


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

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.

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.

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

Assumption BVM570-622-0106
Elementary School
Principal: Mrs. Teresa Keating

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

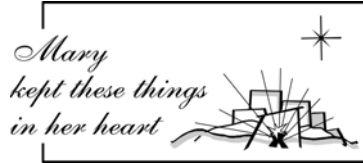
St. Joseph's Center 570-622-4638
for Special Learning
Principal: Mr. Roobhenn Smith

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)

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER
OF GOD**

January 1, 2017



Mass Intentions

Monday, January 2 – St. Basil and St. Gregory

6:30 a.m. No Mass
8:00 a.m. Loretta Devine (Family)

Tuesday, January 3

6:30 a.m. Anna & Louis O'Connor (Est)
8:00 a.m. Helen Clay (Judith & Richard Hoffman)

Wednesday, January 4 – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

6:30 a.m. William, Agnes, Vince, William, Jr., & Anne M. Brennan (Est)
8:00 a.m. John J., & Mary C. Coyle (Est)
Marguerite Coyle (Est)

Thursday, January 5 – St. John Neumann, Bishop

6:30 a.m. Gerald Dalton (Corryne Dalton)
8:00 a.m. John & Frances "Teeny" Palko (Est)

Friday, January 6 – First Friday

6:30 a.m. John "Jack" G. Schuster, Jr. (Est)
8:00 a.m. Olimbia Spleen (Emidio Piccioni)

Saturday, January 7

8:00 a.m. William & Frederick Sep (Betty Ann)

The Epiphany of the Lord

(Masses of Obligation)

Saturday, January 7

4:15 p.m. Andy Alfonsi (Jane Bobinis)
6:00 p.m. Mildred Stoudt (Elizabeth & Kathleen Didjunas)

Sunday, January 8

7:30 a.m. Kevin Brennan
(Terry, Kelly, Chris, Joe, Mallory, & Bridy)
9:30 a.m. Frank & Mary Reilly (The Babcock Family)
11:00 a.m. People of the Parish

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 worshiping with us!



READINGS FOR TODAY:

Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- the sick of the parish
- our many Benefactors
- those recently deceased
- Julia Brennan

CANDLE INTENTIONS

Sanctuary – IMO Martha "Margie" Horning
(Doris Sullivan)

Sacred Heart – IMO Harry N. Piccioni
(Barbara Piccioni)

Pieta –

Pope St. John Paul II – Health & Blessings: Kali, Cole, Tyler, & Chloe (Mimi & Pop)

St. Patrick – IMO Kevin Brennan
(Terry, Kelly, Chris, Joe, Mallory, & Bridy)

Our Lady's Chapel - Sanctuary –

Our Lady's Chapel – Blessed Virgin Mary –
IMO the Deceased of the Conway & Bauer Families
(Joe & Dot Conway)



Priest Mass Schedule for Jan. 7/8:

4:15 pm – Fr. Seifert

7:30 am – Fr. Medve

6 pm – Msgr. O'Connor

9:30 am – Msgr. O'Connor

11 am – Fr. Seifert

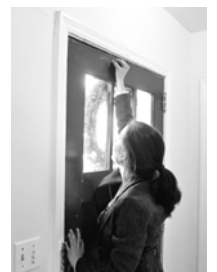


Peace and Happiness are extended to all of our parishioners and friends during this New Year! May 2017 be a year filled with abundant blessings! May it be a year for you to get closer to our Lord at

Mass and in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel. May your family be healthy and protected, and May our Blessed Mother wrap her mantle around all of you and hold you close. Happy and Holy New Year!!

