

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Englishman, Damian Aspinall, heads a foundation that works to preserve endangered species of wild animals in the jungles of Africa. Five years ago, Aspinall raised a gorilla named Kwibi and returned him to the wild. Later, Aspinall returned to Gabon and traveling up river by boat miraculously relocated his old friend, all 500 pounds of him. Aspinall and the gorilla sat together, sharing a leaf, making gurgling sounds and embracing each other.

This Sunday's gospel reflects on the joy of reunion as the Prodigal Son comes home to the father, the lost sheep is found and the lost coin is recovered.

Yours in Christ,
Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday – September 13 – 9:00 a.m.

EDWARD KRUPA (Family)

Tuesday – September 14 – 9:00 a.m.

IRENE BREZENEK (Paul & Bernie Gombola)

Wednesday – September 15 – 9:00 a.m.

PATRICIA DAVIS (John, Bernice, Jacqui Petock)

Thursday – September 16 – 9:00 a.m.

JOSEPH HOSTINA (Joan Kline & Family)

Friday – September 17 – 9:00 a.m.

THOMAS MC GOWAN (Peggy Stoppi)

Saturday – September 18 – 5:00 p.m.

DECEASED OF HARRY BETTINGER FAMILY

(Scott Williams)

Sunday – September 19 – 8:15 a.m.

JOSEPH & SARAH FRY

Sunday – September 19 – 10:30 a.m.

JOSEPHINE PARSICK (Daughters)

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

II – Scott Kreiger & Rachel Chapman

III – Kevin Hoy and Jennifer Holly

CANDLE INTENTIONS

B.V.M – Special Intention by Mary Jean Morgalis

St. Joseph – IMO Vincent Lescavage

by Dan & Anne Marie Wachter

Tabernacle – Special Intention by Mary Jean Morgalis

Sanctuary

1. IMO Josephine Cavanaugh by Hahner Family

2&3. IMO Paul & Jennie Elison by Tom & Cindy Elison

4. IMO Jack Scheetz by Pat, Missy & Amy Scheetz

Guardian Angels

1&2. Thank you for guarding my travels by Barbara Fox

SCHEDULE

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 – Saturday – September 18th

Readers: Christine Disabella

Euch.Min.: John & Bernice Petock

Servers: Samantha, Angelo, Alexandra Disabella

Cantor: Mary Bound

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – September 19th

Reader: Bill Casey

Euch.Min.: Paul & Debbie Herb, S. Maryanne

Servers: Samantha Weiss, Steven Messina, Josh Clauser

Cantor: Kelly Messina

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – September 19th

Reader: Ian Hower

Euch.Min.: Bill Schlitzer, Bill & Kathy Gianfagna

Servers: Ryan, Patrick, Caitlin Coyle

Cantor: Ensemble

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, Edward Wychunas, John Woznicki, Scott Rhoades, Mary Ellen Viduszynski, Elizabeth McAlonis, Espen Murphy, Greg Schoffstall, Sylvia Bercher, Jim Florida, Rita Montag, Noah Nabholtz, Mary Margaret Smith, Nancy Newton, Paul Burns, Helen Smith, Jean Smith. Deceased: Eleanore Forney*

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

This week we welcome **Rosalie (Russo) Womer** and her children, **Lauren, Maria** and **James**, who attend Minersville School District. Rosalie is a district judge assistant in Tremont.



Warmly welcome the **Womer's** into our parish family with a big dose of St. John's hospitality by writing to 1347 Bunting St., Pottsville

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED Eligibility ... male or female, 4th grade (in Fall) to 12th grade ... if interested, please call the Rectory 622-5470.

Let us pray for babies diagnosed before birth with medical problems, that their parents will find the strength, love, and support to help their children live and thrive.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

September 5th \$ 5,788.50; Dues: \$1,522.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

God rejoices when people turn back to him.

Where in your life do you need forgiveness

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

This Week's Readings

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sept. 11/12)

Reading I: Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

Reading II: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Gospel: Luke 15:1-32

READING REFLECTION

Stepping Into Grace: A Student Reflection by Jimmy Starke, Senior

I find that passages such as these are often difficult to understand because I am so easily distracted from the true message of the scripture. Sin seems to be such an obvious reflection point for these passages, and until recently, I would have picked out the images of a punitive God from Exodus, related to the struggles of Paul in 1 Timothy, and felt lost with the Prodigal Son.

