


Check out our Facebook page -  
Church of St. Patrick



# CHURCH OF SAINT PATRICK

319 MAHANTONGO STREET  POTTSVILLE, PA

*Pastor* ..... Rev. Msgr. Edward J. O'Connor

*Parochial Vicar/Hospital Chaplain*..... Rev. William N. Seifert

*In Residence*..... Rev. Kenneth A. Medve

*Permanent Deacons* ..... Mr. John E. Quirk  
Mr. Lawrence J. Lonergan

## SCHEDULE OF MASSES

*Saturday* ..... 4:15 & 6:00 pm  
*Sunday* ..... 7:30, 9:30 & 11:00 am

## WEEKDAY MASSES

*Weekdays*..... 6:30 and 8:00 am  
*Saturdays* ..... 8:00 am

## CONFESSIONS

*Saturday* ..... 3:00 to 4:00 pm     *Wednesday* ..... 7:30 to 8:30 pm

## PARISH OFFICE

*Phone* ..... 570-622-1802     *Email* ..... dwalker.stpats@gmail.com  
*Fax* ..... 570-622-2593     *Web*..... www.stpatrickpottsville.org  
*Office Administrator* ..... Debbie Walker  
*Office Hours* ..... 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, weekdays  
*Bulletin Deadline* ..... 9:00 am, Mondays  
*Monthly Parish Events Calendar Deadline* ..... First day of prior month

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** Please call the Parish Office to schedule a Baptism. Parents wishing Baptism for their children must be practicing Catholics. This means regular attendance at Mass, and supporting the Parish by the use of envelopes. Parents are required to attend a preparatory workshop. Workshops are held bi-monthly.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** Couples planning to be married must contact a parish priest at least six months prior to the desired date of the marriage.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (PREP):** Grades 1 - 8 • September thru May  
*Sundays after the 9:30 am Mass* ..... 10:45 am to noon  
*Director*..... Mrs. Dale Verchick  
*Phone*..... 570-516-0107     *Email*..... dcd2211@gmail.com

**MEMBERSHIP/REGISTRATION:** All parishioners should be registered in our files. New parishioners are asked to register as soon as possible. When moving from the parish, notify the office. Please also report any address change.

**DIVINE MERCY PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL AT ST. PATRICK RECTORY:** Please call Aleece at 570-449-7678 or Albert at 570-573-0036 for more information.

**ROSARY AND NOVENA:** 7:00 pm - Wednesdays in Our Lady's Chapel

**COMMUNION CALLS** are made monthly. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to be put on the Communion Call list, or would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick.

**HOSPITAL/NURSING HOME VISITS:** The patient or a member of the immediate family must notify the Parish Office of a patient's admission so a visit can be made. This is in compliance with the Federal HIPAA Law.

**RCIA:** Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process in which adults join the Catholic Church. Please call the Parish Office if interested.

**ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE:** Certificates to act as a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation are available at the Parish Office. You must be a member of the Parish in good standing to be given a certificate.

**ST. PATRICK POTTSVILLE AREA KITCHEN:** Please call Terry Alexander at 570-617-2957 for hours and donations.

**St. Patrick's Preschool** ...570-622-0106  
**at Assumption BVM**  
*Director: Mrs. Sharon Rossi*

**Assumption BVM** .....570-622-0106  
**Elementary School**  
*Principal: Mrs. Teresa Keating*

**Nativity BVM**..... 570-622-8110  
**High School**  
*Principal: Mrs. Lynn Sabol*

**St. Joseph's Center**..... 570-622-4638  
**for Special Learning**  
*Principal: Mr. Roobhenn Smith*

**Victim Assistance Coordinator**  
Wendy Krisak, MA, NCC, LPC  
DIRECT LINE: 800-791-9209

**Safe Environment Coordinator**  
Sr. Meg Cole, SSJ, MS, LMFT  
610-332-0442 (x19)

Call Him  
Emmanuel-  
God  
with  
us!

