

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

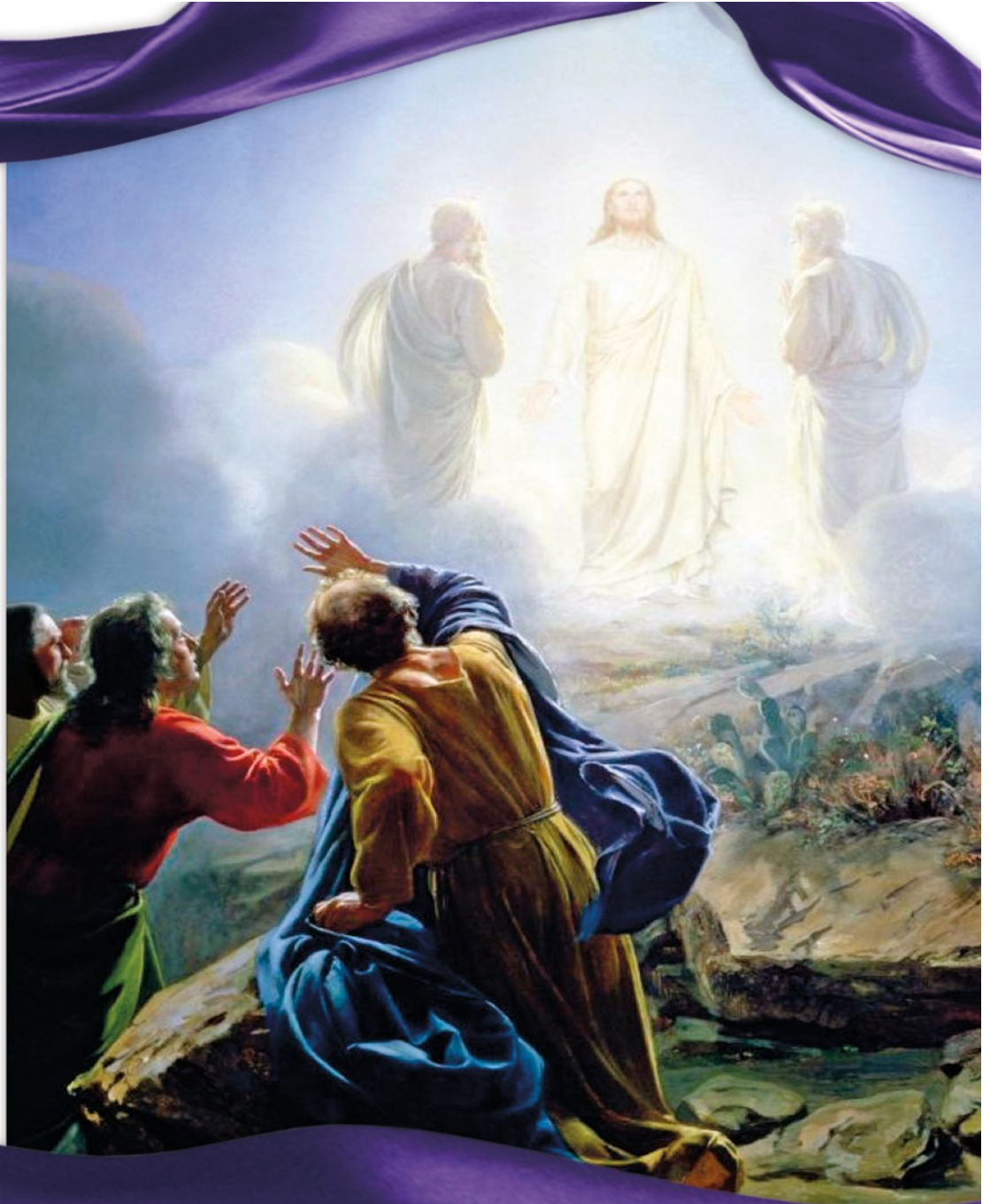
March 16, 2025

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray.

While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.

Luke 9:28, 29

Transfiguration of Jesus
by Carl Bloch, 1872



2ND SUNDAY OF
LENT

Mass Intentions

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)

Monday, March 17

6:30 p.m. Robert & Rita Lotz
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

Tuesday, March 18

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

Wednesday, March 19

6:30 p.m. Joseph & Jessie Ritzel
(Joan Ritzel)

Thursday, March 20

6:00 p.m. Mary Zambo
(Time Change) (Anne Gaburick & Family)

Friday, March 21

9:00 a.m. John Maher
(Martin & Linda Smith)

Saturday, March 22

5:00 p.m. M/M Peter Samkavitz
M/M Edward Orzechowski
(M/M Joseph Orzechowski)

Sunday, March 23

8:15 a.m. Deceased of Bartholomew
& Lorenz Families
(Frances Lorenz)

Sunday, March 23

10:30 a.m. Michael Maccarone
(Christine Maccarone)

Next Week's Readings

Third Sunday of Lent (March 22/23)

Reading I: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

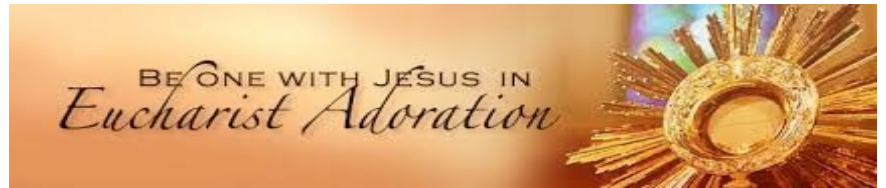
We'll pause our series on the books of the Bible to follow up on Safe Haven Sunday.

