

# 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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**CHRIST THE KING  
NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 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,

Today is the last Sunday of our liturgical year in the church and it's also a day we celebrate Jesus as King of the Universe. Preeminent over all creation yet always bestowing his love and forgiveness.

In our readings today the first reading deals with the tribes of Israel anointing David their shepherd as King. Paul writes to the incredible glory of Jesus, first born of all creation, head of the church, and preeminent over all creation. In the gospel, Jesus shows his compassion and mercy by assuring the good thief of his entrance into the Kingdom.

On this solemnity we recognize that Jesus Christ is King but we also know that our loving Savior shows us compassion and mercy as he showed the Good Thief. Jesus is the image of the invisible God.

Yours in Christ,

*Father Dave*

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### MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 25 – 9:00 a.m.

MARY HAHNER (Mary Jane Hahner)

Tuesday, November 26 – 9:00 a.m.

DOROTHY GARDNER

(Staff & Residents of York Terrace)

Wednesday, November 27 – 9:00 a.m.

MATT MCDONALD (John & Millie Fredericks)

Thursday, November 28 – 8:00 a.m. (Time Change)

PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOHN'S

Friday, November 29 – 9:00 a.m.

THERESA RINALDO (Ron & Pat Lombel)

Saturday, November 30 – 5:00 p.m.

JOHN & ANNIE MORGALIS

(John & Mary Jean Morgalis)

Sunday, December 1 – 8:15 a.m.

CHARLES & MATILDA SCHAEFFER

(Eleanor Schaeffer)

Sunday, December 1 – 10:30 a.m.

DOROTHY BLUM (Peggy Stoppi)

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### CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM - IMO Mary Rinaldo by Vita Valenti

St. Joseph - IMO Bernie Futchko

by Fred & Hilda Maley

Tabernacle – Special Intention by Chris Black

Sanctuary

1. IMO Mary Hahner by Hahner Family

2. IMO John Oselus by Fred & Hilda Maley

3. IMO Joe Buhler by Fred & Hilda Maley

4. IMO Charlie Forney by Fred & Hilda Maley

Guardian Angels

1. In thanksgiving by Sheri Post

2. IMO Dorothy & Leo Lotz by Family

### SCHEDULE THANKSGIVING DAY

8:00 a.m. – Thursday – November 28<sup>th</sup>

**Reader:** Mary Ann Schweikert

**Euch.Min.:** Bob Bechtel

**Servers:** Jude, Justice, Leah Scheidel

**Cantor:** Lucilla Kochol

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### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5 p.m. – Saturday – November 30<sup>th</sup>

**Reader:** Lucilla Kochol

**Euch.Min.:** Bobby Rienzo, Carol Lasco

**Servers:** Bennett, Lukas, Finley McNamara

**Cantor:** Mary Bound

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – December 1<sup>st</sup>

**Reader:** Jeff Naffin

**Euch.Min.:** Dave Smith, Mary Jean Morgalis

**Servers:** Madison & Caden Wright, Kaitlin Painter

**Cantor:** Tina Seiger

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – December 1<sup>st</sup>

**Reader:** Evelyn DeJesus

**Euch.Min.:** Bobby Rienzo, Justina Majestic

**Servers:** Ethan & Ryan Grabowski, Ava Orłowsky

**Cantor:** Dave Derbes

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### 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 Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** to let us know when you are **NOT** available during these months. We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

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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:** Beth Thomas Resnick, Doug Broughton, Dennis Kline

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### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How does your parish promote the unity of Christians and Jews?

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### Next Week's Readings

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT** (Nov. 30/Dec. 1)

**Reading I:** Isaiah 2:1-5

**Reading II:** Romans 13:11-14

**Gospel:** Matthew 24:37-44

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*They are renewed each morning, so great is His  
faithfulness. .... Lamentations 3:23*

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**MEN'S GOSPEL REFLECTION GROUP**  
*Men's Gospel Reflection Group* meeting will take place on Tuesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Rectory Fellowship Room. This group is open to any men interested in reflecting on how the Gospel impacts their lives. All are welcome! Please call the rectory with any questions 570-622-5470.