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 18, 2016



### Mass Intentions

#### Monday, December 19

6:30 a.m. Joseph A. Fabiani  
(Wife, Johanne & Family)  
8:00 a.m. Emma & Don Bevan (Bevan Children)

#### Tuesday, December 20

6:30 a.m. Albert J. Laplaca (Wife, Julia & Family)  
8:00 a.m. Victor Piccioni (Mondie & Helen Piccioni)

#### Wednesday, December 21 – St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

6:30 a.m. Frank Pettineo (Marion Verbelia)  
8:00 a.m. Mamie Megna Hickey (Joseph T. Cescon & Family)

#### Thursday, December 22

6:30 a.m. Grace M. Bierman (Bob & Lillian Freiler & Family)  
8:00 a.m. Edward & Dorothy Cox & Edward Cox, Jr.  
(Kathleen Cox Shipton)

#### Friday, December 23

6:30 a.m. Msgr. Carlo Agnoletti (Joseph T. Cescon & Family)  
8:00 a.m. Shawn Day (G.G. & Pop)

#### Saturday, December 24

8:00 a.m. Bertha T. & Earl W. Uckele  
(James E. Uckele & Family)

#### Masses for Christmas (Masses of Obligation)

##### Saturday, December 24

4:15 p.m.  
6:30 p.m.  
8:30 p.m.

##### Sunday, December 25

Midnight  
8:00 a.m.  
10:00 a.m.

*If you are a visitor to the Church of St. Patrick, we want you to know that you are most welcome, whether you come from another State or from another Parish. Please feel comfortable in our beautiful house of the Father. Thank you for worshipping with us!*



#### READINGS FOR TODAY:

Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

#### READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18

#### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- the sick of the parish
- our many Benefactors
- those recently deceased
- Rev. Joseph Campion

### CANDLE INTENTIONS

Sanctuary – IMO Mildred Stoudt

(Elizabeth & Kathleen Didjunas)

Sacred Heart – IMO Alice & Thomas Murphy

(Alice Henry)

Pieta –

Pope St. John Paul II – In honor of Msgr. O'Connor's Birthday

St. Patrick – IMO Queenie & Santa, Aunt Peg & Mark,  
Anne & Arnie (Anne)

Our Lady's Chapel - Sanctuary –

Our Lady's Chapel – Blessed Virgin Mary –



#### Priest Mass Schedule for December 24/25:

|                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4:15 pm – Msgr. O'Connor | Midnight – Msgr. O'Connor |
| 6:30 pm – Fr. Seifert    | 8:00 am – Fr. Medve       |
| 8:30 pm – Fr. Medve      | 10:00 am – Fr. Seifert    |

### CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS!!

\*TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20 - 4-5 PM

\*WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21- 6:30-8:30 PM

\*FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 - 3-4 PM

**THERE WILL BE NO CONFESSIONS ON CHRISTMAS EVE!**



#### 'Tis the season to be jolly

Family dynamics can make holiday celebrations anything but jolly. Try these tips to make this your happiest holiday season:

**Repeat, "It's not about me."** Taking what others say or do personally makes you easy prey for someone trying for a reaction or

looking for attention. Keep your power by choosing not to get offended.

**Smile and nod.** Arguing your point of view in heated discussions may feel momentarily satisfying but only serves to prolong tensions. Happy holidays come from smiling, nodding, and changing the subject.

**Develop a bad memory.** Reliving past hurts can make holidays miserable. Decide that this will be the year to forgive and forget.

**Get up. Stand up.** The more we focus on irritations, the more they irritate. When feeling irked, take a break to fill your water glass, stretch your legs, or engage in a different conversation.

**Have compassion.** You can wish your family experience was different, but trying to change others is pointless. Instead use compassion to find new ways of love during holiday gatherings.