~ *Monsignor O'Connor, Fr. Seifert, Fr. Medve, Deacon Quirk, and Deacon Lonergan*

This past year, we have been learning some things about Traditions: The making of Advent Wreaths, Oplaki (Christmas Bread) Wafers, Blessing of Bambinelli, Shoes for St. Nicholas, to name a few. On the Feast of the Epiphany, we are going to restart another tradition: The Blessing of Chalk. The weekend of Epiphany (January 6-7), a basket will be in the back of Church containing Blessed Chalk with a



description on how to use it. We are going to ask each family to take one pack of Blessed Chalk and to chalk the lintels of the front doors in their home with the pattern: "20 + C + M + B + 17". The numbers refer to the calendar year, the crosses stand for Christ, and the letters have a two-fold significance: C, M, and B are the initials for the traditional names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar), and they are also an abbreviation of the Latin blessing *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means, *May Christ bless this house*. This is a beautiful Scottish tradition. Let's pass this custom onto our children by showing them and teaching them the importance of our faith, engrossed in tradition.

LOTTERY CALENDAR - RECENT OUTCOMES

Tues., December 20	#701	No Winner
Wed., December 21	#342	Tom S. (\$50)
Thurs., December 22	#437	Linda M. (\$50)
Fri., December 23	#003	EBC (\$50)
Sat., December 24	#232	Thomas O. (\$100)
Sun., December 25	#754	Mary Ellen R. (\$500)
Mon., December 26	#740	Arlen D. (\$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. They can even cheer up the Winter Duldrams! We appreciate the support of everyone who helps to make this so successful!

Please Note: The Parish Office will be closed on January 2 for the New Year's Holiday!

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

SCHOOL NEWS!

3rd Nativity Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies on Saturday, **January 7**. This year's inductees are: Michelle Forney Heenan '93, Paul Loneragan '85, Ronald Matalavage '65, Eric J. Muldowney '90, Ronnie Parker '75, Jaime Williams Troutman '01, Ruth Weidman and 1996 District XI Class A Champion Boys Basketball Team. Ceremonies will take place between the JV & Varsity girls basketball games against Shenandoah Valley. Game begins at 12:30 pm. All are welcome. Please contact the School at 570-622-8110 with any questions.

Assumption BVM School will have an Open House on Sunday, **January 8**, from 11:30 am until 2:00 pm. Please check out our Catholic Grade School!

Sunday, **January 22**, Nativity BVM will be hosting an Open House and registration for the 2017-2018 School year. School tours and presentations will begin at 1 pm. Members of the entire Nativity community will be available to answer questions. No pre-registration is required.

Nativity BVM High School will host the Diocesan Music Festival on **Saturday, January 28**, beginning at 2 pm. All are welcome to attend.

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning is seeking a part-time teacher's assistant (29 hours weekly). Minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent certificate required. Please apply via email at altssjc@ptd.net



PARISH STEWARDSHIP

December 25, 2016

Stewardship: \$9,535

(The Christmas collection will be reported at a later date.)

Thank you for your generosity to your Parish!

Sacramental Dates!!

Please Mark your Calendars Now!!

***Sunday, March 5, 2017 - First Penance for our 2nd & 3rd Grade

***Wednesday, April 19, 2017 - Confirmation for our 8th Grade (Confirmation will be in St. Patrick Church)

***Saturday, May 6, 2017 - First Holy Communion for our 3rd 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, This Thursday, January 5, 2017, at 6:30pm. All are welcome!

Mandated Reporter LIVE Training

January 9th - 5:30 pm

St. Jerome School, Tamaqua

If you work with any of our children* in our Parish and have not done this yet, please attend this training or do it online:

*Catholic Kids Camp, Scouts, PREP, etc.

Any questions, please call the Parish Office.

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2017!!

Church of St. Patrick Spring Gala Dinner Dance
at The Lodge at Sharp Mountain

Bishop Barres Farewell Mass: Before departing to become the fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, Bishop Barres will celebrate a final Mass in the Diocese of Allentown on Sunday, January 22, at 12 pm, at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena (1825 West Turner Street, Allentown). All in the Diocese are welcome and invited to attend this Mass as we recognize and give thanks for the pastoral leadership of our fourth Shepherd. Let us pray together, as a Diocese, for Bishop Barres as he takes on the responsibility to lead and govern the people of Rockville Centre. Following Mass, a social will be held with light refreshments in the Parish Activity Center, directly below the Cathedral.





