

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Jesus said that whoever tries to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for His sake will save it. Jesus seems to be saying, "If you bet your life, you will win it."

The television quiz program "You Bet Your Life" made its debut sixty years ago. You can now find it on U-tube. The show was hosted by a cigar-smoking Groucho Marx.

A staple of the program was, "Secret Word." If a contestant happened to say the pre-selected word, a toy duck with a hundred dollar bill would descend from above.

Jesus also invites us to say the *secret word* when He asks, "Who do people say that I am?" Peter got it right: "The Messiah."

Yours in Christ,
Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday – September 14 – 9:00 a.m.

DAVID DECONCINI

Tuesday – September 15 – 9:00 a.m.

FLORENCE & EARL TROPP

Wednesday – September 16 – 9:00 a.m.

IRENE A. POST

Thursday – September 17 – 9:00 a.m.

ALBERT & REGINA SCHMIDT

Friday – September 18 - 9:00 a.m.

WILLIAM & KATHRYN ROSENBERGER
(Mary Lynch)

Saturday – September 19– 5:00 p.m.

BURNS & CONNELL FAMILY (Francis & Mary Burns)

Sunday – September 20 – 8:15 a.m.

JOSEPH & SARAH FRY

Sunday – September 20 – 10:30 a.m.

MARTIN BROPHY SR. (Dolores Brophy & Family)

CANDLE INTENTIONS

B.V.M – IMO Amelia Minchoff Androsko by Daughter

St. Joseph – IMO Thomas & Hilda Burns by Peggy Smith

Tabernacle – IMO Vincent Lescavage

by Dan & Anne Marie Wachter

Sanctuary Candles

1. IMO Mary Houser by Linda & Clare Houser Jr.

2. IMO Imelda Kelchner by Linda & Clare Houser Jr.

3. IMO Leroy Kelchner by Linda & Clare Houser Jr.

4. IMO Houser & Kelchner Families

by Linda & Clare Houser Jr.

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Helen Strenkosky by Ted Gurecki Jr.

2. Special Intention req. anonymously

SCHEDULE

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 p.m. — Saturday – September 19th

Readers: Christine Disabella

Euch.Min.: John & Bernice Petock

Servers: Samantha, Angelo, Alexandra Disabella

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – September 20th

Reader: Bill Casey

Euch.Min.: Paul & Debbie Herb, Al Hauptly

Servers: Brent Gauntlett, Michael Fetterolf, Emilie Baker

Cantor: Karen Glunz

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – September 20th

Reader: Randi Dermo

Euch.Min.: Andrew & Rachael Kubick, Prudence Griffin

Servers: Emily & Sam Synnott, Keifer Luckenbill

Cantor: Ensemble

MARRIED IN CHRIST

We extend our warmest congratulations to
Joseph M. Kanfer and Elizabeth A.



Mercuri who were joined in Holy Matrimony last weekend in the presence of Father Dave. They are called now to total dedication to each other. May their love each day draw them closer to God and to each other.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY



This week we welcome **Elizabeth DeLeon** and her two sons, **Miguel** and **Zachery** to our parish family. Elizabeth is in the restaurant business; Miguel attends Pottsville High School and Zachery attends All Saints. Warmly embrace them into our parish family with a big dose of St. John's Hospitality by writing to 110 North St., Pottsville.

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, Rosalia Campion, Margaret Pfluger, Francis King, Maryann Wychunas, Edward Wychunas, Faye Cuchara, Marie Eagan, Sylvia Bercher, Vincent Cavanaugh, Eleanore Forney, William Ash, Mildred Costello, Donald Bound, Matthew Mazakas

Deceased: Daniel Fox

SINCERE SYMPATHY

St. John's Parish Family extends their sincere sympathy and an assurance of our prayers to the family of **Daniel Fox** who was buried from our church last Wednesday. May God grant Daniel a place of Light, Happiness and Peace in His Eternal Kingdom and grant His Peace and Comfort to his family in their loss.

HOLY MASS
WITH BISHOP JOHN O. BARRES

On Wednesday, September 30th, Bishop John O. Barres will visit the Schuylkill County Deanery and offer Holy Mass for our people at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. There are no tickets. There will be a reception with light refreshments after the Mass in the St. Patrick's Parish Center. Members of all parish choirs are invited to participate in the choir. Please see Father Dave for more information.

