

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

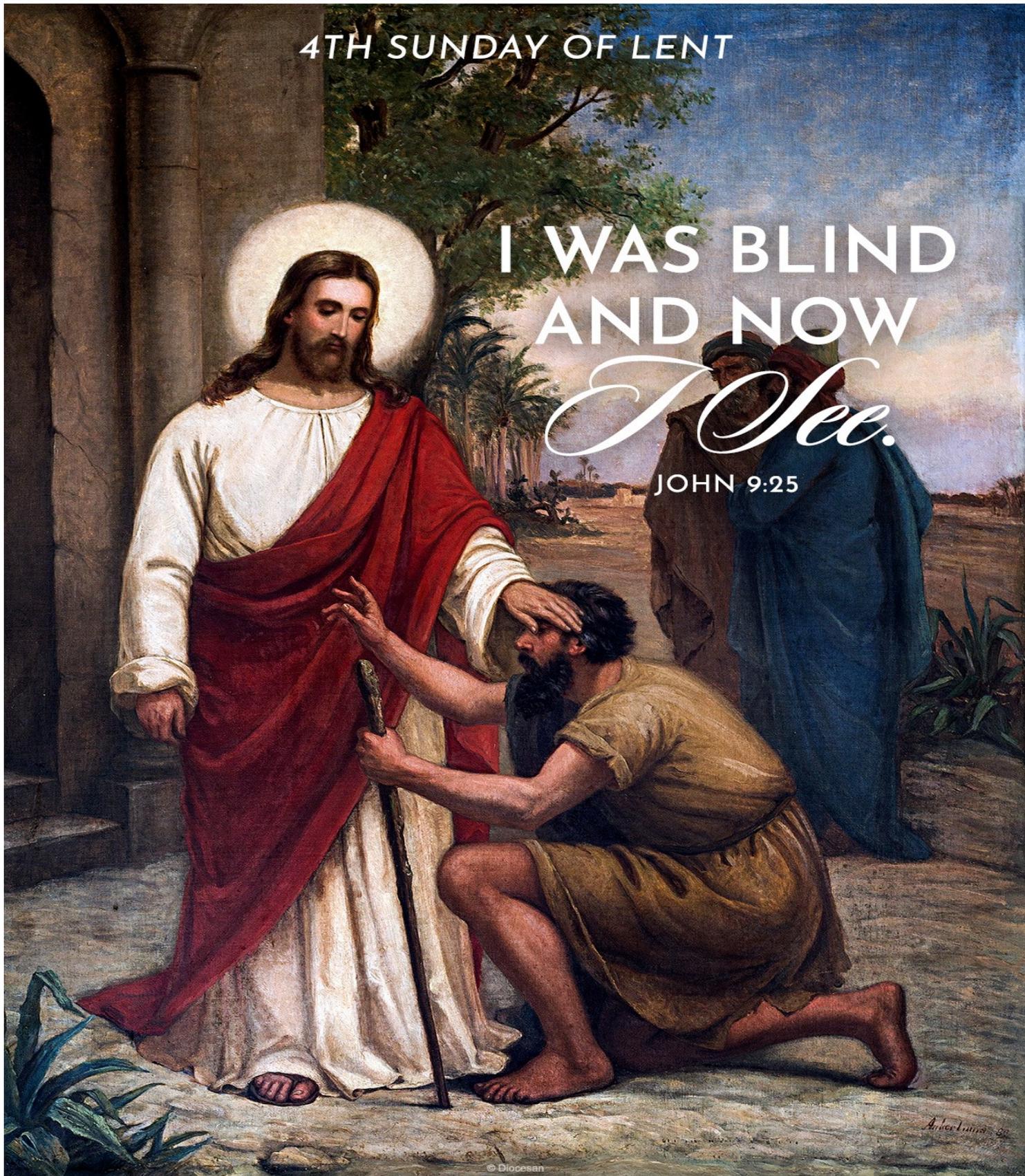
March 15, 2026

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

I WAS BLIND
AND NOW

See.

