

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday's gospel reading tells us that those who would be first must place themselves last and be the servants of all.

Dogs seem to have mastered that idea better than any of God's creatures. The English novelist D.H. Lawrence once observed: *"Nothing but love has made the dog lose his wild freedom, to become the servant of man."*

The French artist, Alfred Barblu, said: *"The dog has been esteemed and loved by all the people of the earth and he has deserved this affection for he renders services that have made him man's best friend."*

Perhaps in crafting our own lifestyle we can use the example of the lowly yet exalted dog.

Yours in Christ,
Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday – September 21 – 9:00 a.m.

MAUREEN KALYMUN (Mr.&Mrs. Paul Kreshik)

Tuesday – September 22 – 9:00 a.m.

ANNA TUCCI (Mary Weachock)

Wednesday – September 23 – 9:00 a.m.

CARLONINE HANEY

(York Terrace Residents & Staff)

Thursday – September 24 – 9:00 a.m.

THOMAS ASENAVAGE

(York Terrace Residents & Staff)

Friday – September 25 - 9:00 a.m.

RONALD YOUREY (Kathy Vicic & Family)

Saturday – September 26– 5:00 p.m.

JAMES & THERESA BRENNAN

(Dave & Joan Deiter)

Sunday – September 27 – 8:15 a.m.

PHYLLIS ORLOWSKY (Josephine Santilli)

Sunday – September 27 – 10:30 a.m.

JOSEPHINE PARSICK (Daughters)

CANDLE INTENTIONS

B.V.M – IMO Martin Brophy Sr.

by Dolores Brophy & Family

St. Joseph – IMO Rita Mae Switzler

by Stan & Heidi Gorski & Sons

Tabernacle – IMO Mary Hahner by Hahner Family

Sanctuary Candles

1. IMO Rita Mae Switzler by Stan & Heidi Gorski & Sons

2. IMO Joseph Kapsha by Sophia Kapsha

3. IMO Anna Eltringham by John & Susan Cantwell

4. IMO Elizabeth & James Tierney

by John & Susan Cantwell

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Tim Grickis by Peggy Ebling

2. IMO Steve & Frances Prokop by Peggy Ebling

SCHEDULE

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 p.m. — Saturday – September 26th

Readers: Frank Murphy

Euch.Min.: Bobbi Murray, Ray Petrilla

Servers: Tiffany Zerbe, Lucy Murray, Molly Zwiebel

Cantor: Mary Bound

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – September 27th

Reader: Caitlyn McDemus

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

Servers: Celena, Hannah, Jason Granito

Cantor: Kelly Messina

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – September 27th

Reader: Ian Hower

Euch.Min.: Mary Modesto, Bill Schlitzer, Carol Lasco

Servers: Ryan & Patrick Coyle, Ben Hower

Cantor: Suzette Joy

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY



This week we welcome **Jeffrey & Pati** (Thomas) **DaSilva** and their children **..Jeffrey, Neal, Derek and Shane**. Jeffrey is an accountant and Pati, originally from St. John's, is a Registered Nurse. Neal, Derek and Shane attend Blue Mt. School District and Jeffrey is a student at West Virginia University. Warmly embrace the DaSilva Family into our parish family with a big dose of St. John's Hospitality by writing to 152 Ranch Road, Schuylkill Haven, Pa. 17972

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, Donald Bound, Matthew Mazakas, Eugene Farley, Dorothy Connor, Carmel Yingling, Loretta Lonoskie, John Woznicki.*

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.

PARISH RETREAT

"Give Yourself the Gift of Time"

Come to the St. John's Parish Retreat

When: Saturday, October 24th

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Mariawald Renewal Center in Reading

Get together with your friends in the parish for a relaxing day in a beautiful setting with great speakers including Sister Maryanne and Father Fred Ardinger. Also, there will be time for prayer and reflection. It's a great way to grow in your spiritual life.

It's **FREE** ! Lunch and light refreshments will be provided. Carpooling available if you don't wish to drive.

We are limited to 50 people so please sign up by calling the Rectory 622-5470 or sign-up in the back of church this weekend.

Join us at the Retreat for a day ... Take time to leave the hectic pace of constant doing ...
"Mariawald is like a Spa for the Soul."

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

You are cordially invited to a Very Special Tea Party

Date: Saturday, October 10, 2009

Time: 10:00AM-noon

Place: Salem United Methodist Church
South Liberty Street, Orwigsburg, PA

Bring your favorite tea cup...

Tea, Muffins, Scones, and Fruit provided.



I will never leave you, nor forsake you.

This interdenominational event has been planned by women from various local churches who have been urged on by the Spirit.

RSVP by Monday, October 5 to ...

