



3rd Sunday of Easter

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10th & Mahantongo Sts. • Pottsville, Pa. 17901

www.saintjohnpottsville.org

Pastor*Rev. David J. Loeper*
Deacons .. *Luis R. Visot and Lawrence Lonergan*

Pastoral Assistant*Bobby Rienzo*
Parish Council President.....*Robert Bechtel*
Choir Director/Organist.....*David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator*Lucilla Kochol*

Rectory.....(570) 622-5470
Rectory Fax(570) 622-4589
E-mail stjparish@comcast.net
Russell Building.....(570) 628-3002
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

Tuesday 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

First Sunday of each month 11:30 a.m.
Second Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Mass
Baptismal Preparation for parents must precede
the Baptism. Please contact Father Dave for an
appointment.

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

(800) 276-1562

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Wendy S. Krisak, N.C.C., L.P.C. ... (800) 791-9209

Office of Safe Environment

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

Third Sunday of Easter • April 18, 2021

Mass Intentions

Monday, April 19

9:00 a.m. Philomena Loeper
(Eleanor Schaeffer)

Tuesday, April 20

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

Wednesday, April 21

9:00 a.m. James Reilly
(Joe & Ceil Burns)

Thursday, April 22

9:00 p.m. Frances & Verna Sauers

Friday, April 23

9:00 a.m. Dr. David Harvey
(Mary Beth Harvey)

Saturday, April 24

5:00 p.m. Dorothy Rosenberger
(Paul Rosenberger)

Sunday, April 25

8:15 a.m. Jack & Dot Ryan
(Crystal Pugh)

Sunday, April 25

10:30 a.m. Max & Isabelle Brown
(Connie Brown)

Next Week's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Easter
(April 24/25)

Reading I: Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12

Reading II: 1 John 3:1-2

Gospel: John 10:11-18

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

As we move into the third Sunday of our Easter season our readings remind us that the Risen Christ forgives our sins and advocates for us before the Father.

In this Sunday's first reading from Acts, Peter tells the people that they have put to death God's servant, Jesus, and exhorts them "repent therefore and become converted that your sins may be wiped away." St. John in his first letter writes to his community in the hope that they do not sin but if they should he tells them they have an advocate in Christ.

In this Sunday's gospel two disciples recount to others their experience with Jesus on the Way to Emmaus. The Risen Christ appears to all of them with a greeting of peace. He shows them his body and eats in front of them in order to help them understand the scriptures and what they have just witnessed.

In breaking open the scriptures for the disciples, Jesus dispels their greatest fears and doubts and gently brings them into the fullness of true peace. Because of this they now have the courage to become his witnesses and proclaim him to the world. Courage and peace are the hallmarks of the believer and are gifts necessary to face the challenges of this world.

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Dave



Holy Hour/Adoration, Music, and Confessions

Join us on Monday, April 19th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. for an evening of worship before the Blessed Sacrament. Light piano instrumental worship music will be interspersed with periods of prayerful silence. Confessions will be available for the first half hour. We invite you to make this monthly event part of your prayer life.

Pray

For Our Sick

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.

Peggy Ebling



Upcoming Events

April

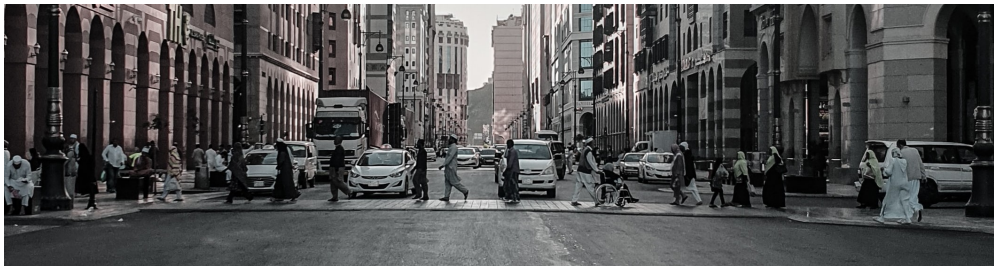
19	7:00 p.m.	Holy Hour/Adoration, Music, Confessions.....	Church
21	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women’s Union ‘Spring Auction’	L.H.
25	9:00 a.m.	CCD Classes	School
25	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Rehearsal	Church
29	4:30 p.m.	Confirmation	Church
30	7:00 p.m.	First Holy Communion Rehearsal	Church

May

1	5:00 p.m.	First Holy Communion	Church
7	9:20 a.m.	First Friday Adoration	Church
7	4:00 p.m.	Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop	R.B.
8	9:00 a.m.	Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop	R.B.

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

Tues.	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Men’s Group	Zoom
		Meeting ID: 824-780-6433	
		Password: Mary	
Wed.	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Rosary	Facebook
Sat.	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Rosary	Facebook
		Facebook Page: St. John The Baptist Catholic Parish Family	



Street Evangelization

We are partnering with St. Paul Street Evangelization (SPSE), a grassroots, non-profit organization to respond to the mandate of Jesus to preach the Gospel to all nations by taking the Catholic Faith to the streets. Christ’s call to evangelize was made to every Catholic Christian, and the Second Vatican Council reiterated this need, urging each of the baptized to bring the Gospel, found fully in the Catholic Church, to a culture that has largely reverted to paganism. As an on-the-street Catholic evangelization organization, St. Paul Street Evangelization provides an avenue for people to share the Person of Jesus Christ and the truth and beauty of the Catholic Faith with a hungry culture. For more information, check out <https://streetevangelization.com/>. If you are interested in this new ministry opportunity, please contact the rectory.



