

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

You don't have to be a rocket scientist or a biblical scholar to find the connections between the Crucifixion of Jesus and God's command to Abraham to offer up his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice.

Both Isaac and Jesus were loved by their fathers. Both were in route to their death: Isaac carrying the wood for the fire; Jesus carrying the wood of the cross. Isaac's journey was three days; Jesus' from death to resurrection was also three days. The Genesis story concludes with God's last-minute change of mind. Isaac is spared. Abraham's unswerving faith is richly rewarded. In the account of the Passion and Resurrection, Jesus breaks the bonds of death and rises as the Redeemer of the world.

Yours in Christ,
Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday – February 26 – 9:00 a.m.

DOROTHY PROKOP (Michael & Susan Prokop)

Tuesday, February 27 – 9:00 a.m.

FRANCIS, PAUL, ELMER LOTZ

Wednesday, February 28 – 9:00 a.m.

MARY BROKHOFF

Thursday, March 1 – 9:00 a.m.

EMILY LEINHEISER (Bob & Kathy Verbosh)

Friday, March 2 – 9:00 a.m.

ALESANDRO ALFONSI (John & Flavia McGovern)

Saturday, March 3 – 5 p.m.

MARY LOU MCGINLEY

(Denise McGinley Gerchak)

Sunday – March 4 – 8:15 a.m.

VERNA SAUERS (Glunz Family)

Sunday – March 4 - 10:30 a.m.

FRED MONTAG (Ted & Liz Navitsky)

CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM - IMO Kathryn McCann

by Melody Newhard Kirk

St. Joseph - IMO Henry T. Newhard Jr.

by Melody Newhard Kirk

Tabernacle - Wedding Anniversary

of Brian & Melody Kirk

Sanctuary

1. IMO Baby Robbie Doyle by Marie Doyle

2. Deceased of Newhard Family by Melody Newhard Kirk

3. IMO Maryann Newhard by Melody Newhard Kirk

4. IMO Dawn Wiest by Toni & Carl Wiest

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Joseph & Elizabeth Brahler

by Frances Brahler Mickey

2. IMO Baby Robbie Doyle by Family

SCHEDULE

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00 p.m. – Saturday – March 3rd

Reader: Heidi Gorski

Euch.Min.: Gerry Schwartz, Joe Rehnert

Servers: Noah Lecher, Stanley & Aleksander Gorski

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – March 4th

Reader: Bob Bechtel

Euch.Min.: John Corbacio, Joyce Gerace

Servers: Madison & Caden Wright, Bryan Daniels

Cantor: Tina Seiger

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – March 4th

Reader: Janet Daubert

Euch.Min.: Sharon Snyder, John Ventura

Servers: Julia Botto, Ava Orłowsky, Caroline Hobbs

Cantor: Melody Newhard Kirk

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, Paul Burns, Addelyn & Elinicia Major, Mary Lou Roeder.*

FAMILY MATTERS

Single Parent Moms and Dads. "Love them, don't judge them" – we pray for all single parent moms/dads and their children. In "choosing life", they commit to parenting their children well. They need our prayers and support. During this week we ask you to invoke our Blessed Mother to sustain them in their being good moms and dads.

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

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How do you listen to God's beloved Son?

Next Week's Readings

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (March 3/4)

Reading I: Exodus 20:1-17

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel: John 2:13-25

WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 17/18: \$ 2,485.05; Home Missions: \$788.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

2017 CONTRIBUTION RECORD

You can request a copy of your 2017 Contribution Record by calling the rectory ... 622-5470 ext 3.

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.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

Encounter CESIA. We encourage Cesia in Nicaragua, where, despite a lack of economic opportunity, young people pursue their dreams by building businesses to better their lives. How can you work to improve the lives of others this Lent? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl
located at the back or front exits.

DIVINE MERCY PERPETUAL ADORATION

Open Hours with Jesus

"Never miss an opportunity to greet Me, to adore Me, to remain with Me, even if only for a moment, in the Sacrament of My love. In eternity you will see the inestimable value of every moment spent in My Eucharistic presence."

Words of Our Lord In Sinu Jesu

We need adorers for the following hours:

Monday 10 p.m.

Wednesday 11 a.m.

Thursday 4 a.m. & 8 p.m.

Friday 10 a.m. & 7 p.m.

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

Sunday 12 a.m. & 4 a.m.

