

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Each Christmas Almighty God offers us a special gift ... His Son, Our Redeemer. This gift if really appreciated can change your life. The presence of Christ in your life will truly bring you joy and happiness. As we think about Christ coming, we think about receiving Him in the Eucharist. We think about making a good confession, to prepare ourselves in the best possible way to allow Christ to really become a part of us. This will bring peace into your life and gives to this great feast its true meaning.

To all, I extend my prayerful best wishes for a Joyous and Blessed Christmas. I want to thank you for your loyal and generous cooperation during the year and wish you and your loved ones a New Year blessed by the presence of Christ.

Yours in Christ,  
Father Dave, S. Maryanne & Parish Staff

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## CANDLE INTENTIONS

**B.V.M** – IMO Josephine Parsick by daughters

**St. Joseph** – IMO Joseph J. Brahler by Diane Keese

**Tabernacle** – IMO Elizabeth Brahler by Diane Keese

**Sanctuary**

1. IMO Josephine Cavanaugh by Ed Hahner & Family

2. IMO Joseph Yarashus Family by Family

3&4. For my loved ones et al by Doris Eiler

**Guardian Angels**

1&2. IMO George L. Klassen Jr.

by Pat & Charlene Klassen

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## **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**

George Smith 544-3294

Frances Mickey 544-6089

## **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** - Tuesday prior to publication

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What causes people to lose Jesus?

To find Him?

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## READINGS

**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

**Reading I:** Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

**Reading II:** Colossians 3:12-21

**Gospel:** Luke 2:41-52

**Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God**

**Reading I:** Numbers 6:22-27

**Reading II:** Galatians 4:4-7

**Gospel:** Luke 2:16-21

**Epiphany of the Lord**

**Reading I:** Isaiah 60:1-6

**Reading II:** Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

**Gospel:** Matthew 2:1-12

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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. Sick: *Tina Dixon, Margie Glunz, Carolyn & Charles Foster, Maryann Wychunas, Edward Wychunas, John Woznicki, Faye Cuchara, Scott Rhoades, Ben Roeder, Joseph Lenick, Sophia Kapsha, Roxanne Tutko, James Gombola, Jeanne Rehnert*

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## WEEKLY COLLECTION

**December 20th:** \$ 3,802.75; **Imp.&Rep.:** 1,321.00  
*We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving*

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## **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 at least 6 months 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 Sister Maryanne for an appointment

## **New Parishioners**

Please call the Rectory for an appointment to register.

## **Sick Calls**

Please notify the parish office

## **Outreach Program**

Margaret Glunz 622-3067 / Rectory 622-5470

## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday – December 26 – 5:00 p.m.

**MR.&MRS. LAWRENCE ELISON**

(Mr.&Mrs. Henry Uckele)

Sunday – December 27 – 8:15 a.m.

**CHARLES, MATILDA, CHARLIE,  
& CATHERINE SCHAEFFER** (Eleanor Schaeffer)

Sunday – December 27 – 10:30 a.m.

**ELIZABETH SCHMITT** (Dorothy Brown)

Monday – December 28 – 9:00 a.m.

**DECEASED OF BOHR FAMILY**

Tuesday – December 29 – 9:00 a.m.

**GEORGE L. KLASSEN JR.**

(Patrick & April Carroll)

Wednesday – December 30 – 9:00 a.m.

**ROBERT SCHAEFFER** (Helen Schaeffer)

Thursday – December 31 – 9:00 a.m.

**REV. RICHARD WOJNICKI** (Sister Barbara Jean)

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Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

Thursday – December 31 – 5:15 p.m.

**DECEASED OF LONOSKIE & MESTISHEN**

**FAMILIES** (Loretta Lonoskie)

Friday – January 1 – 10:00 a.m.

**MARY BROKHOFF**

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Saturday – January 2 – 5:00 p.m.

**CHARLOTTE JOCHEMS** (Dan & Hermine Murphy)

Sunday – January 3 – 8:15 a.m.

**JOSEPH & VERONICA LORENZ FAMILY**

(Charles & Frances Lorenz)

Sunday – January 3 – 10:30 a.m.

