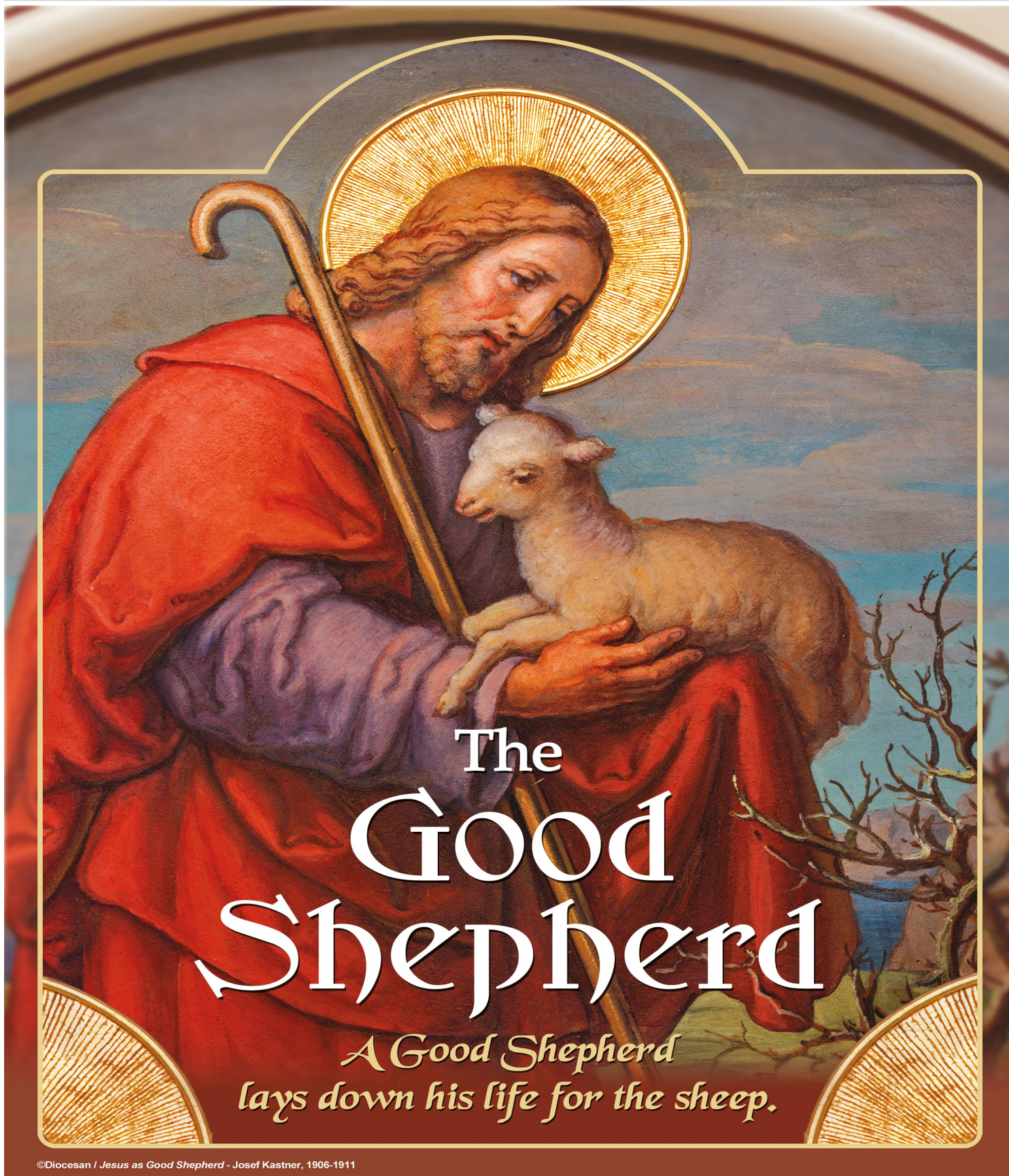


St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

April 26, 2026



The Good Shepherd

*A Good Shepherd
lays down his life for the sheep.*

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*

For our Deceased: *Mark McCormick*

"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, April 25

5:00 p.m. Charles Pudge Bowers
(Joan Powers)