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 !!!

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What does it mean to think as God does?

READINGS

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (September 12/13)

Reading I: Isaiah 50-4c-9a

Reading II: James 2:14-18

Gospel: Mark 8:27-35

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (September 19/20)

Reading I: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

Reading II: James 3:16-4:3

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

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

**PRACTICAL CONNECTIONS
WITH THE WORD OF GOD**

Living the Word Today: Reading from The Book of James for Sunday

What good is it, my brothers and sisters,
if someone says he has faith but does not have works?
Can that faith save him?

If a brother or sister has nothing to wear
and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them,
"Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,"

but you do not give them the necessities of the body,
what good is it?

So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Caritas in Veritate, recent encyclical written by Pope Benedict XVI, implores us to ask, are we practicing charity in our family or in our local community? Do our consumer choices reflect our social and moral responsibility to defend human life, treat people fairly, protect creation or otherwise reflect Catholic social teaching? Are we taking action to advance justice?

Pursuing charity, justice and the common good is at the core of the mission of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC). As the public affairs agency for the Catholic Church in the Commonwealth, PCC advocates for many issues that advance or defend these principles before our state government. We are blessed to live in a system of government where even ordinary citizens have a hand in promoting justice. Everyone can get involved.

The Moral Obligation to Cover the Uninsured:

Submitted by AB Hill March 5 2009

Next time you go to Mass, look around you. Ask yourself, who among these churchgoers is uninsured? The young family with two squirming toddlers, the middle-aged empty nesters in the next pew, or the recent college graduate singing in the choir; are they covered?

Nearly 90% of Pennsylvanians are lucky enough to have health insurance paid by their employers, themselves or other programs. Be thankful if you are in that group. However, more than one million men, women and children in the Commonwealth lack health insurance coverage. Many more are underinsured; their coverage does not go very far in the event of a serious illness or accident.

The *Vision for Health Care Reform by the Catholic Church in Pennsylvania* affirms that, "every person, including the poor and vulnerable, has a right to adequate health care, a right that flows from the sanctity of life and human dignity. The dignity of the human person requires pursuit of the common good." We have a moral obligation as citizens to pursue this common good.

Excerpts taken from:

<http://www.pacatholic.org/socialjustice/>

PARISH COUNCIL

St. John's Parish Council will meet

Monday, September 14th – 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

** denotes newly elected member

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S UNION ANNUAL HARVEST AUCTION

When: Wednesday, September 16th @ 7 p.m.

Where: Longinus Hall

Items from the "Harvest" will be donated by members and auctioned off as a fundraiser. It's a lot of fun! Our auctioneer is our own Dorothy Hahner Stangl. All members are welcome to participate with Harvest Donations or as a prospective buyer. Refreshments will be served. For further information, please call the Rectory 622-5470..



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.



WEEKLY COLLECTION

September 6th: \$ 5,473.13; **Dues:** \$ 1,579.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

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

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.

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

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. The next Clinic is scheduled for:

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

CYO J.V. VOLLEYBALL

Scheduled Games

Sunday, September 13th – 1 p.m.

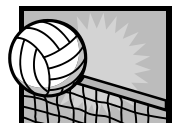
St. John's vs St. Stephen's at Nativity

Wednesday, September 16th – 6 p.m.

St. John's vs St. Pat's at All Saints

Friday, September 18th – 5:30 p.m.

St. John's vs Good Shepherd at All Saints



In green pastures You let me graze; to safe waters You lead me.
...Psalm 23:2

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 ****

FAMILY MATTERS

Teachers. 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. May God give them wisdom and patience daily in their service to our children.

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

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**

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Our **10th Annual Christmas Bazaar** will take place on Saturday and Sunday, **November 14th & 15th**. We are asking our parishioners for help. We need new items to fill the theme baskets or you can donate your own basket. Some examples are: Car Wash Basket, Baby Basket, Kitchen Basket, Movie Basket, Candy Basket, Wine & Cheese Basket, etc. etc. etc. – any creativity is more than welcome! Craft items made at home are also welcome.



We need interested and creative parishioners who would like to help with assembling the baskets for the event. Please call Pat Scheetz if interested at 622-7973

As always, monetary donations are greatly appreciated and helping hands at the Bazaar are always welcome. If you can help or you have questions, please call **Pat Scheetz 622-7973 or the Rectory 622-5470**.