**ANNA TUCCI** (Mr.&Mrs. Michael Foran)

## A CHRISTMAS BLESSING OF WELCOME

We warmly welcome all who have come today to celebrate this glorious feast.

We welcome the stranger, the traveler and guest.

We welcome our students home from college for a good winter's rest.

We welcome parishioners who moved far away, but join us today as old friends and guests.

We welcome all who have not been active of late in their Catholic faith; and hope they will find new hope and inspiration this Christmas to come back again and again.

We welcome our faithful parishioners, loyal true; may the Lord bless you for all you do.

Welcome to all. May our gathering this day gladden our hearts and deepen our bonds.

*We are after all, one People of God --  
redeemed by the Light.*

*May we walk by the Light and live by the Light --  
together in love.*

## SCHEDULE

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

5 p.m. – Saturday – December 26th

**Reader:** Mary Sicoske

**Euch.Min.:** Aaron Wachter, Bobbi Murray

**Servers:** Lucy & Sophie Murray, Kate Kramer

**Cantor:** Lucilla Kochol

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – December 27th

**Reader:** Jennifer Daubert

**Euch.Min.:** Doris Eiler, Carol Forster, Paul Gombola

**Servers:** Steven Messina, Brent Gauntlett,

Anthony Wojciechowsky

**Cantor:** Karen Glunz

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – December 27th

**Reader:** Sister Maryanne

**Euch.Min.:** Mary Modesto, Debbie Guers,

Prudence Griffin

**Servers:** Maecada Herring, Paige & Casey Guers

**Cantor:** Suzette Joy

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

5:15 p.m. – Thursday – December 31st

**Reader:** Bill Casey

**Euch.Min.:** Paul & Mary Ann Filiac

**Servers:** Grace Casey, Nathaniel & Christian Yingling

**Cantor:** Mary Bound

10:00 a.m. – Friday – January 1st

**Reader:** Ray Petrilla

**Euch.Min.:** Albert Nastasi

**Servers:** Allison Darhun, Michael Ryan, Rachel Ryan

**Cantor:** Debbie Purcell

Epiphany of the Lord

5:00 p.m. – Saturday – January 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Reader:** Mary Hahner

**Euch.Min.:** Katie Zwiebel, Christopher Lombel

**Servers:** Claudia Rittle, Megan Ryan,

Madison Buckingham

**Cantor:** Lucilla Kochol

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – January 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Reader:** Michelle Ambrose

**Euch.Min.:** Bill Elison, Joyce Gerace, Michael Ambrose

**Servers:** Tiffany & Jillian Zerbe, Michael Fetterolf

**Cantor:** Kelly Messina

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – January 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Reader:** Rachael Kubick

**Euch.Min.:** Andrew Kubick, John Ventura,

Mary Jean Morgalis

**Servers:** Megan & Chelsea Dalton, Mary Beth Rissinger

**Cantor:** Dave Derbes

**FAMILY PERSPECTIVE:** During this Christmas time commit yourself to sharing the true meaning of Christmas you're your family. God shared His love fully by becoming human. We too can share His love by being Christ to one another. May God bless you and your family during this season of good will.

## A NOTE OF THANKS

A big and heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all the organizations and people who do so much to keep our parish alive and kicking. The following list is but a sample of what takes place in an organized way at St. John's. However, there are also a number of people who do the quiet, behind the scenes work. To all of them, our sincere thanks! We truly apologize if we missed any group.

Let us continue to grow in all ways and keep the spirit of St. John's Parish alive for all to see and hear. May God continue to bless us.