## LOTTERY CALENDAR - RECENT OUTCOMES

|                    |      |                  |
|--------------------|------|------------------|
| Tues., December 6  | #445 | No Winner        |
| Wed., December 7   | #985 | Elaine B. (\$50) |
| Thurs., December 8 | #035 | John P. (\$50)   |
| Fri., December 9   | #068 | No Winner        |
| Sat., December 10  | #740 | Arlen D. (\$100) |
| Sun., December 11  | #797 | No Winner        |
| Mon., December 12  | #316 | Nancy B. (\$50)  |

Our monthly lottery calendars are a great fundraiser for our Parish! Please consider being a seller, or buying one in the future by getting one at one of the masses or stopping by the Parish Office! They make great gifts that you can tuck in a Birthday or Get Well card, and 'Tis the Season...a great little stocking stuffer. We appreciate the support of everyone who helps to make this so successful!

## DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

We NEED your HELP!!!

- \*\*Inside Decorating – TODAY, December 18 after the 11 am Mass
- \*\*Flowers – December 22 (time to be announced)



Please Note: The Parish Office will be closed on the following days for the Christmas and New Year's Holidays: December 23 and 26, and December 30 and January 2!

Divine Mercy Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St. Patrick's Rectory – For information, please call Aleece at 570-449-7678

### OPEN HOLY HOURS

SUNDAY 12 am, 4 am; TUESDAY 2 am;  
FRIDAY 10 am, 6 pm; SATURDAY 12 pm, 1 pm, 7 pm

All are welcome to join us for some Christmas Spirit, and some Coffee, Hot Chocolate, and some goodies on Wednesday, December 21, from 8:30 am to 9:30 am, in the Parish Office! Maybe we'll even sing a carol or two!



Mandated Reporter LIVE Training  
January 9<sup>th</sup> - 5:30 pm  
St. Jerome School, Tamaqua

**Sign up Sheet for Ushers is in the Sacristy for Christmas Masses!**



## PARISH STEWARDSHIP

December 11, 2016

Stewardship: \$8,883

Thank you for your generosity to your Parish!

**THE PARISH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, AT 6 PM, IN THE RECTORY DINING ROOM. ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR A SHORT MEETING AND SOME GOODIES!**

## Sacramental Dates!!

Please Mark your Calendars Now!!

- \*\*\*Sunday, March 5, 2017 - First Penance for our 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- \*\*\*Wednesday, April 19, 2017 - Confirmation for our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (Confirmation will be in St. Patrick Church)
- \*\*\*Saturday, May 6, 2017 - First Holy Communion for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade (Please note: This is NOT Mother's Day weekend!)



See the Spiritual Highlights of Italy with parishioner, Charlie Taronis - June 26-July 5, 2017. Includes: Rome-Assisi-San Giovanni Rotondo-Cascia-Loreto and more! An information/preview

night will be held in our Parish Center, Thursday, January 5, 2017, at 6:30pm. All are welcome!

### Greetings from

Father Eric Arnout: To everyone at St. Patrick, I desire to express my sincere appreciation for your kindness and generosity to me during my 15 months with you in the Parish, and upon my transfer to take on the duties of a parish administrator/pastor. Thank you to everyone! It was great to visit with you at the social a few Sundays ago. I promise to keep you in my prayers . . . Please remember me in your prayers. God bless you and best wishes for Blessed Advent and Christmas Seasons!



### Who was that Baby in the Manger?

At this time of year, we tell a charming tale of a long ago journey on a donkey, a baby born in a cave, and a visit by kings. In truth, the real event was not just charming, it was awesome! That baby was more than a child.... **He was proof that God always keeps His promises!** That baby was the fulfillment of an amazing promise made to generations of faithful assuring a Savior to heal the rift created by the sin of our first parents. God spoke His Word "(a)nd the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father" (John 1:14). God always keeps His word. Trust Him!



## Our Next Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2017!!

Please note: Due to New Year's, the Super Bowl, and the St. Patrick Church Gala, our next three Spaghetti Dinners will be held on the second Sunday of the month, instead of the first Sunday. February's will be on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and March's will be on the 12<sup>th</sup>!

