

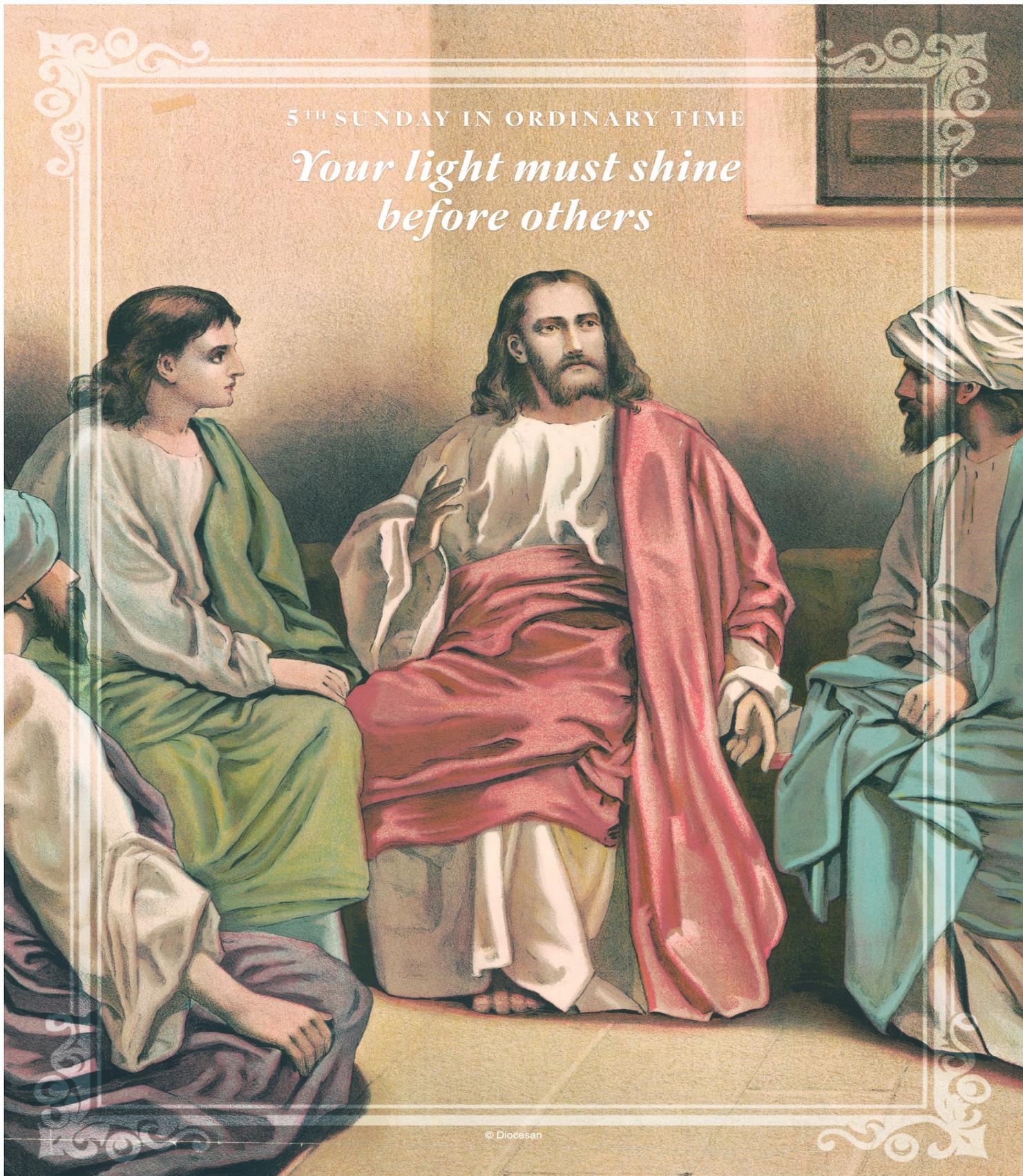
St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

February 8, 2026

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Your light must shine
before others*



Pastor..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*
Deacon.....*Robert A. Reiley*
Parish Council President *John Crane*
E-mail.....johncrane1@mac.com
Choir Director/Organist*David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator..... *Tina Seiger*
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

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

1-800-276-1562 www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

Diocese of Allentown Website

www.allentowndiocese.org



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.
- ◆ A holy hour in the **main church on the eve of First Friday** from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. This will be a formal holy hour ending with Benediction. Father will be available for Confessions.

Communion for the 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.

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: *Sherri Post, Tom Jefferson, Kathy Vivic
 Doug Broughton, Jane Baker, Brenda Helt, Beth Ann Clark*

"Note: We will keep names on the prayer list for a period of three months. Please let us know if you would like your name or your family member's name to remain on the list longer."

