

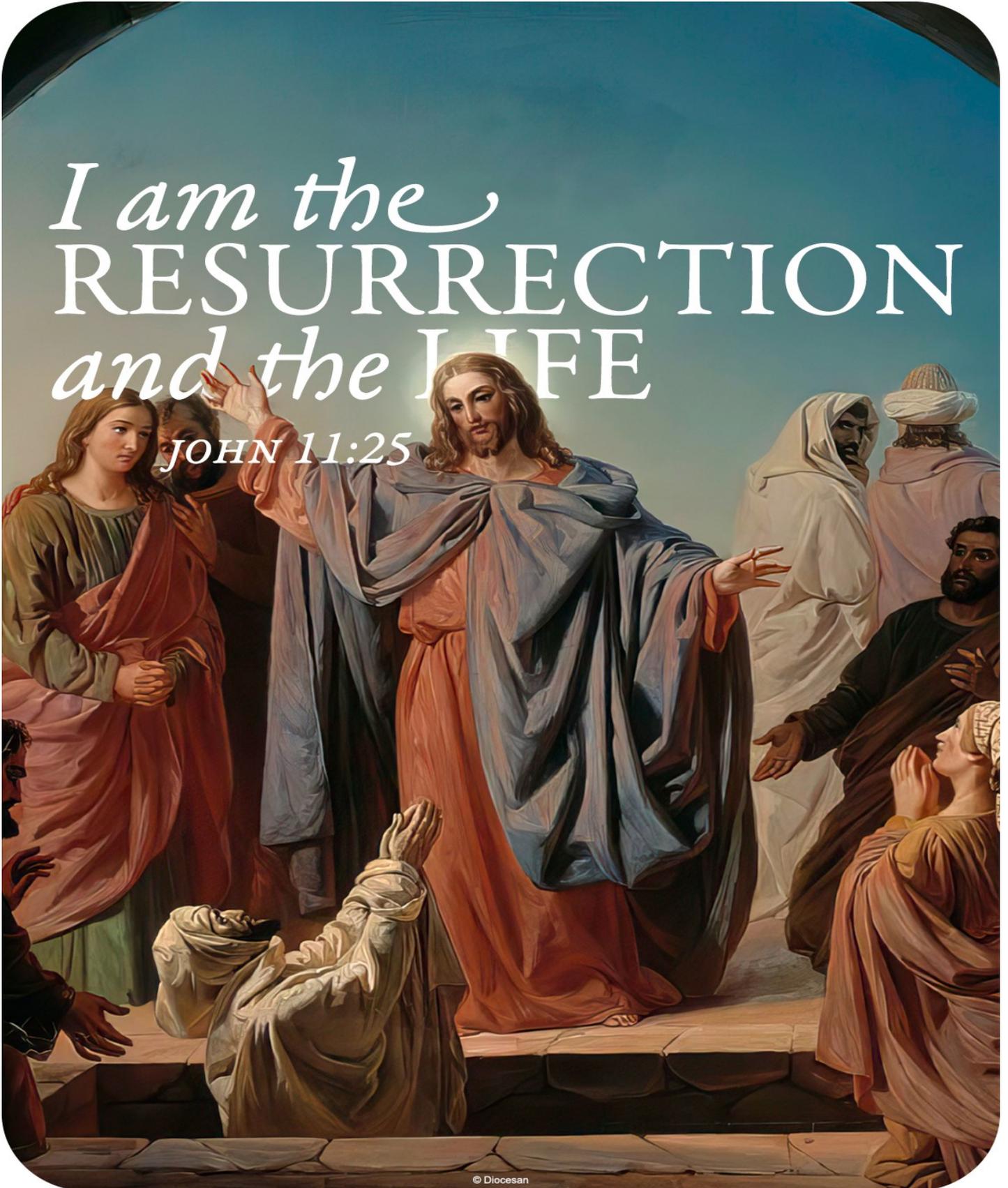
St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

March 22, 2026 • 5th Sunday of Lent

I am the
RESURRECTION
and the LIFE

JOHN 11:25



Pastor..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*
Deacon.....*Robert A. Reiley*
Parish Council President *John Crane*
E-mail.....johncrane1@mac.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@allentowndioocese.org

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

1-800-276-1562 www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

Diocese of Allentown Website

www.allentowndioocese.org



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.
- ◆ A holy hour in the **main church on the eve of First Friday** from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. This will be a formal holy hour ending with Benediction. Father will be available for Confessions.

