

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Good soil is critical to the harvest. In the 1930's, by deep-plowing, the farmers on the prairies and the high plains had ruined the land. They plowed so deep they displaced the deep-rooted grasses that trapped soil and moisture. Combined with severe droughts, devastation came. The great dust storms did the rest, displacing more than two million people.

This Sunday's gospel presents us with a parable about seeds. After many perils, only the seeds that were sown in good soil were able to grow. They yielded much grain. The parable teaches us to recognize that the seed is God's invitation to us. We are the farmers who must prepare our soil to receive these seeds. If we are successful, then we will enjoy a bounteous spiritual harvest in our lives.

Yours in Christ,

Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday – July 17 – 9:00 a.m.

JOSEPH & JESSIE RITZEL (Joan Ritzel)

Tuesday – July 18 – 9:00 a.m.

EMILY LEINHEISER (Charles & Irene Grabusky)

Wednesday, July 19 -- 9:00 a.m.

REGINA SCHMIDT

Thursday – July 20 – 9:00 a.m.

CLAIR & MARGARET FRY (Ann Marie Ludlow)

Friday – July 21 – 9 a.m.

FRANKLIN PLATTS (Donna Platts)

Saturday, July 22 – 5 p.m.

FRANCIS & SYLVIA BERCHER

(Grandchildren)

Sunday – July 23 – 8:15 a.m.

PETER MESERAVAGE (Joe & Ann Burns)

Sunday – July 23 – 10:30 a.m.

CECELIA WEISS (Catholic Women's Union)

SCHEDULE

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 p.m. – Saturday – July 22nd

Reader: Robert Wollyung

Euch.Min.: Dan & Hermine Murphy, (Larry Lonergan)

Servers: Rachel Brahler, Olivia Tokonitz, Ethan Meyer

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – July 23rd

Reader: Bob Bechtel

Euch.Min.: Joyce Gerace, Carol Forster

Servers: Gabriella Quinn, Madison & Caden Wright

Cantor: Debbie Purcell

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – July 23rd

Reader: Tyler Cooper

Euch.Min.: Sharon Snyder, Frank Murphy, (Dr. Visot)

Servers: Connor, Bennett, Lukas McNamara

Cantor: Melody Newhard Kirk

CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM-IMO Mary Lou McGinley by Rick & Ceil Ellison

St. Joseph - IMO M/M Robert Becker Sr.

by Mary & Bob Porter

Tabernacle - IMO Richard & Christopher Cielinski

by Mary & Bob Porter

Sanctuary

1. IMO James Cavanaugh by Family

2. IMO Magdalena Fleischhutt by Mary & Bob Porter

3. IMO David Zanis by Carl & Toni Wiest

4. IMO Ceil Weiss by Becky Weiss

Guardian Angels

1&2. IMO Robert Lotz by Rita Lotz

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: Fred & Magdalene Maskerines, Mary Connell, Caitlin McGarry, Jerry Schoenauer, Mary Zambo, Carol Heacock, Paul Burns, Dorothy Blum, Dorothy Elison, Peter Darhun, James Campion.

Deceased: Francis Bercher, Caroline Darhun, William Hahner, Raydell Wychunas.

MARRIED IN CHRIST



We extend our warmest congratulation to **Darren DeArment** and **Sarah Hahner** who were joined in Holy Matrimony on July 1st in the presence of Father Dave. They are called now to

total dedication to each other. May their love each day draw them closer to God and to each other.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How does faith influence what you see and hear?

Next Week's Readings

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (July 22/23)

Reading I: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Reading II: Romans 8:26-27

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

This week, our second collection is taken up for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your donation today helps restore the Church and build the future in 20 countries, many of which still struggle to recover in the aftermath of Soviet rule. Funds from this collection help support reconstruction, education, formation, and poverty outreach. For more information, please visit www.usccb.org/ceee. Thank you for your generosity.

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR MEN

As Christian men we are called to live out the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is especially hard to do it alone and to keep our lives in balance. We invite all men in the parish to come and give this program a try. The format is a Gospel Reflection, a reading of the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday, afterwards a brief moment of reflection, spontaneous discussion of how that reading impacts each of us at that moment and in our lives today. **This is NOT a Bible study group** ... the Holy Spirit will be the teacher! We will also pray for your intentions at the end of each session.

When: Tuesdays --- 7 to 8 p.m.

Subject: the impact of the Gospel reading for each man's heart, mind and life expressed in his own words.

