

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts. • Pottsville, Pa. 17901

[www.saintjohnpottsville.org](http://www.saintjohnpottsville.org)

**Pastor**..... *Rev. David J. Loeper*  
**Deacons** ..... *Luis R. Visot and Lawrence Lonergan*

**Pastoral Assistant**..... *Bobby Rienzo*  
**Parish Council President** ..... *Robert Bechtel*  
**Choir Director/Organist** ..... *David Derbes*  
**CCD Coordinator**..... *Lucilla Kochol*

**Rectory** ..... (570) 622-5470  
**E-mail** ..... [stjbparish@comcast.net](mailto:stjbparish@comcast.net)  
**Nativity BVM High School** ..... (570) 622-8110  
**Rectory Fax** ..... (570) 622-4589  
**Assumption BVM Elementary** ..... (570) 622-0106  
**Russell Building** ..... (570) 628-3002  
**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

Tuesday 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 ..... at 10:30 a.m. Mass  
Baptismal Preparation for parents must precede the Baptism.  
Please contact Father Dave for an appointment.

**Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** ..... (800) 276-1562

## Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

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

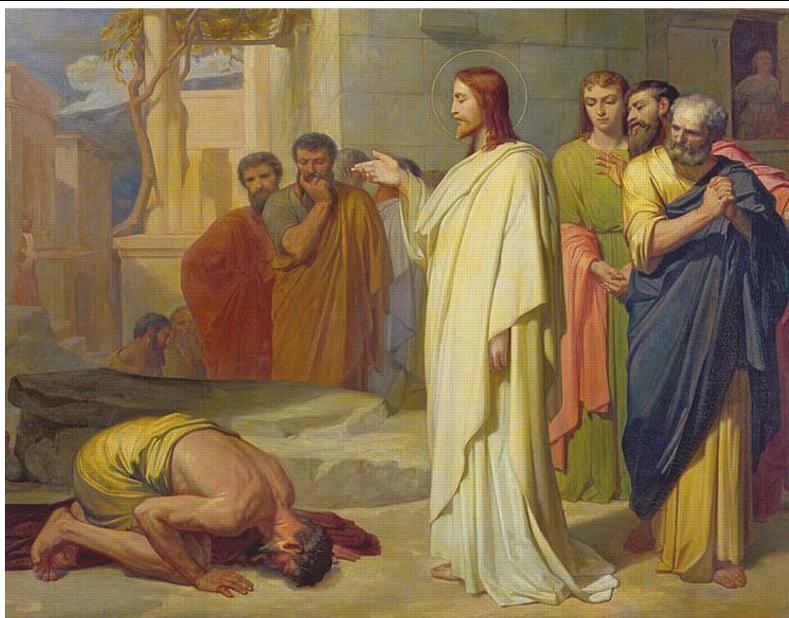
## Office of Safe Environment

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](mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org)

---

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time • February 14, 2021

---



## Mass Intentions

### Monday, February 15

9:00 a.m. Francis & Verna Sauers

### Tuesday, February 16

9:00 a.m. Francis, Paul, Elmer Lotz

### Wednesday, February 17

9:00 a.m. Scott Glunz  
(John Lieberman Family)  
5:15 p.m. Joseph Wollyung  
(Paul & Bernie Gombola)

### Thursday, February 18

9:00 a.m. Joseph Moore Sr.  
(Joe Moore Jr.)

### Friday, February 19

9:00 a.m. Mary Hahner  
(Ed Hahner)

### Saturday, February 20

5:00 p.m. Maurice & Helen  
Mirabella  
(M/M Michael Maccarone)

### Sunday, February 21

8:15 a.m. Marie Flynn  
(Saturday Night Choir)

### Sunday, February 21

10:30 a.m. Marie Fitzpatrick  
(Babe Murphy)

## Next Week's Readings

First Sunday of Lent

(February 20/21)

**Reading I:** Genesis 9:8-15

**Reading II:** 1 Peter 3:18-22

**Gospel:** Mark 1:12-15

## From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

There are two chapters in the book of Leviticus on how to deal with leprosy. In our first reading for this Sunday, we hear a small section from the book of Leviticus where the Lord gives instructions to Moses and Aaron on how to deal with Leprosy.