Sunday, April 26

8:15 a.m. Cathy Mooney Troup
(Nora Chiplonia)

Sunday, April 26

10:30 a.m. Burton & Eleanore Forney
(Jen Daubert & Family)

Monday, April 27

6:30 p.m. John Gerace
(Babe Murphy)

Tuesday, April 28

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

Wednesday, April 29

9:00 a.m. Ann Uckele
(Pat, Missy, Amy Scheetz)

Thursday, April 30

9:00 a.m. Joseph J. Steficek
(Larry Steficek)

Friday, May 1

9:00 a.m. Andrew Walcott
(Ronald & Mary Ellen
Renninger)

Saturday, May 2

5:00 p.m. Samkavitz & Orzechowski
Family
(M/M Joseph Orzechowski)

Sunday, May 3

8:15 a.m. Charles & Matilda Schaeffer
(Eleanor Schaeffer)

Sunday, May 3

10:30 a.m. Alesandro Clare Alfonso
(Majestic & Semanchick
Families)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

As we reflect on the seven sacraments, we have been trying to better understand Confirmation. Before moving on, we should note a couple more things about Confirmation.

As we said previously, Confirmation "completes" our Baptism. Therefore, there are several similarities between the two sacraments. Just as we have a baptismal name (for many of us, our middle name), we also take a new name when we receive Confirmation. Actually, one can use his or her baptismal name for Confirmation also, to show the connection between the two sacraments. Or one can choose a new name. Although the only requirement is to avoid anything that would be inappropriate, it would be ideal to take the name of a saint. Students preparing for Confirmation very often learn about the saints as models of discipleship.

A new name indicates a new identity and a new mission. Confirmation is one of the sacraments we receive only once in a lifetime because it permanently changes us. It also gives us the "mission" of living as mature disciples of Christ in the adult world.

Finally, we can note that, just as we have godparents for Baptism, we have a sponsor when we receive Confirmation. A baptismal godparent can also serve as one's Confirmation sponsor, or they can be two different individuals. They serve the same purpose: being a model and example of living the Catholic faith, and accompanying us on our journeys through life.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

Readers, Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.

Please consider if our Lord is calling you to one of these roles. Our current liturgical ministers are sometimes spread very thin, especially in the summer, making it difficult to fill the schedule. If you might be interested in one of these roles, please see Fr. Bobbin.

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study

... will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on **May 14 & 21**. 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

5th Sunday of Easter (May 2/3)

Reading I: Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

Reading II: 1 Peter 2:4-9

Gospel: John 14:1-12

Upcoming Events

April

26	9:00 a.m.	CCD	L.H.
26	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children's Liturgy	L.H.
26	after Masses	Coffee & Donuts	L.H.

May

2	5:00 p.m.	First Holy Communion	Church
3	10:30 a.m.	CCD/Rosary/May Procession	Church/Grotto
3	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children's Liturgy May Procession...	Church/Grotto
4	6:30 p.m.	Anointing Mass	Church
7	7:00 p.m.	Summer Festival Mtg.....	RB
12	7:00 p.m.	Ladies of the Rosary	L.H.
14	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
16	after Mass	Wine & Cheese	L.H.
17	after Masses	Coffee & Donuts	L.H.
20	6:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union	L.H.

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

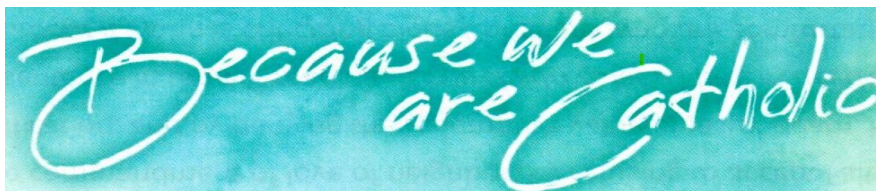
Tuesdays 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men's Group F.R.