11:30 am to 2:30 pm -- In our Parish Center  
Adults: \$8.00 - Children: \$3.50  
All You Can Eat \* Take-outs available  
All are welcome!!

As always, baked goods are always appreciated!  
Many thanks to all those who continue to support this wonderful and delicious tradition!

**Kids – Grades Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
Please come and help us put **CHRIST** in **CHRISTMAS** by being a part of our Youth Choir and Christmas Pageant for the 6:30 pm Christmas Mass! Our last practice will be held **TODAY, December 18, following PREP at Noon for a half hour.**



Hey Kids of All Ages.... Don't forget to pick up a Monsignor on a Stick during office hours, and start taking pictures of him during your favorite Advent and Christmas traditions....making cookies, wrapping gifts, visiting Santa, rigging up the lights, singing Christmas carols, etc. Be creative!! Submit your pictures to the Parish Office either by email ([dwalker.stpats@gmail.com](mailto:dwalker.stpats@gmail.com)) or on our Parish Facebook page or by an actual picture by **January 9, 2017. \$50 Grand Prize!**



## St. Patrick Parish Appreciates!!

St. Patrick Parish is very blessed to have five ordained men serving the Parish. Monsignor Edward O'Connor, Pastor, Rev. William Seifert, Parochial Vicar, and Rev. Ken Medve, Resident, serve the Parish faithfully in the Holy Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and helping people in their struggles. Acting in persona Christi (like Jesus) is a very big commitment. Our other Servants of God are our two Permanent Deacons: Deacon Jack Quirk and Deacon Larry Lonergan. Our Deacons proclaim the Word of God, preach it, and perform Baptisms and works of charity and service. We are very fortunate that the Parish Family of St. Patrick can say that they are surrounded by good and holy men, who try very hard to live a life that speaks the Gospel through their every act and deed. May God bless our Priests and Deacons at St. Patrick Parish, and throughout the Diocese of Allentown.

## Please Notice This



Parishioners who are 70 1/2 and older: Great news from the Federal Government! IRA Qualified Charitable Contributions Restated, Made Permanent. As of January 1, 2016, the legislature finally made permanent qualified charitable distribution (QCDs) from individual retirement accounts (IRAs). The benefits: A QCD permits the annual direct transfers to a qualified charity (St. Patrick Church and Schools), totaling up to \$100,000 of tax deferred IRA savings and the withdrawal does not count towards your taxable income. QCDs automatically satisfy required minimum distribution (RMDs) for the year when the QCD is made. That is a real advantage for a charitable-minded IRA owner who doesn't need RMDs to live on. For more information, please contact David Shelcusky from the Parish Finance Committee at 570-622-5409.



St. Patrick Teens – Grades 7-12 – Join the A.C.T.I.O.N. Youth Group from Mahanoy City on a trip to Christmas Village on **Wednesday, December 28.**

We will leave from in front of Dunkin' Donuts (Route 62) at approximately 5:30 pm, and return home at approximately 9:30 pm. The cost for you will be \$9, which will include your admission ticket and bus ride. Food is on your own. Please Call Debbie at the Parish Office to register and for more information by December 21<sup>st</sup>. Hope you can make it!



Our annual Giving Tree is in the Nave of the Church, alongside St. Patrick. During this Season of Giving, please stop by and pick up an ornament or two, and help make someone's Christmas a little brighter! This year, we will be helping Catholic Charities, and Care Net Pregnancy Center, which assists our teens. St. Patrick Parish has been very generous in the past. We hope you will help again!

