

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF April 5 2026
Easter Sunday Of The Resurrection Of The Lord**

Please note that all daily masses will be held in the chapel unless otherwise noted. In the event of a funeral mass there will be no (8:30 AM) daily mass.

Monday 8:30AM: NO MASS / OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday 8:30 AM: NO MASS

Wednesday 8:30 AM: NO MASS

Thursday 8:30 AM: NO MASS

Friday 8:30 AM NO MASS

Divine Mercy Sunday (Second Sunday Of Easter):

Saturday 6:00 PM Anne Tedley (B'day) *By: Wayne & Frances and Daughters*

Sunday 8:00 AM: Robert Murphy (Anniv) *By: Family*

Sunday 10:30 AM: Robert Fleegle *By: Harry & Diana Feather*

Sanctuary Candle:

St. Peregrine Candle:

Mass Readings for the Week:

Monday: Monday within the Octave Of Easter
Acts 2:14, 22-33/PS Psalm 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday: Tuesday within the Octave Of Easter
Acts 2:36-41/PS Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/John 20:11-18

Wednesday: Wednesday within the Octave Of Easter
Acts 3:1-10/PS Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Luke 24:13-35

Thursday: Thursday within the Octave Of Easter
Acts 3:11-26/PS Psalm 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Luke 24:35-48

Friday: Friday within the Octave Of Easter
Acts 4:1-12/PS Psalm 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a/John 21:1-14

Saturday: Saturday within the Octave Of Easter
Acts 4:13-21/PS Psalm 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21/Mark 16:9-15

Sunday: Divine Mercy Sunday (Second Sunday Of Easter)
Acts 2:42-47/PS Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (R.1)/ 1 Peter 1:3-9/John 20:19-31

St John The Baptist Catholic Church

Box 10 New Baltimore, PA 15553

Phone: 733-2210

Hall: 733-4113

Email: dwambaugh@dioceseaj.org

Website: <https://newbaltimorecatholic.com/>

Fr. Mark Pattock, OFMcap

Pastor

Sacramental Emergencies: 724-272-5474

Mass Schedule:

Mon: No Mass Tues: 8:30 AM Wed - Fri: 8:30 AM Sat: 6:00 PM (Vigil) Sun: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Secretary Office Hours:

Mon :8:00 AM-3:00PM Wed :8:00 AM-3:00PM Thurs :8:00 AM-3:00 PM Fri :8:00AM –3:00 PM

Baptism: Arrange in advance for pre-baptismal instructions.

Confessions: Saturday 5:00 – 5:45 PM

Holy Communion:

Low Gluten hosts will be available for anyone with a low gluten tolerance. If you have a low gluten tolerance, please tell the priest before mass so a low gluten host can be placed in a pyx for you.

Matrimony: Arrange nine months in advance. Couples expected to participate in pre-marriage preparation program

Rosary: Saturday Evenings beginning at 5:25 PM

Christian Mothers: Meets the 3rd Saturday of each month from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM in the basement.

Parish Mission Statement

St. John the Baptist Parish is a Catholic Christian Community centered in rural New Baltimore, Pennsylvania. As members of the Body of Christ, we seek to live as entrusted stewards using God's gifts responsibly, intelligently, prudently, and gratefully to bring about His kingdom. As stewards of our time, talents, possessions, and faith, we are called to put our lives in proper focus and to live in accord with one another giving love and caring support, to accept Christ's challenge as related in the Gospels- to serve one another.



HAPPY AND BLESSED EASTER from Fr. Mark and all the staff here at St. John The Baptist Catholic Church.

ALLELUIA, HE IS RISEN!

St. John's News & Upcoming Events:

Easter Sunday Of The Resurrection Of The Lord

The Easter Season:

Easter is not just celebrated on Easter Sunday. It's an entire season that lasts for 50 days! This time of joy and exultation, from the Resurrection of the Lord to Pentecost, is one feast day, or one "great Sunday."

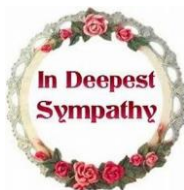
The word "Easter" comes from Old English, meaning simply the "East". The sun which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth and hope, is a symbol for the Christian of the rising Christ, who is the light of the world.