Debbie Herb 544-5646 or Kim Willier 622-6139

Free Will Offering

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.

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!

RCIA Schedule

September 24th – at St. John's

Introduction to the Faith Journey ... S. Maryanne

October 1st – at St. Patrick's

Trinity ... Karen Powers

October 8th – at St. John's

Introduction to Scripture ... Dr. Luis R. Visot

October 15th - at St. John's

Scripture ... Dr. Luis R. Visot

October 22nd – at St. John's

Places and Practices ... Father Dave

October 29th – at St. Michael the Archangel

Who is Jesus? ... Father Adam Sedar

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 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.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

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

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How does your parish
foster children's coming to Jesus?

READINGS

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

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (September 26/27)

Reading I: Numbers 11:25-29

Reading II: James 5:1-6

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Looking for a Christian Men's Group? Searching for a Group of Like-Minded Men?

Bridge Builders Men's Fellowship may be the group for you! Meetings begin at 7 p.m. and last approximately one hour followed by a time of refreshments and fellowship.

Please consider joining our group. As the song says, "Come just as you are". For more information call Bob Hahner 622-0223.

Our next meeting is scheduled for
Thursday, September 24th – 7 p.m.

at First United Methodist Church, Port Carbon

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

Tuesday, September 22nd – 5 p.m.

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

Saturday, September 26th – 10 a.m.

St. John's vs St. Patrick's



"I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me
from all my fears."
Psalm 34:4

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

Unemployed and Underemployed. They are too often disappointed, frustrated, and angry. They are the unemployed and underemployed members of our family, our neighbors, and our faithful parishioners. We pray for all our under and unemployed and ask God's guidance and direction for these family members, parishioners and struggling neighbors.

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

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.

ROSARY FOR LIFE

Pope John Paul II said "A great prayer for life is urgently needed". Since the Supreme Court ruling of Roe vs Wade on January 22, 1973, forty-five million unborn babies have been murdered through abortion. Each day this number increases by the thousands. Now is the time for action. Following the words of our late Holy Father, a prayer for life is urgently needed, and it is needed from you! Please join us in prayer here at St. John's as we offer a monthly rosary to Mary the Mother of us all in petition for the lives of the unborn.

ROSARY FOR LIFE

When: Sunday, September 27th

(and every fourth Sunday of the month)

Time: 9:15 a.m.

Where: here at St. John's Church

Who: All are welcome from all churches

Why: because every 23 seconds a baby is aborted

Contact: Andrew Kubick 399-5102 or

email prayerforlife122@yahoo.com

Catechetical Sunday

"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in the their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."

Why do we have a special day set aside to commission catechists?

Catechesis is a distinct and special ministry in the Church. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* makes clear, "Catechesis is intimately bound up with the whole of the Church's life... her inner growth and correspondence with God's plan depend essentially on catechesis" (no. 7). This ministry of teaching in the name of the Church has a profound dignity, which is why catechists are formally commissioned by the Church. It is only fitting that we set aside a day to highlight this ministry and invite the entire church community to think about our responsibility to share our faith with others.

How are parents, the primary catechists of their children, recognized on Catechetical Sunday?

Parents are truly the primary catechists of their children. They prepare the soil and plant the first seeds of faith. On Catechetical Sunday, we not only highlight the work of catechists in parishes and schools, but we also commend parents and guardians and encourage them to take seriously their role of making their Catholic households a place where the faith is passed on to the next generation. This is why the rite of blessing of catechists used on Catechetical Sunday includes an optional blessing of parents and guardians.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

We thank the following parishioners for accepting the challenge of spreading the "Good News" to our parish children:


Dr. Angela Ambrosia
Dr. Robert DeColli
Charlotte Granito
Mary Hahner
Bob Hahner
Lucilla Kochol
Kathy Kostick
Children's Liturgy
Bobbi Murray
Marie Ryan
Heather Wojciechowsky
Tina Zanis

John Kostick
John Matulevich
Albert Nastasi
Judy Piel
Tina Seiger
Beth Smith
Rick Smith
Pre-School
Krista Lisowski
Nathan Smith

Catechist's Prayer

Gracious and all-loving Father,
 out of love for all people you spoke your Word who became flesh for our salvation. May your Word transform me so that the message of your Son, our Lord, may be echoed through my teaching. Allow me to guide the hearts of those whom I teach in such a way that they will enter more deeply into your way of truth and salvation. Grant me the insight needed to lead them to know, love, and serve you. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may they become hearers and followers of your Word, so that they might help transform the world to follow the way of life to which your Son has called us all, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

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***

"But his delight is in the law of the Lord" Ps. 1:2

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.