Father Dave  
Sister Maryanne

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| <p><b>Catholic Women's Union</b><br/><b>Over 50 Club</b><br/><b>Choir Directors</b><br/><b>Building Committee</b><br/><b>Collection Posters</b><br/><b>Altar Servers</b><br/><b>Church Cleaning Crews</b><br/><b>Eucharistic Ministers</b><br/><b>Hospitality Ministries</b><br/><b>Saturday Night Choir</b><br/><b>Decorating Committee</b><br/><b>Parish Staff</b><br/><b>Readers</b><br/><b>Marriage Prep Dialogue</b><br/><b>CCD Program</b><br/><b>Homecoming</b><br/><b>Christmas Bazaar</b><br/><b>Outreach Team</b><br/><b>Monthly Breakfasts</b><br/><b>Giving Tree Helpers</b><br/><b>Marriage Prep Dialogue</b><br/><b>Adult Faith Formation Committee</b></p> | <p><b>Cantors</b><br/><b>Parish Council</b><br/><b>Vacation Bible School</b><br/><b>Children's Liturgy</b><br/><b>Youth Choir</b><br/><b>Bakers</b><br/><b>Men's Choir</b><br/><b>Cemetery Committee</b><br/><b>Bulk Mailing Crews</b><br/><b>Collection Counters</b><br/><b>Food Service</b><br/><b>Sunday Pre-School</b><br/><b>CYO</b><br/><b>Family Guild</b><br/><b>Youth Group</b><br/><b>Organists</b><br/><b>Special Liturgies</b><br/><b>Liturgy Committee</b><br/><b>Financial Committee</b><br/><b>Dramatic Stations</b></p> |
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## CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a time of visiting, giving, helping and sharing. Christmas is a special feast for those who provide these and other services in their community. Parish Ministers are asked to reflect on the people and the circumstances of the first Christmas.

Whenever we recall the Nativity story, we are inspired by the birth of Jesus in such poor and difficult surroundings. We see the young couple, far from home, expecting a baby. We see crowds coming into town to register for the census. We see innkeepers and merchants busy with the influx of people. Amidst all the hubbub and the excitement, a child is born.

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*You fixed all the limits of the land; Summer and Winter  
You made.* Psalm 74:17

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## WHAT IS CHRISTMAS

**Christmas** --- is a little youngster kneeling at the crib, adoration in his eyes, offering the infant Babe a gift for His birthday ---- the gift of love.

**Christmas** --- is a teenager kneeling at Communion time, offering his/her heart to the New-born King.

**Christmas** ---is a mother and father and children assisting at Mass together, adoring Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, the same Christ Who lay in a tiny trough of hay at Bethlehem, on this earth for one purpose -- to redeem us all.

**Christmas** --- is the gifts which we give one another, gifts which cannot be wrapped in gaudy paper and tied with big red bows, for they are gifts of love, born with understanding and kindness, gifts of salvation.

**Christmas** --- like "joy" and "love" needs two to make it true. It needs Christ and you. We cannot take Christ out of Christmas and expect to find the spirit of Christmas in our hearts. Welcome Christ's love for you!

**Christmas is Christ  
Christmas is love!**

## BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS MEAL

Abba, Father, we gather at this table to celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth. We rejoice at being together and remember those who are distant; we recall with love those who have died. We thank you for the gift each of us is to the other (family members name some special trait of other members, or something special one member has done for another since last Christmas). Hold us close to you and to each other, and help us to share your love with all we meet. We pray this in the name of Jesus, born this day. Amen.

## FAMILY MATTERS

**Christmas Time – the true meaning.** Jesus is the reason for the season. During this Christmas time commit yourself to sharing the true meaning of Christmas with your family. God shared His love fully by becoming human. We too can share His love by being Christ to one another. May God bless you and your family during this season of good will.

*You pray for my family & I'll pray for yours.*

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## TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

In Luke we learn that the first people to experience the coming of the Savior were shepherds, those lowly, uneducated ones who lived among the animals. They were not the only ones, of course, but they were the first to welcome the Savior.

It was no accident that such lowly people would be called in first to pay homage to the Savior. It is to the lowly, after all, that Christ came first as Lord and Redeemer. The circumstances of His birth testify to that: His mother *wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the place where travelers lodged.*

The nearer we are to our God, the nearer we should become to those lowly ones who are God's special ones. We are challenged at Christmas to do what Jesus and the angels did: bring the good news of redemption to the outcast and the lowly. The *tidings of great joy are to be shared* and no one is to be left out, not even the most hopeless or despicable person.

