

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

When Mary looked up and saw the angels filling the sky at Jesus' birth, she received a confirmation from God that this miracle was true. Then, when the shepherds found the infant in the manger and worshiped him, Mary knew again that the power of God was upon her. St. Luke tells us that Mary treasured these things in her heart.

This Sunday's gospel encounter with Simeon and Anna was yet another assurance that God's hand was at work, confirming it all. Simeon had waited a lifetime to see the God-child.

Yours in Christ,

Father Dave

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: *Mary Connell, Jerry Schoenauer, Dorothy Blum, Carl Forster, Dorothy Prokop, Beth Resnick, Doug Broughton, Mackenzie Miller, Fred Montag, Viola Drenzo, Wayne Herring.*

Deceased: *Lucille Spotts*

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

John Consugar 622-2389

George Smith 544-3294

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

MASS INTENTIONS

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Sunday, December 31 – 5:15 p.m.

THERESA SENCAK (John & Joyce Gerace)

Monday – January 1 – 10:00 a.m.

EDWARD SMITH (Charles Camut)

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Tuesday, January 2 – 9:00 a.m.

LOUIS FERNANDO (Betty Coyle)

Wednesday, January 3 – 9:00 a.m.

DECEASED OF THE BOHR FAMILY

Thursday, January 4 – 9:00 a.m.

GEORGE & MARY CONNORS

(Joan Steficek & Family)

Friday, January 5 – 9:00 a.m.

LAMBERT PAULY (Margaret Pauly)

Saturday, January 6 – 5 p.m.

JACK & LAVERNE MALIA (Ann & Larry Butz)

Sunday – January 7 – 8:15 a.m.

EMILY LEINHEISER (Myrna & William Everly)

Sunday – January 7 10:30 a.m.

ALESANDRO ALFONSI (John & Flavia McGovern)

And she gave birth to her firstborn Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

... Luke 2:7

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 622-5470

Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC,LPC

Confidential Phone (800) 791-9209

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator

Sr. Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT

(610) 332-0442 ext. 19

CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM - Special Intention

St. Joseph – Parishioners of St. John’s
Tabernacle – Parishioners of St. John’s
Sanctuary - No Intentions Requested
Guardian Angels
1.Special Intention
2.Special Intention

SCHEDULE

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

5:00 p.m. – Saturday – January 6th

Reader: Mary Ann Schweikert

Euch.Min.: Bill Schweikert, Molly Zwiebel

Servers: Brooke Siket, Andy & Brandon Smith

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – January 7th

Reader: Jeff Naffin

Euch.Min.: Bob Bechtel, John Corbacio

Servers: Madison & Caden Wright, Grant Lapachinsky

Cantor: Tina Seiger

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – January 7th

Reader: Ian Hower

Euch.Min.: Charlie Miller, Phil Markovich

Servers: Ava Orłowski, Ronald & Kathryn Yourey

Cantor: Dave Derbes

2018 CALENDARS: Church calendars for the New Year are available at the church exits. 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.

CHILDREN’S BOX ENVELOPES

If your child(ren) would like to receive a box of weekly contribution envelopes for 2018, please contact the rectory during the week at ... 622-5470 ext.3.

FAMILY MATTERS

Holy Family of the Year – We pray this week for the intercession of our Holy Family --- Jesus, Mary and Joseph to intercede for all families. Whether we struggle as family or not we ask to see Jesus’ presence in our families’ everyday lives.

New Year’s Day. This New Year offers your family a new beginning. Consider making a family commitment (AKA resolution). Make it simple, for all to be able to do. Put it on the refrigerator door. Pray for the grace to follow through.

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

WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 23/24: \$ 5,617.63

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises,
thank you for the gift of a new year.

May it be a time of grace for us,

a time to grow in faith and love,
a time to renew our commitment
to following Your Son, Jesus.
May it be a year of blessing,
a time to cherish our family and friends.
May it be a time to renew our efforts at work,
as we embrace our faith more fully.
Walk with us, please, in every day
and every hour of this New Year,
that the light of Christ might shine through us,
in spite of our weaknesses and failings.
Above all, may we remember this year
that we are pilgrims on the sacred path to You.
Amen.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Which family in your parish or neighborhood needs encouragement or comfort from your family during this season?