JOHN 9:25



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

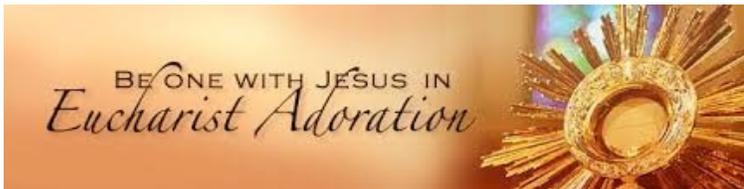
Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W., M.S.
 Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services
 P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538
 610-871-5200 ext. 2204
 prusso@allentowndioocese.org

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

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

Diocese of Allentown Website

www.allentowndioocese.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, March 14

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

Sunday, March 15

8:15 a.m. Robert Doyle Sr.
(Ed & Gerry Schwartz)

Sunday, March 15

10:30 a.m. Atwood & Margaret
Daubert
(Janet Daubert)

Monday, March 16

6:30 p.m. Ted Casey
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

Tuesday, March 17

9:00 a.m. John D.W. Reiley
(Joe & Cecelia Burns)

Wednesday, March 18

6:30 p.m. St. John's Parish Family
(Time Change)

Thursday, March 19

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

Friday, March 20

9:00 a.m. Joseph Burns
(Joyce Gerace & Family)

Saturday, March 21

5:00 p.m. Joe Brahler
(Kathy Brahler & Family)

Sunday, March 22

8:15 a.m. Joseph Burns
(Joyce Gerace & Family)

Sunday, March 22

10:30 a.m. John Kutch
(Pat Kutch & Family)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

This year we are looking at the seven sacraments. We spent a lot of time on Baptism. But it is necessary to understand Baptism if we want to understand our next sacrament: Confirmation. Baptism makes us members of God's family, the Church. Baptism makes us God's adopted sons and daughters through the Holy Spirit coming to dwell in us. Confirmation "completes" our Baptism. Confirmation brings our Baptism to its maturity. What do we mean by this?

In Baptism we are born into God's family. But we cannot remain "infants." Confirmation helps us grow to be *adults* in God's family.

In Baptism, as we said, we become God's adopted sons and daughters. Confirmation helps us *live up to* being God's sons and daughters.

In Baptism we take on a likeness to Christ. An analogy is how infants resemble their parents. But obviously as we grow up, we resemble one or both parents even more. Confirmation helps us grow in our resemblance to Christ.

Baptism makes us disciples of Christ. Confirmation gives us the graces to live as mature disciples of Christ in the adult world, especially by giving us the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (which we will talk about another day).

Thus, Confirmation is one of the Sacraments of Initiation, with Baptism and Holy Communion. It helps us fully become part of the Church family.

In Christ,

Fr. Bobbin

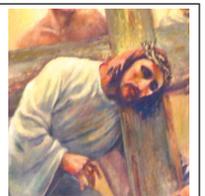
SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study

... will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on **March 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.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held every **Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. followed by Mass at 6:30 p.m.** during Lent in the Church. Consider making this devotion a part of your Lenten observance.



Next Week's Readings

5th Sunday of Lent

(March 21/22)

Reading I: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Reading II: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

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

15	4:00 p.m.	Soup & Scripture.....	L.H.
15	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
17	7:00 p.m.	Ladies of the Rosary	L.H.
18	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross.....	Church
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 Dinners	R.B.
21	9:00 a.m.	Parish Retreat	L.H. & Church
22	2:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice	Church
22	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
23	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council Mtg.....	L.H.
24	6:30 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Dress Rehearsal.....	Church
25	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church
26	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
26	7:30 p.m.	Summer Festival Mtg.....	L.H.
27	4-6:30 p.m.	Lenten Dinner	R.B.
29	9:00 p.m.	CCD	L.H.
29	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children's Liturgy.....	L.H.
29	7:30 p.m.	Dramatic Stations of the Cross Presentation.....	Church

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

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

Soup & Scripture

Transform your soul this Lent with St. John's Soup and Scripture. Join us on **Sunday, March 15th^h from 4:00 to 6pm in Longinus Hall.**

Homemade soup and bread will be served. Scripture will be based on the Sunday Gospel readings. All are welcome. Pre-registration is necessary to prepare the food. Sign-up in back of church, call the rectory, reply on our Facebook page or email loveyouubu@gmail.com with the subject line, Soup and Scripture.