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 7

5:00 p.m. Robert Carestia
(Joan Bowers)

Sunday, February 8

8:15 a.m. Dot Ryan & Mary Louise
Hornberger
(Crystal Pugh)

Sunday, February 8

10:30 a.m. Robert Orłowski
(Orłowski Family)

Monday, February 9

6:30 p.m. Henry Eckley
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

Tuesday, February 10

9:00 a.m. Bob Porter Jr.
(Mary Porter)

Wednesday, February 11

9:00 a.m. Lawrence Kelly
(David & Anita Imschweiler)

Thursday, February 12

9:00 a.m. Theresa Matina
(Joseph & Joanne Matina)

Friday, February 13

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

Saturday, February 14

5:00 p.m. Tony Kochol
(Patricia Mitnitsky)

Sunday, February 15

8:15 a.m. Scottie Glunz
(Karen Lenard)

Sunday, February 15

10:30 a.m. Wellington Daubert
(Janet Daubert)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Today we continue to look at how we celebrate the sacrament of Baptism. In the Early Church, converts to Christianity would go through a long period of preparation (the catechumenate) and then be baptized at the Easter Vigil. They would also receive Confirmation and Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil, completing their initiation into the Church. We still observe this practice today for unbaptized adults (that is, children over the age of reason, through adulthood). This process is the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA): a multi-step process that typically lasts several months, a year, or longer. It is a time of learning the faith and receiving guidance to grow spiritually in preparation for entering the Church.

We should note that there are many people who were baptized in other Christian traditions (Lutherans, Presbyterians, Evangelicals, etc.) who wish to enter the Catholic Church. As long as these Christians were baptized in the manner we described last week, we recognize that their Baptism is valid and there is no need to be "re-baptized" in the Catholic Church. These people are not "converts." They are already part of the Church by virtue of their Baptism. We say that they are now entering "full communion" with the Catholic Church by making a profession of the Catholic faith and receiving Confirmation and Holy Communion. This can be done at any time after some time of preparation.

But for many centuries to the present day, it has been the Church's practice to baptize people in infancy. Some Christian traditions will only baptize people old enough to choose Baptism for themselves. Why does the Catholic Church baptize infants? More on this next week.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study

... will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on **Feb. 12, 19, 26, March 12, 19, 26, April 9, 23, and May 7, 14**. Join us in person in Longinus Hall or at home on Zoom (*Please email Father for the Zoom link: kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org).

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture study attempts to give an overview and background for the books of Sacred Scripture to be of help with personal reading and study, Bible study groups, and getting more out of hearing the Word proclaimed at Mass. All are welcome.

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.

Next Week's Readings

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(February 14/15)

Reading I: Sirach 15:15-20

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

Upcoming Events

February

8	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	Chapel/L.H.
8	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children's Liturgy	L.H.
12	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
18	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg	L.H.
19	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
20	4-6:30 p.m.	Lenten Fish Dinner	R.B.
21	after Mass	Wine & Cheese Social	L.H.
22	after Masses	Coffee & Donuts	L.H.
22	9:00 a.m.	CCD—Blessing Blankets	L.H.
22	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children's Liturgy	L.H.
22	4:00 p.m.	Soup & Scripture.....	L.H.
22	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
26	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
27	4-5:30 p.m.	Lenten Fish Dinner.....	R.B.

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

Tuesdays 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men's Group F.R.

Parish Retreat

Our second annual **Parish Retreat**, "Watering the Seeds," will be held on Saturday, **March 21**, in Longinus Hall, beginning at 9:00am and concluding with the 5:00pm Mass. Consider joining us for a day of talks, prayer, reflection, and fellowship. Lunch will be included. It is necessary to register in advance. **RSVP by March 10** by calling or emailing the rectory. We ask a \$10 registration fee to help cover the costs of lunch and supplies. Please see Fr. Bobbin with any questions.

St. John's Ensemble

... will play/sing at 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 22nd.

The purpose of this ministry is to serve the parish at Mass, singing liturgical hymns, using contemporary instruments like the guitar, keyboard, drums or other instruments, and using contemporary music arrangements.

DO YOU HAVE A LOVED ONE IN THE HOSPITAL?

The HIPPA privacy protection act prohibits the release of patient information admitted to hospitals or nursing homes. Each facility interprets HIPPA differently which often precludes the sharing of this information with your pastor.

In the event of a loved one being hospitalized or admitted to a long term care facility, an authorized family member should inform the parish office.

If Father's schedule permits he will visit your loved one. Remember the number of our priests in the area have dwindled. If it is an EMERGENCY, we will have a priest attend to your loved ones needs in a timely fashion. Please do not wait until the last possible moment to contact a priest. Please also note that patients admitted through the Emergency Room are not asked to specify a religion/priest/or parish.

