

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday's gospel tells us of how when an angry older brother confronted his father about welcoming the prodigal son back home with a lavish feast, the forgiving father replied: "My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come back to life again; he was lost and has been found."

In this story, we can see ourselves in all the characters? How many times have we've been the prodigal son, or the angry and jealous older brother? And, how many times have we been the forgiving father? Consider how many times we've been grateful to our heavenly Father for his unending forgiveness of our transgressions.

Yours in Christ,
Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday – April 1 – 9:00 a.m.

DECEASED OF BOHR FAMILY

Tuesday, April 2 – 9:00 a.m.

JEANNE HOLDEN

(Staff & Residents of York Terrace)

Wednesday, April 3 – 9:00 a.m.

JOSEPHINE KOCHOL

(John, Cathy, Hannah Kostick)

Thursday, April 4 – 9:00 a.m.

KATHLEEN FINN (living intention)

(Joseph McGraw)

Friday, April 5 – 9:00 a.m. – NO MASS

Saturday, April 6 – 5 p.m.

VERONICA B. SCHMITT (William Schmitt Family)

Sunday – April 7 – 8:15 a.m.

JOSEPHINE BROZANA (Kevin & Lisa Mahall)

Sunday – April 7 – 10:30 a.m.

VINCENT MISTYSYN (Dan & Hermine Murphy)

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Tuesday – April 2

at York Terrace Nursing Home

FLORENCE MACHEMER (Staff & Residents)

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, Toni Wiest, Paul Burns.*

Deceased: *Ernest Zambo, Dorothy Elison*



CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM - Deceased of Gillis Family by Debbie Matz

St. Joseph – IMO David Zanis by Steve & Chris Zanis

Tabernacle Special Intention

Sanctuary

1. IMO Theresa Mary Rinaldo by Vita Valenti

2. Deceased of Gillis Family by Debbie Matz

3. Special Intention

4. Parishioners of St. John's

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Carol Siegle by Millie, Barb, Ellen

2. IMO Edward Kuperavage by Steve & Chris Zanis

SCHEDULE

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

5 p.m. – Saturday – April 6th

Reader: Mary Ann Schweikert

Euch.Min.: Molly Zwiebel, Gerry Schwartz

Servers: Brandon & Andrew Smith, Luke Garvey

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – April 7th

Reader: Jeff Naffin

Euch.Min.: John Corbacio, George Forney

Servers: Ryan & Emma Seiger, Luke Schane

Cantor: Tina Seiger

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – April 7th

Reader: Evielyn Hower

Euch.Min.: Charlie Miller, Joyce Gerace

Servers: Lauren & Kelly Goodman, Joshua Steffan

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

ATTENTION

All Readers, Servers, and Eucharistic Ministers ... your help is needed ... please let us know your plans for **May & June** so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. **Please call or email the Rectory by Friday, April 12th** to let us know when you are **NOT** available during these months. Thank you.

DIVINE MERCY PERPETUAL ADORATION At the Last Supper, words of Jesus to the Father..... "*Few hours of my life are left: who would have the heart to leave my children orphaned and alone?O please, I supplicate You to let Me stay in each Host...I cannot leave my children, nor do I want to.*".....

24 Hours of the Passion by Luisa Piccarreta
(The Little Daughter of the Divine Will)

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 Alece for information 570-449-7678.

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.

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.



QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Jesus welcomed sinners.

Do you find this comforting or challenging? Why?

Next Week's Readings

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (April 6/7)

Reading I: Isaiah 43:16-21

Reading II: Philippians 3:8-14

Gospel: John 8:1-11

Yours, O Lord, are grandeur and power, majesty, splendor, and glory. For all in Heaven and on earth is Yours; Yours, O Lord, is the sovereignty; You are exalted as head over all."

1 Chronicles 29:11

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday,	April 13	4:00 to 4:45 p.m.
Sunday,	April 14	7:45 to 8:00 a.m. 10:00 to 10:15 a.m.
Monday,	April 15	5:00 to 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday,	April 16	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.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

Encounter Kumba. We encounter Kumba from Sierra Leone, who, through her education, is providing hope for her family and community. How has education given you opportunities in life? How do you use your education for the common good? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Wednesdays during Lent

@ St. John's – 7 p.m. - Chapel

Please join us each Wednesday during Lent Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, Stations of the Cross, followed by Benediction.



