



5TH SUNDAY  
*of Easter*

**St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family**

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

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, May 3

9:00 a.m. Charles Naradko  
(Lucilla Kochol)

### Tuesday, May 4

9:00 a.m. Joe & Catherine Moore  
(Joe Moore Jr.)

### Wednesday, May 5

9:00 a.m. Richard J. Krasnitsky  
(M/M Eric Lieberman)

### Thursday, May 6

9:00 a.m. Catherine & John  
Markovich  
(Phil & Patty Markovich)

### Friday, May 7

9:00 a.m. Leo & Dorothy Lotz  
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

### Saturday, May 8

5:00 p.m. Living & Deceased  
Mothers of St. John's  
Parish Family

### Sunday, May 9

8:15 a.m. Living & Deceased  
Mothers of St. John's  
Parish Family

### Sunday, May 9

10:30 a.m. Living & Deceased  
Mothers of St. John's  
Parish Family

## Next Week's Readings

Sixth Sunday of Easter (May 8/9)

**Reading I:** Acts of the Apostles  
10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

**Reading II:** 1 John 4:2-10

**Gospel:** John 15:9-17

I will  
praise you,  
*Lord,*  
in the  
assembly of  
your people.

## From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Many Jews because they were under Roman occupation had two names—a Jewish name and a Roman name. Thus, St. Paul already had the name Saul. Most of the time he is called Paul. Occasionally as in this Sunday's first reading from Acts of the Apostles, he is called Saul. Now remember Saul was a zealous Pharisee and a fearless persecutor of all who believed in Christ. As a matter of fact, it was while he was traveling to Damascus to arrest Christians that Jesus appeared to him and convinced him he was all wrong. His life turned around completely and he started preaching and teaching about Jesus. Even after three years in Damascus preaching that Jesus was the Son of God, the Christians community in Jerusalem was not convinced that he was for real. When he first showed up in Jerusalem, we hear in Acts of the Apostles this Sunday, people still didn't trust him.

Barnabas helped Saul enter into the community of the disciples by reporting on Saul's vision of the Lord and his bold proclamation of Jesus' name. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that he is the true vine and His Father is the vine grower. Those who remain in Him will bear fruit and their needs will be met. To truly stay united to Jesus, we need grounding in two essential ways: first, by taking on the mind of Christ and hearing what the Church proclaims; second, by living in accord with the moral teaching of the Church. Following Jesus asks much of us but offers us the eternal love of the Father in return.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Father Dave*



## 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.

*Patricia Thomas*



### Street Evangelization Training

Members of our parish are going to be receiving training on how to share their faith in preparation for street evangelization ministry. Please contact the rectory if you are interesting in joining these sessions on Sunday evenings from 4:30 to 6 p.m. beginning May 2.



### Yard Sale—Curiosity Shop

Friday, May 7 from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 8 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon  
Russell Building at 9th & Schuylkill Ave. Pottsville

Don't miss it! If you like yard sales, this is the place to be. Various items including ... knick-knacks, dishes, kitchen items, appliances, jewelry, holiday decorations, framed prints, special Vintage Section and much, much more, plus food is available for purchase. Take Out Only. Something for everyone! Join us! Call the Rectory office 622-5470 ext 3 for more information.

ALL COVID-19 CDC GUIDELINES WILL BE IN PLACE— MASKS MUST BE WORN —SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE IN EFFECT

Desserts/Baked Goods needed—If you would like to donate a dessert, please drop off at the times listed above or call the rectory 622-5470 ext 3. Please individually wrap or bag all dessert items to be sold.



### Holy Hour/Adoration, Music, and Confessions

Celebrate the Year of Real Presence on Monday, May 17th 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.



### Young Adult Backyard BBQ and Reflection

Calling all young adults 18-35. Come out for an afternoon of food, fun, and faith on Sunday, May 23 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Specialty kebabs by Father Dave, refreshments, lawn games, and a reflection offered by Maggie Riggins.



### Weekly Collection

**April 24/25 .....\$4,225.58**  
**Improvements & Repairs ... \$1,105**

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.

### Candle Donations

#### BVM

1. IMO Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Kushmanik  
by John & Mary Jean Morgalis
2. IMO Mary Hahner  
by Hahner Family

#### St. Joseph

- 1&2. Parishioners of St. John's Parish Family

#### Sanctuary

- Deceased of Fidelis Nerz Family  
by Eleanor Schaeffer

#### Guardian Angels

- 1&2. IMO Richard H. Weiss  
by Becky Weiss
- 3&4. Special Intention

### Volunteers Needed

#### Meals on Wheels Delivery

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



## LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

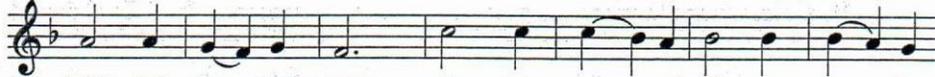
709



1. Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2. Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er; Let us all your
3. Fin-ish then your new cre-a-tion, Pure and spot-less,



