

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday – February 20 – 9:00 a.m.

MARY HAHNER (Scott Hahner)

Tuesday – February 21 – NO MASS

Wednesday – February 22 – NO MASS

Thursday – February 23 – 9:00 a.m.

JOHN & LORRAINE TASSO

Friday – February 24 – 9:00 a.m.

FRANK HOCK

Saturday, February 25 – 5 p.m.

DONALD & NANCY DOYNE (Don & Joanne Doyne)

Sunday – February 26 – 8:15 a.m.

JOSEPHINE TOOMEY (Sons)

Sunday – February 26 – 10:30 a.m.

SR. MARY HEFFRON (Mary Beth Harvey)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Where is there persecution today?

Pray for those who persecute you and others.

Next Week's Readings

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (February 25/26)

Reading I: Isaiah 49:4-15

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34

CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM – IMO Margaret Clauser by Dave Clauser

St. Joseph – IMO Bill Clauser by Dave Clauser

Tabernacle – IMO Mary Hahner by Family

Sanctuary

1. Special Intention

2. IMO Maryann Wychunas by Helen Heimbaugh

3. IMO Albert Wychunas by Helen Heimbaugh

4. IMO John Heimbaugh by Helen Heimbaugh

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Albert Wychunas by Helen Heimbaugh

2. IMO Maryann Wychunas by Helen Heimbaugh

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: *Fred Maskerines, Pete Meseravage, Joanne Kochol, Barbara Fernando, Robert Klemovage, Raydell Wychunas, Mary Connell, Ed Montag*

FLOWER DONATIONS

If anyone wishes to memorialize flowers in the sanctuary for the weekend Masses for a living or deceased intention, please call the rectory 622-5470.



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

After decades of dialogue with Muslim leaders, the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops Committee for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Affairs said, “Still, it is our belief that the most efficient way to work toward ending or at least curtailing such violence and prejudice is through building networks of dialogue that can overcome ignorance, extremism and discrimination and so lead to friendship and trust with Muslims.”

In 2016 this same committee announced that a Catholic-Muslim dialogue would be created on a national level. Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski of Springfield, Massachusetts, the committee’s chairperson, responded to this announcement: “As the national conversation around Islam grows increasingly fraught, course and driven by fear and often willful misinformation, the Catholic Church must help to model real dialogue and good will.”

These efforts come at a time when our contemporary culture appears to encourage divisiveness and discord. For example, often the rhetoric is that all Muslims believe that radical Islamic Jihad is an acceptable response to all unbelievers. Yet, the vast majority of Muslims in America (of which there are an estimated nine million) denounce the terrorism of the radical Jihadist and claim no connection with radical Islam.

As we have journeyed through the gospel of Matthew these past few weeks, you may have concluded by now that living the gospel of Jesus is very demanding. Today is no exception, as we are encouraged not to be “driven by fear”, but to love our enemies and build friendship and trust, especially with those we see as other. Jesus offers us a great challenge.

Yours in Christ,

Father Dave

CONFIRMATION PRAYER SPONSORS

Our 8th graders are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Wednesday, April 19th**. 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!



FIRST EUCHARIST - PARENT MEETING
Wednesday, February 22nd
7 p.m. in Longinus Hall

... PARENT MUST ATTEND ...

DRAMATIC STATIONS

St. John's Dramatic Stations of the Cross recreates on stage and through song, the final days of the life of Jesus Christ.



We need men, women and children for the cast. There are many non-speaking parts for those who do not wish to assume a speaking role. People are also needed for the stage crew (props, lighting, sound, etc.) or to help distribute the costumes, etc. If you are a veteran of the Dramatic Stations Presentations, we are looking forward to your return and we ask that you please invite someone new to join you for this year's presentation. If you are new to the parish, we invite you to join us. In addition, it is a great way to meet new people. Many veterans tell us that their participation in the Dramatic Stations is a very meaningful and spiritual way for them to observe the Lenten Season. It is a wonderful family activity as well.

For further information or questions, please call

Dr. Robert DeColli at 640-1910
or the **Rectory 622-5470**.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Tuesdays & Thursdays – 7 to 8:15 p.m. – in church
Beginning March 2nd

St John's Adult Lenten Experience

Looking for something spiritual to do for Lent this year?