The Octave of Easter

The Octave of Easter comprises the eight days which stretch from the first to the second Sunday. It is a way of prolonging the joy of the initial day. In a sense, every day of the Octave is like a little Sunday. During the first 8 days of Easter (the Octave) are celebrated as Solemnities of the Lord.

The First Easter Sunday:

On the first Easter morning, there were no Easter baskets or brightly colored eggs. That first Easter morning began as a very unhappy day. Jesus had died; his friends were sad. Very early in the morning, two women walked to Jesus' tomb. When they reached that place, Jesus was not there! The tomb was **EMPTY!** They ran to tell the apostles, "Our Master is gone!" The apostles ran to see for themselves. Sure enough- the tomb was empty. They went home very sad-all but one woman, who stayed by the tomb. "Where have they taken our Master?" she asked a gardener nearby. **LOOK!** That's not the gardener, it's Jesus! Then the woman remembered! Jesus said he was going away, but he promised to come back. The sadness of his friends was turned into joy. The one they loved was alive! Jesus is the Living One. You can find him in your heart and talk to him in your prayers, for he is with you always.



With Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Fr. Mark Pattock OFM Cap and his family at the death of his mother Barbara Ann Pattock on Tuesday March 31st. May her soul and all the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace

The Word Among Us:

Be sure to get your **FREE** copy of the **Word Among Us** for the **months of April** on the table in the back of Church. The **Word Among Us** magazine offers daily meditations based on the Mass readings of the Catholic Church, inspirational essays, stories of the saints and more!

CRS Rice Bowl:

Our community changed lives this Lent, and CRS Rice Bowl wants to say **THANK YOU!** Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl **into the office** or **via the black box in the back of church**, or donate online at www.crsricebowl.org/give.



Knee Mail:

Don't forget to send a "knee mail" revealing yourself to your Lenten prayer partner! If you need your prayer partner's address please call or email the office and we will gladly get that information to you.

Religious Education News:

There will be **NO Religious Education** classes on **Sunday April 5th** All in person classes will **resume on Sunday April 12th** and conclude on **May 10th with the May Crowning and Holy Rosary**. Have a Safe and Blessed Easter

