

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday's gospel tells us to realize that our God-given talents are not ours to keep. We are called to discover and find out personal gifts. If we have a lousy voice, it's a good thing when we turn down invitations to sing the national anthem before the big game. However, if we have a voice, the lack of courage to step up to the microphone, then we are thwarting God's plan for us, hiding these gifts under the bushel basket.

Singer – songwriter Jessie Manibusan was given the gift of music. His toe always tapped right to the beat. His fingers sprawled effortlessly over the frets of his guitar. His big voice ranged to dizzy heights and thunderous lows as he sang with an overflowing, full heart. When Jessie was younger, his kids loved to hear their Daddy sing. Today, the world loves to hear and sing one of Jessie's most popular songs: “*Open My Eyes Lord.*”

God had always been patiently calling Jessie to a full-time music ministry. One day, he quit his job as a printing salesman and bravely stepped into an uncertain future. Like this Sunday's gospel promises, the subsequent years brought Jessie national recognition including World Youth Day performances plus many songs and albums.

God is still not done heaping more upon anyone to whom much was given.

Yours in Christ,

Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 20 – 9:00 a.m.

ELLEN SCHLITZER (Ron & Pat Lombel)

Tuesday, November 21 – 9:00 a.m.

ANNNA ORLOWSKY (Cindy & Joe Ferhat)

Wednesday, November 22 – 9:00 a.m.

SPECIAL INTENTION

Thursday, November 23 – 9:00 a.m.

PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOHN'S

Friday, November 24 – 9:00 a.m.

STEVE PROKOP (Peggy & Gene Ebling)

Saturday, November 25 – 5 p.m.

AGNES DE MARTINE & JOSEPH TUIE
(Theresa Tuite)

Sunday – November 26 – 8:15 a.m.

CHARLES & MATILDA SCHAEFFER
(Eleanor Schaeffer)

Sunday – November 26 10:30 a.m.

CHARLES LORENZ (Rik & Sue Jochems)

WEEKLY COLLECTION

November 11/12: \$ 4,577.00

Improvements & Repairs: 1,592.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM - Special Intention by Joe & Barbara Wollyung

St. Joseph – 56th Wedding Anniversary
of Joe & Barbara Wollyung

Tabernacle – Parishioners of St. John's

Sanctuary All Sanctuary Candles for the
Health of Patty Vastine by Family

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Dorothy A. Rosenberger by Paul Rosenberger

2. Special Intention

SCHEDULE

THANKSGIVING DAY

9:00 a.m. – Thursday – November 23rd

Reader: Mary Ann Schweikert

Euch.Min.: Bill Schweikert

Servers: Grace, Justice, Leah Scheidel

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

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CHRIST THE KING

5:00 p.m. – Saturday – November 25th

Reader: Lucilla Kochol

Euch.Min.: Hermine & Dan Murphy, (Dr. Visot)

Servers: Vincent & Michael Prestileo, Isabelle Myers

Cantor: Mary Bound

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – November 26th

Reader: Jennifer Daubert

Euch.Min.: Brian Forney, (Larry Lonergan)

Servers: Jackson, Hayden, Ty Daubert

Cantor: Tina Seiger

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – November 26th

Reader: Ian Hower

Euch.Min.: Joyce Gerace, Charlie Miller,
(Larry Lonergan)

Servers: Aidan Cassidy, Ethan & Ryan Grabowski

Cantor: Ensemble

ATTENTION

All Readers, Servers, and Eucharistic Ministers ... your help is needed ... please let us know your plans for **January & February** so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. **Please call or e-mail the rectory by Sunday, December 11th** to let us know when you are **NOT** available during these months. We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

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, Jerry Schoenauer, Dorothy Blum, Carl Forster, Ray Dee, Dorothy Prokop, Beth Resnick, Robert Lynn, Natalie Setlock, Carol Heacock, Mark Sitcoske, Caitlyn McGarri.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Who has affirmed your talents?

Who needs your affirmation of their talents?