<><><> MARK YOUR CALENDARS <><><>

SUMMER FESTIVAL—July 17/18, 2026

Anointing Mass

On **Monday, May 4**, at the usual **6:30pm Mass**, we will offer the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. While many Catholics think of this sacrament as "Last Rites," it is not only for the dying. It is a sacrament of spiritual healing for anyone who is seriously or chronically ill, including mental illnesses, for the elderly, and for anyone who will have surgery in the near future. If you or a family member fits into one of these categories and would like to receive the sacrament, please call the rectory. **It is important to register in advance so we can keep proper records of the sacraments.** Mass will be celebrated in the main church. There will be pews reserved for those receiving Anointing and for family or caregivers.



Because We Are Catholic Annual Appeal—2026

It's underway! Our parish support is a vital part of this Diocesan-wide effort to serve children and families in our own community and throughout the Diocese of Allentown. You can scan the QR code and make your gift today at www.BecauseWeAreCatholic.org. Thank you!



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.

Weekly Collection

April 18/19.....\$3,841.00

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 Jim & Ann Hopkins
by Rick & Michelle Stone
2. IMO Tom & Anne Stone
by Rick & Michelle Stone

St. Joseph

1. IMO Martha Jones
by Rick & Michelle Stone
2. IMO Adam Duffy
by Rick & Michelle Stone

Sanctuary

IMO For Chloe & Joseph
by Neil & Frances Manus

Guardian Angels

1. IMO James Cavanaugh
by Hahner Family
2. IMO Marcella Sockalosky
by Rick & Michelle Stone
- 3&4. IMO Babe & JoAnn Heller
by Wollyung Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2 — 500 p.m.

Reader: Janet Daubert

EM: John Crane, Sharon Snyder

Server: John Crane

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

May 3— 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Bob Bechtel

EM: Heidi Gorski, Gerry Schwartz

Servers: Finley McNamara
Cooper Felty

Cantor: Amy Joyce

May 3 —10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Jennifer Daubert

EM: Debbie Herb, Justina Majestic

Servers: Jackson Daubert
Luke Lieberman

Cantor: Dave Derbes

Weekend Sacristan: Connor Felty

Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop — May 8/9

Friday, May 8th from 4 to 7 p.m. and **Saturday, May 9th** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Russell Building 9th & Schuylkill Ave. Pottsville.

Don't miss it! If you like yard sales, this is the place to be. Various items including ... Christmas decorations, knick-knacks, kitchen items, appliances, jewelry, various holiday decorations, framed prints, special Vintage Section and much, much more, plus food is available for purchase. Something for everyone! Join us! Call the Rectory office 622-5470 ext 3 for more information.



Desserts/Baked Goods needed—If you would like to donate a dessert, please drop off at the times listed above or call the rectory 622-5470 ext 3. Please individually wrap or bag all dessert items to be sold.

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!!

Summer Festival — T-Shirts

If something new and exciting to add to your Summer Festival attire is what you have been looking for- the Summer Festival Committee is ready to deliver! We are offering St John's Summer Festival t-shirts for all to buy! You may have seen some of our committee members fashioning these fabulous shirts last year. The t-shirt brand is Comfort Colors- incredibly soft and very durable to last! It will be a one sided design on the front of the shirt - a beautiful drawing of our church and some fun festival food as well! The shirt was designed by a well loved local graphic design business Nora's Pawesome Tees! We will offer online ordering (for a small processing fee) or also for no fees, we will be doing some pre-sales in the back of church after Masses until 5/24- the shirts will be ready and delivered in June. There will be extras ordered to sell at the Festival but to be sure to get your specific size, we highly recommend doing the pre-sale. All shirts must be paid for at time of the order. The color of the shirts is Lagoon Blue—it's a shade of teal. We will have a sample shirt in the back of the church for everyone to see!

Summer Festival T-Shirts

Please complete this order form, enclose in an envelope, drop in the collection basket along with the cost.

