

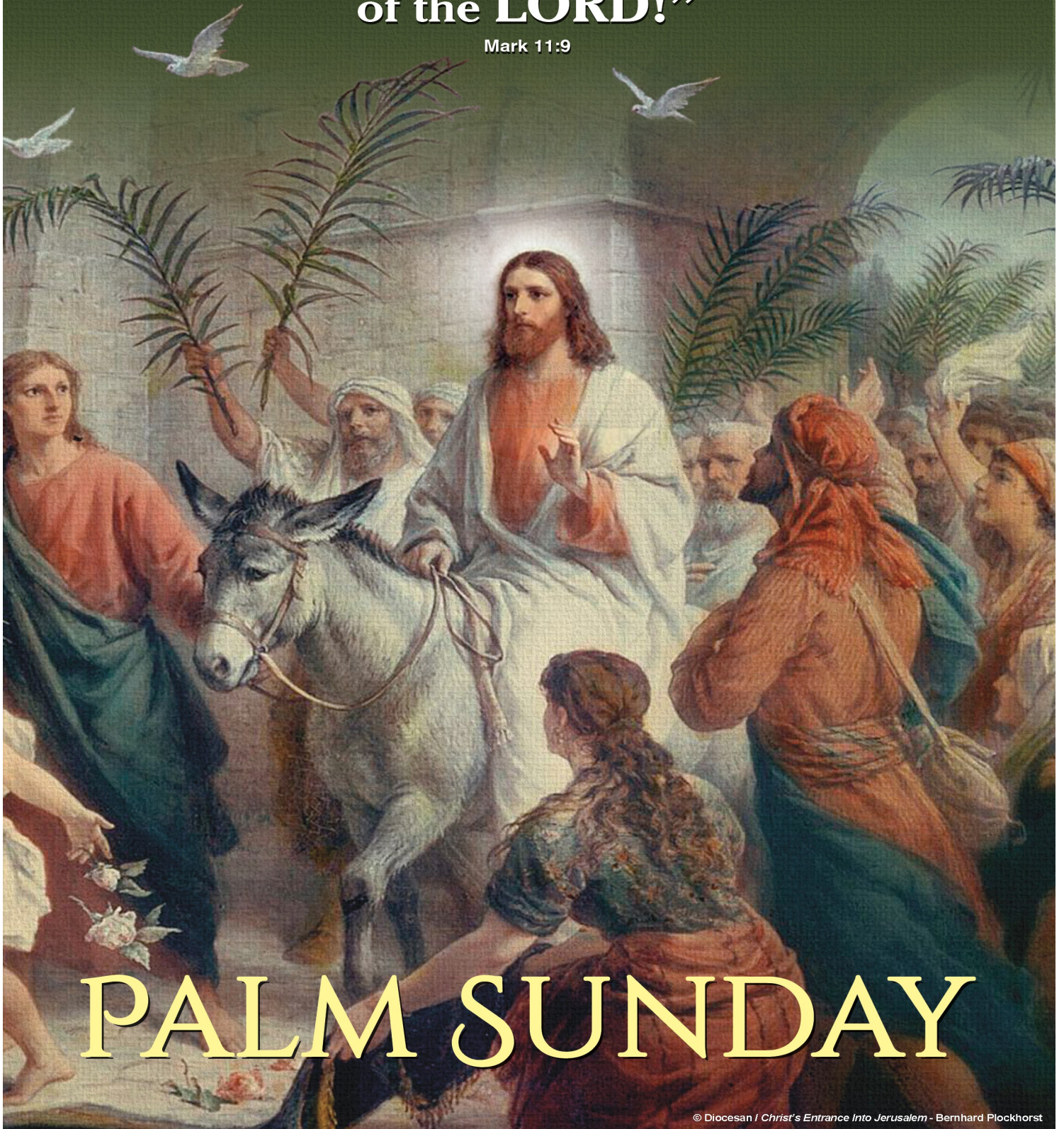
St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

March 24, 2024

**“Blessed is He who comes in the name
of the LORD!”**

Mark 11:9



PALM SUNDAY

Mass Intentions

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)

Monday, March 25

9:00 a.m. Marge Painter
(Pat, Missy, Amy Scheetz)

Tuesday, March 26

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

Wednesday, March 27

8:00 a.m. Elizabeth Lipsky
(Time Change) (Steve & Jan Kurtek)

