

**St. John the Baptist R.C. Church
9th & Schuylkill Ave., Pottsville**

(St. John's Russell Building)

**BAKED HADDOCK / BAKED SALMON
BAKED LUMP CRAB CAKE
DINNERS**



**FRIDAYS
IN LENT
4 TO 7 P.M.**

(No Dinner on
Good Friday)

Full Course Dinner including the best
Homemade New England Clam Chowder
Full Salad Bar—Choice of Vegetables
Choice of Macaroni & Cheese
Baked or Mashed Potatoes
Beverages—Homemade Desserts
Better prices for all of this cannot be found anywhere!



Adults:

Baked Haddock	\$15.00
Baked Salmon	\$15.00
1 Lump Crab Cake	\$15.00
2 Lump Crab Cakes	\$18.00

**TAKE-OUTS
AVAILABLE**

Adult Special:

Lump Crab Cake & Choice of Fish \$18.00

Children: (under 12)

Baked Haddock	\$8.00
Baked Salmon	\$8.00
Lump Crab Cake	\$8.00



**St. John the Baptist
Roman Catholic
Parish Family**

Established in 1841

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

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 23rd, 2020

Pastor: Rev. David J. Loeper
Deacons: Dr. Luis R. Visot & Lawrence 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 - stjparish@comcast.net

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

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

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 ext.3

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

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

In this Sunday's readings, Jesus expands on the law that his followers knew well.

In Leviticus, our first readings for this Sunday, the Lord declares his statutes to Moses for the Israelites calling them to holiness and love. In the second reading St. Paul instructs the Corinthians calling them to holiness as temples of the Holy Spirit. In Matthew's gospel for this Sunday Jesus preaches a new standard of love and justice, calling his followers to love their enemies. As God loves all people without partiality, the bad and the good, the just and the unjust – so are all who follow Him to do.

Certainly this can be difficult but it is not impossible. For by Christ's sacrifice we have been made children of the Father. With his help, and God's grace, we are capable of striving for the perfection in love for which we are called.

Yours in Christ,

Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday – February 24 – 9:00 a.m.

JOHN HELLER (Bonnie Kapp)

Tuesday, February 25 – 9:00 a.m.

GEORGE L. KLASSEN JR. (Family)

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ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 26

9:00 a.m. – DOROTHY ELISON

(John, Cathy, Hannah Kostick)

5:15 p.m. – ANNETTE LIEBERMAN

(Jack & Maryanne Guinan)

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Thursday – February 27 – 9:00 a.m.

ERNEST ZAMBO (Babe Murphy)

Friday, February 28 – 9:00 a.m.

PATRICK MURPHY (Marilyn & Jim Steidle)

Saturday, February 29 – 5:00 p.m.

LEO LOTZ (Tina Mercuri & Family)

Sunday, March 1 – 8:15 a.m.

BETH THOMAS RESNECK (Dr. Edward Gaydos)

Sunday, March 1 – 10:30 a.m.

ESTHER SMITH (Lorraine 'Babe' Murphy)

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. **Deceased:** *Joseph Brahler, James Campion, Paul Burns.*

CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM – Special Intention by Mary Jean Morgalis

St. Joseph – IMO Thomas J. Burns by Peggy Smith

Tabernacle – IMO Donald & Nancy Doyne

by Don & Joanne Doyne

Sanctuary

1. IMO Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Doyle by Family

2. IMO Baby Robbie Doyle by Family

3. IMO Mr. & Mrs. Robert Becker Sr.

by Bob & Mary Porter

4. IMO Mr. & Mrs. Robert Porter Sr.

by Bob & Mary Porter

Guardian Angels

1&2. IMO Mr. & Mrs. Richard H. Weiss by Becky Weiss

SCHEDULE

ASH WEDNESDAY

9:00 a.m. – Wednesday – February 26th

Reader: Mary Ann Schweikert

Euch. Min.: School Teachers, Joyce Gerace

Servers: Aleksander Gorski, Macie Rushannon,

Riley Doyle

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

5:15 p.m. – Wednesday – February 26th

Reader: Janet Daubert

Euch. Min.: Ray Petrilla, Bobby Rienzo

Servers: Jude, Justice, Leah Scheidel

Cantor: Mary Bound

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1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

5 p.m. – Saturday – February 29th

Reader: Heidi Gorski

Euch. Min.: Bobby Rienzo, Janet Daubert

Servers: Reese Ketner, Stanley & Aleksander Gorski

Cantor: Mary Bound

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – March 1st

Reader: Bill Gianfagna

Euch. Min.: Paul & Debbie Herb

Servers: Madison & Caden Wright, Kaitlin Painter

Cantor: Tina Seiger

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – March 1st

Reader: Susan Hahner

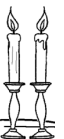
Euch. Min.: Bobby Rienzo, John Ventura

Servers: Evelyn Datte, Nathan Peckman,

Isabelle Myers

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

BLESSED CANDLES are available in the sacristy after weekend Masses or at the rectory during the week. **Box of 2 for \$5.00.** Please call if picking up at the Rectory 570-622-5470.



located at the back or front exits.