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

Please call Aleece 449-7678.

PARISH COUNCIL

St. John's Parish Council will meet

Monday, March 12th – 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
Nora Chiplonia
John Consugar
Paul Datte
Janet Daubert
Robert DeColli Jr.
Paul Filiac
Joseph Gerchak
Christy Joy
Alicia Kleman
Kevin McNamara
Al Norkus
Patty O'Neill
Josette Peckman
John Powers
Nick Quinn

Appointed Members

Darren DeArment
Lucilla Kochol
Patty O'Neill
Connor McNamara
Joe Rehnert

Ex-Officio

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



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Wednesdays during Lent

@ St. John's – 7 p.m. - Chapel

Please join us each Wednesday (except Ash Wednesday) during Lent

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament,
Stations of the Cross, followed by
Benediction.



Jesus falls a second time.

FIRST EUCHARIST - PARENT MEETING

Wednesday, February 28th

7 p.m. in Longinus Hall

... PARENT MUST ATTEND ...

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.

LENTEN DINNERS

... WELCOME ...

We are pleased to welcome new parishioners,
Ann Marie & Dominic DeFrank,
who will be overseeing our Lenten Dinners this year.

Our Original Recipes are back!!!

Full course dinners including the best home-made New England Clam Chowder, freshly baked Haddock or Salmon, or Lump Crab Cakes, a wonderful Salad Bar, choice of Macaroni & Cheese, Baked or Mashed Potatoes, choice of Vegetables, Beverages, and of course, our Delicious Homemade Desserts.... 4 to 7 p.m. at the Russell Building ... Fridays during Lent.
(No dinner on Good Friday)

Better prices for all of this cannot be found anywhere!

Adults

Baked Haddock or Salmon \$ 14.00

1 Lump Crab Cake \$ 14.00

2 Lump Crab Cakes \$ 17.00

Adult Special

Lump Crab Cake & Choice of Fish \$ 17.00

Children (under 12 only)

Baked Haddock or Salmon \$ 8.00

1 Lump Crab Cake \$ 8.00

TAKE-OUTS AVAILABLE



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.



50 / 50 CHANCES

Every Friday during Lent
the Catholic Women's Union
will sell 50/50 Chances at the Lenten Dinners.
Drawings will take place at 7 p.m. each week.



PRAYER FOR OUR TROOPS AROUND THE WORLD

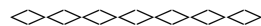
"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior."

LENTEN DINNERS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

THURSDAYS

Preparation for Lenten Dinners
Anytime between 9:30 a.m. & 2 p.m.
at the Russell Building
Please call the Rectory: 622-5470



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 welcomeperhaps 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.

EASTER FOOD COLLECTION for Pantry

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
Beef Stew	Spaghetti
Soups	Spaghetti Sauce
Peanut Butter	Jelly
Canned Gravy	Canned Sweet Potatoes
Macaroni (box)	

Item of the Month Needed: Canned Soups

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

CHOIR PRACTICE

... takes place on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
in Longinus Hall. New members
are always welcome. It's a great time
to join us! Contact David Derbes at
570-691-8022 or daderbes@yahoo.com
for more information.



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 Joanne Wood & Jackie Szeliga
 Z & M Painting & Papering
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**FAMILY GUILD
"LENT-EVENT"**

St. John's Family Guild will host the annual Lent-Event for children of the parish, ages 3 to 11. Come enjoy light refreshments, receive an Easter craft and participate in a special Egg Hunt. (Bring a basket or bag to hold the collected eggs.) **Registration is a must!!** Please complete this form and return to the rectory or place in the collection basket **no later than March 5th**.

Date: Sunday, March 11th

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Place: St. John's Russell Building

Family Name _____

Child's Name _____ **Age** _____

Child's Name _____ **Age** _____

Child's Name _____ **Age** _____

(Please circle whether child is ... Male/Female)

But his delight is in the law of the Lord ... Ps. 1:2

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

– “And Jesus was Transfigured before them and his clothes became dazzling white,” we hear in today’s gospel. Pray together during Lent and let Christ transform your faith and marriage. For info call 732-904-9636 or www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

– Are you carrying the emotional hurt associated with a past abortion? God in his mercy wants you to experience forgiveness and peace. Come to a *Rachel's Vineyard* retreat sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Allentown. The retreat will be the weekend of **March 9 to 11**. Please call 610.332.0442 (x2019) or 1-866-3Rachel or email at: projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org Registration **deadline is Feb. 26th**.

