

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • [www.saintjohnpottsville.org](http://www.saintjohnpottsville.org)

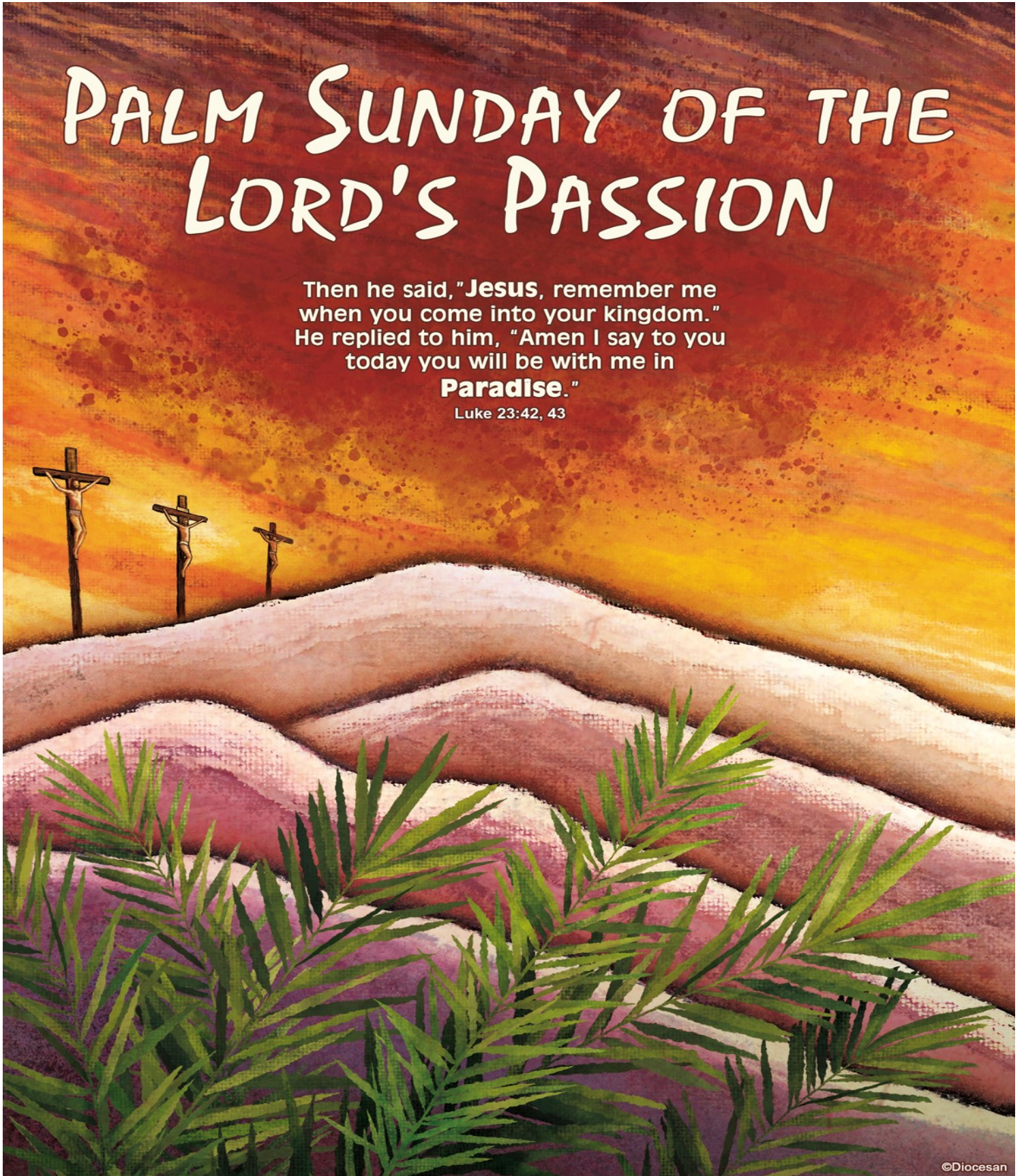
April 2, 2023

## PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Then he said, "**Jesus**, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom."  
He replied to him, "Amen I say to you  
today you will be with me in

**Paradise."**

Luke 23:42, 43





## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, April 1

5:00 p.m. Mary Ellen Cross  
(Lou Cross & Marlo Lipko)

