life. **The meetings are now the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to you joining us!!!**

SEASONS OF HOPE

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP AT OMPH

Seasons of Hope, a Grief Support Group, will be starting Season Three in January. It is for anyone who may feel isolated, empty, or broken-hearted due to the loss of a loved one. Come and be nurtured by God, your faith, and others who are also mourning. Please contact Dave Hugenbruch at 610-750-4749 or Trish Zimmerman at 717-629-1904 for more information.

SMILE! BE PART OF OUR NEW PARISH DIRECTORY

It's been 12 years since OMPH published our last Parish Directory. Our parish has changed and grown. What a wonderful time now to update our parish family photo directory to reflect our current makeup!

We contracted a professional organization (Member Church Directories) for the development of this new directory. We have scheduled the weeks of February 6 and February 13, 2023 to take photographs. We will provide further specific information (e.g., selecting sign-up dates/times, identifying photo options, directory contents) in future parish communications. Each participating individual and family will receive a free hard-copy directory (if enough families take part). Additional photos can be purchased.

Volunteers are needed to organize, set up, and interface with the vendor. If interested, contact Joe Kadingo at 717-336-6936.



THE COOKIE SALE

Today we will be selling cookies after all the Masses to support Cross Catholic International's School Feeding Programs. Trays are \$20.00 and each one provides 222 meals to starving children in Haiti who attend Catholic Schools. If you will not be at Mass this weekend and would like to purchase a tray, please contact Marybeth Tearpock at 717-940-1633 and place your order. We are also accepting contributions that you can drop off at the Parish Office at your convenience. Only nine cents is needed to provide one healthy meal to a child that will sustain them for a full day. Help us to combat world hunger and bring hope to our most vulnerable by participating in our sale this weekend. Your generosity is so greatly appreciated. Thank you.



RCIA – IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER



RCIA is an adult faith formation process of conversion leading to reception into full communion with the Catholic Church. The RCIA may serve your needs if you:

- Were baptized in another Christian denomination and now wish to explore coming into full communion with the Catholic Church
- Are an adult wanting to be baptized into the Catholic faith
- Were baptized in the Catholic faith but are in need of receiving the Sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation

If you have ever reflected on making such a decision, be at peace! God, the Holy Spirit, is calling you and He will lead you. The RCIA process will help you to grow in faith and understanding of the teachings of Jesus and His Church. **The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Classes began in September**, and continue until shortly after Easter. The Monday evening classes are held in the Parish Meeting Room at 7:00 p.m. If you would like more information about our RCIA classes, please contact Deacon Jim at 717-799-0080.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Religious Education Classes have begun. Registration forms can be found on the website, in the parish office or Narthex. Classes are Sunday mornings. If you have any questions, please contact the Religious Education Office at 717-738-4517 or omphreled@omph.org.



LIFE TEEN EXCITING NEWS!

Starting January 8th, OMPH will have a Life Teen Mass on Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

Open to everyone – not just the youth!

OMPH will begin the Life Teen Youth Ministry Program for our youth in grades 7-12 on Sunday, January 8, 2023!

Life Teen is a dynamic youth ministry program that invites teens to worship and minister at a weekly Mass followed by a "Life Night" – a meeting where they can deepen their Catholic faith through interactive activities, discussion, Bible Study, service projects, and social events. Our weekly Life Teen Program will include a NEW Sunday Mass at 5:00 p.m., with dinner and a Life Night afterwards from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Feeling called to help? Questions? Contact Denise Duchesneau for more information! More details to follow!

THE KNIGHTS KORNER – KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 4191



Photo from Light up for Christ

Upcoming Events

- ♦ Coffee Corner December 18 following 9:00 a.m. Mass

Save the Dates

- ♦ December 14, 7:30 p.m. – Regular Meeting
- ♦ January 20 – March for Life in Washington, D.C.
Call Rosie Goss at 717-397-6966 to reserve your seat on the bus.
- ♦ January 28 – Knight at the Races
- ♦ March 4 – Spaghetti Dinner

In service to one, In service to all!!

JOIN TODAY, visit KofC.org/JoinUs – more info is available in the Narthex.



THE GIVING TREE

If you took a tag from the Giving Tree, **please return the item unwrapped by December 11th**. If you cannot find the toy on the tag, or you don't get a tag, feel free to purchase any toy. We will also be collecting children's hats, gloves, socks and underwear. If you have any questions, please call Judy Weiser at 717-572-9402.



YEARLINGS

We will meet for our Annual Christmas Lunch at The Riviera Restaurant in Reamstown on Tuesday, December 13th at 11:30 a.m. Please bring a wrapped \$5.00 gift for our game. Bring a friend, have fun and celebrate! Call Gloria for reservations at 717-738-9098.



STARTING UP! Quilt and Craft Ministry

WHEN: January 9 and following non-holiday Mondays, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

WHERE: OMPH Parish Meeting Room

WHO: All handcrafters and sewists, beginner to expert

WHAT: BYO supplies, labeled power strip, and projects. Come for part of or the entire time. Iron available. Plus: anyone can have a prayer time in the church.

WHY: Build a parish group of creative maker-doers who have tips to share or could use tips, and would enjoy being part of a creative community.