Preparation: bring a copy of the Gospel Reflection Sheet from website ... Stewardshipmission.org

For any question or more information, please contact Bill Gianfagna (573-0105) or Luis R. Visot (622-8798).

DIVINE MERCY PERPETUAL ADORATION

Open Hours with Jesus

"Consider your allotted hour of adoration as an hour of paradise ... Sweetly keep alive the desire for it in your heart. Tell yourself: in four hours, in two hours, in one hour, I will go to our Lord's audience of grace and love; he invited me, he awaits me, he desires me."

... St. Peter Julian Eymard

We need adorers for the following hours:

Tuesday 4 a.m.

Wednesday 12 & 1 a.m.

Saturday 1 & 9 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.

Please call Albert 573-0036 or Aleece 449-7678.

FLOWER DONATIONS



If anyone wishes to memorialize flowers in the sanctuary for the weekend Masses for a living or deceased intention, please call the Rectory 622-5470.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PICTURES

First Holy Communion pictures are available at the rectory during the week.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

July 18/9: \$ 4,888.00

Parish Improvements & Repairs: \$1,525.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

Now is the time to register your child for next year's CCD class. If you have not received a form in the mail, please call the rectory or pick one up in church. The forms are at the entrances of the Church. The longer form is for new students and new first graders. The shorter form is for students who are presently attending class.

Registration Fee: \$60.00 First Child
All Other Children: \$55.00 per Child

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.

FAMILY MATTERS

Wayward Children. Don't fret! Invoke St. Monica's (Augustine's mother) intercession. She prayed for over 25 years for his conversion. We pray this week for all our families and parishioners whose children young and old have turned away from Christ's message.

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

NATIVITY BVM HIGH SCHOOL NEWS ...

GIRL'S VOLLEYBALL CAMP to take place **July 17, 18, 19, 20** at Nativity High School for girls 3rd to 8th grade. Cost \$45.00. Brochures available at Nativity High School. Please call Mrs. Jennifer Daubert 622-8110 for more information.

POSITION AVAILABLE Nativity is accepting applications for **Dean of Students** for the 2017-18 school year. This is a year-round position. Duties include all aspects of Discipline, Student Record Keeping, Attendance, Coordination of Student Life, Supervision of Maintenance and others. Minimum of Bachelor's Degree and Teacher Certification required. Please send resumé, certifications and all clearances to:

Nativity BVM High School

Attn: Mrs. Lynn Sabol, Principal

One Lawton's Hill, Pottsville, Pa. 17901

"The challenge is to *make the Church's 'yes' to Life* concrete and effective. The struggle will be long, and it needs each one of you. Place your intelligence, your talents, your enthusiasm, your compassion and your fortitude at the service of life!"

... Pope John Paul II, "Homily," August 15, 1993.

Mid-Summer Festival

CCD REGISTRATION



MAJOR SPONSORS

(\$200 and above)
 Dr. Thomas & Kay Boran
 Laurita A. Buehler
 Eddie & Debbie Guers
 Hahner Bros. Inc.
 Lori & David Miller
 Murphy Jewelers
 Quandel Group
 Ed & Carole Quirin
 Rosenberger Plumbing & Heating Inc.
 Joe & Nancy Schlitzer

MISC. SPONSORS

Ed & Natalie Glunz	\$40.00 --- Bleenies
Jim & Donna Pugh	\$40.00 --- Bleenies
Mary Lou Roeder	\$40.00 --- Bleenies
Theresa Skrobak	\$80.00 --- Bleenies (2)
Rita Lotz	\$100.00 --- Coke
Bob & Mary Porter	\$100.00 --- Coke
Catholic Women's Union	\$25.00 --- Ice Cream
Peggy Ebling	\$25.00 --- Ice Cream
Greg & Lauren Poleschuck	\$25.00 --- Ice Cream
St.John's CYO Program	\$50.00 --- Pizza

BASKET SPECIALS

Art Basket --- Theresa McCabe
 Baking Basket --- Janet Daubert
 Black & White Party Basket – Karla's Kreation
 Breakfast Basket – Chuck & Mary Rinaldo
 Fall Basket --- Chris Black
 Gardening Basket --- Rosann Sitkus
 Gift Certificates – Ed & Carole Quirin
 Hair Care Basket --- Shanna Deibert/the Looking Glass
 Lottery Basket --- Nora Chiplonia, Chris Zanis
 Lottery Frames --- Prezelski Family
 Monetary Donation --- Frances Lorenz
 Murphy Jewelers Basket --- Murphy Jewelers
 Sport/Snack Basket --- Sandy Frinzi
 Summer Afghan/Yankee Candle/Wine Basket
 --- Eleanor & Joe Orzechowski
 Summer Dishware Basket --- George & Kathy Zwiebel
 Vera Bradley Basket --- Ken & Tammy Cooper
 Vera Bradley Basket --- Theresa Hossler
 3 -Wine Baskets– Lori Pontician

