

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

As our Lenten journey draws to a close we come closer to the brutal day of our Lord's crucifixion. We know that darkness will come, but in the new light the Resurrection will shine its hope upon all of us.

When we confess our sins and are forgiven, the chalkboard of our hearts is wiped clean and then, as the Lord said in the book of Jeremiah, "I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts." And, in this Sunday's psalm, we joyfully sing, "Create a clean heart in me, O God." Then, the words from Hebrews light our way, remembering the obedience of Jesus in accepting his suffering and becoming the source of eternal salvation for us when we obey him."

Yours in Christ,

Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday – March 19 – 9:00 a.m.

ALFRED & RITA HALSEY (M/M Joseph Halsey)

Tuesday, March 20 – 9:00 a.m.

JOSEPHINE PARNESE (M/M Anthony Carroll)

Wednesday, March 21 – 9:00 a.m.

REV. FRANCIS FOX

Thursday, March 22 – 9:00 a.m.

ANNA ASAIF (Staff & Residents of York Terrace)

Friday, March 23 – 9:00 a.m.

PATRICIA JONES (Ron & Pat Lombel)

Saturday, March 24 – 5 p.m.

JOHN B. LIEBERMAN IV (Ed & Donna Palamar)

Sunday – March 25 – 8:15 a.m.

JOSEPH B. LESCavage (Martin & Linda Smith)

Sunday – March 26 - 10:30 a.m.

MARY CUCHARA (Eileen & Jim Berger)

CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM

In Memory of

St. Joseph

George Holley

Tabernacle

requested by

Sanctuary

Mary Ann Holley

Guardian Angels

1. IMO George Holley by Mary Ann Holley

2. IMO Marty Kern by Barbara Kern

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: *Mary Connell, Dorothy Blum, Doug Broughton, Paul Burns, , Eric Neifert, Laverne Yackel.*

Deceased: *Gerald Schoenauer*

SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

5:00 p.m. – Saturday – March 24th

Reader: Bill Gianfagna, Carol Lasco, Robert Wollyung

Euch.Min.: Donna Connors, Molly Zwiebel

Servers: Brandon & Andrew Smith, Kaitlin Painter

Cantor: Mary Bound

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – March 25th

Reader: Michelle Ambrose, Dave Smith, Paul Gombola

Euch.Min.: Paul & Debbie Herb

Servers: Caroline Gist, Jillian Guzick, Dylan Shea

Cantor: Tina Seiger

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – March 25th

Reader: Mary Matulevich, Jennifer Daubert,

Frank Murphy

Euch.Min.: Dominic Chiplonia, John Ventura

Servers: Grant Lapachinsky, Lauren & Kelly Goodman

Cantor: Ensemble

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What "falling" have you endured in order to "bear fruit" as a disciple?

Next Week's Readings

PALM SUNDAY (March 24/25)

Reading I: Isaiah 50:4-7

Reading II: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47

WASHING OF FEET

The ritual of "Washing of the Feet" is a powerful symbol of our identity as a servant people. It is a visual extension of the homily. This action so profound, yet simple and ordinary, serves to remind us all of the immense love of God for us visible in Christ Jesus.

If any parishioner would like to participate in the

"Washing of the Feet" on Holy

Thursday (you can remain in your

pew and Father Dave will do the

washing there). Please call the

Rectory 622-5470 or sign up in the

back of church.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will be conferred

at St. John's -- 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25th, 2018



LOST & FOUND: An item of jewelry (necklace) was found on 10th Street. If anyone lost this item please call the rectory 622-5470 ext. 3 with a description.

DRAMATIC STATIONS OF THE CROSS

--- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ---

We still need several volunteers to participate in this year's Dramatic Stations. No experience required. Please call Dr. Robert DeColli at 640-1910 or the Rectory 622-5470 or just come to rehearsal on **Tuesday & Thursday**.

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

This year's presentation is under the leadership of **Dr. Robert DeColli and Rick Smith**.

Dress Rehearsals

Tuesday, March 20th – 7 p.m.

Thursday, 22nd – 7 p.m.

Dramatic Stations Presentations

(Preludes 7:15 p.m.)

Palm Sunday – 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday – 7:30 p.m.

DIVINE MERCY PERPETUAL ADORATION

Words of Our Lord...In Sinu Jesu *"The practice of adoration is not difficult. It is a gentle abiding in My presence, a resting in the radiance of My Eucharistic Face, a closeness to My Eucharistic Heart....Ask, then for the gift of adoration."*

We need adorers for the following hours:

Monday 10 p.m.

