

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

Established in 1841

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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
March 10th, 2019**

**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: *Paul Datte*
Choir Director/Organist: *David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator: *Lucilla Kochol*
E-mail - stjbparrish@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
George Smith 544-3294

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
Confidential Phone (800) 791-9209

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator

Sr. Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT
(610) 332-0442 ext. 2019



DAN DE MATTE

Dan is an international speaker and best-selling Catholic author of *Holiness Revolution*. Dan starred in A&E's reality TV show, *God or the Girl*, as well as defended the teachings of the Catholic faith on *Larry King Live*, *The View*, and the *Today Show*. Dan is the host of EWTN's Global Catholic radio show called *Encounter*. He and his wife live in Ohio with their 4 children where Dan is the Founder and Executive Director of Damascus Catholic Mission Campus, a 500-acre mission campus that ministers to thousands of youth each year through programs like Catholic Youth Summer Camp. Dan has a MA in Evangelization from the Pontifical College Josephinum.

PARISH MISSION



Sunday, Monday, Tuesday
March 24, 25, 26
7 to 8:15 p.m.

Jesus makes a promise in the Gospel of John: *"I have come so that you might have life, and have it to the fullest."* Jesus promises to give us a full and abundant life. But often, we fall short of this promise. We would like to invite all of you to our upcoming Parish Mission.

What is the goal of this Mission? ... To help fill you with life; To help awaken you to what's really important in life and help you discover how to live with each day with more passion and purpose.

This **Parish Mission** is really for everyone!

Our guest speaker, **Dan De Matte** proclaims the Gospel with passion, energy, and overflowing joy. He will challenge you to be the best God created you to be.

We want to do something really special with this year's Parish Mission. We want to challenge all of you to invite a few people to attend the Mission with you.

Please see inside today's bulletin for the
"Mission Talk Descriptions".

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Some of us discover how weak we are when we try to break a habit. The anti-smoking patch doesn't work, the diet plan is impossible, and our Lenten efforts may topple.

What Jesus did is beyond comprehension. Jesus' resolve echoes in the closing words of this Sunday's gospel: "Jesus said to Him, the devil, in reply, 'You shall not put the Lord your God, to the test.' When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from Him for a time."

The power of good shatters the wiles of evil. Perhaps the glory of heaven is so great that it makes our time on the earth pale into insignificance. It is probably something we will never understand until we get there.

Yours in Christ,
Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday – March 11 – 9:00 a.m.

VERONICA FERENCHICK

(Staff & Residents of York Terrace)

Tuesday, March 12 – 9:00 a.m.

THOMAS & ANNE MARIE CUSICK

(living intention) (Joseph McGraw)

Wednesday, March 13 – 9:00 a.m.

GRETA DERBES (Ron & Pat Lombel)

Thursday, March 14 – 9:00 a.m.

ELVIN "BARNEY" COMFORT

(John & Mary Jean Morgalis)

Friday, March 15 – 9:00 a.m.

KATHY NORKUS (Joe & Ceil Burns)

Saturday, March 16 – 5 p.m.

DECEASED OF LETCAVAGE FAMILY

(Ken & Tammy Cooper & Family)

Sunday – March 17 – 8:15 a.m.

R.J. POST & SUSAN LEGASE (Bob & Irene Post)

Sunday – March 17 - 10:30 a.m.

MARY ALFONSI (Ed & Gerry Schwartz)

CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM - IMO Elizabeth & Joseph Brahler

by Frances Brahler Mickey

St. Joseph – IMO Joseph Wollyung by his Family

Tabernacle IMO Joseph & Elizabeth Brahler

by Frances Brahler Mickey

Sanctuary

1. IMO George Hahner Sr. by Hahner Family

2. IMO Francis King by Grace King

3. Special Intention

4. Special Intention

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Elizabeth & Joseph Brahler

by Frances Brahler Mickey

SCHEDULE

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

5 p.m. – Saturday – March 16th

Reader: Patty O'Neill

Euch.Min.: Molly Zwiebel, Ray Petrilla

Servers: Noah Lecher, Macie Rushannon, Brooke Siket

Cantor: Mary Bound

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – March 17th

Reader: Jennifer Daubert

Euch.Min.: Nick Quinn, George Forney

Servers: Jackson & Hayden Daubert, Samantha Heenan

Cantor: Debbie Purcell

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – March 17th

Reader: Evielyn Hower

Euch.Min.: Frank Murphy, Janet Daubert

Servers: Izabella, Bethany, Trinity Reedy

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

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: *Theresa Tuite, Joe Brahler, Tom*

