

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

The parable of the fig tree includes a detail that would make sense to any gardener. If a tree or plant is not productive it may benefit from having its roots stirred up and a little manure applied. In the same way, if we have stopped producing and growing morally we may need to examine our root motives, untangle our lives from the dead habits of bad influences. Prayer is a time to stir up roots and even our past failures can be a source of growth and insight. Just as old, decaying matter and manure nourish new plant growth, our old sins and past failures contain valuable insights and motivation for personal growth. Repentance acknowledges past failures and learns from them. Virtue that flows from experience is stronger than virtue that flows from simple innocence.

Yours in Christ,
Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Third Sunday of Lent

Monday – March 8 – 9:00 a.m.

JOSEPH & RITA SCHWEICH

Tuesday – March 9 – 9:00 a.m.

MAUREEN KALYMUN (Florence Zemantowski)

Wednesday – March 10 – 9:00 a.m.

CINDY CARUANO (Herb Tamburelli)

Thursday – March 11 – 9:00 a.m.

GEORGE H. BUEHLER (John & Annette Lieberman)

Friday – March 12 – 9:00 a.m.

DANIEL DAUKSIS (Robyn Consugar)

Saturday – March 6 – 5:00 p.m.

BURNS & CONNELL FAMILIES

(Francis & Mary Burns)

Sunday – March 7 – 8:15 a.m.

CHARLES KUTCH (Mary Kutch & Family)

Sunday – March 7 – 10:30 a.m.

SOPHIA KAPSHA (Walter & Helen Boris)

Tuesday – March 9 @ York Terrace Nursing Home

DAVID DECONCINI

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What “cultivating” do you need to do in order to bear fruit as Jesus’ disciples?

READINGS

Third Sunday in Lent (March 7/8)

Reading I: Exodus 17:3-7

Reading II: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Third Sunday in Lent (March 14/15)

Reading I: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

Reading II: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

CANDLE INTENTIONS

B.V.M – Health & Welfare of the Schweikert Family

by Bill Schweikert

St. Joseph – IMO Joseph Wollyung Sr. by Joe & Barbara Wollyung

Tabernacle – Health & Welfare of the Schweikert Family by Bill Schweikert

Sanctuary

1. IMO of George Hahner Sr. by Hahner Family

2. For the Cantwell & Roberts Family

by John & Susan Cantwell

3. For Jeremy Cantwell by John & Susan Cantwell

4. For John & Michelle Cantwell

by John & Susan Cantwell

Guardian Angels

1. Deceased Members of the Cantwell & Roberts Family

by John & Susan Cantwell

2. For Brigid, Tierney & Rory Cantwell

by John & Susan Cantwell

SCHEDULE

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00 p.m. – Saturday – March 13th

Reader: Bill Gianfagna

Euch.Min.: Leeann Smith, Kathy Gianfagna

Servers: Jason, Hannah, Celena Granito

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – March 14th

Reader: Caitlyn McDemus

Euch.Min.: John Corbacio, George Forney, (Dr. Visot)

Servers: Megan McLaughlin, Josh Clauser,

Samantha Weiss

Cantor: Tina Seiger

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – March 14th

Reader: Carol Lasco

Euch.Min.: Debbie Guers, John Ventura, Bill Casey

Servers: Casey & Paige Guers, Emily Witmier

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, Edward Wychunas, John Woznicki, Faye Cuchara, Scott Rhoades, Roxanne Tutko, James Gombola, Bill Zaharis, Mary Ellen Viduszynski, Elizabeth McAlonis, Francis King, Karla Garland, Rosalia Campion, Mildred Costello, Kevin Stock, Nancy Doyne, Charles Tamburelli, Marie Fitzpatrick.*

WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 28th: \$ Fuel & Heat: \$ 7,118.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

LIVING LENT AT HOME

DRAMATIC STATIONS

St. John's Dramatic Stations of the Cross recreates 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.



REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Tuesday & Thursdays – 7 p.m. – in church

OPERATION RICE BOWL

Third Sunday of Lent

The Burning Bush and the Call of Moses. Today we hear the call of Moses to lead his people from oppression to freedom. God promises to be with them as they journey to a new life. Our participation in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl unites us in prayer, fasting, and giving with the millions of people throughout the world who are oppressed by poverty, injustice, war, disease, and lack of education and other opportunities.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Join us for Stations of the Cross each Wednesday during Lent at 7 p.m. in the Chapel. All are invited to prayerfully remember the Lord's Passion and Death.



