

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

A Hachiko might be the most faithful dog in the world. Every day he was on hand to see his owner go off to work. Every afternoon at 4 p.m. when the train pulled into Japan's Shybuya Station, Hachiko was there to greet his owner. After some pats and a warm hug they would walk home together.

One day, Hachiko's owner did not get off the train. He had died at work and never returned. Hachiko still waited in fervent hope. The next day at 4 p.m. the dog returned to the train station to await his master's return.

For the next ten years, Hachiko never gave up hope. He continued to live with his owner's family and went to the train station every day. When Hachiko died the local townsfolk erected a bronze statue of him and put it at the spot where he always waited.

Since the beginning, the early prophets were told of the coming of the Messiah. Just like Hachiko, we still wait for the return of Jesus.

This Sunday's gospel calls us to be vigilant and faithful like Hachiko. We are warned: "*Stay awake.*"

Yours in Christ,

Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 4 – 9:00 a.m.

ALESANDRO ALFONSI (John & Flavia McGovern)

Tuesday, December 5 – 9:00 a.m.

PATRICIA PICCIONI (Jim & Kate Blackwell)

Wednesday, December 6 – 9:00 a.m.

EMILY LEINHEISER (Rita Meadows)

Thursday, December 7 – 9:00 a.m.

ANN REILEY (Staff & Residents of York Terrace)

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday – December 8 – 9:00 a.m.

WAYNE STOUTD (Staff & Residents of York Terrace)

Friday – December 8 – 5:15 p.m.

EDWARD SMITH (Pat Davis)

Saturday, December 9 – 5 p.m.

GEORGE "Tony" LYNN (Dolores Lynn & Family)

Sunday – December 10 – 8:15 a.m.

JOHN & ANNIE MORGALIS

(John & Mary Jean Morgalis)

Sunday – December 10 10:30 a.m.

MIKE & ANNA FEDOCK (Donna & Jim Pugh Fam.)

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Tuesday – December 5

at York Terrace Nursing Home

JOSEPH PLAPPERT (Residents & Staff)

CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM -

All Candles ...

St. Joseph – IMO Anthony Hoffman

Tabernacle requested by

Sanctuary Mary Ann Holley

Guardian Angels

SCHEDULE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

9:00 a.m. – Friday – December 8th

Reader: Mary Ann Schweikert

Euch.Min.: Bill Schweikert

Servers: Dylan Shea, Riley Doyle, Helena Fredericks

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

5:15 p.m. – Friday – December 8th

Reader: Janet Daubert

Euch.Min.: Joe Rehnert

Servers: Bethany, Izabella & Trinity Reedy

Cantor: Mary Bound

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 p.m. – Saturday – December 9th

Reader: Heidi Gorski

Euch.Min.: Ray Petrilla, Joe Rehnert

Servers: Anna, Livia, Emma Lieberman

Cantor: Mary Bound

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – December 10th

Reader: Bob Bechtel

Euch.Min.: John Corbacio, Gerry Schwartz

Servers: Nathan & Aliyah Peckman, Samantha Heenan

Cantor: Tina Seiger

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – December 10th

Reader: Mary Matulevich

Euch.Min.: Debbie Guers, Phil Markovich

Servers: Evielyn Hower, Kyra Sophy, Evelyn Datte

Cantor: Dave Derbes

ATTENTION

All Readers, Servers, and Eucharistic Ministers ... your help is needed ... please let us know your plans for **January & February** so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. **Please call or e-mail the rectory by Sunday, December 11th** to let us know when you are **NOT** available during these months. We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

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 & Magdalene Maskerines, Mary Connell, Jerry Schoenauer, Dorothy Blum, Carl Forster, Ray Dee, Dorothy Prokop, Beth Resnick, Robert Lynn, Natalie Setlock, Carol Heacock, Mark Sitcoske, Caitlyn McGarri, Joseph LeBlanc, Doug Broughton.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY FATHER DAVE

The Parish Family of St. John's
Congratulates Father Dave on his
"Twentieth Anniversary"
with us on **December 2nd**.
We wish you continued enjoyment
and happiness as you begin your
21st year as Pastor here at St. John's.

Next Week's Readings

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Reading I: Genesis 3:9-15, 20
Reading II: Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (December 9/10)

Reading I: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Reading II: 2 Peter 3:8-14
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

PRAYER GROUP



Our Prayer Group meets on the second Sunday of each month after the 10:30 Mass in the Chapel. Please consider joining us as we lift up those in need of prayer. It will take only a few minutes of your time. Prayer request can be placed in the box on side of confessional. Thanks and God bless!
For more information or questions, please contact one of the following:

Bob Hahner 570-640-4448
John Corbacio 570-640-5038

My Prayer Request

Please place in box on side of Confessional.

2018 CALENDARS: Church calendars for the New Year are available at the church exits. Please feel free to take one, but please make sure they are not wasted. We wish to thank the **James E. Humphrey Funeral Home** for taking care of this expense.