There will be a planning meeting for the Bazaar on Wednesday, September 23rd at 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall. All are welcome to attend.

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.

'FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS'

For parents who have lost a child through miscarriage, abortion, stillbirth or in early infancy, please join us at the **Remembrance Mass on Sunday, October 18th at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church**, Rev. Msgr. Edward O'Connor will be the celebrant. For more information, or to register, call 610-289-8900 x 230 for the Office of Pro-Life Activities. All families are invited. (Registration is *not required* but *requested* for planning for the social, which follows the Mass. You may register anonymously with just a number attending).

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Practice continuing acts of thoughtfulness.

Experienced grief?

Struggled through it and now want to help others?

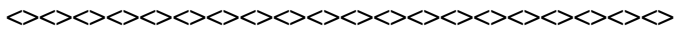
We would like to offer assistance from the caring parishioners of St. John's Parish Family in promoting healing through understanding, support and encouragement. Light the darkness for the grieving by reinvesting in life. If interested please call **Beth Smith 628-3859**. (Please leave a message if no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

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***

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

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.

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.

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!

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**

You made the moon to mark the seasons, the sun that knows the hour of its setting. ... Psalm 104:19

NEIGHBORING EVENTS

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.

ART & CRAFT SHOE, ETHIC FOOD SALE sponsored by St. Nicholas School PTG on **Sunday, September 20th** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Nicholas Picnic Grove. Crafters wishing to reserve a table, please call Nancy Newton 429-1188 or Donna Shimko 874-4554.

HARVEST FEST '09 sponsored by St. Mary's Church in Hamburg on Friday, October 2nd (4 to 9 p.m.) and Saturday, October 3 (1 to 9 p.m.). Homemade Food, Entertainment, Chances, Games and Family fun. Find our parish link and directions www.hamburgpa.org (churches) or call the parish office for more information 610-561-7657.

CASINO TRIP: An overnight Atlantic City Trip to Trump Plaza Casino, sponsored by St. Stephen Church Ladies Auxiliary, Shenandoah, **on October 8 & 9.** Cost \$120.00 which includes cash rebate and free buffet. For information please call Mary Ann 462-0883. Reservations must be paid by September 11th.

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.

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE

If you have persistent insomnia, consider consulting a cognitive behavioral therapist. Such therapy involves not only changing your behavior, but also the way you think. For insomnia, the goal is to change thoughts and feelings about sleep that elevate stress levels and thus cause or worsen sleeplessness. Studies, including a Canadian trial in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in May, show that such therapy is often more effective in the long term than sleeping pills. Online cognitive behavioral programs for insomnia can help, too, according to another recent Canadian study, in the journal *Sleep*.

... . **Janet**

Daubert

RENEWING THE EARTH

"But in most countries today, including our own, it is the poor and the powerless who most directly bear the burden of current environmental carelessness .. Too often, the structure of sacrifice involved in environmental remedies seems to exact a high price from the poor and from workers ... (they) shoulder much of the weight of economic adjustment" (U.S.Catholic Bishops, *Renewing the Earth*).

BULLETIN BOOSTERS

September 2009

Carl Bartholomew	Francis & Grace King
Harold Bartholomew	IMO Rita Klitsch
Robert & Kathleen Berger	Marie Melinchok
IMO Edward Christ	IMO Agnes & Felix Narog
Joe Christ	IMO Carol Nygren
Rev. Donald Henry	Jeanne Rehnert
IMO M/M Herbert Henry	IMO Eugene Rehnert
Joanne Hepler	H. David Reiner
IMO Marie Homrighausen	Paul & Dorothy Rosenberger
Sophia Kapsha	Mrs. Marcie Schnerring
	IMO Margaret Zelinsky

What is a Bulletin Booster?? Some of our newer parishioners have asked what it means to be a Bulletin Booster. We have a wonderful bulletin – it is timely and keeps us informed of what is going on within our parish family and its surroundings. Paper and supplies are needed on a weekly basis to continue this family tradition. So, if you'd like to donate toward the supplies. **\$1.00 and up ... you too can be a ... Bulletin Booster.**

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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William J. Hauptly, Owner / Operator

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570-622-2736 – 570-691-8700

deehauptly@verizon.net

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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."