CONTACT: Veida Wissler at 717-271-9706.



JOB OPPORTUNITY

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic School is looking for an organized, self-motivated candidate for a part-time custodial position to clean the classrooms and bathrooms five days per week. The hours can be flexible but must be after 4:00

p.m. and before the next school day. This work will take approximately 3 to 4 hours each day to complete. Interested persons should contact the school principal, Mrs. Peggy Snyder, at psnyder@omph.org.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of bad weather during the week, if school is cancelled, morning Mass is also cancelled. Please use your judgment whether or not to attempt to attend if there is Mass.



PARISH WEBSITE AND CALENDAR

Ministries must schedule their activities on the parish calendar. Any ministries needing to schedule space for an activity, please view the parish calendar at omphchurch.com/calendar to see if available, then complete the Calendar/Event Request Form at omphchurch.com/calendar-event-request-form. Thank you!



Be aware of SCAMS that are texts, emails, phone calls, or on the Internet. It has been brought to our attention that there are several SCAMS asking parishioners for donations/money/gift cards. **NONE** of the priests or the parish employees will **EVER** text you asking for donations. We will never send any alerts that you "owe" money. The only emails that come from OMPH Parish will come from perpetualhelp@omph.org. If you are **EVER** in doubt, call the parish office at 717-733-9641.

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 even better, you can watch it anywhere from any device!



2023 PARISH CALENDAR

Our 2023 Parish Calendars are available in the Church Narthex. Thank you and God bless Paul L. Gravenor Home for Funerals for sponsoring this year's calendar.



If you have not already taken a copy of The Word Among US, please take a copy as you leave church. These daily scriptural meditations are a wonderful way to help you prepare for Christmas.

To report suspected abuse of a minor, please follow these two steps:



Call the toll-free PA Child Abuse Hotline at **1-800-932-0313**



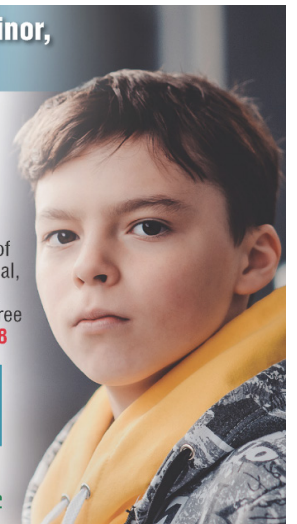
Report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer by calling the diocesan toll-free hotline at **1-800-626-1608**

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU REPORT SUSPECTED ABUSE WITH BOTH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE DIOCESE.

Email: ReportAbuse@hbgdiocese.org



Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program www.YouthProtectionHBG.com





Our Mother of Perpetual Help School

Reverence, Respect and Responsibility

School Scene

December 11, 2022

Catching Up with...7th and 8th Grades



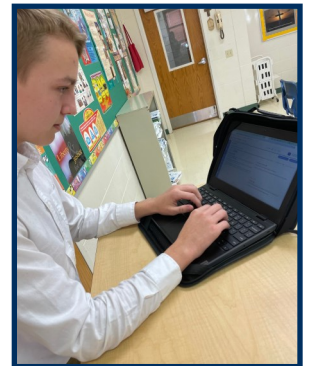
Sensational Seventh Grade: “It is hard to imagine we are already into December of the school year,” said Mrs. Natasha Pickett, OMPH School’s Seventh Grade homeroom teacher. The Seventh Graders have been working hard in their Integrated Language Arts class, learning about Plot, Setting, and Characters, as well as Topic & Theme. Before their Christmas break, the students will be reading the play A Christmas Carol to identify the major themes of the story. They always enjoy having different speaking parts! The Seventh Graders help to organize the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) program at the school, and they decided to bring the Mission

Cart back this school year. Each month, two students take turns manning the cart, and this helps to enforce responsibility. So far this school year, the Seventh Graders have sat with Kindergarten and Preschool at Mass, helped Mrs. Hartman set up for events at the school, stuffed bulletins, as well as run other MCA activities. “This group of students are always willing to lend a helping hand,” Mrs. Pickett added.



Extraordinary Eighth Grade: The Eighth Grade has been working on their National History Day projects, focusing on this year’s theme of “Frontiers in History,” while diving into in-depth research skills in addition to analyzing types of resources. “This is a fun and exhilarating challenge for our students to not only expand and broaden their knowledge of a particular topic of their choosing, but also an opportunity to experience various levels of competition,” explained Eighth Grade homeroom

and Social Studies teacher Miss Caitlin Peters. The students have also been forming a deeper connection within their faith journeys to prepare for Confirmation. They have weekly sessions led by Deacon Jim, with whom they enjoy conversation, discussion of their prayer lives, and their relationship with God. “An added benefit to this time of religious contemplation is that the students will achieve a more profound and richer understanding of the Catholic faith,” said Miss Peters.



Enrollment for 2023-24 is Now Open!
Early Education Seats are Limited...
Call 717-738-2414 for availability!

Reverence. Respect. Responsibility.



OMPHEphrata

Our Mother of Perpetual Help School
 330 Church Ave., Ephrata, PA 17522

717-738-2414

www.omphschool.com

LCMS GRADUATES
Chad Snyder '70
Kelly Gramola Townsend '99
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