

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

A compass needle points north, even though we cannot see the magnetic forces that make it so. A ball thrown into the air will always fall back to the earth, even though we cannot see the gravitational forces that make it so. In the gospel, Jesus told Pilate, "My Kingdom does not belong to this world", implying Pilate could not see it, nor can we. But the reality is that we are like compass needles always pointing towards God. Our DNA calls us to seek Him.

Our lives might be like the thrown ball traveling up and out far from God. But in the end, we fall back into his love. God's Kingdom is always there. Ordained, indestructible, ever present.

Yours in Christ,
Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday – November 26 – 9:00 a.m.

PATRICIA PADUCH

(Staff & Residents of York Terrace)

Tuesday, November 27 – 9:00 a.m.

RUTH DAVIDSON (Ron & Pat Lombel)

Wednesday – November 28 – 9:00 a.m.

MARY LOU MCGINLEY (Pat, Missy, Amy Scheetz)

Thursday - November 29 – 9:00 a.m.

STEVE PROKOP (Dorothy Prokop)

Friday, November 30 – 9:00 a.m.

CHARLES & MATILDA SCHAEFFER

(Eleanor Schaeffer)

Saturday, December 1 – 5:00 p.m.

ANTOINETTE REILLY (Bernie & Bill Lecher)

Sunday, December 2 – 8:15 a.m.

DENNIS KEEFER (Dave & Maureen Derbes)

Sunday, December 2 – 10:30 a.m.

DECEASED OF ALBERT SCHMITT FAMILY

(John & Sue Ventura)

CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM - IMO Mary Troy by her family

St. Joseph – IMO Frank & Josephine Brozana

by Don & Joanne Doyne

Tabernacle - IMO Donald & Nancy Doyne

by Don & Joanne Doyne

Sanctuary

1,2,3,4. Parishioners of St. John's

Guardian Angels

1&2. IMO Margaret Carl, 25th Anniv. by Joan Deiter

WEEKLY COLLECTION

November 17/18: \$ 3,952.00

Poverty Relief: \$ 1,212.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

SCHEDULE

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5 p.m. – Saturday – December 1st

Reader: Heidi Gorski

Euch.Min.: Mary Jean Morgalis, Carol Lasco

Servers: Olivia Tokonitz, Stanley & Aleksander Gorski

Cantor: Mary Bound

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – December 2nd

Reader: Jeff Naffin

Euch.Min.: Dave Smith, Nicholas Quinn

Servers: Madison & Caden Wright, Kaitlin Painter

Cantor: Tina Seiger

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – December 2nd

Reader: Evielyn Hower

Euch.Min.: Charlie Miller, John Ventura

Servers: Macie Rushannon, Ava Orłowsky,
Grace Scheidel

Cantor: Dave Derbes

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

5:15 p.m. – Friday – December 7th

Reader: Mary Ann Schweikert

Euch.Min.: Bill Schweikert

Servers: Bethany, Izabella & Trinity Reedy

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

9:00 a.m. – Saturday – December 8th

Reader: Janet Daubert

Euch.Min.: Joe Rehnert

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 9th** 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: *Angela Pfeil Hamm, Theresa Tuite, Joe Brahler, Bill Webber, Karen Modesto, Tom Jefferson, Jean Hill.*



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 Michael Scheidel 739-1808 or Bill Gianfagna 573-0105 with any questions.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How does the Kingdom of God differ from earthly kingdoms? How do you help it to spread?

Next Week's Readings

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (December 1/2)

Reading I: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Reading II: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Gospel: Luke 21:25-18, 34-36

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (December 7/8)

Reading I: Genesis 3:9-15, 20

Reading II: Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

**Immaculate Conception of
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
is a Holy Day of Obligation.**

Mass times are as follows:

Friday, December 7th – 5:15 p.m.

Saturday, December 8th – 9:00 a.m.

DIVINE MERCY PERPETUAL ADORATION

Come to Christ where He is alone. In the Blessed Sacrament. Seek Him where He is alone. Bring Scripture. Sit in His presence. Ask Him the questions in your heart. And He will give you understanding. He will lead you to know what it is He desires you to do!

... Rev. Barry Braum, MSC

We need adorers for the following hours:

Monday 3 p.m.; Tuesday 9 a.m.

Thursday 4 a.m.;

Friday 12 a.m. & 6 a.m.;

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

Whenever you are unable to cover your Holy Hour, for whatever reason, we are always able to get a sub.

