

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday we are once again hearing from the gospel of Mark after hearing Jesus' Bread of Life discourse from John's gospel for the last few weeks. This Sunday is an account of the controversy between Jesus and the Pharisees about ritual purity.

The Pharisees were right about one thing in this gospel. Jesus and the disciples should have washed their hands before eating. Several years ago many cruise ships were alarmed to find that hundreds of their passengers were suffering gastrointestinal illnesses. In some ships more than 10% of the crew and passengers were sick. Doctors urged frequent hand washing to prevent further outbreaks. Today most ships have hand sanitizers at the entrances of their restaurants. We also know the recent course of events with the swine flu outbreak. The doctors and health care workers also urged the washing of hands.

Jesus was right in pointing out that it is what comes out of us that really makes us unclean. No amount of hand washing can cleanse an evil heart.

Yours in Christ,
Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 31 to Friday, September 4

NO MASS

Saturday – September 5– 5:00 p.m.

JOSEPH & SARAH FRY

Sunday – September 6 – 8:15 a.m.

GEORGE HOLLEY (John Holley)

Sunday – September 6 – 10:30 a.m.

FRANK & GERTRUDE SCHAEFFER
(Helen Schaeffer)

CANDLE INTENTIONS

B.V.M – IMO Bill & Sophie Karmazin

by Stan & Mary Burke

St. Joseph–IMO Clare J. Houser

by Linda & Clare Houser

Tabernacle – Special Intention by Jule Quandel

Sanctuary Candles

1&2. IMO Jack Scheetz by Pat, Missy and Amy Scheetz

3. Special Intention

4. Special Intention by Eleanor Pothering

Guardian Angels

1. Special Intention by Jule Quandel

2. Living & Deceased Members of St. John's Catholic Women's Union

Let us pray for all political leaders that they may honor God with their hearts by honoring God's law and protecting the most vulnerable in our society.

SCHEDULE

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 p.m. — Saturday – September 5th

Readers: Carol Rizzardì

Euch.Min.: Joan Albo, Virginia Visot

Servers: Alex & Daniel Beruck, Christopher Wollyung

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – September 6th

Reader: Mary Hahner

Euch.Min.: Joyce Gerace, Gerry Schwartz

Servers: Taylor Ross, Adalie Zanis, Dominic Chiplonia

Cantor: Debbie Purcell

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – September 6th

Reader: Sister Maryanne

Euch.Min.: Paul Ziegler, John Ventura,

Mary Jean Morgalis

Servers: Chelsea & Megan Dalton, Kate Kramer

Cantor: Suzette Joy

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, Daniel Fox, Rosalia Campion, Margaret Pfluger, Francis King, Maryann Wychunas, Edward Wychunas, Faye Cuchara, Marie Eagan, Sylvia Bercher*

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How does your parish help you to keep your heart close to God?

READINGS

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (August 29/30)

Reading I: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

Reading II: James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (September 5/6)

Reading I: Isaiah 35:4-7a

Reading II: James 2:105

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

St. John's Goal: \$ 21,244.00

Pledges: \$ 9,717.00

Amt. Collected: \$ 8,705.00

No. of Donors 122

Diocesan Pledge Update

Total Goal: \$ 4,000,000

Collected to Date: \$ 3,409,156

No. of Donors 24,359

For every way, O Lord! You magnified and glorified Your people; unflinching, You stood by them in every time and circumstance.

Wisdom 19:22

MONTHLY PARISH BREAKFAST

Sunday, September 20th

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in Russell Building

Menu includes: Ham, Bacon, Sausage,
Homefries, Scrapple, Pancakes, French Toast,
Eggs to order, Beverages.
A la carte menu available.
Prices: \$4.00 to \$8.00

The "ARMATA BIANCA" (A Youth Prayer Hour)

Who can attend? Anyone under 18 or the young at heart!

When: Every second Sunday of the month beginning September 13th from 9 to 10 a.m.

What do we do? Adoration, Prayer, Rosary, and Reading the Bible.

Where: The Divine Mercy Perpetual Adoration Chapel (next to St. Patrick's Church).

