St. John the Baptist R.C. Church
9th & Schuylkill Ave., Pottsville
(St. John’s Russell Building)

BAKED HADDOCK / BAKED SALMON
BAKED LUMP CRAB CAKE
DINNERS

FRIDAYS IN LENT
4 TO 7 P.M.
(No Dinner on Good Friday)

Full Course Dinner including the best Homemade New England Clam Chowder Full Salad Bar—Choice of Vegetables Choice of Macaroni & Cheese Baked or Mashed Potatoes Beverages—Homemade Desserts

Better prices for all of this cannot be found anywhere!

Adults:
Baked Haddock $15.00
Baked Salmon $15.00
1 Lump Crab Cake $15.00
2 Lump Crab Cakes $18.00

Adult Special:
Lump Crab Cake & Choice of Fish $18.00

Children: (under 12)
Baked Haddock $8.00
Baked Salmon $8.00
Lump Crab Cake $8.00

TAKE-OUTS AVAILABLE
Weekend Mass Schedule
Saturday Evening – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Morning – 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Weekday Mass Schedule (in Chapel)
Monday thru Friday – 9:00 a.m.

Cemetery Information
John Consugar 622-2389
St. John’s Rectory 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.

New Parishioners
Please call the Rectory for an appointment to register.

Bulletin Deadline – Tuesday prior to publication

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday afternoon – 4:15 to 4:45 p.m.
Sunday – 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
First Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m.
Second Sunday during 10:30 a.m. Mass Baptismal Preparation for Parents MUST precede the Baptism.
Please contact Father Dave for an appointment.

Outreach Program
Rectory 622-5470 ext.3

Sick Calls
Please notify the parish office

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator
Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC
Direct Phone (800) 791-9209

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator
Sr. Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT
(610) 332-0442 ext. 2019
Dear Parishioners,

In this Sunday’s readings, Jesus expands on the law that his followers knew well.

In Leviticus, our first readings for this Sunday, the Lord declares his statutes to Moses for the Israelites calling them to holiness and love. In the second reading St. Paul instructs the Corinthians calling them to holiness as temples of the Holy Spirit. In Matthew’s gospel for this Sunday Jesus preaches a new standard of love and justice, calling his followers to love their enemies. As God loves all people without partiality, the bad and the good, the just and the unjust – so are all who follow Him to do.

Certainly this can be difficult but it is not impossible. For by Christ’s sacrifice we have been made children of the Father. With his help, and God’s grace, we are capable of striving for the perfection in love for which we are called.

Yours in Christ,

Father Dave

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**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday** – February 24 – 9:00 a.m.  
JOHN HELLER (Bonnie Kapp)

**Tuesday** – February 25 – 9:00 a.m.  
GEORGE L. KLASSEN JR. (Family)

**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
Wednesday, February 26

**9:00 a.m. – DOROTHY ELISON**  
(John, Cathy, Hannah Kostick)

**5:15 p.m. – ANNETTE LIEBERMAN**  
(Jack & Maryanne Guinan)

**Thursday** – February 27 – 9:00 a.m.  
ERNEST ZAMBO (Babe Murphy)

**Friday** – February 28 – 9:00 a.m.  
PATRICK MURPHY (Marilyn & Jim Steidle)

**Saturday** – February 29 – 5:00 p.m.  
LEO LOTZ (Tina Mercuri & Family)

**Sunday** – March 1 – 8:15 a.m.  
BETH THOMAS RESNECK (Dr. Edward Gaydos)

**10:30 a.m. – ESTHER SMITH** (Lorraine ‘Babe’ Murphy)

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**PRAY FOR OUR SICK / DECEASED**

We remember in prayer those who are ill. We commend to our Divine Lord all of our aged people and those residing in nursing homes. **Deceased:** Joseph Braher, James Campion, Paul Burns.