But, this summer, I found a new way to look at sin: one full of hope and compassion and inspiration. It is better, I think, to see the transforming grace, like that grace Paul tells of in 1 Timothy. In my own life over the past few weeks, I have been fortunate to experience that grace in a unique way.

As the new semester starts, I notice that something close to pride has been surfacing in my friends and me. We try to impress each other with the accomplishments of the summer, we compare the difficulty of our schedules, and we talk excitedly about our new jobs or responsibilities.

This is all fine, except for those of us who can only share senior-year-schedules, and the lack of new and impressive job titles.

As for me, I felt as though I was standing still or even moving backward. Does it hurt my pride that I can't compare to their accomplishments and success? Of course!

So I began to do what people have done since before Moses; I envied my friends success, made myself a golden calf to distract me from my own issues, found false ways to make myself feel important, and complained about my time in this apparent desert!

When I really started to feel unimportant in comparison to my friends and classmates, God began to help me realize what these Scripture passages were really saying about incompleteness and gave me perspective on what was truly important. The importance that I found didn't come through a job title or academic supremacy or anything similar.

My importance, my self-worth, was made known to me by an old friend, in casual conversation, who reminded me that she was praying for me. It was made known to me by a new friend who thanked me for helping him in a way that I didn't know I had helped. These two moments made me realize the real message of these Scripture

passages: my worth is based on how my relationships and actions move me to improve my incompleteness by means of God's grace.

Viewing sin and human incompleteness through the lens of grace (instead of guilt and worthlessness) is something I have been taught for many years but never really understood. But with this perspective, the scripture passages come into new light.

The Responsorial Psalm becomes less of a pleading to a great Judge and more of a yearning for the gentleness of God. The focus of 1 Timothy (Second Reading) moves Paul from a blasphemer and persecutor to one who gives testimony of how God trusts us, is patient with us, and fills us with grace through Christ. And, Luke's Gospel shows us all of these in the simple moment of the father's embrace of his son.

Next Week's Readings

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sept. 18/19)

Reading I: Am 8:4-7/1

Reading II: Tm 2:1-8

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

GIFT

Generations In Faith Together

Coming October 24th

Save the date for this special event.

WORD OF LIFE

Euthanasia or deliberately taking of the life of someone who is sick, dying, disabled or mentally ill is morally unacceptable. The Church calls for the ordinary care owed to a sick person, but medical procedures that are burdensome, dangerous or extraordinary are not necessary. If you are unsure about the moral implications of health care procedures that are being proposed for someone you love, contact your pastor of the diocese's Respect Life Apostolate. They will be happy to help you consider approaches that are in accordance with our Church's teaching about care for those who are sick or dying.
~ Most Rev. Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis, July 6, 2010 column in *St. Louis Review*

OFFICE OF PRO-LIFE

Do you seek healing from a past abortion experience either recent or many years ago? Call 1-866-3 Rachel, the confidential Project Rachel Hotline, for information about compassionate post-abortion counseling and reconciliation and Rachel's Vineyard Retreats.

ADULT EDUCATION

'Sundays at the Well' – Fall 2010
"A Good Man Asks WHY?"

(The Book of Job and the Meaning of Suffering)

Ever wondered how a long God could allow there to be so much suffering in the world? Ever questioned how God could allow so much pain and suffering to affect the innocent, children or an entire nation? Do these thoughts ever make you think that there might not even be a God? Well, you are not alone. Job, in the Old Testament asked the very same questions. Join us as we explore the question of the meaning of suffering with other parishioners beginning **Sunday, September 12th in Longinus Hall from 9:15 to 10:20 a.m.** Please call the **Rectory at 622-5470** to sign up, or put your name on the sign-up sheets at the side exits of the church.

R. C. I. A.

RCIA is for anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic or in updating and deepening their Catholic Faith. If anyone has been away from the Church for awhile, this is a great way to re-energize one's understanding and prayer life.

If you or anyone you know fit these above qualifications, please give the rectory a call! More information will follow!

Genesis 1's Upcoming Events

Teen Mass

September 19th @ 10:30 a.m. Mass

for anyone (from all parishes) in **grades 6th – 12th**
(nothing fancy, just all teens are invited to sit on the tabernacle side of church together)

Friends are always welcomed...no RSVP needed.

