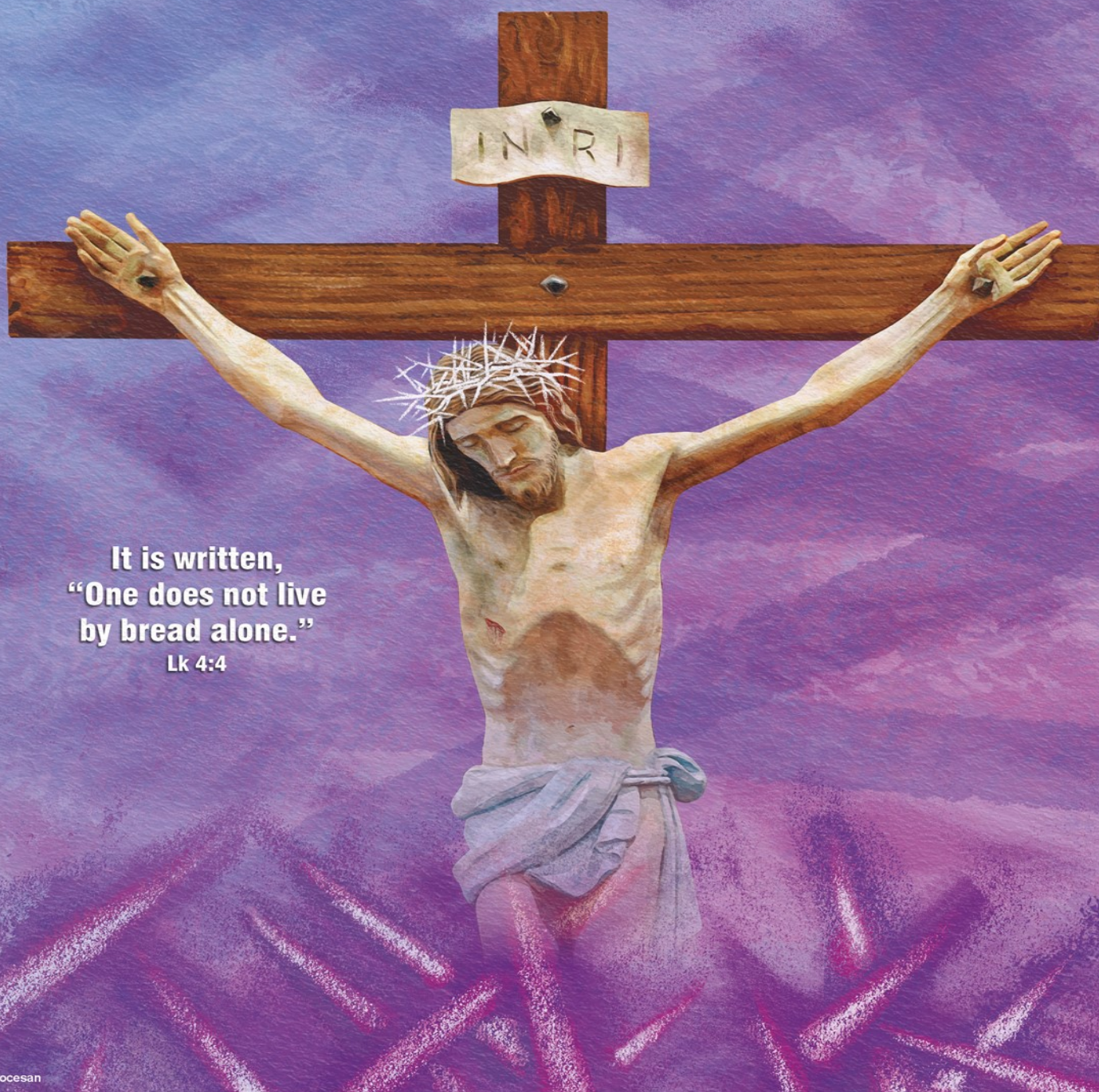


St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10th & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • www.saintjohnpottsville.org

March 9, 2025

First Sunday of LENT



It is written,
“One does not live
by bread alone.”