Communion for the Homebound

If you or a family member, friend, or neighbor who is a member of St. John is confined to home, a nursing home or assisted living facility because of illness, age, or disability and would like to receive Holy Communion` on a monthly basis, please call the rectory. We traditionally visit the sick and homebound on or around the first Friday of the month. Please help us meet the spiritual needs of our homebound parishioners.

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: *Sherri Post, Tom Jefferson, Kathy Vivic
 Doug Broughton, Jane Baker, Beth Ann Clark.*

"Note: We will keep names on the prayer list for a period of three months. Please let us know if you would like your name or your family member's name to remain on the list longer."

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 21

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

Sunday, March 22

8:15 a.m. Joseph Burns
(Joyce Gerace & Family)

Sunday, March 22

10:30 a.m. John Kutch
(Pat Kutch & Family)

Monday, March 23

6:30 p.m. Health & Welfare of
Rick & Beth Smith
(Kelley Eroh)

Tuesday, March 24

9:00 a.m. Joseph & Mary Lescavage
(Linda & Martin Smith)

Wednesday, March 25

6:30 p.m. St. John's Parish Family
(Time Change)

Thursday, March 26

9:00 a.m. Joseph Cesari
(Eric & Jennifer Lieberman)

Friday, March 27

9:00 a.m. John Gerace
(Pat, Missy, Amy Scheetz)

Saturday, March 28

5:00 p.m. R.J. Post
(Bob, Irene, Sandi, Sheri, R.J. Post III)

Sunday, March 29

8:15 a.m. Mary Connell

Sunday, March 29

10:30 a.m. Thomas Bartashus
(Nativity Baseball Team)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Last week we started looking at the Sacrament of Confirmation, which brings our Baptism to its maturity.

It is important to understand what we mean by this. Last week we described the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation. Essentially, Baptism gives us our identity as God's children. Confirmation helps us *live up to* our identity as God's children. This has nothing to do with chronological age. Many people see Confirmation as a sacrament we receive to mark the transition to adulthood (something analogous to a Jewish Bar Mitzvah), but this is not the case. No matter what age someone receives Confirmation, the graces of the sacrament are still the same. The Holy Spirit comes to us to help us live as disciples of Jesus.

The age for receiving Confirmation has changed over the years and continues to be a matter of debate. Today, most people receive in 8th grade. I received in 5th grade. My parents' and grandparents' generations received the sacrament at even younger ages. As we mentioned previously, adults who are Baptized at the Easter Vigil receive Confirmation and First Communion at the Easter Vigil also. Adults who are already baptized Christians and desire to enter the Catholic Church can receive Confirmation whenever they have completed some preparation and make a profession of faith. We also mentioned previously that, in the Eastern rites of the Catholic Church, infants are immediately Confirmed when they are baptized.

In the Latin rite it has become traditional for the bishop himself to give the Sacrament of Confirmation, as a way to visit each parish in the diocese. But priests can also minister the sacrament at the Easter Vigil and in other circumstances.

In Christ,

Fr. Bobbin

SCRIPTURE STUDY

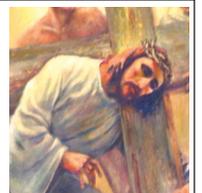
Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study

... will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on **March 26, April 9, 23, and May 7, 14**. 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.

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.



Next Week's Readings

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
(March 28/29)

Reading I: Isaiah 50:4-7

Reading II: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66

Why do we cover the crucifix and statues? From the 5th Sunday of Lent through Good Friday, it is traditional to veil crucifixes, statues, and other images in church. This practice is meant to emphasize the penitential nature of this time of year when we reflect on our Lord's suffering and death. Just as we fast from food and other pleasures in Lent, we fast from images and decoration in church until it is time to celebrate the new life of Easter.

