

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

Established in 1841

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

Pastor: *Rev. David J. Loeper*

Deacons: *Luis R. Visot / Lawrence Lonergan*

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23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

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**Rectory** (570) 622-5470  
**Rectory Fax** (570) 622-4589  
**Russell Building** (570) 628-3002  
**Website – 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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### Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening – 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday Morning – 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

### Weekday Mass Schedule (in Chapel)

Monday thru Friday – 9:00 a.m.

### Cemetery Information

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.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday afternoon – 4:15 to 4:45 p.m.  
Sunday – 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 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.

### Outreach Program

Rectory (570)-622-5470

### Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office

### Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

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

### Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator

Sister Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT  
(610) 332-0442 ext. 2019

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

The cost of discipleship is real. To be a disciple of Jesus we must carry our cross and follow Him each day. To love Christ above family, self, possessions – this is difficult! And that is the cross we are to carry: the difficulty of prioritizing Christ when it would be easier not to. After all, what else is there – only the cross. We carry our cross to become like the Master who carried His cross to death, victory and redemption.

Yours in Christ,  
Father Dave

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### MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, September 9 – 9:00 a.m.

PHILOMENA CARROLL (Family)

Tuesday, September 10 – 9:00 a.m.

GLORIA DERHAN (living intention)  
(Joseph McGraw)

Wednesday, September 11 – 9:00 a.m.

DOMINIC DE FRANK (Eleanor Schaeffer)

Thursday – September 12 – 9:00 a.m.

JOSEPHINE KOCHOL (Mary Jean Morgalis)

Friday, September 13 – 9:00 a.m.

EDWARD KRUPA (Barb & Bruce Krupa)

Saturday, September 14 – 5:00 p.m.

BUTZ FAMILY (Larry Butz)

Sunday, September 15 – 8:15 a.m.

JOSEPH & PHILOMENA RYAN

(Jim & Donna Pugh & Family)

Sunday, September 15 – 10:30 a.m.

MILDRED DITZLER (Catholic Women's Union)

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### SCHEDULE

24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5 p.m. – Saturday – September 14<sup>th</sup>

Reader: Patty O'Neill

Euch.Min.: Robert Wollyung

Servers: Noah Lecher, Alyssa Sheriff, Olivia Tokonitz

Cantor: Mary Bound

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – September 15<sup>th</sup>

Reader: Bob Bechtel

Euch.Min.: Carol Forster, Nicholas Quinn

Servers: Logan, Joseph, Brooke Palko

Cantor: Debbie Purcell

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – September 15<sup>th</sup>

Reader: Mary Matulevich

Euch.Min.: Joe Rehnert, Justina Majestic

Servers: Lauren & Kelly Goodman, Dylan Bohorad

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

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### ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

Eligibility ... male or female, 4th grade (in Fall) to 12th grade ... if interested, please call the Rectory 622-5470.

## CANDLE DONATIONS

**BVM** - IMO Philomena Carroll by Family

**St. Joseph** - IMO M/M Robert Becker Sr.  
by Mary & Bob Porter

**Tabernacle** – IMO Charles Becker Jr.  
by Mary & Bob Porter

### Sanctuary

1. IMO James Cavanaugh by Hahner Family

2. IMO M/M Robert Porter Sr. by Mary & Bob Porter

3. IMO Jeanette Hauptly by Bill Hauptly

4. IMO Patrick Murphy by Paul & Bernadette Gombola

### Guardian Angels

1&2. IMO JoAnn & Babe Heller by Mimi Modesto

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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:** Tom Jefferson, Paul Burns, Lorelei Oswald, Sue Klem Moore, Pat Thomas, John Whelski, Gary Bradley. **Deceased:** Leo Lotz

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### BANNS OF MARRIAGE

**I** – Joshua Clauser & Kelsey Amos

**III** – Megan Powers & Gregory Hanichak

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### 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.



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### BAPTISMAL PREPARATION



Before your youngest members are baptized, parents are asked to come for Baptismal Preparation. It is preferable that this be done **before** your baby is born. Please call Father Dave to arrange for this important

preparation.

**Baptisms are celebrated the First Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m.; Second Sunday during 10:30 a.m. Mass.**

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### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How would you explain the cost of discipleship to an unbeliever?