Call or text Alece for information 570-449-7678.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

On **Saturday, December 1st at 10 a.m.**, our third grade children will celebrate the *Sacrament of Penance* for the first time. Please remember them and their families in your prayers as they learn to grow in acceptance of the great gift of God's forgiveness given to us in this important sacrament.

First Reconciliation Practice is scheduled for:

Friday, November 30th at 7 p.m. in church.

... and he changeth the times and the seasons.

... Daniel 2:21

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

November

27 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.

29 RCIA – 7 p.m. – F.R.

30 First Penance Rehearsal – 7 p.m.

December

1 First Penance – 10 a.m.

2 Advent-ure – 9:15 a.m. – Russell Bldg.

4 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.

5 Catholic Women's Christmas Party at Lodge

6 RCIA – 7 p.m. – F.R.

7 Immaculate Conception Mass – 5:15 p.m.

8 Immaculate Conception Mass – 9:00 a.m.

9 Confirmation Class – 6:30 p.m. – L.H.

8/9 Giving Tree Gifts due back to church

11 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.

12 St. John's Beneficial Soc. – 8 p.m. – F.R.

13 RCIA – 7 p.m. – F.R.

15/16 Christmas Cookie Sale after all Masses – L.H.

18 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.

20 RCIA – 7 p.m. – F.R.

24 Christmas Eve – Masses 4, 6, 10 p.m.

25 Christmas Day – Mass – 10 a.m.

29/30 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

31 Solemnity of Mary – Mass – 5:15 p.m.

1 Solemnity of Mary – Mass – 10 a.m.

** L.H. – Longinus Hall

** F.R. – Rectory Fellowship Room

** R.B. – Russell Building

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

THANK YOU

Because of your overwhelming generosity during the Thanksgiving Food Drive we were able to provide

14 families with a Thanksgiving Dinner complete with a turkey and all the trimmings. Thank you to **Gerry Schwartz** and her helpers who organized this event ...

Bernadette Gombola, Stanley Gorski, Sharon Miller, Barbara Schoenauer, Joanne & Ralph Wood. Special thank you to everyone who donated food items, turkeys and monetary donations. Many of those less fortunate will be nourished because of your kindness!



*For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.*

... Psalm 95:3

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S UNION CHRISTMAS PARTY

When: Wednesday, December 5th
Where: The Lodge at Sharp Mountain
Time: 6 p.m.
Cost: \$25.00



Menu: Chicken Breast stuffed with Bread Stuffing or Baked Haddock with Lemon 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 15th
after 5 p.m. Mass

Sunday, December 16th
after 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Masses


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

THE GIVING TREE

This 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 by the weekend of December 8/9. 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 BY
DECEMBER 8/9 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.

ADVENT-URE

Please join us to celebrate the start of Advent

Date: Sunday, December 2nd

Place: Russell Building

Time: 9:15 a.m.

A Magic Show "The Amazing Magi"

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 5th 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.

2019 CALENDARS: Church calendars for the New Year will be available at the church exits the weekend of **December 1/2**. 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.

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.**

WELCOME NEW ALTAR SERVERS

Rhyan Brennan

R.J. Post

Christopher Hobbs

Jude Scheidel

Finley McNamara

John Yourey

Sophia Palmieri

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.

*A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter;
he who finds one finds a treasure. Sirach 6:14*

PARISH COUNCIL

St. John's Parish Council will meet

Monday, December 10th – 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
Joseph Gerchak
Heidi Gorski
Christy Joy
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
Connor McNamara
Joe Rehnert

Ex-Officio

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



CATHOLIC WEB OF FAITH

www.catholiconline.org

This week visit the Catholic Online website. Catholic Online, a popular Catholic website, serving as a center for the exchange of information for Catholics and all people of God to help deepen understanding of the Catholic faith.

FAMILY MATTERS

Media Portrayal of Family. Does your family look like the families portrayed on TV or in movies? Do they reflect your family values – what you teach and what you do in your family? Is it time to talk to your children about what they are watching on TV and in the media? Tell them what you believe about your Catholic family.

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

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.”