Because the internet is at most people's fingertips today, pornography has become a much greater and more widespread problem than many people realize. It has devastating effects on individual lives, marriages, and relationships.

It is important for all of us, especially parents, to educate ourselves on the dangers of pornography and learn how to protect ourselves and especially the young people in our lives. For those who find themselves trapped by any degree of pornography use, it is important to take steps toward healing and freedom before any more harm is done. Two good sources of information are Integrity Restored (integrityrestored.com), and our own diocesan commission on pornography, Lumen Christi (adlumenchristi.org).

For those who struggle with this problem, this Lenten season is a good time to pray for the courage to seek help. As I promised last week, I will make it a high priority to confidentially meet with anyone seeking help and, without putting any pressure or expectations on that individual, to try to point him or her in the right direction to attain healing or freedom.

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.

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*
• *Mary Jean Morgalis* • *Helen Heimbaugh*

Upcoming Events

March

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 8/9..... \$5,292.03
Catholic Home Missions.... \$996.00
 Thank you for your sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving.

Candles

BVM

1. IMO James & Anna Hopkins by Rick & Michelle Stone
2. IMO George Hahner Sr. by Hahner Family

St. Joseph

1. IMO Frank A. Tobin by Rick & Michelle Stone
2. IMO Pat Mason Sr. by Maria Mason

Sanctuary


IMO Albert & Viola Lubinsky by Rick & Michelle Stone

Guardian Angels

- For Mildred Klembara by Anita Klembara
2. IMO Adam Duffy by Rick & Michelle Stone
 3. IMO Marcella Sockalosky by Rick & Michelle Stone
 4. IMO Joan Wassell by Rick & Michelle Stone

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered **Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on March 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.



St. John’s Catholic Women’s Union

Women of all ages are invited to join the Catholic Women’s Union. Learn how you can become involved with the Catholic Women’s Union by joining us on **Wednesday, March 19th, at 7 :30 p.m. in Longinus Hall.** Meet the members and learn how you can be part of this unique organization. We share ideas and light refreshments are served. We work to raise money for our parish and have fun doing it. We also share in fellowship by sharing in a Spring and Fall Auction, Christmas Party, and the Covered Dish Dinner. Your ideas, friendship and membership are welcomed. Join us!

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

Third Sunday of Lent

March 22 — 5 p.m. Mass

Reader: Frank Murphy
Euch.Min.: Justina Majestic
Server: RJ Post
Cantor: Dave Derbes

March 23— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Carleigh Palmieri
Euch.Min.: Joseph Palmieri
Servers: Sophia Palmieri
 Maggie & Rhyann Brennan
Cantor: Dave Derbes

March 23 — 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Janet Daubert
Euch.Min.: Bob Bechtel
Servers: Gabriel Scheidel
 R.J. Post
Cantor: Dave Derbes

Weekend Sacristan: RJ Post

Bulletin Boosters

IMO Carl Bartholomew
 IMO Harold Bartholomew
 IMO James J. Bartholomew
 IMO Robert Berger
 IMO Rita Bartholomew Foley
 John & Mildred Fredericks
 Fr. Don Henry
 IMO M/M Herbert Henry
 IMO Joanne Hepler
 IMO Clare & Linda Houser
 MO Charles Lorenz
 IMO Erika Stangl Seasock
 IMO Theresa Bartholomew Sencak
 IMO Janet Bartholomew Whitaker
 IMO Margaret Zelinsky
 Living & Deceased of St. John's
 CYO Program

*Thank you for supporting our
 bulletin this month!*

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.

Family Matters

Long Term Illness. In your prayers this week, lift up to God all those of our parish who are experiencing long term or chronic illness. We also ask God's guidance and support for their families. May they all find peace and comfort of heart as they face their daily challenges.

*"This is my
 chosen Son,
 listen to him."*



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. 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—Practices & Presentation

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! Call Debbie at [570.691.8874](tel:570.691.8874) with any questions.

Practice Dates:

March 16—2 p.m.

March 26—7 p.m.

April 6—6:30 p.m.

March 19—7 p.m.

April 1—6:30 p.m.

April 13—7:30 p.m.— Presentation

Assumption BVM School. We're Hiring!