DRAMATIC STATIONS

St. John's Dramatic Stations of the Cross recreates on stage and through song, the final days of the life of Jesus Christ.

We need men, women and children for the cast. There are many non-speaking parts for those who do not wish to assume a speaking role. People are also needed for the stage crew (props, lighting, sound, etc.) or to help distribute the costumes, etc. If you are a veteran of the Dramatic Stations Presentations, we are looking forward to your return and we ask that you please invite someone new to join you for this year's presentation. If you are new to the parish, we invite you to join us. In addition, it is a great way to meet new people. Many veterans tell us that their participation in the Dramatic Stations is a very meaningful and spiritual way for them to observe the Lenten Season. It is a wonderful family activity as well.

For further information or questions, please call the **Rectory 622-5470**.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

**Tuesdays & Thursdays – 7 to 8:15 p.m. – in church
Beginning Thursday, February 27th.**

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.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

Encounter Lent. Join our faith community – and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States – in a life-challenging Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl.

During the next 40 days, we will encounter the stories of people in Iraq, Nicaragua, Burkina Faso and other places around the world where CRS is at work.

Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl

ASH WEDNESDAY

With the sign of ashes we begin our journey to Easter. With the sign of ashes we are summoned to live with Christ. We make a beginning with ashes on this day and we will end this season in the fire of the Easter Vigil.

9:00 a.m. - Mass & Distribution of Ashes

5:15 p.m. - Mass & Distribution of Ashes



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays during Lent

@ St. John's – 7 p.m. - Chapel

Please join us each Friday during Lent. Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, Stations of the Cross, followed by Benediction.

Next Week's Readings

ASH WEDNESDAY

Reading I: Joel 2:12-18

Reading II: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (Feb.29/March 1)

Reading I: Genesis 2:1-9-, 3:1-7

Reading II: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Where is there persecution today?
Pray for those who persecute you and others.

FAMILY MATTERS

Lenten Practices. The family that prays together ... stays together. What better time than Lent to consider a family prayer time. Take time during this Lent to grow closer to Jesus and to each other.

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

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS

Next week, we will take up for Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Today, over 40% of dioceses in the United States are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support of this appeal helps ease the struggle of these dioceses. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/home-missions.

*My loving kindness will I not utterly take from him,
not suffer my faithfulness to fail. Psalm 89:34*

LENTEN OBLIGATIONS

Church law considers every Friday and the season of Lent as penitential days and times. The practice of penance is a part of our faith and Christian life. When we do penance, we imitate Jesus, who Himself recommended it as necessary to His followers, and gave them the example of His prayer and fasting.

The Lenten obligation, as determined for Catholics in the United States by our bishops, requires that fasting be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Who must fast?

All Catholics who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The obligation ceases when one begins his/her 60th year on his/her 59th birthday.

Who must abstain?

All Catholics who are 14 years and older.

What does fasting mean?

The observance of fasting means that those obliged may take only one full meal on the day of fast. Two lighter meals (not equal to another full meal) may be taken to maintain strength according to one's needs.

What does abstinence mean?

The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat, including poultry. Voluntary abstinence refers to refraining from lawful pleasures in a spirit of penance.

Can anyone be dispensed or excused from fast and/or abstinence?

Individuals for a just cause may be dispensed by their pastor or by a priest with the faculty to do so. In our Diocese all priests may dispense individuals who are committed to their pastoral care.

Those who are ill or have a similar serious reason are excused from the observance of fast and abstinence. Catholics are reminded that they should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

Are there other obligations which we should fulfill?

Catholics are obliged to fulfill what has been called their "Easter Duty." They are required to receive Holy Communion during the Easter time. In the United States this obligation can be fulfilled from the First Sunday of Lent until Trinity Sunday (1 March until 7 June 2020). Those conscious of serious sin are reminded of the obligation to confess their sins at least once a year during this time.

Catholics also are encouraged to make Lent a time of more intense prayer and to practice almsgiving and other works of charity. Parishes are encouraged to continue participation in Rice Bowl.

PARISH COUNCIL

St. John's Parish Council will meet

Monday, March 2nd – 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall.

There are two ways that any parishioner may raise a question or concern or make recommendations.