Jefferson, Jean Hill, Paul Connors, Fred

Maskerines, Dorothy Parsick, Frederick

Hossler, Carol Heacock, Beth Resnick, Paul Burns,

Joseph LeBlanc, Toni Wiest.

Deceased: *Patrick Murphy*



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

Dr. Robert DeColli at 640-1910

or the **Rectory 622-5470.**

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Tuesdays & Thursdays – 7 to 8:15 p.m. – in church.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Name some of the hungers that people experience.
How can we nourish them?

Next Week's Readings

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (March 16/17)

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

Reading II: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36

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 Michael Scheidel 739-1808 or Bill Gianfagna 573-0105 with any questions.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

Encounter Norma. In Guatemala, we encounter Norma, who as a young mother supports her family and shares her skills with her community. Reflect on the importance of family in your life. How can you contribute to support families in your community? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

March

- 10 Healing Our Church – 4:30 to 6 p.m. – L.H.
- 10 Confirmation Class – 6:30 p.m. – L.H.
- 11 Parish Council – 7 p.m. – L.H.
- 12 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 13 St. John's Family Guild Mtg. – 6:30 p.m. – F.R.
- 13 St. John's Beneficial Society – 8 p.m. – F.R.
- 13 Stations of the Cross – 7 p.m. – Chapel
- 14 RCIA – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 15 Lenten Dinners – 4 to 7 p.m. – R.B.
- 16/17 Blood Pressure Screenings – after Masses
- 17 Healing Our Church – 4:30 to 6 p.m. – L.H.
- 19 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 20 Stations of the Cross – 7 p.m. – Chapel
- 20 Catholic Women's Union – 7:30 p.m. – L.H.
- 21 RCIA – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 22 Lenten Dinners – 4 to 7 p.m. – R.B.
- 24 Last Confirmation Class – 6:30 p.m. – L.H.
- 24/25/26 Parish Mission – 7 to 8:15 – L.H.
- 27 Stations of the Cross – 7 p.m. – chapel
- 28 RCIA – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 29 Lenten Dinners – 4 to 7 p.m. – R.B.
- 31 Healing Our Church – 4:30 to 6 p.m. – L.H.

** L.H. – Longinus Hall

** F.R. – Rectory Fellowship Room

** R.B. – Russell Building

PARISH MISSION



Holiness Revolution

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday
March 24, 25, 26 --- 7 to 8:15 p.m.

MISSION TALK DESCRIPTIONS

Day 1: Be Healed This evening is a powerful reflection on the crippled beggar at the healing waters of Bethesda. The night leads the audience in a powerful reflection of being healed through the power and the love of Jesus Christ.

Day 2: Be Empowered There are ultimately two very different ways to live your life. Either we can embrace a lifestyle with a will-powered spirituality or we can live with a spirit-powered spirituality. Will-powered spirituality creates a spiritual life that is all about trying whereas Spirit-powered spirituality is all about trusting in the power we've received from Holy Spirit.

Day 3: Be Transformed The last message is meant to give the practical steps on how to allow our ordinary lives be transformed by Christ into extraordinary lives of Holiness. This message focuses on teaching the audience how to form a personal prayer life, how to have a deeper encounter with the Lord at the Holy Mass, and an urgent appeal to return (regularly) to Confession. It also focuses on the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives of holiness, moving from lives of self-reliance to lives of Spirit-reliance.

This **Parish Mission** is really for everyone.