Picnic @ Christy Joy's

September 19th @ 12 Noon

for anyone in grades 6th – 12th
food, entertainment, friends...something to do right after Mass! And yes, the bouncy balloon returns for all!

Friends are always welcomed.

Contact Info

Facebook: "Rachael Kubick"

Email: genesis1yg@aim.com. Phone: 570 - 581- 6109

FAMILY MATTERS

Athletes and Sports. Lord, we ask you to bless all our children who are involved in sports and athletic competition. Give them (and us) a right attitude about competition on and off the playing field. We ask that all be healthy and safe in their activities. We pray this week that all of our parish students and families give witness to the true values of sportsmanship through these activities.

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Shiver me timbers, VBS is over. Summer is over too!
So now it is time to think about NEXT Summer!

SAVE THE DATES!

VBS 2011 will be held

Sunday through Thursday, June 19 – 23, 2011.

Be sure to also take the time to thank someone that helped make your VBS 2010 experience a great one. The following people (and perhaps a few others that we may have missed with apologies!) made VBS possible through their generous gifts of time and talents.

Sarah Alderman, Christine Auker, Emilie Baker, Alexia Bonacci, Cass Champion, Grace Casey, Maddie Consugar, Rebecca Consugar, Matthew Conway, Sally Dalvert, Adrian Datte, Dave Derbes, Michelle Eroh, Julie Fiorillo, Claire Freeman, Bill Gianfagna, Karen Glunz, Jackie Gordon, Christina Groves, Bob Hahner, Michelle Hahner, Sarah Hahner, Theresa Hossler, Kathy Hughes, Christie Joy, Father Keifer, Hannah Kostick, Fr. Loeper, Justina Majestic, Heather Myers, Catherine Nedeau, Katelyn Palamar, Josette Peckman, Jean Quirk, Deacon Quirk, Darlene Rakus, Luke Rissinger, Clement Rushanan, Joe Ryan, Marie Ryan, Megan Ryan, Tina Seiger, Donna Skosnick, Rick Smith, Dave Steffan, Kimberly Tokonitz, Deacon Visot, Sammi Weis, Emily Witmier, Anthony Wojciechowsky, Sr. Maryanne Zakreski, Lorne Zanis, Adalie Zanis, Matt Zemanick, Tiffany Zerbe, Chris Zerbe, Dave Zerbe

We look forward to seeing you next year! Visit www.SaintJohnPottsville.org for a link to 2010 VBS photo memories!

Looking for a Christian Men's Group?

Searching for a Group of Like-Minded Men?

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

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

Our next meeting is scheduled for

Thursday, September 19th– 7 p.m.

at United Methodist Church in Port Carbon

ROSARY FOR LIFE

When: Sunday, September 26th

(and every fourth Sunday of the month)

Time: 9:15 a.m.

Where: here at St. John's Church

Who: All are welcome from all churches

Why: because every 23 seconds a baby is aborted

Contact: Andrew Kubick 399-5102 or

email prayerforlife122@yahoo.com

PARISH COUNCIL

St. John's Parish Council will meet

Monday, September 20th – 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall.

There are two ways that any parishioner may raise a question or concern or make recommendations.

1. Parishioners may approach any Parish Council Member listed below and ask that a question, concern, etc. be brought up at the meeting.
2. Parishioners may write their concerns, etc. and put it (them) in the suggestion box provided in the rear of the church. These may be signed or unsigned. They will then be brought up at the Council meeting.

Elected Members

Bill Casey
Janet Daubert **
Jennifer Daubert **
Robert DeColli Jr.
Bill Gianfagna
Kathy Gianfagna
Noel Glunz
Mary Hahner
Debbie Herb
Jan Kurtek
Maureen Kurtek
Eric Lieberman
Mark Major **
Albert Nastasi

Elected Members

Mary Porter
John Powers
Gerry Schwartz **
Tina Seiger
Mary Sitcoske
Dave Steffan
Dave Zerbe **

Appointed Members

Lucilla Kochol
Rachael Kubick
Carol Lasco
Frances Mickey
Joe Rehnert

Ex-Officio

Ed Brahler
Deacon Luis R. Visot
Sister Maryanne
Father Dave



** denotes newly elected member

FAMILY GUILD

The **Family Guild** is a small organization which sponsors activities for the elementary school students of the parish.