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

COUNSELOR/CASE MANAGER Catholic Charities Diocese of Allentown is hiring a full-time (37.5 hr./week) counselor and case manager (split position) based at the Pottsville Office location with possible travel in the five-county service region. Case management and education are provided to assist families with services needed during pregnancy or while parenting. The counselor provides individual, family, and marriage counseling for those seeking mental health services. Applicants should have a master's degree in related field with counseling licensure or licensure eligible. Applicants must be willing to provide services that align with the ethical, moral, and social teachings of the Catholic Church. Send cover letter and résumé to: CCAD@allentowndioocese.org. Please specify POTTSVILLE COUNSELOR in the subject line.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA The Diocese of Allentown Commission for Women is sponsoring a Christmas Novena for Bishop Schlert and his intentions on **December 8th concluding December 16th**. Anyone can participate. A card will be presented to the Bishop, including the names of all those who enroll. To sign up to receive the daily prayer in your email in-box, go to <http://allentowndioocese.org/BishopNovena>. For questions, contact 610-289-8900 ext. 2021 or e-mail cfw@allentowndioocese.org

DAY OF REFLECTION Want to give yourself the perfect Christmas gift? Join the women of the diocese at a Day of Reflection to be held at the Jesuit Center, Wernersville on **Saturday, December 15th** from 9:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. The theme is **“Advent: New Church Year, New Me.”** Deacon James Russo will be discussing a Catholic perspective on the Charles Dickens’ classic, “A Christmas Carol.” Cost for the day is \$20, which includes a light breakfast, Mass, Rosary, Liturgy of the Hours as well as lunch and time for fellowship. If you would like to register, please go to www.allentowndioocese.org/cfw-spirituality. For questions, please contact Joanie Norelli at 917-406-4879 or Susan Teaford at 610-207-5763 or e-mail cfw@allentowndioocese.org. Hope to see you there!

NEW TEEN MINISTRY *Schuylkill Catholic Young Church* is the new Schuylkill County regional youth ministry of the Diocese of Allentown. Teens are invited to participate in the upcoming “Alpha” series, which includes free dinner. Alpha is an opportunity to explore life, faith and meaning. Know a teen with questions about life? Invite them to Alpha. Please RSVP to Father Dave at the rectory 622-5470 or email stjbparish@comcast.net. Alpha will be held on **Sundays from 6-8pm at the Frackville Youth Center, 7 S. Broad Mountain Ave, Frackville) from January 27 through March 24.**

NEIGHBORING EVENTS

ST. PAULINE VISINTAINER ... You are invited to take part in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on **Monday, November 26th 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.

HALUPKI & HALUSKI SALE ... sponsored by St. Michael's Church, 300 W. Oak St. in Shenandoah on **Friday, November 30th** ... Pick up 3 to 6 p.m. ... Pre Orders only until November 28th ... Halupki \$2.50 each; Haluski \$5.00 quart ... Call Theresa at 570-467-3894 or email tmyk@ptd.net.

SCHUYLKILL CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT ... "*The Snow of Pennsylvania*" featuring traditional holiday songs of family, friends and "snow" heard annually throughout PA. Performance on **Sunday, December 2nd at 3 p.m.** here in St. John's Church. For more information call 570-628-3388 or www.schcommunitychorus.org or email: schcommunitychorus@hotmail.com

TOYS FOR TOTS ... Drop off at numerous locations throughout the area. **Cutoff date is December 8th.** If you know of a family that is in need of toys for Christmas, please call **Ed Quirin at 570-640-5873.**

PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW ... hosted by St. Ambrose Women's Club on **March 2, 2019.** Tour includes: Admission to Philadelphia Flower Show and a Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation. Departs from St. Ambrose Church at 9 a.m. Depart Flower Show at 5:30 p.m. Return to St. Ambrose Church at 7:30 p.m. **Adults: \$62.00; Children (2-16) \$50.00.** Reservations and money due by **January 31, 2019.** Checks can be made to the St. Ambrose Woman's Auxiliary Club. Contact Karen Holly at 570-573-1608.

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 questions or are interested in
joining our parish family, please call the
rectory 570-622-5470.

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FROM OUR PARISH NURSE ... A diet rich in fresh fruit, including tomatoes, may help slow age-related decline in lung function, especially in former smokers, according to a recent study in the European Respiratory Journal. In 2002 more than 650 adults (average age 44) in Germany, Norway, and the U.K. reported their typical dietary intakes from the prior year and were tested for lung function; 10 years later they were tested again. Those who reported eating the most fruit (more than three servings a day) – notably apples and tomatoes – showed the smallest decline in lung function over the decade, with the greatest effect seen in ex-smokers. The researchers controlled for age, body weight, activity level, smoking status, and other factors. They suggested that antioxidants and anti-inflammatory compounds in these foods may help preserve lung function and repair lung damage.

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.