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. Joseph Learning Center—Collection

The Knights of Colukbus, Schuylkill Council 431, will be collecting funds at the exit doors for the St. Joseph Learning Center after the weekend Masses on March 21 & 22. All funds received go directly to the center. Your support for them is greatly appreciated.

CRS Rice Bowl

Lenten Sacrifice and Hope. As we journey through Lent, please remember to use your CRS Rice Bowl to support the work of Catholic Relief Services. Your sacrifices help provide tools, seeds, and training to communities worldwide. Together, we are answering the call of the Eucharist to share love with our neighbors.

Weekly Collection

March 7/8.....4,858.20

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Gladys Kuperavage by Steve & Chris Zanis
2. Special Intention

St. Joseph

1. IMO George Hahner Sr. by Hahner Family
2. IMO Edward Kuperavage by Steve & Chris Zanis

Sanctuary

IMO Albert & Viola Lubinsky by Rick & Michelle Stone

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Erika Stangl Seasock by Eleanor Schaeffer
2. IMO Joan Wassel by Rick & Michelle Stone
- 3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy by Joan Grapsy Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 21 — 5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Lucilla Kochol

EM: Danny & Hermine Murphy

Servers: Maggie & Rhyann Brennan

Cantor: Dave Derbes

March 22 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Jeff Naffin

EM: Bob Bechtel, Heidi Gorski

Servers: Callie & Cole Felty

Cantor: Tina Seiger

March 22 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: John Crane

EM: Justina Majestic, Ray Petrilla

Servers: Luke Lieberman

Collin McGinley

Cantor: Dave Derbes

Weekend Sacristan: Connor Felty

Attention — All Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, and Servers

Please let us know your plans for **April & May**, so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. Please email or call the rectory by **March 16th**. We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

LENTEN DINNERS — Fridays during Lent

March 20, 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

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 6:30 p.m. each week. 50/50 Winner on March 13: *Mary Ann Filiac*

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, March 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.

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 23rd —7 pm

Elected Members

- Vincent Balulis
- Chris Black
- Ann Blankenhorn
- Bob Burns
- Kenneth Cooper
- John Crane
- Michelle Darhun
- Darren DeArment
- Tara DeStefano
- Kelley Eroh
- Heidi Gorski
- Charles Kustan
- Barbara Munster
- Reene Reddington
- Missy Scheetz
- Michelle Stone
- Gretchen Witman
- Kay Wollyung
- Marianne Wollyung
- Robert Wollyung

Appointed Members

- John Consugar
- Tina Seiger

Ex-Officio

- Father Kevin Bobbin
- Deacon Robert Reiley
- Ray Petrilla
- Ed Braham

There is hope in the battle against pornography.

Educate yourself, protect yourself and your family, and seek help and healing. Explore the resources offered by:

1. Integrity Restored (integrityrestored.com)
2. The Diocese of Allentown's Lumen Christi Commission (adlumenchristi.org)
3. Or contact Fr. Bobbin for a confidential appointment.

Assumption BVM School News ...

Assumption BVM's HSA will host its **Annual Cash & Gift Card Bingo** on Sunday, April 19, at St. Ambrose's Parish Center. Doors open at 11:30 AM, and bingo begins at 1:00 PM. Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of exciting games, great prizes, and delicious food. Advance tickets are \$35 and will be \$40 at the door. Purchase online at www.tinyurl.com/abvmHSAbingo, email ABVM.BINGO@gmail.com, or call/text (610) 618-0539 for tickets and information.

Diocesan Events ...

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.

Neighboring Events ...

Schuylkill Choral Society — 'A German Requiem' on Sunday, March 22nd at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Church in Pottsville. Tickets: Adults \$15; Students \$10. Tickets available from any Chorus member or online at: www.schchoral.org/tickets.html or call 570-618-3388.

