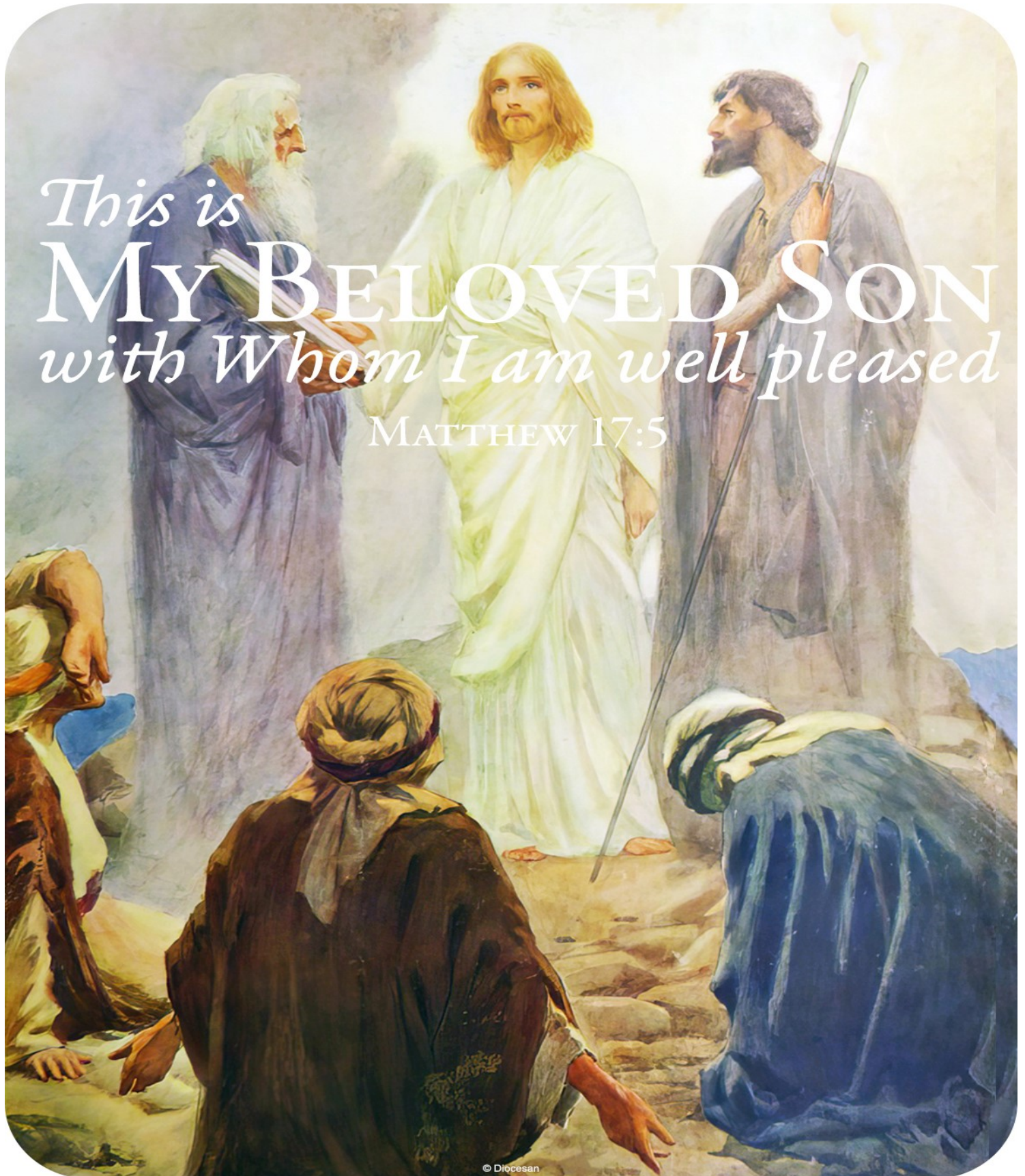


St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

August 6, 2023 • Transfiguration of the Lord



Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 5

5:00 p.m. Scott Bowers
(Joan Bowers)

