

The Parish Community of

# St. John the Evangelist

January 8-9, 2022

The Baptism of the Lord

## WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday 9:00 a.m.  
11:30 a.m.

## DAILY MASSES

Monday-Friday  
7:30 a.m.  
(Lower Level Chapel)

## MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA

Mondays immediately  
after the 7:30 a.m. Mass

## RECONCILIATION

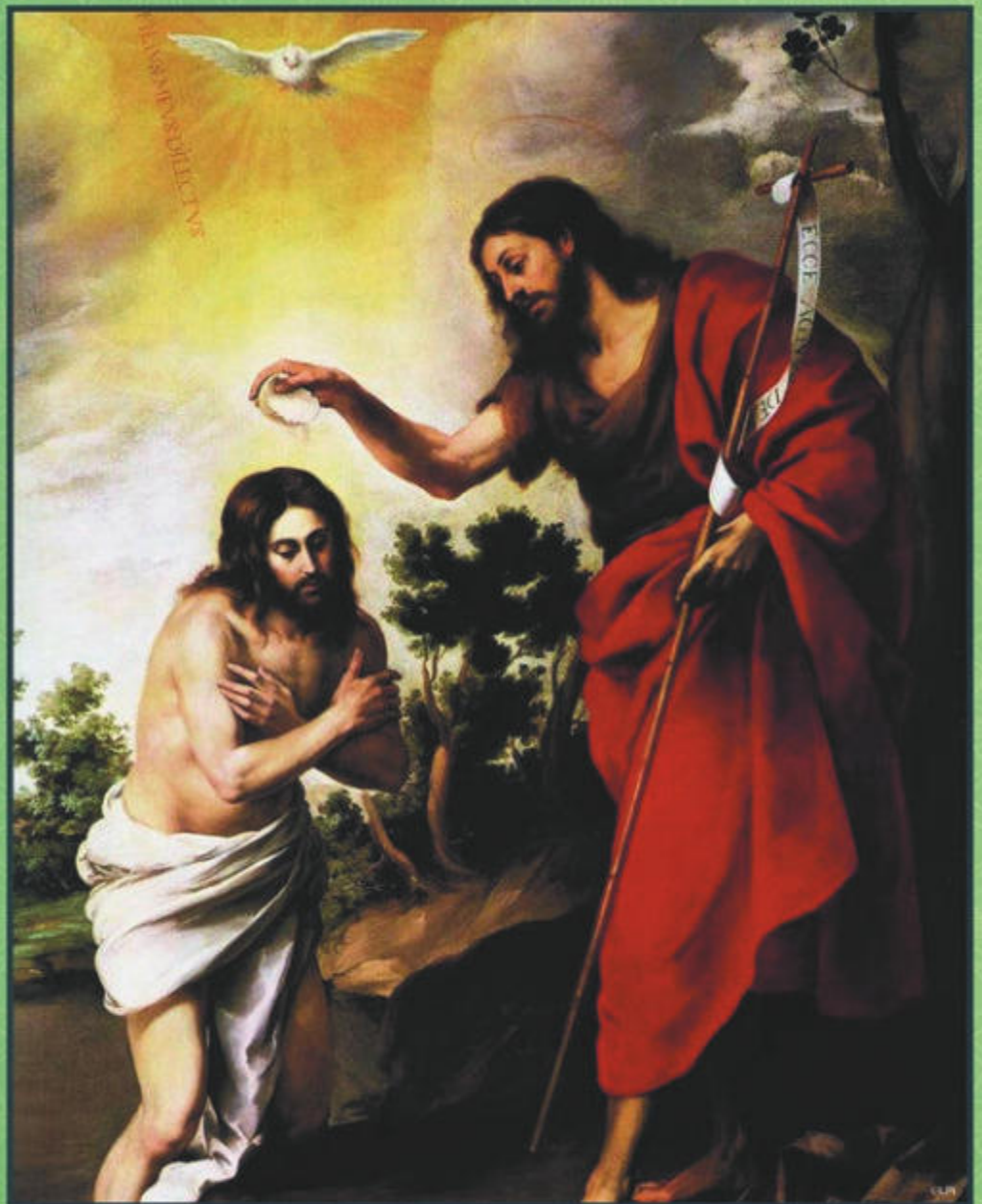
Saturdays  
3:45 p.m.-4:15 p.m.

## HOLY DAYS

As indicated in bulletin

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday  
9:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.