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### Next Week's Readings

24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Sept. 14/15)

**Reading I:** Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

**Reading II:** 1 Timothy 1:12-17

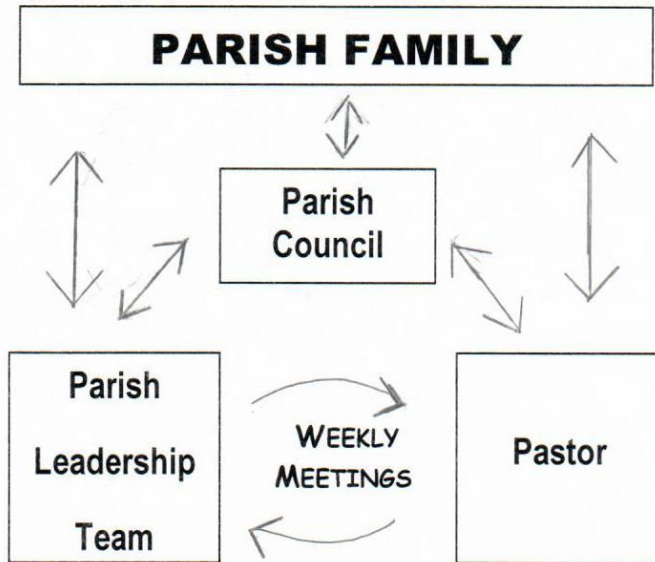
**Gospel:** Luke 15:1-32

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# THE AMAZING PARISH

## THE FLOW OF COMMUNICATION DIAGRAM



### GOALS:

1. Better serve the needs of the parish.
2. Increased lay participation in decision making.
3. More openness to the ideas of the parish family.
4. Better communication between Pastor/Parish Leadership Team and the Parish Family.
5. More focus on the parish's unique mission.

### DIVINE MERCY PERPETUAL ADORATION

We need adorers for the following hours:

- Wednesday 12 a.m., 1 a.m.
- Thursday 3 a.m., 4 a.m.;
- Friday 6 a.m., 5 p.m.
- Saturday 4 a.m. & 12 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.

**Call St. Patrick's Rectory 570-622-1802.**

### R. C. I. A.

#### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA is for anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic or in updating and deepening their understanding of the Catholic Faith. Are you interested in deepening your own faith? Or do you know anyone who has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic? Please invite them to join us. Have them call St. John's Rectory, 622-5470, to register for the RCIA sessions. All are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions!

*Above all, give praise to your Creator,  
Who showers His favors upon you. ...Sirach 32:13*

### PARISH COUNCIL

St. John's Parish Council will meet .....

**Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> – 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall.**

There are two ways that any parishioner may raise a question or concern or make recommendations.

1. Parishioners may approach any Parish Council Member listed below and ask that a question, concern, etc. be brought up at the meeting.
2. Parishioners may write their concerns, etc. and put it (them) in the suggestion box provided in the rear of the church. These may be signed or unsigned. They will then be brought up at the Council meeting.

#### Elected Members

Bob Bechtel  
John Consugar \*\*  
Paul Datte  
Darren DeArment \*\*  
Joseph Gerchak  
Heidi Gorski  
Alicia Kleman  
Eric Lieberman  
Kevin McNamara  
Al Norkus  
Patty O'Neill \*\*  
Josette Peckman  
John Pfluger  
John Powers  
Nick Quinn \*\*  
Melissa Scheetz  
Martin Smith

#### Appointed Members

Lucilla Kochol  
Evelyn Datte  
Joe Rehnert

#### Ex-Officio

Ed Brahler  
Deacon Larry Lonergan  
Deacon Luis R. Visot  
Father Dave Loeper



**\*\*denotes new members**

**Please Note – No Voting:** The Parish Council voting process was adjusted this year as the amount of accepted nominations met the need of the open positions.

### YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

#### Fall Kick-Off Meeting

Grades 8 – 12 welcome!

**Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in Longinus Hall.**

This Fall our theme is "The Climb".

What does it take to be a disciple of Jesus?

Come gather with other teens to snack, play games,  
and discuss our Catholic faith.

### SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



**Confirmation will be conferred**

**Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

## COFFEE AND DONUTS

**Sunday September 15, after 1030 Mass**

As part of our "Way Forward" as a healing church, fellowship time at coffee and donuts has been reorganized by participants of the Healing Our Church Program. Parishioners have the opportunity to talk with old friends and make new friends as we gather as a parish family.



We would like to expand this ministry by focusing on a parish group or organization each month at Coffee and Donuts so that parishioners become more aware of what opportunities there are within the church to grow spiritually and as a parish family.

Our first group to participate will be the **CCD Teachers**. This will be an opportunity to meet this dedicated group of volunteer teachers and ask questions about the program as a new CCD year begins. It is encouraged that CCD students and their families attend to chat with their teacher and enjoy a treat!

Any parish groups that would like to participate in future months, may contact the **Rectory 570-622-5470**.