Lk 4:4

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 8

5:00 p.m. Joe Brahler
(Kathy Brahler)

Sunday, March 9

8:15 a.m. Fred & Marie Eagan
(John & Chris Eagan)

Sunday, March 9

10:30 a.m. George L. Post
Edward & Peggy Post
(Bob & Irene Post)

Monday, March 10

6:30 p.m. Mary Kratzer
(Mary Ann Dragna)

Tuesday, March 11

9:00 a.m. Dean & Janet Crater
(Frank & Mindy Chambers)

Wednesday, March 12

6:30 p.m. Joseph Brehony
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

Thursday, March 13

9:00 a.m. Christopher Garrell
(Joseph & Joanne Matina)

Friday, March 14

9:00 a.m. St. John's Parish Family

Saturday, March 15

5:00 p.m. Ed Smith
(Dolly Smith & Family)

Sunday, March 16

8:15 a.m. R.J. Post
(Sandy, Sheri, RJ III Post)

Sunday, March 16

10:30 a.m. Ernest Zambo
(Wife & Children)

Message from Father Bobbin

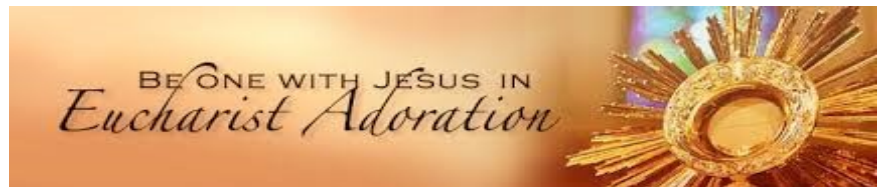
Dear Parishioners,

We continue our overview of the seven Wisdom books of the Old Testament. So far we looked at Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, and Sirach. Now we come to the Book of Wisdom. While not the last book in the order that these books appear in the Bible, Wisdom is the final book of the Old Testament to be written. In fact, Wisdom may date to around or even slightly *after* the time of Christ. The Gospel of John was heavily influenced by the Book of Wisdom and borrows its literary techniques.

Throughout biblical history, we find that God's revelation is given to us in stages. Just as we have to be educated gradually, in stages, as we grow from small children to adulthood, God has educated humanity in stages over many centuries. For much of Old Testament history, God's people did not have an understanding of heaven or hell, an afterlife where there would be reward or punishment. However, late in Old Testament history, via contact with other cultures that did believe in an afterlife, God introduces His people to these truths.

The Book of Wisdom reflects a belief in eternal life. The righteous will live with God forever. This sheds a new light on many Old Testament beliefs. While a long life was always valued as a sign of God's favor, Wisdom tells us: a righteous person who dies young is better off than a less-righteous person who lives a long life. Similarly, while God's people always believed it was a curse not to be able to have children to carry on one's name, Wisdom tells us: the righteous will be immortal, regardless of whether they have children to carry on their name. Wisdom puts the problem of the suffering of the innocent in a new light. There will be a life beyond this one when everything will be set right.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin



Eucharistic Adoration

We offer opportunities to spend time in prayer with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament ...

- ◆ A holy hour in the **chapel every Monday evening** (unless announced otherwise) from **5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** This is a simple holy hour without any formal prayer or Benediction. It is not necessary to come for the entire hour. Just stop by as you desire.

Next Week's Readings

Second Sunday of Lent
(March 15/16)

Reading I: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Reading II: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36

Pray

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

For our Sick

Sheri Post • Tony Kochol • Tom Jefferson • Doug Broughton

Upcoming Events

March

9	9:00 a.m.	CCD Parent Mtg	L.H.
9	2:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice	Church
10	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council	L.H.
12	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross.....	Church
12	8:00 p.m.	St. John's Beneficial Society.....	F.R.
13	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
14	4-6:30 p.m.	Lenten Fish Dinner.....	R.B.
16	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School	L.H.
16	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
16	2:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice	Church
18	6:00 p.m.	Building Committee Mtg	L.H.
19	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross.....	Church
19	7:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice	Church
19	7:30 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg	L.H.
20	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
21	4-6:30 p.m.	Lenten Fish Dinner.....	R.B.
26	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross.....	Church
26	7:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice	Church
27	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
28	4-6:30 p.m.	Lenten Fish Dinner.....	R.B.
29	9:00 a.m.	Parish Retreat	L.H. & Church
30	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School	L.H.