Holy Thursday, March 28

7:00 p.m. St. John's Parish Family

Good Friday, March 29

3:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday, March 30

8:00 p.m. St. John's Parish Family

Easter Sunday, March 31

8:15 a.m. St. John's Parish Family

Easter Sunday, March 31

10:30 a.m. St. John's Parish Family

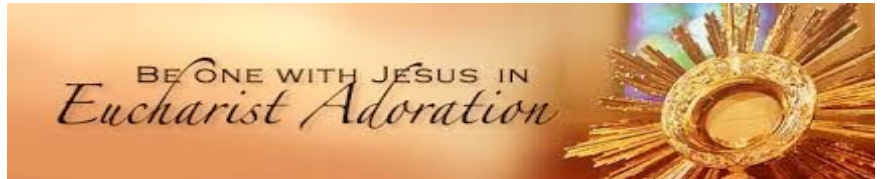
Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Holy Week is upon us, the most important time of the year that takes us to the heart of our faith: the Paschal Mystery of Jesus's death and resurrection for our salvation. The best way to observe Holy Week is to participate as much as possible in the liturgies of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night. Simply coming to church is an easy and effective way to more deeply appreciate our faith.

Make these days special, especially the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. These days should not be "business as usual." While you may have a full work week and not everyone can attend each of the liturgies, at least set aside time for prayer and reflection, possibly reading Scripture, such as the Passion. Remember to fast on Good Friday and pause some of your normal activities, especially those things we might do for fun and entertainment. Let us be with Jesus in His suffering and death in order to more deeply appreciate and experience the joy of Easter and what it means for our lives.

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.

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.

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 • Tom Jefferson
Dominic Maccarone • Drew Schaeffer • Shawn Matz • Miriam Tirjan
John Bernetsky • Chuck Majestic • James Minchhoff*



Upcoming Events

March

- 24 7:30 p.m. Dramatic Stations PresentationChurch
- 25 7:00 p.m. Penance Service at St. Clair of Assisi

April

- 7 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class..... L.H.
- 11 6:30 p.m. Scripture Study L.H.
- 14 9:15 a.m. CCD Parent Mtg L.H.
- 17 7:00 p.m. Catholic Women’s Mtg L.H.
- 18 6:30 p.m. Scripture Study L.H.
- 21 9:15 a.m. CCD Community Mtg L.H.
- 21 10:30 a.m. Sunday School..... L.H.

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 16/17\$4,413.00
Improv. & Repairs\$1,691.00



**NO CANDLE INTENTIONS
DURING HOLY WEEK**

Liturgical Min. Schedule

Holy Thursday

March 28 — 7:00 p.m.

Reader: Mary Matulevich

Euch.Min.: John Crane

John Matulevich

Servers: Aleksander Gorski

Ryan & Ethan Grabowski

Cantor: Dave Derbes

Good Friday of the Lord’s Passion

March 29 — 3:00 p.m.

Reader: Janet Daubert

Euch.Min.: Frank Murphy

John Matulevich

Servers: Sophia Palmieri

Jude & Gabriel Scheidel

Cantor: Dave Derbes

Holy Saturday—Easter Vigil

March 30 — 8:00 p.m.

Reader: Lucilla Kochol, Vince Balulis

Ann Blankenhorn, Bob Wollyung

Euch.Min.: Dan & Hermine Murphy

John Matulevich

Servers: Lukas & Finley McNamara

Vincent, Michael, Spencer Prestileo

Cantor: Tina Seiger

Easter Sunday

March 31 — 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Jennifer Daubert

Euch.Min.: George Forney

Mike Ambrose

Server: Jackson Daubert

Cantor: Amy Joyce

March 31— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Mary Matulevich

Euch.Min.: John Matulevich

Debbie Herb

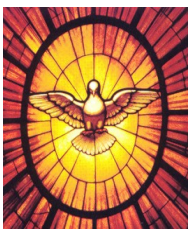
Servers: Maggie & Rhyann Brennan

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

SCRIPTURE STUDY

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

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.

Servants to All—thank you

On behalf of the staff, clients, and board of directors of Servants to All, we would like to thank you for generously donating nonperishable foods to the homeless and those in need. No one should have to choose between making rent and feeding their families. Unfortunately, this is the reality for many of our neighbors. There are so many people who never would have considered using a food pantry or asking for assistance before but are now struggling and reaching out to Servants to All for help.

We are thankful for your support that allows Servants to All to welcome hundreds of people each year who need food and connections to resources. We are extremely grateful for your generosity, and thankful for all you do for our community and those in need. We can never thank you enough for your support, and we are grateful for all you did for our program, clients, and our community.

If you have questions about our program, please contact us at 570-718-2017.

Peace in Christ,
Jeanette Triano Sinn, Executive Director

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 16th, 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!

Good Friday Collection

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land, where they are now less than 2% of the population. Your support is essential to help the Church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines of Christianity, including in Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem, to name only a few.

The pandemic had hit Christians in the Holy Land particularly hard. Most of them depend on pilgrimages for work. The war made their situation even more dramatic. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection is necessary to meet the basic needs of the People of God still living in this Land and to maintain a Christian presence where the Church was born.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. PLEASE BE GENEROUS!

For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit www.myfranciscan.org or www.custodia.org

Cemetery News ...

