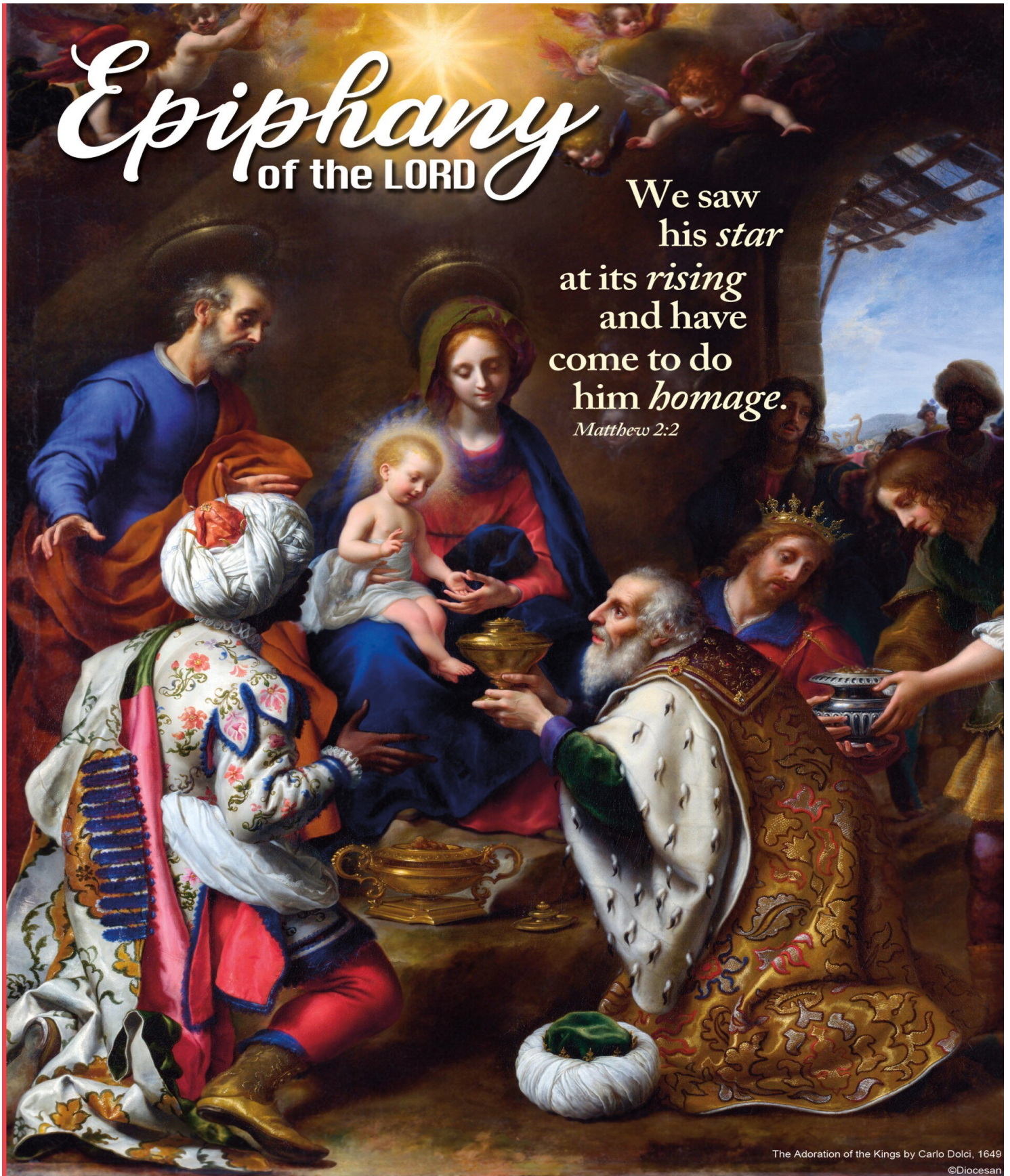


St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10th & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • www.saintjohnpottsville.org

January 2, 2022



Mass Intentions

Sunday, January 2

8:15 a.m. Peter Darhun
(John & Bernice Petock)

Sunday, January 2

10:30 a.m. Sharon Lonergan
(Kathleen Hohman)

Monday, January 3

6:30 p.m. St. John's Parish Family

Tuesday, January 4

9:00 a.m. George & Mary Connors
(Larry Steficek & Family)

Wednesday, January 5

9:00 a.m. Elizabeth McGrordy
(Joe & Maggie Muldowney)

Thursday, January 6

9:00 a.m. David Musket
(Hazelton Boscov's
Employees & Kim Gormley)