Why not join your fellow parishioners to listen to the video series on *"Luke – the Gospel of Mercy"*. We will meet ...

Sundays of Lent

beginning **March 5th from 4:30 to 6 p.m.**
in Longinus Hall

The study video is lively and easy to understand. Individual, beautifully illustrated books are available. The videos are very informative and the questions are practical to everyday life.

Please call the **rectory 622-5470 ext 3** to let us know if you will be able to attend.

If you are not sure this is for you ... give it a try! Just come to one of the sessions and enjoy the video and good fellowship with us. All are welcome!

St John's Adult Faith Formation Committee

FAMILY MATTERS

Youth. It might be hard for you to imagine ... but, the teens of our parish today are the future of our church.

We pray this week that the Lord guide them during their years of change and growth.

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

FAMILY GUILD **GIFT CARD CALENDAR**

Sponsors

BeeHive

Brahler Sisters

Jen Daubert & Family

Mr.&Mrs. Brian Eckley

Father Dave

Bill & Kathy Gianfagna

Dr. Richard A. Greco Sr.

Missy Hahner

Hahner Bros. Inc. Roofing

HeadQuarters Styling Salon

Heaven & Earth Salon

Diane Keese

Tom, Michelle, Samantha Heenan

Alicia Kleman

Kochol Family

Joey Kurtek

Victor E. Muncy Inc.

Murphy Jewelers

Nativity BVM High School

Bob & Mary Porter

Noble & Jule Quandel

Ed & Carole Quirin

Rosenberger Plumbing & Heating Inc.

Schlitzer – Allen - Pugh Funeral Home

Linda & Martin Smith

St. Clair Auto Supply

St. John's CYO Program

Luis R. & Virginia Visot

Zimmerman, Lieberman, Tamulonis, Hobbs

Law Offices



PLEASE NOTE: Extra Gift Card Calendars (\$5.00) are available in the back of church or at the Rectory during the week.

CHILI COOK-OFF

“A TASTY DELIGHT “

Seven talented cooks entered their favorite Chili in the Parish's first annual **Chili Cook – Off** held on February 4, 2017. The judges and parishioners who had the opportunity to sample the chili enjoyed them immensely. Congratulations to our winners.

First Place - Doug Broughton

Second Place - The Garvey Family

Third Place - Diane Keese



Thank you to all our participants:

Diane Keese, Guy Killian, Joseph Snyder, Brian Kirk, Melody Newhard- Kirk, Doug Broughton and the Garvey Family.

Join us next year. Maybe it will be your name on our First Place Winner Plaque!

LENTEN DINNERS

Our Lenten Dinners will begin March 3rd.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers to help with the following for our Lenten Dinners:

THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS

Preparation for Lenten Dinners

Please call:

Patricia Setlock: 702-205-8668

or the Rectory: 622-5470 ext. 3



FRIDAYS

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

If you can help on Fridays during Lent, please let us know when you are available.

Students (12 and over) always welcome (excellent idea if you need service hours).

New faces always welcome ...perhaps you are new to the parish and are looking for a way to get involved.

Waitresses & Waiters needed 3:45 to 7 p.m.

Help Loading Dishwasher ... 4 to 8 p.m.

Clean-up ... 6:45 to 8 p.m.

Just call our Scheduler

Maeve Ketner at 570-624-1452 or 570-573-8769.

Lenten Dinners

HOMEMADE DESSERTS NEEDED

"St. John's is famous for their delicious homemade desserts"

St. John's Food Committee is in need of your baking talents. Each year we could not



succeed without your delicious desserts. If you would like to make Jello, Pudding, Pies, Cakes, or anything you can dream up, we will greatly appreciate it. Please make your favorite dessert and bring it to the Russell Building on Thursdays or Fridays during Lent.

MEN'S GOSPEL REFLECTION GROUP

Men's Gospel Reflection Group meeting will take place this **Wednesday, February 22nd 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 Bob Hahner with any questions at (570) 640-4448.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 11/12: \$ 5,001.93

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

February

- 18/19 Blood Pressure Screenings after Masses
- 22 Parent Mtg. First Eucharist – 7 p.m. – L.H.
- 22 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 26 Confirmation Class – 6:30 p.m. – L.H.