It is a time for the youth or young at heart to pray and adore in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Come for a half hour or the entire time. Contact Rachael Kubick at 581-6109 or rachael3764@yahoo.com. Future dates are: **October 11th, November 8th, December 13th**

FAMILY MATTERS

School Year Beginning. As we begin this new school year our parish prays that parents will support their children's efforts to reach their full potential. We pray that their children give their best effort in their studies, to develop their relationships with friends, and grow in their faith life.

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

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY THEOLOGY ON TAP

Theology on Tap, a program aimed at young adults (ages 21 to 39) looking for involvement in the Church or better knowledge of the faith, has come to Schuylkill County! To find out more, e-mail SchuylkillToT@gmail.com or search for "Schuylkill County Theology on Tap" on Facebook!

NEW WEBSITE: www.pacatholic.org is an informative new website of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Institute for Public Policy. It is an authoritative resource offering the Catholic perspective behind current public affairs in Harrisburg and beyond.

R. C. I. A.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA is for anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic or in updating and deepening their understanding of the Catholic Faith. 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 which are to **begin on Sept. 24th**. All are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions!

PARISH RETREAT

St. John's is hosting a Fall Parish Retreat

When: Saturday, October 24th

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

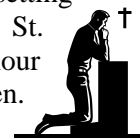
Where: Mariawald Renewal Center in Reading

"Take time to leave the hectic pace of constant doing ... Mariawald is like a spa for the soul."

Watch the bulletin for details during the next few weeks. Hope to see you there !!!

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Enjoy the Fruits of the Lord in the peaceful setting of the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St. Patrick's. All are welcome to adore at any hour of the day. The chapel is ALWAYS open. Please ring the chapel door bell during the late hours between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.



In order to maintain Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, please sign up for a weekly scheduled hour or sign-up as a substitute.

Substitute Adorers are also needed. No regular commitment required. Just note what hour you can substitute on an as needed basis.

Please fill out a sign-up sheet in the back of church or call Albert Nastasi 573-0036.

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Practice continuing acts of thoughtfulness.

Experienced grief?

Struggled through it and now want to help others?

We would like to offer assistance from the caring parishioners of St. John's Parish Family in promoting healing through understanding, support and encouragement. Light the darkness for the grieving by reinvesting in life. If interested please call **Beth Smith 628-3859**. (Please leave a message if no answer).

"We are completely dependent upon the community of creation and cannot draw a breath without it. We are poor, absolutely dependent upon God at the core of our beings. God is the sole source of life."

... Monica Hartnett CSJ

BISHOP JOHN BARRES ORDINATION VIDEO

To purchase a DVD of **Bishop John Barres'** Ordination and Installation Mass, send a check for \$10, payable to the Diocese of Allentown, to:

Installation Mass DVD
c/o Office of Communications
Diocese of Allentown
P.O. Box F
Allentown, PA 18105-1538

You will receive a DVD of the Mass in the mail. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

INSTITUTE FOR LAY MINISTRY

Do you want to grow in your relationship with God, learn more about what the church teaches and develop skills suitable for ministry and service? Do you have a desire to help other people through ministry and service? The Ministry Formation Program offered through ILM might be just right for you. Classes are held at the following locations and times from September through May. We are currently accepting applications for Year One to begin in September. For more information, please call 610-289-8900 ext. 226 or 232.

Holy Name High School in Reading - Tuesdays
Marian High School in Tamaqua - Wednesdays
Bethlehem Catholic High School - Thursdays

A JOURNEY OF HOPE

This conference for Older Adults, sponsored by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Allentown, will be held **Thursday, October 1st from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Fogelsville. Mass will be offered ... free bus transportation ... brochures are located in the back of church. Register by calling 610-791-3888 ext. 305 before September 15th.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Before summer ends, decide on a *get-away for just the 2 of you*. Make time to re-charge your relationship at a **Marriage Encounter**. The next weekend is September 18-20 at Mariawald Retreat Center in Shillington. Call 800-787-7679 or go online at www.wvme-nepa.org for more information.

Teachers shape the lives and minds of the children of our families. We ask God to bless all of our teachers – those who teach in our schools, in our community and in our parish. As they prepare for a new school year, may God give them wisdom and patience daily in their service to our children.