Upcoming Events

March

| | | | |
|----|-------------|--|--------|
| 22 | 2:00 p.m. | Dramatic Stations Practice | Church |
| 22 | 6:30 p.m. | Confirmation Class..... | L.H. |
| 23 | 7:00 p.m. | Parish Council Mtg..... | L.H. |
| 24 | 6:30 p.m. | Dramatic Stations Dress Rehearsal..... | Church |
| 25 | 6:00 p.m. | Stations of the Cross | Church |
| 26 | 6:30 p.m. | Scripture Study | L.H. |
| 26 | 7:30 p.m. | Summer Festival Mtg..... | L.H. |
| 27 | 4-6:30 p.m. | Lenten Dinner | R.B. |
| 29 | 9:00 p.m. | CCD | L.H. |
| 29 | 10:30 a.m. | Sunday School/Children’s Liturgy..... | L.H. |
| 29 | 7:30 p.m. | Dramatic Stations of the Cross Presentation..... | Church |

April

| | | | |
|----|------------|---------------------------------------|------|
| 8 | 7:00 p.m. | Ladies of the Rosary | L.H. |
| 9 | 6:30 p.m. | Scripture Study | L.H. |
| 12 | 6:30 p.m. | Confirmation Class..... | L.H. |
| 15 | 7:00 a.m. | Catholic Women’s Union Mtg | L.H. |
| 19 | 9:00 a.m. | CCD | L.H. |
| 19 | 10:30 a.m. | Sunday School/Children’s Liturgy..... | L.H. |
| 23 | 6:30 p.m. | Scripture Study | L.H. |
| 26 | 9:00 a.m. | CCD | L.H. |
| 26 | 10:30 a.m. | Sunday School/Children’s Liturgy..... | L.H. |

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

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

<><><> MARK YOU CALENDARS <><><>
 SUMMER FESTIVAL—July 17/18, 2026

Weekly Collection

March 14/15\$5,234.00
 Improv.& Repairs\$1,448.00

Candles

BVM

1&2. Special Intention

St. Joseph

1. IMO Frank A. Tobin
by Rick & Michelle Stone
2. IMO Albert Lubinsky
by Rick & Michelle Stone

Sanctuary

Living & Deceased of
 St. John’s Catholic Women’s Union

Guardian Angels

All 4 Candles:
 Deceased of Anthony Schaeffer
 Family
 by Eleanor Schaeffer

Liturgical Min. Schedule

Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion

March 28 — 5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Bill Gianfagna
 EM: Sharon Snyder, Heidi Gorski
 Server: Heidi Gorski
 Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

March 29 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Michelle Heenan
 EM: Jeff Naffin, Joseph Palmieri
 Servers: Sophia Palmieri
 Gabriel Scheidel
 Cantor: Amy Joyce

March 29 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Jennifer Daubert
 EM: Michael Ambrose, Ray Petrilla
 Servers: Jackson Daubert
 Luke Lieberman
 Cantor: Marianne Wollyung



**NO CANDLE INTENTIONS
 DURING HOLY WEEK**

LENTEN DINNERS — Fridays during Lent

March 27 — 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
 (no Dinner on Good Friday)

Menu includes: Baked Haddock or “Special of the Week” includes: Macaroni and Cheese OR Chef’s “Starch of the Week”, New England Clam Chowder, Side Salad, Chef’s “Vegetable of the Day”, Roll, Beverage and Dessert.

March 27—Special of the Week —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 deserts.” 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.

50/50 Chances ... available at the door from the Catholic Women’s Union; drawing takes place at 6:30 p.m. each week. 50/50 Winner on March 13: Sue Eckley



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 29

Masses
Saturday 5 p.m. & Sunday 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.
Dramatic Stations of the Cross • 7:30 p.m.

Monday, March 30

Mass • 7 a.m.

Tuesday, March 31

Mass • 9 a.m.

