

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

When a witness is being sworn in at court, the bailiff asks, "Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?"

Telling the truth can be difficult. In some cases you can get a punch in the nose if you honestly answer, "Yes, you do look fat in those pants." Maybe that's where we got the expression "You can't handle the truth." People speak of the ugly truth, the real truth and discerning the truth, and for some the truth is worth dying for.

In the concluding words of this Sunday's gospel, Jesus puts an end to the interrogation of Pontius Pilate. Jesus says that He was born in this world to speak the truth. He says, "Whoever belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate next asks, "What is truth?" We must ask ourselves the same question. Do we know the truth? Is Jesus the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

Yours in Christ,
Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday – November 23 – 9:00 a.m.

JOSEPH & RITA SCHWEICH

Tuesday – November 24 – 9:00 a.m.

ELIZABETH WIXTED (Betty Ketner)

Wednesday – November 25 – 9:00 a.m.

STEVE PROKOP (Gene & Peggy Ebling)

Thursday – November 26 – 9:00 a.m.

PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOHN'S

Friday – November 27 – 9:00 a.m.

IRENE STERNICK

(Residents & Staff of York Terrace Nursing Home)

Saturday – November 28 – 5:00 p.m.

BURNS & CONNELL FAMILY

(Francis & Mary Burns)

Sunday – November 29 – 8:15 a.m.

TIMOTHY & THERESA BRENNAN

Sunday – November 29 – 10:30 a.m.

CLAIRE & MARGARET FRY (Ann Marie Ludlow)

CANDLE INTENTIONS

B.V.M. – Special Intention by Mary Jean Morgalis

St. Joseph – IMO Michael Scheidel

by Emily Scheidel & Children

Tabernacle – IMO Joseph Kapsha by Sophia Kapsha

Sanctuary Candles

1,2,3. IMO Carol & Harry Nygren by Joe Christ

4. IMO Jimmie Cavanaugh by Hahner Family

Guardian Angels

1. Special Intention

2. IMO John & Florence Bentz

by Sterling & Joanne Hepler

SCHEDULE

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 a.m. – Thursday – November 26th

Reader: Rachael Kubick

Euch.Min.: Andrew Kubick

Servers: Josh Clauser, Claudia Rittle,

Andrew Viduszynski

Cantor: Debbie Purcell

5:00 p.m. – Saturday – November 28th

Reader: Bill Gianfagna

Euch.Min.: Aaron Wachter, Kathy Gianfagna

Servers: Madison Buckingham, Madeline Consugar,

Christopher Wollyung

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – November 29th

Reader: Caitlyn McDemus

Euch.Min.: Justina Majestic, Bobbi Murray

Servers: Lucy & Sophie Murray, Samantha Weiss

Cantor: Karen Glunz

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – November 29th

Reader: Randi Dermo

Euch.Min.: Joyce Gerace, Paul Ziegler, Phil Markovich

Servers: Emily & Samuel Synnott, Kiefer Luckenbill

Cantor: Suzette Joy

R. C. I. A.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you interested in deepening your own faith? Or do you know anyone who has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic? Please invite them to join us. Have them call St. John's Rectory, 622-5470, to register for the RCIA sessions. All are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions!

RCIA Schedule

December 3rd – at St. Michael the Archangel

Catholics and Prayer ... S. Catherine Therese

December 10th – at St. Michael the Archangel

Mary and the Saints ... S. Catherine Therese

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. Sick: *Tina Dixon, Margie Glunz, Carolyn Foster, Francis King, Maryann Wychunas, Edward Wychunas, Donald Bound, Matthew Mazakas, Loretta Lonoskie, John Woznicki, Faye Cuchara, Joseph Tuite, Eleanore Forney, Loretta Raybould, Scott Rhoades, Charles Foster, Jane Weiss, , Emily Sidler, Gerald Bohr.*
Deceased: *Betty Ketner*

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How does the Kingdom of God differ from earthly

**BISHOP BARRES
IS COMING TO
ST. JOHN'S**

The Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop of Allentown, will visit St. John's Parish on Saturday, December 5th. Bishop Barres will hear confessions before Mass from 4:15 to 4:45 p.m. and will celebrate Mass at 5 p.m. Parishioners are welcome to greet Bishop Barres in the back of church after Mass.

kingdoms? How do you help it to spread?

READINGS

Our Lord Jesus Christ the King (Nov.21/22)

Reading I: Daniel 7:13-14

Reading II: Revelation 1:5-8

Gospel: John 18:33b-37

First Sunday of Advent (Nov.28/29)

Reading I: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Reading II: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

THE GIVING TREE

Our Giving Tree will look different this year. Instead of a Christmas tree adorned with stars, we will use a small bare tree with no leaves. This will help us to visualize the season of waiting for fullness, expectation and hopefulness.