WOMEN'S DAY 2009

.... Presented by **Schuylkill Health**

When: Saturday, October 3, 2009

Where: Schuylkill Medical Center – S. Jackson St.
School of Nursing Building, Multi Purpose Room
450 Washington Street, Pottsville

Time: Day begins with breakfast at 8:00 a.m., along with a morning stretch. Educational and Inspirational Speakers, Massage, Entertainment and Lunch; ending at approximately 2:45 PM.

Registration Required.

Please RSVP to Debbie Herb at 570-621-5047

Program is FREE of charge.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

will take place next weekend, September 26 & 27, in Longinus Hall after all Masses.



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).

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

September 21

The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly. The first Peace Day was celebrated in September 1982.



In 2002 the General Assembly officially declared September 21 as the permanent date for the International Day of Peace.

By creating the International Day of Peace, the UN devoted itself to worldwide peace and encouraged all of mankind to work in cooperation for this goal. During the discussion of the U.N. Resolution that established the International Day of Peace, it was suggested that:

"Peace Day should be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples...This day will serve as a reminder to all peoples that our organization, with all its limitations, is a living instrument in the service of peace and should serve all of us here within the organization as a constantly pealing bell reminding us that our permanent commitment, above all interests or differences of any kind, is to peace."

Anyone, anywhere can celebrate Peace Day. It can be as simple as lighting a candle at noon, or just sitting in silent meditation. Or it can involve getting your co-workers, organization, community or government engaged in a large event. The impact if millions of people in all parts of the world, coming together for one day of peace, is immense.

International Day of Peace is also a Day of Ceasefire – personal or political. Take this opportunity to make peace in your own relationships as well as impact the larger conflicts of our time. Imagine what a whole Day of Ceasefire would mean to humankind.

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).

"I will praise the Lord ... and will sing praise to the name of the Lord most high.

.... Ps. 7:17

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.

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE

... . Janet

Daubert

If you are among the one-in-six Americans whose drinking water comes from a private well, you should have the water tested annually, especially if you have young children, concludes a new report from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Public water supplies are regulated and tested by municipalities, but well owners are on their own. The water should be tested more often if you have an infant or pregnant or nursing woman in your household, unexplained illnesses in your family, or neighbors who find contaminants in their water. For more information, contact the EPA at 800-426-4791 or www.epa.gov/safewater/privatewells.

RENEWING THE EARTH

"Nature is not, in Catholic teaching, merely a field to exploit at will or a museum piece to be preserved at all costs. We are not gods, but stewards of the earth"
(U.S.Catholic Bishops, *Renewing the Earth*).

WEEKLY COLLECTION

September 13th: \$ 5,315.04; Imp. & Rep.: \$1,598.35
We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

NEIGHBORING EVENTS

CHRISTIAN SKATE NIGHT to be held at the Roller Roost II in Pottsville from 4:15 to 6:15 p.m. on **Saturday, September 26th**. Entrance fee is \$2.00 per person which includes skate rental, roller skating, laser tag. This cost is subsidized by Hillside Chapel in Llewellyn. For more information contact Judy@SchuylkillCountyBIC.org or 544-1715.

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.

SPAGHETTI DINNER sponsored by St. Patrick's Church on **Sunday, October 4th** from 11:30 a.m. til 3 p.m. at the Parish Center, 313 Mahantongo St. Adults \$7.00; Children \$3.00. Everyone welcome. Take-outs available



WASHINGTON D.C. BUS TRIP sponsored by St. Michael the Archangel Church Guild in Minersville on **Tuesday, October 6th** ... Trip includes Guided Tour of the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America, Tour of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center and Mass at 4 p.m. with Fr. Sedar as celebrant; fabulous Dinner Buffet at the famous Phillips Harborplace Buffet, Baltimore, Md. All inclusive price of **\$75.00**. Please contact Mary Sninski 544-5046 for reservations. Bus departs St. Michael's at 6:45 a.m.

OKTOBERFEST 2009 presented by the Pottsville Club on **Friday, October 9th at 6 p.m.**, featuring the Rhinelander Band 7 until 10 p.m. Buffet includes Kasespatzle, Jagerschnitzel, Bratwurst & Sauerkraut, German Potato Salad, Sweet & Sour Cabbage with apples, German Chicken & Biscuit Bake, Black Forest Cake. Adults \$30.00; Children (12 and under) \$12.95. For more information, please call 622-3850.

ANNUAL FATHER WALTER J. CISZEK MASS will be held at St. Casimir Church in Shenandoah on **Sunday, October 11th** at 2 p.m. **The Most Rev. John O. Barres, Bishop of Allentown**, will be the main celebrant and homilist. Please join us as we will be praying for Father Walter J. Ciszek's Canonization to Sainthood and for the special miracle you may be in need of. Light refreshments will be served in the church hall after Mass.