L.H. = Longinus Hall F.R. = Rectory Fellowship Room R.B. = Russell Building

Tuesdays 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men's Group..... F.R.

Weekly Collection

March 2/3.....\$4,683.03

Parish Dues.....\$1,209.00

Thank you for your sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving.

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Eleanor O'Brien
by John & Susan Minnichbach
2. IMO Ruth Minnichbach
by John & Susan Minnichbach

St. Joseph

1. IMO Joseph Wollyung Sr.
by Wollyung Family
2. IMO Raymond Frank
by John & Susan Minnichbach

Sanctuary

IMO Howard Minnichbach
by John & Susan Minnichbach

Guardian Angels

- IMO Ericka Stangl Seasock
by Eleanor Schaeffer
2. IMO Thomas & Kayoko Stone
by Rick & Michelle Stone
 - 3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy
by Joan Grapsy & Family

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered **Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on March 13, 20, 27, April 10, 24, May 8 and 15.** Join us in person in Longinus Hall or at home on Zoom (Please email Father for the Zoom link: kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org). Fr. Bobbin's Scripture study attempts to give an overview and background for the books of Sacred Scripture to be of help with personal reading and study, Bible study groups, and getting more out of hearing the Word proclaimed at Mass. All are welcome.

Parish Retreat

Renewed in Faith, our first **parish retreat**, will be held on **Saturday, March 29**, in Longinus Hall, beginning at 9:00am and concluding with the 5:00pm Mass. Consider joining us for a day of talks, prayer, reflection, and fellowship. Lunch will be included. It is necessary to register in advance. **RSVP by March 19** by calling the rectory. We ask a \$10 registration fee to help cover the costs of lunch and supplies. Please see Fr. Bobbin with any questions.

Email Addresses

To enhance our ability to timely communicate with all parishioners regarding upcoming events and activities, we are asking that you email the rectory at stjbparish@comcast.net with your email address(s) for family members and the name associated with the email address.

Liturgical Min. Schedule

Second Sunday of Lent

March 15 — 5 p.m. Mass

Reader: Patty O'Neill

Euch.Min.: John O'Neill

Gerry Schwartz

Servers: Lauren & Megan Goodman

Cantor: Dave Derbes

March 16— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Ann Blankenhorn

Euch.Min.: Danny Murphy

Hermine Murphy

Servers: Michael & Spencer Prestileo

Cantor: Vincent Prestileo

March 16 — 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Jennifer Daubert

Euch.Min.: Justina Majestic

Janet Daubert

Servers: Ryan Grabowski

Jackson Daubert

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

Weekend Sacristan: Ryan Grabowski

Parish Council

Please approach any Parish Council Member listed below and ask that a question, concern, etc. be brought up at the next meeting on **Monday, March 10th.**

Elected Members

Vincent Balulis
Ann Blankenhorn
Michael Brennan
Bob Burns
John Crane
Michelle Darhun
Darren DeArment
Tara DeStefano
Heidi Gorski
Sr. Mary Jane Hahner
Michael Hummel
Reene Reddington
Missy Scheetz
Michelle Stone
Gretchen Witman
Kay Wollyung
Robert Wollyung

Appointed Members

John Consugar
Tina Seiger

Ex-Officio

Father Kevin Bobbin
Deacon Robert Reiley
Ray Petrilla
Ed Brahler

2024 Contribution Record

You can request a copy of your 2024 Contribution Record by calling the rectory Monday thru Thursday ... 622-5470 ext 3.

Attention — All Readers, Servers, and Eucharistic Ministers ...

Please let us know your plans for **April & May** so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. Please call or email the rectory before **March 17th.** We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.



Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held every **Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. followed by Mass at 6:30 p.m.** during Lent in the Church **starting on March 12**. Consider making this devotion a part of your Lenten observance.

Adult Soup & Scripture Evening

Soup and Scripture is back! Join us on **Sunday, April 6th** from 4:30pm to 6pm in Longinus Hall. Homemade Chicken Rice Soup, bread and butter will be served. Scripture will be based on the 5th Sunday of Lent readings. All are welcome. Sign-ups in back of church or use QR code. Must have a Google email to use. Childcare is available.



Soup & Scripture

Dramatic Stations of the Cross

Join us as we continue to tell our story. All ages welcome! Speaking, Non Speaking and Stage Crew needed. Make this be the year you become part of the Dramatic Stations of the Cross gang!