Through our fundraising efforts we sponsor two spiritual based programs throughout the year. The programs are the Lent Event and the Advent-ure.

The **Family Guild** also strives to make the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation a little more special for our children by purchasing gifts and providing flowers for these joyous occasions.

If you would like to become more involved within the parish and be a positive influence in the spiritual lives of our parish youth, consider joining the **Family Guild**. We always welcome a new face among us.

If interested please call the **Rectory 622-5470**.

**Our next meeting ..Tuesday, September 14th – 7 p.m.
in the Rectory Fellowship Room**

MONTHLY PARISH BREAKFAST

Sunday, September 26th

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in Russell Building

Menu includes: Ham, Bacon, Sausage.
Homefries, Scrapple, Pancakes, French Toast,
Eggs to order, Beverages.
A la carte menu available.
Prices: \$4.00 to \$8.00

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S UNION ANNUAL HARVEST AUCTION

When: Wednesday, September 15th @ 7 p.m.

Where: Longinus Hall

Items from the "Harvest" will be donated by members and auctioned off as a fundraiser. It's a lot of fun! Our auctioneer is our own Dorothy Hahner Stangl. All members are welcome to participate with harvest donations or as a prospective buyer. Refreshments will be served. For further information, please call the Rectory 622-5470.



MISSION APPEAL

The weekend of **September 25/26**, the Rev. Jeffrey Duaimi, C.S.Sp., will visit our parish to speak at the Masses about the missionary work of the Church and in particular that of the Fathers of the Holy Spirit ("the Spiritans"), earlier known as the Holy Ghost Fathers.

This visit is part of a national program whereby annually a representative of one of the missionary groups visits parishes of the Diocese to enlist support for the mission work of the Church. The Congregation of the Holy Spirit is an international community engaged in a wide range of missionary activity in many areas of the world. Father Duaimi, who has worked in the Spiritan missions in Haiti, presently serves as President of Holy Ghost Preparatory School in Bethlehem, Pa.

When Jesus said: "*You shall witness to me in Jerusalem and in Samaria and to the ends of the earth*" He made the spread of the Gospel an essential part of our Catholic life.

We urge you to respond generously to Father Duaimi's appeal.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Adoption: Catholic Charities is accepting inquiries from married couples interested in domestic infant and/or international adoption. Please contact Patricia Reusch at 610-435-1541, ext. 325 or e-mail preusch@allentowndiocese.org.

Advisory Board: Catholic Charities seeks candidates from throughout the Diocese of Allentown to serve on the agency's Advisory Board. Please call or e-mail Lynne Shampain, Development Administrator, at 610-791-3888 or lshampain@allentowndiocese.org.

Services Offered. Catholic Charities is offering services at Annunciation BVM Parish in Shenandoah on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Services include pregnancy and parenting support; case management for individuals, families, and older adults; and information and referral. Walk-ins are welcome, however, appointments are encouraged. Please call Catholic Charities at 628-0466 to schedule an appointment or for further information.

Workshop. A Listening Heart – Developing Communication Skills for Parish Outreach on Thursday, September 30th from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. This free workshop will be held here at St. John's. Please register by calling 628-0466 by September 28th.

FOOD COLLECTION

Three million children die each year from hunger related causes. Thank you for doing the small things, like feeding your neighbors, with great love. God bless.

Items Needed:

Stuffing Mix	Canned Fruit
Broth	Packaged Cookies
Coffee/Tea (instant)	Jelly
Hot Chocolate	Hot Cereal packages
Apple Sauce	Canned Sweet Potatoes
Peanut Butter	Beef Stew
Soups	Spaghetti
Spaghetti Sauce	Macaroni & Cheese

Kindly place your donations in the basket at the 10th Street entrance at the bottom of the steps. Thank you.

PLEASE – NO OUTDATED ITEMS

OUTREACH MINISTRY

REACH OUT and TOUCH SOMEONE

Call Margie Glunz 622-3067

Call us if you need us.

Volunteers are needed!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our next Outreach meeting will be held at the Patterson Building on Wednesday, September 22nd at 7 p.m.

Saint John's Ministries

People Helping People (anonymously)

Can you help us by making us aware of any person or situation that could benefit from our efforts?

Please fill out form below with as much information as you can verify with first-hand knowledge. Your identification is not necessary; however, it could be helpful in our work and would be kept in strict confidence.

