

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday's gospel is about temptation. We all try to resist it with varying degrees of success. The playwright, Oscar Wilde joked, "The only way to get rid of temptation is to yield to it." Actress Mae West said, "I generally avoid temptation, unless I can't resist it."

At the end of His temptations in the desert, Jesus stood on the highest wall of the Temple as scripture-quoting Satan encouraged Him to jump. Satan said God's angels would protect Him. Jesus quoted back, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."

For all of us during temptation, there is that "precipice" moment when we make our decision. Hopefully God will protect us and send us strength.

Yours in Christ,
Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

First Sunday of Lent

Monday – February 22 – 9:00 a.m.

ANNA ANTONINNI (Joseph T. Orlowsky)

Tuesday – February 23 – 9:00 a.m.

JOHN BORINSKY

(Staff & Residents of York Terrace)

Wednesday – February 24 – 9:00 a.m.

KATHLEEN SANTAI (Kathy Vicic)

Thursday – February 25 – 9:00 a.m.

GEORGE L. KLASSEN JR., 1st Anniv.

(Pat & Charlene Klassen)

Friday – February 26 – 9:00 a.m.

NANCY GIBBLE

(Susan Chesonis & William Gible & Family)

Saturday – February 27 – 5:00 p.m.

VERONICA B. SCHMITT (Schmitt Family)

Sunday – February 28 – 8:15 a.m.

SOPHIA KAPSHA (Catholic Women's Union)

Sunday – February 28 – 10:30 a.m.

MARY STEFFAN (Anna Orlowsky)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Name some of the hungers that people experience.
How can we nourish them?

READINGS

First Sunday in Lent (February 20/21)

Reading I: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Reading II: Romans 10:8-13

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Second Sunday in Lent (February 27/28)

Reading I: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Reading II: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36

CANDLE INTENTIONS

B.V.M. – IMO John Scheetz by Scheetz Family

St. Joseph – IMO John & Florence Bentz

by Sterling & Joanne Hepler

Tabernacle – Special Intention

Sanctuary – All Sanctuary Candles ...

IMO George L. Klassen Jr. by Pat & Charlene Klassen

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Wilfred & Margaret Wachter

by Daniel & Ann Marie Wachter

2. Baby Robbie Doyle's Birthday by Family

SCHEDULE

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00 p.m. – Saturday – February 27th

Reader: Carol Lasco

Euch.Min.: Christopher & Pat Lombel

Servers: Christopher Hunt, Sarah Lombel,
Paige VanderMeer

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – February 28th

Reader: Ray Petrilla

Euch.Min.: Bill Casey, John Corbacio, Mary Modesto,

Servers: Dominic Chiplonia, Emilie Baker,
Stephen Messina

Cantor: Kelly Messina

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – February 28th

Reader: Albert Nastasi

Euch.Min.: Justina Majestic, Al Hauptly,

Mary Jean Morgalis

Servers: Ryan, Patrick, Caitlin Coyle

Cantor: Suzette Joy

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.

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST

We celebrated last weekend the glorious baptism day of the following:

Sophia Laine Palmieri, daughter of Joseph and Melissa (Schaeffer) Palmieri.

Analiese Jennifer Oettl, daughter of Robert and Jennifer (Wonn) Oettl.

Hope Miriam Scheidel, daughter of Michael and Emily (Bedson) Scheidel

They became new creations in Christ in the waters of Holy Baptism and are now joined to us by the gifts of faith, hope and charity. Warmly welcome **Sophia**, **Analiese** and **Hope** into our parish family.