Nativity Happenings

Bishop's Catholic Scholars. Seniors Sam Spolski & Carleigh Palmieri have been selected as Nativity's Bishop's Catholic Scholars for the 2024-2025 school year. Congratulations to both of these students!

Nativity BVM finished fourth in the Schuylkill Academic League during the regular season, which qualifies for a bronze medal. The league tournament will be on March 10th. Great job team!

Athletic Hall of Fame. Induction ceremonies will take place on Sunday, April 13, 2025, at the school. A lunch reception for inductees and their families will take place at the school beginning at 1:15 PM. The formal induction ceremony will be held in the gymnasium at approximately 2:30 PM.

Middle States Accreditation. Nativity BVM High School will welcome our Middle States Visiting Team on Sunday, March 30th. The team will be with us until Wednesday, April 2nd and will be reviewing all of our documents, visiting classes and meeting with faculty, staff, students and others in the school community. We are looking forward to a successful and enjoyable visit!

Century Club Benefit. Everyone is welcome to attend and help support Nativity BVM High School as we hold our 2025 Century Club Benefit on Sat. April 5, 2025 at Mountain Valley Golf Course in Barnesville. The Golden Cross Society recipients will be inducted at the dinner. The cost is \$150 per person. Cocktail hour will begin at 6:00 PM, dinner at 7:00 PM, induction of the Golden Cross Society members and dancing will follow. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please contact Jenn Daubert at Nativity BVM High School at 622-8110. The Golden Cross Society inductees for this year are Drs. Michelle and Richard "Rick" Adams, Frank Angelo '64, Diane Chaklos Yaneck, Vincent "Vince" Zimerofsky '92.

LENTEN DINNERS

from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the Russell Building.

Dinners will be dine-in or take-out.

Menu is as follows:

Baked Haddock **OR** "Chef Joe's "Fish Special". Meal includes: Macaroni and Cheese **OR** Chef's "starch of the Week", New England Clam Chowder, Side Salad, Chef's "Vegetable of the Week", Roll, Beverage and Dessert.

The "Special Fish Options" are as follows:

March 14: Balsamic Glazed Salmon—Roasted with a sweet balsamic glaze
 March 21: Parmesan Cod—Baked with a crispy parmesan crust
 March 28: Stuffed Flounder—Stuffed with a crabmeat blend
 April 4 : Florentine Style Salmon—Baked with a creamy spinach topping
 April 11 : Crab Cakes



Prices are as follows:

Adult meal with Fish --- \$19.00
 Adult meal without Fish --- \$14.00
 Child's meal with Fish --- \$10.00
 Child's meal without Fish --- \$ 6.00



Homemade Desserts Needed ... "St. John's is famous for their delicious homemade desserts." Each year we look forward to these delicious desserts. If you would like to make Jello, Pudding, Pies, Cakes, Cup Cakes, Cookies, or anything you can dream up, we will greatly appreciate it. Please make your favorite dessert and drop it off at the Russell Building on Fridays during Lent.

Volunteers Needed ... Please let us know if you can help on Fridays; students (12 and over) always welcome (excellent idea if you need service hours). New faces always welcome ... perhaps you are new to the parish and are looking for a way to get involved ... Just call the rectory 570-622-5470 x 3.

50/50 Chances ... available at the door from the Catholic Women's Union; drawing takes place at 7 p.m. each week.

VOLUNTEER



Pot Luck Stand Summer Festival

We are still in search of someone or group of people to help organize and run our Potluck Stand at the Summer Festival. We will offer assistance and guidance. Unfortunately, if we do not get any volunteers we will not be able to have the Potluck Stand. It is such a popular stand loved by many; it is also one of the most profitable stands at the festival. Please consider possibly volunteering! For more information please call the rectory 622-5470 ext. 3 or Shanna Deibert 570-617-4769.

CRS Rice Bowl

A commitment to End Hunger. Since 1975, Catholics across the United States have come together each Len to respond to global hunger through the CRS Rice Bowl program. Learn how people like you have made a local and global impact on the lives of our sisters and brothers. In need and why our prayers and almsgiving are still needed today. During this holy season, let us recommit to sharing bread for life with our global family so that all people can reach their God-given potential. Visit csrricebowl.org/week-1 to read this week's Story of Hope.