- Whether you are advanced in your faith and hungry to be taken deeper, or if you are a person with a lot of questions about God and religion - this Mission is for you.
- Whether you are male or female, single or married, young or old, middle school or high school – this Mission is for you.
- Whether you've been to a parish mission before, or never stepped foot at a retreat – this Mission is for you.
- Maybe invite your middle school or high school teenagers to attend with you.
- Maybe you invite a co-worker who is hungry for more, even if they aren't catholic.
- Maybe invite someone in the parish or the school who you know doesn't come to Mass each week and could really use an invitation back to the Church.
- Whoever it is, please just extend a heart-felt invitation!

LENTEN DINNERS

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.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WEDNESDAYS

Preparation for Lenten Dinners
Anytime between 9:30 a.m. & 2 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.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS ...

Get your blood pressure checked in Longinus Hall after all Masses next weekend, **March 16/17.**

ST. JOHN'S BENEFICIAL SOCIETY will meet on **Wednesday, March 13th at 8 p.m.** in the Rectory Fellowship Room.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

March 2/3: \$ 4,534.25; Monthly Dues: \$1,379.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

PARISH COUNCIL

St. John's Parish Council will meet

Monday, March 11th – 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
Joseph Gerchak
Heidi Gorski
Christy Joy
Alicia Kleman
Eric Lieberman
Kevin McNamara
Al Norkus
Patty O'Neill
Josette Peckman
John Pfluger
John Powers
Nick Quinn
Melissa Scheetz
Martin Smith

Appointed Members

Lucilla Kochol
Connor McNamara
Joe Rehnert

Ex-Officio

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



DIVINE MERCY PERPETUAL ADORATION

Restoration of adoration of the Sacrament will heal our church, and thus our nation, and thus our world. It is one of Satan's most destructive lies that sitting alone in a dark church adoring Christ is irrelevant, impractical, a withdrawal from vital contemporary needs.

... Peter Kreeft

We need adorers for the following hours:

Monday 3 p.m.; Tuesday 9 a.m.

Wednesday 10 p.m.; Thursday 4 a.m.;

Friday 12 a.m. & 6 a.m., 6 p.m.

Saturday 4 a.m. & 12 p.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 or text Aleece for information 570-449-7678.

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.

ST. JOHN'S FAMILY GUILD



The **Family Guild** is a small organization which sponsors activities for the elementary school students of the parish.

Through our fundraising efforts we sponsor two spiritual based programs throughout the year. The programs are the Lent Event and the Advent-ure.

The **Family Guild** also strives to make the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation a little more special for our children by purchasing gifts and providing flowers for these joyous occasions.

If you would like to become more involved within the parish and be a positive influence in the spiritual lives of our parish youth, consider joining the **Family Guild**. We always welcome a new face among us.

If interested pleased call the Rectory 622-5470 or just come to our next meeting which is scheduled for ...

Wednesday, March 13th

6:30 p.m. – Rectory Fellowship Room

FAMILY GUILD GIFT CARD CALENDAR

SPONSORS

Beehive	Nativity BVM High School
Crimson House	Bob & Mary Porter
Daubert Family	Quality Heating Oil&Propane
DiCello Chiropractic Care	Noble “Bud” & Jule Quandel
Brian & Sue Eckley	Carole & Ed Quirin
Friends of St. John’s	Rosenberger Plumbing&Heat
Guzick Family	Schlitzer,Allen,Pugh Funeral
Headquarters Styling Salon	Dr.Michael Smink
Hidden River Credit Union	Martin & Linda Smith
Kochol Family	St. Clair Auto Supply
Lieberman, Tamulonis&Hobbs	Luis R.&Virginia Visot
Charles Miller Family	Joanne & Ralph Wood
Victor E. Muncy Inc.	Z & M Painting & Papering

Winners:

March 1:	Debra Mest
March 2:	Miriam Tirjan
March 3:	Zoie Norkus
March 4:	Lois Dalton
March 5:	Heidi Gorski

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

FAMILY FUN NIGHT on **Saturday, March 16th at 7 p.m. at Santander Arena**, 700 Penn St., Reading for the Diocese of Allentown Night to see the Reading Royals. Bring your family ... join Bishop Schlert ... the first 200 guests can join us in the High Five Tunnel to cheer on the Royals as they take the ice! Tickets \$13.00. Join our group and buy tickets online at: <https://royals.isportstix.com/order/group/AllentownDiocese/>