CONFIRMATION PRAYER
SPONSORS



Our 8th graders are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday, April 25th. 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!

DIVINE MERCY PERPETUAL ADORATION Open Hours with Jesus

Pray that your hearts will be open to Perpetual Adoration and His invitation, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

We need adorers for the following hours:

Monday 10 p.m.; Wednesday 12 p.m.;
Thursday 10 a.m. & 8 p.m.; Friday 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.

WELCOME NEW ALTAR SERVERS

Maggie Brennan
Jackson Daubert
Ryan Grabowski
Caroline Hobbs
Reese Ketner

Michael Prestileo
Izabella Reedy
Ava Orłowski
Macie Rushannon
Andrew Smith

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Immaculate Conception of
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Mass times are as follows:

Friday, December 8th
9:00 a.m. & 5:15 p.m.

FAMILY MATTERS

Advent Season. Do you have a favorite custom for the Advent season? Have you considered starting a new tradition? Plan on using this activity as a way for your family to grow closer to Jesus in this time of preparation and waiting.

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

*The grass withers, and its flowers fall away,
but the Word of God endures forever. ... 1 Peter 1:24*

THE GIVING TREE

A barren tree was placed in the front of church adorned with gift tags. The gift tags contained suggestions for our shut-in parishioners and needy moms and children in the area. Please return your gift wrapped with the gift tag on

the outside, attached to the ribbon. Please return the package under the tree by the weekend of **December 9/10**. The tag is **very important** because it has the person's identity number on it.

Please Note: If you are not able to purchase the item on the gift tag, please return it to the tree.

**PLEASE DO NOT
TAPE TAG TO THE PAPER**



Our gifts each year to our shut-in friends and the needy of the area are our way of reaching out to those who have meant so much and saying we love them and wish them the blessings of Christmas.

**GIFTS ARE DUE BACK BY
DECEMBER 9/10 WEEKEND**

If you can help with gift distribution please call the rectory 570-622-5470.

PLEASE NOTE: If more than one item is listed on the tag You are asked to get one item ONLY.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Everyone is welcome! Come as a family...bring your friends...all ages. We'll gather in Longinus Hall on **Saturday, December 16th** following 5 p.m. Mass for pizza, and leave for caroling at 6:15 p.m. Children and teens are encouraged to participate. This is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit and bring Christmas joy to others. If you would like to join us, please call Darren DeArment at 570-573-4321 or email at dbd269@gmail.com.



**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S UNION
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

When: Wednesday, December 6th
Where: The Lodge at Sharp Mountain
Time: 6 p.m.
Cost: \$25.00
Menu: Stuffed Chicken Breast or Baked Haddock with Dill & Butter.



We will also exchange a \$5.00 gift, wine or snack item you would serve for the holidays – please wrap the item. For more information, please call **Dorothy Hahner Stangl**, 1343 W. Norwegian St., Pottsville 17901 (phone 570-624-7106).

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will be conferred
at St. John's at 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 25th, 2018

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

Homemade Christmas Cookies to benefit St. John's Catholic Women's Union, will be available in Longinus Hall on the following dates.



Saturday, December 9th

after 5 p.m. Mass

Sunday, December 10th

after 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Masses

Prices: \$4.00 and \$5.00 per dozen

Peanut Rolls - \$10 per pound

PAGEANT / CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Any child 5 years of age or older who would like to take part in our Christmas Eve Pageant may sign up by contacting

Emily Scheidel at 739-1808.

Our first rehearsal date is:

Wednesday, **December 6th** from 6 to 7 p.m. in Church



CHRISTMAS WAFERS "OPLATKI"

What are Oplatki? For centuries on Christmas Eve, families in Poland, Lithuania, the Czech and Slav Republics have practiced a beautiful tradition. It is the breaking and sharing of the Oplatek – Christmas Wafer. Oplatek taken from the Latin word oblatum, meaning Sacred Bread, has been the symbol of Christianity and Jesus Christ our bread of life since the Last Supper.

The host or hostess leads in a special prayer and distributes an oplatek to the participants. Each person breaks off a piece of the other's oplatek and continues until they have exchanged good wishes and blessings with everyone. **Oplatki will be available at the Rectory beginning the week of December 4th.**

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.



... *And I tell you, ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you.*

... Luke 11:9

PARISH COUNCIL

St. John's Parish Council will meet

Monday, December 11th – 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 Chipлонia
 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



UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

December

- 3 Advent-ure – 9:15 a.m. – R.B.
 3 Confirmation Class – 6:30-8:30 p.m. – L.H.
 5 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
 6 Catholic Women's Union Christmas Party
 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
 Mass times: 9 a.m. & 5:15 p.m.
 9/10 Christmas Cookie Sale – after Masses – L.H.
 11 Parish Council – 7 p.m. – L.H.
 12 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
 16 Christmas Caroling after 5 p.m. Mass – L.H.
 16/17 Blood Pressure Screenings after Masses – L.H.
 19 Men's Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.