Friday, January 7

9:00 a.m. John Miller Sr.
(Shawn & Karen Schmitt)

Saturday, January 8

5:00 p.m. Virginia Comfort
& Elvin 'Barney' Comfort
(Chris & Jared Black)

Sunday, January 9

8:15 a.m. Eileen C. Kosta
(John & Joyce Gerace)

Sunday, January 9

10:30 a.m. Judy Brennan
(Ed & Gerry Schwartz)

Next Week's Readings

Baptism of the Lord (January 8/9)

Reading I: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Reading II: Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the Epiphany: Jesus is manifested as Savior for all humanity. This is indicated by the Magi searching for and worshipping the child Jesus. The Magi were foreigners, not members of the Chosen People of Israel. There are several aspects of today's celebration for our reflection:

1. Jesus comes as Savior for all. This has many implications for outreach and welcoming in the life of our parish and the larger Church community.
2. The Magi had to go to Herod (the Jewish people) for direction in order to find Jesus. We need the guidance, teaching, and tradition of the Church to help us encounter Jesus as our Savior.
3. The Magi undertook a long and arduous search for Jesus. Are we just as eager to find Him, or do we practice a faith of comfort and convenience?
4. Herod felt threatened by talk of a new King. Do we sometimes feel "threatened" by Jesus? Are we sometimes afraid that, if we make more room for Him in our lives, He will demand too much of us?
5. The story of the Magi is a story of two kings: Herod and Jesus. Can we recognize the true King, who sometimes seems hidden and even weak, like a baby? Or do we give more loyalty to political power?
6. The Magi showed their love for Jesus by bringing gifts. What gifts can we give Him?

*In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin*



Year of Real
PRESENCE
CENTERED IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Pray

We remember in prayer those who are ill or recently deceased. We commend to our Divine Lord all of our aged people and those residing in nursing homes.

For our Sick

Patricia Thomas • Sheri Post

For our Deceased

John Wollyung • John Centra

The New Year. The 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.

LORD, every nation on earth
WILL ADORE YOU

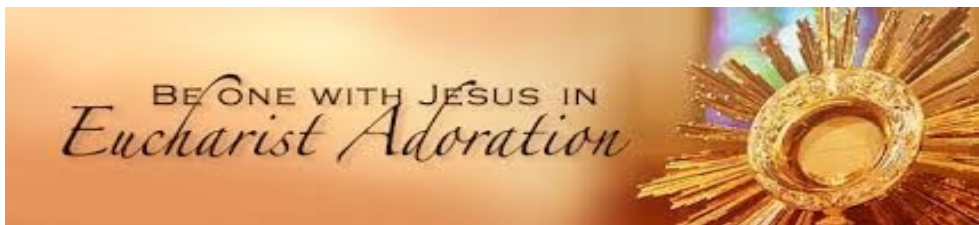
Upcoming Events

January

3	7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Holy Hour.....	Chapel
6	7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic First Friday Eve Holy Hour	Church
9	9:15 a.m.	CCD Parent Meeting	L.H.
9	10:30 a.m.	Little Children's Sunday Pre-school.....	L.H.
9	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class	L.H.
10	7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Holy Hour.....	Chapel
16	10:30 a.m.	Little Children's Sunday Pre-school.....	L.H.
17	7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Holy Hour.....	Chapel
20	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
23	10:30 a.m.	Little Children's Sunday Pre-school.....	L.H.
23	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class	L.H.
24	7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Holy Hour.....	Chapel
25	7:00 p.m.	Building Committee Mtg	L.H.
27	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
30	10:30 a.m.	Little Children's Sunday Pre-school.....	L.H.
30	11:30 a.m.	CCD Community Mtg.	L.H.

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

Tues. 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men's Group Zoom
Meeting ID: 824-780-6433 Password: Mary



Eucharistic Adoration

A holy hour takes place in the **chapel every Monday evening** (unless announced otherwise) from **7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** This is a simple holy hour without any formal prayer or Benediction. It is not necessary to come for the entire hour. Just stop by as you desire.

Join us on **Thursday, January 6th** for a holy hour in the **main church on the eve of First Friday** from **7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** This will be a formal holy hour ending with Benediction. Father will be available for Confessions.

Epiphany of the Lord

The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek epiphainen, a verb that means "to shine upon," "to manifest," or "to make known." Thus, the feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ has made Himself known to the world, mainly the three events that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11).

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.

Weekly Collection

December 18/19\$4,302.52

Thank you for your sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving.