Wednesday 11 a.m.

Thursday 4 a.m. & 8 p.m.

Friday 10 a.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.

Please call Aleece 449-7678.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

Encounter Alefa. We encounter Alefa in Malawi, where seeds are helping her family survive an uncertain climate. How can you care for God's creation this Lent? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit csrricebowl.org for more.

CHURCH DECORATING

We will be decorating the church for Easter on **Good Friday evening after Dramatic Stations approximately 8:45 p.m.** Extra hands are always needed and appreciated.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday,	March 24	4:00 to 4:45 p.m.
Sunday,	March 25	7:45 to 8:00 a.m. 10:00 to 10:15 a.m.
Monday,	March 26	5:00 to 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday,	March 27	7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

PALM SUNDAY

Mass Times

Saturday – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday – 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Dramatic Stations of the Cross -- 7:30 p.m.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday & Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. - Chapel

Wednesday – 8:00 a.m. – Chapel

HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

8 to 10 p.m. - Chapel

Night Prayer – 10 p.m. - Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY

Morning Prayer – 9 a.m. in Chapel

Liturgy & Holy Communion – 3 p.m.

Dramatic Stations of the Cross – 7:30 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY

Solemn Blessing of Food Baskets – 12 noon - Chapel

Easter Vigil Mass – 8 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

Masses: 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.

BLESSED PALM

The Blessed Palm is known as a sacramental. We should not receive the Palm out of human respect with the rest of the faithful and then forget it or cast it away. The Blessed Palm in Catholic homes is a symbol of our Christian Faith. Let the Palm which you carry home from church on Palm Sunday become a constant reminder of the days ahead when your faith may be put to a test.



FAMILY MATTERS

St. Patrick's Day. The Irish certainly have their day to celebrate. You would think all of us are Irish on St. Patrick's Day. Consider learning more about your own ethnic heritage and share it with your family and parish.

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

FAMILY GUILD GIFT CARD CALENDAR

SPONSORS

BeeHive	Sharon & Larry Lonergan
Dr. Tom & Kay Boran	Victor E. Muncy Inc.
Charlie's Pizza & Subs	Nativity BVM High School
DiCello Chiropractic	Bob & Mary Porter
Eastern Press	Ed & Carole Quirin
Brian & Sue Eckley	Noble & Jule Quandel
Friends of St. John's	Rosenberger Plumbing&Heat.
Dr. Richard A. Greco	Schlitzer-Allen-Pugh Funeral
Jim & Lori Guzick	St. Clair Auto Supply
Bob & Susan Hahner	St. John's CYO Program
HeadQuarter's Styling Salon – Bobbi Murray	
Heaven & Earth Salon	Luis R. & Virginia C. Visot
Tony & Lucilla Kochol	Joanne Wood/Jackie Szeliga
	Z&M Painting & Papering
Zimmerman, Lieberman, Tamulonis, Hobbs Law Offices	

Winners:

March 8: Maria McMurtrie
 March 9: Barbara Fox
 March 10: Fran Mickey
 March 11: Aimee Benulis
 March 12: Annie Grabowski
 March 13: Theresa Keating

ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC WOMEN'S UNION **(PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE)**

*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 21st 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 Spring Covered Dish Party. Your ideas, friendship and membership are welcomed.



DUES FOR 2018 ARE NOW DUE - \$5.00

For more information call: Joan Deiter at 622-1381 or St. John's Rectory: 622-5470.

50 / 50 CHANCES

Fridays 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.

Winner: March 9th -- Tony Piccioni

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want ... Ps. 23:1

CURIOSITY SHOP / YARD SALE

April 2018

... Watch future bulletins for dates and times ...

Spring Cleaning ??? Look around your home for any items you wish to contribute to this year's Curiosity Shop to be held at the Russell Building. You'd be surprised what you might find – Here are some suggestions ...

Christmas Items	Doillies	Toys / Games
Serving Dishes	Jewelry	Puzzles
Knick Knacks	Purses	Tablecloths
Kitchen Items	Candles	Candy Dishes
Framed Paintings	CD's, DVD's	Vintage Items
Material	Craft Items	
Seasonal Decorations.		