March

- 1 Ash Wednesday – Masses 9 a.m. & 5:15 p.m.
- 1 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 2 Dramatic Stations Rehearsal - 7 p.m. – Church
- 3 Lenten Dinners - 4 to 7 p.m. – Russell Bldg.
- 5 Adult Faith Formation – 4:30 p.m. – L.H.
- 7 Dramatic Stations Rehearsal - 7 p.m. – Church
- 8 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – L.H.
- 8 St. John's Beneficial Soc. – 8 p.m. – F.R.
- 9 Dramatic Stations Rehearsal – 7 p.m. – Church
- 10 Lenten Dinners – 4 to 7 p.m. – Russell Bldg.
- 11/12 Blood Pressure Screenings after Masses – L.H.
- 12 Adult Faith Formation – 4:30 p.m. – L.H.
- 12 Confirmation Class – 6:30 p.m. – L.H.
- 14 Dramatic Stations Rehearsal – 7 p.m. – Church
- 15 Catholic Women's Union Mtg. – 7 p.m. – L.H.
- 15 Men's Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 16 Dramatic Stations Rehearsal – 7 p.m. – Church
- 17 Lenten Dinners – 4 to 7 p.m. – Russell Bldg.
- 19 Adult Faith Formation – 4:30 p.m. – L.H.
- 21 Dramatic Stations Rehearsal – 7 p.m. – Church
- 22-24 Parish Mission
- 24 Lenten Dinners – 4 to 7 p.m. – Russell Bldg.
- 26 Adult Faith Formation – 4:30 p.m. – L.H.
- 26 Confirmation Class – 6:30 p.m. – L.H.
- 28 Dramatic Stations Rehearsal – 7 p.m. – Church
- 29 Family Guild Mtg. – 6:30 p.m. – L.H.
- 29 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
- 30 Dramatic Stations Rehearsal – 7 p.m. – Church
- 31 Lenten Dinners – 4 to 7 p.m. – Russell Bldg.

** L.H. – Longinus Hall

** F.R. – Rectory Fellowship Room

SCHEDULE --- 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 p.m. – Saturday – February 25th

Reader: Patty O'Neill

Euch.Min.: Paul & Mary Ann Filiac, (Larry Lonergan)

Servers: Megan & Madison Ryan, Andrew Viduszynski

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – February 26th

Reader: Michelle Ambrose

Euch.Min.: Bob Bechtel, Mike Ambrose, Paul Gombola

Servers: Caitlynne & Mickaellya Schatz, Luke Schane

Cantor: Debbie Purcell

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – February 26th

Reader: Mary Matulevich

Euch.Min.: Justina Majestic, Joyce Gerace, (Dr. Visot)

Servers: Aliyah & Nathan Peckman, Caroline Gist

Cantor: Dave Derbes

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER "I wish we could just sit down and talk!" Have you ever said that to your spouse? Do you wish you could take your "talk" to a deeper level of listening and understanding? Attend a WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER weekend to receive the tools to renew your marriage. For information call 732-904-9636 or visit www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org.

ICF 201 – PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY

Deepen your relationship with Christ by learning the fundamentals of a Catholic prayer life and spiritual dispositions. Participants will examine what it means to pray, why we pray, and how to have a fruitful prayer life. Practical exercises of traditional Catholic prayers and devotions will be covered so you will learn how to express yourself to God and how to hear his voice in your everyday life. This course will be presented by **Fr. Ronald Minner** and is scheduled from **7 to 9 p.m., on Tuesdays, February 21, 28, March 7 & 14 at Nativity BVM High School**. Cost: \$30. To register visit www.allentondiocese.org/icf.

ICF Courses are meant for any adult Catholic looking to grow deeper and learn more about the Faith. There are no prerequisites for these courses.