RACHEL’S VINEYARD RETREAT – An intimate spiritual journey for anyone seeking healing after abortion scheduled for **March 22-24**. 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) or 610-332-0442 Ext. 2019 or projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org**
*** Deadline for Registration is March 14th.**

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

CATHOLIC SCOUT ACTIVITY WEEKEND

The 2019 Catholic Scout Activity Weekend will be held at Camp Trexler - Settlers **April 26 to 28**. We’d love to have you join us for a FUN-Filled weekend that includes all meals and a Saturday Vigil Mass!

You don’t have to be working on a religious emblem to join us – all Catholic Scouts are welcome. Visit us at www.adccos.org/bsr.htm for more info.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER – During Lent, begin the habit of praying together every day to strengthen your faith. Attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend will strengthen your marriage. For more information call 1-732-904-9636 or visit www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org

RETROUVAILLE **Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage!** Tens of thousands of couples have healed their Marriages through Retrouvaille (Retro-VIE). If you know of anyone who could benefit from this program please pass it on. Couples learn to build communication skills and rediscover intimacy. Retrouvaille provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. **The next program begins on the weekend of April 26 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA.** Another weekend will be held in August. For more information, or to register for one of our weekends, visit our website at: www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

DIocese of Allentown

FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

Junior and senior accounting students from DeSales University will provide tax preparation assistance free of charge to senior citizens and those with lower incomes beginning **now through Friday, March 29**. The program is part of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Students are required to pass a test given by the IRS, in order to receive certification to participate in the program. This marks the eighteenth consecutive year that DeSales students have participated in the program. Since it was first offered, DeSales students have completed more than 4,600 tax returns for more than 2,100 Lehigh Valley taxpayers.

To schedule a VITA appointment, please call (610) 282-1100, ext. 1868. Please bring all printed tax information and all documents pertaining to federal, state and local taxes with you to your appointment.

The program is sponsored by the IRS and supervised by Dr. Christopher R. Coccozza, division head of DeSales University's Division of Business and professor of business. Coccozza has served as VITA coordinator at DeSales since the program was initiated at DeSales in 2001. Coccozza holds a bachelor's in accounting and law degree from Fordham University and a master's of law from New York University.

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
Macaroni (box)	

Item of the Month Needed: Canned Soups

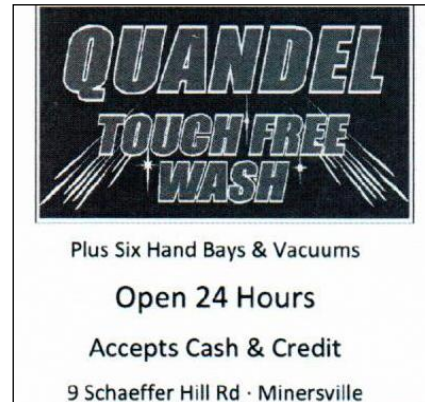
PLEASE – NO OUTDATED ITEMS

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

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.



Why Advertise In A Church Bulletin?

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 - * It's Advertising Concentrated in Your Own Neighborhood
 - * It Develops Good Community Relationships
 - * It's Good For Developing Loyal Customers
-
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FROM OUR PARISH NURSE ... Sleep apnea may increase the risk of undesirable blood cholesterol levels (dyslipidemia), according to a large study published online in *Respirology* in August. Researchers looked at 8,600 people (average age 50) from 17 European countries and Israel who had sleep apnea but had not been diagnosed with dyslipidemia at the start of the study. They found that severity of sleep apnea was a strong independent predictor of elevated total and LDL ("bad") cholesterol and triglycerides as well as low HDL ("good") cholesterol, even after the data were adjusted for factors such as age, body weight, and other medical condition. It's well known that people with sleep apnea, which repeatedly interrupts sleep by causing temporary blockage of breathing passageways, are at increased risk for heart attacks and strokes, but this has largely been attributed to increases in blood pressure.

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."