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**CANDLES DONATIONS**

**BVM – Special Intention** by Mary Jean Morgalis  
**St. Joseph** – IMO Thomas J. Burns by Peggy Smith  
**Tabernacle** – IMO Donald & Nancy Doyne by Don & Joanne Doyne

**Sanctuary**

1.IMO Mr.&Mrs. Vincent Doyle by Family
2.IMO Baby Robbie Doyle by Family
3.IMO Mr.&Mrs. Robert Becker Sr. by Bob & Mary Porter
4.IMO Mr.&Mrs. Robert Porter Sr. by Bob & Mary Porter

**GUARDIAN ANGELS**

1&2. IMO Mr.&Mrs. Richard H. Weiss by Becky Weiss

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**SCHEDULE**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

9:00 a.m. – Wednesday – February 26th  
Reader: Mary Ann Schweikert  
Euch.Min.: School Teachers, Joyce Gerace  
Servers: Aleksander Gorski, Macie Rushannon, Riley Doyle  
Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

5:15 p.m. – Wednesday – February 26th  
Reader: Janet Daubert  
Euch.Min.: Ray Petrella, Bobby Rienzo  
Servers: Jude, Justice, Leah Scheidel  
Cantor: Mary Bound

**1ST SUNDAY OF LENT**

5 p.m. – Saturday – February 29th  
Reader: Heidi Gorski  
Euch.Min.: Bobby Rienzo, Janet Daubert  
Servers: Reese Ketner, Stanley & Aleksander Gorski  
Cantor: Mary Bound

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – March 1st  
Reader: Bill Gianfagna  
Euch.Min.: Paul & Debbie Herb  
Servers: Madison & Caden Wright, Kaitlin Painter  
Cantor: Tina Seiger

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – March 1st  
Reader: Susan Hahner  
Euch.Min.: Bobby Rienzo, John Ventura  
Servers: Evelyn Datte, Nathan Peckman, Isabelle Myers  
Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

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**BLESSED CANDLES** are available in the sacristy after weekend Masses or at the rectory during the week. **Box of 2 for $5.00**. Please call if picking up at the Rectory 570-622-5470.
DRAMATIC STATIONS

St. John's Dramatic Stations of the Cross re-creates on stage and through song, the final days of the life of Jesus Christ.

We need men, women and children for the cast. There are many non-speaking parts for those who do not wish to assume a speaking role. People are also needed for the stage crew (props, lighting, sound, etc.) or to help distribute the costumes, etc. If you are a veteran of the Dramatic Stations Presentations, we are looking forward to your return and we ask that you please invite someone new to join you for this year's presentation. If you are new to the parish, we invite you to join us. In addition, it is a great way to meet new people. Many veterans tell us that their participation in the Dramatic Stations is a very meaningful and spiritual way for them to observe the Lenten Season. It is a wonderful family activity as well.

For further information or questions, please call the Rectory 622-5470.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE
Tuesdays & Thursdays – 7 to 8:15 p.m. – in church
Beginning Thursday, February 27th.

DIVINE MERCY PERPETUAL ADORATION

What separates YOU from committing to a holy hour of adoration? We need adorers for all 168 holy hours and subs for the open holy hours so that our dear Lord is never left alone! Jesus waits for us in this Sacrament of Love! Examine your priorities! Are you indifferent or just too busy? We have a treasure in having our dear Lord present 24/7 in our adoration chapel. Don't let this treasure go to waste in your life!

We need adorers for the following hours:
   - Wednesday 10 a.m.
   - Thursday 3 a.m., 4 a.m., 10 p.m.;
   - Saturday 12 a.m., 1 a.m., 2 a.m., 3 a.m., 4 a.m.;
   - Sunday 12 a.m., 4 a.m.
Whenever you are unable to cover your Holy Hour, for whatever reason, we are always able to get a sub.
Call St. Patrick's Rectory 570-622-1802.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

Encounter Lent. Join our faith community – and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States – in a life-challenging Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl.

During the next 40 days, we will encounter the stories of people in Iraq, Nicaragua, Burkina Faso and other places around the world where CRS is at work.

Pick up your family’s CRS Rice Bowl located at the back or front exits.

ASH WEDNESDAY

With the sign of ashes we begin our journey to Easter. With the sign of ashes we are summoned to live with Christ. We make a beginning with ashes on this day and we will end this season in the fire of the Easter Vigil.

