

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

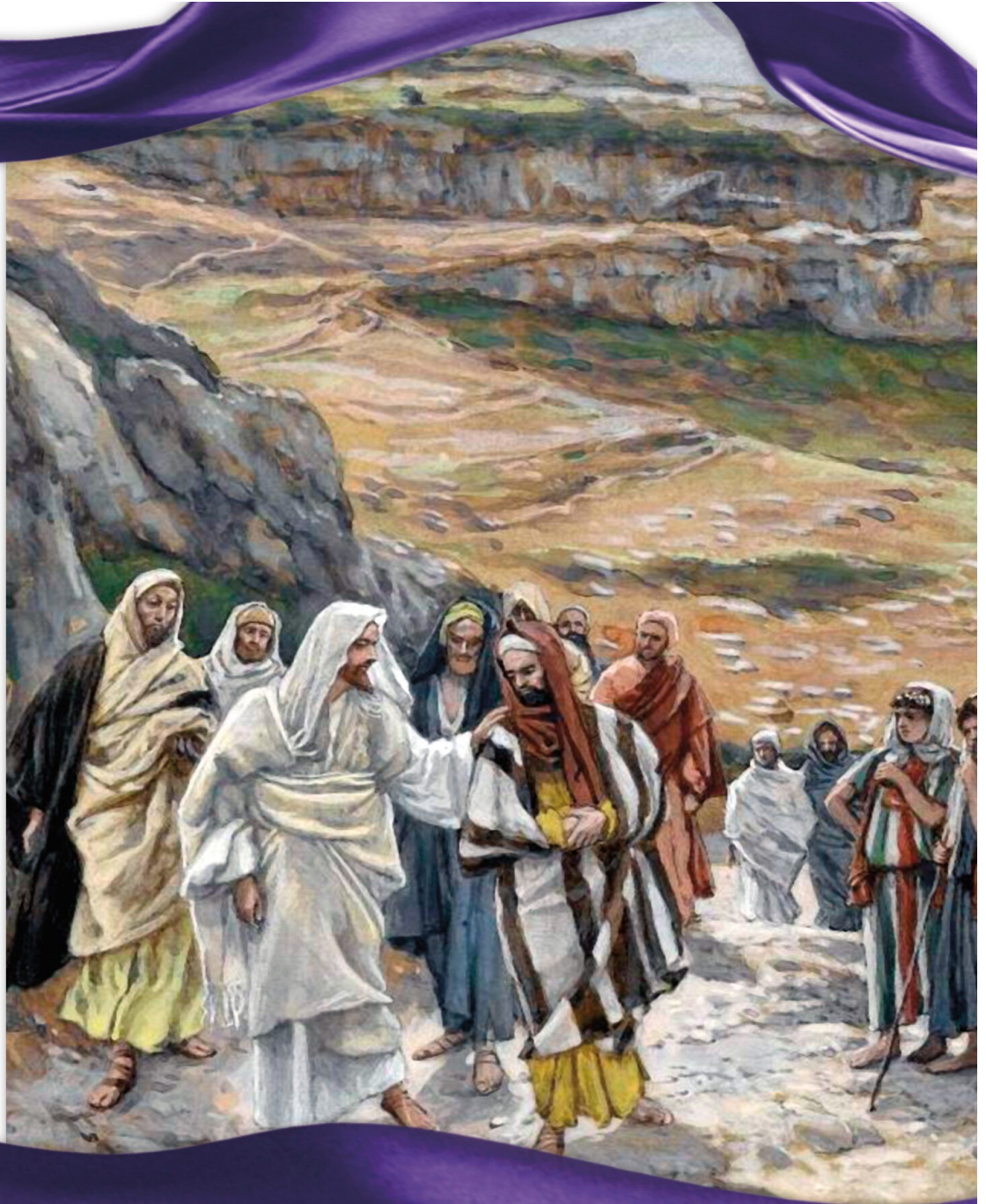
10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • [www.saintjohnpottsville.org](http://www.saintjohnpottsville.org)

March 17, 2024

“The hour has  
come for the  
Son of Man  
to be glorified.  
Amen, amen,  
I say to you,  
unless a grain of  
wheat falls to the  
ground and dies,  
it remains just  
a grain of wheat;  
but if it dies,  
it produces  
much fruit.”