\$150.00

John & Annette Lieberman

\$100.00

Friends of St. John's
 Stanley & Heidi Gorski
 John M. Grapsy
 Dr. Richard Greco
 Lieberman-Tamulonis-Hobbs
 Larry & Sharon Lonergan
 Neil & Frances Manus
 Al & Kathy Norkus
 Mary & Bob Porter
 Toni & Carl Wiest
 George & Kathy Zwiebel

\$80.00

Grabowski Family

\$75.00

Ellen & Jay Zane

\$60.00

Luis R. & Virginia C. Visot

\$50.00

Carl & Andrea Antolick
 Dorothy Elison
 Marie Flynn
 Jim & Lori Guzik
 Headquarters Styling Salon
 Sterling & Joanne Hepler
 Joey Kurtek
 M/M John Kutch
 Bill & Bernie Lecher
 Dorothy & Leo Lotz
 Rita Lotz
 McNamara Family
 Charles & Patricia Miller
 Albert & Kathleen Nastasi
 Eleanor Schaeffer
 Mary A. Sitcoske
 Nancy Steffan
 Dianne Stoudt
 Total Accessibility
 Christine Tray
 Wehr's Auto Service Inc.
 Dr.&Mrs. Jeff Zwiebel

\$40.00
 Carol & Joe Rehnert
 Synnott Family
 Joe & Barbara Wollyung

\$35.00
 Vincent Albo

\$30.00

Dave & Alice Bechtel
 Martha Golden
 Jerry & Diane Hudock
 Carl & Kathy Hughes
 Frances Lorenz
 Henry Minnig
 Bob & Irene Post
 Wartella Family
 Romayne Yingling

\$25.00
 Ann Blankenhorn
 Fred J. Brahler
 Joe & Kathy Brahler
 Jim Brentari
 Dolores Brophy
 Susan Cook
 Janet Daubert
 Bobby & Chrissy DiCello
 Doyle Family
 Tom & Cindy Elison
 M/M James Loeper
 Phil & Patty Markovich
 Jack & Susan Minnichbach
 Justina Mitchell
 Robert,DeAnna,Ava Orlowski
 George L. Post
 Butch & Sue Scheetz
 Viduszynski Family

\$20.00
 Anonymous
 Joan Bowers
 Barb Krupa
 Linda Ralston
 Mary Lou Roeder
 Natalie Setlock & Bill Spleen
 Martin & Linda Smith
 Dorothy & Joe Stangl

\$10.00
 Catherine & Charles Bowers
 John & Lorraine Campion
 Kathleen Hohman
 Helen Hufnagle
 M/M John Mestishen
 M/M Martin Smith
 Michael & Elizabeth Tyson
 Tom & Judy Williams

\$5.00
 Margaret Pauly

PRAYER FOR OUR TROOPS AROUND THE WORLD

“Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.”

POTTSVILLE HOMELESS SHELTER “SERVANTS TO ALL”



ARE YOU PLANNING A CHANGE ??

If you are making a change in ...
address, parish affiliation, e-mail, or phone number, please call the Rectory

Office. We strive to keep our records up to date.

Mid-Summer Festival

FESTIVAL PATRONS

We are asking for donations of food for our local homeless shelter. Items can be dropped off at church inside the lower 10th Street door.

Suggestions are as follows:

- *Ready to eat **Canned Goods** with pop tops (easy open)
- *Items not condensed (ready to eat)
- *Individually wrapped bags of **Cookies, Chips, Pretzels**
- *Individual packs of **Crackers**
- *Individual small jars of **Peanut Butter**
- *Individual packets of **Peanut Butter**
- ***Protein and Granola Bars**
- ***Bottled Water**
- ***Juice Boxes**
- ***NO CHOCOLATE**

Your support is GREATLY appreciated!

Thank you all for all that you are doing for God's children. Without you, this work of God could not happen. You are truly His instruments. His blessings are so great that He can never be outdone in generosity.

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.

Lord-Bixler Funeral Home, Inc.
1818 Mahantongo Street
Pottsville, PA 17901
570-622-0230
Terry L. Bixler, Supv.