Sunday, August 6

8:15 a.m. Joseph Garland
(Garland/Kurtek Family)

Sunday, August 6

10:30 a.m. Barbara & Carl Weiss
(Family)

Monday, August 7

6:30 p.m. Calvin Hoy
(Fran Blum)

Tuesday, August 8

9:00 a.m. Thomas & Eva Francis
(Francis Family)

Wednesday, August 9

9:00 a.m. St. John's Parish Family

Thursday, August 10

9:00 a.m. Deceased of Porter Family
(Bob & Mary Porter)

Friday, August 11

9:00 a.m. Carol Kramer Tamburelli
(Herb Tamburelli)

Saturday, August 12

5:00 p.m. Kathleen, Matt, Mark
Norkus
(Al Norkus)

Sunday, August 13

8:15 a.m. Stephen Kurtek Jr.
(Jan & Steve Kurtek)

Sunday, August 13

10:30 a.m. Joseph & Anna Orlowsky
(Orlowsky Grandchildren)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

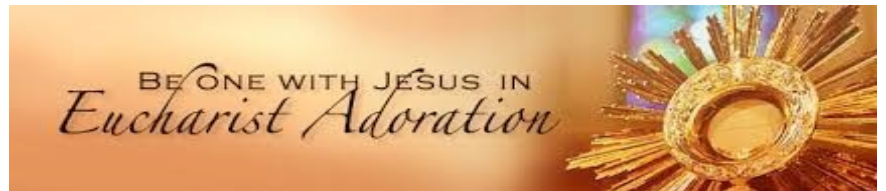
Today we celebrate the Transfiguration of Jesus. As the Gospel describes it, the Apostles have a glimpse of Jesus in His glory and they hear the voice of God the Father: "This is my beloved Son..." One thing that is noteworthy about the Transfiguration is that it manifested the Trinity: the voice of God the Father was heard, and Jesus, the Son of God, stood visibly before the Apostles. While not explicitly mentioned in this scene, we know God the Holy Spirit is always present also.

This leads us back to our reflections on prayer from the past few weeks. Prayer is communication with God. But, when you pray, do you talk to the Father? Do you talk to Jesus? Do you talk to the Holy Spirit? Or do you simply address "God" or "Lord" without thinking about the Persons of the Trinity?

Speaking from personal experience, it helps a great deal to think about the Person you are addressing. You might address the Father, and have a sense of His fatherly qualities: watching over us, protecting us, caring for us, being merciful and forgiving. You might talk specifically to Jesus and have a sense of Him walking beside you as a friend. You might have a picture of Him in your mind and think about the way He speaks and acts in the Gospels. Or you might address the Holy Spirit and have a sense of His presence within you as a guide, leading you and inspiring you.

Because the Persons of the Trinity are always united, when you pray to one, you pray to all. However, it does help to focus on either the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit when you pray. Again, prayer is an encounter with a living Person to whom we want to grow closer.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin



Eucharistic Adoration

We offer opportunities to spend time in prayer with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament ...

- ◆ A holy hour in the **chapel every Monday evening** (unless announced otherwise) from **5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and 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.

Next Week's Readings

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(August 12/13)

Reading I: 1 Kings 19: 9a, 11-13a

Reading II: Romans 9:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

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

Sheri Post • Robert Kline • Tony Kochol • Josephine Gallagher
Tom Jefferson • Theresa Chapman • Christine Kurtek • Dominic Maccarone

Upcoming Calendar

August

15	9:00 a.m.	Mass—Feast of the Assumption of BVMChurch
15	5:15 p.m.	Mass—Feast of the Assumption of BVMChurch
16	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg..... L.H.

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



RCIA is for anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic or in updating and deepening their understanding of the Catholic Faith. Are you interested in deepening your own faith? Or do you know anyone who has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic? Please invite them to join us. Have them call St. John's Rectory, 622-5470, to register for the RCIA sessions. All are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions.