PRAYER LIST

John Andzelik, Abby Barnes, Lori Barnes, Fr. William Barron, Debbie Brady, Delmas Brick Jr., Cindy (Miller) Bearer, Jane Beyer, Theresa Beyer, Tom Bezila, Lisa Bischof, Tonya Brown, Mark Bruck, Tim Bruck, Macy Burke, Doug Burkett, Max Bulger, Sara Cairo, Larry Clarr, Randy Clites, Denis Crum, Lee Crum, Andrew Davenport, Sara Davenport, Michael Davis, Velma Davis, Larry DeArmitt, Alice Deitz, Donna Dennison, Peg Diehl, Tracy Dickey, Dorothy Dittmer, Joyce Dively, Tara Dively, Lisa Easter, Chris Edes, George Faidley III, Tim Felten, Tabitha Flick, Bradley Fochtman, Harry Fochtman, Mike Fochtman, Mark Frankenfield, Myrna Fries, Becky Foor, Carol Ann Gallagher, Brian Gardill, Jarrett Gowatty, Paisley Goetzl, Helen Greenway, Kelsey Grove, Grayson Gumbert, Sam Hall, Ron Hagens, Nellie Hall, Eugene Hankinson, Phyllis Harris, Mary Jo Harrington, Aaron Hay, Paisley Hay, Bob Jenkins, Elizabeth Heider, Nickole Herdman, Sandra Herzing, Dale Hickey, Ida Mae Hillegass, Lisa Hillegass, Missy Hillegass, Tara Hillegass, Todd Hillegass, Amy Jo Hoffman, Phyllis Hoppert, Tina Hoover, Ernest Imgrund, Pete Innis, Mary Janachovski, Martha (Lewis) Kalbach, Matt Karns, Jason Kinzer, David Krieie, Fr. Robert Kaylor, Todd Kline, Eric Knott, Virginia Lambert, Jerica Lamens, John Lancaster, Bill Lankey, Eli Lankey, Kelly Legarski, Ralph Leister, Bruce Leonard, Carol Leppert, Gordon Leppert, Brenda Leister, Chase Lester, Kaitlyn Lewis, Barry Leydig, John Lynch, Norma Jean Lynch, Toots Maddy, Ron Makarun, Martha Marker, Susan Martin, Tim Martin, George Maser, Angie Matey, Joseph Matey, Brooks May, Janet Michael, Tony and Janet Miele, Linda McCahan, Shirley McVicker, Betty Meslovich, Terry Metevier, Erica Miller, Ray & June Miller, Tara Miller, Mike Montreal, Reed Morgan, Tracey Mowry, Carol Murphy, Kai Musselman, John Myers, Ashley Nail, Dr. Cyril Nathaniel, Eugene Nickelow, Elissa Nunamaker, Tina Maddy Ostravich, Donna Otto, Rick Otto, Michael Price, Sabina Restly, Karissa Riberdy, Tara Ritchey, Cindy Robb, Katherine Rosenbaum, Teri Schreiber, Nancy Schrock, Barb Sarver, Shirley Sechler, Greg Seeley, Richard Seese Jr., Jordon Seville, Lorraine Shaddock, Sandra Shaffer, Terry Shaffer, Harold Shannon, Tom Shippy, Daniel Smith, Eddie Smith, Edith Smith, Shaun Smith, Oscar Speicher, Nancy Spochart, Linda Stiffler, Rosalie Swingle, Carol Taylor, Joni Thomas, Janet Valentine, Michael Valentine, Julianne Viselli, Gail Wade, Tom Warren, Jr., Staci Weaver, Aaron Weiss, Bonnie Welsh, Dee Werline, John & Doris Werner, Christina Whetstone, Logan Weyand, Donnie Weyant, Alyssa Will, Charlotte Will, Jan Will, Joe Will, Pat Will, Tracy Williams, Lucy Wright, Angie Wolfhope, Dorothy Wolfhope, Ron Wolfhope, Steve Wolfhope, Shirley Varchetti, Roger Yarnell

If you added a person's name to the prayer list and they have since recovered, please call to remove their name from our prayer list.

OFFERTORY

Sunday Loose: \$680.00	Sunday Adults: \$1768.00	Total Sunday: \$2448.00
Easter Flowers: \$280.00	Holy Thursday: \$80.00	Good Friday: \$30.00
Easter Sunday: \$25.00		

We're always collecting non-perishable food items for our local foodbanks. Items can be placed in the bins in the back of church.

Easter Sunday Of The Resurrection Of The Lord- A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar:

Today's gospel instructs us Jesus "had to rise from the dead." The dying we experience with unmet expectations in marriage and parenting is normal to family life. Families must rise above disappointments and be Easter people all year long.

The Pope's Prayer Intention For April:

For priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.



WE LOVE HAVING YOU AS PART OF OUR FLOCK. Keep in touch with us via email and text. Just simply Text BALTIMORE to 84576 Or Connect with Us Online At: newbaltimorecath.flocknote.com

Jelly Bean Prayer / Jelly Bean Gospel

Red is for the blood Christ gave.

Green is for the grass God made.

Yellow is for the sun so bright.

Orange is for the edge of night.

Black is for the sins that were made.

White is for the grace Christ gave.

Purple is for the hour of sorrow.

Pink is for the new tomorrow.

courageouschristianfather.com/jelly-bean-prayer/



CONFIRMATION NEWS:

Confirmation will be on **Sunday April 26th at 2:00 PM** in St. Peter's Church, Somerset. Please arrive by **1:00 pm**. A mandatory practice will be held on **Saturday April 25th at 10:00 AM** in St. Peter's Church, Somerset. You must bring your sponsor or a parent to this practice.

We served 401 Meals (388 Adults and 13 Children) at our Sixth fish fry! Congrats and Thank You! to all who helped prepare, serve and patronize these dinners.

Women At The Well:

There is a Women At The Well group forming here at St. John's. Come and learn how to pray Lectio Divina – praying with that Sunday's Gospel. **We meet Monday morning at 9:00 AM in the Church Basement.** For more information please contact Lindsay Hankinson at (814) 233-8786. We would love to have you join us.