In this Sunday's gospel from Mark, Jesus was not afraid to touch a person infected with this skin disease which would have made him unclean. But touching the man he gave him back not only his health but restored him to his home, his family, friends, his synagogue and his occupation. Jesus asked this leper to not say anything about the matter but the leper goes out and begins to publicize the whole matter.

Jesus enters into our spiritual and physical suffering with his mercy to heal our separation from God and draw us back into a relationship for which we are made. The leper's faith can lead us also to confidently seek Christ out today. Jesus the eternal word of God draws near to us to heal us of every wound and disease.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Father Dave*

---

**Holy Hour with Adoration, Confessions, and  
Music will be held this Monday evening  
2/15 at 7:00 p.m. in Church**

---



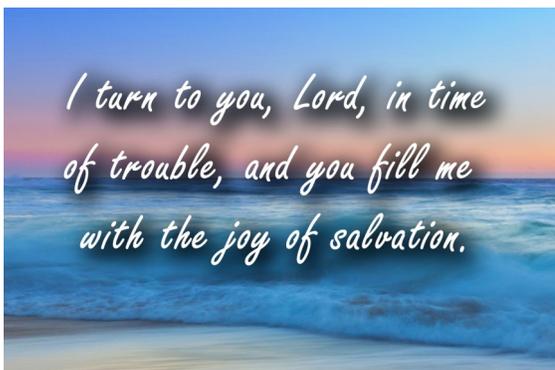
## Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held every Sunday at 6:00 p.m. during Lent in the Church starting on February 21. Consider making this devotion a part of your Lenten observance.

### 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 • *Scott Glunz*



# Upcoming Events

## February

14	9:00 a.m.	CCD Classes .....	School
14	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
15	7:00 p.m.	Holy Hour/Adoration and Confession.....	Church
17		Ash Wednesday	
19	4:00 p.m.	Lenten Dinner pre-order pickup (until 6:00 p.m.) .....	R.B.
21	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross .....	Church
28	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross .....	Church

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

Tues. 7:00 p.m. Weekly Men’s Group .....Zoom  
Meeting ID: 824-780-6433

Password: Mary

Wed. 7:00 p.m. Weekly Rosary ..... Facebook

Sat. 7:00 p.m. Weekly Rosary ..... Facebook  
Facebook Page: St. John The Baptist Catholic Parish Family



## Weekly Collection

January 30/31 .....\$4,090.33

Catholic Relief ..... \$902.00

February 6/7 .....\$3,137.00

Monthly Dues ..... \$570.00

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

## Catholic Women’s Union

The February meeting has been cancelled. \$5.00 dues for 2021 are now due. Please drop in the collection basket or mail to the rectory.

## Catholic Home Missions

This collection will be taken up next weekend. Today, over 40% of dioceses in the U.S. and its territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support of this appeal helps them meet these faith formation and sacramental needs. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. More information can be found at [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).

## Candle Donations

### BVM

1. Special Intention by Bob & Mary Porter
2. IMO Marjorie Angelo by Frank Angelo

### St. Joseph

- 1&2. IMO M/M Robert Becker Sr. by Bob & Mary Porter

### Sanctuary

- Special Intention by Bob & Mary Porter

### Guardian Angels

1. IMO Mary Hahner by Hahner Family
2. IMO M/M Robert Porter Sr. by Bob & Mary Porter
- 3&4. Special Intention



## Grow + Go

**GROW:** While leprosy as found in Biblical times is now rare and very treatable, it is not hard to imagine the tragic consequences it had on those who were affected. They suffered physically, but also socially and emotionally: Levitical priests declared lepers unclean, banishing them from the religious community. Jesus, as he did so often, would upend these conventions in his encounter with the leper in today’s Gospel. “Moved with pity,” Jesus healed him, telling him to return to the local priest for readmittance to the community. Jesus’ model of compassion for the man is meant for us to embody. Modern culture continues to stigmatize people perceived as different – those suffering from depression and other mental illnesses, the homeless, perhaps those who struggle with cognitive disabilities – shunning them in different ways from full participation in community. To imitate Christ, as Paul alludes, is to have compassion for the needs of others – to “be moved with pity.” Let us pray for the grace to put on the mind and heart of Christ, and dignify the presence of all our brothers and sisters in our community.