LENTEN PROGRAMS AT ST. JOHN'S

Sundays at the Well

Sundays from 9 to 10:15 a.m. in Longinus Hall
'From Ashes to Easter'

Topics each week will be based on the
Readings for the Sundays of Lent

Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Chapel

Encountering the Merciful Savior

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions
Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Chapel

Snackin' on Faith

Sunday, March 14th at 5:30 p.m. - Longinus Hall
Snack sharing and game playing as a community.
(RSVP by March 8th - call the Rectory 622-5470)

FAMILY GUILD "LENT-EVENT"

St. John's Family Guild will host the annual Lent-Event on **Sunday, March 14th** beginning at 11:30 a.m. with a light lunch. This year we will feature "*Spiritual Magic*" by *Sister Virginia Stephanie Bator*. All children of the parish are welcome to attend this event. **Registration is a must!** Please call the Rectory 622-5470 to register.

SUNDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

... sponsored by the Schuylkill Deanery Holy Name Society during the Lenten Season at 7 p.m., including Benediction. Large print stations books provided. The schedule is as follows:

March 7 @ St. Casimir's - Shenandoah
March 14 @ St. Patrick's - Pottsville
March 21 @ Holy Cross - New Philadelphia
March 28 @ St. Vincent de Paul - Girardville



FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

Steubenville, Ohio June 18 to 20, 2010

Still Needed: 1. A few spots opened for students (RSVP no later than Tuesday, March 9th)
2. Prayer Sponsors
3. Donations (from individual or groups)

Upcoming: **Initial deposit** of \$30.00 is due Wednesday, March 10th.

Meeting - Wednesday, March 10th - 7:30 p.m. in Longinus Hall for all high school students who are attending and their parents.

Contact **Rachael Kubick** for questions, **570-581-6109**
or email genesis1yg@aim.com

PARISH COUNCIL

St. John's Parish Council will meet

Monday, March 8th - 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 Steffan

Appointed Members

Lucilla Kochol
Rachael Kubick
Carol Lasco
Frances Mickey
Joe Rehnert

FAMILY MATTERS

Media Portrayal of Family. Does your family look like the families portrayed on TV or in movies? Do they reflect your family values - what you teach and what you do in your family? Is it time to talk to your children about what they are watching on TV and in the media? Tell them what you believe about your Catholic family.

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

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.

OUTREACH

Our OutReach Program is available to provide a ride to and from Mass, transportation to physician appointments, etc. We are always in need of volunteers ... please call Margaret Glunz 622-3067

May Your kindness, Lord, be upon us; we have put our hope in You.
Psalm 33:22

LENTEN DINNERS

Our Reputation is Well Known!

Full course dinners including the best home-made New England Clam Chowder, freshly baked Haddock or Salmon, or Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes, a wonderful Salad Bar, choice of Macaroni & Cheese, Baked or Mashed Potatoes, choice of Vegetables, Beverages, and of course, our Delicious Homemade Desserts.... 4 to 7 p.m. at the Russell Building ... every Friday during Lent.

Adults

Baked Haddock or Salmon \$ 11.00

1 Crab Cake \$ 11.00

2 Crab Cakes \$ 13.00

Adult Special

Crab Cake & Choice of Fish \$ 14.00

Children (under 12 only)

Baked Haddock or Salmon \$ 7.00

1 Crab Cake \$ 7.00



TAKE-OUTS AVAILABLE

HOMEMADE DESSERTS

"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 Thursday's or Friday's during Lent.



NEEDED: Waitresses /Waiters



We need volunteers to help with the Lenten Dinners. If you can volunteer one Friday or a couple of Fridays – anything would be great! You can ask anyone who has helped in the past, we always have a great time each Friday. Perhaps you are new in the parish and looking for a way to become involved.