### Sunday, April 2

8:15 a.m. Charles Lorenz  
(Frances Lorenz)

### Sunday, April 2

10:30 a.m. Yenilaitus Family  
(Mary Zambo)

### Monday, April 3

9:00 a.m. St. John's Parish Family  
(Time Change)

### Tuesday, April 4

9:00 a.m. Matthew Halsey  
(Joseph, Sonya, Joe Halsey)

### Wednesday, April 5

8:00 a.m. Mary Lescavage  
(Time Change) (Nancy Lescavage)

### Holy Thursday, April 6

7:00 p.m. St. John's Parish Family

### Good Friday, April 7

3:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy

### Saturday, April 8

8:00 p.m. St. John's Parish Family

### Sunday, April 9

8:15 a.m. St. John's Parish Family

### Sunday, April 9

10:30 a.m. St. John's Parish Family

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Holy Week is the high point of the year as we celebrate the central mysteries of our Christian faith. I encourage you to enter deeply into this week and participate in the liturgies as much as possible.

On Holy Thursday we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm to commemorate the institution of the Eucharist and the priesthood. At the end of Mass, the Eucharist is taken in procession to the chapel. The absence of the Eucharist in the main church and the night of private prayer before the Eucharist in the chapel recalls Jesus' prayer in the garden and arrest after the Last Supper.

On Good Friday we remember the death of Jesus. This is the only day of the year when Mass is not celebrated. At 3pm, the traditional hour of our Lord's death, we celebrate a unique liturgy consisting of readings from Scripture, including the Passion According to John, special intercessory prayers for the world, veneration of the cross, and the opportunity to receive Holy Communion, consecrated at Thursday evening's Mass.

Holy Saturday is a day of waiting until we celebrate the Easter Vigil at 8pm, the greatest liturgy of the year. Using the symbolism of light and darkness, we bless and light a new Paschal Candle, the symbol of the risen Jesus. We listen to a series of Scripture readings that recount God's saving work in history, culminating in the Resurrection. We then celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation. We will welcome Chanyu Jung and Luke Scheifley into the Church family as they are baptized. We will also welcome Mackenzie Miller more fully into the Church family as she makes a profession of the Catholic faith. All three will then receive the sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist.

The more fully we participate in Holy Week, the more deeply we can come to appreciate our faith, and the more joyful and meaningful our celebration of Easter will be.

In Christ,  
Fr. Bobbin

## Eucharistic Adoration

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 will be 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 • Robert Kline • Tom Jefferson • Elaine Grapsy  
Chuck Majestic • Tony Kochol

### For our Deceased

Nicole Melusky • Michael Maccarone



## Upcoming Calendar

### April

2	8:00 a.m.	First Communion Class .....	L.H.
2	10:30 a.m.	Little Children's Sunday School.....	L.H.
2	7:30 p.m.	Dramatic Stations of the Cross .....	Church
5	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross.....	Church
13	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.
16	8:00 a.m.	First Communion Class .....	L.H.
16	10:30 a.m.	Little Children's Sunday School.....	L.H.
18	12:00 p.m.	Dine Out at Maio's.....	Orwigsburg
19	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg. ....	L.H.
20	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.
23	9:00 a.m.	CCD Community Mtg. ....	Church
24	12:30 p.m.	Confirmation Rehearsal .....	Church
27	4:30 p.m.	Confirmation.....	Church
30	8:00 a.m.	First Communion Class .....	L.H.
30	2:00 p.m.	Paint & Sip .....	L.H.

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



## Weekly Collections

March 25/26 .....\$4,015.30

Thank you for your sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving.