1. earth come down! Fix in us your hum-ble dwell-ing; All your
2. life re-ceive; Sud-den-ly re-turn and nev-er, Nev-er-
3. gra-cious Lord; Let us see your great sal-va-tion Per-fect-



1. faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, source of all com-pas-sion,
2. more your tem-ples leave. Lord, we would be al-ways bless-ing,
3. ly in you, re-stored. Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



1. Love un-bound-ed, love all pure; Vis-it us with
2. Serve you as your hosts a-bove, Pray, and praise you
3. Till in heav'n we take our place, Till we sing be-



1. your sal-va-tion, Let your love in us en-dure.
2. with-out ceas-ing, Glo-ry in your pre-cious love.
3. fore the al-might-y, Lost in won-der, love and praise.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32*

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the as-sem-bly of your peo-ple.

## 650

## CHRIST BE BESIDE ME



1. Christ be be-side me, Christ be be-fore me, Christ be be-
2. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all a-
3. Christ be in all hearts think-ing a-bout me; Christ be on



1. hind me, King of my heart. Christ be with-in me,
2. round me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleep-ing,
3. all tongues tell-ing of me. Christ be the vi-sion



1. Christ be be-low me, Christ be a-bove me, nev-er to part.
2. Christ in my sit-ting, Christ in my ris-ing, light of my life.
3. in eyes that see me; In ears that hear me, Christ ev-er be.

## 598

## SING A NEW SONG

Refrain

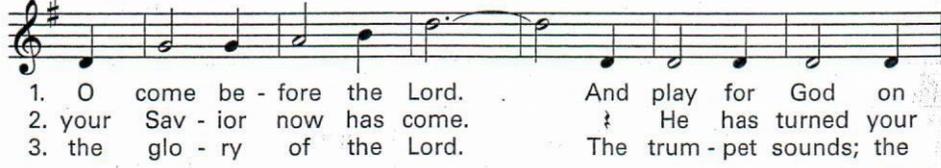


Sing a new song un-to the Lord; let your song be sung from  
moun-tains high. Sing a new song un-to the Lord, sing-ing

Verses



al - le - lu - ia.      1. Shout with glad-ness! Dance for joy!  
2. Rise, O chil-dren, from your sleep;  
3. Glad my soul for I have seen



1. O come be-fore the Lord.      And play for God on  
2. your Sav-ior now has come.      He has turned your  
3. the glo-ry of the Lord.      The trum-pet sounds; the

to Refrain



1. glad tam-bou-rines, and let your trum-pet sound.  
2. sor-row to joy, and filled your soul with song.  
3. dead shall be raised. I know my Sav-ior lives.



### Why is May the month of Mary?

Among Catholics, May is most well-known as “Mary’s Month,” a specific month of the year when special devotions are performed in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Why is that? How did May become associated with the Blessed Mother?

There are many different factors that contributed to this association. First of all, in ancient Greece and Rome the month of May was dedicated to pagan goddesses connected to fertility and springtime (Artemis and Flora, respectively). This, combined with other European rituals commemorating the new season of spring, led many Western cultures to view May as a month of life and motherhood. This was long before “Mother’s Day” was ever conceived, though the modern celebration is closely related to this innate desire to honor maternity during the spring months.

In the early Church there is also evidence of a major feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated on the 15th of May each year. A tradition of devoting 30 days to Mary called Tricesimum, which was also known as “Lady Month,” was established in the 18th century. After that, various private devotions to Mary quickly became widespread during the month of May. In 1945, Pope Pius XII solidified May as a Marian month after establishing the feast of the Queenship of Mary on May 31st. After the Second Vatican Council, this feast was moved to August 22, while May 31st became the feast of the Visitation of Mary. The month of May is one rich in tradition and a beautiful time of the year to honor our heavenly mother.

See <https://aleteia.org/2018/05/02/why-is-may-marys-month/>.

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

May 2, 2021

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:26-31 | 1 Jn 3:18-24 | Jn 15:1-8