Next Week's Readings

CHRIST THE KING (November 25/26)

Reading I: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

THANKSGIVING LITURGY

There is so much for which we have to be thankful! As a family, join us in church for our **Annual Thanksgiving Day Mass – 9 a.m. – November 23rd**.

Each year attendance has grown and our spirit of communal support and praise of God has been reflected in the enthusiasm and shared depth of feeling experienced at this Mass. As a country, parish family, and individuals, we have many reasons to come together on this special day. Please join us!

THANKSGIVING ... Thanksgiving memorializes the kindness and generosity that Native people showed toward the European colonists. In the United States, Thanksgiving is a day set aside for the entire nation to celebrate the gifts of God in their lives. It is a legal holiday that commemorates an event in history. Even a secular society finds the need to thank God and for all that has been given.

Parishes all over the country celebrate with liturgies of Thanksgiving and projects to help the needy. It is a time when those who have been blessed can show their gratitude by sharing their riches, spiritual and material with others. It is a time to remember the gifts that have been bestowed upon you and your families.

FAMILY MATTERS

Thanksgiving Day. We give thanks on this day for the many blessings God has bestowed on our families and on our parish community. We also are mindful of those who have less than we do and strive to help those most in need.

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

2018 CALENDARS: Church calendars for the New Year will be available at the church exits the weekend of **December 2/3**. Please feel free to take one, but please make sure they are not wasted. We wish to thank the **James E. Humphrey Funeral Home** for taking care of this expense.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? ... Psalm 27:1

ADVENT-URE

Please join us to celebrate the start of Advent

Date: Sunday, December 3rd

Place: Russell Building

Time: 9:15 a.m.

"The Puppet and Story Works" presents

A "Venty" Merry Puppet & Story Christmas!

Crafts will be completed and holiday entertainment is all part of the activities planned by the Family Guild to help your family prepare for the feast of the Birth of Jesus – Christmas. The children will also receive a special treat to help them wait.

All children ages **grades Pre-K to 4th** are welcome to participate. Please consider joining us to share a fun time with fellow parishioners. Thank you and we hope to see you there.

CONFIRMATION PRAYER SPONSORS

Our 8th graders are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Wednesday, April 25th**. Please consider supporting this important decision by praying for one or more candidates. Papers containing the names of the candidates are located at the church exits. Please take one and during this time of preparation, please pray for that person in a special way and write notes of encouragement. Our parish will be doubly blessed!



DIVINE MERCY PERPETUAL ADORATION

Open Hours with Jesus

"And that which only appears to be bread will burst forth one day in radiant splendor to reveal the lovable features of Jesus Christ in glory. He will embrace you and thank you for all eternity for loving Him on earth in the Blessed Sacrament and for making perpetual adoration possible by your spending this hour with him."

... Meditations by Fr. Martin Lucia, SS.CC.

We need adorers for the following hours:

Tuesday 4 a.m.; Friday 7 p.m.;

Saturday 4 a.m., 12 p.m.,;

Sunday 12 & 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 Aleece 449-7678.

PLEASE NOTE

The Rectory Office will be closed the following days:

Thursday, November 23rd

Friday, November 24th

The memory of the just will be blessed ...

Proverbs 10:7

THE GIVING TREE

Next weekend a barren tree is placed in the front of church adorned with gift tags. The gifts tags will have suggestions for our shut-in parishioners and needy moms and children in the area. If you are able, please take one. Return your gift wrapped with the gift tag on the outside, attached to the ribbon. Please return the package under

the tree by the weekend of **December 9/10**. The tag is **very important** because it has the person's identity number on it.

Please Note: If you are not able to purchase the item on the gift tag, please return it to the tree.

**PLEASE DO NOT
TAPE TAGS TO THE PAPER**



Our gifts each year to our shut-in friends and the needy of the area are our way of reaching out to those who have meant so much and saying we love them and wish them the blessings of Christmas.

**GIFTS ARE DUE BACK BY
DECEMBER 9/10 WEEKEND**

If you can help with gift distribution please call the rectory 570-622-5470.