Do you know of a person or situation who needs assistance?

(i.e. illness, job loss, loneliness, homebound, etc.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

Any first-hand information you would like to share about this person:

Your Name: _____

Phone _____

Drop sealed form at the Rectory
or call S.Maryanne 622-5470 ext. 5

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Now that the children are back in school, how about a *refresher course* for Mom and Dad? Marriage Encounter is an enrichment weekend to help make good marriages even better. Register now for the Fall weekend – October 15-17 – at Fatima Renewal Center, Scranton. Call 1-800-787-7679 or go online at www.wwnenepa.org for more information

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

School's in—for engaged couples, that is, who want to learn as much as they can about how to make their marriage work. Enroll in an Engaged Encounter Weekend and graduate with honors! EE is sponsored by the Office of Family Life Ministries of the Diocese of Allentown. For more information and the schedule of weekends for 2010, call **Carla Neupauer at 610-289-8900 ext.238.**

PRAYER FOR OUR TROOPS AROUND THE WORLD

"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior."

PINNACLE HEALTH HOSPICE

Volunteer Training Sessions

Tuesdays beginning September 14th through October 5th from 6 to 9 p.m.

Daytime Volunteer Training Sessions

Thursdays beginning September 16th through October 7th from 1 to 4 p.m.

All training sessions will be held at the Pinnacle Health Hospice office, 301 One Norwegian Plaza, Pottsville. Registration is necessary to attend.

For more information or to register, please call Linda Pretti-O'Reilly, Coordinator of Volunteers at 628-2290 or 800-222-5236 or e-mail lpretti-oreilly@pinnaclehealth.org

PNEUMONIA VACCINE

Our local Schuylkill County State Health Center will be offering a free clinic on **September 24th** for vaccination to prevent pneumococcal pneumonia. This vaccine is recommended for all adults 65 years of age and older. People of any age with certain conditions are also recommended for the vaccination. For more information and to schedule an appointment, call the Health Center at 621-3112.

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE

... Janet Daubert

Unless you're exercising strenuously for more than an hour, you don't need a sports drink. You certainly don't need the sodium. A 20-ounce bottle of Gatorade, for instance, has 275 milligrams of sodium, which makes a big dent in the 1,500 milligram daily limit for people over 40. Yet sports drinks are sold alongside bottled water and other beverages in markets, cafeterias, and convenience stores, where they're often bought simply as a refreshment.

New Address for Sister Barbara Jean Sister Barbara Jean Wojnicki

**Divine Providence Convent
302 N. River Road
Des Plaines, IL 60016
Phone: 854-313-5442**

E-mail: bjwojnicki@yahoo.com

CATECHIST CORNER

Quiz Corner:

What are the four marks of the Church? Grade 8

Answers to last week's quiz question

What are the Spiritual Works of Mercy?

1. Counsel the doubtful
 2. Instruct the ignorant.
 3. Admonish sinners.
 4. Comfort the afflicted.
 5. Forgive offenses.
 6. Bear wrongs patiently.
 7. Pray for the living and the dead.
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50TH ANNIVERSARY

Please keep **Sister Judy Baldino** in your thoughts and prayers as she celebrates fifty years as a Religious Sister of St. Joseph on **Sunday, October 24th** at the 11:30 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas More in Sarasota, Florida. Father Henry will be the main celebrant. Everyone is invited to join in this celebration. If you would like information on maps, places to stay, flights, etc., please contact Susan Jacobs at 941-923-1691 or write to St. Thomas More Parish, 2506 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota, Florida 34231.

CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS COLLECTION DRIVE

More than 150,000 troops are serving overseas and away from their families. **Cell Phones for Soldiers** has established Schlitzer Allen Pugh Funeral Home, 6th & W. Market Sts. as an official collection site and is asking Schuylkill County to support our brave troops by donating used cell phones at the funeral home. The goal is to provide every U.S. soldier with a way to call home for free. For more information, visit www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com



MASS CARDS – VARIOUS OCCASIONS

There are Sisters of St. Joseph Mass Cards available in the rectory for various occasions including Perpetual and Annual Memorial cards, Sympathy, Get Well, Thank You, Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Wedding, Anniversary, and Birthday. The cost is \$1.50; Perpetual Memorials are \$5.00.