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 12th, and March's will be on the 12th!

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!

March for Life

January 27, 2017!!

Please call Susan Thye at 570-385-5924 for more information about riding on the bus. Pick up is in Pottsville at 7:15 am.

The cost is \$35 for the bus, and \$15 for the all day Metro Pass (Total \$50). Special price for teenagers and younger children. This is sponsored by Pennsylvanians for Human Life - Schuylkill/Carbon Chapter.



"THE INTERCESSOR'S CORNER" ST. JOHN NEUMANN

- *Was from Bohemia
- *Became the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia
- *Founded the first Diocesan school system in the United States
- *In 1854, Bishop Neumann proposed a division of his Diocese with the establishment of a new Diocese of Pottsville, and hoped he could be transferred to this rural region, and out of the "very cultural world of Philadelphia", from which he was serving 145 churches and 200,000 Catholics throughout much of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and all of Delaware. It was not to be.
- *Died at age 48 while doing errands in Philadelphia
- *Feast Day is January 5



Hope in God: Even the saints experienced times when their faith in God's goodness was tested, yet they never gave up hope. They knew that whatever happened,

God's unchanging love would see them through. When you feel disheartened, pray for God's grace and hope in him. "I have told you this that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world" (John 16:33).

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics call Jesus "Christ"?



"Christ" is not Jesus' last name, but a title.

It comes from the Greek "Christos," which means "Anointed One." Ancient Jews enthroned their kings in a ceremony by anointing them with oil. This anointing distinguished the king as being the one chosen by God to deliver Israel from its enemies. So in calling Jesus "Christ," Christians affirm not only his Lordship over all creation, but also his mission as Savior and the promised Messiah of the Jews.

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.



In memory of Mary Modesto

by: Shirley Hasenauer & Family;
Pat & Arlen Day; Joan Pretti;
Kathleen & Bob Bound; Kay Barone;
Christine & Robert Dasey;
Rich & Helen

Donations to the St. Patrick Memorial Fund

In memory of Michael & Anne Close

by: Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Eroh & Family

In memory of John Florida

by: Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Eroh & Family



St. Patrick Parish Appreciates!!

Every month, a group of fine volunteers go and do a Corporal Work of Mercy by visiting the sick and homebound, and bringing them the joy of the Eucharist right into their homes. We are very grateful to Deacon Quirk, Deacon Lonergan, Joan Repella, John Potlunas, and John Bowden, for providing this holy ministry which manifests faith and charity on behalf of our whole Parish community. We also thank those who consistently take Communion to those people who are in our local nursing homes, and Fr. Seifert and Fr. Zelonis, who are always there when people want and need the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Through the Eucharist and Anointing, we pray for our friends who need the strength and comfort these Sacraments can supply.

Tu Es Petrus: Upon this Rock

Our 7th 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

Upon This **ROCK**



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

***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!***

During this New Year, why not give a gift to yourself or someone else!! A weekend get-away is a great idea to get away from the throes of Winter, and relax! The Retreat would be a PERFECT GIFT!! New Year! New You!

New Year Resolutions ~ The Pope Francis List



1. Don't gossip.
2. Finish your meals.
3. Make time for others.
4. Choose the 'more humble' purchase.
5. Meet the poor 'in the flesh.'
6. Stop judging others.
7. Befriend those who disagree.
8. Make commitments, such as marriage.
9. Make it a habit to 'ask the Lord.'
10. Be happy. (The Joy of the Gospel).
11. Go on the St. Patrick 2017 Retreat!