Please **do not** use **tape** or **staples** to seal your offertory envelopes

## Liturgical Min. Schedule

### April 6 — 7:00 p.m. — Holy Thursday

Reader: Heidi Gorski

Euch.Min.: John Crane

Server: Aleksander Gorski

Cantor: Dave Derbes

### April 7 — 3:00 p.m. Good Friday

Reader: Janet Daubert

Euch.Min.: Frank Murphy

Server: Sophie Palmieri

Jude & Leah Scheidel

Cantor: Dave Derbes

### April 8 — 8:00 p.m. Holy Saturday

Reader: Bill Gianfagna, Vince Balulis

Lucilla Kochol, Ann Blankenhorn

Euch.Min.: Danny Murphy

Server: Lukas & Finley McNamara

Josh Steffan,

Cantor: Tina Seiger

### April 9 — 8:15 a.m. Easter Sunday

Reader: Heidi Gorski

Euch.Min.: George Forney

Servers: Akeksander Gorski

Cantor: Stanley Gorski

### April 9 — 10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday

Reader: Michelle Ambrose

Euch.Min.: Charlie Miller

Server: Vincent, Michael, Spencer  
Prestileo

Cantor: Ed Braham



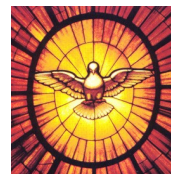
**NO CANDLE INTENTIONS  
DURING HOLY WEEK**

# SCRIPTURE STUDY

**Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study:** will be offered **Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30** on **April 13, 20, May 11, 18, 25**. Join us in person in Longinus Hall or at home on Zoom (\*Please email Father for the Zoom link: [kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org](mailto: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. *If Nativity BVM High School is closed or dismisses early for winter weather, we will not meet. When in doubt, call the rectory to check for a cancellation message.*

## Confirmation Prayer Sponsors

Our 8th graders are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, April 27th at 4:30 p.m. here at St. John's. Please consider supporting this important decision by praying for one or more of our candidates. Cards containing their names can be found in the basket on the table in the back of church. Please take one, and during this time of preparation, pray for this student in a special way and write notes of encouragement. Our parish will be double blessed.



## Operation Rice Bowl

### Modern Day Simon of Cyrene.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. As we walk with Jesus this week, we remember the countless women, children and men who carry heavy crosses even today; crosses of hunger, of vulnerability to climate change, or of a lack of resources. How — like Simon of Cyrene — can you help to carry the crosses of our sisters and brothers in your local community and around the world? Visit [crsricebowl.org/holy-week](http://crsricebowl.org/holy-week) to learn more.

## Church Decorating



We will be decorating the church for Easter on **Holy Saturday at 1 p.m.** Extra hands are always needed and appreciated.

## Church Cleaning Crew Thank You

We thank our Church Cleaning Group for doing a wonderful job cleaning our beautiful church including Longinus Hall and the Chapel.

Everything looks just perfect! Those volunteering their time and talent this month:

*Michelle Ambrose, Nicholas Fanelli, Sandy Frinzi, Judy Meseravage, Ray Petrilla, Theresa Skrobak, Joanne Wood.*

## Flowers at the Grotto

When placing flowers at our Grotto — please use either plastic or metal vases. Glass vases are too easily broken. Thank you.

## Rice Bowl Boxes

The Rice Bowl boxes can be dropped off at the rectory or placed in the boxes by the upper side door of church.

## 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.



## Holy Week Schedule

### Palm Sunday, April 1/2

Masses

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

### Monday, April 3

Mass • 9:00 a.m.

### Tuesday, April 4

Mass • 9 a.m.

### Wednesday, April 5

Mass • 8 a.m.

Stations of the Cross • 7:00 p.m.

### Holy Thursday, April 6

Mass • 7 p.m.

Adoration after Mass until 10 p.m.

### Good Friday, April 7

Good Friday Liturgy • 3 p.m.

### Holy Saturday, April 8

Blessing of Food Baskets • 12 p.m. in Church

Easter Vigil Mass • 8 p.m.

### Easter Sunday, April 9

Masses • 8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, April 1 • 3:45 to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 2 • No Scheduled Confessions

Monday, April 3 • 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Monday, April 3 • Penance Service at St. Patrick's • 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 4 • 4 to 5 p.m. & 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

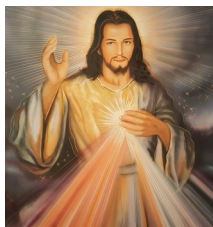
Saturday • April 8 • No Scheduled Confessions

Sunday • April 9 • No Scheduled Confessions



## 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.



## Divine Mercy Sunday - April 16th

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in church from 1:00-3:00, concluding with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction at 3:00. Father will also be available for Confessions 1:00-2:00. Join us for any part of the afternoon to celebrate God's mercy and pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

## Good Friday Collection

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines.