Wednesday, April 1

No Mass
(No Stations of the Cross)

Holy Thursday, April 2

Mass • 7 p.m.
Adoration after Mass until 10 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3

Stations of the Cross • 12 Noon
Good Friday Liturgy • 3 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 4

Blessing of Food Baskets • 12 noon in Church
Easter Vigil Mass • 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 5

Masses • 8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday, March 25 • 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 28 • 3:45—4:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 29 • No Scheduled Confessions
Monday, March 30 • Penance Service at St. Pat's • 7 p.m.
Tuesday, March 31 • 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 4 • No Scheduled Confessions
Sunday, April 5 • No Scheduled Confessions



Church Decorating

Volunteers Needed.

We will be decorating our church for Easter and would greatly appreciate some helping hands. If you are available to help with decorating, please join us on **Holy Saturday, April 4th at 12:30 p.m.**

Your time and help make our church beautiful as we celebrate the joy of Easter. Thank you for sharing your time and talent!

Cleaning Crew-Thank You

Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who gave their time and energy to clean our beautiful church including Longinus Hall and the Chapel. Your hard work and care help keep our parish a welcoming and a beautiful place for everyone. We are truly grateful for your dedication and generous spirit. Those volunteering their time and talent this month: **Michelle Ambrose, Sandy Frinzi, Phyllis Hess, Angela Mason, Maria Mason, Ray Petrilla, Theresa Skrobak, Beth Smith, Joanne Wood.**

Dramatic Stations of the Cross—Practice & Presentation



Practice Dates

March 22—2:00 p.m.
March 24—6:30 p.m.—Dress Rehearsal

Presentation

March 29—Palm Sunday—7:30 p.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.



We are always looking for new readers, altar servers, and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.

Please consider if our Lord is calling you to one of these roles. Our current liturgical ministers are sometimes spread very thin, especially in the summer, making it difficult to fill the schedule. If you might be interested in one of these roles, please see Fr. Bobbin.

Assumption BVM School News ...

Assumption BVM's HSA will host its **Annual Cash & Gift Card Bingo** on Sunday, April 19, at St. Ambrose's Parish Center. Doors open at 11:30 AM, and bingo begins at 1:00 PM. Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of exciting games, great prizes, and delicious food.

Advance tickets are \$35 and will be \$40 at the door. Purchase online at www.tinyurl.com/abvmHSAbingo, email ABVM.BINGO@gmail.com, or call/text (610) 618-0539 for tickets and information.

Diocesan Events ...

Enroll Names of the Departed for 'We Are Remembered' Mass. The 35th Annual Easter Mass sponsored by the Diocesan "We Are Remembered" Ministry will be celebrated by Rev. Joseph Kweder with homilist, Rev. John Gibbons on Wednesday, April 8th at 7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church in Whitehall. Enroll the names of your beloved ones by Monday, March 30th to ensure their inclusion in the Book of the Remembered and the enrollment list that will be printed afterward in the AD Times newspaper. A \$5 donation is requested for each name enrolled to cover expenses, but every name submitted will be enrolled regardless of donation. To register, send the following information and checks to We Are Remembered Ministry, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, 618 Fullerton Ave. Whitehall, Pa. 18052. Sponsor(s) name, Donation amount, address, phone number, Email and Name(s) of the deceased.

Retreat to Fatima and Lourdes with Fr. John Frink . Take a pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes from June 7-16, 2026 under the spiritual direction of Fr. John Frink. Click this link: <https://www.206tours.com/cms/frfrink/> to view detailed itinerary, pricing information, and to book.

Neighboring Events ...

Schuylkill Choral Society — 'A German Requiem' on Sunday, March 22nd at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Church in Pottsville. Tickets: Adults \$15; Students \$10. Tickets available from any Chorus member or online at: www.schchoral.org/tickets.html or call 570-618-3388.

Homemade Shoo Fly Pie & Pie Crusts Made by Members of St. Mary's Church Choir. Pick up at St. Mary's Church rectory on Tuesday, April 14th from 10 a.m. til noon. Deadline to order is Thursday, April 9th. To order, please call the parish office at 580-889-3850.