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Helen Sockwell
by Bernice Sockwell
2. IMO T. Mary Rinaldo
by Chuck Rinaldo

St. Joseph

1. Most Abandoned Soul in Purgatory
2. IMO William Anthony Bechtel
by Robert & Emily Bechtel

Sanctuary

Special Intention

Guardian Angels

1. IMO John J. Steffan Jr.
by Steffan Family
2. Thinking of Dolly
by Joanne Schultz
3. IMO Mary Catherine Neithammer
by Chuck Rinaldo
4. Special Intention

Liturgical Min. Schedule

January 8 — 5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Carol Lasco

Euch.Min.: Nick Quinn

Servers: R.J. Post

January 9 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Ann Blankenhorn

Euch.Min.: Rob Wiscourt

Servers: Luke Schane

January 9 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Jen Daubert

Euch.Min.: Paul Herb

Servers: Leah & Jude Scheidel

Readers, Servers, and Eucharistic

Ministers ... please let us know your plans for February & March so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. Please call or email the rectory by **January 12th**. Thank 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.

Kathleen Berger
Francine Bortzel
Marie Flynn
Scott Anthony Glunz
Marilyn Golod
Frederick Hossler
Helen Hufnagle
Fred Maskerines
Magdalene Maskerines
Elizabeth Mohl
David Musket
Mary Lou Roeder
William Schmitt
John Wollyung
Laverne Yackel
Florence Yeager

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."

Church Cleaning Crew

We thank our Church Cleaning Group for doing a wonderful job cleaning our beautiful church including Longinus Hall and the Chapel.

Everything looks just perfect! Those volunteering their time and talent this month:

Michelle Ambrose, Sandy Frinzi, Debbie Kubilus, Judy Meseravage, Ray Petrilla, Theresa Skrobak, Mim Tirjan, Joanne Wood.

Newcomers are always welcome — please call the rectory if interested or just show up at our next cleaning in January.

Parish Photo Directory

It has been at least ten years since our last photo directory. We hope to produce an updated one in 2022. We would like to form a small committee to take on this project. If you are interested, please call or email the rectory.

Flowers in Church

Some people have asked why we have not been decorating the altar with flowers much recently (before Christmas). Generally speaking, flowers are donations. The parish decorates the church for the Christmas and Easter seasons (partly thanks to your donations). The rest of the year, we welcome donations of flowers.

Flowers are **not** appropriate during the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent. Flowers **are** appropriate on:

- Sundays in Ordinary Time
- Sundays in the Easter Season (after the original Easter flowers have died)
- Holy Days—such as—Ascension Thursday, Assumption (August 15), All Saints Day (November 1), Immaculate Conception (December 8)



If you would ever like to donate flowers (perhaps in memory of a loved one), please call the rectory.

A New Year's Wish

*May your Guardian Angel forever be near to guide and protect you throughout the New Year.
May your blessings be many, your failures be few,
as you embrace the future with hope born anew.
May you live day to day with nothing to fear.*



PARTICIPATE IN THE SYNOD!

We hope that wherever you are in your relationship with the Lord and the Catholic Church, you will consider participating in the Synod by attending a listening session or completing the online survey on our website.

THE CHURCH IS LISTENING.

Individuals with Disabilities & Caregivers

JAN 15 2022 | 3PM | Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bethlehem

JAN 29 2022 | 3PM | Holy Guardian Angels, Reading

LGBT Community

JAN 27 2022 | 6:30PM | St. Francis Center for Renewal

Young Adults & College Students

FEB 10 2022 | 5:00PM | Holy Ghost Parish, Bethlehem

Parish Listening Sessions

Various Dates | Listing available by county on website below

www.allentowndiocese.org/synod

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

January 2, 2022

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

My husband is a bird watcher by day and a stargazer by night. I confess it drives me a little bonkers on our evening dog walks. I tend to want to keep moving; between him and our dog (who seems to want to sniff every mailbox), it's the pedestrian equivalent of stop-and-go traffic. Hearing about the journey of the Magi, however, reminds me to pause and look, too. Just as they saw the star rising and followed it to Jesus, we, too, can seek God in our surroundings, our relationships, and the beauty of creation – the next step is to follow where God leads us. As Pope Benedict XVI wrote, the Magi represent “the journeying of humanity toward Christ.” (*Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*) We may falter from the path from time to time, but Isaiah's prophecy reminds us of our destination: “You shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow.”