**CATHOLIC
WOMEN'S UNION
CHRISTMAS PARTY**



When: Wednesday, December 6th
Where: The Lodge at Sharp Mountain
Time: 6 p.m.
Cost: \$25.00
Menu: Stuffed Chicken Breast or Baked Haddock with Dill & Butter.

We will also exchange a \$5.00 gift, wine or snack item you would serve for the holidays – please wrap the item. For more information, please call **Dorothy Hahner Stangl, 1343 W. Norwegian St., Pottsville 17901 (phone 570-624-7106)**.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

Homemade Christmas Cookies to benefit St. John's Catholic Women's Union, will be available in Longinus Hall on the following dates.



Saturday, December 9th
after 5 p.m. Mass

Sunday, December 10th

after 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Masses

Prices: \$4.00 and \$5.00 per dozen

Peanut Rolls - \$10 per pound

WHAT'S YOUR CATHOLIC IQ?

1. Which book contains an official summary of all Catholic teachings?

(a) the Bible (b) the Catechism of the Catholic Church (c) the Gospel (d) the lectionary.

2. The Pope wrote the Catechism.

True or False

3. The word catechesis, in Greek means what?

(a) Sunday school (b) to give tests (c) to teach (d) to echo.

4. The Catechism is called "universal" because it was written for _____?

(a) the universal Church (b) people who like Star Wars (c) aliens (d) people who study planets.

5. The head catechist in a parish is the _____.

(a) High School principal (b) 2nd grade math teacher (c) pastor (d) Pope

6. The current universal catechism is the first catechism ever written.

True or False

7. The _____ is the head catechist in the diocese.

(a) youth minister (b) local pastor (c) bishop (d) Pope.

8. The Catechism was written primarily for children.

True or False.

9. St. _____ was the Pope when the universal catechism was written.

(a) Jesus (b) Francis (c) John (d) John Paul II.

10. Before the Bible was written, people were taught about Jesus by whom?

(a) enemies (b) apostles (c) angels (d) grandparents.

11. "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, _____ them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

(a) requiring (b) inviting (c) forcing (d) teaching.

12. Christian history experts say the earliest catechism was called what?

(a) the Iliad (b) the Jesus story (c) the Diadache (d) the Bible.

13. Learning about our Catholic faith ends when we _____.

(a) die (b) receive Baptism (c) receive Confirmation (d) receive First Communion.

14. The Apostles' _____ contains the most basic statement of Catholic teaching.

(a) Creed (b) Catechism (c) Parable (d) Club

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

November

- 18/19 Blood Pressure Screenings after Masses – L.H.
- 19 Confirmation Class – 6:30-8:30 p.m. – L.H.
- 21 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 23 Thanksgiving Day Mass – 9 a.m.
- 28 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.

December

- 1 First Reconciliation Rehearsal – 7 p.m.
- 2 First Reconciliation – 10 a.m.
- 3 Advent-ure – 9:15 a.m. – R.B.

- 3 Confirmation Class – 6:30-8:30 p.m. – L.H.
- 5 Men’s Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 6 Catholic Women’s Union Christmas Party
- 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Mass times: 9 a.m. & 5:15 p.m.
- 12 Men’s Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 16/17 Blood Pressure Screenings after Masses – L.H.
- 19 Men’s Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.

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

NATIVITY BVM SCHOOL ...

POSITION AVAILABLE ... accepting applications for a **Head Track & Field Coach**. Head Coaching experience preferred for Track & Field.

Interested candidates should send résumé, certifications and all clearances to:

Nativity BVM High School
 Attn: Mrs. Lynn Sabol, Principal
 One Lawton’s Hill, Pottsville, Pa. 17901
lsabol@nativitybvm.net

ASSUMPTION BVM SCHOOL ...

POSITION AVAILABLE ... **First Grade Teacher**
 Assumption BVM School is seeking a qualified applicant for a first grade teaching position. Requirements can be found on www.allentowndiocese.org. Please send all information to Mrs. Teresa Keating at Assumption BVM School.