Next Week’s Readings

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (January 6/7)

Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6;

Reading II: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

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!



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.



A NOTE OF THANKS

A big and heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all the organizations and people who do so much to keep our parish alive and kicking. The following list is but a sample of what takes place in an organized way at St. John's. However, there are also a number of people who

do the quiet, behind the scenes work. To all of them, our sincere thanks! We truly apologize if we missed any group.

Let us continue to grow in all ways and keep the spirit of St. John's Parish alive for all to see and hear. May God continue to bless us.

Father Dave

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Adult Faith Formation	Decorating Committee
Altar Servers	Dramatic Stations
Bakers	Family Guild
Building Committee	Finance Committee
Bulk Mailing Crew	Food Service
Cantors	Giving Tree Helpers
Catholic Women's Union	Hospitality Ministers
CCD Program	Liturgy Committee
Cemetery Committee	Mid-Summer Festival
Children's Liturgy	Oktoberfest Social
Choir	Organists
Choir Director	OutReach Program
Christmas Bazaar	Over 50 Club
Collection Counters	Parish Council
Collection Posters	Parish Staff
Curiosity Shop/Yard Sales	Readers
CYO Program	Sunday Pre-School
Eucharistic Ministers	Vacation Bible School
	Youth Group

CHURCH DECORATING

Our thanks to the following for decorating the church so beautifully for our celebration of Christmas.

<i>Mary Bound</i>	<i>Bob Hahner</i>
<i>Ed Brahler</i>	<i>Paul Herb</i>
<i>Maggie Brennan</i>	<i>Lucilla Kochol</i>
<i>Mike Brennan</i>	<i>Justin Lescagage</i>
<i>Rhyan Brennan</i>	<i>Bethany Reedy</i>
<i>Adrian Datte</i>	<i>Mike Rizzardti</i>
<i>Evelyn Datte</i>	<i>Ryan Seiger</i>
<i>Paul Datte</i>	<i>Tina Seiger</i>
<i>Daniel Brown</i>	<i>Elijah Weicikosky</i>
<i>Camden Deibert</i>	<i>Steven Weicikosky</i>
<i>Evelyn DeJesus</i>	<i>Evan Woodward</i>

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGIES

Our Christmas Liturgies were so enhanced with the talents of the following people. Thank you for sharing these talents with us ...

Instrumentalists ... *Dave Derbes, Bobby DiCello, Chrissy Hardock DiCello, Patrick McMullen, Marianne Wollyung*

Choir Members

<i>Katie Blackwell</i>	<i>Joe Piel</i>
<i>Mary Bound</i>	<i>Barbara Powers</i>
<i>Fred Brahler</i>	<i>Ed Scheetz</i>
<i>Joe Brahler</i>	<i>Pat Scheetz</i>
<i>Deborah Chitwood</i>	<i>Sue Scheetz</i>
<i>Janet Daubert</i>	<i>Bernice Sockwell</i>
<i>Barbara Fox</i>	<i>Marianne Wollyung</i>
<i>Lucilla Kochol</i>	<i>Kate Zagar</i>

Cantors

<i>Chrissy Hardock DiCello</i>	<i>Debbie Purcell</i>
<i>Melody Newhard Kirk</i>	<i>Tina Seiger</i>

Organist

Dave Derbes, Patrick McMullen

Ensemble

<i>Ed Brahler</i>	<i>Bob Hahner</i>
<i>Darren DeArment</i>	<i>Manus Family</i>
<i>Sarah DeArment</i>	<i>Jason Prestileo</i>
<i>Dave Derbes</i>	<i>Vincent Prestileo</i>
<i>Bobby DiCello</i>	<i>Dave Steffan</i>
<i>Chrissy Hardock DiCello</i>	<i>Marianne Wollyung</i>