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### **THE AMAZING PARISH**

St. John's Parish Mission:

*.. To encounter Christ and make disciples ..*

The leadership team wants to thank everyone who stopped by after Mass last weekend to enjoy the refreshments and to learn a little more about the Amazing Parish. Many thanks to all who set up, organized and served the food and drinks. We received many good suggestions and comments about what parishioners want to see the parish do in the future.

The suggestion box will be in the back of church and everyone is always welcome to contact the team or the rectory with your ideas and critiques.

Please prayerfully consider becoming a minister at the altar or joining our new greeter ministry for the good of St. John's Parish. More to come!

*Father Dave, Josette Peckman, Tara DeStefano,  
Bob Hahner, Bill Gianfagna.*

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### **MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

**(Ushers, Greeters, Refreshment Committee)**

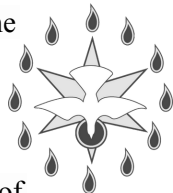
Looking for a way to become involved? Have a desire to serve to your community? Please join St. John's on our endeavor towards becoming an *Amazing Parish!* We are looking for parishioners to join our Ministry of Hospitality. We are in need of Ushers, Greeters and members of the Refreshment Committee. Please contact the St. John's Rectory, 622-5470, or a Parish Leadership Team member with your interest. We look forward to you becoming a Minister of Hospitality!

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### **CONFIRMATION PRAYER SPONSORS**

Our 8th graders are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Wednesday, April 29, 2020.** Please consider supporting this important decision by praying for one or more candidates. Cards containing the names of the candidates are located on the table in back of church. 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!

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### **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 – 8 a.m. – November 28<sup>th</sup>.**

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!

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**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.

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### **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.*

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### **'TIS (ALMOST) THE SEASON**

Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for Christmas, but we often get distracted and busy. Don't let this Advent pass you by. Slow down and focus on what matters most with **BEST ADVENT EVER.**

Each day, you'll receive an email with short inspirational videos from Allen Hunt and Dominick Albano, practical tips for your everyday life, and real-life stories to encourage you in your faith journey.

All you have to do is sign up at **BestAdventEver.com.**

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### **PLEASE NOTE**

The Rectory Office will be closed the following days:

**Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>**

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*And he changeth the times and the seasons.*

*Daniel 2:21*

## UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

### November

- 23/24 Blood Pressure Screenings after Masses  
24 Advent-ure – 9 a.m. – R.B.  
26 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.  
28 Thanksgiving Day Mass – **8 a.m.**

### December

- 1 Confirmation Class – 6:30 p.m. – L.H.  
3 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.  
4 Catholic Women's Christmas Party  
6 First Reconciliation Rehearsal – 7 p.m. – Church  
7 First Reconciliation – 10 a.m. – Church  
7/8 Giving Tree Gifts due back in church  
9 Immaculate Conception Masses 9 am & 5:15 pm  
10 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.  
11 St. John's Beneficial Soc. – 8 p.m. – F.R.  
14/15 Christmas Cookie Sale after Masses – L.H.  
15 Confirmation Class – 6:30 p.m. – L.H.  
17 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.  
21/22 Blood Pressure Screenings after Masses – L.H.  
24 Christmas Eve – Masses 4 – 6 – 10 p.m.  
25 Christmas Day – Mass – 10 a.m.  
28/29 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph  
31 Solemnity of Mary – Mass – 5:15 p.m.  
**Jan.1** Solemnity of Mary – Mass – 10 a.m.