ST. PATRICK ACTIVITIES YEAR IN REVIEW – 2016

New:

- *Website
- *Bulletin Cover
- *Calendar of Parish Events
- *Parish Store
- *Hymnals

We Welcomed:

- *Fr. William Seifert
- *Fr. Ken Medve
- *Debbie Walker
- *Dale Verchick
- *Ian Getzey
- *Ralph Chiplonia
- *Annette Peron
- *New Parishioners

We said Goodbye to:

- *Fr. Eric Arnout
- *Fr. John Little
- *Tino Mangine
- *Our Friends (Parishioners) who have passed away

Fundraisers/Socials:

- *Monthly Spaghetti Dinners
- *Retirement Reception for Shirley Hasenauer and Rosemary Cairns
- *Homemade Easter Candy and Palm Sunday Bake Sale
- *St. Patrick Parish Gala at Pine View Acres
- *Coffee and Doughnut Socials continue on third Sunday of the Month sponsored by Parish Organizations
- *Social on St. Patrick Day in Parish Office and Doughnuts for Assumption BVM Students and Staff
- *Goodbye Reception for Fr. Eric Arnout and Fr. John Little
- *Celebration of 100 Years of Combined Ministry with Parish Staff Party for our Priests and Deacons
- *Fireworks Party in the back parking lot with Ice Cream and Snacks
- *The 29th Annual St. Patrick Parish Picnic at South Cass
- *Appreciation Trip for Altar Servers to Heislars for Miniature Golf and Ice Cream Sundaes
- *Social at Friendly's for the Catholic Kids Camp Team
- *Weenie Roast for the Parish Picnic Volunteers hosted by the Boy Scouts
- *Our 7th Annual Golf Outing at Mountain Valley Golf Course
- *Our Annual Vendor and Craft Party
- *Christmas Social in Parish Office

Activities for Children:

- *Handprints 4 Holy Week
- *Make Your Own Mary Grotto
- *Seek and You Shall Find Bottle Game
- *Annual Easter Egg Hunt
- *Pokemon Go Party
- *Blessing of Backpacks at Mass for New School Year
- *Jesse Tree Ornaments
- *Take Monsignor on Vacation and Share your Favorite Advent/Christmas Tradition with Monsignor
- *Shoes for St. Nicholas
- *Children's Christmas Party
- *A week-long Catholic Kids Camp – "Vatican Express" – ending with a "Papal Parade" & Spaghetti Dinner

Ladies Nights:

- *Angel Paint, Sip, and Praise Night
- *"O Wonderful Exchange" Cookie Exchange Night

(OVER)

Activities for Teens:

- *Painted Saints with the ACTION Youth Group for a Saint Swap
- *Meeting to discuss Youth Ministry in the future
- *Trip to Christmas Village with the ACTION Youth Group

Spiritual:

- *6th Annual Retreat – “Call Upon the Lord and Be Saved in His Mercy”
- *Our PREP (Religious Education Program) was reconstructed with day, time, and place change, and a new Director of Religious Education – Dale Verchick

***Sacraments:**

Baptisms

Marriages

Confirmation

First Holy Communion

First Penance

Anointing of the Sick

Holy Orders – Past Summer Seminarian ordained in June, 2016 – Fr. Steve Isaac

- *Inscription Service for those receiving Sacraments

***Confirmation Retreat**

- *All Souls' Day Board to honor Deceased Parishioners over the past year and a half

***Honored at Mass:**

Graduates

Those who received Confirmation

- *Commissioned two New Altar Servers at Mass

- *Ran a bus to the Diocesan Pilgrimage in Washington, DC, with stop at the Shrine of John Paul II

- *Our Men's Spirituality Group continues to be very active, meeting twice a month

Traditions:

- *The 2nd Annual Advent Wreath Making Morning

- *The Blessing of Bambinelli (Baby Jesus) at Mass

- *Starting the Tradition of Oplatki (Christmas Wafers)

- *Blessing of Animals

Caring for Others:

- *Gifts for New Parishioners, those Receiving Sacraments

- *Gifts for Communion Calls – Divine Mercy Statue

- *Baby gifts collected for Catholic Charities and Care Net

Scouting:

- *Boy Scouts take over Cemetery House as their new Lodge

*What a Wonderful Year it has been for our Parish!!!
Looking forward to more blessings in 2017!*

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 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**

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 Theresa A. Pothering, CPA**
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