Volunteer to take up the Offertory At Mass:

During Mass, there's a little moment that often goes unnoticed. After the collection baskets are passed, there is a very meaningful part of the Mass: members of our parish carry the gifts of bread, wine and the offertory to the priest. **The entire congregation is represented by those who bear the gifts. Through this act, we return to God a small part of the many blessings that He has given to us. What a wonderful way to express thanks and joy to God by bearing these gifts!** There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church for the month for families to sign up to carry the offertory gifts up at mass.

4th of July Raffle:

It's that time of year again to start thinking of the Fourth of July Raffle. The Fourth of July will be here before we know it. I am welcoming the usual gift cards and cash donations, but also any prize items. Perhaps something you have made or something of interest that would make our raffle extra special. I know all of you might have something in mind or something new that hasn't been done before. Donations are not needed right away, but I would appreciate it if you would please call the Church Office with your donation **By May 3rd** so we can send the list for the raffle ticket to the printers. **Please call the Church Office at 814-733-2210** or send an email to dwambaugh@dioceseaj.org with any donations or questions. Everyone involved with the raffle, including myself, are hopeful all of our parishioners will help make the Fourth of July Raffle a success.

Chairperson for Kids's Games at 4th July Picnic:

If anyone is willing and able to take over, Cara Kister will gladly review all the games and help them prepare. Please reach out to Cara if you have any questions at (814) 442-1757. Thank You!

The following have donated Easter Flowers:

Edward Wolfhope

Keith Wolfhope

Stanford & Betty Shippey

Nancy, David & Clyde Shippey

Wilma Emerick

Dorothy Hoffman

Barry Shippey

Brian Nyahay

Peggy, Troy, Tawnya, Wyatt & Landon

Mom, Troy, Tawnya, Wyatt & Landon

Children & Families

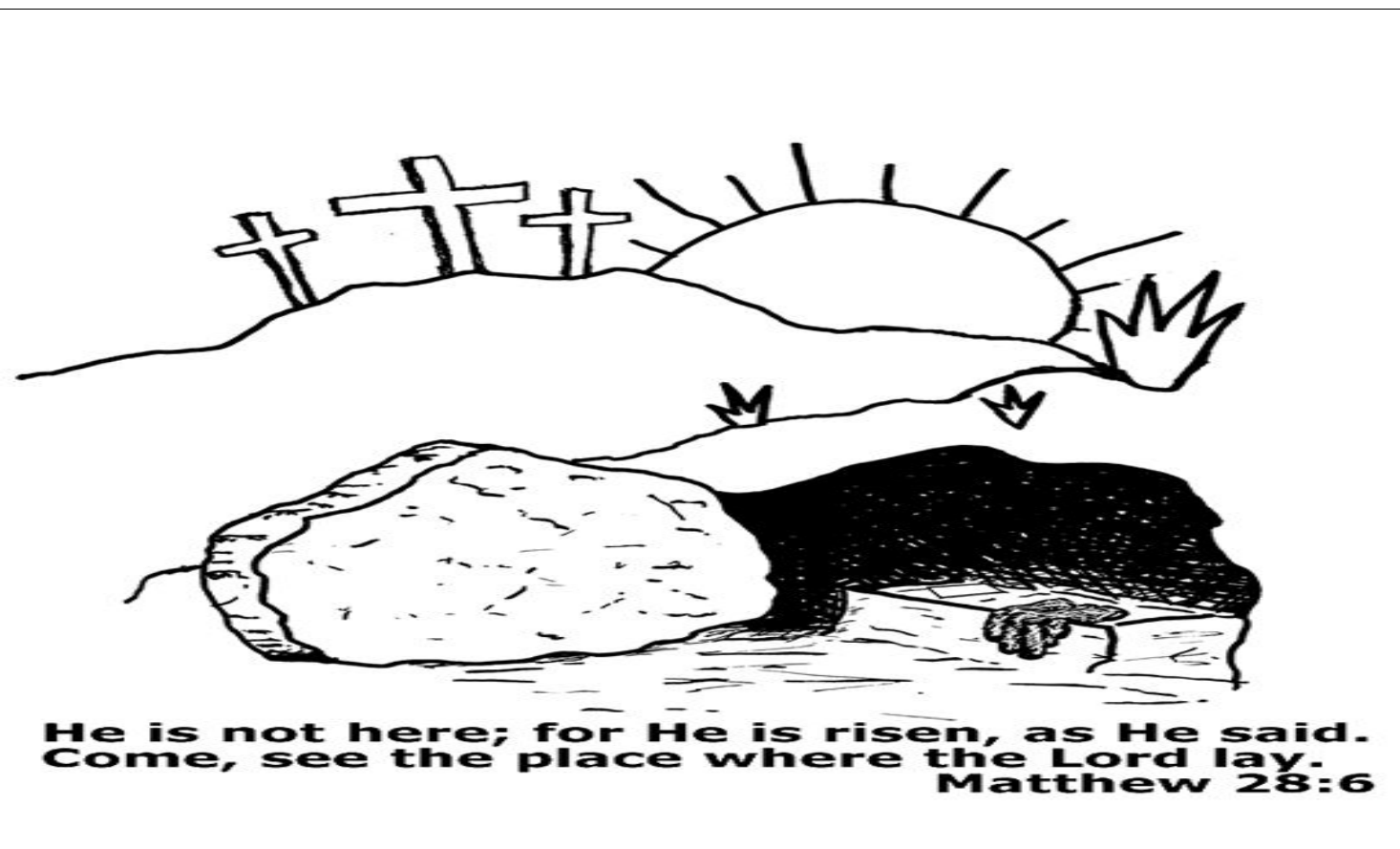
Brothers, Sisters and Families

Brothers, Sisters and Families

Brothers, Sisters and Families

Aunts, Uncles and Families

Aunts, Uncles and Families



He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Matthew 28:6

In Memory Of:

Manfred & Vera Glessner
 Chester Hillegass
 In Memory
 In Memory
 In Memory
 In Memory
 Cyril & Josephine Suhrie
 David Suhrie
 Orlo & Barb Hay
 David Hay
 Deceased Family Members
 Michael & Mary Imgrund
 In Memory
 In Memory
 Lewis & Sandra Little
 Raymond, Irene and Elizabeth McGreevey
 Robert P. Murphy
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl Murphy
 Mr & Mrs. Ray Adams
 Jimmie "Doodle" Restly
 Rose Restly
 Jim Restly
 Denver Yokum
 Dean Yokum
 Restly, Lybarger and Yokum Family Members
 Robert Rieker
 Michael Newman
 In Memory
 In Memory
 In Memory
 Cyril & Josephine Suhrie
 David Suhrie
 Oscar & Catherine Nicholson
 In Memory
 Anna, Andrew, Joe, John & Virginia Meslovich
 Polly & Roy Taliaferro
 Nora Wynne
 Sue & Len Miller
 Elaine Collier
 Janet Burns
 In Memory
 In Memory
 In Memory
 Peter Radzvin
 In Memory
 Cathy Smith
 Deceased Loved Ones

By:

Don & Carol Hillegass
 Jarrod & Lisa Easter
 George & Sandra Fochtman
 Sam & Linda Fochtman
 Dick & Arlene Fuller

Dennis & Sharon Hay
 Ann Huston
 Mary Grace Imgrund
 Bruce & Linda Leonard
 Paul Balint
 Mike, Tracey & Family
 The McGreevey Family
 Family
 Bonnie and Family
 Bonnie and Family

Jim & Lettie Restly

Lauretta Rieker
 Alfred & Barb Sarver
 Richard & Joanne Seese
 Elaine Stewart

Leo & Linda Suhrie
 Philip and Kathy Suhrie

Tony & Margee Taliaferro
 Greg Will
 Scott & Kelly Winegardner and Family
 Luke Feather
 Wife & Sons
 Bill Ritchey
 Kristina, Mark, Marshal and Maria Engleka
 Audrey Benning