MIRACLES & THE MYSTERIES OF THE CHURCH

University of Notre Dame Theology Professor John Cavadini will discuss “*Miracles and the Mysteries of the Church*” at 7pm on **March 13th** at DeSales University. The lecture, hosted by The Salesian Center for Faith & Culture at DeSales University and sponsored by the Notre Dame Club of the Lehigh Valley, is free and open to the public. For details, please contact Kathy Link atkathylink33@gmail.com

LENTEN RETREAT FOR WOMEN

The Diocese of Allentown Commission for Women invites all women to the *Preparing Our Souls for Our Savior Lenten Retreat* held at the Diocesan Shrine of St. Therese of Lisieux, 1 Garibaldi Ave., Nesquehoning on **Saturday, March 24th** from 9 a.m. until NOON. Cost is \$10.00. The morning will include Mass, continental breakfast, spiritual reflection with Holy Hour and Stations of the Cross. Retreat presenter is Rev. Allen J. Hoffa, Rector of the Shrine. Register online at www.allentowndiocese.org/cfw-spirituality or call 610-289-8900 ext. 2021. Questions may be directed to Joanie Norelli at 917-406-4879 or e-mail cfw@allentowndiocese.org Hope to see you there!

DIOCESAN MARRIAGE CONFERENCE

– Early Bird Registration is now open for the Diocesan Marriage Conference on **Saturday April 14th** at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish in Sinking Spring. Sign up soon for the discount! Child Care is available. Visit the website www.togetherinholiness.org to learn more. For any questions call 610-289-8900 ext 2028.

MOVING? RELOCATING? LET US KNOW!

Have you moved, changed your phone or email address? If so, would you please contact the Rectory Office at 622-5470 ext. 3. Help us update records!



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.

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FROM OUR PARISH NURSE ... If you have migraines, melatonin supplements may help reduce their frequency, suggests a recent Brazilian study in the *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery & Psychiatry*. It involved 178 adults, ages 18 to 65, who regularly suffered from migraines and were divided into three groups: melatonin (3 milligrams), standard migraine medication (amitriptyline, 25 milligrams), or a placebo, all taken at bedtime for 12 weeks. Melatonin reduced migraine frequency as much as the drug, with fewer adverse effects, and was even more likely to reduce migraine frequency by at least half. Melatonin may help prevent migraines by acting on various brain chemicals, reducing inflammation, and in other ways, the researchers suggested.

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

NEIGHBORING EVENTS

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

PIEROGI SALE ... (Cooked with butter & onion, cooked with butter only, or uncooked frozen) will be held at St. Clare of Assisi Church, St. Clair, Fridays in Lent and Holy Thursday. Cost: \$7.50/dozen. **Advance orders only** to be placed by Wednesday prior to the pickups for Fridays. Pickups will be from 11 am to 2 pm. Use Hancock Street Entrance to basement. Call 429-0863, 429-0512, 429-0343, or 429-1942 to place your order.

HOMEMADE EASTER CANDY ... sponsored by St. Patrick's Parish, Pottsville. Butter Cream, Coconut Cream or Peanut Butter Eggs - **\$10 per box**. *Sorry, no mixed boxes*. Orders due by March 5th by calling the parish office 622-1802, ext 0, Mon-Thurs 8:30 am-4:30 pm or Fri 8:30 am-12:00 pm. Candy may be picked up in our Parish Center during the Palm Sunday Weekend Bake Sale on Saturday, March 24th from 1:30-6:00 pm or Sunday, March 25th from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm.

BUS TRIP ... to the Philadelphia International Flower Show on **March 5th** ... sponsored by St. Matthew's Travelers' Adventures. \$60 per person; free day in Philly \$30 ... For reservations call Julie 544-5231 or Millie 628-5413.

BUS TRIP ... to Virginia Beach, Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown from **May 14 to 18**, sponsored by St. Matthew's Travelers ... \$649 per person ... For more information and reservations call Julie 544-5231 or Millie 628-5413.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Schuylkill Women in Crisis seeks a part-time maintenance person ... 20 hours a week - \$15 p/h
Responsible for: minor repairs, plumbing issues, painting, yard work, snow removal, assisting with donation collection, etc. If interested submit résumé to swicagency@comcast.net. *Equal Opportunity Employer*

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