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 by joining us on Wednesday, April 21 at 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall. A Spring Auction will be featured. 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. For more information call St. John’s Rectory: 622-5470.



Weekly Collection

April 3/4.....\$5,838.37

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. 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.

Candle Donations

BVM

1&2. Special Intention by Mary Jean Morgalis

St. Joseph

1. IMO James Cavanaugh by Hahner Family
2. Parishioners of St. John’s

Sanctuary

IMO Babe & JoAnn Heller by Barb Wollyung

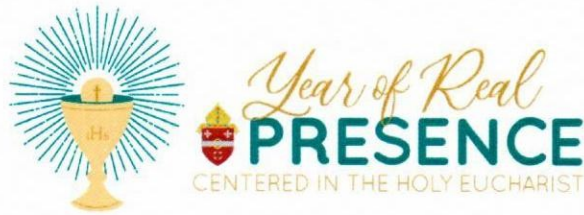
Guardian Angels

- 1&2. IMO of Ramon Grapsy by Joan Grapsy
- 3&4. Special Intention

Volunteers Needed

Please join fellow parishioners and families helping to deliver boxes of food to Meals on Wheels consumers on the following Saturdays: April 24, May 22, and June 12. Please contact the rectory if you can help.





For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)



Dearest Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This passage from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians is the oldest account of the Last Supper, and is the foundation of our belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

It is fitting that we recall these inspired words on this Divine Mercy Sunday as we begin the Year of the Real Presence, a Jubilee Year in the Diocese of Allentown, celebrating the 60th Anniversary of our founding in 1961 by Pope Saint John XXIII. On this date in that year, Most Reverend Joseph Mark McShea, First Bishop of Allentown, took possession of the Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena, and our diocesan life began.

Ever since our founding, the Diocese of Allentown, her clergy, religious men and women, and the lay faithful, have been blessed by the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. Our faith in and reception of this "Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar" have been the nourishment for all of our apostolic works and endeavors of bringing the Light of Christ to each other and to our community.

The Holy Eucharist is the anchor of parish and diocesan life and serves as a constant source of nourishment. It has seen us through many challenges, both from within and outside our Church. Every age of the Church faces challenges, and now is our time to confront and heal them through the grace of the Holy Eucharist. The power of the Most Blessed Sacrament is our armor against the "snares of the devil" who "prowls about the world seeking the ruin of souls."

Sadly, 69% of Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist; that is to say, they do not believe the Holy Eucharist is Our Lord's Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. This lack of such a core belief is manifested by a decline in Mass attendance. When the Diocese was founded in 1961, 67% of American Catholics attended Mass. Today, that number is 24%. While there have been many challenging disagreements and tragic revelations in the Church since 1961 that could be cited to explain this decline, we must also honestly say that there are other reasons for this lack of participation: an erosion in preaching, teaching, and belief that Christ is really present in the Holy Eucharist, as well as cultural influences and shifting societal priorities. For if one truly believes he or she really encounters Christ in Holy Communion, who would not run to meet our Eucharistic Lord? Nothing should separate us from the most intimate encounter with Our Savior. As a Diocese, this Year we will pray before the Most Blessed Sacrament for a return to the Real Presence of those who have been estranged, harmed, saddened, marginalized, or disaffected.

In this Jubilee Year for our Diocese, we also will work to invite our parishioners to come back to Mass, to be really present before the Real Presence. As pandemic restrictions ease and a more routine life returns, so too will parish life need to recommence, beginning with the heart of parish life and the foundation of our Faith: worship of the Holy Eucharist at Sunday Mass.

While streaming Mass over the internet and Spiritual Communion were appropriate during the months of prudent isolation, except for the ill and home bound, virtual Mass is not an ongoing substitute for physical presence at Mass and the worthy reception of Holy Communion. It is my hope that, during this Year of the Real Presence, conditions will allow for a restoration of the Sunday Mass obligation.

Since we cannot separate the Holy Eucharist from its worthy reception, the Sacrament of Penance, which prepares our souls to receive the Lord, must also be an emphasis in this Jubilee Year dedicated to Christ's Real Presence. It is my fervent hope that pastors will be very generous in offering extra weekly times for the Sacrament of Penance, especially on weekdays, to make it more accessible for the faithful.

From Old Testament times, priests offered sacrifices to God on an altar. Because every Mass is the unbloody sacrifice of Christ the High Priest on the Cross, priests are needed to offer this sacrifice in the person of Christ on the altars of our churches. There can be no Holy Eucharist without the Priesthood. Therefore, this Year of the Real Presence will be a privileged time of praying for vocations to the Priesthood before our Eucharistic Lord in Adoration. Parishes will be asked to set aside time at least weekly for Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament to beg the Lord of the Harvest to send priestly laborers into His vineyard of the five counties of the Diocese of Allentown.

