

# St. John the Baptist

## Roman Catholic

### Parish Family

10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901

Pastor: *Rev. David J. Loeper*

Deacons: *Luis R. Visot / Lawrence Lonergan*

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MAY 3, 2020

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Rectory (570) 622-5470  
Rectory Fax (570) 622-4589  
Russell Building (570) 628-3002  
Website – [SaintJohnPottsville.org](http://SaintJohnPottsville.org).

Parish Council President: *Robert Bechtel*  
Choir Director/Organist: *David Derbes*  
CCD Coordinator: *Lucilla Kochol*  
E-mail – [stjbparish@comcast.net](mailto:stjbparish@comcast.net)

Nativity BVM High School (570) 622-8110  
Assumption BVM Elementary (570) 622-0106  
St. Joseph Center for Special Learning (570) 622-4638

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#### Cemetery Information

John Consugar (570)-449-1675  
St. John's Rectory (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.

**Bulletin Deadline** Tuesday prior to publication.

#### Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office

#### Sacrament of Marriage

Please call the Rectory one year in advance.

#### Sacrament of Baptism

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

#### Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC,LPC  
Direct Telephone: (800) 791-9209

#### Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection

Pamela Russo, MSW, MS  
610-871-5200, Ext. 2204  
[prusso@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org)

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR, FR. DAVE**

DEAR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS:

Please know that all of you, as parishioners of St. John's, were greatly missed over the weekends. Our seminarian Bobby Rienzo and I remembered all of you in the Masses we celebrate not only for the intentions that were scheduled but for all the parishioners of the parish.

Continue to stay safe and healthy and know that our prayers are with you. As of now, there is no indication as to when Mass and other activities in the parish can resume. Pray for all those who are in any way affected by this whole situation. Know that God will bring good and blessings out of all this. Now is a good time to quiet our spirits and turn to God and allow him to work in our lives. If there is anything we can help you with, please do not hesitate to call the rectory 570-622-5470.

*Father Dave*

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**ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS**

A reminder to all parishioners that the church will be open for private prayer and time before the Blessed Sacrament on the following days and times:

**Saturday --- 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.**

**Sunday --- 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.**

Confessions will be heard on the following days and times:

**Saturday --- 10:30 to 11 a.m. and 4 to 4:30 p.m.**

**Sunday --- There will be no confessions.**

Please use the upper side door of the church where the ramp is located.

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Rosary prayed on Facebook  
Divine Mercy prayed on Facebook

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27 April 2020

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has been three weeks since I wrote my Easter message to you, and so, I wanted to check in with you again. Certainly since our last conversation, there have been many more pandemic deaths, infections, lay-offs, and economic hardships. At the same time, we are in the midst of the most joyful, hopeful time of the year, the Easter Season. The Liturgy proclaims that during this Season, we are “overcome with paschal joy.” We should make that sentiment our goal in these sullen times. Jesus, the Conqueror of sin and death, has suffered and triumphed over the Evil One for you and for me.

I am painfully aware that many will not truly feel this paschal joy until they can return to the Sacraments, especially the reception of Holy Communion. I have received so many encouraging letters that beautifully express a sincere desire to be able to receive Our Lord again. This inability to receive Our Lord has strengthened the faithful’s belief in the Real Presence and has heightened their awareness of what a privilege it is to receive Holy Communion. It breaks my heart as a shepherd to see the flock in such sacramental want and distress.

If the truth be told, across my desk are also coming letters — in smaller numbers — that express great anger with me and the hierarchy of the Church for the public health measures that we have adopted. For some, bitterness is seeping into their hearts for not having access to the Holy Eucharist. The Evil One is usurping this distance from the Holy Eucharist to divide members of our Family of Faith. In its most extreme expression, there is the thought that somehow the Church timidly is cooperating with the State to deprive the faithful of their Religious Liberties. We are doing this not because we are being directed by the government, but because it is the most prudent approach for the safety of the faithful.