## THE BAPTISM *of the Lord*

"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16bc

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

35 William Street, Pittston PA 18640

Phone: 570.654.0053

Fax: 570.654.3751

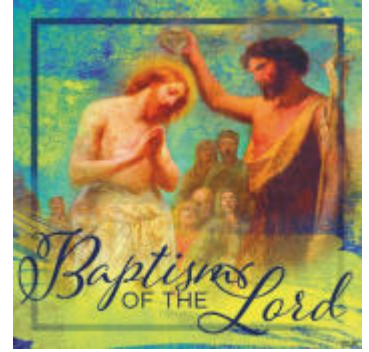
Web: [stjohnspittston.com](http://stjohnspittston.com)

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

**A**s you know, I am big on Baptism! Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus – certainly one of the major days in the season of Christmas. In fact, this day brings the Christmas season to its conclusion. It is the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus. We celebrate Jesus participating in what will become the cornerstone of the Christian faith. The first sacrament, Baptism, brings us sacramentally into the family of God. We recognize our adoption by God, his eternal love and care for us, and the responsibilities incurred at Baptism by the parents. The child's parents are charged with nurturing and encouraging the greatest gift they will ever give to their child – faith. Nothing can be more important than the love they will share with this beautiful gift of God found in their child and the continuing commitment to raise this child in a way that will give them all that they need to be happy, loving, kind, and fruitful members of the Kingdom of God here on earth. Can you imagine a greater legacy? Fame and fortune can fade, power and authority can be taken away, but the gift of a realistic and strong faith will stay with that child forever. Teaching that child the ways of the faith and teaching him or her to pray to a God who is truly a Father, one who that child knows at the core of his or her being is present throughout life, one who will one day – hopefully after a long and happy life – welcome that child to eternal life, is the sacred duty and honor of a parent. Jesus participates fully in the act of being human and receives the gift of Baptism. He who is already one with the Holy Spirit is now one with us and further dignifies human life, making it truly worthy of our eventual eternal life in heaven. As Paul tells us today, "he saves us by the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life". Let us celebrate together today the end of the Christmas season and promise God to go forth bearing witness to Him in all things, as was promised for us by our parents at our own baptism.

*Father Elston*



## LECTIO DIVINA

Suggested verse: *"The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of our great God and savior Jesus Christ." Read, reflect, pray, and act upon God's word in your life.*

## HOW WILL THIS NEW YEAR BE DIFFERENT?

*It is never too late to begin again! Well, maybe one day it will be, but not today! Think about some of the things listed here (not listed in order of importance) and see how they might work in your life in this new year of grace!*

1. Grow closer to God.
2. Attend Church as often as possible.
3. Be careful and live up to your responsibilities towards others – we are after all, a community of people. We are asked to act in awareness and care of others!
4. Pray every day, even if just for a few minutes, in a place of calm, quiet.
5. Be generous in all things. Don't consider worthiness of the recipient; simply be generous in all things!
6. Engage in random acts of kindness.
7. Pray for the world. The need may never have been greater!
8. Encourage others to be faithful. Invite them (especially those who may have been away from the practice of the faith) to reconnect. If I can help, let me know!
9. Love everyone. Discard hatred, anger, fear and as much anxiety as possible, even in the complex and complicated world in which we live. We all have the power to do this.
10. Be grateful. Consciously choose happiness. It can be done, no matter the circumstances of your life. Gratitude, even and especially when life is not perfect, is truly a spiritual gift from God. Make use of it every day!



## HEALTH CLINIC UPDATE

We are working to re-establish our Care and Concern Ministry, especially the resumption of service of our Free Health Clinic. The process is going well, but we are very much in need of nurses. If you are an RN or an LPN (active or retired) and feel you can volunteer one night per week (even occasionally), *please call the office in either rectory* to let Father Elston know. So far, it seems that we will return to Wednesday nights. Thank you!

### CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

On behalf of the many needy families in our area, thank you to all who participated in this year's Christmas Giving Tree. What an overwhelming response and true sign of your generosity!

### DAILY MASS

On winter weather days when the Pittston Area School District is closed, delayed, or having a virtual instruction day, our 7:30 a.m. Mass will be cancelled. The 11:30 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Marello will still take place. Also, please note that on days when we have inclement weather, our parish offices may be closed.



### WINTER COAT DRIVE



The Care & Concern Ministries are accepting donations of new or gently used adult winter coats. Also needed are hats, gloves, and scarves. No suits, sport coats, clothing, or shoes will be accepted. Coats will be made available to low-income households in the Pittston/Wyoming Area School Districts. Donations may be dropped off at St. John's Parish Office 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Mon-Fri.

### CHOIR "ON HOLD"

Because of the significant rise in COVID-19, our parish choirs will not meet until further notice.