## NATIVITY BVM HIGH SCHOOL ...

**HOST FAMILIES NEEDED** Hosting an international student is an incredibly rewarding experience! Families who open their hearts and homes to international students create lifelong bonds and gain a better understanding of the world around them. Host Family reimbursement paid monthly. For more information contact Nativity BVM High School at 570-622-8110.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

### September

- 8 CCD Begins
- 8 Sunday School begins
- 8 Children's Liturgy begins
- 8 Youth Kick Off Meeting – 6 p.m. – L.H.
- 9 Parish Council Mtg. – 7 p.m. – L.H.
- 10 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 11 St. John's Beneficial Soc. Mtg. – 8 p.m. – F.R.
- 14/15 Blood Pressure Screenings after Masses
- 14/15 Kauffman BBQ – Presale tickets after Masses
- 15 Confirmation Class – 6:30 p.m. – L.H.
- 15 Coffee & Donuts after 10:30 Mass – L.H.
- 17 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 18 Catholic Women's Union Mtg. – 7 p.m. – L.H.
- 21/22 Kauffman BBQ – Presale tickets after Masses
- 24 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 28 CWU Kauffman Chicken BBQ Sale
- 29 Confirmation Class – 6:30 p.m. – L.H.

\*\* L.H. – Longinus Hall

\*\* F.R. – Rectory Fellowship Room

\*\* R.B. – Russell Building

## St. John's Catholic Women's Union

### Kauffman's Chicken Barbeque

**Tickets: \$8.00** --- includes ½ Chicken, Baked Potato, Applesauce and Roll.

**Date: Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Place: Former Pizza Hut Parking Lot, Yorkville**

**Pre-Sale:** after all Masses on September 14/15 and September 21/22.

**REMINDER:** to all CWU members --- **deadline** for ticket sales or returns is **September 13th**.

Please contact any Catholic Women's Union member or St. John's Rectory -570-622-5470.



## St. John's ENSEMBLE



The purpose of this ministry is to serve the parish at Mass, singing liturgical hymns, using contemporary instruments like the guitar, keyboard, drums or other instruments, and using contemporary music arrangements.

We invite **ANYONE** in the parish wanting to share his or her voice and musical gifts whether you are a beginner or more experienced. Arrangements are not complicated and songs are familiar. You do not need to know how to read music to join us. We will teach anyone who has a willing heart.

Our goal is to play/sing once a month at one of the weekend Masses. Practices will be one or, at most, twice a month for ONE HOUR, to prepare for music at Mass that week. This is a great way to participate in parish life and have fun with only a small commitment of your time.

Why not give it a try and give back to your parish family by sharing the gifts God has given to you?

If interested **St. John's Rectory 570-622-5470**.

**Our next practices are:**

**Wednesdays, September 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>**

We will play at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Get your blood pressure checked in Longinus Hall after all Masses next weekend,

**September 14/15.**



**ST. JOHN'S BENEFICIAL SOCIETY** will meet on **Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m.** in the Rectory Fellowship Room.

*For every way, O Lord!*

*You magnified and glorified Your people;  
unfailing, You stood by them in every time and  
circumstance. ... Wisdom 19:22*

# CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Our Annual Christmas Bazaar will take place ...

**Saturday and Sunday, November 9 & 10**

*'View & Drop' Preview weekend is November 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>.*

We are asking families to donate a **Theme Basket** with a suggested value of at least **\$25.00** in merchandise or gift certificates. If you would like to donate the items, we would be happy to put a basket together and wrap it for you. Be creative and come up with your own unique idea!

Homemade craft items are also very welcome.

*So many families donated baskets last year --- it was wonderful to see the spirit of St. John's shine through.*

Our 'Lottery Baskets & Lottery Frames are always a huge success. If you would like to donate lottery tickets (any amount), please drop tickets off at the rectory or place in the collection basket at Mass.

As always, **Monetary donations** are greatly appreciated. and helping hands at the Bazaar are always welcome. If you can help or you have questions, please call the Rectory 622-5470 ext. 3

**Gift Cards / Certificates are especially needed.**

In addition to our many various **THEME BASKETS**, there will be beautiful **CRAFTS**, many of which are handmade, **SPECIALS**, and of course, delicious **FOOD** and our famous homemade **BAKED GOODS**.

**PICTURES WITH SANTA** will be available as well.

*This is a great way to get involved in a fun fundraiser for the parish and to meet other people. Join us !!!*

**Baskets should be dropped off before October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Russell Building on the following dates:**

**October 2, 9, 14, 16, 21**

**4:30 to 5:30 p.m. ONLY**

**Baskets / Items for baskets  
CANNOT  
be dropped off at the Rectory.**

## WINE / CHEESE / SNACK BASKETS



If you would like to donate **Wine, Cheese, or Snacks** for our *Wine/Snack Baskets* for this year's Christmas Bazaar, please drop your donation off at the **Russell Building on the dates and times listed above.**

## SEPTEMBER 11TH

Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, marks the 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our country ...

We pray today that from the ashes will rise a new spirit of beauty and unity in America. Already, all across this nation our hearts have been knit together into a new tapestry of one America.

Because of this tragedy, we have been bound together by a silver chord of hope and brotherhood and sisterhood.

