

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10th & Mahantongo Sts. • Pottsville, Pa. 17901

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
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

Fourth Sunday in Lent • March 14, 2021



Mass Intentions

Monday, March 15

9:00 a.m. Scott A. Glunz
(Dave & Maureen Derbes)

Tuesday, March 16

9:00 a.m. William Schmitt
(Joe Orlowsky)

Wednesday, March 17

9:00 a.m. Philomena Loeper
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

Thursday, March 18

9:00 a.m. Joseph LeBlanc
(Joe Orlowsky & Family)

Friday, March 19

9:00 a.m. Joseph & Jessie Ritzel
(Joan Ritzel)

Saturday, March 20

5:00 p.m. Elsie Laslow
(Dan & Hermine Murphy)

Sunday, March 21

8:15 a.m. John H. Hohman
(Joseph Hohman)

Sunday, March 21

10:30 a.m. Isabelle Brown
(Connie Brown)

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Last Sunday's first reading was about the covenant God made with his people as they were traveling through the desert from Egypt to the promised land. In that covenant God promised his people liberty, land, prosperity and he promised them that they would be his special people. What God demanded from his people was obedience to his commandments which we call the Ten Commandments.

Our first reading for this Sunday from the second book of Chronicles skips over seven centuries, centuries marked with religious fervor at times but mostly characterized by the indifference to God and to his laws. This indifference took its toll on their strength as a nation and when the powerful Babylonians came against God's people around 600 B.C., they were unable to defend themselves. As a result, their land was destroyed and those who managed to survive the Babylonian invasion were enslaved and deported to Babylon. This first reading recounts the failure of God's people to listen to his prophets and repent. Their wickedness results in their ruin and exile to Babylon.

Throughout history humans have had a tendency to choose what is easier — but not necessarily the better — path. For the Israelites the easier path led them away from God into the darkness of sin.

Christ's way is the way of light. We are called to be his disciples, to let go of preferences and actions which keep us in the dark and take us down the wrong path. Following Jesus' way however will take us to the path which leads to truth and goodness.

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Dave

Next Week's Readings

Fifth Sunday of Lent
(March 20/21)

Reading I: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Reading II: Hebrews 5:7-9

Gospel: John 12:2-33

Pray

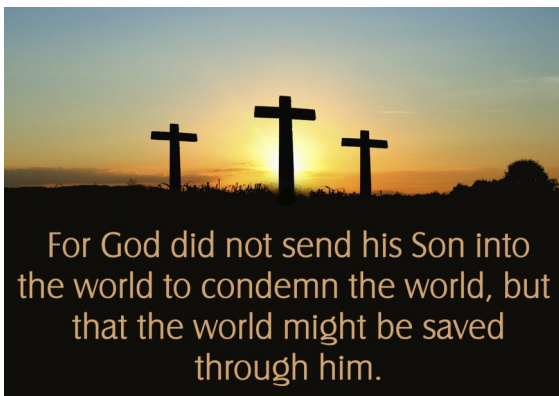
We remember in prayer those who are ill or recently deceased. We commend to our Divine Lord all of our aged people and those residing in nursing homes.

For Our Sick

Tom Jefferson • Ty Daubert • Bob Porter

Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest, call forth vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from our diocese and our families. Inspire men to imitate Christ, the Eternal High Priest, in sacrificial service to your Church. Move the hearts of men and women to offer themselves wholly to You in poverty, chastity and obedience. Send them as laborers for Your harvest. Inspire the faithful to support them with prayers and sacrifice. Raise up holy families who foster openness to your call. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen



Upcoming Events

March

14	9:00 a.m.	CCD Classes	School
14	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class	L.H.
14	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church
17	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union Meeting	L.H.
18	7:00 p.m.	Sharing Christ: Week 5	L.H.
19	4:00 p.m.	Lenten Dinner pre-order pick-up (until 6:00 p.m.)	R.B.
20	5:45 p.m.	Community and Conversation for Young Adults	L.H.
21	4:30 p.m.	Lenten Teen Ministry Night	L.H.
21	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church
25	7:00 p.m.	Sharing Christ: Week 6	L.H.
28	5:00 p.m.	Holy Week Confessions (until 5:45 p.m.)	Church
28	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church
29	4:30 p.m.	Holy Week Confessions (until 5:30 p.m.)	Church
30	6:30 p.m.	Holy Week Confessions (until 7:30 p.m.)	Church

April

1	7:00 p.m.	Adoration after Holy Thursday Mass ('til 10 p.m.)	Chapel
2	9:00 a.m.	Good Friday Morning Prayer	Chapel
2	4:00 p.m.	Lenten Dinner pre-order pick-up (until 6:00 p.m.)	R.B.
3	12:00 p.m.	Blessing of Food Baskets	Chapel

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

Stations of the Cross

6:00 p.m. Sundays during Lent in Church



Community and Conversation: Young Adult Listening Sessions

We are seeking to revitalize a sense of community among young adults in our parish and in our diocese. Join us on Saturday, March 20 after the 5 p.m. Vigil Mass as we dialogue about our sense of belonging in the Church and share how the Church can better support us in our lives. We want to hear from you! Beer, wine, soda, and light refreshments will be provided.



Weekly Collection

March 6/7\$5,358.33

Parish Monthly Dues\$1,071.00

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

Rice Bowl Boxes

The Rice Bowl boxes can be dropped off at the rectory or placed in the boxes by the upper side door of church.

Candle Donations

BVM

1. IMO Cathy Bowers
by Joan Bowers
2. IMO Cathy Bowers
By Joan Bowers

St. Joseph

1. IMO Lorraine & John Tasso
by Joan Bowers
2. Special Intention
by Joan Bowers

Sanctuary

Special Intention

Guardian Angels

- 1&2. IMO Timothy Grickis
by Peggy Ebling
3. IMO Debbie Bowers
by Joan Bowers
4. IMO Christine Bowers



Volunteers Needed

Parish Phone Outreach

We are in need of volunteers to make phone calls to elderly, sick, and homebound parishioners. Please contact the rectory if you are interested.

Food Delivery

Please join fellow parishioners and families helping to deliver boxes of food to Meals on Wheels consumers on the following Saturdays: March 27, April 24, May 22, and June 12. Please contact the rectory if you can help.



Friday Lenten Dinner Pre-Order Form

All entrees include New England Clam Chowder, garden salad, dinner roll, 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 _____ 3/19 _____ 4/2 Good Friday

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 3/19 and 4/2 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 _____



March 14, 2021 | Fourth Sunday of Lent

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23 | Eph 2:4-10 | Jn 3:14-21

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

We all have mementoes that we treasure – a handmade Mother's Day card, a delicate glass sculpture inherited from a relative, perhaps a fine piece of woodwork or beautifully woven quilt. We treasure them because they remind us of someone we love. Now, think about that we are God's "handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance"! Our God, rich in mercy, rich in love, treasures us so much that he created each of us in his image and gives each of us grace – a pure, free gift. As we look in the mirror, we may be tempted to see only our imperfections. But Paul reminds us that if we look at ourselves the way God does and accept the gift of his love and grace, and cooperate with it working in us, we can live in Christ in the here and now, by extending love and mercy to others, and in eternity, in God's loving embrace.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Reading the news and social media, the phrase in today's Gospel that "people preferred darkness to light" seems as true now as it was in John's time. Sinfulness and evil still cause great harm in our societies. The good news is that it is also as true for us as it was then that God sent his only Son, "not ... to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." Clearly, the world is a work in progress. We are a work in progress. Yet today's readings remind us that we can choose light over darkness by accepting the gift of faith and grace that our patient and merciful God bestows on us. It doesn't mean that we should turn off the news or hide from the world, but instead do our part to bring light to the situations we encounter. We know the kingdom of God won't be built in a day, or even a millennium, but we take a step toward building the Kingdom when we allow God's light to enter our hearts and then share that light with others through our witness, words, and prayer.