"Our holy Mother (the Church) does not neglect the care of the poor or omit to provide for their necessities; but, rather, drawing them to her with a mother's embrace, and knowing that they bear the person of Christ Himself, who regards the smallest gift to the poor as a benefit conferred on Himself, holds them in great honor. She does all she can to help them; she provides homes and hospitals where they may be received, nourished, and cared for all the world over, and watches over these."

Pope Leo XIII, *Quod Apostolici Muneris* (1878) 9

## GIVING TREE THANK YOU

You outdid yourselves! The pile of packages under our "Giving Tree" was overwhelming and beautifully wrapped. You are so good to others. What a wonderful spirit of giving and caring. You have made Christmas happier for all, especially those receiving presents. Those helped were:

**Our Communion Calls – 39**

**Gaudenzia House – 14**

**Angel Babies – 40**

**Catholic Charities – 24**

You all get a 100% for following directions! We wish to thank all those who volunteered to deliver these gifts in the name of St. John's Parish Family. Thank you for giving your time, but mostly your smiles and Christmas wishes. God surely was smiling once again as you gave a little bit of yourself to others. God bless you!

**Vincent & Joan Albo**

**Eric Lieberman**

**Rachael & Andrew Kubick**

# PARKING LOT LIGHTS

## THANK YOU

The members of the **Catholic Women's Union** proudly announce that our project of having lights installed in the church parking lot has finally come true. Through our fundraising efforts for the last three years, we were able to raise and donate \$7,500 so that the lights could be installed. The first night the lights were turned on was November 18<sup>th</sup> which happened to be the same evening as the November meeting of our group. So we were the first to see how wonderful the lights illuminate the parking lot. The main goal of the Catholic Women's Union is to raise money to give to the church. We are delighted that our efforts through much hard work and dedication paid off in a way that benefits all of St. John's Parish Family.

Sharon R. Miller, President  
St. John's Catholic Women's Union

## CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

### Thank You

The members of the Catholic Women's Union would like to thank everyone who donated cookies and those who supported us by purchasing treats at our first Christmas Cookie Sale held December 12 & 13 and December 19 & 20. The Christmas spirit of giving came through and the generosity was overwhelming. I am very happy to announce the fundraiser was a huge success. Thank you to the women on the Cookie Committee who gave of their time at this busy season and also anyone who worked at the sale. We are a small group of women, but we are mighty and strong in our efforts to raise money for the church. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Joyous New Year.



Sharon R. Miller, President  
St. John's Catholic Women's Union

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ...** The Schuylkill County **Meals on Wheels** Program needs **YOU**. Please help the senior citizens in the Pottsville area remain in their homes by helping to prepare or delivering a hot, nutritious meal at noontime on Mondays, Wednesday, or Fridays. For more information please call: Meals on Wheels 570-624-3023 or 1-800-621-6325.

*No treasure greater than a healthy body; no happiness, than a joyful heart!* Sirach 30:16

## gEnEsiS 1 (Youth Group)

### REMINDER

December 29<sup>th</sup>

### Christmas Ice Skating Party & Soup Kitchen

Ice Skating at Reading Bodyzone followed by late lunch then soup kitchen volunteering.

Meet in St. John's Parking Lot @ 9:55 a.m.; then Soup Kitchen @ 4 p.m. RSVP by December 20<sup>th</sup>

For more information, if you need a ride, or to sign-up, e-mail Rachael at [genesis1yg@aim.com](mailto:genesis1yg@aim.com) or call 570-581-6109.

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## **CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS**

Eighth grade parishioners attending Catholic, public or private elementary or middle school are invited to apply for a one-year \$1,000 scholarship to attend one of the eight Catholic high schools of the Diocese of Allentown. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of academic achievement, involvement in extracurricular activities, service to school, parish and community, and pastor, principal and teacher recommendations. Application forms are available at the parish office, school office or through the parish religious education program. **Completed applications must be submitted to the student's school by January 8, 2010**

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## **ALL SAINTS SCHOOL NEWS ...**

### Theme Basket Auction

... hosted by All Saints Catholic School on **Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>** from noon until 2 p.m. at St. Patrick Parish Center. Browse and Buy on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6 p.m. and Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 6 p.m. All are welcome!