On the weekend of November 28 /29 this barren tree will be adorned with gift tags. Please take one of the tags which has a gift suggestion written on it for our shut-ins and other needy agencies. Please wrap your gift, put the gift tag on the outside and return the package under the tree by the weekend of December 12/13. Please make sure you don't lose the tag as it has the person's identity number. Attach the tag through the ribbon.

PLEASE DO NOT TAPE TAG TO THE PAPER



So much is done for children, but we also have many elderly who are shut-ins. Our gifts each year are our way of reaching out to these beautiful people and saying we love them and wish them the blessings of Christmas.

GIFTS ARE DUE DECEMBER 12/13 WEEKEND

WEEKLY COLLECTION

November 15th: \$ 6,191.69

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving

PARISH COUNCIL

St. John's Parish Council will meet

Monday, November 30th – 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

Bill Casey
Jennifer Daubert
Robert DeColli Jr.
Bill Gianfagna
Kathy Gianfagna
Ed Glunz
Noel Glunz
Mary Hahner
Bob Hahner
Debbie Herb
Jan Kurtek
Maureen Kurtek
Eric Lieberman
Albert Nastasi

Elected Members

Mary Porter
John Powers
Tina Seiger
Mary Sitcoske
Rick Smith
Dave Smith

Appointed Members

Ed Brahler
Lucilla Kochol
Carol Lasco
Pat Lombel
Frances Mickey
Joe Rehnert
Deacon Luis R. Visot

Need a Mass Card?

There are Sisters of St. Joseph Mass Cards available in the rectory for various occasions including Perpetual and Annual Memorial cards, Sympathy, Thank You, sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Wedding, Anniversary and Birthday etc. The cost is \$1.50; Perpetual Memorials are \$5.00.

Novena Christmas Cards are now available in the back of church after all Masses or at the Rectory during the week ... \$1.50 each.

GERTRUDE HAWK CANDY SALE

The Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale has begun. Brochures are available in the back of church. **Orders are due by December 6th.** Pick-up after all Mass the weekend of December 19/20.

CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Gift certificates for Giant, Waymart, and Weis Food stores are available at the rectory. Please call 622-5470 for more information. What a great gift-giving idea !!!

PLEASE NOTE

The Rectory Office will be closed the following days:
Thursday & Friday, November 26th & 27th

ADVENT-URE

... a party to celebrate Jesus' birthday ...

Date: Sunday, December 6th

Place: Russell Building

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Entertainment:

Featuring "The Pistol Puppet Team"

We will begin the Advent-ure with a light lunch. Crafts and special events complete this Advent-ure. All children ages 3 to 12 are welcome to participate. Registration is a must so that adequate supplies can be ordered for the children. Please call the Rectory to register **622-5470** or complete this form and drop in the collection basket.

Parent must accompany children.

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

**** Registration is a must **
by November 30th**

CHILDREN'S ADVENT LITURGY

The *Children's Advent Liturgy* will take place during the **10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 14th.** Join us as we help them prepare for Christmas. Bring your children, grandchildren or the neighbor's children to this special yearly event. You'll go away more enriched by seeing things through the eyes of a child
Cookies and hot chocolate will be served after this Mass.

COOKIES --- COOKIES



We need volunteers to bake cookies for our Children's Advent Liturgy the weekend of **December 13/14.** If enough are received, we

will not need donuts. If you are interested in baking cookies or bringing cookies, etc., please call the rectory 622-5470.

PECANS ARE BACK

1 lb. Mammoth Halves ... \$8.00

12 oz. Chocolate Covered Gift Package ... \$8.00



... are available by calling Frances Lorenz 544-2837. Proceeds benefit St. John's Catholic Women's Union.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
CHILDREN'S CHOIR**



All children in grades 1 through 6 are welcome to join the Children's Choir and Pageant for the 6:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve. (Smaller children are also welcome to participate -- ages 5 and older)

The rehearsals for the choir and the pageant are scheduled on the same evening so that the children may participate in both if they choose to do so.

If you are interested, please call **Pat Lombel**

at the **Rectory 622-5470** or **Sandy Clauser 622-4603** for more information.

This is a wonderful way to be able to bring the story of Jesus' birth alive to the parish community during that Mass.



Rehearsals

Tuesday, December 1st – 6 p.m.

Pageant rehearsal followed by Choir

Wednesday, December 9th – 6 p.m.

Pageant rehearsal followed by Choir

Wednesday, December 16 – 6:00 p.m.

Pageant rehearsal followed by Choir

Tuesday, December 22 – 5:30 p.m.