Annual Cash & Gift Card Bingo

The Assumption BVM Home & School Association invites you to join us at our 3rd ANNUAL CASH & GIFT CARD BINGO (w/ \$1,000 CASH JACKPOT) on **Sunday, April 6th** at St. Ambrose Parish Center, Schuylkill Haven. Doors open at 11:30 AM and bingo begins at 1:00 PM. Advance tickets - \$35; at door tickets - \$40. Email or call to purchase advance tickets and secure your spot: abvm.bingo@gmail.com / (570) 590-0503. For more info, please visit: tinyurl.com/abvmbingo

March 9, 2025

First Sunday of Lent

Dt 26:4-10 | Rom 10:8-13 | Lk 4:1-13

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

We've all seen it: the standard cartoon sketch in which the main character, faced with a decision, imagines the devil coaxing him toward evil on one shoulder while an angel encourages him toward good on the other. Lighthearted though they are, these classic scenes are the product of Biblical wisdom and millennia of human experience. In fact, the Garden of Eden provided the prototype: Eve was the first to listen to Satan in a conversation that was disastrous for her and her descendants. It is no coincidence that, in today's Gospel, Jesus finds himself in a desert – the “opposite” of a garden, so to speak – where he, too, confronts the devil. But note Jesus' response to Satan's advances: the Incarnate Word of God neither barter nor argues from human wisdom. For no amount of time does he turn over Satan's proposals in his heart. Instead, Jesus rejects the temptations immediately and relies on the power of the Word of God to put the devil in his place.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The Lenten season is meant to be a “desert” in which we, like Jesus, confront temptation. It is not a self-improvement program; it is an opportunity to reject sins, habits, and attitudes which keep us distant from God so that we can give a wholehearted “yes” to his plan for our lives. But the scene from today's Gospel is offered on the first Sunday of Lent to remind us that we do not go into the desert alone. Jesus entered first to show us that he would be with us every time we are tempted. If, instead of giving Satan airtime, we stay close to Jesus (in prayer and by frequenting the sacraments) and immerse ourselves in the Word of God (by reading Scripture), we, like him, will draw our strength from God. We will emerge victorious because, as St. Paul reminds us, “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart,” and, “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

PLAN

Have you made a Lenten plan yet? If not, the time is now! Don't be afraid to be generous with God. Remember the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Could you add a daily Mass or Rosary to your schedule? Could you incorporate some form of self-denial into your weekly meal plan or media consumption? Once you've worked out a plan, offer it to God and ask him to bless your efforts to grow in virtue out of love for him.



Pastor..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*
Deacon..... *Robert A. Reiley*
Parish Council President..... *Darren DeArment*
E-mail..... *dbd269@gmail.com*
Choir Director/Organist.....*David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator..... *Tina Seiger*
Rectory..... (570) 622-5470
Rectory Fax..... (570) 622-4589
E-mail..... *stjbparish@comcast.net*
Nativity BVM High School..... (570) 622-8110
Assumption BVM Elementary..... (570) 622-0106
St. Joseph Center..... (570) 622-4638

Cemetery Information..... (570) 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.

Bulletin Deadline

Monday prior to publication

New Parishioners

Please call the rectory for an appointment to register.

Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays.....4:15 to 4:45 p.m..
 Sundays..... 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

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 11:30 a.m.
 Baptismal Preparation for Parents must precede the Baptism.
 Please contact Father Bobbin for an appointment.

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., N.C.C.,L.P.C.(800) 791-9209

Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection & Catholic Human Services

Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W., M.S.
 Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services
 P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538
 610-871-5200 ext. 2204
 prusso@allentowndiocese.org

1st Sunday of Lent

B J N S W D E S E R T
 T R S E R V E K O Q Z
 V D E K P O E U O D V
 X E B A F O L X X N W
 M P J O D E L G W Z O
 L A G I L F O R T Y R
 X R Q P W S T O N E S
 N T M W W C Z I T T H
 Z E R T Q O K Q S R I
 T Z J X A N G E L S P
 B C Y K I N G D O M S

- Desert
- Forty
- Stone
- Bread
- Kingdoms
- Worship
- Serve
- Temple
- Angels
- Depart



SUNDAYKIDZ