A Family member needs to inform the parish office ... 570-622-5470.

Weekly Collection

January 31/February 1 ... \$4,480.20

Dues.....\$1,070.00

Christmas.....\$20,904.00

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. IMO Evelyn Tropp
by Shawn & Karen Schmitt
2. IMO Joe Brahler
by Kathy Brahler

St. Joseph

1. IMO Joe Bahler
by Kathy Brahler
2. IMO William Schmitt
by Shawn & Karen Schmitt

Sanctuary

IMO Joe Brahler
by Kathy Brahler

Guardian Angels

1,2,3,4. IMO Veronica Schmitt
by Shawn & Karen Schmitt

Liturgical Min. Schedule

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 14—5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Lucilla Kochol

EM: Gerry Schwartz, Sharon Snyder

Server: Gerry Schwartz

Cantor: Dave Derbes

February 15 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Ann Blankenhorn

EM: Jeff Naffin, Joseph Palmieri

Servers: Sophia Palmieri

Finley McNamara

Cantor: Tina Seiger

February 15—10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Raymond Petrilla

EM: Justina Majestic

Michael Ambrose

Servers: Kyle & Preston McCormick

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

Weekend Sacristan: Ryan Grabowski

LENTEN DINNERS

Fridays during Lent

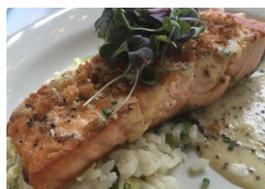
February 20 to March 27 — 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

(no Dinner on Good Friday)

Menu includes: Baked Haddock or “Special Fish of Week” includes: Macaroni and Cheese OR Chef’s “Starch of the Week”, New England Clam Chowder, Side Salad, Chef’s “Vegetable of the Day”, Roll, Beverage and Dessert.

Weekly Specials

- February 20: Dijon Panko Crusted Cod—topped with Dijon herb panko crumbs
- February 27: Balsamic Glazed Salmon roasted with a sweet balsamic glaze
- March 6: Parmesan Cod—baked with a crispy parmesan crust
- March 13: Flounder Bruschetta—topped with tomatoes, basil and balsamic glaze
- March 20: Florentine Style Salmon—baked with a creamy spinach topping
- March 27: Crab Cakes



Prices are as follows:

Adult meal with Fish	\$19.00
Adult meal without Fish	\$14.00
Child’s meal with Fish	\$10.00
Child’s meal without Fish	\$ 6.00

Homemade Desserts Needed ... “St. John’s is famous for their delicious homemade desserts.” Each year we look forward to these delicious desserts. If you would like to make Jello, Pudding, Pies, Cakes, Cup Cakes, Cookies, or anything you can dream up, we will greatly appreciate it. Please make your favorite dessert and drop it off at the Russell Building on Fridays during Lent.

50/50 Chances ... available at the door from the Catholic Women’s Union; drawing takes place at 7 p.m. each week.

Summer Festival — Pot Luck Stand

We are in need of potluck prizes for our Summer Festival stand! There are a few easy ways to help donate. We have an Amazon wish list again this year. Go to Amazon.com/registries, search St John The Baptist Potluck, when purchasing an item it will default to ship to Fred Maley- you may send your items there for convenience or if you would prefer to ship to your own address and place item in the donation bin in the back of the church. Any questions, concerns, or to arrange drop off please call Shanna 570-617-4769.



If you’d like an even easier route, and have a smart phone or tablet, open your camera and hold over top and focus on the QR code box - a small link will pop up- tap on it and it will take you right to our Amazon wish list!

Gift cards are also a fantastic way to help! Any denomination and anyplace you love! They can be placed in the collection basket or please call Shanna Deibert 570-617-4769 to arrange for drop off or pick up. Thank you again for your continued generosity!!

Catholic Women’s Union– Meeting



Women of all ages are invited to join the Catholic Women’s Union. Learn how you can become involved with the Catholic Women’s Union by joining us on **Wednesday, February 18th at 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall.** Meet the members and learn how you can be part of this unique organization. We share ideas and light refreshments are served. We work to raise money for our parish and have fun doing it. We also share in fellowship by sharing in a Spring and Fall Auction, Christmas Party, and the Covered Dish Dinner. Your ideas, friendship and membership are always welcomed.

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning—

POSITION AVAILABLE. St. Joseph Center is seeking a **part-time PAES Lab Supervisor** to help students develop real-world job skills for the future. This hands-on role is perfect for a **creative, caring individual** who enjoys working with students with special needs in a supportive and positive environment. The position is 29 hours per week, year-round, and requires a high school diploma (experience with children with special needs recommended) and clearances. Interested applicants can **email their resume to Principal Bob Giba at rgiba@stjosephctr.com** or stop by the school between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to complete an application.