(light supper) followed by

Dress Rehearsal for Pageant and Choir

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S UNION
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

When: Wednesday, December 9th

Where: Pottsville Club

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20.00

Menu: Stuffed Chicken Breast or Top Round of Beef or One Crab Cake

We will also exchange a \$5.00 gift, wine or snack item you would serve for the holidays -- please wrap the item.

Please choose your entrée and send your check by November 30th to:

Dorothy Hahner Stangl, 1343 W. Norwegian St., 2nd Floor, Pottsville 17901 (phone 624-7106)

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GIFT CARDS TO BENEFIT ST. JOHN'S

Mark & Tina Seiger are selling Ribbon Gift Cards for the holidays to benefit St. John's. You can visit the site and order on-line at mseiger.ordermygift.com or call 622-3558 for more information. Your purchase will financially help our parish.

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Advent is a time to "Prepare Ourselves"

... to recognize and embrace Christ who has already come and promises "to be with us always." We are not always conscious of His Presence and sometimes the way we live obscures His Presence. Questions will be in the bulletin each week for us to reflect on so that when we come to mass on Sunday we can "uncover" what keeps us from recognizing Jesus.

This week: *What annoys us and keeps us from seeing, hearing and forgiving as true followers of Christ? What keeps us from seeing His image in ourselves and others?*

When you come to Church next week, you will find a picture of Christ covered with words that are examples of what keeps us from seeing, hearing, forgiving and loving. Please remove one of the blocks and place it in the basket. The removal of the words will reveal the image of Christ. We will take those words up in the Offertory Procession. This offering represents the willingness of our parish community to work that week to see Christ more clearly by noticing and offering up our blocks.

Come, Let us prepare the Way!

"ADVENT EVENSONG OF LIGHT"

St. John's is holding an "*Advent Evensong of Light*" on **Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at 7 PM.**

Please plan to come to celebrate Advent together as a parish family.

Refreshments will be served after the service in Longinus Hall.

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NEIGHBORING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT: The Broad Mt. Chapter 159th Engineer Combat Battalion Veterans WWII will conduct this project for our active duty service men and women for the 2009 Christmas season. Please send the names and addresses of any active duty person to the following address ASAP so they can be sent a Christmas card from "home". Thank you for supporting our troops
Russell Ruch, 709 N. 7th St., Pottsville, Pa. 17901

CLASSIC IRISH CHRISTMAS: presented by Pottsville Council #431 Knights of Columbus on **Friday, December 4th** at Pottsville High School, featuring

Andy Cooney (Irish America's Favorite Son), George Casey Ireland's New King of Blarney), Emma Kate Tobia (Ireland's Premier Soprano), Brian "Bugs" Moran (Musical Director), with Irish America's Finest Musicians. Doors open 6 p.m.; Show is 7 p.m. For tickets and more information, please call 621-4077 or 544-4674 or 628-3333.

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gEnEsiS 1 Update

Children's Advent Liturgy Volunteer

Who? Anyone in 6th-12th grade & adult helpers

What? Actors or Actresses, Readers, Gift Distributors

Where & When? St. John's on **December 13 @ 10:am**

RSVP: Saturday, November 28

To participate, the practice date is *Nov 29 after 10:30am Mass* in the church.

Christmas Caroling

... Genesis I would like to invite all of our friends and family to join us in an evening of Christmas Caroling on **Sunday, December 13.** We'll meet at 6:00 in The Upper Room and begin caroling around 6:15. Please call Debbie at 544-5646 if you plan on joining us. Donuts and Hot Chocolate will follow. Make this special evening a family tradition.

Christmas Dinner & Show Volunteers

(sponsored by the Alethia Club @ PAHS)

Who? Anyone in 6th-12th grade & adult helpers

What? Actors or Actresses, Servers, Kitchen Helpers, and Cooks

Where & When? PAHS on December 19 @ 5:30pm
Actors & Actresses practice TBA.

Christmas Ice Skating Party & Soup Kitchen

Who? Anyone in 6th-12th grade & adult helpers

What? Ice Skating @ Reading Bodyzone followed by Soup Kitchen volunteering

Where & When? Meet in St. John's Parking Lot (Time TBA); then Soup Kitchen @ 4pm

For more information, if you need a ride, or to sign-up for any event above, e-mail Rachael at genesis1yg@aim.com or call 570-581-6109.

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FREE GAREGIVING SESSIONS

PinnacleHealth Homecare & Hospice is offering an ongoing opportunity to network with other caregivers, learn about area resources, and take a welcomed "break" from your daily care-giving role. The free sessions will be held on the **First Monday of every month** from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Lazy Dog Bistro Coffeehouse, 18 E. Sunbury St. in Minersville. If you would like more

information, contact Lori Rossochacy at 28-2290 or 800-222-5236.