9:00 a.m. - Mass & Distribution of Ashes
5:15 p.m. - Mass & Distribution of Ashes

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays during Lent
@ St. John’s – 7 p.m. - Chapel
Please join us each Friday during Lent. Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, Stations of the Cross, followed by Benediction.

Next Week’s Readings

ASH WEDNESDAY
Reading I: Joel 2:12-18
Reading II: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2
Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (Feb 29 March 1)
Reading I: Genesis 2:1-9, 3:1-7
Reading II: Romans 5:12-19
Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Where is there persecution today?
Pray for those who persecute you and others.

FAMILY MATTERS

Lenten Practices. The family that prays together … stays together. What better time than Lent to consider a family prayer time. Take time during this Lent to grow closer to Jesus and to each other.

You pray for my family and I’ll pray for yours.

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS

Next week, we will take up for Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Today, over 40% of dioceses in the United States are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support of this appeal helps ease the struggle of these dioceses. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/homemissions.

My loving kindness will I not utterly take from him, not suffer my faithfulness to fail. Psalm 89:34
**LENTEN OBLIGATIONS**

Church law considers every Friday and the season of Lent as penitential days and times. The practice of penance is a part of our faith and Christian life. When we do penance, we imitate Jesus, who Himself recommended it as necessary to His followers, and gave them the example of His prayer and fasting.

The Lenten obligation, as determined for Catholics in the United States by our bishops, requires that fasting be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

**Who must fast?**
All Catholics who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The obligation ceases when one begins his/her 60th year on his/her 59th birthday.

**Who must abstain?**
All Catholics who are 14 years and older.

**What does fasting mean?**
The observance of fasting means that those obliged may take only one full meal on the day of fast. Two lighter meals (not equal to another full meal) may be taken to maintain strength according to one’s needs.

**What does abstinence mean?**
The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat, including poultry. Voluntary abstinence refers to refraining from lawful pleasures in a spirit of penance.

**Can anyone be dispensed or excused from fast and/or abstinence?**
Individuals for a just cause may be dispensed by their pastor or by a priest with the faculty to do so. In our Diocese all priests may dispense individuals who are committed to their pastoral care.

Those who are ill or have a similar serious reason are excused from the observance of fast and abstinence. Catholics are reminded that they should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

**Are there other obligations which we should fulfill?**
Catholics are obliged to fulfill what has been called their “Easter Duty.” They are required to receive Holy Communion during the Easter time. In the United States this obligation can be fulfilled from the First Sunday of Lent until Trinity Sunday (1 March until 7 June 2020). Those conscious of serious sin are reminded of the obligation to confess their sins at least once a year during this time.

Catholics also are encouraged to make Lent a time of more intense prayer and to practice almsgiving and other works of charity. Parishes are encouraged to continue participation in Rice Bowl.

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**PARISH COUNCIL**

St. John's Parish Council will meet …..

**Monday, March 2nd – 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall.**

There are two ways that any parishioner may raise a question or concern or make recommendations.

1. Parishioners may approach any Parish Council Member listed below and ask that a question, concern, etc. be brought up at the meeting.

2. Parishioners may write their concerns, etc. and put it (them) in the suggestion box provided in the rear of the church. These may be signed or unsigned. They will then be brought up at the Council meeting.

**Elected Members**
- Bob Bechtel
- John Consugar
- Paul Datte
- Darren DeArment
- Joseph Gerchak
- Heidi Gorski
- Alicia Kleman
- Eric Lieberman
- Kevin McNamara
- Al Norkus
- Patty O’Neill
- Josette Peckman
- John Powers
- Nick Quinn
- Melissa Scheetz
- Martin Smith

**Appointed Members**
- Lucilla Kochol
- Evelyn Datte
- Ex-Officio
- Ed Brahler
- Deacon Larry Lonergan
- Deacon Luis R. Visot
- Father Dave Loeper

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**Parish Council President’s Corner**