Mustard Seedlings

A Supportive Community for Moms from the newly pregnant to Pre-school parenting stage.

Join us Thursday mornings, February 12 and 26 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in Longinus Hall. Kids age 0-5 are welcome to come enjoy provided toys! Home-schooled siblings are welcome to attend as well. Moms will enjoy a hot tea and some guided discussion as we move through our faith formation study about the life and works of St. Teresa of Avila. Bring a journal! Scan the QR code to connect with the group on Facebook.



Diocesan Events ...

Women's Lenten Conference. In a world of division and strained relationships, the Women's Lenten Conference offers hope and practical tools for unity. Join the Bishop's Commission for Women on **Saturday, March 7 from 8am to 3pm** for Mass with Bishop Schlert, lunch, Confessions, Adoration, and keynote talks. Hear from Noelle Mering, an author and cultural commentator known for *Awake, Not Woke* and her writing on faith, culture, and public life, as well as Dr. Ray Guarendi, a Catholic clinical psychologist, author, and national radio and television host known for practical, faith-based advice on parenting, family life, and relationships. Register at <https://www.allentowndiocese.org/catholic-life/resources-women/love-hope-holiness-womens-lenten-conference-2026>.

Enroll Names of the Departed for 'We Are Remembered' Mass. The 35th Annual Easter Mass sponsored by the Diocesan "We Are Remembered" Ministry will be celebrated by Rev. Joseph Kweder with homilist, Rev. John Gibbons on **Wednesday, April 8th at 7 p.m.** at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church in Whitehall. Enroll the names of your beloved ones by Monday, March 30th to ensure their inclusion in the Book of the Remembered and the enrollment list that will be printed afterward in the AD Times newspaper. A \$5 donation is requested for each name enrolled to cover expenses, but every name submitted will be enrolled regardless of donation. To register, send the following information and checks to We Are Remembered Ministry, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, 618 Fullerton Ave. Whitehall, Pa. 18052. Sponsor(s) name, Donation amount, address, phone number, Email and Name(s) of the deceased.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. Join us for an intimate spiritual journey for anyone seeking healing after abortion. In a safe, supportive, non-judgmental environment, you can focus on this painful time in your life and enter into the process of healing. Through scripture readings, guided meditations and activities flowing from the meditations, you can experience God's compassion and forgiveness. For registration information contact: Carol Swavely, MA, OSF at 1-866-3RACHEL (Toll free) or 610-435-1541ext 5341.

You may also email Carol at cswavely@allentowndiocese.org.

The retreat will be held April 24-26, 2026. Deadline for registration is April 17, 2026.



Flowers at the Altar

The flowers at the altar this weekend are donated ...
In Memory of Joe Brahler
by Kathy Brahler & Family

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.

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."

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!

2025 Contribution Record

You can request a copy of your 2025 Contribution Record by calling the rectory Monday thru Thursday ... 622-5470 ext. 3.

The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.





February 8, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 58:7-10 | 1 Cor 2:1-5 | Mt 5:13-16

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

My understanding of prayer changed when I read St. Teresa of Calcutta's statement that says, "I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things." Prayer is not an incantation that can change the will of God. It is the act of raising our hearts and minds to God, and of opening ourselves — our will, our understanding, our joys, and our sorrows — to be sanctified. The prophet Isaiah seems to be saying something similar in the first reading. He lists off the commands of the Lord to clothe the naked, feed the hungry, and shelter the homeless, and then tells the faithful that if they do these things, "then your light shall break forth like the dawn." We certainly serve those who are vulnerable because each person has immeasurable dignity and deserves to be cared for as a child of God. But the act of caring for another also changes us. We are made more fully into who we were created to be — not an individual living in isolation, but one who is deeply connected in community to the rest of humankind.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

An act of service, then, is much bigger than simply donating money or giving of our time. In caring for our neighbor, we proclaim God's goodness to a world in darkness, bearing witness to the love of God which is the source of all our actions. In the Gospel, Christ calls his followers to be "the light of the world," reminding us that he wants to shine his light through us. But we are not the source of the light. Even when we are the ones serving, we still remain only the vessel the true light shines through. When we love others, we are changed because we allow ourselves to be conformed more closely to Christ, allowing others to encounter his love in our actions.

SERVE

The corporal works of mercy are to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. This is not a list meant to overwhelm, but rather to provide opportunities to care for God's children. What act of service can you and your family engage in this week to allow the light of Christ to shine through you?