Why Advertise In A Church Bulletin?

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

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER SUMMER TOO HOT? Stay cool inside and look for WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER weekend and many other marriage resources on the web at www.wwme.org. For information call 1-732-904-9636 or visit www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org.

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 with the Catholic Women's Union by joining us on **Wednesday, July 19th at 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall**. 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: Joan Deiter at 622-1381 or St. John's Rectory: 622-5470.

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE ...

If you have asthma, cutting down on processed (cured) meats may help reduce symptoms, according to a recent study in the journal *Thorax*. Researchers followed 971 French adults with asthma over seven years and found that those who ate cured meat (such as ham, sausage, salami, and bacon) at least four times a week were 75% more likely to have a worsening of symptoms than those who ate it once a week or not at all. The researchers controlled for variables such as body weight, age, exercise, and smoking. Cured meats are usually high in nitrites or nitrates, which may lead to airway inflammation, the researchers suggested.

NEIGHBORING EVENTS

PILGRIMAGE sponsored by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Minersville on **Sunday, August 6th** to the Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Bally (the oldest church in the Diocese of Allentown) followed by a tour of the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown. For reservations and info, call 570-527-0453. Cost is \$25.00.

FAMILY FUN DAY
KNOEBELS AMUSEMENT PARK
SUNDAY, AUGUST 6TH
SAVE THE DATE !!
... MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW ...

**PARISH COUNCIL
PRESIDENT'S REPORT
JUNE 2017**

Dear Parishioners:

A meeting of Parish Council was held on June 8th.

1 - Last meeting's minutes and current reports were reviewed and accepted.

2 - Financial Report was reviewed and accepted. The parish is in good financial shape.

3 – Adult Faith Formation Program ... A report was given by Dr. Visot. The study of the Gospel of Luke was completed. In the Fall, classes will restart on Sunday's from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. The next topic will be the study of Mary, sacraments, or a look at the Church. Please see the bulletin for more information. If you feel strongly about one of these three topics, please notify Dr. Visot through the rectory.

4 - Assumption BVM School .. A report was presented by Ms. Kochol. Seven of the 17 graduating children are from St. Johns.

5 – Nativity BVM High School .. An update was given by Father Dave. Nativity was the Schuylkill Chamber Non-Profit Award Winner for 2017. Congratulations - well deserved!

6 – Dramatic Stations of the Cross went very well. The production is in need of volunteers for a number of parts. If interested, please contact the rectory. This is a very rewarding experience and a great way to participate in the parish.

7 – Lenten Dinners .. Thank you to everyone who made the dinners a success.

8 - Cemetery Committee - Fran Mickey and George Smith are retiring. Other parishioners have volunteered to take over but they are looking for help. Anyone interested in helping with the cemetery committee, please contact the rectory.

9 - Parking Lot - All lots except the upper lot will be repaved.

10 – Oktoberfest .. Patty O'Neill and Joe Kurtek will organize this year. It will be at the Russell Building. Details will be in the bulletin.

11 – Parish Dinner ... There will NOT be a Parish dinner this year. There were no volunteers to chair this event.

12 - Family Day at Knoebles will take place on Sunday August 6th. Please note that the parish will not subsidize the cost as we did last year.

13 - Church Painting - painting will start in mid-July and last several weeks. The colors will be the same.

14 – Parish Council Youth Member - the Council gave Father Dave recommendations of a new youth member to Parish Council. Father will decide and will speak with that individual. This person must be going into their junior or senior year of high school. The term is one year but they may serve a second year if only a junior the first year. They will have full voting privileges. Their responsibility is to organize, create, or champion activities that will increase youth participation in the parish.

15 – Parish Council Secretary .. This is the last meeting for Carol Lasco as secretary of Parish Council. We thank Carol for all of her service and wish her the best. Patty O'Neill will take over as secretary.

This was my last meeting as **Parish Council President**. I want to thank the St. John's Parish Family for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. Through your prayers, we were able to accomplish many things in two years. Through reviewing the CCD program, starting the Annual Chili Cook-off the Saturday before the Super Bowl, purchasing a new keyboard for the music program, creating a jobs board, and permanently adding a youth member to council, the Parish Council has worked hard to improve the parish. It has been my honor to have been chosen to lead this effort. Again, thank you to the parish and to my fellow members on Parish Council.

All of our prayers and best wishes are with Paul Datte as he takes over the responsibility of Parish Council President.

Robert DeColli