Bus Trip — Joshua at Sight & Sound Theater. We still have several seats available on Tuesday, April 21st. Great for all ages! Watch the epic story come to life on stage followed by a delicious buffet lunch at Hershey Farm. \$172 covers your ticket, lunch at Hershey Farm, and bus transportation. Embark on your journey from Ashland at 8am and return around 6pm. Call 570-875-1521 to make your reservations. You won't want to miss this!

35th Annual Golf Classic sponsored by St. Joseph Center for Special Learning on Friday, May 15 at Mountain Valley Golf Course. Join us for a day of food, fellowship, and golf in support of the students and adults we serve. Those who register by April 6 will receive 10% off their registration. When registering online, use code **SJGOLFCLASSIC** to receive the discount. For more information or to register, please visit www.stjosephctr.com or call **570-622-4638**.

16th Annual Golf Tournament sponsored by St. Patrick Church on Saturday, May 16th at Hidden Valley Golf Course in Pine Grove. Registration is Saturday, May 16th at 7 am; Shotgun start at 8 am. Early Bird Special price by April 30th is \$85. Please call Debbie at 570-622-1802, ext. 0 for more information.

Cruise to the Caribbean with St. Ambrose (Schuylkill Haven) on August 19 to August 29 – Departing from NYC and traveling on the Norwegian Escape, we will be visiting San Juan, Puerto Rico; Philipsburg, St. Maarten; the U.S. and British Virgin Islands; and Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. There are cabin options for everyone. Optional bus transportation from St. Ambrose will also be available for an additional fee. For more information or to sign up, please reach out to Debbie Minnich at 484-934-1350.

Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are visiting our beautiful church, please know you are most welcome!

If you have questions or are interested in joining our parish family, please call the rectory 570-622-5470.

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."

Moving? Relocating? Let us Know!

Have you moved, changed your phone or email address? If so, would you please contact the Rectory Office at 622-5470 ext. 3. Help us update records!

2025 Contribution Record

You can request a copy of your 2025 Contribution Record by calling the rectory Monday thru Thursday ... 622-5470 ext. 3.

There is hope in the battle against pornography.

Educate yourself, protect yourself and your family, and seek help and healing. Explore the resources offered by:

1. Integrity Restored (integrityrestored.com)
2. The Diocese of Allentown's Lumen Christi Commission (adlumenchristi.org)
3. Or contact Fr. Bobbin for a confidential appointment.

March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ez 37:12-14 | Rom 8:8-11 | Jn 11:1-45

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

The raising of Lazarus marks an irreversible turning point in Jesus' ministry. It's impossible to publicly raise someone from the dead and continue to fly beneath the radar. It's no surprise that the next time we meet Jesus, he'll be greeted with Hosannas and palm branches as the promised Son of David. But we also know that by raising Lazarus, Jesus attracts the attention of his enemies and sets himself on a course that ultimately leads to the cross. In our own life of discipleship, there may be times when we will have to step up and make a decisive and public choice for our faith or our values. Standing up for what's right may bring praise and admiration, or lead to misunderstanding or even persecution. We can draw strength in these decisive moments from the knowledge that the One we follow is the resurrection and the life. Any risk we take in following him is worth it in the end.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today's Gospel passage features the shortest and perhaps one of the most profound verses in all of Scripture: "And Jesus wept." This text reveals that before he restored his friend to life, we have a God who weeps with us over the losses and tragedies of our lives. Likewise, before we can announce the Good News of the Gospel, we must learn the "art of accompaniment," as Pope Francis reminded us in *Evangelii Gaudium*. (169) This requires that we offer "our closeness and our compassionate gaze" to all those we seek to evangelize. When our first action consists of compassion, empathy, and entering into the joys and sorrows of others, our efforts at evangelization will bear much fruit.

INVITATION

St. Paul tells us to "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep." (Rom 12:15) As we enter the final week of Lent and prepare for Holy Week, spend some time thinking about who in your life is experiencing a particular moment of joy or sorrow at this time. Consider one concrete action you can take to be present to them: it could be dropping off a meal to someone who recently had surgery, sitting with someone who lost a loved one and listening as they share stories of their lives together, or bringing a special treat to celebrate a friend's recent accomplishment. Then - do it.