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The Epiphany is early this year, falling right on the heels of New Year's Day. If we haven't made our New Year's resolutions yet, now is a good time to do so. In addition to typical resolutions such as reducing clutter or getting fit, we can set some spiritual goals as well. The definition of epiphany (lower case) is “a moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or very clear way.” As we reflect on today's readings, let us ask the Holy Spirit to provide us an epiphany – into how we can grow closer to Jesus during this year ahead. Just as their encounter with the infant Jesus caused the Magi to be transformed from outsiders to faithful believers, and to take a different route home, our encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist is meant to transform all of us, and set us on a new path to light and life.

RESOLVE New Year's resolutions are great! Why not add a couple of spiritual resolutions to the list – perhaps to pray the rosary more often, spend time in eucharistic adoration, or go on that retreat you have been meaning to attend. Ask the Holy Spirit for inspiration and see where it leads.



Epiphany, 1520. Museo Nacional d'Art de Catalunya collection, public domain

Saint John Neumann



This American saint was born in Bohemia in 1811. He was looking forward to being ordained in 1835 when the bishop decided there would be no more ordinations. It is difficult for us to imagine now, but Bohemia was overstocked with priests. John wrote to bishops all over Europe but the story was the same everywhere no one wanted any more priests. John was sure he was called to be a priest but all the doors to follow that vocation seemed to close in his face.

But John didn't give up. He had learned English by working in a factory with English-speaking workers so he wrote to the bishops in America. Finally, the bishop in New York agreed to ordain him. In order to follow God's call to the priesthood John would have to leave his home forever and travel across the ocean to a new and rugged land.

In New York, John was one of 36 priests for 200,000 Catholics. John's parish in western New York stretched from Lake Ontario to Pennsylvania. His church had no steeple or floor but that didn't matter because John spent most of his time traveling from village to village, climbing mountains to visit the sick, staying in garrets and taverns to teach, and celebrating the Mass at kitchen tables.

Because of the work and the isolation of his parish, John longed for community and so joined the Redemptorists, a congregation of priests and brothers dedicated to helping the poor and most abandoned.

John was appointed bishop of Philadelphia in 1852. As bishop, he was the first to organize a diocesan Catholic school system. A founder of Catholic education in this country, he increased the number of Catholic schools in his diocese from two to 100.

John never lost his love and concern for the people -- something that may have bothered the elite of Philadelphia. On one visit to a rural parish, the parish priest picked him up in a manure wagon. Seated on a plank stretched over the wagon's contents, John joked, "Have you ever seen such an entourage for a bishop!"

The ability to learn languages that had brought him to America led him to learn Spanish, French, Italian, and Dutch so he could hear confessions in at least six languages. When Irish immigration started, he learned Gaelic so well that one Irish woman remarked, "Isn't it grand that we have an Irish bishop!"

Once on a visit to Germany, he came back to the house he was staying in soaked by rain. When his host suggested he change his shoes, John remarked, "The only way I could change my shoes is by putting the left one on the right foot and the right one on the left foot. This is the only pair I own."

John Nepomucene Neumann (March 28, 1811 – January 5, 1860) was a Catholic priest from Bohemia. He immigrated to the United States in 1836, where he was ordained, joined the Redemptorist order, and became the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia in 1852. In Philadelphia, Neumann founded the first Catholic diocesan school system in the US.

He was canonized in 1977. As of 2021, he is the only male US citizen to be named a saint.

Prayer:

Saint John Neumann, you helped organize Catholic education in the United States. Please watch over all Catholic schools and help them be a model of Christianity in their actions as well as their words. Amen

Parochial Administrator *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*
Deacon *Lawrence Lonergan*

Parish Council President *Robert Bechtel*
Choir Director/Organist *David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator *Lucilla Kochol*

Rectory (570) 622-5470
Rectory Fax (570) 622-4589
E-mail *stjbparish@comcast.net*
Russell Building (570) 628-3002
Nativity BVM High School (570) 622-8110
Assumption BVM Elementary (570) 622-0106
St. Joseph Center (570) 622-4638

Cemetery Information (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.

Bulletin Deadline

Monday prior to publication

New Parishioners

Please call the rectory for an appointment to register.

Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays 4:15 to 4:45 p.m..
 Sundays 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 11:30 a.m.
 Second Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass
 Baptismal Preparation for Parents must precede the Baptism.
 Please contact Father Bobbin for an appointment.

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., N.C.C., L.P.C. (800) 791-9209

Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection & Catholic Human Services

Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W., M.S.
 Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services
 P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538
 610-871-5200 ext. 2204
prusso@allentowndiocese.org

Epiphany of the Lord

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!
 Your light has come, the glory of
 the Lord shines upon you.

ISAIAH 60:1