**Please consider being a Bus Sponsor!! We rely on donations to cover the cost of Bus Transportation to our Parish Retreat. If you are unable to come to the Retreat this year, please consider making a donation. Please contact Charlie Taronis at 570-628-5297 if you have further questions. Donations may be dropped off at the Parish Office. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!**

## "THE INTERCESSOR'S CORNER" SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

- \*Was born to a Spanish noble family
- \*He met St. Ignatius of Loyola in Paris, and joined the new Society of Jesus
- \*He tirelessly served the poor with joy
- \*He is called the "Apostle of Japan" and "Apostle of the Indies"
- \*His Feast Day is December 3
- \*He is the Patron Saint of Missionaries



**St. Francis Xavier, pray for us!**



# Tu Es Petrus: Upon this Rock

## Our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Retreat!



What a blessing our Parish Retreat has been year after year, and we are so excited about another weekend of fellowship, fun, and growth in the Lord! This year again, the retreat will be held at the beautiful Villa of Our Lady Retreat House, Mount Pocono from **Friday, February 17 to Sunday, February 19, 2017**. Our theme this year is "Tu Es Petrus: Upon This Rock" as we reflect on St. Peter and the gift of the Papacy.

The price is \$155 for double or triple occupancy or \$180 for a single room, each with a private bathroom. The price includes Coach Bus transportation to and from the retreat center, five full meals, snacks and evening refreshments. Gathering together to seek God more fully, build relationships with the Parish family, and to simply let down your hair and relax- PRICELESS!

Please make your check for the full amount or at least \$50 payable to the Church of St. Patrick, and return it along with the registration information to Debbie in the Parish Office. You may also mail to:

**\*\* St. Patrick Church \*\* 319 Mahantongo Street \*\* Pottsville, PA 17901 \*\***

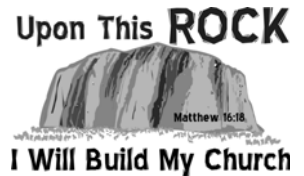
We will mail you a confirmation letter containing all the details at least two weeks before the retreat. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Karen Powers at 570-628-4531, Charlie Taronis at 570-628-5297 or ask a Retreat Team member.

### 2017 Retreat Team Members

Msgr. O'Connor, Karen Powers, Charlie Taronis, Helen Weiss, Debbie Walker, Beth Travis, Brian Barket, John & Kim Sutter, Bill & Melody Montag, Larry Lonergan, Annette Peron, Shelly Lurwick, Mary Ann Heenan



## Church of Saint Patrick Retreat- February 17-19, 2017 Registration Form



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmation Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Roommate: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact & Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle choice: Double/Triple Occupancy (\$155/person) or Single Occupancy (\$180/person)

**Deposit of \$50.00 is due at registration**

**Retreat Testimonial.....**My first Retreat with the family of St. Patrick Parish was an amazing experience that I will never forget! It was so enjoyable that I continued to attend the Retreats as a Team Member. This year's Retreat Theme is such a powerful statement of our Catholic Faith, and should be encouraging to all of us! They are Jesus' words... words that reveal to us the "passing of the baton" from St. Peter..... to Pope Francis! This is exciting, and I look forward to learning, praying, and having fun with the 2017 Retreatants, who say "yes" to spending a mini vacation with each other, while giving thanks and praise to our God! The key to Heaven starts here on earth first. Come and let's build another chapter of our lives together! Hope to see you at the Retreat!  
~ Debbie Walker

**And we do mean come as U R : )**



Thanks to Joe Kaufmann 02-06-2006  
YOU SAID "COME AS U R", DID YOU NOT?

Copyright © 2015 HarperCollins Christian Publishing

**Lord-Bixler Funeral Home, Inc.**  
 1818 Mahantongo Street  
 Pottsville, Pennsylvania 17901  
**570-622-0230**  
 Terry L. Bixler, Supv.