On Monday, January 27th Saint John's hosted a class entitled **Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE).** The class was a long time in the making and was an overwhelming success! In total, there were 45 parishioners who packed Longinus Hall (and thank you to all who attended). The main points which the class stressed were to "Avoid, Deny, Defend" during such an incident. The class also provided further data to show that while these events are random and rare, they can happen anywhere. Due to the success of this class, we will be discussing holding another in the near future. *If you were considering going to the first session but couldn't make it or are considering attending the second - I encourage you to do so. The information presented is enlightening and could save your life! Our next Parish Council meeting will be Monday, March 2nd. If you have any questions or would like us to discuss a particular topic, please see any member of council. God bless!*
LENTEN DINNERS
Our Lenten Dinners will begin February 28th.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

THURSDAY
Preparation for Lenten Dinners
Anytime between 9:30 a.m. & 12 p.m.
at the Russell Building
Please call the Rectory: 622-5470

FRIDAYS
WE NEED YOUR HELP...
If you can help on Fridays during Lent, please let us know when you are available.
Students (12 and over) always welcome (excellent idea if you need service hours).
New faces always welcome …perhaps you are new to the parish and are looking for a way to get involved.

Waitresses & Waiters needed … 3:45 to 7 p.m.
Help Loading Dishwasher … 4 to 8 p.m.
Clean-up … 6:45 to 8 p.m.

Just call our Scheduler…
Maeve Ketner at 570-624-1452 or 570-573-8769.

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HOMEMADE DESSERTS NEEDED
"St. John's is famous for their delicious homemade desserts"
St. John's Food Committee is in need of your baking talents. Each year we could not succeed without your delicious desserts. If you would like to make Jello, Pudding, Pies, Cakes, or anything you can dream up, we will greatly appreciate it. Please make your favorite dessert and bring it to the Russell Building on Thursdays or Fridays during Lent.

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50 / 50 CHANCES
Every Friday during Lent the Catholic Women’s Union will sell 50/50 Chances at the Lenten Dinners.
Drawings will take place at 7 p.m. each week.

 WEEKLY COLLECTION
February 15/16: $4,075.97;
Puerto Rico Earthquake Victims: $647.00
We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

2019 CONTRIBUTION RECORD
You can request a copy of your 2019 Contribution Record by calling the rectory Monday thru Thursday … 622-5470 ext 3.

St. John’s ENSEMBLE
The purpose of this ministry is to serve the parish at Mass, singing liturgical hymns, using contemporary instruments like the guitar, keyboard, drums or other instruments, and using contemporary music arrangements.
We invite ANYONE in the parish wanting to share his or her voice and musical gifts whether you are a beginner or more experienced. Arrangements are not complicated and songs are familiar. You do not need to know how to read music to join us. We will teach anyone who has a willing heart.
Our goal is to play/sing once a month at one of the weekend Masses. Practices will be one or, at most, twice a month for ONE HOUR, to prepare for music at Mass that week. This is a great way to participate in parish life and have fun with only a small commitment of your time.

Why not give it a try and give back to your parish family by sharing the gifts God has given to you?
If interested call the Rectory 622-5470.

ST. JOSEPH CENTER FOR SPECIAL LEARNING
POSITION AVAILABLE We are seeking a motivated, enthusiastic and caring person to conduct all phases of comprehensive development and marketing programs. The individual will provide strong leadership and work in collaboration with the Administration, Board of Directors and volunteers. Must be passionate about advocating for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This is a full-time, year-round position with benefits. The Center is an equal opportunity employer. Qualified candidates should send résumé and references to Robert Giba, Principal rgiba@stjosephctr.com.

29th ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC … hosted by St. Joseph Center for Special Learning on Friday, May 15th 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. Discover why St. Joseph Center for Special Learning is truly a special place for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
**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.”

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**CATHOLIC CHARITIES GALA**

There is still time to support this year’s Catholic charities Gala honoring Rev. Msgr. John J. Martin and Anthony & Mary Martucci.

If you win, the parish wins too!

**First Prize:** An evening in Manhattan which includes two exclusive tickets for the March 16th Broadway Preview performance of a musical based on the life of Princess Diana, limousine service and a pre-show reception with New York Luminaries.