Allow me to assure you that the policies that are in place in the Diocese of Allentown were implemented solely for the protection of the health of the faithful. We are called to be good citizens and to participate in the public good. From the earliest days of the Church, Christians understood their primary duty was to God, but also to cooperate in good citizenship when legitimate directives were given by those who govern us.

To be sure, our churches are still open for private prayer, the Sacrament of Penance is still available, funerals continue, and the Anointing of the Sick is still given to those in danger of death, observing the precautions in place. My desire is to return to public worship as soon as it is safe to do so. However, I must be clear: my preference will be for “safe rather than soon.” I will follow the health guidelines of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in determining the level of precautions needed and allowable public gatherings. This means that some counties in our Diocese might be back to public worship before others. I ask for your patience and good will.


My office is already working on the process of returning to full public worship and parish life. I call this planning “from couch to pew” since all of us long for the day when we will find ourselves at Mass in the pew rather than on the couch. I ask you to please collaborate with me and our priests as this process unfolds in the various regions of the Diocese.

In so many ways, this has brought out the best in our Family of Faith, and I am so grateful for the beautiful and heroic acts that are being done by members of our Catholic community and so many people of good will. It truly is a time for unity and Christian charity as we live this Season of paschal joy.

My prayers every day are for the deceased, the sick and dying, their families, health professionals, and care-givers; likewise for those who are anxious due to job loss and economic uncertainty; for our young people who are missing school, extracurricular activities, graduations, and championships; for the elderly who feel even heightened loneliness and anxiety due to the illness around them; for young adults who are facing hardship for perhaps the first time; for parents who are adapting their family lives and married lives to the exigencies of protecting and providing for their families; and for my fellow priests, deacons, seminarians, and consecrated men and women who are striving each day to be near their people and often heroically are bringing the Light of Christ to them. God bless you all!

Asking the Lord to bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to Everlasting Life, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Alfred A. Schlert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert

Bishop of Allentown

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

As we well know through this Coronavirus Pandemic, turmoil can enter our lives, and even enter into our church. But we are called to persevere and keep our eyes focused on the Risen Christ.

In the second reading for this Sunday St. Peter calls the community to patient suffering when they know what they are doing is right. And in the first reading for this Sunday St. Peter tells the community that their Savior was indeed the one whom they crucified. They are cut to the heart. They repent, and are baptized -- adding about three thousand persons to the Christian community.

Through repentance and living for righteousness, we are united with Jesus who is the heart and the core of our faith.

Jesus reminds us in the gospel about the shepherd and the sheep who know the sound of his voice. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, is calling us. Let us heed his voice during this time.

Yours in Christ,  
Father Dave

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### MASS INTENTIONS

**(Services are not open to the public)**

#### Monday – May 4

THOMAS & EVA FRANCIS (Francis Family)

#### Tuesday, May 5

KATHY CASE (John Lieberman Family)

#### Wednesday, May 6

PATRICK MURPHY (Ron & Pat Lombel)

#### Thursday, May 7

ERIKA SEASOCK (John & Joyce Gerace)

#### Friday, May 8

CATHERINE & JOHN MARKOVICH  
(Pat & Phil Markovich)

#### Saturday – May 9

LIVING & DECEASED MOTHERS  
OF ST. JOHN'S PARISH FAMILY

#### Sunday, May 10

LIVING & DECEASED MOTHERS  
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### This Week's Readings

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** (May 2/3)