### HOLY NAME SOCIETY LOTTERY TICKETS

Tickets are now available at the Parish Office for February 2022, every Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Lottery tickets are \$10 each. Proceeds benefit the Holy Name Society projects and our parish. Returns must be in before January 28, 2022 in order to register all tickets. Thank you for your support.

### CONCERT SERIES

*Exciting news from St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph Marello Parishes!* We are in the process of planning a concert series that we hope to begin this spring. Both of our churches will host concerts by our own parish musicians, as well as other musicians from near and far, including collegiate musical ensembles, renowned liturgical composers, and world-class concert organists. A complete schedule will be available later this winter, but we just wanted to give you a heads-up about something we will all be able to look forward to in the New Year!



## HYMNAL MEMORIALIZATION

In late November, our parish began using *Gather*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, published by GIA Publications. We look forward to introducing new music from these hymnals. You are welcome to sponsor one or more hymnals in memory or in honor of loved ones. Please use this form and submit with payment, in the collection basket, at the parish office, or by mail. **Cost per hymnal is \$25.00.**



Please select one:             In Memory of             In Honor of

Names of those \_\_\_\_\_  
you wish to remember/honor: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed:    \$ \_\_\_\_\_             Cash             Check

**PASTORAL TEAM**

*Pastor*

**Rev. Joseph Elston**

*Assistant Pastor*

**Rev. Jackson Pinheiro, OSJ**

*Pastor Emeritus*

**Msgr. John J. Bendik**

*Deacon*

**Deacon David Marx**

*Director of Religious Formation*

**JoAnne McHale**

[joannemchale@stjohnspittston.com](mailto:joannemchale@stjohnspittston.com)

*Director of Music Ministry*

**Dr. Charles Stevens**

*Pastoral Associate, Organist,  
Youth & Young Adult Ministry*

**Michael Sowa**

[msowa@stjohnspittston.com](mailto:msowa@stjohnspittston.com)

*Office Staff*

**Cathy Rusnok**

**Theresa Schubel**

*Sacristans*

**Michael Brown**

**Jack Riley**

*Grounds & Maintenance*

**Bob Ayre**

**Rick Rinish**

**Jason Roche**

**Don Werkheiser**

*Rectory & Household Staff*

**Jane Roche**

**Midge Butsavage**



**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Monday, Jan. 10</b> 7:30 a.m.	<b>Weekday</b> Theresa Burnsby	<i>by Carol Hobbs</i>
<b>Tuesday, Jan. 11</b> 7:30 a.m.	<b>Weekday</b> Joseph Kelly Jr.	<i>by Cella Family</i>
<b>Wednesday, Jan. 12</b> 7:30 a.m.	<b>Weekday</b> Irene A. Richards	<i>by Kepich Family</i>
<b>Thursday, Jan. 13</b> 7:30 a.m.	<b>Weekday</b> Joseph Garrubba	<i>by Sheryl Grevera</i>
<b>Friday, Jan. 14</b> 7:30 a.m.	<b>Weekday</b> Connie Caprari	<i>by Paul and Paula Caprari</i>
<b>Saturday, Jan. 15</b> 4:30 p.m.	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Vigil)</b> Maureen Mulhern	<i>by Michael Sowa</i>
<b>Sunday, Jan. 16</b> 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Pat Cawley Leona Fidiam	<i>by Sisters</i> <i>by Cathy and Joe Chiumento</i>

**MEMORIAL HONOR CANDLES  
MONTH OF JANUARY**

**In memory of Peter and Martha Gechunis**  
*by Daughter Cathy*

**In memory of Sam and Joseph Valenti**  
*by Family Theresa and Renee'*

**ETERNAL REST GRANT  
UNTO THEM, O LORD**

*Sr. Myra Dziedzic, OSF*

*Ruth Morgan*

*Ann Noone*

*Sr. Mary William Philbin, IHM*

*Thomas C. Smith, Sr.*

**STEWARDSHIP: YOUR GIFT OF TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE**

**Weekend of December 18-19**

**\$8,340.00**

<b>Offertory:</b>	<b>\$ 6,720.00</b>
<b>Children:</b>	<b>\$ 10.00</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$ 174.00</b>
<b>Dues:</b>	<b>\$ 1,436.00</b>

**Total Envelopes Used: 357**

**CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY**

**\$15,322.00**

**NEW YEAR'S OFFERTORY**

**\$2,189.52**

**Weekend of December 26**

**\$10,715.00**

<b>Offertory:</b>	<b>\$ 9,378.00</b>
<b>Children:</b>	<b>\$ 53.00</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$ 169.00</b>
<b>Dues:</b>	<b>\$ 1,115.00</b>