ATTENTION CCD PARENTS & CHILDREN

There will be a meeting for all CCD parents and children on **Sunday, September 13th at 9 a.m.** in the Russell Building. We will pray together, discuss policies and distribute books. There will also be an opportunity to meet the Catechists.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CCD) VOLUNTEERS NEED

Name _____

Phone _____

Please check one:


_____ Teacher _____ Prayer Coach
_____ Substitute Teacher _____ Aide
_____ Safety Monitor _____ Musician

**** Please return to the Rectory or Lucilla Kochol ****

WORLD YOUTH DAY

Save the Date!!! "We have set our HOPE on the Living God" (1 Tim. 4:10) All students in grades 6 – 12 are encouraged to participate in regional youth gatherings on **Saturday, October 24th** in celebration of World Youth Day, USA More information available at www.liveyourfaith.org or by contacting the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry at 277-0123.

CYO SPORTS

 Registration forms for all St. John's CYO sports are available at the Rectory during the week 622-5470. The fee is **\$40.00** per family. CYO sports is open to all children enrolled in Catholic school or public school. Participants in public school must be registered for CCD in order to play CYO sports.

COACHES CLINIC

The following dates have been scheduled for the remainder of 2009. You must attend a Coaches Clinic and Protecting God's Children to be eligible to coach any CYO sports. For more information and a registration form, please call the Rectory 622-5470.

Sunday, October 18th – 1 to 4 p.m.
at Sts. Peter & Paul in Lehighton

WEEKLY COLLECTION

August 23rd: \$ 5,304.34

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

WELCOME VISITORS

*Thank you for worshiping with us today.
If you are visiting our beautiful church,
please know you are most welcome!
If you have questions about our parish,
please see the designated parishioners at
the exits or any parishioner.
If you are interested in joining our parish
family, please call the rectory 622-5470.*

WOMEN'S DAY OF SPIRITUALITY

Attention all Mothers, Daughters, Wives, Sisters, Girlfriends. The Commission for Women is sponsoring **Thirsting for Living Water**, a Day of Spirituality with award winning journalist and international speaker, Donna Marie Cooper O'Boyle on **September 19th** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Ave Maria Hall at St. Mary Church, Hamburg. She had a special relationship with Blessed Teresa of Calcutta and was a delegate to the Vatican on the 20th anniversary of *Mulieris Dignitatem*. The day will be filled with faith inspired talks, prayer and fellowship. A fee of \$15.00 includes lunch and light refreshments. Don't miss this opportunity to be renewed and refreshed in your faith. To register for the day, please call Office for Social Action at 610-289-8900 ext. 221 or access the registration form at: www.allentowndiocese.org/Catholic%20Life/Office%20for%20Social%20Action.htm

NETWORK

A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
A Catholic leader in the global movement for justice and peace – educates, organizes and lobbies for economic and social transformation.
look for Action Alerts ...
visit www.networklobby.org

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOP

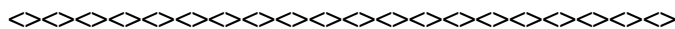
Nativity BVM High School will host a *Protecting God's Children Workshop* at the school on **Wednesday, September 23rd beginning at 6 p.m.** The workshop will last approximately three hours. Registration is mandatory. Phone 622-8110 to register.
This workshop is necessary for any adult who will be working in any way with our youth.

SUNDAY'S CHILDREN PRE-SCHOOL



Sunday Pre-School will begin soon. Classes are held in Longinus Hall during 10:30 a.m. Mass each Sunday. All parish children ages 3 to 6 (and not yet in 1st grade) are eligible for this program. The children are given an opportunity to interact with other children while learning about God through stories, music, activities and games. The children will also be provided with a small snack each week. A **\$12.00 Registration Fee** to cover the costs of the lessons, supplies, and snacks is required for each child upon registration. *All children attending classes must be registered.* Any questions, please contact the Rectory 622-5470.

Please drop Registration Form and Fee in the collection basket or send to the rectory as soon as possible.