LIVING LENT AT HOME

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:



February 21 @ St. Joseph's - Frackville
February 28 @ St. Richard's - Barnesville
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

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, Maryann Wychunas, Edward Wychunas, John Woznicki, Faye Cuchara, Scott Rhoades, Roxanne Tutko, James Gombola, Bill Zaharis, Mary Ellen Viduszynski, Elizabeth McAlonis, Francis King, Karla Garland, Rosalie Champion, Dr. Luis Visot, Mildred Costello. Deceased: Loretta Lonoskie, Patrick Hohman.*

OPERATION RICE BOWL

First Week of Lent – Jesus' Temptation

In Luke's story of the temptations of Jesus we see how we can be tempted by wealth, power, and esteem just as He was. Lent calls us to focus on our faith life by living it in deeper ways. As we begin our journey with Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl, let us pray and sacrifice so that through our faith life we can make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in need.

Pastoral Letter for Lent 2010

The Year for Priests

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lent is the time to renew the spirit of reconciliation that should be a vital part of our lives every day of the year.

Saint John Vianney, the patron saint of priests, spent hours every day in the confessional and in front of the Blessed Sacrament. He saw what this did for him and for his people. It led him to say that the mercy of God was like an overpowering torrent carrying souls along in its wake.

Last Sunday and on Ash Wednesday you heard homilies on the reality of sin and the need we all have for the Sacrament of Penance. The more we accept our own need for that Sacrament, the more will our Lenten prayer, fasting and almsgiving open our hearts to the love of our Merciful Savior.

During the six weeks of Lent, our priests will provide additional hours for Confessions every week and extra time for adoration of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. This means continued opportunities for the spiritual renewal of both the priests and the people of our Diocese, and can be an immense gift to us all.

The late Cardinal Dulles once said: "Too many Catholics of our day seem never to have encountered Christ. They know a certain amount about him from the teaching of the Church, but they lack direct personal familiarity. The hearing of the Gospel, personal prayer and the reception of the Sacraments should establish and deepen that saving relationship."

As we pray before the Blessed Sacrament, we can ask Our Lord for the grace also to use the Sacrament of Penance fruitfully. We can never afford to ignore it or to let it become a mere routine, an unthinking repetition of words and not a heartfelt expression of honesty with God. In it we must lay our sins honestly before the Divine Physician, and let Him heal us. We must encounter Him in truth through the minister of the Sacrament.

Jesus offers this sacrament not to chastise and scold, but to reach out and welcome. He does not crush us with the weight of our sins, but through absolution removes them. He unburdens us and offers mercy to wounded hearts. He bestowed this gift upon us through his Apostles. "Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them." He continues even now to bestow the same forgiveness through their successors. When we truly realize that it is Jesus who absolves us through the person of the priest, then the Sacrament of Penance has its fullest effect.

Saint John Vianney also said: "When the priest gives absolution... the blood of the good God flows on the soul to wash it and make it as beautiful as it was on the day of its baptism." If we really believe this, then we will all the more confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy.

What will we give up for Lent? Why not give up whatever doubts we have about the mercy of Jesus and the power of His Sacraments? If shame or fear have kept us from a full confession of sin, then let us set that fear aside and put ourselves totally in His hands in the sacrament. Saint John Vianney also said: "There are those who say: 'I have done too much evil, the good God cannot forgive me.' This would be a great blasphemy. It would put a limit to the mercy of God, and there isn't one: God's mercy is infinite." To confess our sin is to open our hearts to that mercy.

Through the Sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist, Jesus removes our fears and opens our eyes and hearts to the Father's plan for us. The late Bishop Saltarelli of Wilmington wrote: "When we rekindle our Eucharistic faith, awe and amazement at the truth of the real presence, our marriages and our families are rekindled in Christ. Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life are rekindled. A missionary spirit, evangelization and effective catechesis at every level are rekindled... resulting in a spiritual springtime."

Penance, prayer and almsgiving — those hallmarks of Lenten sacrifice — help to strip away the shackles of human slavery to selfishness and open us to the best possible reception of God's generosity toward us. For those who may have thought of embracing a vocation to the Priesthood, this is a perfect time to reexamine that attraction and to listen to the call of God at a deeper level. Lent is a good time to reflect again on how you can best live your life for God and for others. Be open to His call. If a call comes from Him, then it is also a call to the life that in the end will make you the most happy. He always outdoes us in generosity.