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Thanksgiving! When you give thanks for your blessings this week – Remember to thank God for the gift of your spouse. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will bless your marriage! For information call 1-732-904-9636 or visit www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org.

WELCOME VISITORS

Thank you for worshipping with us today.
 If you are visiting our beautiful church, please know you are most welcome!
 If you have any question or are interested in joining our parish family, please call the Rectory 570-622-5470.

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.

POSITION AVAILABLE: Care Net of Schuylkill County is hiring! Our team is growing! Care Net is hiring a **Teen Health Presenter**, who will be responsible for sexual risk avoidance presentations and will work with the Center Director to implement and facilitate the educational programs in schools, churches and community organizations. This position is part-time. To request an application, please email carenetofsch.co@comcast.net or call (570) 728-2135.

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE ...

More evidence that tai chi is beneficial in many ways, even if you have a chronic medical condition, comes from a recent review of studies, published in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*. This traditional Chinese mind-body exercise consists of slow, fluid, low-impact movements that improve balance, strength, and flexibility while also reducing stress. The analysis, which included 33 studies involving nearly 1,600 people, looked at tai chi’s effects in people with breast cancer, osteoarthritis, heart failure, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Though there were some inconsistencies, tai chi was found overall to have favorable effects on knee muscle strength, walking ability, and quality of life. And it reduced pain and stiffness, in particular, in people with osteoarthritis, and shortness of breath in people with COPD. Tai Chi was typically practiced two or three times a week for 12 weeks in the studies.

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NEIGHBORING EVENTS

CHAIR YOGA: for everyone ... cancer survivors, patients, caregivers, is available Thursdays 6 to 7 p.m. at the Pottsville Hospital School of Nursing. There is no charge ... FREE for everyone ... Instructor is Michele D'Agostino, who teaches Yoga at Penn State.

BERMUDA CRUISE: Join St. Ambrose Travelers on a cruise to Bermuda from June 10-17, 2018. Motor coach transportation included, leaving from Sch. Haven to NYC to embark on the Norwegian Escape. Six Masses on board, ultimate beverage package, dining package, prepaid gratuities, onboard credit and more! Contact Jeff at 570-391-4239 for more information or to book today!

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.

ANSWERS TO WHAT'S YOUR CATHOLIC IQ?

- 1.(b) the Catechism of the Catholic Church explains Catholic doctrine, the Mass and the sacraments, morality and prayer.
2. **False.** Popes don't write catechisms. They approve the efforts of experts, including cardinals, bishops, and theologians, who work for years to write an accurate and complete summary of Church teaching.
3. (d) In catechesis, we echo the teachings of Christ that come to us through the apostles.
4. (a) A universal catechism is an authoritative point of reference for the development of national or local catechisms and catechetical materials throughout the world.
5. (c) The pastor is chosen by the bishop to teach, sanctify, and govern a local church.

6. **False.** Many local versions of a catechism were used throughout Church history. The Council of Trent commissioned the first universal catechism.

7. (c) As the earthly representative of Christ and the successor to the apostles, a bishop is responsible for the spiritual education and faith formation of his diocese.

8. **False.** Local textbooks and resources based on the Catechism are written for children.

9. (d) Responding to a recommendation from the world's bishops in 1985, Pope John Paul II called for the writing of the Catechism of the Catholic Church in 1986. The final version was approved in 1992.

10. (b) Before Jesus ascended to his Father after the resurrection, he commissioned his closest followers to go out to all the world and teach people his Gospel (Matthew 28:19-20).

11. (d) Right from the beginning, the Church was tasked by Jesus to teach people about him so they could become his disciples.

12. (c) Possibly written in the first century, the full name of the Didache is The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles.

13. (a) Catechesis and faith formation is a lifelong process because there is always more we can learn about God.

14. (a) New Catholics state their belief in the Apostles' Creed because it contains the most important teachings of the Catholic faith including the doctrine of creation, the Trinity and Jesus' life death and resurrection.