Are you a dynamic and innovative educational and faith leader with a strong commitment to Catholic education, Catholic values, and academic excellence in Schuylkill County? ABVM is seeking a dedicated Principal to guide our students, staff, and community in faith, excellence, and service. We are looking for a leader who: * Has a passion for education * Inspires excellence in others * Nurtures a faith-centered school community.

Apply today or share with someone who would be a great fit!

Apply using the link or QR code below:

<https://allentowndiocese.isolvedhire.com/jobs/1437702>



Nativity Happenings

Century Club Benefit. Everyone is welcome to attend and help support Nativity BVM High School as we hold our 2025 Century Club Benefit on **Saturday, 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 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.

CRS Rice Bowl. Paying It Forward As A Lead Mother in Nigeria. In Nigeria, over 25 million people are experiencing extreme food insecurity due to climate change, poverty and conflict. Because of violence in their hometown, Amina and her family were forced to flee and start life over again in a new village. Learn how Amina's participation in a Catholic Relief Services program helped her prepare nutritious meals for her family and support other families in her community to overcome the challenges of hunger and malnutrition. Visit csrricebowl.org/week-2 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

34th Annual Golf Classic Tournament. St. Joseph Center for Special Learning is hosting its 34th Annual Golf Classic tournament on **May 16th** 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 or call 570-622-4638.

Homemade Chocolate Easter Candy - Butter Cream, Coconut Cream or Peanut Butter Eggs - \$11 per box. *Sorry, no mixed boxes.* Proceeds benefit St. Patrick Parish – **All orders are due by March 25.** To place an order, please call the Parish Office at 570-622-1802, ext 0. Candy may be picked up in our Parish Center (313 Mahantongo St., Pottsville) during the Palm Sunday Weekend Bake Sale - April 12 from 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm or April 13 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. **All candy MUST be pre-paid.**

March 16, 2025

Second Sunday of Lent

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Gn 15:5-12, 17-18 | Phil 3:17-4:1 | Lk 9:28b-36

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

As humans, we are often burdened with heavy crosses. Experiences of loss, lack, failure, and betrayal can riddle our existence, leaving us fatigued and with a weary question in our hearts: What is this all for? And then, we look up. We raise our gaze and see before us the transfigured face of Christ. Having taken on our human form, Jesus stands before us in radiant glory. As we take in the scene, our senses mingling somewhere between admiration and alarm, we remember the promise he made to us. The promise that we, too, will be made new. The promise that our bodies will also be redeemed, and our burdens will be relieved. And as we remember, we respond, like the disciples, “It is good that we are here.” The life of discipleship, at times, can seem to require more than it rewards. But in these moments of intimate encounter, when we see glimpses of Jesus’ beautiful face, he reminds us why we are here on this mountain: to love, to serve, and eventually to reap our eternal reward.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We see why we are here on the mountain, but today’s readings also reveal a weighty reality: before we are transformed, we must *climb* that mountain. The whole story of Jesus’ life is this: before a promise is fulfilled, sacrifice is offered. Our human existence, without the mercy and mission given us by Christ, is empty. But taking up the cross of Christ and following him toward glory, we find our purpose. Earth is our pilgrimage, and our journey will most certainly be punctuated by peaks and valleys. But today, St. Paul reminds us in his Letter to the Philippians that we won’t be carrying around these crosses forever. Though strapped with suffering for a time, we know our eternal destination: “Our citizenship is in heaven.”

REFLECT

Lent is inherently a season of waiting for the fulfillment of a promise. In our own lives, we may be aching for transformation, perhaps for ourselves, or for another. Remember: God enters deeply into our lives, dwelling so intimately with us that he syncs his every breath with ours. Take the next week to think and pray about how the Lord may be asking you to be transformed. Pray today’s Psalm each day, and “Wait for the Lord with courage.”



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 stjbparrish@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

Festival Pot Luck Is Returning!!!

As we gear up for our **Midsummer Festival**, we are once again asking for donations for our **Pot Luck Stands**, both Adult and Children. We thank you for your generosity in the past and hope we can count on your continued generosity.

Gift Cards are highly recommended and can be placed in the bins in the back of church or dropped in the collection basket—marked **POT LUCK**. We will also be utilizing our **Amazon Wish List** - it was very successful last year!

Prizes can also be placed in the bins in the back of church. Please remember we can only accept **NEW** or recently purchased boxed or wrapped items in their original package. Any old, used or opened items will not be used for prizes. If you like, please feel free to include your name so we can keep track of those who donated.

Amazon — go to [Amazon.com/registries](https://www.amazon.com/registries). Search by St. John the Baptist Pottsville under Gift List. When purchasing an item, it will default to ship to Maureen Derbes. You may ship your items directly there for convenience or ship to your home address and then place in bins in the back of church.

Any questions or concerns or to arrange drop off, please call Maureen Derbes at 570-691-6098. Thank you again for your continued generosity!



The LORD is my light and my salvation;
 whom should I fear?

— Psalm 27:1