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Let us pray for all Catholics that we may be united in faith and spirit in working to uphold the dignity of every human life under our one Lord Jesus Christ the King.
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CHRISTMAS BAZAAR THANK YOU

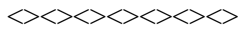
Once again our Annual Christmas Bazaar was a smashing success! Our chairpeople, Pat and Missy Scheetz, did an outstanding job in their third year with this event. Their hard work, talent and dedication along with all the other dedicated volunteers made sure everything went off as planned. It is also great to see some of our new parishioners on the Bazaar committee and helping out at the Bazaar. There were 88 Theme Baskets, eight Specials, many beautiful crafts, baked goods, and delicious food. Those who patronized the Bazaar gave many favorable comments on how beautiful this event is every year.

A special thanks to all who donated any items, helped with crafts, cooking, serving meals, and especially those who patronized the Bazaar. Without you this event would not be a success. We are very proud here at St. John's to have such talented and hard working parishioners.

May God's blessings be with you for sharing your time and talent.

Thanks again,
Father Dave

2009 Christmas Bazaar Profits \$ 8,158.13

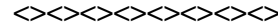


Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with this year's Christmas Bazaar. The wonderful support and hard work from all of our parish family was overwhelming. It was especially great to work with so many of our new parishioners. We all had a great time and I look forward to working with everyone next year. Special thanks to ...

- The **Bakers** who made all the delicious treats
- **Kate Zagar** and **Noel Glunz** and the **Food Committee** for their hard work preparing and serving the delicious food everyone enjoyed.
- The **Basket Makers** for their talents in creating and decorating such beautiful baskets
- **John Eagan**, **Chrissy Eagan**, and **Karen Mistysyn** for making the Santa pictures such a success
- The **Sponsors** who generously supported our efforts.

- Everyone who donated those beautiful baskets
- The **volunteers** who worked at the Bazaar
- **Father Dave**, **Sister Maryanne** and the **Rectory Staff** for all their hard work and support
- all who attended the Bazaar and supported us in any way
- **Jim & Rita Williams** for the use of their hot dog roller

Pat Scheetz
Chairperson



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR THANK YOU

Basket Makers / Workers / Set-up / Clean-up

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Kate Blackwell | Edie McDonough |
| Mary Bound | Judy Meseravage |
| Ed Brahler | Lou Miller |
| Connie Brown | Kathy Norkus |
| Ann Burns | Carole Quirin |
| Debbie Chitwood | Renee Reddington |
| Michelle Darhun | Kay Russell |
| Janet Daubert | Dot Ryan |
| Joan Deiter | Eleanor Schaeffer |
| Dorothy Elison | Joanne Scheetz |
| John Farley | Missy Scheetz |
| Father Dave | Pat Scheetz |
| Brian Forney | Barb Schoenauer |
| Karla Garland | Joanne Schultz |
| Noel Glunz | Sister Maryanne |
| Marilyn Golod | Rosann Sitkus |
| Debbie Herb | Bernie Sockwell |
| Sue Jochems | Julianne Steffan |
| Charlene Klassen | Peggy Stoppi |
| Pat Klassen | Lorraine Tasso |
| Lucilla Kochol | Luis R. Visot |
| Jan Kurtek | Virginia Visot |
| Joe Kurek | Ruth Weidler |
| Pat Kutch | Barbara Wollyung |
| Maggie Maskerines | |

Bakers

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Kate Blackwell | Anna Kurtek |
| Dotty Bound | Jan Kurtek |
| Mary Bound | Pat Kutch |
| Kathy Brahler | Frances Lorenz |
| Kathy Buehler | Rita Lotz |
| Ann Burns | Dolly Parsick |
| Mary Connell | Mary Porter |
| Michelle Darhun | Carol Quirin |
| Joan Deiter | Dorothy Rosenberger |
| Dorothy Elison | Eleanor Schaeffer |
| Mary Ann Filiac | Pat Scheetz |
| Marilyn Golod | Sue Scheetz |
| Sonya Halsey | Jo Sitkus |
| Mary Beth Harvey | Rosann Sitkus |
| Debbie Herb | Mary Tamburelli |
| Sue Jochems | Lorraine Tasso |
| Lucilla Kochol | Luis R. Visot |

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.

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THANKSGIVING LITURGY

There is so much for which we have to be thankful! As a family, join us in church for our **Annual Thanksgiving Day Mass – 9 a.m. – November 26th.**

Each year attendance has grown and our spirit of communal support and praise of God has been reflected in the enthusiasm and shared depth of feeling experienced at this Mass. As a country, parish family, and individuals, we have many reasons to come together on this special day. Please join us!