**In Memory Of:**

In Memory
 Our Parents
 Deceased Members Of the Fochtman Family
 Deceased Members of the Dull Family
 Deceased Family Members
 In Memory
 Jimmy Lewis
 Parents Clara & Harry Knieriem
 Claudine Plush
 Larry Plush
 Cathy Smith
 Tom & Thelma Smith
 Pat Stoe
 Charles & Anna Burkett Hillegass
 Robert Stoe
 Cindy Robinette
 Janis Cooper
 Deceased Family and Friends
 Kenneth & Anna Lee Wambaugh
 Deceased Wambaugh Family
 Deceased Ranker Family
 Tom & Ann Wambaugh
 Bernard & Olive Smith
 Fred Will
 Joshua Thorpe
 John Wolfhope
 Clement E. Wolfhope
 Werner / Zwick Family
 George & Marie Hankinson
 Dennis & Mary Suhrie
 Henry & Frances Hankinson
 Dennis & Rita McAfee
 Michael John Murphy
 Edith Hankinson
 Doran Walker
 Mark & Vera Restly
 Louise & Tom Connor
 James Davis
 Charles Hankinson
 Barbara Kane
 Lorraine & Watson Gregg
 Sr. Caroline Kachik OCD
 Joe & Rosina Cristaldi
 Sonnie & Lew Little
 Frs. Silreaw and Malachy
 Frs. Humphrey, Robert and Wilfred
 Carol Restly

By:

Rob & Kathleen Davies
 Richard & Cheryle Engbert

Lynn and Susan Fochtman and Family
 M/M Wayne Fochtman
 Henry Hillegass
 Parents
 Jane McGregor

The Plush Family

Joseph Smith

Patty Stoe
 Kim and Dayna Wambaugh

Dayna and Kim Wambaugh

Pauline Will
 By Family
 By Family
 David and Donamae Zwick

Larry & Anita Hankinson

M/M Richard Hoffman

In Memory Of:

Stiffler Family
Deceased Beyer, Twigg, Robb and Comp Families
Charles Hankinson
Kathy Hankinson
Joe & Marion Gardner
Claudine Plush
Larry Plush
Mona & Bill Kirchner
Cathy Raymond
Marie & Phil Smith
Bob Beals
Conrad Talheimer

By:

Stiffler Family
Cletus Robb

In Honor Of:

Eric, Mandy, Riley & Regan Lauer
Matthew, Jennifer, Peyton & Lydia Murphy
Andy, Brook and Hunter
Travis, Jen, Ryan and Mer
Missy and Mike
Suzanne Walker
Children: Matthew, Kellie, Nikki, Jon and Mark
Grandchildren: Emma, Addy, Hank, Rocco

Mom

Patty Stoe

Larry & Anita Hankinson



Diocesan News & Upcoming Events:

Stewardship Reflection April 5th– Easter Sunday Of The Resurrection Of The Lord:

The great feast of Easter has begun, Christian stewards. Let us rejoice and be glad! Just as we embraced the disciplines and fasting of Lent, let us fully embrace the joy and feasting that the next 50 days offer. We are called to be good stewards of the Easter season. Our first reading, from Acts, gives instructions on how to do this. Here, St Peter says that our Lord “commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead... that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.” How do we ordinary people preach and testify to all God has done? By the way we live our ordinary lives – through the intentional use of our time, talent and treasure for the kingdom of God. Putting God and others ahead of ourselves in every aspect of our lives is the most eloquent preaching we can do. Boldly and joyfully embracing a stewardship way of life is our most powerful testimony. As Christian stewards, we are the modern-day witnesses of an incredible miracle prompted by unfathomable love – the death and Resurrection of our Savior for us. Let us rejoice and be glad, and let’s make sure our lives are a testimony to this amazing grace!

HITMIX MUSIC BINGO – Will be held on **Saturday, April 25th** at St. Francis Activity Center at 134 Barron Avenue, Johnstown. Doors open at 4:30 PM with first game beginning at 7:00PM. Tickets are \$25 each which includes turkey dinner and non-alcoholic beverages, one bingo card for each game, and cash prizes every half hour. Also available for purchase are extra bingo cards, Qualifiers, 50/50, chances on baskets and \$10 beer bracelets. Cash bar. **NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL PERMITTED.** Must be 18 or older to participate! Please contact Fran King at 814-536-3667 with any questions!