Communion to the Sick and Homebound

If you or a family member, friend, or neighbor who is a member of St. John is confined to home, a nursing home or assisted living facility because of illness, age, or disability and would like to receive Holy Communion on a monthly basis, please call the rectory. We traditionally visit the sick and homebound on or around the first Friday of the month. Please help us meet the spiritual needs of our homebound parishioners.

Little Saints Sunday School

Little Saints Sunday School operates during Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass from September to May in Longinus Hall for approximately 45 minutes twice monthly. Our program is for children ages 3—6 years of age and need to be toilet trained. If you have a child that is not yet toilet trained or younger than 3, you can still have them participate. We simply ask that you remain with your child for class.

Our program uses the curriculum Catholic ABC's which is a fun, engaging curriculum designed to build a strong beginning foundation of faith and the knowledge that God loves us. If you would like your child to join our pre-school program, please fill out the registration form using the link below. You must have a Google email to use this link. Otherwise, you will need to fill out the registration form below and return it to the rectory or the collection basket at Mass.

<https://forms.gle/CwkM9hy3g1cn9oHr8>

Parents will be provided the dates of class upon registering.

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Current Age: ____

Parent Names:

Mother: _____

Father: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Any Allergies: _____



Weekly Collections

July 29/30\$3,427.00

Mission Appeal\$1,571.00

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

Please **do not** use **tape** or **staples** to seal your offertory envelopes

Candles

BVM

1. Special Intention
by John & Mary Jean Morgalis
2. IMO Anna K. Lescavage
by Anne Marie & Dan Wachter

St. Joseph

1. Special Intention
2. IMO Vincent Lescavage
by Ann Marie & Dan Wachter

Sanctuary

IMO Lucille Spotts
by Ann Marie & Dan Wachter

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Wilfred & Margaret Wachter
by Ann Marie & Dan Wachter
2. IMO Anna Kinderman
by Jennifer & Dirk Berger
- 3&4. IMO Mildred Ditzler
by Eleanor Schaeffer

Liturgical Min. Schedule

August 12 — 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Frank Murphy

Euch.Min.: Danny Murphy

Server: Sacristan

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

August 13 — 8:15 a.m.

Reader: John Crane

Euch.Min.: Ray Petrilla

Servers: Ryan Grabowski

Cantor: Tina Elison

August 13— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Vince Balulis

Euch.Min.: Debbie Herb

Server: Finley & Lukas McNamara

Cantor: Ed Brahler

Because We Are Catholic

Parish Goal \$15,796
Collected to Date: \$9,136
No. of Donors: 70

Thank you for all your help in getting the Because We Are Catholic Appeal off to a great start for 2023!



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 570-622-5470.

**Flowers at the altar this weekend were donated
 In Memory of
 Mary Ann Holley
 by Deborah and Mark Purcell**

Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are visiting our beautiful church, please know you are most welcome!

If you have questions or are interested in joining our parish family, please call the rectory 570-622-5470.

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!



Saint of the Day

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) 1851-1942 Feast Day—August 9th

"Come," Edith gently whispered, taking her sister Rosa's hand, "let us go for our people!" These were Edith Stein's last words as the Nazis, enraged at the Dutch bishops' condemnation of their genocide, took into custody all Catholic converts from Judaism. Born Jewish, but non-practicing from her teens, Edith's search for truth led to a doctorate in philosophy, a brilliant career as professor and author and, finally, to the *Autobiography of Saint Teresa of Ávila*, which she read in one sitting, then declared, "That is the Truth!" Baptized on January 1, 1922, observed then as the feast of Jesus' initiation into the covenant of Abraham, confirmed on February 2, the feast of Jesus' Presentation in the Temple, Edith entered the cloistered Carmelites in Cologne, transferring to a convent in Holland when she realized that, because of the Nazi persecution of the Jews, her presence could imperil the safety of the other nuns. She died in the gas chambers of Auschwitz as a daughter of Israel and of the Church.