What was meant to drive us apart has really drawn us together.

May we always remember.



## NEIGHBORING EVENTS

**BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY** ... at St. Joseph the Worker parish hall, 9 S. Broad Mt. Ave., Frackville on **September 12<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 7 p.m.** *Grief and Bereavement: Progressing Through the Stages* will be presented by Lisa Taylor, LCSW, Clinical Supervisor/Counseling of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Allentown. Free and open to the public ... opportunity for discussion and questions will follow. Alternate date is Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.

**GAME NIGHT** ... sponsored by Lehigh Valley Hospital - Schuylkill Auxiliary on **Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>** from 6 to 8 p.m. at 700 E. Norwegian St., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor; **\$5.00 per person** which includes dinner - assorted hoagies, chips & water. Refreshments & desserts available for purchase.

Join us to play old classic games including Mahjong, Catch Phase, Trivial Pursuit, Dominoes, Cards. Feel free to bring your own games as well to add to the fun.

**Please RSVP by September 21<sup>st</sup>** by contacting Mary Bardell at 570-621-4242 or [Mary.Bardell@lvhn.org](mailto:Mary.Bardell@lvhn.org). **Proceeds benefit LVHN Cancer Services.**

**BASKET AUCTION** ... sponsored by St. Charles Borromeo Church, 1115 Walnut St., Ashland on **September 29<sup>th</sup>**. Shop & Drop Saturday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> noon to 6 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Auction starts at 3 on Sunday. For more information, call Parish Office at 570-875-1521.

## FAMILY MATTERS

**Grandparents – parenting again.** Please pray today and this week for the many grandparents in our parish and communities who are lovingly caring for their grandchildren. Pray that the Lord give them strength to cope with the energy, vitality and challenges of their grandchildren.

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



## DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

**MONOCACY FARM FOOD FESTIVAL** The School Sisters of St. Francis will host the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Monocacy Farm Food Festival on **Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>** from 11 a.m. til 4 p.m. at 395 Bridle Path Road in Bethlehem. This is a family-friendly event for the whole community. Live music, local food & craft artisans, fun children's activities, farm tours, chef and farm demos, petting zoo, raffles and more. The first 100 individuals/families will receive a free bag filled with goodies. All proceeds benefit The Monocacy Farm Project. Suggested donation is \$5 pp, or \$10 per family. Find us on Facebook!

**INDEPENDENT RECONCILIATION AND COMPENSATION PROGRAM** As a reminder to victims of clergy sexual abuse in the Diocese of Allentown, the deadline to apply for compensation as one aspect of your healing is **Sept. 30, 2019**. To learn more about the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program, visit [www.allentowndioceseIRCP.com](http://www.allentowndioceseIRCP.com), or call 1-833-267-6389.

**A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH THE MASS** Understanding What We Say and Do in the Liturgy. Do you ever wish you could get more out of Mass? Discover how all the prayers, symbols, and rituals in the liturgy can come alive for us today once we understand their Biblical roots. **Dr. Edward Sri** will present at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena during an evening beginning with Holy Mass celebrated by **Bishop Schlert** at 6:30 PM on **Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**. Register today at [www.allentowndiocese.org/Liturgy](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/Liturgy)

### SCAM ALERT

The Diocese of Allentown is alerting parishioners about an apparent scam. Recently, a number of people from several different parishes have notified the Diocese that they received a text message on their cell phone from someone pretending to be a Diocesan priest or Deacon asking them to purchase gift cards for him.

These are not legitimate requests and are not from a Diocesan priest. No Diocesan priest will ever solicit funds by text message

The Diocese is not aware that anyone has fallen victim to this scam. But it does want to remind everyone if you are concerned about a text message you receive, always verify it before you take any action

### 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."*

**WELCOME VISITORS**  
**Thank you for worshipping  
with us today.**

**If you are visiting our  
beautiful church, please  
know you are most welcome!**

### FOOD COLLECTION for Pantry

Thank you for doing the small things, like feeding your neighbors, with great love. God bless.

#### Items Needed:

Stuffing Mix	Canned Fruit
Broth	Macaroni & Cheese
Coffee/Tea (instant)	Hot Chocolate
Hot Cereal packages	Apple Sauce
Cereal – boxed	Vegetable - Canned
Beef Stew	Spaghetti
Soups	Spaghetti Sauce
Peanut Butter	Jelly
Canned Gravy	Canned Sweet Potatoes

#### PLEASE – NO OUTDATED ITEMS

**Please Do Not** donate any nutritional drinks (Ensure, etc.)

Kindly place your donations in the basket at the 10<sup>th</sup> Street entrance at the bottom of the steps. Thank you.

### 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

*May He give to all of you a heart to worship Him  
and to do His will readily and generously.*

*2 Maccabees 1:3*