CLEAN ITEMS ONLY

NO TELEVISIONS
NO COMPUTERS, MONITORS, KEYBOARDS
NO BOOKS
NO LARGE FURNITURE
NO STUFFED ANIMAL TOYS
NO CLOTHING
NO BEDDING
NO LARGE CHRISTMAS TREES

ONLY ONE DROP-OFF DATE

Saturday, April 7th

8 a.m. to 12 noon

Items can be dropped off at
St. John's Russell Building

**NO ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED
BEFORE OR AFTER THIS DATE.**

**Do Not Leave Articles at the
Door or in the Parking Lot**

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.

Lord-Bixler Funeral Home, Inc.
 1818 Mahantongo Street
 Pottsville, PA 17901
570-622-0230
 Terry L. Bixler, Supv.

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

LENTEN DINNERS

Our Reputation is Well-Known!

Full course dinners including the best home-made New England Clam Chowder, freshly baked Haddock or Salmon, or Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes, a wonderful Salad Bar, choice of Macaroni & Cheese, Baked or Mashed Potatoes, choice of Vegetables, Beverages, and of course, our Delicious Homemade Desserts.... 4 to 7 p.m. at the Russell Building ... Fridays during Lent.

(No dinner on Good Friday)

Adults

Baked Haddock or Salmon \$ 14.00

1 Crab Cake \$ 14.00

2 Crab Cakes \$ 17.00

Adult Special

Crab Cake & Choice of Fish \$ 17.00

Children (under 12 only)

Baked Haddock or Salmon \$ 8.00

1 Crab Cake \$ 8.00

TAKE-OUTS AVAILABLE

EASTER 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
Cold Cereal	Vegetable - Canned
Beef Stew	Spaghetti
Soups	Spaghetti Sauce
Peanut Butter	Jelly
Canned Gravy	Canned Sweet Potatoes
Macaroni (box)	

Items of the Month Needed: Canned Soups / Canned or Jarred Fruit, Hot or Cold Cereals

PLEASE – NO OUTDATED ITEMS

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

If anyone wishes to donate a **Ham** for this collection, please call the Rectory 622-5470. **Donations will be accepted until March 24th.**

Giant Gift cards to purchase hams will be gladly accepted.

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

Easter Food Baskets will be distributed March 26th.

For Thou will light my candle; the Lord, my God, will enlighten my darkness.... Psalm 18:28

CEMETERY REGULATIONS

The following are guidelines established by St. John's Cemetery Committee:

- Shrubs are not permitted on cemetery grounds except those authorized by cemetery authorities.
- Flowers or plants may be planted in the ground, but must remain within 12 inches of base of memorial.
- All artificial decorations must be removed within 14 days after specified holidays which are: Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, Christmas.
- All decorations except those flowers or plants planted in the ground, must be removed by **July 1st**
- Placing of artificial flowers in the ground is forbidden.
- All rubbish is to be taken with you or placed in receptacle in Cemetery.

NATIVITY BVM SCHOOL ...

POSITION AVAILABLE ... accepting applications for a **Head Track & Field Coach**. Head Coaching experience preferred for Track & Field. Interested candidates should send résumé, certifications and all clearances to: **Nativity BVM High School**

Attn: Mrs. Lynn Sabol, Principal
One Lawton's Hill, Pottsville, Pa. 17901
lsabol@nativitybvm.net

Welcome Spring

O welcome Spring! We've waited long to feel your touch and hear your song, to smell your flower-scented breeze, and view again your blossomed trees.

O welcome Spring! We're glad you're here to spread your beauty and good cheer. You bring God's vivid promise true ... that all things shall be born anew.

... Beverly J. Anderson

WEEKLY COLLECTION

March 10/11: \$ 4,407.26; Dues: \$1,413.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

2017 CONTRIBUTION RECORD

You can request a copy of your 2017 Contribution Record by calling the rectory ... 622-5470 ext 3.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

March

18 Confirmation Class – 6:30 p.m. – L.H.

- 18 Adult Faith Formation – 4:30 p.m. – L.H.
- 20 Dramatic Stations Practice – 7 p.m. – Church
- 20 Men’s Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 21 Catholic Women’s Union Mtg. – 7:30 p.m.-L.H.
- 22 Dramatic Stations Practice – 7 p.m. – Church
- 23 Lenten Dinner – 4 to 7 p.m. – R.B.
- 24 Confessions – 4 to 4:45 p.m.
- 25 Confessions – 7:45 to 8 a.m./10 to 10:15 a.m.
- 26 Confessions – 5 to 5:30 p.m.
- 27 Confessions – 7 to 8 p.m.
- 29 Mass of the Lord’s Supper – 7 p.m.
- 29 Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 8-10 pm –Chapel
- 29 Night Prayer – 10 p.m. - Chapel
- 30 Morning Prayer – 9 a.m. – Chapel
- 30 Good Friday Liturgy – 3 p.m.
- 30 Dramatic Stations of the Cross – 7:30 p.m.
- 31 Blessing of Food Baskets – 12 Noon – Chapel
- 31 Easter Vigil Mass – 8 p.m.