Jesus falls a second time.

*I call to God Most High, to God Who provides for me.
Psalm 57:3*

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 Wednesdays 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.



Winners: March 22nd --- Lucilla Kochol

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 19: Emily Siefried
- March 20: Jim Toomey
- March 21: Theresa Chapman
- March 22: Donna Ditzler
- March 23: Germaine Somers
- March 24: Rose Barton
- March 25: Cindy Vuksta
- March 26: Lois Prestileo
- March 27: Lauren Lieberman

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will be conferred at St. Patrick's -- 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 30, 2019



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

Thursday, April 4th at 6:30 p.m.
in Longinus Hall

FAMILY GUILD "LENT-EVENT"

St. John's Family Guild will host the annual Lent-Event for children of the parish, ages 3 to 11. Come enjoy light refreshments, receive an Easter craft and participate in a special Egg Hunt. (Bring a basket or bag to hold the collected eggs.) **Registration is a must!!** Please complete this form and return to the rectory or place in the collection basket **no later than March 31st**.

Date: Sunday, April 7th

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: St. John's Russell Building

Family Name _____

Child's Name _____ Age _____

Child's Name _____ Age _____

Child's Name _____ Age _____

(Please circle whether child is ... Male/Female)

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION



Assumption BVM School is looking for your help in collecting "Box Tops." Many of the products you already have in your home, has a BOX TOP on it. All you need to do is clip them out and place them in the drop-off box in the rear of the church. With each box top collected our school earns cash to update needed materials. We are no longer collecting "Campbell Soup" labels.

HEART OF A PRIEST

Relic Pilgrimage of St. John Vianney's Incorrupt Heart Friday, April 12th

... Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus taking place at St. Clare of Assisi Church, 250 E. Hancock St. in Saint Clair. St. John Vianney is the Patron Saint of Parish Priests and Patron Saint of Confession.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

12 Noon – Reception of the Relic at St. Clare of Assisi Church; Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Alfred A. Schlert, Bishop of Allentown

1:30 p.m. – Novena to St. John Vianney and Veneration of the Relic every half hour.

5:45 p.m. – Recitation of the Rosary; Praying for Priests through St. John Vianney's Intercession,

Rev. Adam C. Sedar.

6:00 p.m. – Stations of the Cross,

Rev. Msgr. David L. James

7:00 p.m. – Solvemn Vespers,

Most Rev. Alfred A. Schlert, Bishop of Allentown

HOLY CROSS FRATERNITY, ORDER OF FRANCISCAN SECULARS (OFS)

*"ONE OF THE BEST KEPT SECRETS
IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH"*

We are a recognized "Secular Order" sanctioned by Papal authority, canonically established, and called to follow Jesus by following Saint Francis in our secular state. We are men and women, married and single and diocesan clergy who live in Franciscan fraternal union with each other, the Church and the world around us. So what is this fraternal union? When we speak of this union we mean spiritually, with each other and the Church. We encourage each other to continually move more deeply in union with Christ, the Church, the Franciscan Family and the communities we live in with the goal of "Renewing the Church"! We meet at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Parish, 104 E. Bertsch St. in Lansford on the Third Sunday of the month at 1 p.m. for prayer, learning and fraternal fellowship. We pray that God will add brothers and sisters to our Franciscan family who desire to seek and serve God with us.

For more information, please contact Shirley Ritzko, OFS at 570-628-2225 or sunshine6749@comcast.net or on the web or on the web on the Saint Joseph of the Panther Valley website under organizations. More information is also available on the web at:

www.holycrossfraternity.wordpress.com

(local Fraternity of Carbon & Schuylkill Counties).

WEEKLY COLLECTION

March 23/24 \$ 4,101.40

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Spouses, a true Lenten sacrifice is forgiving one another the small hurts of daily living. Couples can learn to build strong, forgiving relationships by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more info call 732-904-9636 or visit www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org