Easter Bazaar at St. Charles Borromeo Parish Hall, 1115 Walnut St. in Ashland on Saturday, March 21st from 10 am to 2 pm. Bake Sale, Huge White Elephant Sale, Homemade Soups, Pigeons, Halushki, Barbeque, Sausage, Door Prizes and more!

Bus Trip — Joshua at Sight & Sound Theater. We still have several seats available on Tuesday, April 21st. Great for all ages! Watch the epic story come to life on stage followed by a delicious buffet lunch at Hershey Farm. \$172 covers your ticket, lunch at Hershey Farm, and bus transportation. Embark on your journey from Ashland at 8am and return around 6pm. Call 570-875-1521 to make your reservations. You won't want to miss this!

16th Annual Golf Tournament sponsored by St. Patrick Church on Saturday, May 16th at Hidden Valley Golf Course in Pine Grove. Registration is Saturday, May 16th at 7 am; Shotgun start at 8 am. Early Bird Special price by April 30th is \$85. Please call Debbie at 570-622-1802, ext. 0 for more information.

Cruise to the Caribbean with St. Ambrose (Schuylkill Haven) on August 19 to August 29 — Departing from NYC and traveling on the Norwegian Escape, we will be visiting San Juan, Puerto Rico; Philipsburg, St. Maarten; the U.S. and British Virgin Islands; and Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. There are cabin options for everyone. Optional bus transportation from St. Ambrose will also be available for an additional fee. For more information or to sign up, please reach out to Debbie Minnich at 484-934-1350.

Mustard Seedlings

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



Join us Thursday mornings, March 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.

Family Matters

The Irish certainly have their day to celebrate. You would think all of us are Irish on St. Patrick's Day. Consider learning more about your own ethnic heritage and share it with your family and parish.

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 LORD IS MY
SHEPHERD;
THERE IS NOTHING I
SHALL WANT.

March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

1 Sm 16:1b 6-7, 10-13a | Eph 5:8-14 | Jn 9:1-41

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

There has been much commentary over the centuries about Jesus' use of saliva and mud to heal the man born blind. One of the most profound interpretations I have read reminds us that in Genesis, God made man out of "the dust of the ground." (Gen 2:7) Jesus' use of mud in the Gospel suggests that he is re-creating the blind man before him. The man receives a whole new life, such that even those who see him after his healing question whether he is the same person as before: "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" ... "No, he just looks like him." Through this Gospel, I've come to believe that Jesus is inviting us to see that every time he touches us in the sacraments, we are inwardly re-created, inwardly renewed. As we come to this midway point in Lent, let's open our eyes to the ways God is waiting to meet us with his healing love in the sacraments, and avail ourselves of this amazing grace.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Our first reading offers a powerful reminder that although humans see what's on the outside, God looks at our hearts. While the prophet Samuel thought surely God's hand was on Jesse's oldest son, God chooses David, the youngest, who was out tending the sheep. In the Gospel, the Pharisees look at the man born blind and think he is a sinner, born from sinners. But underneath is a man whom Jesus sends (the name of the pool that Jesus instructs him to go wash in means "Sent") to bear witness to all that God has done for him. God often chooses the unlikeliest (in our eyes) persons to be the messengers of his Gospel. At times we may wonder why God has chosen us or feel ourselves lacking in the qualities needed to lead others to the Lord. In those moments, let's trust that through our baptism and confirmation, the Lord has put his Spirit in us and has equipped us for the work of sharing the Gospel.

REFLECT

The lyrics "I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see," from the hymn "Amazing Grace" is based in part on today's Gospel reading. The man born blind says, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." Locate a favorite rendition of this song and use it in your prayer time this week, reflecting on the ways God has brought you greater spiritual vision and inner renewal this Lent.



Detail of Buoninsegna: The Healing of the Man Born Blind, Public domain. The York Project (2002). 10,000 Meisterwerke der Malerei (2019). Distributed by Direct Media Publishing GmbH.