### Post-Christmas Recycling Fundraiser

You can recycle your unwanted electronics and support Catholic education in your community! Donate your used cell phones, ink jets, laptops, i-pods, digital cameras, and digital video cameras. We will collect these items until Valentine's Day. You may drop these items at the school.

Don't forget! We collect cell phones and ink cartridges smaller than the palm of your hand all year long.

Thank you for your support! Call us for more information at 622-0106 or visit us at [www.AllSaintsCatholicSchool.net](http://www.AllSaintsCatholicSchool.net).

**The All Saints Catholic School family  
would like to wish you and your family  
a very Merry Christmas  
and a Blessed New Year !**

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*Let us pray for those who are lonely or estranged from their families, that they may find consolation and healing during this Christmas season.*

## **THANK YOU**

Dear St. John's Parish Family

Thank you for the gifts for the girls and their babies here at Angel Baby Ministries. This was such a blessing and I know that the girls will be so blessed when they and their babies receive these gifts on Christmas Day. We so appreciate the kindness and generosity of everyone.

Thank you again and we wish all of you a most blessed Christmas and peace and health in the New Year. May the Lord bless you as you have blessed others in your giving.

Sincerely,

Marietta Montalvo, CEO

Angel Baby Ministries, Inc.

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## **FREE CAREGIVING 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 628-2290 or 800-222-5236.

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## **OUTREACH PROGRAM**

### **REACH OUT and TOUCH SOMEONE**



Call Margie Glunz 622-3067

Volunteers are needed!

Call us if you need us.

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS**

Did you know that nine out of ten future births will occur in developing countries, but every child born in the industrialized world will consume at least three times as much resources as a developing-country child?

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**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: The Feast of the Holy Family is a reminder to spouses that a great family relationship begins with you!** Marriage Encounter can help strengthen your family. The next weekend is February 12-14 in Bethlehem. Call 1-800-787-7679 or go online at [www.wvme-nepa.org](http://www.wvme-nepa.org) for information.

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*The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." When the angel went away from them to Heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."*

Luke 2:10, 15

# LONGABERGER BASKET & POTTERY CALENDAR

The Family Guild will be sponsoring the Longaberger Calendar for March 2010. The members of the Guild would like to extend the opportunity to any parishioner to sponsor a basket or make a donation toward a basket. If you are interested, please call **Jan Daubert 622-8760 or the Rectory 622-5470.**



## PARISH FESTIVAL – 2010

Next year's date is July 17th  
Mark your calendars !

## 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 !!!

## 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](http://mseiger.ordermygift.com) or call 622-3558 for more information. Your purchase will financially help our parish.

## 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.

**PRO-LIFE OFFICE:** Do you seek healing from a past abortion experience either recent or many years ago? Call 1-866-3Rachel, the confidential Project Rachel Hotline, for information about compassionate post-abortion counseling and reconciliation and Rachel's Vineyard Retreats.

## 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."*

## NEIGHBORING EVENTS

**SOUNDS OF THE SPIRIT:** Join us in celebrating the joyous birth of our Savior at our special Christmas presentation on **Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>** at 6 p.m. at St. Matthew the Evangelist Church, 139 Spruce St., Minersville.

## FROM OUR PARISH NURSE

... **Janet Daubert**

**Know how to do the self-administered Heimlich maneuver,** in case you start choking on food when no one is around to help. Make a fist and place the thumb side against your abdomen, slightly above the navel. With the other hand, grasp the fist and press it in and upward with quick, sharp thrusts. Another method: press your abdomen (just below the ribs) forcefully against the back of a chair, a table, or a railing. Repeat until air is forced out and the food is expelled.

## SUGGESTION BOX

Our **Suggestion Box** is located in the back of church on the side of the confessional by the Ambry where the holy oils are kept. If you would like to make a suggestion about something, please feel free to write down your thoughts. Pencils and paper are in the basket at that location.



## SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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 bulletin.

### **Why Advertise in a Church Bulletin?**

- ^ It's inexpensive Advertising
- ^ It's Effective in Catching New Neighbors' Attention
- ^ It's Advertising Concentrated in Your Own Neighborhood
- ^ It Develops Good Community Relationships
- ^ It's Good For Developing Loyal Customers