Assumption BVM School News

- An evening Popsicles with the Principal event has been scheduled for **August 7th, from 5:30-6:30pm**. If you were unable to come out in July, please join us at this event!
- Volunteers needed! We are looking for dedicated parishioners, parents, grandparents, family and friends to help make our educational program one of the best in the Diocese of Allentown. Please contact Mrs. Schoepflin at eschoepflin@assumptionbvmschool.net for details and required clearances.
- Assumption BVM school has openings for the 2023-2024 school year. Please call to inquire which grades still have openings. The school office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the summer from 9:00 am to noon. 570-622-0106.
- Give the gift of a Catholic education! Complete or partial sponsorship of a student can make the difference for a child being able to attend Assumption BVM where their faith, social, behavioral, and academic needs can be met. Please consider making a donation of any amount to be put towards academic sponsorship, partial tuition sponsorship of \$1662.50, or full tuition sponsorship of \$3325. Send donations to Mrs. Erin Schoepflin, Principal Assumption BVM Catholic School 112 South 7th Street Pottsville, PA. 17901. Donations may also be made on our website, www.assumptionbvmschool.net under the "Support Us" tab. Please scroll to the bottom and click on Tuition Angel Donations. Thank you for considering Assumption BVM for your charitable giving!
- The annual ice cream social will take place on **Wednesday, August 16**. Parents and students are invited to visit the school, meet their teacher, find their classroom, and enjoy some ice cream with us! Kindergarten @ 6:00pm, grades 1-4 @ 6:30pm, and grades 5-8 @ 7pm.

Nativity Happenings

Fun Night

All Nativity students grades 9 through 12 are invited for a fun night on **Tuesday, August 8th at 6 PM**. We will have a movie, corn hole and spike ball games. Refreshments will be provided. Please check the Nativity Facebook page for more information.

Neighboring Events ...

Master Gardeners ... Celebrate Schuylkill County's bounty with the Master Gardeners on Saturday, August 12, from 10 am to 2 pm at UCC grounds, 110 Route 61 South, Schuylkill Haven. Homegrown produce, plants, cut flower bouquets; home baked goods with samples for tasting; plus, garden tool bargains—all available at reasonable prices. Tour the Demo Garden on site and educational booths; ask questions of the Master Gardeners as well. Come early and have lunch at on-site vendors like Uncle Paul's, Stuffed Pretzels, Mr. Softee and Honey for Heroes. Call 570-622-4225 Mon-Fri between 8:30am and 4:30pm if you need further info on this event.

Diocesan News ...

August is Make-A-Will Month. If there's a will... There's definitely a way. Your will is your way to protect your loved ones, ensure your wishes are honored, and even make an impact with your legacy. FreeWill's free estate planning tool, available to all parishioners at St. John the Baptist, is a simple, confidential, and cost-free way for you to chart your own way during National Make-A-Will Month. Visit FreeWill.com/AllentownDiocese to get started on your will.

St. Monica Ministry

The St. Monica Ministry will hold its monthly Holy Hour at St. Theresa Church, Hellertown, on Wednesday, August 9th at 6:00 p.m. We will come together before the Blessed Sacrament to ask Our Lord's mercy and to invoke the powerful intercession of St. Monica for our fallen-away loved ones. Presiding will be the newly-ordained Rev. Alexander Brown, Parochial Vicar of St. Anne Parish, Bethlehem. All are welcome, and registration is not required. For more information, please email StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com

Retrouvaille: Rediscover the Love in your Marriage

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. Upcoming programs will be held August 18-20 and again October 6-8 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

St. Joseph in the Hills Retreat for Men

Men in the Diocese of Allentown are invited to a period of refreshment, release, calming, learning, concentrating on the most important gift: your life, a gift from God. The retreat called '*St. Joseph in the Hills*' will take place at Malvern Retreat House in Malvern, PA. The Lehigh Valley men's retreat group, dedicated to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, would like to invite you to experience the same excitement and awe that we feel on our yearly weekend. Learn, reflect, and increase your personal communion with the Lord. Join us on the weekend of August 25, 26, & 27, Friday night to Sunday morning. To register, contact Anthony Scarselletti of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Group by phone (610-393-4671) or by email: OLPH.ascarselletti@gmail.com.