\*\* L.H. – Longinus Hall

\*\* F.R. – Rectory Fellowship Room

\*\* R.B. – Russell Building

## **CHRISTMAS WAFERS "OPLATKI"**

**What are Oplatki?** For centuries on Christmas Eve, families in Poland, Lithuania, the Czech and Slav Republics have practiced a beautiful tradition. It is the breaking and sharing of the Oplatek – Christmas Wafer. Oplatek taken from the Latin word oblatum, meaning Sacred Bread, has been the symbol of Christianity and Jesus Christ our bread of life since the Last Supper.

The host or hostess leads in a special prayer and distributes an oplatek to the participants. Each person breaks off a piece of the other's oplatek and continues until they have exchanged good wishes and blessings with everyone. **Oplatki are available at the Rectory.**

**2020 CALENDARS:** Church calendars for the New Year will be available at the church exits the weekend of **November 30/December 1**. 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.

*... mighty and wonderful are your works,  
Lord God Almighty! .... Rev. 15:3*

## **THE GIVING TREE**

Next weekend a barren tree is placed in the front of church adorned with gift tags. The gift 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 before the weekend of **December 7/8**. 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 TAG 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 before DECEMBER 7/8 WEEKEND**

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

**PLEASE NOTE: If more than one item is listed on the tag .... You are asked to get one item ONLY.**

## **CATHOLIC WOMEN'S UNION**

### **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**When:** Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** Blu Tavern

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Cost:** \$25.00

**Menu:** Stuffed Chicken Breast with filling or Broiled Haddock with Lemon.

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 the Rectory at 570-622-5470 ext. 3.



## **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 14th**  
after 5 p.m. Mass

**Sunday, December 15th**  
after 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Masses

**Prices: \$5.00 and \$6.00 per dozen  
Peanut Rolls - \$10 per pound**

## 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.wvme.org](http://www.wvme.org)

**ESSAY CONTEST** Annual *Stand Up for Life* Essay Contest ... The theme is *“Christ our Hope: In Every Season of Life.”*

**Deadline for essay submission is December 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

Opened to all students in grades 7 - 12 in public and private schools in the Allentown Diocese, as well as home-schooled students. Four winners will be chosen in each deanery – a first and second place winner in each division. From these deanery winners, the top four essays will be chosen, and the winners awarded the following prizes at an awards banquet in January:

Grades 7 & 8: \$100 First Prize Second Prize \$50

Grades 9 - 12: \$200 First Prize Second Prize \$100

Information, visit: [allentowndiocese.org/essaycontest](http://allentowndiocese.org/essaycontest)

**DAY OF REFLECTION** The Commission for Women will host this on **Saturday, December 14** from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the McGlinn Conference and Spirituality Center, 460 Bernardine St. in Reading. (Adjacent to Alvernia University). Be encouraged as we listen to talks by: Rev. Bernard J. Ezaki, Parochial Vicar, St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish, Easton and Mr. Matthew J. Kuna, Parish Son of St. Thomas More, Allentown and diocesan seminarian. Pray the Rosary together, participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and enjoy great food & fruitful conversation. Register at [www.allentowndiocese.org/cfw-spirituality](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/cfw-spirituality) by December 1. Cost \$20.

## ASSUMPTION BVM SCHOOL

**GIFT CARD CALENDAR RAFFLE** ... will take place during the month of December to benefit the school and its students. Calendars are \$10 each and are good for all 31 drawings during the month. Calendars can be purchased from any ABVM family or from the school. Please contact the school at 570-622-0106 or email [tmengel@assumptionbvmschool.net](mailto:tmengel@assumptionbvmschool.net). Thank you for helping make our Calendar Raffle a success.

## OPEN ARMS MINISTRY

If you have good used furniture that you would like to donate, *Open Arms Ministry* is in need for these items for their transitional housing. If you would like more information about this organization, check out their website at [www.openarmshelp.org](http://www.openarmshelp.org), or email Pastor Vincent Murray at [Oathmainoffice@gmail.com](mailto:Oathmainoffice@gmail.com).

## 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 90 minutes, 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 call the **Rectory 622-5470**.