We also need help clearing tables, serving drinks, etc. Please contact **Kate or Steve Zagar 622-3193** or call the Rectory **622-5470**.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Catholic Women's Union will once again chance off a variety of Theme Baskets each week at the Lenten Dinners. We are asking for donations for these baskets. Some suggestions include ... paper products, canned goods, tea towels, soaps, lotion, hair products, etc. Any donation would be greatly appreciated. Please contact **Dorothy Stangl 624-7106** with your donation.



LONGABERGER BASKET & POTTERY CALENDAR SPONSORS - 2010

Abdo's Furniture Outlet, Inc.

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Boran Dental Assoc.

Daubert Family

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Father Dave

Bill & Kathy Gianfagna

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Diane Keese

John B. Lieberman III

Lucie Mandell

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Quandel's

St. Clair Auto Supply

St. John's CYO Program

St. John's Family Guild

Schlitzer-Allen-Pugh Funeral Home

Schuylkill Federal Credit Union

Towne Drug/Yorkville Drug

Union Bank & Trust Co.

Sister Barbara Jean Wojnicki

Zimmerman, Lieberman, Tamulonis Law Offices

Have you considered making a Lenten Day of

Recollection? The Rev. Richard Brensinger, M.Div., Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Bethlehem will serve as Spiritual Director for a Lenten Day of Recollection on Thursday, March 25th from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Francis Retreat House in Easton. Following the theme, "Baptized to: Live Justice in the 21st Century," the day will include talks, witness, reflection, Mass and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. \$25.00 includes lunch. To register please call the Office for Social Action before March 15th at 610-289-8900 x 221

Let us pray for all who have been involved in abortion, euthanasia, or other sins against the dignity of human life, that our merciful and compassionate Lord will allow them the grace of repentance before their death.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010

Get your Vacation Bible School music early! Come to our **VBS Launch Meeting** and get a free music CD! Be the first to find out about this year's VBS theme! We need your input and ideas! Give us an hour of your time and talents and help us launch the best VBS yet! *Free babysitting* provided onsite for your kids so you can attend the meeting.

We need your input.

We need your prayers.

We need your time.

Won't you join us for this launch meeting?

Questions? Can't attend but want to help? Call Tina at 628-0772 or 640-9185 or email tzanis@verizon.net

St. John the Baptist & St. Patrick Churches

Vacation Bible School Launch Meeting

When: Wednesday, March 10th

Time: 6 to 7 p.m. (no longer)

Where: St. Patrick's Parish Hall

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Save the date! Mark your Calendar! Vacation Bible School is coming! Sunday, June 20th through Thursday, June 24th. Your evenings will be filled with fun, fellowship and faith-growing, whether you are a kid or a "big kid"! Won't you join us? There is something for all your family and friends! Watch the bulletin or our website for more details soon!

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, March 9th – 7 p.m.

in the Rectory Fellowship Room

I will listen for the word of God; surely the Lord will proclaim peace to His people, to the faithful, to those who trust in Him.
Psalm 85:9

DIOCESAN SPONSORED EVENTS

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

World Youth Day, Young Adult Pilgrimage, Madrid, Spain ... August 14 to 22, 2011.

Young adults ages 18 to 35 are invited to join the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry and young adults from around the globe in a multicultural celebration of the Catholic faith. More information is available at www.liveyourfaith.org or by calling Melissa at 277-0123. All inclusive ... \$2,098.00 from New York.

Young Adults, your voices matter! You're invited to a dinner discussion to help the Diocese hear and respond creatively to your needs in today's culture and Church. Visit us for details on our Facebook pages: Allentown Diocese Youth and Young Adult Ministry; Allentown Diocese Adult Faith Formation or e-mail MHartigan@allentowndiocese.org

OFFICE FOR PRO-LIFE

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**

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Tired of Winter? Wishing it were Spring? Shake off those winter "blahs" and put the freshness of romance back into your relationship with a Marriage Encounter. For information call 1-800-787-7679 or go online at www.wwme-nepa.org

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

Winter's almost over, and your wedding date is almost here! Time to warm up on an Engaged Encounter Weekend, where you and your fiancé can plan for your lifetime together. Engaged Encounter is sponsored by the Office of Family Life Ministries of the Diocese of Allentown. For more information and the schedule of EE weekends for 2010, call Carla Neupauer at 610-289-8900 ext. 238.