Catholic Women's Society of Giving

Join a community of like-minded women who are committed to raising awareness and funds to aid non-profit ministries with the Diocese of Allentown in imitation of the life of St. Catharine of Siena. The Catholic Women's Society of Giving seeks to promote philanthropy that empowers women, compels action, and glorifies God.

To learn more visit <https://www.allentowndiocese.org/womensgiving> or call Ginny Downey at 610-871-5200 x2244.

Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, September 25th at Steel Club, Hellertown. Proceeds benefit Seminarian Scholarships and Catholic School Education Scholarships. For more information visit: <https://www.allentowndiocese.org/golf> or contact Michele Mullikin at 610-871-5200 x2282 or mmullikin@allentowndiocese.org

Because We Are Catholic Daily Mass

Celebrated by Bishop Schlert on the following Days:

Thursday, September 14 – St. Clare of Assisi, St. Clair – 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, September 19 – Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown – 8:00 a.m.

Please RSVP to stewardship@allentowndiocese.org

Men's and Women's Cursillo Weekends

Cursillo has been a powerful means of spiritual growth for Catholics throughout our diocese as well as Catholics around the world for decades. We are pleased to announce this year's weekends are as follows:

Men — Thursday Evening, September 21 to Sunday afternoon September 24

Women — Thursday Evening, September 28 to Sunday afternoon October 1

(Must be 18 years of age to attend)

Where: Mariawald Renewal Center in Mohnton





August 6, 2023

Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 | 2 Pt 1:16-19 | Mt 17:1-9

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

According to the dictionary definition, to be transfigured is to “transform into something more beautiful or elevated.” This is what we see happening in Matthew’s Gospel today: Jesus takes his closest disciples up the mountain and there he is transformed – he is *transfigured* – before them: “His face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.” He is also joined by Moses and Elijah as a sign that he is the fulfillment of God’s promises of old. Jesus completes the old covenant that God made with his people and brings us the new covenant of salvation. The Transfiguration parallels the Baptism of the Lord in that we once again hear God speaking from the heavens to say, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” But during the Transfiguration, God adds the words, “Listen to him.” That’s a command not just for his disciples there on the mountain but for us today as well.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In elementary school, we were often reminded to listen. I remember one teacher who made a point to impress upon our class that listening is different from hearing. It is easy to hear, but to listen, you need to take the time to understand what is being said. In his letter today, Peter is urging us to listen to the prophetic message of Jesus. He says, “You will do well to be attentive to it” and then compares doing so to being “a lamp shining in a dark place.” The world today can be a very dark place, but we don’t have to be content to live in the shadows. By following Jesus’ example and commands, we can bring light – along with hope and joy – to our corner of the world. Sometimes that takes courage, though. It might involve making uncomfortable or unpopular choices, but Peter promises that the “day will dawn.” When that happens, we will undoubtedly see the fruits of our good works in our efforts to build God’s kingdom.

PRAY This week, let us pray in both words and actions as Jesus taught us. If the Lord’s Prayer is not already part of your daily prayer routine, try incorporating it this week. Then, look for ways to follow in the footsteps of Jesus by reaching out to someone who may appreciate a phone call or a visit.

Pastor *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*
Deacon *Lawrence Lonergan*

Parish Council President..... *Kevin McNamara*
Choir Director/Organist.....*David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator *Lucilla Kochol*
Rectory..... (570) 622-5470
Rectory Fax (570) 622-4589
E-mail *stjbparish@comcast.net*
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

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 11:30 a.m.
 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

SUMMER FESTIVAL 2023