**HAHNER BROS  
 ROOFING & SHEET  
 METAL WORK**  
 Over 56 Years In Business  
 Residential · Commercial · Industrial  
 Fully Insured · Free Estimates · Repairs  
 New Roofs · Built-Up Roofs · Shingles  
 Gutters & Downspouts · Siding · Sheet Metal  
 Carlisle Rubber Roofing  
 Emergency Service **622-6150**  
 12 N. 22, Pottsville

**SCHLITZER-ALLEN-PUGH FUNERAL HOME**  
 6TH & WEST MARKET STREETS • POTTSVILLE  
**(570) 622-7888**  
 BRIAN D. LEFFLER, OWNER/SUPERVISOR  
 RYAN J. BARILLA, FUNERAL DIRECTOR  
 ANGELA MESTISHEN REGNIER, FUNERAL DIRECTOR

**RELIABLE  
 HOME SUPPLY**  
 Appliances · Furniture · Carpeting  
 Minersville Cressona Mall  
**544-2555 385-5990**



**MARYANN CONWAY & ASSOCIATES, PC**  
 1825 West Market Street  
**570-628-4852**  
*Let Maryann help you plan your estate and administer for your loved ones.*

**ANTHRACITE  
 MECHANICAL LLC**  
 ~ Friendly and Reliable Service ~  
 HEATING · COOLING · REFRIGERATION  
 RESIDENTIAL · COMMERCIAL  
**570-617-2657**

**Morgan & Halcovage  
 Insurance  
 Agency**  
 Auto · Home · Life  
 Insurance  
 240 Sunbury Street  
 Minersville, PA 17954  
**544-4755**

**Jack Rich INC.**  
 FUELS · LUBRICANTS · PLUMBING · HEATING  
**SERVING ALL OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY SINCE 1955**  
 • We Do Plumbing, Installations and Sell The Best Brands of Equipment  
 • Ask About Our Free Guaranteed Home Heat Protection Insurance  
 • 24 Hour Fuel Delivery and Emergency Service  
 • We Offer a Variety of Finance & Service Contracts To Fit Individual Needs  
**622-3000 • For 24-Hour Service • 874-2000**

**THOMAS J. "TIM" PELLISH  
 ATTORNEY AT LAW**  
 306 Mahantongo Street  
**570-628-3325**

**Norm Kauffman  
 General Contractor**  
 PA HIC #012612 **570-622-4041**  
 135 East Savory St · Pottsville PA 17901

**William C. Reiley  
 Attorney - At - Law**  
 Garfield Square **622-0900**

**GOD BLESS  
 AMERICA**  
**570-622-5566**

**CatholicMatch  
 Pennsylvania**  
 CatholicMatch.com/PAsingles

**Maria H. Rowlands, CPA  
 Theresa A. Pothering, CPA**  
 570-385-2544 · Fax: 570-385-2566  
 1508 Rockwood Center · Mailbox '9 · Pottsville, PA  
 Accounting, Tax, Bookkeeping,  
 Payroll Services, and Quickbooks Training

**YOUR AD HERE!**  
 Text BVAD to 71441 for more information!  

 BOV Venture

**Rosenberger Plumbing  
 and Heating Inc.**  
 High Efficiency Gas Boiler Installation  
 Oil to Gas Conversions  
 Ductless Air Conditioning / Heat Pumps  
**570-622-6541**  
**www.rphservice.com**  
 ~ OWNERS ~  
 JOHN & MIKE WOLLYUNG

**ERIC M. PROCK  
 FANELLI, EVANS  
 & PATEL, P.C.**  
**570-622-2455**  
 EPROCK@FEPLAWYERS.COM

**Joseph D. Chipriano Jr., DMD, LLC**  
 Family and Cosmetic Dentistry  
 2000 West Market Street · Pottsville, PA 17901  
**drjosephchipriano.com 570-622-3437**

**ADVERTISERS NEEDED!**  
**PLEASE CALL CONNIE POREMBA**  
**1-800-364-0684, ext. 88**  
**or cell: 973-715-9429**

**BOV Venture HELP WANTED**  
 GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO WORK IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

Full Time - Competitive Benefits Available  
 Uncapped Commissions & Incentives  
 B2B Sales Experience Preferred  
 - Email [work@bonventure.net](mailto:work@bonventure.net) for more information -

**Shelcusky Accounting  
 & Tax Services**  
 Comprehensive Accounting, Tax, Payroll, Financial Planning, Notary and Estate Services  
**570-622-5409**