GIVE Choose light! Respond to a troubling event in your community or state by seeking a concrete way to help – donate to a local Catholic Charities or relief organization, or contact your parish about possibly organizing a donation effort.

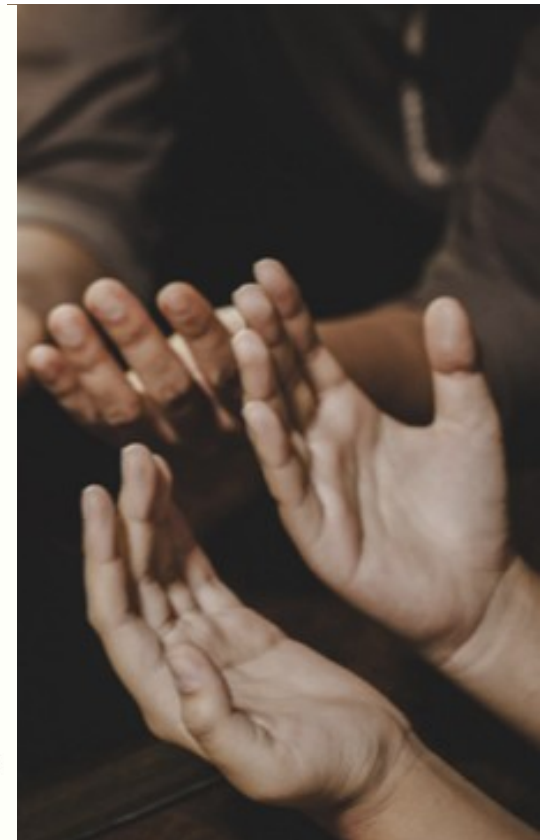
St. John's Youth Ministry

Lenten Program: Praying with Authority

- Did you ever wish you could pray for healing and have it work...INSTANTLY?
- When Jesus said "heal the sick" did he mean for US today?

SUNDAY MAR 21 @ 4:30 PM
LONGINUS HALL

- PRAISE AND WORSHIP
- TALK ON HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY
- PRACTICAL WORKSHOP
- FOLLOWED BY STATIONS OF THE CROSS & ADORATION at 6 PM in the MAIN CHURCH



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 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6



℣. Let my tongue be si-lenced, if I ev - er for - get you!

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LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Glo-ry to you, Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ!

OFFERTORY

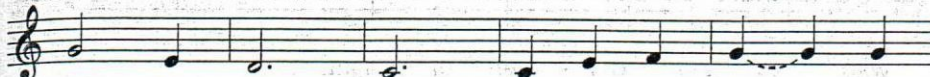
I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

632

Verses



1. I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to
2. I want to see the bright-ness of God; I want to
3. I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ; I want to



1. fol-low Je-sus. God set the stars to give
2. look at Je-sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness,
3. be with Je-sus. When we have run with



1. light to the world; the star of my life is Je-sus.
2. shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa-ther.
3. pa-tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je-sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all; the night and the



day are both a-like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit-y of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Je-sus.

RECESSIONAL

500

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim till all the world a-dore

Verses



- his sa-cred name. 1. Come, Chris-tians, fol-low where our cap-tain
 2. Led on their way by this tri-um-phiant
 3. Each new-born ser-vant of the Cru-ci-
 4. O Lord, once lift-ed on the glo-rious
 5. So shall our song of tri-umph ev-er



1. trod, Our King vic-to-rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 2. sign, The hosts of God in con-quer-ing ranks com-bine.
 3. fied Bears on the brow the seal of him who died.
 4. tree, As thou hast prom-ised, draw the world to thee.
 5. be: Praise to the Cru-ci-fied for vic-to-ry!

to Refrain