The pandemic hit particularly hard the Christians in the Holy Land. Most of them depend on pilgrimages to work. In these times of crisis, this collection is also necessary to meet the basic needs of the People of God still living in this land where the Church was born. When you contribute you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. ***Please be generous!***

## Cemetery News ...

After a long winter the grass is starting to grow and the flowers are trying to bloom, which means maintenance at St John's cemetery #2 will be happening once again. Now is the time to plan for the upcoming year. If any parishioner has any ideas, complaints, or compliments for the cemetery please contact the rectory with the information. It will then be passed onto the cemetery committee for consideration in the upcoming months. Practically everyone at St. John's Parish either has, or knows someone whose final resting place is in our cemetery, and it is up to us to make sure the grounds are the best they can be.



## Paint 'n Sip

Enjoy a Sunday afternoon in Longinus Hall for our Paint 'n Sip get together on **Sunday, April 30th at 2:00 p.m.** Artist Kimberly Searle will guide us step by step. We will have all equipment necessary so that you can paint a lovely project plus light snacks and drinks available. Everyone is invited to bring their favorite snacks for sharing. BYOB! Sign-up sheets will be available in the back of church. Cost is \$40.00 per person. All sign-ups with fee included should be returned to the rectory by Wednesday, April 19 so that needed planning can be done. For more information please call the rectory 570-622-5470 ext. 3.

## Dine-Out Event

**Tuesday, April 18th at DiMaio's Mustard Seed Restaurant**, on the Square in Orwigsburg from 12 Noon until 9:30 p.m. 10% of all dine-in and take-out proceeds will benefit St. John's Parish, specifically our Building Restorations and Repairs projects.

DiMaio's is a BYOB restaurant and reservations are accepted (570-366-3601). Check out the menu at [www.dimaio mustardseed.com](http://www.dimaio mustardseed.com). We will also be conducting a Bake Sale during the Dine-Out event along with ticket sales for our raffle basket. Treat yourself to lunch or dinner and help support our fundraiser! Tell your friends and neighbors about the event!.



## Basket Raffle

Tickets for a gift card basket (valued at over \$300) will be available for purchase after Masses on March 25/26 and April 1/2. Tickets are \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. The basket will be raffled after the Dine-Out event on April 18th.

## Baked Goods

Calling All Bakers for Donations ... of Baked Goods to sell on Tuesday, April 18th at DiMaio's. If you're willing to bake for the Dine-Out Event, it would be greatly appreciated! There will be sign-up papers in the back of church, or contact Patty O'Neill 570-573-2406 or via email [pgoneill04@verizon.net](mailto:pgoneill04@verizon.net). Baked Goods can be dropped off at the Russell Building ... Monday, April 17th and Tuesday, April 18th. All type of baked goods would be appreciated, even candy! (Note: please mark if dessert contains any type of nuts).



## Summer Festival Pot Luck Stand

We are seeking new or unopened items suitable for prizes for the Pot Luck Stand at this year's Summer Festival. We need both child and adult prizes. Bins will be available in the back of church for donations. For questions or more information, please contact Maureen Derbes 570-691-6098. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.



## Nativity BVM School Happenings ...

- \* Our school community welcomed Bishop Schlert to Nativity High School March 10th, as he celebrated Mass for our students, faculty, staff and guests.
- \* Congratulations to sophomore, Ella Frantz, who was selected to perform the National Anthem at the PIAA State Wrestling Championships on March 11th.
- \* Each year the American Cancer Society's Annual Telethon Committee of Eastern Pa. honors distinguished volunteers, fundraisers or survivors whose public efforts have strengthened the American Cancer Society or inspired others to join in the fight against cancer. Nativity High School is honored to be receiving the "James J. Rhoades Award for Outstanding School Participation" this year the Cancer Fighters Dinner 2023 on March 26th. The school was selected as a result of their efforts in the annual sales of daffodils through the National Honor Society to benefit the American Cancer Society
- \* Congratulations to Nativity's Academic Team who placed second at the League Championship Meet held March 20th.
- \* Junior and Senior member of Nativity's student body will present the Living Stations of the Cross at the school on March 23rd.
- \* Seniors, Emma Bolich and Dalton Monger made a presentation to the members of the Pottsville Rotary Club at their regularly scheduled meeting on March 22nd about Nativity's Interact Club, which is community service oriented. The Interact Club holds many activities at the school throughout the year including blood drives through the American Red Cross, clothing and diaper drives that benefit the Schuylkill County community and school-side clean-ups. Nativity's Interact Club is sponsored by the Pottsville Rotary Club.