*John 12: 23,24*

Jesus Discourses with His  
Disciples by James Tissot  
Circa 1886-1894



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

## Mass Intentions

### 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)

### Monday, March 18

6:30 p.m. Michael Maccarone  
(Christine Maccarone)

### Tuesday, March 19

9:00 a.m. John Kutch  
(Pat Kutch & Family)

### Wednesday, March 20

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

### Thursday, March 21

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

### Friday, March 22

9:00 a.m. John Wollyung  
(Joseph & Suzanne Wollyung)

### Saturday, March 23

5:00 p.m. Ed Smith  
(Grandchildren)

### Sunday, March 24

8:15 a.m. James Pugh Jr.  
(Ed & Gerry Schwartz)

### Sunday, March 24

10:30 a.m. Joseph Lescavage  
(Nancy Lescavage)

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

On these Sundays of Lent we have been thinking about the Corporal Works of Mercy. Today consider the final one: "bury the dead."

As you might imagine, this mandate is not directed only to funeral directors and cemetery workers. When someone dies, the entire Church, the entire Body of Christ needs to respond. First and foremost we pray for the person who has died. No matter how good and holy a person we believe him to be, we always pray in case he is still passing through the stage of purification we call purgatory. We believe our prayers can hasten someone's entrance into heaven. We pray for the deceased in our own private prayers, and in the prayers of the Mass. We can offer the greatest prayer of all, which is to have Mass offered for the deceased.

Secondly, the Church must accompany the person's loved ones through their time of grief. There are many ways to do this from very small gestures like sending a card or condolences online to attending the funeral. Some time ago I heard someone make the observation that, with the ease of posting condolences online on the funeral home's website, fewer people are making the effort to attend the funeral. Whether or not that is true, it is important to make the effort to attend the funeral Mass or service or to stop by the visitation, if there is one. *Presence* is very important when someone loses a loved one and is now faced with that person's *absence*. Make the sacrifice to attend a funeral or go to the visitation.

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.



## 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 • James Minchhoff*

## Next Week's Readings

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord  
(March 22/23)**

**Reading I:** Isaiah 50:4-7

**Reading II:** Phillipians 2:6-11

**Gospel:** Mark 14:1-15:47



## 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

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 9/10 .....\$4,032.00  
Parish Dues .....\$1,032.00

### Candles

#### BVM

1. IMO Barbara Forney by Heenan Family
2. IMO Eleanore Forney by Heenan Family

#### St. Joseph

1&2. IMO Pat Mason Sr. by Maria Mason

#### Sanctuary

IMO George Hahner Sr. by Hahner Family

#### Guardian Angels

1. IMO Carol Seigle by Millie, Ellen & Barb
2. For Michaela Klembara by Anita Klembara
- 3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy by Joan Grapsy & Family

### Liturgical Min. Schedule

#### Palm Sunday

March 23— 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Patty O’Neill  
Carleigh Palmieri

Euch.Min.: John O’Neill  
Joe Palmieri

Server: Sophia Palmieri

Cantor: Dave Derbes

March 24 — 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Michelle Ambrose  
Janet Daubert

Euch.Min.: Mike Ambrose  
Justina Majestic

Servers: Lukas & Finley McNamara

Cantor: Amy Joyce

March 24— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Mary Matulevich  
John Matulevich

Euch.Min.: John Matulevich  
Frank Murphy

Servers: Vincent, Michael, Spencer  
Prestileo

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

# SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on March 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.



### St. John’s Catholic Women’s Union



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 20th at 7:30 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 Party. Your ideas, friendship and membership are welcomed. Join us! **Please Note: 2024 Dues are now due!**

### Assumption BVM School News ...

Assumption BVM School is looking for dynamic and dedicated team players to join our teaching staff! Come make a difference in the lives of our youth! Email [eschoepflin@assumptionbvmschool.net](mailto:eschoepflin@assumptionbvmschool.net) for details.