SUNDAY PRE-SCHOOL

Child's Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Allergies, please list _____

Father's Name _____

Mother's Maiden Name _____

Parent's Response: I can help in the following ways:

_____ Teacher _____ Aide _____ Greeter

_____ Musician _____ Snacks _____ Storyteller

*** \$12.00 Registration Fee must accompany form***

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

Eligibility ... male or female, 5th grade (in Fall) to 12th grade ...if interested, please call the Rectory 622-5470.

OFFICE OF LIFE MINISTRIES

Are You Celebrating 5, 25, 40, 50, 60 or more years of marriage in the year 2009? Celebrate this special occasion with your family and renew your vows with Bishop John O. Barres at the **30th Annual Diocesan Anniversary Mass** on **Sunday, September 27th at 3 p.m.** at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown. Complete a registration form (found on the poster at church) and mail to: Office of Family Life Ministries, 900 S. Woodward St., Allentown, Pa. 18103. Attn: Ruth Baker or call her to register at 610-289-8900 ext. 239 or e-mail her at Rbaker@allentowndiocese.org.
Deadline for registration is September 14th.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy takes place at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday in Longinus Hall. During this time, children in grades 1, 2, 3 listen to the Sunday Readings in their own words and try to apply the words of Jesus to their own lives.



All children attending classes must be registered.

We would like to broaden and expand our program, so we need greeters, storytellers, musicians, as well as those who want to aid in these areas.

The Gospel **needs you** -- will you say yes? For more information, call the **Rectory 622-5470**.

Child's Name _____

Age _____ Grade _____ Phone _____

Allergies, please list _____

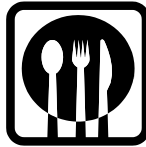
Parents _____

*** \$10.00 Registration Fee must accompany form***

Please drop in the collection basket or send to the rectory as soon as possible.

RADA CUTLERY SALE

If you are interested in purchasing Rada Cutlery, catalogs are available in the back of church or go online at www.radamfg.com to view products available. Orders can be placed by calling Fran Lorenz 544-2837 Deadline for orders is September 15th.



ST. JOHN'S FAMILY GUILD

The **Family Guild** is a small organization which sponsors activities for the elementary school students of the parish.

Through our fundraising efforts we sponsor two spiritual based programs throughout the year. The programs are the Lent Event and the Advent-ure.

The **Family Guild** also strives to make the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation a little more special for our children by purchasing gifts and providing flowers for these joyous occasions.

If you would like to become more involved within the parish and be a positive influence in the spiritual lives of our parish youth, consider joining the **Family Guild**. We always welcome a new face among us.

If interested please call the **Rectory 622-5470**.

Our next meeting is ...

Tuesday, September 8th – 7 p.m. – Fellowship Room

They are renewed each morning, so great is His faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:23

NEIGHBORING EVENTS

ST. PAULINE VISINTAINER You are invited to take part in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass followed by Veneration of the first-class relic of St. Pauline Visintainer, Patron Saint of Diabetics and of all who are sick on **Monday, August 31st at 5 p.m.** at the Simon Kramer Institute Chapel in New Philadelphia. To register, please call 277-6218. Light refreshments will be served.

END-OF-SUMMER PICNIC sponsored by St. Patrick's Church, Pottsville on **Sunday, September 6th** from 12 noon until 10 p.m. at the South Cass Fire Co. picnic grounds in Primrose. Delicious ethnic and picnic foods, baked goods, crafts, bingo, games of skill and chance. Entertainment all day. All are most welcome!

ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST at Immaculate Conception Social Hall, 1 E. Caroline Ave., St. Clair, on **Sunday, September 6th from 8 to 11:30 a.m.** Adults \$5.00; Children 8 and under \$3.00. Take-outs available. Proceeds benefit St. Clare of Assisi Parish.

LABOR DAY MASS at Castle Green Grotto on **September 7th at 10 a.m.**, located at 950 Valley Road, Minersville/Heckscherville Hwy. Refreshments served after Mass, bring your lawn chairs. Mass is dedicated to "all who come". Any questions please contact Bob 544-3658. Plenty of parking available at the Grotto.

