

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

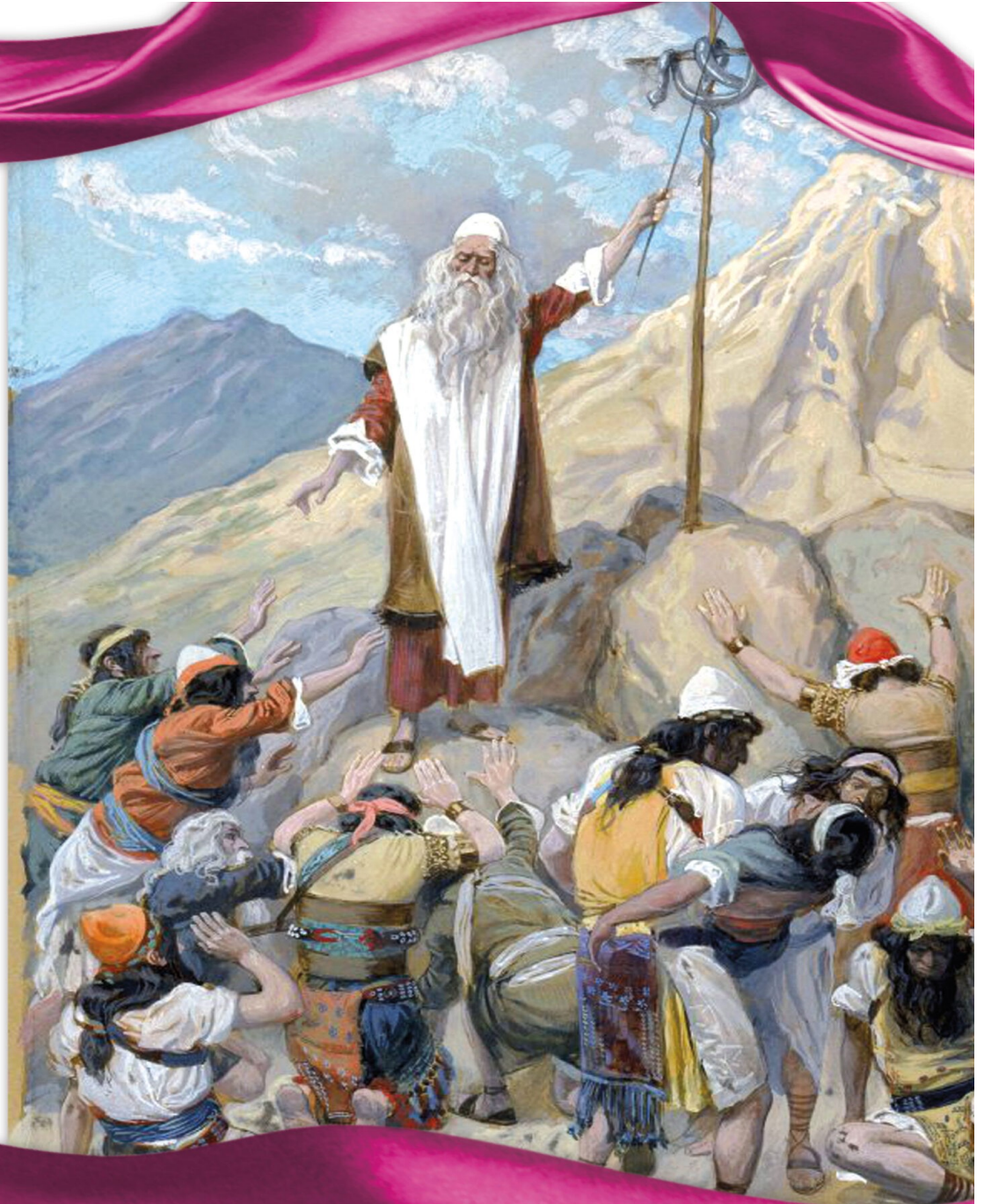
10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • [www.saintjohnpottsville.org](http://www.saintjohnpottsville.org)

March 10, 2024

Jesus said to Nicodemus: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

*John 3:14,15*

The Brazen Serpent  
by James Tissot, circa 1899



4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF  
**LENT**

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, March 9

5:00 p.m. Francis Bercher  
(Scott Williams)

### Sunday, March 10

8:15 a.m. Frederick & Marie Eagan  
(John & Christine Eagan)

### Sunday, March 10

10:30 a.m. Joe Brahler  
(Kathy Brahler)

### Monday, March 11

6:30 p.m. St. John's Parish Family

### Tuesday, March 12

9:00 a.m. Regina Jenkins  
(Krista Fanelli)