After a long winter the grass is starting to grow and the flowers are trying to bloom, which means maintenance at St John's cemetery #2 will be happening once again. Now is the time to plan for the upcoming year. If any parishioner has any ideas, complaints, or compliments for the cemetery please contact the rectory with the information. It will then be passed onto the cemetery committee for consideration in the upcoming months. Practically everyone at St. John's Parish either has, or knows someone whose final resting place is in our cemetery, and it is up to us to make sure the grounds are the best they can be.





We will be decorating the church for Easter on **Holy Saturday at 1 p.m.** Extra hands are always needed and appreciated.

Welcome to St. John's

This week we welcome **Wesley & Krystie Ward** and their children, **Greyson & Graham**. The Ward's are new to the area. Wesley is a project manager and Krystie is in the nursing field. Warmly welcome the Ward Family into our parish family with a big dose of St. John's hospitality.

33rd Annual Golf Classic tournament hosted by St. Joseph Center for Special Learning on **May 17th** at Mountain Valley Golf Course. Sponsor and/or join us for an adventurous day of food, fellowship and, of course... golf! For more information, please visit ... www.stjosephctr.com or call 570-622-4638.

Rice Bowl Boxes

The Rice Bowl boxes can be dropped off at the rectory or placed in the boxes by the upper side door of church.

Flowers at the Grotto

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



HOLY WEEK



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.



Operation Rice Bowl

Modern Day Simon of Cyrene. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. As we walk with Jesus this week, we remember the countless women, children and men who carry heavy crosses even today: crosses of hunger, of vulnerability to climate change, or of a lack of resources. How — like Simon of Cyrene — can you help to carry the crosses of our sisters and brothers in your local community and around the world? Visit csrricebowl.org/holy-week to learn more.

Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop Drop Off — Saturday, April 6th —

Look around your home for any items you wish to donate to our next Yard Sale. You'd be surprised what you might find. Here are some suggestions:

Decorations for Fall, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Puzzles, Knick Knacks, Kitchen Items, Purses, Small Appliances, Candles, Toys, Games, Jewelry, Tablecloths, CD's, DVD's, Bakeware, Phones, Vintage items, etc.

DO NOT donate the following: Plastics, VHS tapes, Glasses, Cups, Televisions, Bedding, Computers, Monitors, Keyboards, Books, Clothing, Large Furniture, Stuffed Animal Toys, Large Christmas Trees.

ONLY ONE DROP-OFF DATE on **Saturday, April 6th from 9 a.m. to noon** at the Russell Building. No items will be accepted before or after this date. Do not leave articles at the door or in the parking lot. Call the parish office 570-622-5470 ext. 3 for more information.



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.



Amazon Gift List QR Code

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 31st**, 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!

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-mailstjbparish@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.

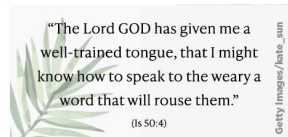
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturdays4:15 to 4:45 p.m..
Sundays..... 7:45 to 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 to 10:15 a.m..
or by appointment

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 24, 2024 | Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Is 50:4-7 | Phil 2:6-11 | Mk 14:1-15:47

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

“The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them.” This sentence from our first reading is taken from one of the four “Songs of the Suffering Servant” in Isaiah. The New Testament identifies this Servant as Jesus, and we know that Jesus accepted the suffering that was foretold in the verses that follow this one: “I gave my back to those who beat me ... my face I did not hide from insults and spitting.” As aspiring servants of God on this Palm Sunday, the most holy of days when we hear Mark’s account of Jesus’ passion, how does this sentence speak to us? What does it mean to have a well-trained tongue? To me it is a call to speak to the Lord in prayer as well as to speak the Good News of the Gospel whenever and wherever we can.

PRAY “Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will.” These words from today’s passion narrative demonstrate Jesus’ complete, obedient surrender of his will to his Father’s divine will. As flawed human beings, we will never be able to perfectly emulate our Savior’s actions, but what better way to begin Holy Week than to try? Through prayer, strive to surrender yourself to God this week by trusting him completely, and striving to do his will with humility and Christ-like obedience.

GO EVANGELIZE PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

How can we gain the confidence to believe that our tongue is “well-trained”? We know we are all given the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and we must trust in that promise and invoke his presence often. Who knows? A kind word or gesture from us may just “speak” to a weary person who is struggling. Paul writes that in his passion, Jesus “emptied himself” in the hours before his death and “[became] obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Paul’s next words give us the answer to our question above: “Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend ... and every tongue confess [emphasis added] that Jesus Christ is Lord.” The fullness of the kingdom will be realized only when Jesus comes again. But in the meantime, we have the Eucharist that Jesus instituted at the Last Supper to sustain us and give us strength for our task to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and spread the kingdom of God one day at a time.