**GO:** I admit I was taken aback by today’s Old Testament reading: Not only were lepers banished from the religious community, but they had to announce themselves by crying out “Unclean, unclean!” Jesus changed all that. He healed the leper, encouraging him to return to the priest for readmittance. I am struck by how the leper approached Jesus. He did not demand a cure, but asked, “If you wish, you can make me clean.” Although it is unlikely that any of us in the developed world will experience leprosy, we ourselves or people we know may carry inner struggles that have led to separation from the Church or a sense of isolation. In our humanity, we do not have the power to heal these maladies on our own. Instead, let us come to Jesus as the leper does, asking him, if he wills it, to heal us and our wounded world. Let us pray with confidence, knowing that Jesus in his compassion can and will make us clean and whole.

**REFLECT:** Who are today’s lepers? What are the inner struggles or wounds that may keep us from fully participating in our parish community or have left us estranged from members of our own family? Bring these before Jesus in your own words. Call a family member you have fallen out of touch with. Invite a person who has left the Church to lunch and listen with compassion.

# ASH WEDNESDAY

## LENT BEGINS

**WHAT IS LENT?**  
The 40-day period from Ash Wednesday and before Easter Sunday. It is marked by praying, fasting, abstinence, and other acts of penance.

PRAYING FASTING ABSTINENCE



**WHAT IS FASTING?**  
One meal a day, and two smaller meals which if added together would not exceed one full meal



**WHAT IS ABSTINENCE?**  
Abstinence is refraining from eating meat. Meat is considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl.



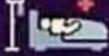
### DAYS OF FAST?

Ash Wednesday Good Friday

**WHO ARE REQUIRED?**  
Catholics from age < 18 to 59 >



The sick are excused from fasting



### DAYS OF ABSTINENCE?

Ash Wednesday All Fridays of Lent Good Friday

**WHO ARE REQUIRED?**  
Mandatory for everyone

older than 14 years old



### Friday Lenten Dinner Pre-Order Form

All entrees include New England Clam Chowder, garden salad, choice of starch and choice of vegetable

**Choice of entrée**

- Baked Haddock .....\$13
- 1 Lump Crab Cake .....\$13
- 2 Lump Crab Cake .....\$16
- Lump Crab Cake & Haddock Special .....\$16
- Children's Haddock .....\$8
- Children's Lump Crab Cake .....\$8

**Choice of Starch**

Macaroni and cheese or baked potato

**Choice of Vegetable**

Stewed tomatoes or vegetable of the day (green beans/corn)

Date(s)    \_\_\_ 2/19            \_\_\_ 3/5            \_\_\_ 3/19

Number of Dinners \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Orders are due the Monday prior to each Friday dinner  
 Pickup is **4 to 6 p.m.** on 2/19, 3/5, and 3/19 at the Russell Building  
 Call/mail/deposit this form at the rectory or drop in the collection basket  
 Need extra dinners? Attach a separate sheet of paper to this order form

Dinner 1

Entrée \_\_\_\_\_  
 Starch \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vegetable \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner 2

Entrée \_\_\_\_\_  
 Starch \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vegetable \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner 3

Entrée \_\_\_\_\_  
 Starch \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vegetable \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner 4

Entrée \_\_\_\_\_  
 Starch \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vegetable \_\_\_\_\_

## Bishop Schlert's 2021 Lenten Pastoral Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The quote above from Hebrews is not frequently cited in Lenten reflections. This Lent, however, these words especially strike me as we embrace this Season as a time of reconciliation which comes as the fruit of penance.