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE

... Janet Daubert

Plain coffee is virtually free of fat and calories – but add lots of whole milk or cream and other ingredients and it's a different story. A recent survey of 3,000 purchases from Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts in *Preventing Chronic Disease* found that increasingly popular blended coffee drinks average 239 calories, and that the largest servings of some iced beverages have more than 600 calories. Tipping the scales at 32 ounces, 860 calories, and 172 grams of sugar was Dunkin' Donuts Vanilla Bean Coolata.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 7 Sundays at the Well – 9 to 10:15 a.m. - LH
9 Choir Practice – 7 p.m. – Church
9 Family Guild Mtg. - 7 p.m. – Fellowship Room
10 Stations of the Cross – 7 p.m. – Chapel
10 Vacation Bible School Mtg. 6 p.m.-St.Pat's
10 Steubenville Mtg. – 7:30 p.m. – L.H.
11 RCIA – 7 p.m. – St. Patrick's
11 Exposition & Confessions – 5 to 7 p.m. - Chapel
12 Lenten Dinner – 4 to 7 p.m. – Russell Bldg.
14 Sundays at the Well – 9 to 10:15 a.m. - LH
14 Snackin' on Faith – 5:30 p.m. – Longinus Hall
14 Lent Event – 11:30 a.m. – Russell Bldg.
17 Stations of the Cross – 7 p.m. – Chapel
17 Catholic Women's Union Mtg. 7:30 p.m.-LH
18 RCIA – 7 p.m. – St. Michael's
18 Exposition & Confessions – 5 to 7 p.m.-Chapel
19 Lenten Dinner – 4 to 7 p.m. – Russell Bldg.
21 Sundays at the Well – 9 to 10:15 a.m. – LH
21 Retreat Reunion – after 10:30 Mass
24 Stations of the Cross – 7 p.m. – Chapel
25 Exposition & Confession – 5 to 7 p.m. – Chapel
26 Lenten Dinner – 4 to 7 p.m. – Russell Bldg.
28 Sundays at the Well – 9 to 10:15 a.m. –L.H.
28 Dramatic Stations Presentation – 7:30 p.m.

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.

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- ^ 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

High School Alumni Online Community

Are you an alumni of a Catholic High School in the Diocese of Allentown?

Have you been looking to reconnect with your classmates, but just don't know how?

Well now you can thanks to the Catholic high school alumni online communities!!

Visit your high school's website and follow the link to the alumni online community:

Allentown Central Catholic High School

www.acchs.info

Bethlehem Catholic High School

www.bethlehemcatholics.org

Notre Dame High School

www.notredamehseastonpa.org

Pius X High School

www.piusxhs.org

Holy Name High School

www.gohnhs.org

Central Catholic High School, Reading

www.cchscardinals.org

Nativity BVM High School

www.nativitybvm.net

Marian Catholic High School

www.mariacatholics.org

NEIGHBORING EVENTS

COMMUNION BREAKFAST FOR MEN: sponsored by the Holy Name Society of St. Patrick Church to be held at the Parish Center on **Sunday, March 14th**. Mass 9:30 a.m. followed by breakfast, then highlighted with a talk by Mark Houck entitled "Unleashing the Warrior Within". Cost is \$10.00. For more information contact John Sutter 622-6816 or Brian Barket 622-0646.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE: sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, John F. Kennedy Division No. 2 on **Saturday, March 17th at 11 a.m.** in downtown Pottsville. Mass at 8 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church followed by a breakfast buffet at the Porter House Grille. A post-parade party will be held at the Humane Fire Co. from 12 noon to 4:30 p.m. Tickets \$15.00 in advance; \$20.00 at the door. Tickets are available from any AOH or LAOH member, Murphy's Jewelers, the Porterhouse Grille or the Wooden Keg Inn, St. Clair.

HOMEMADE EASTER CANDY: Butter Cream, Coconut Cream, Peanut Butter Eggs ... \$8.00 per box ... call St. Patrick's Rectory 622-1802. **Deadline for orders is March 23rd**; pick-up orders at the parish center on Saturday, March 27 (noon to 7:30 p.m.) or Sunday, March 28th (8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