Name _____ Phone _____

Size (s) _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Adults: S—XL = \$23.00 / 2 XL: \$25.00 / 3 XL: \$27.00 / 4 XL: \$29.00 / Children: \$18.00

Bulletin Boosters

- IMO Carl Bartholomew
- IMO Harold Bartholomew
- IMO James J. Bartholomew
- IMO Robert Berger
- IMO Rita Bartholomew Foley
- John & Mildred Fredericks
- Fr. Don Henry
- IMO M/M Herbert Henry
- IMO Joanne Hepler
- IMO Clare & Linda Houser
- MO Charles Lorenz
- IMO Charles & Matilda Schaeffer
- IMO Charlie & Catherine Schaeffer
- IMO Erika Stangl Seasock
- IMO Theresa Bartholomew Sencak
- IMO Janet Bartholomew Whitaker
- IMO Margaret & Guy Zelinsky
- Living & Deceased of St. John's
- CYO Program

Thank you for supporting our bulletin this 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."

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.



Thank You Department

Dramatic Stations of the Cross. Thank you to all who participated in our Dramatic Stations of the Cross.

Cast & Crew - *Michael Ambrose, Connie Brown, Sandy Clauser, Darren & Philomena DeArment, Dylan, Landon, Kerry & Zach Herb, Phyllis Hess, Debbie Kunselman, Joe & Maureen Kurtek, John Lisowski, Denise Logan, Jacob & LauraLee Marshall, Kelly, Mackenzie & Matt Miller, Anthony & Gerald Potteiger, Joshua Potts, Joseph & Claudia Rittle, Karissa, Vincent Jr. & Vincent Shay III, Addison & Rick Smith, Jared Terraciano, Tegen Vengen, John Vuksta, Jesse Wade, Alexis, Ali & Daniel Werner.*

Jesus: portrayed by *Vincent Balulis* — Narrator: *Debbie Herb* — Director: *Rick Smith*

Dramatic Stations Choir: *Michelle Ambrose, Katie Blackwell, Bob Hahner, Sarah DeArment, Sharon Kolenick, Rosemary Lynn, Frank Mozloom, Deb O'Connor, Jane Petrilla, Barb Powers, Carol Rehnert, Vivian Rupert, Christine Schaeffer, Ed, Sue & Pat Scheetz, Natalie Setlock, Marianne Wollyung.* Soloist—*Vivian Rupert.* **Musicians:** *Sarah DeArment, Bill Gianfagna, Marianne Wollyung.*

Holy Thursday—Washing of Feet. Thank you to those who volunteered on Holy Thursday. You helped our parish family visualize the actions of Jesus at the Last Supper.

Michelle Ambrose, Vince Balulis, Ann Blankenhorn, Bill Gianfagna, Rick & Beth Smith, Larry Steficek

Church & Chapel Decorating. Thank you to all who helped to create the decorations and decorate our church so beautifully for Easter. *Mary Bound, Ed Brahler, Darla Fabiani, Sandy Frinzi, Bob Hahner, Lucilla Kochol, Chris Maccarone, Deacon Robert Reiley, Tina Seiger, Father Bobbin*

Choir, Musicians, Cantors. Thank you to *Barbara Powers, Vincent Prestileo, Pat Scheetz, Sue & Ed Scheetz, Marianne Wollyung.*

Lenten Dinners. Thank you to our **Co-Ordinator** *Kelley Eroh*, our **Chef** *Rick Smith*, our **Kitchen Volunteers** who helped prepare, serve, set up and cleaned up for our Lenten Dinners.

Vince Balulis, Alice Bechtel, Darla Fabiani, Millie Fredericks, Sandy Frinzi, Joyce Gerace, Mary Beth Harvey, Mike Hummel, Pat Kutch, Anne Liptock, Frances Lorenz, Chris Maccarone, Maria Mason, Pattie Miller, Hermine Murphy, Hunter-Rian Norhaft, Sophia Palmieri, Donna Pugh, Nick Quinn, Carole Quirin, Carol Rehnert, Emma & Tina Seiger, Hope, Lucy, Nora Scheidel, Vince & Karissa Shay, Theresa Skrobak, Addison & Beth Smith, Linda Smith, Dave Steffan, Don Tassone, Ivy & Tegan Vengen, Joanne Wood.