**Total Envelopes Used: 513**

**Weekend of January 2**

**\$3,677.00**

<b>Offertory:</b>	<b>\$ 3,324.00</b>
<b>Children:</b>	<b>\$ 14.00</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$ 239.00</b>
<b>Dues:</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>

**Total Envelopes Used: 153**

**CARE AND CONCERN MINISTRIES**

*Important Updates for Our Ministries*

**FOOD PANTRY**

Free food is given, **by appointment**, to qualifying households in the Pittston Area and Wyoming Area School Districts. Households may receive food once per month from September through May. **Pre-qualification** is done by phone at **570-654-9923**. Proof of address (recent utility bill) is required at your first appointment **each year**. Food Pantry appointments are made for the **First and Second Wednesdays** of each month. This ministry is closed from June through August.

**KIDS CLOSET**

The Kids Closet offers new and gently used clothing for free to children (sizes newborn through 16) to families in the Pittston Area and Wyoming Area School Districts. **Photo ID** is required to participate in this ministry. Families are able to visit the Kids Closet every **six weeks**. This ministry is open the

**First and Second Wednesdays** of each month from **9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** with **no evening hours**.

**TOY AND BOOK CORNER**

The "Corner" offers new and gently used toys and books for free to children and families in the Pittston Area and Wyoming Area School Districts. **Photo ID** is required to participate in this ministry. Families are able to visit the Toy and Book Corner every **six weeks**.

This ministry is open the **First and Second Wednesdays** of each month from **9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** with **no evening hours**.

**PEDIATRIC HEALTH CLINIC**

The Pediatric Clinic offers basic health care for children ages newborn through 11. Children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Call **570-855-6035** for more information.

**Information about the Free Health Clinic is forthcoming.**

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

We are most grateful for the following donations made to the many ministries of the Church and deeply appreciate the thoughtfulness.

**FOOD PANTRY**

Anonymous; Richard and Mary Lou Kern, Helene Gershey, Mark Carmon, Weiss Markets; **(In honor of Msgr. Bendik)** by Katie and John Ignatovich.

**HEALTH CLINIC**

Anonymous; Al and Aileen Melone, Michael Pienta, Daniel Bechetti, Michele Christ, Mary Ann Schmitt; **(In memory of Dorothy Ann Delaney)** by Francis Musto; **(In honor of Stephen Lamper)** by Ann Connors.

**CARE AND CONCERN MINISTRIES**

**(In honor of Katie and John Ignatovich)** by Bill Burke and Stan Roth; **(In memory of Colleen Conlon)** by Atty. Joseph D. Burke, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mericle; **(In memory of Eileen Casper)** by Ann Marie Mathis; **(In memory of Michelle Turco)** by Ann Marie Mathis; **(In memory of Close Friends and Relatives)** by Catherine Bender; **(In answer of Prayers and Blessings)** by Catherine Bender.

**KIDS CLOSET**

**(In memory of Joseph Fereck)** by Michael and Mary Lou Fereck.



<b>Sat., Jan. 15 – 4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Sun., Jan. 16 – 9:00 a.m.</b>
<i>Lector</i> P. Feeney	<i>Lector</i> J. Mudlock
<i>Server</i> A. Lazzari	<i>Server</i> A. & A. Butcher
<i>EM</i> J. & M. Fearick	<i>EM</i> R. Arbacheski
<i>Cantor</i> A. Irvin	<i>Cantor</i> E. Johnson

**Sun., Jan. 16 – 11:30 a.m.**

*Lector* R.M. Marselles  
*Server* G. Caprio  
*EM* N. Chopyak  
*Cantor* C. Boos

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND**

**January 16, 2022**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

First Reading	Isaiah 62:1-5
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 12:4-11
Gospel	John 2:1-11

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

# VIGIL MASS FOR LIFE

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022**  
**6:00PM | ST. MARIA GORETTI CHURCH, LAFLIN**

**CELEBRANT: MOST REV. JOSEPH C. BAMBERA**  
**BISHOP OF SCRANTON**

Join us on the eve of the 48th annual March  
for Life to pray for a greater respect of all  
human life, from conception to natural death,  
and every moment in between.

***We invite you to bring a new pack of diapers to be  
donated to Shepherd's Maternity House and St.  
Joseph's Center Baby and Children's Pantry***

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG**

Saint John the Evangelist Parish  
*Take-Out*

# Pasta Dinner



**Wednesday, January 19, 2022**

Pickup from 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Msgr. Bendik Pastoral Center

*Donation: \$15.00 per dinner*

**Menu includes Pasta with Homemade Meatballs,  
Salad, Bread, and Dessert.**

Please call Jane Roche at 570-905-0325 by Monday, January 17 to place your order.



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