## NEIGHBORING EVENTS

**ST. PAULINE VISINTAINER** ... You are invited to take part in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on **Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.** followed by Veneration of the first-class relic of St. Pauline Visintainer, Patron Saint of Diabetics and of all who are sick at Our Lady's Chapel in St. Patrick's.

**COAL REGION ETHNIC DINNER** ... at St. Clare of Assisi Church Hall on **Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 5 to 7 p.m.** (Inclement Weather Date: December 8). Meal will include: Piece of Smoked Kowalonek's Kielbasy, Halupki, Haluskie, Kugel (a baked bleenie), Applesauce, Beverage and Dessert. Tickets \$12 Advance Orders Only, **no tickets at the door!** Eat in After Mass or Take out. Tickets available at the rectory and after weekend Masses. **SPECIAL KIDS MEAL** includes: Chicken Tenders, Mac 'n Cheese, Applesauce, Beverage and Dessert. Tickets \$6.

**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY** ... presenting Handel's **MESSIAH** on **Saturday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** at Grace EC Church, Sch. Haven and **Sunday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.** here at St. John's. Tickets Adults \$18 Senior/Student \$12. Tickets available by calling 570-628-3388 or at the door. For more information [www.schchoral.org](http://www.schchoral.org).

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

**November 16/17: \$ 4,229.00**

**Poverty Relief Fund: \$1,311.00**

*We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.*

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

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

**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.

<b>FANELLI BROTHERS</b>		
<p><b>TRUCKING</b>  PUC &amp; ICC  Licensed In  48 States</p> <p><b>GIVE US A CALL  BEFORE YOU  HAUL!</b></p> <p>48'-53' Vans/A-R Ride  45' &amp; 48' Flat Beds  Call Us For A Price  Quote</p> <p><b>1-800-635-9527</b>  or Fax 544-8084</p>	<p><b>STORAGE  TRAILERS  AVAILABLE</b></p> <p>Short &amp; Long Term Plans  We Can Deliver  Pick Ups</p> <p><b>40', 45' &amp; 48'  STORAGE  TRAILERS</b></p> <p>Call Us For All Your  Leasing Needs</p> <p><b>544-3140</b></p>	<p><b>WARE-  HOUSING/  DISTRIBUTION</b></p> <p>•40,000 Square  Feet of Storage</p> <p>• 3,500 Office  Facilities  Available</p> <p><b>CALL FOR DETAILS</b></p> <p><b>544-3140</b></p>

**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

**"OVER 50" CLUB**

St. John's "Over 50" Club will be meeting again on **Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>**. We welcome and encourage new members ... anyone interested in joining our little socials ... just stop by Longinus Hall on Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. We play bingo, board games, cards, etc. and light refreshments are always available. For more information please call the rectory 622-5470.

**BULLETIN BOOSTERS**

**November 2019**

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

**STEWARDSHIP LIBRARY**

**Stewardship Displays are located at the church exits.** There are many items available including CD's, Rosaries, Self-help and Informational Booklets, etc. **New Items include:** Music (lower door); Divine Mercy (main church), in addition to other great CD's or books.

**FROM OUR PARISH NURSE ... Treating obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) may help reduce depressive symptoms,** according to data from the international multi-center SAVE (Sleep Apnea CardioVascular Endpoints) trial, which included 2,410 OSA patients who also had cardiovascular disease. They were assigned to either CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure, the standard treatment for OSA), plus usual care or usual care alone (control group) for about four years. As reported in *EClinicalMedicine*, use of CPAP reduced the cases of depression by 20%, as assessed at baseline and regularly over the course of the study, independent of improvements in daytime sleepiness. The effects were apparent within a few months of starting treatment and were greater in those with pre-existing depression symptoms. A review of other randomized trials done by the researchers and reported in the same paper (involving more than 4,200 people with OSA) further supported the depression-reducing effects of CPAP. There is a strong relationship between sleep problems and depression, as well as between cardiovascular events and depression.