Thank you to everyone who patronized the dinners.

Bakers. Thank you to our very talented bakers who made or purchased those delicious desserts week after week:

Frank Chambers, Michelle Darhun, Janet Daubert, Marie Doyle, Sandy Frinzi, Karla Garland, Sr. Mary Jane Hahner, Mary Beth Harvey, Mary Hauck, Pat Kutch, Frances Lorenz, Chritine Maccrone, Milda Maley, Karen Muncy, Barb Munster, Jane Petrilla, Judy Piel, Mary Porter, Carole Quirin, Pat Scheetz, Sue Scheetz, Rosann Sitkus, Ellen Zane.

Church Cleaning Group. Thank you for doing a wonderful job cleaning our beautiful church for Easter also including Longinus Hall and the Chapel. Everything looked just perfect!

Michelle Ambrose, Chris Daubert, Sandy Frinzi, Phyllis Hess, Angela & Maria Mason, Theresa Skrobak, Rick & Beth Smith, Steward Steckley, Joanne Wood.

Statue Covers. A special thank you to *Sandy Frinzi* for making the various Lenten statue covers.

Banners. A special thank you to *Bob Hahner* for making the Lenten Banners.

Despite our very best efforts, we invariably misspell, misplace or omit the name of an important person ... **YOU!** We apologize if we have done this.

HELP NEEDED

My name is Anthony J. Gaburick. I suffer from a nerve disease that requires treatments for me to stay functional. My treatments are out of town in places such as Allentown, West Hazelton, Wilkes-Barre and Wyomissing. I'm looking for drivers who can help me get to these treatments. Doctors will not allow me to drive myself to and from treatments. If anyone is interested in driving me, please contact the church rectory. I'll be very grateful for your help! **Thank you** to everyone who has come forward to help me with transportation to my medical appointments. Your help is so very appreciated. I am truly grateful. Thank you again!

Neighboring Events

Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by St. Patrick Church, 313 Mahantongo St., Pottsville, on Sunday, May 3rd from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. or sell out. Eat-in or Take-out. Platter includes pasta with our homemade sauce, two meatballs, salad, and bread. Cost is \$12.00. Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase.



April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 | 1 Pt 2:20b-25 | Jn 10:1-10

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Today's readings invite us to reflect on our willingness to hear the voice of the Lord, especially when he speaks a word that will convict our hearts. In the first reading, Peter stands up and proclaims Christ crucified and risen, and some three thousand people who heard this were "cut to the heart" and were baptized. Peter's message was not an easy one to hear; he was, in part, reminding them that they had put Jesus to death. But something about Peter's words made it clear that he was speaking the truth. And they repented. They recognized, as we hear in our second reading, that they "had gone astray like sheep" but now they "have returned to the shepherd and guardian of [their] souls." As we seek to grow in discipleship, may we learn to recognize the Lord's voice in our lives, especially when he speaks a word that convicts our hearts, because it is only through him that we find abundant life.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Our Gospel tells us that the sheep recognize the shepherd's voice. We "sheep" who know the Lord have the awesome task of helping others to come to know his voice. One of the most powerful tools we have at our disposal in the work of evangelizing is simply sharing about our own walk with the Lord. Take some time to talk with someone about the ways you recognize the Lord's voice in your life. Those for whom a relationship with God seems far-fetched or difficult can draw great encouragement from hearing about what that relationship looks like in your own life. Often, our own sharing can make it clear that it is possible to hear and communicate with God in a personal and life-changing way, leading them to seek that in their own life.

REFLECT

St. Ignatius of Loyola outlined several rules for the "discernment of spirits," a way of recognizing God's movement in our hearts. A simple summary of the rules says that when we stray from the Lord, the Spirit convicts our hearts, drawing us to repentance. When we are moving toward the Lord, the Spirit encourages our growth toward holiness by gifts of his peace and consolation. Spend some time reflecting on this current phase of your spiritual life. How is the voice of the Good Shepherd speaking to draw you toward his abundant life?