**Save the Date ...** Open House on Sunday, May 19th from noon to 2 p.m.

**Congratulations** to 7th grader Daniel Kim who will be representing Schuylkill County and Assumption BVM School in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in May!

## LENTEN DINNERS

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

Dinner 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 Option" for March 22nd is : Honey Garlic Glazed Salmon

#### 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 **Friday after 1 p.m.**

**50/50 Chances ...** available at the door from the Catholic Women's Union; drawing takes place at 7 p.m. week.  
(March 8 — 50/50 winner: (Carole Quirin )

## GIANNA JESSEN

Speaker—Advocate—Pro Life



"God is using Gianna to remind the world that each human being is precious to Him. It is beautiful to see the strength of the love of Jesus, which he has poured into her heart. My prayer for Gianna, and for all who listen to her, is that this message of God's love will put an end to abortion with the power of love."  
- Mother Teresa

Gianna Jessen is a pro-life advocate, speaker, writer, singer and she is coming to our area ...

**Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 -- 6:30 p.m.**

at the Holy Family Parish Center at Hillcrest Hall in Minersville.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Free Admission

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 .

**"An Evening with Gianna Jessen"** chance tickets are now on sale. You have a chance to win three prizes of \$500 Amazon Gift Card, \$200 Boyer's Gift Card, \$100 Cash. Ticket price is \$10. All profits go to defray the cost of the event. Tickets will be sold after Masses for the next few weeks, You can also contact Tina Seiger to purchase tickets 570-789-3453.

**Volunteers Needed ...** We need a driver for Miss Gianna Jessen the day of the event. This will entail driving to an airport, hotel and to the event. Also, we are asking for volunteers to either purchase or make a few baked goods for this event. Donations of cases of water are also appreciated. Please call Tina Seiger if interested in helping with these requests 570-789-3453. Thank you in advance!

## Operation Rice Bowl

### Embodying the Love of Christ by Caring for One Another.

Reflect on your Lenten journey thus far: What have you learned from our global family members in Uganda, El Salvador and Indonesia? How does the Eucharist unite us with our sisters and brothers around the world? Consider how Christ is present in Adolf and Florence, Sandra and Santos, and Evita. Visit [crs-ricebowl.org](http://crs-ricebowl.org) to read this week's Story of Hope.

## Family Matters

**St. Patrick's Day.** The Irish certainly have their day to celebrate. Consider learning more about your own ethnic heritage and share it with your family and parish.

## Welcome to St. John's

This week we welcome **Tyrone & Kathleen Martin** and their children, **Joseph, William, Daniel and Sebastian.** The Martin's are new to the area. Tyrone is a shift manager for Allied Security and Kathleen is a stay-at-home Mom. Warmly welcome the Martin Family into our parish family with a big dose of St. John's hospitality.

**Please Note:** When placing flowers at our Grotto — please use either plastic or metal vases. Glass vases are too easily broken. Thank you.

**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.



## Holy Week Schedule

### Palm Sunday, March 24

Masses  
Saturday 5 p.m. & Sunday 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.  
Dramatic Stations of the Cross • 7:30 p.m.

### Monday, March 25

Mass • 9 a.m.

### Tuesday, March 26

Mass • 9 a.m.

### Wednesday, March 27

Mass • 8 a.m.

### Holy Thursday, March 28

Mass • 7 p.m.  
Adoration after Mass until 10 p.m.

### Good Friday, March 29

Stations of the Cross • 12 Noon  
Good Friday Liturgy • 3 p.m.

### Holy Saturday, March 30

Blessing of Food Baskets • 12 p.m. in Church  
Easter Vigil Mass • 8 p.m.