May God shower His blessing on our Diocese. May Mary, the Mother of our Savior, intercede for us with her Son and help us always to live in His mercy and forgiveness. May Lent be a time of special grace and may we never cease to thank God for His goodness.

Sincerely in Christ,
Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Allentown

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

Family, Food, Faith

Sunday, February 28th at 5:30 p.m. in Longinus Hall

Feed the Whole Person ... Body, Mind, Spirit

Communicate your values as you

break bread and share good times together.

Make mealtime matter.

Cooking Demo; meal and recipes will be provided.

(RSVP by February 22nd – call the Rectory 622-5470)

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)

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

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



LONGABERGER BASKET & POTTERY CALENDARS

Calendars are available for purchase in the back of church on weekends or at the Rectory during the week. Calendars are **\$5.00 each** and a drawing will take place each day for the month of **March**. Each participant will have 31 chances to win because all winners' tickets are returned to the drawing. This is a great fund-raiser that the Family Guild hopes will elicit your participation and enthusiasm.

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 beginning February 19th. 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.



STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE IN FAITH

This we received a rebate check from the diocese for **\$5,157.00**. This represents **25%** of the quarterly payment to the Strengthening Our Future In Faith Capital Campaign which began a few years ago. Our total rebates earned since the beginning of that campaign are **\$57,099.50**. Once again, thanks to all who gave to the campaign and continue to keep up your pledges.

LITTLE SAINTS PRE-SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Little Saints is accepting registrations for the 2010-2011 school year. We offer 2, 3, and 5 day programs. Children must be 3 by October 15th. For more information please call 622-0106. Little Saints is located in the All Saints School Building.



FAMILY MATTERS

The family that prays together ... stays together. What better time than Lent to consider a family prayer time. Take time during this Lent to grow closer to Jesus and to each other.

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

OUTREACH

Our OutReach Program is in need of volunteers, especially to transport parishioners to physician appointments, etc. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the Rectory 622-5470 or Margie Glunz 622-3067.

OutReach is also available to provide a ride for any parishioner to and from Mass. Please call Margaret Glunz 622-3067.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

...will take place in Longinus Hall after all Masses next weekend, **February 27/28**.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 14th: \$ 4,920.50 Fuel & Heat: \$5,823.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving

Let us pray for all who've helped a family member or friend obtain an abortion, that the grace of repentance will lead them to Confession and the great gift of Divine Mercy.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- 21 Sundays at the Well – 9 to 10:15 a.m. - LH
- 23 Choir Practice – 7 p.m. – Longinus Hall
- 23 Dramatic Stations Practice – 7 p.m. - Church
- 24 Stations of the Cross – 7 p.m. - Chapel
- 25 RCIA – 7 p.m. – Fellowship Room
- 25 Exposition & Confessions – 5 to 7 p.m. - Chapel
- 25 Dramatic Stations Practice – 7 p.m. - Church
- 26 Lenten Dinner – 4 to 7 p.m. – Russell Bldg.
- 27/28 Blood Pressure Screenings after all Masses
- 28 Sundays at the Well – 9 to 10:15 a.m. - LH
- 28 Family , Food, Faith – 5:30 p.m. – LH

NEIGHBORING EVENTS

BREAKFAST sponsored by the Holy Name Society of St. Patrick's Parish will be held **Sunday, February 21st** 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the parish center. Menu includes eggs made to order, bacon, ham, sausage, home fries, pancakes, toast, coffee, juice and dessert. Adults \$6.00; Children under 12 \$3.00. Take-outs available.

ST. PAULINE VISINTAINER Mass followed by Veneration of the First-Class Relic of St. Pauline Visintainer, Patron Saint of Diabetics and of all who are sick ... **Monday, February 22nd – 5 p.m.** at the Simon Kramer Institute Chapel, New Philadelphia. Light refreshments will follow.