St. John Catholic Church and Immaculate Conception Church Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit:

We are excited to invite you to our Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit at the New Germany Grove Hall on **Friday, April 10 thru Sunday, April 12.** Join us for a self-guided tour of 150 Eucharistic Miracles collected from 22 countries, prayerfully gathered by St. Carlo Acutis. All verified and approved by the Vatican. This is an amazing opportunity to delve deeper into your faith and witness the *True* Presence of Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist. Admission to this event is free! For more info, please visit: www.stjic.org/eucharistic-miracles-exhibit.

Details of the event are as follows:

- Friday, 4/10 – 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM
- Saturday, 4/11 – 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM
- Sunday, 4/12 – 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

CHURCH AND BREWERY BUS TOUR – APRIL 25th:

All Saints Parish in Boswell will be sponsoring a bus trip to Northeastern Pennsylvania on **Saturday April 25th**. The stops will include tours of St. Casimir Church Shenandoah (home parish of the famed Soviet prisoner Father Walter Czisek), Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Church in Centralia (the town that is one fire), tours of the Yuengling Brewery (with samples included) and the historic Carbon County Jail (where the Molly Maguires were housed) as well as the historic Eckley Miner’s Village. Mass will be celebrated in the historic Immaculate Conception Church in Eckley and a high-quality Italian meal is included at Matucci’s in Mt. Carmel, PA. Pick up locations in Boswell and Central City. For more information or to register for the trip please call All Saints office at (814) 629-5551. **The cost of the trip is \$150 per person.** All are welcome.

Holy Rosary and St. Mark Churches -Bus Trip To Shrines at Emmitsburg, MD:

Holy Rosary and St. Mark Churches are sponsoring a bus trip to the shrines at Emmitsburg, MD on **Wednesday, May 13, 2026.** On your own at the national Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, Lunch at the Mountain Gate Family Restaurant (Buffet), 90-minute Group Tour of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. **Price per person - \$80.** Checks made out to "St. Mark's Catholic Church." To reserve a seat, call Robyn Murphy at 814-931-5683 or Kathleen Winter 814-591-0248. **Limited number of seats available.**

Diocese to Mark Anniversary with Special Liturgy

Bishop Mark will celebrate a special Mass to commemorate and celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown on **Sunday May 31 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. All the faithful are invited, along with designated representatives from each parish and all priests, deacons, and religious in the diocese

Diocese Planning Family Conference in the Fall

In celebration of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown's 125th anniversary, the diocese will host a Diocesan Family Conference on **September 19, 2026, at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School in Ebensburg.** The gathering, which will replace the usual men's, women's and youth conferences this year, will present an opportunity for local Catholics of all ages to gather as one family of faith. The day will include inspiring keynote addresses, Mass with Bishop Mark, Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and more. Save the date. More information to come.

Break Open the Tomb

Lord of Easter’s Promise, I live in faith of the Resurrection, but such is the nature of my faith that so much of me remains entombed. Break open the tomb. Where I’ve buried my compassion, break open the tomb. Where I’ve buried my sense of mercy, break open the tomb. Where I’ve buried my humility, break open the tomb. Where I’ve buried my humanity, break open the tomb. Where I’ve buried my love for my Heavenly Father, break open the tomb. Where I’ve buried my sense of joy, break open the tomb. Where I’ve buried my willingness to forgive, break open the tomb. Lord, in you I’ve found a Savior no grace can withstand. Help me to roll away this stone and find the miracle of new life. That I may live more fully in your saving grace. **Amen**

Why Did Jesus Fold The Napkin?

Why did Jesus fold the linen burial cloth after His resurrection? The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes. The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed at the head of that stony coffin. Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, “They have taken the Lord’s body out of the tomb, and I don’t know where they have put him!” Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see. The other disciple outran Peter and got there first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn’t go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus head was folded up and lying to the side. Was that important? Absolutely! Is it really significant? Yes! In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition. When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it. The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished. Now if the master were done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, **‘I’m done’**. But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because The folded napkin meant, **‘I’m coming back!’**

Never forget . . . He’s coming back!

