

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

Established in 1841

10th & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901



The front cover of our bulletin this weekend is a sketch by the late Dr. David Marshall.

Pastor: Rev. David J. Loeper

Deacons: Dr. Luis R. Visot and Larry Lonergan

Rectory (570) 622-5470
Rectory Fax (570) 622-4589
Russell Building (570) 628-3002
Website – SaintJohnPottsville.org.

Parish Council President: *Robert Bechtel*
Choir Director/Organist: *David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator: *Lucilla Kochol*
E-mail – stjbparish@comcast.net

Nativity BVM High School (570) 622-8110
Assumption BVM Elementary (570) 622-0106
St. Joseph Center for Special Learning (570) 622-4638

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD
February 2, 2020

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This feast invites us to celebrate the truth that Christ is the light of all nations, the long awaited glory of Israel.

In this Sunday's first readings from the prophet Malachi he describes the one who will prepare a way for the Lord when he comes to purify his people.

The author of Hebrews describes how Jesus came to share in the flesh and blood like God's children so as to expiate the sins of the people. And in the gospel, Jesus is taken by Mary and Joseph to be presented in the temple. He is recognized by Simeon and Anna as the child to all who are awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

As we celebrate God's presence among us, we are invited to reflect on our calling to bring his redemptive light to our world.

Yours in Christ,

Father Dave

PRAY FOR OUR SICK / DECEASED

We remember in prayer those who are ill. We commend to our Divine Lord all of our aged people and those residing in nursing homes.

Sick: Robert Kline, Joseph Brahler

Deceased: Esther Smith

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Morning – 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Weekday Mass Schedule (in Chapel)

Monday thru Friday – 9:00 a.m.

Cemetery Information

John Consugar 622-2389

St. John's Rectory 622-5470

C.C.D.

All children preparing to receive any sacrament must be in a Religious Education Program for two consecutive years immediately prior to receiving a Sacrament. The child must also be a practicing Catholic.

Certificates of Eligibility

Certificates to act as sponsors, Godparents, etc. will only be issued to parishioners who are formally registered with the church and attend Mass on a regular basis.

New Parishioners

Please call the Rectory for an appointment to register.

Bulletin Deadline – Tuesday prior to publication

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday – February 3 – 9:00 a.m.

ANNETTE LIEBERMAN (Jim & Ellen Ryan)

Tuesday, February 4 – 9:00 a.m.

BOB & BABE BECKER (Mary & Bob Porter)

Wednesday – February 5 – 9:00 a.m.

KATHY NORKUS (Judy Meseravage & Kathy Vicic)

Thursday – February 6 – 9:00 a.m.

ERNEST ZAMBO (Mildred Balulis & Family)

Friday, February 7 – 9:00 a.m.

MAUREEN MCGREW (Patricia Grant)

Saturday, February 8 – 5:00 p.m.

THEODORE “TED” CASEY (Patty & Lynn Denmar)

Sunday, February 9 – 8:15 a.m.

JOANNE HEPLER (Babe Murphy)

Sunday, February 9 – 10:30 a.m.

DOROTHY RYAN & MARY LOUISE

HORNBERGER (Crystal Pugh)

+++++

Tuesday – February 4

at York Terrace Nursing Home

MARY CEGANIK (Staff & Residents)

WEEKLY COLLECTION

January 25/26: \$4,605.64

Catholic Relief: \$ 1,066.82

Christmas: \$18,638.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday afternoon – 4:15 to 4:45 p.m.

Sunday – 7:45 to 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 to 10:15 a.m.

or by appointment

Sacrament of Marriage

Please call the Rectory one year in advance.

Sacrament of Baptism

First Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m.

Second Sunday during 10:30 a.m. Mass

Baptismal Preparation for Parents **MUST**

precede the Baptism.

Please contact Father Dave for an appointment.

Outreach Program

Rectory 622-5470

Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC

Direct Phone (800) 791-9209

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator

Sr. Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT

(610) 332-0442 ext. 2019

CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM – Special Intention by Mary Jean Morgalis

St. Joseph – IMO Paul J. Bartholomew

by Frances Lorenz

Tabernacle – IMO Theresa Sencak by Frances Lorenz

Sanctuary

1&2. IMO Pat Mason Sr. by Maria Mason

3&4. IMO Bob Barnes by Fred & Hilda Maley

Guardian Angels

1&2. IMO Dorothy A. Rosenberger by Paul Rosenberger

SCHEDULE

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5 p.m. – Saturday – February 8th

Reader: Carol Lasco

Euch.Min.: Hermine & Dan Murphy

Servers: Alyssa Sheriff, Riley Doyle, Kaitlin Painter

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – February 9th

Reader: Ann Blankenhorn

Euch.Min.: Nick Quinn, John Corbacio

Servers: Gavin & Evan Woodward, Luke Schane

Cantor: Debbie Purcell

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – February 9th

Reader: Janet Daubert

Euch.Min.: Mary Modesto, Bobby Rienzo

Servers: Bethany, Trinity, Izabella Reedy

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

ATTENTION

All Readers, Servers, and Eucharistic Ministers ... your help is needed ... please let us know your plans for **March & April** so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. **Please call or email the Rectory by Sunday, February 10th** to let us know when you are **NOT** available during these months. Thank you.