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

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

ASSUMPTION BVM SCHOOL ...

POSITION AVAILABLE ... **First Grade Teacher**
 Assumption BVM School is seeking a qualified applicant for a first grade teaching position. Requirements can be found on www.allentowndiocese.org. Please send all information to Mrs. Teresa Keating at Assumption BVM School.

POSITION AVAILABLE: Care Net of Schuylkill County is hiring! Our team is growing! Care Net is hiring a **Teen Health Presenter**, who will be responsible for sexual risk avoidance presentations and will work with the Center Director to implement and facilitate the educational programs in schools, churches and community organizations. This position is part-time. To request an application, please email carenetofsch.co@comcast.net or call (570) 728-2135.

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Is Peace, Love, and joy what you really want for Christmas? Attend a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** weekend to help keep the spirit of the season in your hearts all year long! For information call 1-732-904-9636 or visit www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org.

WELCOME VISITORS

Thank you for worshipping with us today.
If you are visiting our beautiful church, please know you are most welcome!
If you have any question or are interested in joining our parish family, please call the Rectory 570-622-5470.

NATIVITY BVM SCHOOL ...

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Knights of Columbus Council 431 is recruiting new members to join our Catholic Men's organization. If you would like to join an organization committed to charitable causes, Catholic outreach in the community and offering outstanding programs for members and their families please consider joining more than 12 million Catholic men around the world in Knights of Columbus membership. During the month of October Council 431 is offering free membership and initiation fees for the first year for new members. **For further information please call Grand Knight Dave Donlin at 570-573-1841 or email him at dadmtd515p@comcast.net**

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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570-622-7785 570-490-7750

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-
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NEIGHBORING EVENTS

SPAGHETTI DINNER sponsored by St. Patrick Church on **Sunday, December 3rd** from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Parish Center, 313 Mahantongo St., Pottsville. Eat in or Take out ... All-you-can eat ... Adults \$8.00; Children \$3.50.

CHRISTKINDLMARKT (Christmas Market) on **Saturday, December 9**, 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 526 North Street, Jim Thorpe. Free admission. Food, baked goods, new and used Christmas crafts and ornaments, basket raffle, and garage sale. Live Nativity at 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Concert at 2:00 p.m. in the church, Joyful Music of Advent and Christmas, by organist Michael Seroka and members of St. Joseph Parish Choir, followed at 2:45 p.m. by a tour of the Church building's visual artwork and architecture led by Fr. Francis Baransky. Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m. For more information: 570-325-3731.

NEIGHBORING EVENTS

KIELBASA & PIEROGI SALE sponsored by St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish in Minersville. **Pre-Order ONLY** by calling 570-544-2211. Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Kielbassa** 2 lb link - \$8.00; **Pierogi** \$7.00 per dozen. **Pick-up December 14 from 2 to 6 p.m.** at the Parish Center, 120 Oak St., Minersville. Baked Goods also available for purchase.

BERMUDA CRUISE Join St. Ambrose Travelers on a cruise to Bermuda from **June 10-17, 2018**. Motor coach transportation included, leaving from Sch. Haven to NYC to embark on the Norwegian Escape. Six Masses on board, ultimate beverage package, dining package, prepaid gratuities, onboard credit and more! Contact

Jeff at 570-391-4239 for more information or to book today!

KARATE CLASSES Interested in learning a traditional martial art? You are in luck! Karate classes held twice weekly on the second floor of the Russell Building. Classes are held Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. and Saturday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m. Ages 6 and up welcome. Classes taught by Sensei Dennis Tobash. For more information please call 484-357-2539.



FROM OUR PARISH NURSE ... Don't assume that "Angus" beef is more nutritious or better tasting than other beef, even if food companies, stores, and restaurants selling it – typically at a premium price – imply that it is. This term, mostly a marketing pitch, refers only to the breed of cattle and has nothing to do with quality. In fact, because Angus is the most popular breed in the U.S. today, there's a good chance that unlabeled beef is also Angus (and cheaper). The beef from these black-hided, hornless cattle does not tend to have more marbling (intramuscular fat), a quality associated with greater tenderness and juiciness, but only USDA grading, which is voluntary, indicates quality, with "prime" being the top grade, followed by "choice" and then "select." Moreover, flavor is affected by several factors, including the animal's diet, how long the meat is aged, and preparation method. As for health, because of its higher fat, Angus (and other highly marbled) beef is actually a worse choice than lower-graded, leaner meats (though, as with all beef, the fat and calories vary widely depending on the cut).

WEEKLY COLLECTION

November 25/26: \$ 4,678.00

Outreach Program: \$ 790.00

Youth Ministry: \$1,150.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.