### Easter Sunday, March 31

Masses • 8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, March 23 • 3:45 to 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday, March 24 • No Scheduled Confessions  
Monday, March 25 • 4 to 5 p.m. at St. John's  
Monday, March 25 • Penance Service at St. Clare of Assisi • 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 26 • 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday • March 30 • No Scheduled Confessions  
Sunday • March 31 • No Scheduled Confessions



## Blessed Palm

The Blessed Palm is known as a sacramental. We should not receive the Palm out of human respect with the rest of the faithful and then forget it or cast it away. The Blessed Palm in Catholic homes is a symbol of our Christian Faith. Let the Palm which you carry home from church on Palm Sunday become a constant reminder of the days ahead when your faith may be put to a test.



## Divine Mercy Sunday - April 7th.

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.

## Bulletin Boosters

IMO Carl Bartholomew  
 IMO Harold Bartholomew  
 IMO Robert Berger  
 John & Mildred Fredericks  
 Fr. Don Henry  
 IMO M/M Herbert Henry  
 IMO Joanne Hepler  
 IMO Kathleen Hohman  
 IMO Clare & Linda Houser  
 MO Charles Lorenz  
 IMO Dorothy Parsick  
 IMO Erika Stangl Seacock  
 IMO Margaret Zelinsky  
 Living & Deceased of St. John's  
 CYO Program

*Thank you for supporting our  
 bulletin this month!*

## Church Cleaning Crew Thank You

We thank our Church Cleaning Group for doing a wonderful job cleaning our beautiful church including Longinus Hall and the Chapel.

Everything looks just perfect! Those volunteering their time and talent this month:  
*Michelle Ambrose, Adam Edmister, Darla Fabiani, Sandy Frinzi, Phyllis Hess, Debbie Kubilus, Ray Petrilla, Theresa Skrobak, Beth Smith.*

The more the merrier — new-comers are always welcome — please call the rectory if interested or just show up at our next cleaning on the second Tuesday of every month.

## 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."*

## 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. Thank you very much for your generosity.



## 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!

## 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 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



**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.

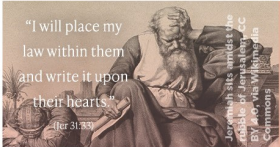
**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
Saturdays .....4:15 to 4:45 p.m..  
Sundays..... 7:45 to 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 to 10:15 a.m..  
or by appointment

**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



**March 17, 2024 | Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Jer 31:31-34 | Heb 5:7-9 | Jn 12:20-33**

*Written by*  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

As we quickly approach Easter, we're reminded of the reason why we are celebrating. God's chosen people stumbled quite a bit throughout the Old Testament, so God intervened time, and time, and time again to set them back on the straight and narrow. Whereas we would likely give up on someone over time, God has remained steadfast in his grace, and always will. He created a new covenant with Israel that wrote his law upon the hearts of Jews and Gentiles alike. This new covenant was realized through Jesus Christ, who was born into our flesh and crucified on the cross. He suffered death in perfect obedience to God the Father. By being born into flesh, Jesus united humanity and divinity; through his crucifixion and resurrection, Christ "became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him." He is the law of love that lives within us, and through him "all, from least to greatest, shall know [the Father.]"

**GO EVANGELIZE PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

Jesus didn't suffer the cross for his sake or for his own glory. No, our Savior came to preach the kingdom of heaven to us before sacrificing himself for our sins. Notice how in today's Gospel he even admitted he was troubled! It can be terrifying to do God's will for our lives, and Christ himself was troubled by what he was called to do. Yet, in love and trust in the Father, Jesus was obedient, saying "but it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." All Christians are called to a life of self-sacrifice, each to the degree it serves God's purpose. We are all called to give up our lives for the sake of love to glorify God. Without Christ's sacrifice, we would not have been saved; without our willingness to pursue God's call upon our life, the kingdom of God cannot be realized on this earth.

**REFLECT** The Lord placed his law upon your heart the moment you were conceived, but how do you allow him to shine through your life? How do you serve and glorify the Lord? Take a moment today to reflect on your words and actions and consider how you show the world that God is Lord over your life for all time, not only during Lent.