### Wednesday, March 13

9:00 a.m. Lorraine Lucas  
(M/M John Carroll)

### Thursday, March 14

9:00 a.m. Martin J. Carroll Jr.  
(M/M Anthony Carroll)

### Friday, March 15

9:00 a.m. Ann Lowe  
(Ann Marie Reber)

### Saturday, March 16

5:00 p.m. Sue Louise Klem Moore  
(Joe Moore)

### Sunday, March 17

8:15 a.m. Vince Albo  
(John & Joyce Gerace)

### Sunday, March 17

10:30 a.m. George & Mary Connell  
(Mary Ellen Tarman)

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

As we consider the Corporal Works of Mercy on these Sundays of Lent, we now come to: "visit the imprisoned." Last week I commented on "visit the sick." We need to bring the love of Christ to those who are suffering illness. But the mandate to "visit the imprisoned" can pose a much greater challenge. First, we must overcome any negative sentiments toward people who are incarcerated (*They deserve what they get! Why should I care about them?!*) and see them as God sees them: human beings with a fundamental dignity that not even the most grievous wrongdoing can take away. God loves every individual and does not want to lose anyone. While we must in some way atone for our sinfulness, God wants a "happy ending" for each and every person.

Secondly, if someone were to contemplate visiting the imprisoned, it can be both intimidating and burdensome to enter such an institution. But that is a small sacrifice. Years ago I was a last-minute sub for a prison Mass and I found it to be a very good experience. The men truly appreciated that I came to celebrate Mass. They showed a spiritual hunger that was all the more real because of the restrictions imposed on them and the scarcity of Catholics who were willing and able to engage in prison ministry.

Most people will never actually visit the imprisoned. But, perhaps we can start by not forgetting about them. Perhaps we can start by caring about them and praying for them.

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.



## 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 • Dominic Maccarone • Drew Schaeffer • Shawn Matz  
Miriam Tirjan • John Bernetsky • Chuck Majestic

## Next Week's Readings

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
**(March 16/17)**

**Reading I:** Jeremiah 31:31-34

**Reading II:** Hebrews 5:7-9

**Gospel:** John 12:20-33



**Confirmation Prayer Sponsors**

Our 8th graders are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Thursday, April 25th** at St. Patrick's. Please consider supporting this important decision by praying for one or more of our candidates. Cards containing their names can be found in the basket on the table in the back of church. Please take one, and during this time of preparation, pray for this student in a special way and write notes of encouragement. Our parish will be double blessed.

### Upcoming Events

#### March

10	8:00 a.m.	First Communion Class .....	L.H.
10	4:00 p.m.	Lenten Vespers .....	Church/L.H.
11	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council .....	L.H.
12	7:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice.....	Church
13	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross .....	Church
13	8:00 p.m.	St. John’s Beneficial Society Mtg .....	F.R.
14	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.
14	7:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice.....	Church
15	4-7 p.m.	Lenten Dinners.....	R.B.
17	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.
17	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
19	6:30 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Dress Rehearsal.....	Church
20	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross .....	Church
20	7:30 p.m.	Catholic Women’s Union Mtg.....	L.H.
21	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.
21	6:30 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Dress Rehearsal.....	Church
22	4-7 p.m.	Lenten Dinners.....	R.B.
24	7:30 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Presentation .....	Church
25	7:00 p.m.	Penance Service at St. Clair of Assisi	

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

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

<><><> MARK YOU CALENDARS <><><>  
SUMMER FESTIVAL—July 19 & 20, 2024

### Weekly Collection

March 2/3 .....\$4,815.00

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 Bette Ann Miller by Schmitt Family
2. IMO Bette Ann Miller by Mike Miller Family

#### St. Joseph

1. IMO Joseph Wollyung Sr. by Wollyung Family
2. IMO Francis & Arlene Smith by Tom & Cindy Elison

#### Sanctuary

IMO Francis & Arlene Smith by Tom & Cindy Elison

#### Guardian Angels

1. 60th Wedding Anniversary of Lois & Jack Dalton
2. IMO Erika Stangl Seasock by Eleanor Schaeffer
- 3&4. IMO Marjorie Angelo by Frank Angelo

### Liturgical Min.Schedule

#### Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 16 — 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Heidi Gorski

Euch.Min.: Joe Palmieri

Gerry Schwartz

Server: Aleksander Gorski

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

March 17 — 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Michelle Ambrose

Euch.Min.: John Corbacio

Mary Modesto

Server: Ethan Grabowski

Cantor: Ed Brahler

March 17— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Vince Balulis

Euch.Min.: John Matulevich

Ray Petrilla

Servers: Jude & Gabe Scheidel

Cantor: Dave Derbes

# SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered **Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on March 14, 21, April 11, 18, May 16, 23.** Join us in person in Longinus Hall or at home on Zoom (\*Please email Father for the Zoom link: [kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org](mailto: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.



#### Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. during Lent in the Church Consider making this devotion a part of your Lenten observance.

**Lenten Vespers this Sunday:** This Sunday the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the main church beginning at 3:00 for quiet prayer. We will pray Evening Prayer (Vespers) at 4:00, concluding with Benediction. Vespers will be partly sung by our music ministry. Join us afterwards for light refreshments in Longinus Hall.

**Divine Mercy Sunday** is April 7. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in church from 1:00-3:00, concluding with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction at 3:00. Father will also be available for Confessions 1:00-2:00. Join us for any part of the afternoon to celebrate God's mercy and pray for the needs of the Church and the world.



## LENTEN DINNERS

4 to 7 p.m. at the Russell Building.

Dinners will be dine-in or take-out.

### Menu is as follows:

Baked Haddock **OR** "Special Fish of the Week" includes: Macaroni and Cheese with Stewed Tomatoes **OR** Mashed Potatoes Clam Chowder, Side Salad, Fresh Vegetable of the Week, Roll, Beverage, and Dessert.

### The "Special Fish Options" are as follows:

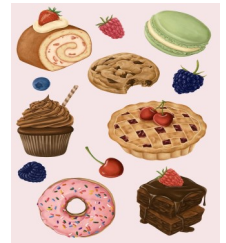
March 15: Herb and Panko Crusted Tilapia  
March 22: Baked Haddock only (may change)



### Prices are as follows:

Adult meal with Fish ———\$18.00  
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 after 1 p.m.**



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

(March 1st — 50/50 winner: Rosie K.)

## Dramatic Station Practice and Presentation

Please make this Lenten Season be the year you join the Dramatic Station cast. Realizing everyone is busy, come when you can. No acting skills needed-just a heart for the Lord. Call Debbie at [570.691.8874](tel:570.691.8874) with any questions.

### **Practice Dates:**

March 12 at 7:00 p.m.

March 14 at 7:00 p.m.

March 19 at 6:30 p.m.— Dress Rehearsal

March 21 at 6:30 p.m.—Dress Rehearsal

March 24 at 7:30 p.m.— Presentation



## Meet Gianna Jessen and Pray for Her

Gianna Jessen is a pro-life advocate, speaker, writer, singer and she is coming to our area on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 -- 6:30 p.m. at the Holy Family Parish Center at Hillcrest Hall in Minersville. Her story is remarkable, awe inspiring and will make you realize she relies on Jesus for everything.

You see, Gianna Jessen was intended to die before she was born, just another one of the 1.2 million abortions each year in the United States. Instead of death, though, Gianna was bathed in a burning saline solution, but she overcame to enter the world.

Mark your calendar for this event and pray for its success. We will be selling a 3 prize gift card and cash ticket to raise funds for this event in the near future. More information to come in the following weeks.

## Parish Council

Please approach any Parish Council Member listed below and ask that a question, concern, etc. be brought up at the next meeting on **Monday, March 11th**.

### Elected Members

Vincent Balulis  
Ann Blankenhorn  
Michael Brennan  
John Crane  
Michelle Darhun  
Darren DeArment  
Joseph Gerchak  
Heidi Gorski  
Sr. Mary Jane Hahner  
Michael Hummel  
Joseph Kurtek  
Nannette Major  
John Powers  
Reene Reddington  
Kay Wollyung  
Robert Wollyung

### Appointed Members

Lucilla Kochol  
John Consugar

### Ex-Officio

Father Kevin Bobbin  
Deacon Larry Lonergan  
Deacon Luis R. Visot  
Ed Brahler

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

**Readers, Servers, and Eucharistic Ministers ...** please let us know your plans for **April & May** so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. Please call or email the rectory by **March 17th**. Thank you.

## Summer Festival—Pot Luck Stand Donations



We are seeking gift donations for the Midsummer Festival adult and children Pot Luck stands. We thank you for your past generosity and hope we can count on your support this year.

Gift cards are highly requested and can be placed in the weekly collection basket, marked "for Pot Luck stand". Your newly purchased gift items can include such things as: small kitchen appliances, bakeware, Yuengling items, puzzles, games, water guns, summer toys, Christmas items and wreaths. We also welcome

larger, and exciting prizes such as bicycles, scooters, televisions, Vera Bradley, Yeti and more. Prizes can be placed in the bins marked "Pot Luck" stand at the back of church.