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

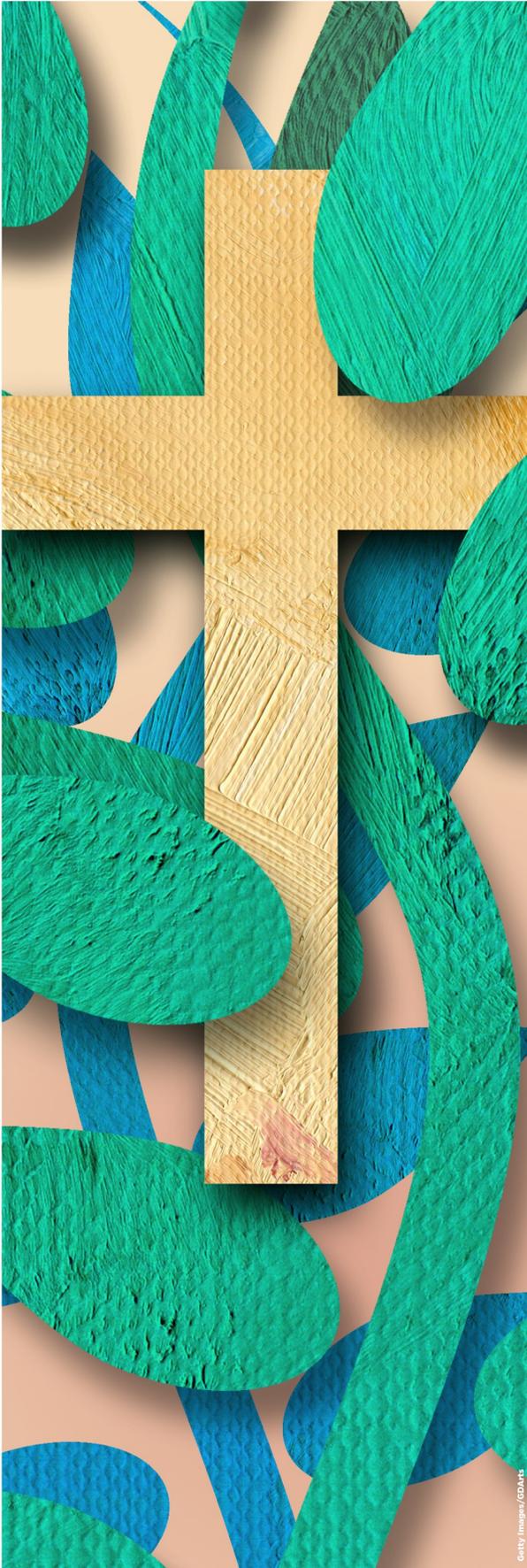
Today's readings are at once challenging and reassuring. Challenging, because we are to remain in Christ, by "[keep- ing] his commandments and [doing] what pleases him"; and reassuring, because we know that the Holy Spirit is with us and we can "have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask." As Jesus says to us, "I am the vine, you are the branches ... without me you can do nothing." Through the Eucharist, the sacraments of the Church, Sacred Scripture, and in belonging to a faith community, God gives us many ways to grow closer to Jesus, and to direct our life toward him. In the pruning of sinful habits from our lives and build- ing us up, through grace, to walk in the fear of the Lord, God transforms our hearts so that we remain in him, and he in us. And with the help of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to speak out boldly in the name of the Lord.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Just as the new life and growth of springtime is already very visible in many parts of the United States, today's first reading describes a kind of springtime in the Church. Even as Saul faced multiple death threats, he continued to boldly proclaim the Good News. "The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers." Today, many Christians around the world face persecution for their beliefs or live in cities or countries where violence, poverty, or hunger threat- en their lives. We, too, face challenges and hardships. Life is not easy! Let us find "consolation" in the Holy Spirit and build up the Church and one another through prayer, gener- osity, and friendship.

**PRAY** Consider spending an hour with Jesus in Eucharistic adoration. Find a small way to build up the Church beyond your family and parish by praying for Christians in other parts of the world.



**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**..... stjbparish@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.

**New Parishioners**

Please call the rectory for an appointment to register.

**Sick Calls**

Please notify the parish office.

**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.

**Sacrament of Marriage**

Please call the rectory one year in advance.

**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

**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. ....610-871-5200 ext. 2204  
 prusso@allentowndiocese.org

**Upcoming Events**

May

- 2 Street Evangelization Training  
4:30 to 6:00 p.m. ● Rectory Fellowship Room
- 7 First Friday Adoration  
9:20 to 10:30 a.m. ● Church
- 7 Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop  
4:00 to 7:00 p.m. ● Russell Building
- 8 Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop  
9:00 to 12:00 p.m. ● Russell Building
- 9 Street Evangelization Training  
4:30 to 6:00 p.m. ● Rectory Fellowship Room
- 16 Street Evangelization Training  
4:30 to 6:00 p.m. ● Rectory Fellowship Room
- 17 Holy Hour/Adoration, Music, and Confessions  
7:00 to 8:00 p.m. ● Church
- 19 Catholic Women’s Union  
7:00 to 8:00 p.m. ● Longinus Hall
- 23 Young Adult Backyard BBQ and Reflection  
1:00 to 3:00 p.m. ● Outside Behind the Rectory

Weekly Virtual Events

- Tues. 7:00 p.m. Weekly Men’s Group on Zoom  
Meeting ID: 824-780-6433  
Password: Mary
- Wed. 7:00 p.m. Weekly Rosary on Facebook
- Sat. 7:00 p.m. Weekly Rosary on Facebook

Facebook Page: St. John The Baptist Catholic Parish Family