GOD'S MYSTERIOUS LOVE

A Lenten evening of reflection for the separated and divorced will be offered on **Tuesday April 2nd** at 7:00 p.m. at St. Francis Retreat House in Easton. The presenter will be Deacon Christopher May. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required to help with planning. For questions, please call 610-289-8900 ext. 2028. For more info or to register visit

www.allentowndiocese.org/separated-divorced

DANGERS OF NEW AGE PRACTICES

Have you ever been asked or wondered... What is dangerous about tarot cards, ouija boards, and other New Age or occult practices? Are there dangers in watching TV shows or movies that involve mediums? Join us as **Msgr. John Esseff** discusses how a Catholic should respond to these questions and more about the dangers of New Age practices! This free event will take place on **Wednesday, April 3rd** from 7 to 9 p.m. at **St. John XXIII Parish** — 307 Pine Street, Tamaqua. *TRUTH: What the Catholic Church Really Teaches*. For questions contact the [Office of Adult Formation](mailto:adultformation@allentowndiocese.org) or email adultformation@allentowndiocese.org or call 610-289-8900, Ext. 2021.

INFERTILITY: Natural & Restorative

Approaches The Diocese of Allentown invites couples, medical professionals and all lay faithful to attend a seminar about the medical breakthroughs in natural systems of fertility care. The date is on **April 11th** from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Penn State Health St. Joseph 2500 Bernville Road (Route 183) (Room Franciscan A) in Reading. Dr. Delia Larruari MD and Barbara Rose will be the presenters. This seminar is free. Register at www.allentowndiocese.org/nfp by April 9th. Questions call: 610-289-8900 extension 2024.

RETROUVAILLE

Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage! Tens of thousands of couples have healed their Marriages through Retrouvaille (Retro-VIE). 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, visit our website www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

March

31 Healing Our Church – 4:30 to 6 p.m. – L.H.

April

- 2 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
2 Dramatic Stations Rehearsal – 7 p.m. - Church
3 Stations of the Cross – 7 p.m. – Chapel
4 Family Guild Mtg. – 6:30 p.m. – L.H.
4 Dramatic Stations practice – 7 p.m. – Church
4 RCIA – 7 p.m. – F.R.
5 Lenten Dinners – 4 to 7 p.m. – R.B.
7 Lent Event – Easter Egg Hunt – 9 a.m. – R.B.
7 Healing Our Church – 4:30 to 6 p.m. – L.H.
9 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
9 Dramatic Stations Dress Rehearsal – 7 p.m.
10 Stations of the Cross – 7 p.m. – Chapel
10 St. John's Beneficial Soc. – 8 p.m. – F.R.
11 Dramatic Stations Dress Rehearsal – 7 p.m.
11 RCIA – 7 p.m. – F.R.
12 Lenten Dinners – 4 to 7 p.m. – R.B.
14 Dramatic Stations Presentation – 7:30 p.m.
16 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
23 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
24 Catholic Women's Union Mtg. 7 p.m. – L.H.
28 Healing Our Church – 4:30 to 6 p.m. – L.H.
30 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.

** L.H. – Longinus Hall

** F.R. – Rectory Fellowship Room

** R.B. – Russell Building

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	Canned Vegetables
Beef Stew	Spaghetti
Soups	Spaghetti Sauce
Peanut Butter	Jelly
Canned Gravy	Canned Sweet Potatoes
Macaroni (box)	

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 April 12th.**

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

NATIVITY BVM HIGH SCHOOL ...

Nativity Drama Club will present a production of the Broadway musical "Newsies" on **Friday, April 25th at 7 p.m.; Saturday, April 27th at 7 p.m.; Sunday, April 28th at 2 p.m.** at the school. "Newsies" is an exhilarating jolt of energy, an irresistible, high energy winner, exuberant! Tickets - \$10.00 - are available at the door. Doors open 6 p.m. on Friday & Saturday; 1 p.m. on Sunday. Snack foods and drinks available.

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.

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NEIGHBORING EVENTS

BASKET AUCTION – sponsored by Trinity Academy on **April 5 & 6** at St. Joseph the Worker (former Annunciation) Parish Hall, Frackville. Friday from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Browse the prize tables and drop your bid tickets. A list of prizes may be found at the Trinity Academy 13th Annual Basket Auction Facebook page.

HALUPKI & HALUSKI SALE – sponsored by St. Michael's Parish, 300 W. Oak St., Shenandoah on **Saturday, April 6th**. Halupki \$2.50 each; Haluski \$6.00 quart; Pre-orders only; pick up from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Call Theresa at 570-467-3894. Leave message including phone number.

FAMILY MATTERS

Parents of Young Children. We pray for parents of young children – that they can survive today's challenges well and that God continues to strengthen them in responding to the ever-changing needs of their little ones.

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