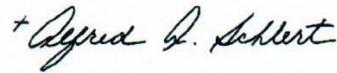
True repentance includes reconciliation with God, the Church, neighbor, and self. The many manifestations of division that we have seen so clearly in our Church and Nation enjoin us to the repentance that leads to true reconciliation with God, the Church, and our brothers and sisters.

It is often said that we create the times in which we live. We determine through our thoughts, words, and actions whether our individual and societal lives will be created by a preference for division or a preference for reconciliation. Through prayer, fasting, and charitable works, we can more easily see our neighbor, in the light of God's precious creation, like ourselves rather than as an adversary to vanquish by words, violence, or pre-judgments.

Finally, we cannot achieve the reconciliation desired without our faith, devotion, and reception of the Most Holy Eucharist which is the Sacrament of unity and charity. Our real presence at Mass and reception of Holy Communion, the Real Presence of Christ, is the bedrock of any true peace and reconciliation that begins within us.

May we accompany one another this Lent with prayer, fasting, good works, and reception of the Holy Eucharist to build a Church and Nation of reconciliation.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



✠ Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert  
Bishop of Allentown



### Thank you to our Maintenance Staff!

Thank you to Ed, Mike, Rachel, Shane and our entire maintenance staff for keeping our Church campus clear during this snowy winter season.

## ENTRANCE

712

## THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY



1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy Like the wide-ness
2. For the love of God is broad-er Than the mea-sures
3. Trou-bled souls, why will you scat - ter Like a crowd of



1. of the sea; There's a kind-ness in his jus - tice
2. of our mind, And the heart of the E - ter - nal
3. fright - ened sheep? Fool - ish hearts, why will you wan - der



1. Which is more than lib - er - ty. There is plen - ti - ful re -
2. Is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more
3. From a love so true and deep? There is wel - come for the



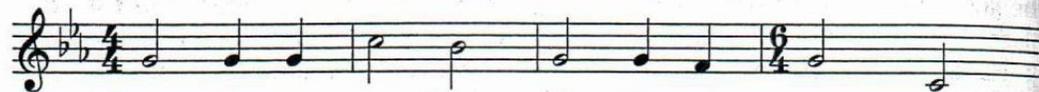
1. demp-tion In the blood that has been shed; There is
2. sim - ple We should take him at his word, And our
3. sin - ner And more grac - es for the good; There is



1. joy for all the mem-bers In the sor - rows of the Head.
2. lives would be thanks - giv - ing For the good-ness of our Lord.
3. mer - cy with the Sav - ior, There is heal - ing in his blood.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 11



**R.** I turn to you, Lord, in time of trou - ble,



and you fill me with the joy of sal - va - tion.

## OFFERTORY

## AMAZING GRACE

680



1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my
3. The Lord has prom - ised good to - me, His word my
4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al -
5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright shin - ing



1. wretch like me! I once was lost, but
2. fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
3. hope se - cures; He will my shield and
4. read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
5. as the sun, We've no less days to



1. now am found, Was blind but now I see.
2. grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
3. por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
4. safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
5. sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

## RECESSIONAL

470

## THE KING OF GLORY



The King of glo-ry comes, the na-tion re-joic-es. O-pen the gates be-fore him,



- lift up your voic - es.
1. Who is the King of glo-ry; how shall we
  2. In all of Gal - i - lee, in cit - y or
  3. Sing then of Da-vid's Son, our Sav - ior and
  4. He gave his life for us, the pledge of sal -
  5. He con- quered sin and death; he tru - ly has



- to Refrain
1. call him? He is Em - man - u - el, the prom - ised of a - ges.
  2. vil - lage, He goes a - mong his peo - ple cur - ing their ill - ness.
  3. broth - er; In all of Gal - i - lee was nev - er an - oth - er.
  4. va - tion, He took up - on him - self the sins of the na - tion.
  5. ris - en, And he will share with us his heav - en - ly vi - sion.