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

February 2nd

Forty days after the birth of a child, the people of Israel presented the newborn to the Temple. The gospels say that the parents of Jesus obeyed this law. Forty days after our celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Church remembers His Presentation in the Temple.

Next Week's Readings

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (February 8/9)

Reading I: Isaiah 58:7-10

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5;

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Simeon saw salvation in Jesus.

Where have you "seen salvation" in your life?

DIVINE MERCY PERPETUAL ADORATION

What separates YOU from committing to a holy hour of adoration? We need adorers for all 168 holy hours and subs for the open holy hours so that our dear Lord is never left alone! Jesus waits for us in this Sacrament of Love! Examine your priorities! Are you indifferent or just too busy? We have a treasure in having our dear Lord present 24/7 in our adoration chapel. Don't let this treasure go to waste in your life!

We need adorers for the following hours:

Wednesday 10 a.m.

Thursday 3 a.m., 4 a.m., 10 p.m.;

Saturday 12 a.m., 1 a.m., 2 a.m., 3 a.m., 4 a.m.;

Sunday 12 a.m., 4 a.m.

Whenever you are unable to cover your Holy Hour, for whatever reason, we are always able to get a sub.

Call St. Patrick's Rectory 570-622-1802.

MEN'S GOSPEL REFLECTION GROUP

Men's Gospel Reflection Group meeting will take place on **Tuesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Rectory Fellowship Room**. This group is open to any men interested in reflecting on how the Gospel impacts their lives. All are welcome! Please call the rectory with any questions 570-622-5470.

CONFIRMATION PRAYER SPONSORS

Our 8th graders are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Wednesday, April 29, 2020**. Please consider supporting this important decision by praying for one or more candidates. Cards containing the names of the candidates are located on the table in back of church. Please take one and during this time of preparation, please pray for that person in a special way and write notes of encouragement. Our parish will be doubly blessed!



COFFEE & PASTRIES

Sunday, February 16th after Masses

Wrap up your Valentine weekend with coffee and conversation with your fellow parishioners after 8:15 or 10:30 Mass on February 16th. Coffee and pastries will be provided in Longinus Hall. Juice, milk and some healthy snacks will also be available.



If you would like to assist with this parish fellowship or your parish group would like to provide information on your parish ministry during this Sunday morning get together, please contact the rectory 622-5470.

*For with You is the fountain of life,
and in Your light we see light.
Ps. 37-10*

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

February

- 3 Family Guild Mtg. – 6:30 p.m. – F.R.
4 Men’s Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
9 Confirmation Class – 6:30 p.m. – L.H.
11 Men’s Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
12 Discovering Christ – 6:30-8:30 p.m. – L.H.
12 St. John’s Beneficial Soc. – 8 p.m. – F.R.
16 Coffee & Pastries after Sunday Masses – L.H.
17 Catholic Women’s Union Mtg. – 7 p.m. – L.H.
18 Men’s Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
19 Discovering Christ – 6:30-8:30 p.m. – L.H.
20 First Eucharist Parent Mtg. – 7 p.m. – L.H.
22/23 Blood Pressure Screenings after Masses
23 Confirmation Class – 6:30 p.m. – L.H.
25 Men’s Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
26 Ash Wednesday – Masses – 9 a.m. & 5:15 p.m.
26 Discovering Christ – 6:30-8:30 p.m. – L.H.
28 Lenten Dinner – 4 to 7 p.m. – R.B.
28 Stations of the Cross – 7 p.m. – Chapel

** L.H. – Longinus Hall

** F.R. – Rectory Fellowship Room

** R.B. – Russell Building

PRAYER GROUP

Our parish Prayer Group will continue to meet on the **second Sunday every month after the 10:30 a.m. Mass**. We will meet in front of the Blessed Sacrament making it more convenient for all to participate. Please join us and if you can’t, please place your prayer requests in the box on the side of the confessional in the rear of church. (There is paper available on the shelf.)

2019 CONTRIBUTION RECORD

You can request a copy of your 2019 Contribution Record by calling the rectory Monday thru Thursday ... 622-5470 ext 3.

FAMILY MATTERS

Young Adults. We pray for the young adults of our parish who are often overlooked. May they increase in their faith and may the Holy Spirit continue to provide guidance in life’s journey

You pray for my family and I’ll pray for yours.

NATIVITY BVM HIGH SCHOOL

GIFTS FOR ME BINGO sponsored by the Nativity Green & Gold Booster Club on **Sunday, February 9th** at the high school. Cost \$20 ... refreshments available ... for more information please call Nativity 622-8110.

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Valentine’s Day is coming! Do you have a “heart” for romance? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend provides a face-to-face, heart-to-heart encounter with the one you’ve decided to spend your life with! For information call 610-449-1859 or visit www.wwme.org.

HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES of the Diocese of Allentown are invited to a First Friday gathering on **Thursday, February 6th** at St. Ambrose Church, 201 Randel Street, Schuylkill Haven. Mass at 6:00 p.m. by Father Kevin Bobbin, Chaplain to the Homeschooled Community. Mass will be followed by a period of Adoration and Confessions until 7 p.m. and then an informal social. Please join us for this opportunity to meet each other as we come together for prayer and fellowship. (Questions: Fr. Bobbin: 610-866-0791x332 or kbobbin@allentowndioecese.org)

L/E/A/D: THE FOUR MARKS OF FATHERLY

GREATNESS This one-day retreat will inspire men to embrace God’s purpose and plan for their life. Explore the spirituality of Saint Joseph with presenter Rob Longo at St. Mary, Kutztown on **Saturday, February 29th**. A Daily Mass will be offered by Bishop Schlert during the retreat and there will be an opportunity for the Sacrament of Confession as well. This retreat is sponsored by the Diocesan Commission for Men. For more information or to register, visit allentowndioecese.org/LEAD

OPEN ARMS MINISTRY

If you have good used furniture that you would like to donate, *Open Arms Ministry* is in need for these items for their transitional housing. If you would like more information about this organization, check out their website at www.openarmshelp.org, or email Pastor Vincent Murray at Oathmainoffice@gmail.com.

WELCOME VISITORS

Thank you for worshiping with us today.

If you are visiting our beautiful church, please know you are most welcome!

If you have questions or are interested in joining our parish family, please call the rectory 570-622-5470.

*Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and victory ...
1 Chr. 29:11*

HEALTH NEWS ... FLU SEASON

Protecting Yourself Against the Flu

Influenza, or the flu, is a contagious respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus that can infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness and sometimes lead to death.

Flu symptoms

Flu symptoms include the following:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue



*It is important to note that not everyone with the flu will have a fever.

How the Flu Spreads

Flu and cold viruses spread when people with the flu or a cold cough, sneeze or talk. In fact, each cough is filled with at least 3,000 droplets that can travel at speeds up to 50 mph. A sick person's cough could contain two hundred million individual virus particles! Each sneeze contains around 4,000 droplets and can travel speeds over 200 mph! While larger droplets may fall to the floor, the small droplets can remain airborne almost indefinitely and be disbursed in the airflow system. Additionally, a person may get the flu or a cold by touching a surface or object that has one of the flu or cold droplets on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or eyes.



- ◆ **When you cough or sneeze ...** Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your upper sleeve. **Do Not Use Your Hand!**



- ◆ **Fight germs by washing your hands!** Wet your hands; Soap; Lather and scrub – 20 seconds; Rinse – 10 seconds; Dry your hands ... don't forget to wash between your fingers, under nails, and tops of your hands.

How to Protect Yourself Against the Flu

- The CDC (Center for Disease Control) recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone 6 months and older by the end of October.
- Wash your hands for a minimum of 20 seconds (hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice).
- Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol when you can't use soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as faucets, door knobs, light switches and remote controls.

(Con't)

HEALTH NEWS ... FLU SEASON

(Cont'd)

What if You Get the Flu?

If you have a fever, bad cough (frequent, loud, painful), you are taking medication that makes you drowsy or you're just too tired and achy to function at work, it is best to stay home because you may be contagious. The CDC recommends staying at home at least 24 hours after your fever goes away, unless you need to leave the house for medical care or other urgent reasons. If the flu symptoms have lasted for 10 days or more while accompanied by a fever, it may have developed into a bacterial infection and you may want to see a physician.

The Statistics and Why is it Important to Protect Yourself and others.

Recent reports indicate that the CDC estimates that from October 2, 2019 through December 28, 2019, there has been 6,400,000 – 9,000,000 flu illnesses, 3,000,000 – 4,500,000 flu medical visits, 55,000 – 93,000 flu hospitalizations and 2,900 – 7,200 flu deaths.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We appreciate advertisers who support St. John's by advertising in our bulletin. Please patronize their business and let them know you saw their ad in our bulletin.

Total Accessibility LLC
ACORN Stairlifts
PRIDE Mobility Scooters & Accessories
Handicapped Ramps – Wheelchair Lifts & Carriers
570-622-7785 570-490-7750

Why Advertise In A Church Bulletin?

- * It's inexpensive Advertising
- * It's Effective in Catching New Neighbors' Attention
- * It's Advertising Concentrated in Your Own Neighborhood
- * It Develops Good Community Relationships
- * It's Good For Developing Loyal Customers

STEWARDSHIP LIBRARY

Stewardship Displays are located at the church exits. There are many items available including CD's, Rosaries, Self-help and Informational Booklets, etc. **New Items include:** Music (lower door); Divine Mercy (main church), in addition to other great CD's or books.

**PRAYER FOR OUR TROOPS AROUND
THE WORLD**

“Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.”