THEOLOGY ON TAP Is religion a private practice, or must we stand up for our faith in public? **Theology on Tap**, a young adult speaker series sponsored by the Office of Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministry, invites you to its next event! "*Faith in the Public Square: Catholics in Secular Culture*" will be held on **Monday, February 20** from **7 to 9 p.m. at 3rd & Spruce Cafe (238 S 3rd Ave., West Reading)**. Fr. Stephan Isaac, Assistant Pastor at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, Reading, will present the topic followed by Q&A. Event is free of charge. Food and beverage can be ordered from the menu. For more information, visit

www.allentondiocese.org/tot or contact Alexa Doncsecz, adoncsecz@allentondiocese.org.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES 10TH ANNUAL GALA

to take place **Sunday, March 5th** at 6:30 p.m. at the DeSales University Center, Center Valley. Rev. Msgr. Walter T. Schaeffer, pastor of St. Mary Church, Kutztown, and Anne Jaindl and Jaindl Family Farms, will be honored for their contributions in helping the poor in the Diocese of Allentown.

Information is posted on www.catholiccharityAD.org

**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."

EASTER FOOD COLLECTION

Thank you for doing the small things, like feeding your neighbors, with great love. God bless.

Items Needed:

Stuffing Mix	Canned Fruit
Broth	Macaroni & Cheese
Coffee/Tea (instant)	Hot Chocolate
Hot Cereal packages	Apple Sauce
Cereal – boxed	Vegetable - Canned
Canned Gravy	Spaghetti
Soups	Spaghetti Sauce
Peanut Butter	Jelly
Canned Sweet Potatoes	

Items of the Month Needed: Canned Pasta & Stews

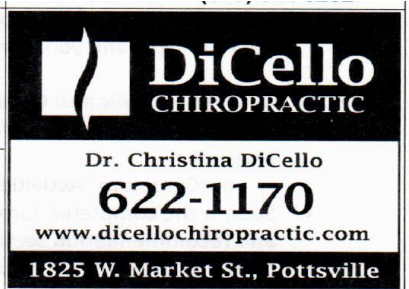
PLEASE – NO OUTDATED ITEMS

Please Do Not donate any nutritional drinks (Ensure, etc.)

Kindly place your donations in the basket at the 10th Street entrance at the bottom of the steps. Thank you.

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.



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

NEIGHBORING EVENTS

PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW Bus trip on **Monday, March 13th** sponsored by St. Matthew's Travelers'. Cost \$58 includes bus and show ticket. For more info and reservations please contact Julie 544-5231 or Millie 628-5413.

Eye hath not seen, not ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. 1 Cor. 2:9

BULLETIN BOOSTERS

February 2017

IMO Carl Bartholomew IMO Rita Klitsch
IMO Harold Bartholomew Mr.&Mrs. James Loeper
IMO Robert Berger IMO Felix & Agnes Narog
IMO Doc & Dot Bound IMO Carol Nygren
IMO Edward Christ IMO Jeanne Rehnert
John, Mildred, John Jr. Fredericks
Fr. Don Henry IMO Eugene & Rita Rehnert
IMO M/M Herbert Henry IMO Dorothy Rosenberger
Joanne Hepler Marcie Schnerring
Clare & Linda Houser IMO Juleanne Steffan
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**

2016 CONTRIBUTION RECORD

You can request a copy of your 2016 Contribution Record by calling the rectory Monday thru Thursday ... 622-5470 ext 3.

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE ...

Cranberry juice may reduce the recurrence of urinary tract infections (UTIs) in women, concluded a study in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* in June. While some, but not all, previous research has suggested that the juice is beneficial, this is the largest and longest study so far on the subject. It involved 373 women (average age 41) with a history of recent UTIs who were randomly assigned either a daily glass of cranberry juice drink or a placebo for 24 weeks. During this time there were 39 UTIs in the cranberry group and 67 in the placebo – a 40% reduction. The cranberry drink contained diluted juice concentrate, sugar, and sugar substitutes, with 35 calories per 8 ounce. The placebo drink was designed to look, taste, and smell like cranberry juice. It's believed that compounds in cranberries may help keep bacteria from sticking to the lining of the urinary tract, as well as have anti-inflammatory effects. The study was funded by Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc., and some of the researchers worked for the company. For more on UTIs, see tinyurl.com/URI-WL.

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