1. Parishioners may approach any Parish Council Member listed below and ask that a question, concern, etc. be brought up at the meeting.
2. Parishioners may write their concerns, etc. and put it (them) in the suggestion box provided in the rear of the church. These may be signed or unsigned. They will then be brought up at the Council meeting.

Elected Members

Bob Bechtel
John Consugar
Paul Datte
Darren DeArment
Joseph Gerchak
Heidi Gorski
Alicia Kleman
Eric Lieberman
Kevin McNamara
Al Norkus
Patty O'Neill
Josette Peckman
John Powers
Nick Quinn
Melissa Scheetz
Martin Smith

Appointed Members

Lucilla Kochol
Evelyn Datte

Ex-Officio

Ed Brahler
Deacon Larry Lonergan
Deacon Luis R. Visot
Father Dave Loeper

PARISH COUNCIL

President's Corner

On Monday, January 27th Saint John's hosted a class entitled **Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE)**. The class was a long time in the making and was an overwhelming success! In total, there were 45 parishioners who packed Longinus Hall (and thank you to all who attended). The main points which the class stressed were to "**Avoid, Deny, Defend**" during such an incident. The class also provided further data to show that while these events are random and rare, they can happen anywhere. Due to the success of this class, we will be discussing holding another in the near future. *If you were considering going to the first session but couldn't make it or are considering attending the second - I encourage you to do so.* The information presented is enlightening and could save your life! Our next Parish Council meeting will be **Monday, March 2nd**. If you have any questions or would like us to discuss a particular topic, please see any member of council. God bless!

Bobby Bechtel, Parish Council

President

LENTEN DINNERS

Our Lenten Dinners will begin February 28th.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

THURSDAYS

**Preparation for Lenten Dinners
Anytime between 9:30 a.m. & 12 p.m.
at the Russell Building
Please call the Rectory: 622-5470**



FRIDAYS

WE NEED YOUR HELP...

If you can help on Fridays during Lent, please let us know when you are available.

Students (12 and over) always welcome (excellent idea if you need service hours).

New faces always welcomeperhaps you are new to the parish and are looking for a way to get involved.

Waitresses & Waiters needed 3:45 to 7 p.m.

Help Loading Dishwasher ... 4 to 8 p.m.

Clean-up ... 6:45 to 8 p.m.

Just call our Scheduler....

Maeve Ketner at 570-624-1452 or 570-573-8769.

HOMEMADE DESSERTS NEEDED

*"St. John's is famous for
their delicious homemade desserts"*

St. John's Food Committee is in need of your baking talents. Each year we could not succeed without your delicious desserts. If you would like to make Jello, Pudding, Pies, Cakes, or anything you can dream up, we will greatly appreciate it. Please make your favorite dessert and bring it to the Russell Building on Thursdays or Fridays during Lent.

50 / 50 CHANCES

Every Friday during Lent the Catholic Women's Union will sell 50/50 Chances at the Lenten Dinners.

Drawings will take place at 7 p.m. each week.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 15/16: \$ 4,075.97;

Puerto Rico Earthquake Victims: \$ 647.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

2019 CONTRIBUTION RECORD

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

St. John's ENSEMBLE

The purpose of this ministry is to serve the parish at Mass, singing liturgical hymns, using contemporary instruments like the guitar, keyboard, drums or other instruments, and using contemporary music arrangements.

We invite **ANYONE** in the parish wanting to share his or her voice and musical gifts whether you are a beginner or more experienced. Arrangements are not complicated and songs are familiar. You do not need to know how to read music to join us. We will teach anyone who has a willing heart.

Our goal is to play/sing once a month at one of the weekend Masses. Practices will be one or, at most, twice a month for ONE HOUR, to prepare for music at Mass that week. This is a great way to participate in parish life and have fun with only a small commitment of your time.

Why not give it a try and give back to your parish family by sharing the gifts God has given to you?

If interested call **the Rectory 622-5470.**

ST. JOSEPH CENTER FOR SPECIAL LEARNING

POSITION AVAILABLE

We are seeking a motivated, enthusiastic and caring person to conduct all phases of comprehensive development and marketing programs. The individual will provide strong leadership and work in collaboration with the Administration, Board of Directors and volunteers. Must be passionate about advocating for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This is a full-time, year-round position with benefits. The Center is an equal opportunity employer. Qualified candidates should send résumé and references to Robert Giba, Principal, rgiba@stjosephctr.com.

29TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

... hosted by St. Joseph Center for Special Learning on **Friday, May 15th** at Mountain Valley Golf Course. Sponsor and/or join us for an adventurous day of food, fellowship and, of course... golf! For more information, please visit www.stjosephctr.com. Discover why St. Joseph Center for Special Learning is truly a special place for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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."