April

- 1 Easter Masses – 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.
- 3 Men’s Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 10 Men’s Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 11 St.John’s Beneficial Soc. – 8 p.m. – F.R.
- 14/15 Blood Pressure Screenings – L.H. – after Masses
- 17 Men’s Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 18 Catholic Women’s Union – 7 p.m. – L.H.
- 18 Family Guild Mtg. – 6:30 p.m. – F.R.
- 24 Men’s Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 25 Confirmation – 4:30 p.m. – at St. John’s

** L.H. – Longinus Hall

** F.R. – Rectory Fellowship Room

** R.B. – Russell Building

NEIGHBORING EVENTS

HOMEMADE EASTER CANDY: ... sponsored by St. Anne Guild of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Ashland. Easter Eggs for \$1.00 each, and a dozen for \$12.

Flavors are: Peanut Butter, Cherry, Butter Cream and Coconut Cream. Orders can be placed by calling the Parish Office at 570-875-1521.

EASTER FOOD & CRAFT FESTIVAL: ... sponsored by St. Mary’s Church, 94 Walnut Rd., Hamburg on **Saturday, March 24th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Easter candy, breads, flowers, pysanky eggs, handmade rosaries; kitchen will be open serving breakfast & lunch. For more info call 610-562-7657 ext.0.

SPAGHETTI DINNER: ... sponsored by St. Patrick Church on **Sunday, April 8th** from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Parish Center. Eat in or Take out... Adults \$8; Children \$3.50.

NEIGHBORING EVENTS

OLDIES DANCE: ... sponsored by St. Mary’s Church, 94 Walnut Rd., Hamburg, on Saturday, **April 14th** at 6:30 p.m. Doors & kitchen open 5:15 p.m. Tickets \$10 pre-purchase; \$12 at the door. For more info call 610-562-7657 ext. 0.

HALUPKI & HALUSKI SALE: ... sponsored by St. Michael’s Ukrainian Church, 300 W. Oak St., Shenandoah on **Saturday, April 21st**. Taking orders until April 10. Halupki \$2.00 each; Haluski \$6.00 quart (Pre-Orders only) Pick-up from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Call Theresa at 570-467-3894, leave message including phone number or email tmyk@ptd.net.

YARD SALE: ... sponsored by St. Ambrose Men’s Club on **Saturday, April 22nd** from 7 a.m. to 12 noon (no early birds) at the Parish Center. One of the biggest yard sales in the county. This sale gets bigger and better every year, so you won’t want to miss it. Food and drinks available for purchase.

BUS TRIP: ... to Virginia Beach, Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown from **May 14 to 18**, sponsored by St. Matthew’s Travelers ... \$649 per person ... For more information and reservations call Julie 544-5231 or Millie 628-5413.

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

DIOCESAN MARRIAGE CONFERENCE – Early Bird Registration is now open for the Diocesan Marriage Conference on **Saturday April 14th** at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish in Sinking Spring. Sign up soon for the discount! Child Care is available. Visit the website www.togetherinholiness.org to learn more. For any questions call 610-289-8900 ext 2028.

DIOCESAN WOMEN’S CONFERENCE – Calling All Women Wives, Mothers, Daughters, Sisters, Singles, Aunts, Religious - on **Saturday, May 5th**, at DeSales University, Center Valley, from 8:30 a.m. ending with a Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m. celebrated by Bishop Alfred A. Schlert. Adults \$40, High School Students \$10, College Students and Vowed/Consecrated Religious \$15. The day will include a youth session and a Spanish track. The theme **“Hearts Afire – Be Who God Made You To Be”** will feature presentations by Rev. Msgr. Andrew Baker and nationally known speakers Kelly Wahlquist, Colleen Carroll Campbell, Sr. Faustina Maria Pia S.V., and Lucia Baez Luzondo (Spanish Track). Includes Continental breakfast, lunch, Confession, Adoration and Exhibitors. Information/Registration, visit www.allentowndiocese.org/womens-conference. Questions call 610-289-8900 x 2021 or e-mail AFF@allentowndiocese.org Hope to see you there!