**Plus!** Winner’s Parish will receive a $300 cash prize!

**Second Prize:** Diamond Bracelet

**Plus!** Winner’s Parish will receive a $300 cash prize!

**Third Prize:** Hotel Bethlehem Getaway.

**Plus!** Winner’s Parish will receive $200 cash prize!

Tickets are $10 each or 3 for $20 which can be purchased from the parish office or by contacting Lucia DeMarco at 610-871-5200 ext. 2113.

**Winners will be drawn at the Gala on March 8th.**

You do not have to be present to win.

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**DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS**

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

Do you ever feel like your good marriage lacks the excitement it once had? Try a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. In just one weekend you can learn a technique of communication that will keep your marriage full of love and passion. For information call 610-449-1859 or visit www.wwme.org.

**RACHEL’S VINEYARD RETREAT**

An intimate spiritual journey for anyone seeking healing after abortion to be held March 6 to 8. In a safe, supportive, non-judgmental environment you can focus on this painful time in your life and enter into the process of healing. Through scripture readings, guided meditations, and activities flowing from the meditations you can experience God’s compassion and forgiveness. For registration information contact:

Sr. Meg Cole, 1-866-3 RACHEL (Toll Free)  
610-332-0442 Ext. 2019 or mcole@allentowndiocese.org

*Deadline for Registration is March 1st*

For information about the retreat experience visit the national website: www.rachelsvineyard.org

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**WOMEN’S DAY OF REFLECTION**

His Wounds, Our Healing … A Lenten Reflection on our identity as beloved to be held Saturday, March 14th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Shrine of St. Therese of Lisieux in Nesquehoning, with Fr. John Frink, Pastor, St. John XXIII Parish in Tamaqua. Registration: $15 (includes breakfast) - allentowndiocese.org/cwf-spirituality . Deadline is March 7th. Sponsored by the Commission for Women of the Diocese of Allentown.

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**FOOD COLLECTION for Pantry**

Thank you for doing the small things, like feeding your neighbors, with great love. God bless.

**Items Needed:**

- Stuffing Mix
- Canned Fruit
- Broth
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Coffee/Tea (instant)
- Hot Chocolate
- Hot Cereal packages
- Apple Sauce
- Cereal – boxed
- Vegetable - Canned
- Beef Stew
- Spaghetti
- Soups
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Canned Gravy
- Canned Sweet Potatoes

**PLEASE – NO OUTDATED ITEMS**

Please Do Not donate any nutritional drinks (Ensure, etc.)

Kindly place your donations in the basket at the 10th Street entrance at the bottom of the steps. Thank you.

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**NEIGHBORING EVENTS**

**ST. PAULINE VISINTAINER**

... You are invited to take part in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Monday, February 24th at 5 p.m. followed by Veneration of the first-class relic of St. Pauline Visintainer, Patron Saint of Diabetics and of all who are sick at Our Lady’s Chapel in St. Patrick’s.

**SPAGHETTI DINNER** sponsored by St. Patrick Parish on Sunday, March 1st from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Parish Center, 319 Mahantongo St. --- Eat in or Take out --- All You Can Eat --- Adults $8.00; Children $3.50.

**HOMEMADE EASTER CANDY** sponsored by St. Patrick Parish. Butter Cream, Coconut Cream or Peanut Butter Eggs ...Sorry, no mixed boxes ... $10 per box. Proceeds benefit St. Patrick Parish. All orders due by March 24th by calling the parish office at 570-622-1802 ext. 1. *Orders can be picked up* at the Parish Center during the Palm Sunday Weekend Bake Sale … Saturday, April 4th from 1 to 6 p.m.; Sunday, April 5th from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**PIEROGI SALE** sponsored by St. Clare of Assisi Parish in St. Clair. Uncooked Frozen, $7.50 per dozen; Cooked with butter & onion, $8.50 per dozen; cooked
with butter only, $8.50 per dozen … to be held at St. Clare of Assisi Church on Ash Wednesday (2/26), Fridays in Lent (not 2/28, but yes, on 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3), and Wednesday, April 8. **Advance orders only** to be placed by Monday, 2/24, for Ash Wednesday, and by Wednesdays prior to the pickups for Fridays. Pickups will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Use Hancock Street Entrance to basement. Call Parish Office 570-429-0370 to place your order. Thanks!

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