CATHOLIC CHARITIES GALA

There is still time to support this year's Catholic charities Gala honoring Rev. Msgr. John J. Martin and Anthony & Mary Martocci.

If you win, the parish wins too!

First Prize: An evening in Manhattan which includes two exclusive tickets for the March 16th Broadway Preview performance of a musical based on the life of Princess Diana, limousine service and a pre-show reception with New York Luminaries.

Plus! Winner's Parish will receive a \$300 cash prize!

Second Prize: Diamond Bracelet

Plus! Winner's Parish will receive a \$300 cash prize!

Third Prize: Hotel Bethlehem Getaway.

Plus! Winner's Parish will receive \$200 cash prize!

Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20 which can be purchased from the parish office or by contacting Lucia DeMarco at 610-871-5200 ext. 2113.

Winners will be drawn at the Gala on March 8th.

You do not have to be present to win.

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Do you ever feel like your good marriage lacks the excitement it once had? Try a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. In just one weekend you can learn a technique of communication that will keep your marriage full of love and passion. For information call 610-449-1859 or visit www.wwme.org.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT An intimate spiritual journey for anyone seeking healing after abortion to be held **March 6 to 8**. In a safe, supportive, non-judgmental environment you can focus on this painful time in your life and enter into the process of healing. Through scripture readings, guided meditations, and activities flowing from the meditations you can experience God's compassion and forgiveness. For *registration information contact:

Sr. Meg Cole, 1-866-3 RACHEL (Toll Free)

610-332-0442 Ext. 2019 or

mcole@allentowndiocese.org

*** Deadline for Registration is March 1st**

For information about the retreat experience visit the national website: www.rachelsvineyard.org

WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION His Wounds, Our Healing ... A Lenten Reflection on our identity as beloved to be held **Saturday, March 14th** from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Shrine of St. Therese of Lisieux in Nesquehoning, with Fr. John Frink, Pastor, St. John XXIII Parish in Tamaqua. Registration: \$15 (includes breakfast) | allentowndiocese.org/cfw-spirituality . Deadline is March 7th. *Sponsored by the Commission for Women of the Diocese of Allentown.*

FOOD COLLECTION for Pantry

Thank you for doing the small things, like feeding your neighbors, with great love. God bless.

Items Needed:

Stuffing Mix	Canned Fruit
Broth	Macaroni & Cheese
Coffee/Tea (instant)	Hot Chocolate
Hot Cereal packages	Apple Sauce
Cereal – boxed	Vegetable - Canned
Beef Stew	Spaghetti
Soups	Spaghetti Sauce
Peanut Butter	Jelly
Canned Gravy	Canned Sweet Potatoes

PLEASE – NO OUTDATED ITEMS

Please Do Not donate any nutritional drinks (Ensure, etc.)

Kindly place your donations in the basket at the 10th Street entrance at the bottom of the steps. Thank you.

NEIGHBORING EVENTS

ST. PAULINE VISINTAINER ... You are invited to take part in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on **Monday, February 24th at 5 p.m.** followed by Veneration of the first-class relic of St. Pauline Visintainer, Patron Saint of Diabetics and of all who are sick at Our Lady's Chapel in St. Patrick's.

SPAGHETTI DINNER sponsored by St. Patrick Parish on **Sunday, March 1st** from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Parish Center, 319 Mahantongo St. --- Eat in or Take out --- All You Can Eat --- Adults \$8.00; Children \$3.50.

HOMEMADE EASTER CANDY sponsored by St. Patrick Parish. Butter Cream, Coconut Cream or Peanut Butter Eggs ... Sorry, no mixed boxes ... \$10 per box. Proceeds benefit St. Patrick Parish. All orders due by March 24th by calling the parish office at 570-622-1802 ext. 1. **Orders can be picked up** at the Parish Center during the Palm Sunday Weekend Bake Sale ... Saturday, April 4th from 1 to 6 p.m.; Sunday, April 5th from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

PIEROGI SALE sponsored by St. Clare of Assisi Parish in St. Clair. Uncooked Frozen, \$7.50 per dozen; Cooked with butter & onion, \$8.50 per dozen; cooked

with butter only, \$8.50 per dozen ... to be held at St. Clare of Assisi Church on Ash Wednesday (2/26), Fridays in Lent (not 2/28, but yes, on 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3), and Wednesday, April 8. **Advance orders only** to be placed by Monday, 2/24, for Ash Wednesday, and by Wednesdays prior to the pickups for Fridays. Pickups will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Use Hancock Street Entrance to basement. Call Parish Office 570-429-0370 to place your order. Thanks!