DAFFODIL DAYS sponsored by the American Cancer Society on **Wednesday, February 24th from 5 to 9 p.m.** at Roman Delight Restaurant in the Fairlane Village Mall, Pottsville. **YOU ARE INVITED.** Please join us for an evening of great food while supporting our fight against cancer. Roman Delight will donate a portion of the proceeds to the 2010 Daffodil Days Campaign.

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.

DIOCESAN SPONSORED EVENTS

PRO-LIFE OFFICE

Hurting from a past abortion? Plan to attend the **Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekend .. February 26-28**, through the Office of Pro-Life Activities. Within a safe, confidential, non-judgmental environment, begin or continue healing the pain of abortion. Experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. For more information or to register, call our toll-free confidential Hotline 1-866-3 Rachel. For a complete listing of Retreat dates and locations visit the Rachel's Vineyard website at www.rachelsvineyard.org

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Young adults (20s and 30s), your voices matter! You're invited to a dinner discussion to help the diocese 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 or e-mail MHartigan@allentowndiocese.org

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

We the Living: This support group is an eight-week program that includes prayer, sharing and discussion. Sessions are **continuing through March 9th** at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Contact Beth Dague, Parish Nurse, at 610-867-8409.

"COME AND SEE"

In the puzzle of your life, where is God? Do you long for something more, a something that you try to fill with your current studies, job or relationships and still they are not enough? Come and connect the puzzle pieces of your life by participating in a weekend of prayer, input, reflection and sharing with other women who desire the more of life, too!

WHEN: Friday, March 12, 2010 – 7:00 PM

to Sunday, March 14, 2010 – 3:00 PM

WHO: Single women ages 18-40, who are discerning a call to religious life

Please email S. Kathy Claflin, SSJ at kclaflin@ssjphila.org for your reservation or questions.

Have you ever wondered...

How to comfort someone who is sick, or hurting because of a loss or trauma?

If so fill out the form below and return to the rectory or put in the collection basket

We want to gather a group of people interested in making prayer shawls.

Name _____

Phone _____



BAPTISMS

There will be no celebration of Baptism during Lent, Baptisms will resume after Easter.

Lent is a preparation for the celebration of Easter. The Lenten Liturgy disposes the faithful to celebrate the Paschal mystery. Through reminders of their own baptism and through penitential practices, another way to emphasize the nature of Lent as a season of preparation for baptism is to refrain from baptizing infants during this time (except, of course, in the case of an emergency). Instead, full participation in the liturgies of Lent, provides a way for the parents and Godparents of infants to receive appropriate formation. The infants would then be baptized during the Easter Season. Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, the observance of Lent is meant to bring back the fervor that should flow continually from the grace of baptism and restore us to baptismal innocence and reconcile us to God and the community.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

During Lent, pray together every day to strengthen your faith. A Marriage Encounter will help strengthen your marriage. Call 1-800-787-7679 or go online at www.wme-nepa.org for Marriage Encounter Weekend information.

CHURCH CLEANING CLUB

We are looking for folks who would be interested in helping to keep the Church clean... **on your time.**



The time spent in Church cleaning the area where the congregation sits can be a time of work and prayer in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

The church is usually open for meetings and choir rehearsal on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Bring a friend.

In the boys' sacristy there is a diagram of the pew floor plan with a list of tasks that need to be done. Bring a few friends and a bucket or two.

Call S. Maryanne for a brief orientation. Call the rectory with your time and we will open the Church.

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE

... Janet Daubert

Women who have a history of migraines have a 26% reduced risk of breast cancer, according to a large study by researchers from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and elsewhere. This association was seen in pre-menopausal and post-menopausal women, and held up regardless of factors such as alcohol, smoking, and hormone therapy. It's not known exactly

how migraines may be related to breast cancer risk, but both conditions are influenced by estrogen levels.

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