**Reading I:** Acts of the Apostles 2:14a, 36-41

**Reading II:** 1 Peter 2:20b-25

**Gospel:** John 10:1-10

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## CANDLE DONATIONS

**BVM** – For health of Dolly Parsick by Joanne Schultz

**St. Joseph** – In Thanksgiving by Irene Post

**Tabernacle** – IMO Lorrie Cunningham  
by Aunt Chris & Uncle Bill

### **Sanctuary**

1. IMO Mary Hahner by Hahner Family

2. IMO John & Kathryn Gaynor by Joan Florida

3. IMO Marion Mickey by Fran & Mark Mickey

4. IMO Margaret Novak by Fran & Mark Mickey

### **Guardian Angels**

1. IMO Joseph & Elizabeth Brahler  
by Frank & Mark Mickey

2. Special Intention by Linda Ralston

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### **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:** *Joseph Conway Sr.*

**Deceased:** *Joseph Wollyung, Eugene Gustitis, Viola Direnzo, Philomena Loeper.*

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### **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER**

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

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### **QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

How does Jesus shepherd you?

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### **EASTER FLOWERS**

Because we did not publicly celebrate Holy Week and Easter this year, we reduced the Easter flower order. However, we will provide special flower arrangements for the sanctuary during the Easter Season which will be part of the Easter Flower Memorials. You may still memorialize the Easter flower arrangements during the Easter season by using the Easter Flower envelope that was in your envelope packet. The memorial envelopes can be dropped off or mailed to the rectory anytime during the month of April.

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### **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 during private adoration times.

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## PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC

*May we who are merely inconvenienced, remember those whose lives are at stake.*

*May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.*

*May those who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.*

*May those who have the flexibility to care for our children when schools close remember those who have no options.*

*May we who have to cancel a trip remember those who have no safe place to go.*

*May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.*

*May those who settle for quarantine at home remember those who have no home.*

*As fear grips our country, let us choose love during this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us find ways to be the loving embrace to God and our neighbor.*

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### 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.

**Lowest Casket Prices**  
**NEW Affordable Package Prices**  
**Personalized Tributes**  
**Uncompromised Service**

**Schlitzer-Allen-Pugh**  
FUNERAL HOME  
6th & West Market • Pottsville • 622-7888  
Brian D. Leffler, Supervisor/LFD  
**TributesOfLife.com**

### Why Advertise In A Church Bulletin?

- \* It's inexpensive Advertising
  - \* It's Effective in Catching New Neighbors' Attention
  - \* It's Advertising Concentrated in Your Neighborhood
  - \* It Develops Good Community Relationships
  - \* It's Good For Developing Loyal Customers
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## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

AND

## CONFIRMATION

**... have been cancelled until  
further notice ...**

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### WEEKLY COLLECTION

**April 25/26: \$ 4,158.86**

**Improvements & Repairs: \$ 487.00**

*We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving  
by dropping envelopes at the rectory,  
by mail and online giving.*

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### BULLETIN BOOSTERS

April 2020

IMO Carl Bartholomew	M/M James Loeper
IMO Harold Bartholomew	IMO Charles Lorenz
IMO Robert Berger	Dorothy Parsick
IMO Edward Christ	IMO Jeanne Rehnert
Mildred A. Fredericks	IMO Eugene & Rita Rehnert
Fr. Don Henry	IMO Dorothy Rosenberger
IMO M/M Herbert Henry	IMO Marcie Schnerring
IMO Joanne Hepler	IMO Margaret Zelinsky
IMO Clare Houser	

Living & Deceased of St. John's CYO Program

**What is a Bulletin Booster??** Some of our newer parishioners have asked what it means to be a Bulletin Booster. We have a wonderful bulletin – it is timely and keeps us informed of what is going on within our parish family and its surroundings. Paper and supplies are needed on a weekly basis to continue this family tradition. So, if you'd like to donate toward the supplies. **\$1.00 and up ... you too can be a ... Bulletin Booster**

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## CEMETERY REGULATIONS

- All decorations must be removed within 14 days after specified holidays which are: Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day and Christmas.
- All decorations except those flowers or plants planted in the ground, must be removed by **July 1<sup>st</sup>**.
- Placing of artificial flowers in the ground is forbidden.
- All rubbish should be taken with you or placed in receptacles at Cemetery.