In God's Providence, our Jubilee also is taking place during the Year of Saint Joseph who, with Mary, lived each day in the Real Presence of Jesus. Joseph was the first protector of the Real Presence, and we seek his intercession on our efforts as a Roman Catholic Family of Faith to center our diocesan life on the Holy Eucharist each day.

Turning to our Diocesan Patroness, Mary, Mother of the Church, in gratitude we thank God for sixty years of feeding His sheep, especially in the ever-abiding Real Presence of His Son.

Devotedly yours in Our Risen Eucharistic Lord,

+ Alfred D. Schbert



April 18, 2021 | Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 | 1 Jn 2:1-5a | Lk 24:35-48

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

In each of our lifetimes, we can look back to a time when we witnessed history. Depending on our generation, it's likely we remember exactly what we were doing the day JFK was assassinated, on 9/11 or, more recently, when our school or workplace shut down because of the coronavirus pandemic. Even these far-reaching events pale in comparison to what the disciples witnessed when the risen Christ appeared to them. Assuring them he was not a ghost, Jesus "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures," and reminded them that they were witnesses to a different kind of history - salvation history: "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name." Let us pray that we, too, may have our minds open to the eyewitness accounts in Scripture and our hearts open to repentance, so that "[our] sins may be wiped away."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I'm struck by the disciples' reaction when they realized Jesus really was in the room. They were "incredulous for joy" and "amazed." After this encounter with Jesus, they could not help but share the Good News. Just as the disciples in the early Church testified to Christ's resurrection, today's readings challenge us to share the Good News in a similar way. For many Catholics, this isn't at the top of our skill-set. However, in a 2019 gathering on the New Evangelization, Pope Francis reminds us not to fret over finding the right words. "The joy of the Gospel comes from the encounter with Jesus," he says. "When we meet the Lord, we are inundated by that love of which he alone is capable." This love transforms our whole life, and "the need to announce it arises spontaneously, it becomes irrepresible." The pope's words challenge us first to deepen our relationship with Jesus, then to allow it to transform us, and finally to share Christ's love through our words and actions.

CHRIST, THE LORD, IS RISEN TODAY

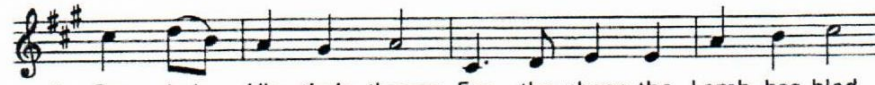
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1. Christ, the Lord, is ris'n to - day; Chris-tians, haste your
2. Christ, the Vic - tim un - de - filed, God and sin - ners



1. vows to pay; Make your joy and prais - es known At the
2. re - con-ciled; When in strange and awe - some strife Met to -



1. Pas - chal Vic - tim's throne; For the sheep the Lamb has bled,
2. geth - er death and life; Chris-tians, on this hap - py day

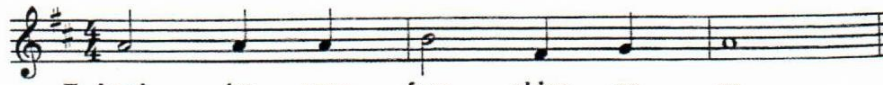


1. Sin - less in the sin - ner's stead; Christ, the Lord, is
2. Haste with joy your vows to pay; Christ, the Lord, is



1. ris'n on high; Now he lives, no more to die!
2. ris'n on high; Now he lives, no more to die!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9

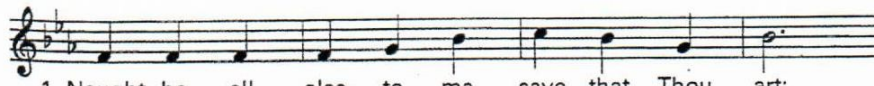
Re. Lord, let your face shine on us.

BE THOU MY VISION

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1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word;
3. Rich - es I heed not, or man's emp - ty praise,



1. Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:
2. I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord:
3. Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:



1. Thou my best thought, — by day or by night,
2. Thou my great Fa - ther, I Thy true son,
3. Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,



1. Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
2. Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.
3. High King of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.

835

COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

Refrain

We are com-pan-ions on the jour - ney, break-ing bread and shar-ing life; and in the love we bear is the hope we share for we be-lieve in the love of our God, we be-lieve in the love of our God.

Verse 1

1. No long-er strang-ers to each oth - er; no long-er

1. strang-ers in God's house; we are fed and we are nour-ished by the strength of those who care, by the strength of those who care.

Verse 2

2. We have been gift-ed with each oth - er, and we are called by the Word of the Lord: to act with jus-tice, to love ten-der - ly, and to walk hum-bly with our God, to walk hum-bly with our God.

Verse 3

3. We will seek and we shall find; we will knock and the door will be o-pened; we will ask and it shall be giv-en, for we be-lieve in the love of our God, we be-lieve in the love of our God.