FOOD FAIR & FLEA MARKET sponsored by St. Clare of Assisi Church in St. Clair on Saturday, **September 12th** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Great homemade foods ... halupkie, haluskie, pot pie, barbecue, soups, chili, and more! Mouthwatering baked goods and unusual Flea Market Items; 50/50 chances and crafts ... free admission and everyone welcome.

MEATLOAF DINNER sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church, 300 W. Arch St., Pottsville, on **Thursday, September 17th from 4 to 7 p.m.** Menu: Meatloaf, Choice of Scalloped or Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans or Carrots, Cole Slaw, Dessert and Beverage. Take-outs available. Adults \$7.00; Children \$3.50 (6 to 12); Children 5 and under – free. Call to reserve tickets at 622-9110.

COOKBOOK FUND-RAISER sponsored by St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish in Minersville. Price is \$12.00 with approximately 400 ethnic and favorite recipes. Advanced orders will be eligible for a drawing of 5 gift certificates from local merchants. Please call 544-5320 or 544-9062 to place an order.

POSITION AVAILABLE

A part-time maintenance position is available at Nativity BVM High School. Hours are 12 noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to apply, contact Mr. Bruce R. Hess, Principal at 622-8110.

RENEWING THE EARTH

Our tradition calls us to protect the life and dignity of the human person, and it is increasingly clear that this task cannot be separated from the care and defense of all creation" (U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Renewing the Earth*).

NOTES FROM OUR PARISH NURSE

... . Janet

Daubert

Men over 50 should make a special effort to examine their skin, especially on their backs, for signs of melanoma, according to a recent study in the *Archives of Dermatology*. Men are less likely to discover skin lesions than women, which helps explain why they are more likely to die from this dangerous type of skin cancer. In men, the back is the most common site, but melanoma can occur even on parts of the body rarely exposed to the sun, such as the buttocks, armpits, and soles of the feet. It helps to have someone else check hard-to-see areas. The signs include a mole that changes shape, color, or size; a sore that doesn't heal; and a persistent patch of irritated skin. If you're at high risk for melanoma, or simply have lots of moles, get a professional skin exam.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

The Fanelli WINDOW PROS

P.O. Box 56

Glenworth Road, Pottsville

570-628-9111

800-638-1050

We appreciate advertisers who support St. John's by advertising in our bulletin. Please patronize their business and let them know you saw their ad in our

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."

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Foster Families Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Allentown needs families to foster siblings, teen mothers with infants, and medically fragile infants. Please contact Barbara Ivaska at 570-628-0466, ext. 306 or Patricia Reusch at 1-800-330-8001 or e-mail preusch@allentowndiocese.org.

Counseling & Behavioral Health Program is licensed to accept Medical Assistance and Medicare Part B at its Schuylkill/Carbon service office at 13 Westwood Road, Pottsville. Please call 570-628-0466.

PLANNING A WILL. By making a Will, you decide now what you want done with your treasure. Along with providing for your children, grandchildren, or friends, you may wish to make a gift to the church, your parish school, or any other Diocesan entity. By making a Will, your wishes will be carried out.

For additional information, contact the Diocesan Office of Development at 1101 W. Hamilton St., PO Box F, Allentown, Pa. 18105-1538 / call 610-871-5200 ext 215

PRISONER VISITATION AND SUPPORT

PVS is a volunteer visitation program for federal and military prisons in the United States with a primary focus on those prisoners who receive few or no visits from family and/or friends and, thus, have little or no outside contact. Visitors are urgently needed for the Federal Correctional Institution (Schuylkill) in Minersville. For further information, please contact Lena B. Prewitt, Visitor Recruitment Coordinator, Eastern U.S., at 205-345-3615 or 205-310-9493 or e-mail Ltrewitt@netO.net

CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS COLLECTION DRIVE

More than 150,000 troops are serving overseas and away from their families. **Cell Phones for Soldiers** has established Schlitzer Allen Pugh Funeral Home, 6th & W. Market Sts. as an official collection site and is asking Schuylkill County to support our brave troops by donating used cell phones at the funeral home. The goal is to provide every U.S. soldier with a way to call home for free. For more information, visit www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com