## Assumption BVM School News ...

**Full-time First Grade Teacher, full or part-time maintenance person and substitute teachers** for the 2022-2023 school year. Please send application, resume, certification and clearances to Assumption BVM School to the attention of Mrs. Teresa Keating, 112 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Pottsville, PA 17901 or call 570-622-0106 for more information.

## Assumption BVM School Events ....

### Trout Rodeo

Saturday, April 22nd from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. at S & A Trout Pond in Orwigsburg. Cost is \$15.00; prizes for tagged fish!

### Cash & Gift Card Bingo

Sunday, April 30th at Hillcrest Hall in Minersville. Doors open 11 a.m.; Bingo begins 1 p.m. Advance Tickets \$35.00; at the door \$40.00. Only 300 tickets available. Admission Ticket includes 20 Regular games, 3 Special games, \$1,000 Jackpot game. Tickets can be purchased from any ABVM student, at the school, or at the door. Delicious food available plus 50/50. Everyone is required to purchase a ticket to enter ... must be 18 or older to claim prizes. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, please call 570-622-0106 or email [tmengel@assumptionbvmschool.net](mailto:tmengel@assumptionbvmschool.net)

### Taylor Swift Concert

Take your chance at winning TWO tickets to see TAYLOR SWIFT — the Eras Tour Concert!

Friday, May 12th at 6:30 p.m. at Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia. Floor level seating. Only 750 tickets available. Drawing Date is May 5th.

To request chances, please email: [tmengel@assumptionbvm school.net](mailto:tmengel@assumptionbvm school.net). Please include the number of chances you are requesting and a mailing address.

## St. Monica Ministry Holy Hour

Are you heartbroken because members of your family have left the Church? Join the St. Monica Ministry in petitioning Our Lord to draw back into the fold our loved ones who have strayed, and to give strength and wisdom to those who await their return.

Together we will offer our prayers at a Holy Hour taking place at St. Theresa Parish, Hellertown on Wednesday, April 12 at 6:00pm. Displayed for prayer and veneration will be a new icon of St. Monica, created especially for the ministry by Msgr. Robert Kozel. All are warmly invited to join us as we come together in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, asking Our Lord's mercy and invoking the powerful intercession of St. Monica for our fallen-away loved ones. Fellowship in the Parish Center will follow the Holy Hour. Registration is not required.

**Pastor** ..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*  
**Deacon** ..... *Lawrence Lonergan*

**Parish Council President** ..... *Kevin McNamara*  
**Choir Director/Organist** ..... *David Derbes*  
**CCD Coordinator** ..... *Lucilla Kochol*  
**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@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org)



## April 2, 2023 | Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Is 50:4-7 | Phil 2:6-11 | Mt 26:14—27:66

Written by  
 THE  
 FAITHFUL  
 DISCIPLE

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

As we begin Holy Week, we hear Matthew's account of the Passion. We see Jesus' humanity as he experiences *sorrow and distress* in the hours before his death. Three times, he asks the Father to "let this cup pass from me, yet, not as I will, but as you will." In our own human experience, I am guessing many of us have asked the Father to "let this cup pass" – for in addition to life's joys, we will all experience setbacks, struggles, and suffering. By example, Jesus shows us that we can turn to our Father, trusting in his will for us. Let this be a reminder in this holiest of weeks that we can bring our suffering and our doubts to the Father, knowing that the joy of Easter will come.

### GO EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The final words of today's Gospel [shorter version] are those of the centurion and the men keeping watch over Jesus: "Truly this was the Son of God!" Let us keep in mind this central proclamation of our faith while attending Triduum services this week. On Holy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist and the priesthood, celebrating Christ's outpouring of love for us. On Good Friday we venerate the cross as we solemnly recall the passion and death of Jesus. And of course at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday, we celebrate the story of our salvation, culminating in Jesus' resurrection. As Christians, we know that the cross will give way to the empty tomb and the promise of new life in Christ. Let our voices be strong this week as we echo the centurion's words above, and may Jesus' name be praised forever!

**PRAY** Praying the Stations of the Cross allows us to walk with Jesus through his passion and death. Make that journey with Jesus this week.