To make donating more convenient, we've also set up an Amazon Gift List. Scan the QR code below OR visit [Amazon.com/registries](https://www.amazon.com/registries) and search for "St. John the Baptist Pottsville" under the "Gift List" option. Items purchased will ship directly to Maureen Derbes.

Please remember we can only accept recently purchased, NEW items in their original package. Any old, used or opened items will not be able to be used for prizes. If you like, include your name so we can keep track of those who donated. If purchasing from Amazon please send a text with your name and what was purchased.

Any questions or concerns or wanting to arrange drop off please call or text Maureen at 570-691-6098.



## St. John the Baptist is participating in a parish-wide survey!

We are very excited that the Disciple Maker Index survey has officially opened!

The survey will only be **available until March 31<sup>st</sup>**, and it will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide feedback on what efforts the parish is doing to help you grow. All responses will be confidential and the parish will only receive information about the community as whole.

Go to <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/b368x5> to complete the Survey.

### *If you prefer a paper copy:*

You may pick up a paper copy of the survey after daily and Sunday Masses. They will be in the back of Church after all weekend Masses; and in Longinus Hall after daily Mass.

**Printable version of the survey** is also available for download from our website and our Facebook Posts. To submit the completed paper survey, please drop off the completed survey in the back of the Church during weekend Masses or in Longinus Hall during the week.

To make special arrangements for getting a paper copy, please contact the rectory office at 570-622-5470 ext 3 or John Crane at 570-292-0904.

Thank you for helping with this important project!

## CRS Rice Bowl

**Increasing Disasters, Increasing Resilience.** Located in Southeast Asia between the Pacific and Indian Oceans, Indonesia has beautiful beaches, diverse cultures and the world's fourth largest population. Many of the country's more than 17,000 islands are in the Ring of Fire, where volcanic eruptions and earthquakes are common. Climate-related disasters such as cyclones are also becoming more frequent and destructive. Find out how — with the support of Catholic Relief Services and generous communities like yours — Evita and her disaster preparedness group are working to keep their community safe. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to read this week's Story of Hope.

March 10, 2024

## Fourth Sunday in 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

“The floor is lava!” We used to play this game as children, and it still seems popular today: you arrange furniture and other objects in such a way as to make it from point to point, and even room to room, without touching the floor. There may be more than one way to go, but the crux of the matter is that you have to use these waypoints to stay alive in the game. Following Jesus is somewhat similar, although obviously infinitely more serious and important! He himself, through his sacrifice on the cross, opened the doors of salvation to us – he has provided the ways and means to live free from death. His sacrifice is the only thing that makes it possible for us to enter heaven. In other words, he has arranged the spiritual furniture, made clear those waypoints, and, differing from children who play the lava game, is ready and willing to help us at any time to move safely and confidently along the journey. St Paul writes, “we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.”

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

St. Paul also writes, “by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God.” And in today’s Gospel, St. John writes these words we know so well. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” Both testaments include words of comfort, but John here also includes a call to action. Notice the word “might.” Like “may,” which is found in other translations, it indicates possibility, probability, and contingency. In other words, it is offered – freely given! – but we must accept. And acceptance means, just as the prophets shared with the Israelites, we need to follow God’s commands. It means that in our words and deeds we act from and in love of God and love of one another. For “whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.”

**ENGAGE** Today we are about halfway through Lent. If you haven’t yet taken advantage of the rich opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross with your family, do so this week. Most parishes pray the stations on Fridays during Lent, and perhaps other days as well. This ancient tradition of our Church is a beautiful and meaningful way to walk the Way of the Cross with our Lord.

*We adore you, O Christ, and bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the whole world.*



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

**Parish Council President**..... *Darren DeArment*  
**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

### 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.**

### Neighboring Events

**What is the St. Monica Ministry?** The St. Monica Ministry was founded at St. Theresa Parish, Hellertown, in November, 2022. It is a community and prayer network for the families and friends of fallen-away Catholics, with subscribers in forty U.S. states, as well as in Spain, South Africa, Malta, Trinidad and Tobago, the Philippines, Nova Scotia, Ireland, Australia, and Canada.

Each month at St. Theresa Church, the St. Monica Ministry sponsors a Holy Hour to ask Our Lord's mercy and to invoke the intercession of St. Monica for our fallen-away loved ones.

Our next Holy Hour will take place **Tuesday, March 12**, at 6:00pm. Presiding will be Rev. Brendon Laroche, pastor of St. Ursula Parish. Immediately following the Holy Hour, a meeting and book discussion will take place in Friendship Hall. All are warmly welcome to attend! For information, please email [StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com](mailto:StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com)