GIVING TREE & CAROLING

You outdid yourselves again! The packages under our "Giving Tree" were overwhelming and beautifully wrapped. You are so good to others. What a wonderful spirit of giving and caring. You have made Christmas happier for all, especially those receiving presents. Those helped were:

**Our Communion Calls - 21; Gaudenzia House - 19
Catholic Social Agency - 22; Cloud Home - 9;
Care Net - 53**

We wish to thank *Gerry Schwartz* for organizing the Giving Tree and thank you to her helpers ...
Barbara Schoenauer and the Scheidel Family.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to deliver these gifts in the name of St. John's Parish Family and for going caroling and spreading Christmas cheer to members of our parish community in assisted living homes and on the Communion Call lists ...

Sarah & Darren DeArment, Tim, Sage, Ethan, Anastasia, and Luke Garvey, Bob & Susan Hahner, Aliyah, Nate & Josette Peckman, Luke & Tara Schane.

Thank you for giving your time, but mostly your smiles and Christmas wishes. God surely was smiling once again as you gave a little bit of yourself to others. God bless you!

... WE REMEMBER ...

The following are the names of parishioners, former parishioners and those who have been laid to rest during the past year. Please take a moment and remember them and their surviving families as we pass through to a New Year.

Francis Bercher
Kathryn Buehler
Mary Cuchara
Elizabeth Ginther
Elizabeth Gustitis
Clare Houser
Martin J. Kern
Josephine Kochol
Peter Meseravage

Edward Montag
Kathleen Norkus
Mary Rees
Catherine Schock
Kathleen Selinko
Theresa Sencak
Lucille Spotts
Cecelia Weiss
Raydell Wychunas

any type of **Gift Card** or make a monetary donation to purchase a gift card.

If you are interested, please call the **Rectory 622-5470**.

Those who have donated to date:

BeeHive

Dr. Tom & Kay Boran

DiCello Chiropractic

Eastern Press

Brian & Sue Eckley

Friend of St. John's

Dr. Richard A. Greco

Jim & Lori Guzik

Bob & Susan Hahner

HeadQuarter's Styling Salon

Heaven & Earth Salon

Tony & Lucilla Kochol

Victor E. Muncy Inc.

Nativity BVM High School

Ed & Carole Quirin

Schlitzer Allen Pugh Funeral Home

St. John's CYO Program

Z & M Painting & Papering

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

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTION ...

Ceremonies on **Saturday, January 6th** between the JV and Varsity boys basketball games. Games begin at 12:30 p.m. All are welcome! Please contact Nativity at 622-8110 or nativity@infionline.net with any questions.

ST. JOSEPH CENTER ... POSITION

AVAILABLE ... St. Joseph Center for Special Learning is seeking a full-time **Secretary/Office Manager**. A year-round position including benefits. Applicant must have strong interpersonal skills, proficiency in word processing, spreadsheet and database software and organizational skills. Must be sensitive to individuals with disabilities. Minimum of Associate degree **or** comparable experience required. If contacted for an interview, applicant must be able to provide the following three (3) clearances: Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check (PATCH), Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Certificate, Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Background Fingerprint Check. Please email altssjc@ptd.net or come to the school (2075 West Norwegian Street, Pottsville) to provide your résumé and request an application.

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

MARCH FOR LIFE – Join us for this annual bus trip to Washington, D.C. on **Friday, January 19th**. Depart from St. Ambrose at 6 a.m.; Depart from Washington DC at 5 p.m. Cost \$50. To register call Dana Seisler 484-645-5613 or Heather Smalley 570-573-3262. Donations will be accepted. Please visit the diocesan website at

www.allentowndiocese.org/pro-life-and-social-concerns to see an additional list of parishes who are running buses. Parish locations will be added as they are made known. If you are not able to attend the March for Life, please consider attending a prayer event in your area. Thank you! -- The Office of Pro-Life Activities and Social Concerns.

**FAMILY GUILD
GIFT CARD CALENDAR**

The **Family Guild** will be sponsoring the **Gift Card Calendar Raffle for March 2018**. The members of the Guild would like to extend the opportunity to all parishioners to sponsor

