

# Welcome

*to the Parishes of St. John XXIII and St. Richard*

**Reverend Robert T. Finlan, Pastor**  
**Deacon Edward J. Girard**

*May 3, 2026*  
*Fifth Sunday of Easter*



**Church of St. John XXIII**

307 Pine Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252

**Phone:** 570-225-7410 ~ **Fax:** 570-668-4406

**Email:** secretary@sj23tamaqua.org

**Website:** www.sj23tamaqua.org

**Facebook:** Parish of St John XXIII Tamaqua

**YouTube:** St John XXIII Catholic Church Tamaqua

#### **Office Hours**

Monday-Thursday ~ 9:00AM-3:00PM

#### **Parish Staff**

Dale Bonenberger, Director of Music

Louise Howells, Cemetery Administrator

Lisa Frederick, Office Administrator

Patricia Radocha, Business Manager

Melissa Grimminger, Director of Religious Education



**Church of St. Richard**

799 Barnesville Drive, Barnesville, PA 18214

**Phone:** 570-467-2315 ~ **Fax:** 570-467-2462

**Email:** strichardadmin@ptd.net

**Website:** www.strichard.org

**Facebook:** Church of St Richard

#### **Office Hours**

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday  
9:00AM-2:00PM

#### **Parish Staff**

Deacon John A. Setlock, (Retired)

Teri Howerter, Office Administrator

Mary Soberick, Business Manager

Krissy Wonsock, Director of Religious Education

#### **Catholic Schools**

**St. Jerome Regional School** ~ 50 Meadow Avenue, Tamaqua PA ~ 570-668-2757 ~ Grades PreK-8

**Marian Catholic High School** ~ 166 Marian Avenue, Tamaqua PA ~ 570-467-3335 ~ Grades 9-12

**St. Joseph's Center for Special Learning** ~ 302 Randel Street, Schuylkill Haven PA ~ 570-622-4638 ~ Children & Adults

#### **Sacrament of Baptism**

Baptisms are usually celebrated on a Sunday afternoon. Parents need to be registered parishioners and attend a Baptismal Preparation Class. At least one Godparent must be a practicing Catholic and obtain a Certificate of Eligibility from their parish.

#### **Sponsor Eligibility**

Certificates of Eligibility for Baptism and Confirmation require the sponsor to be a registered and active member of the parish, and if married, in a valid marriage recognized by the Catholic Church. Please call the Parish Office for more information.

#### **Sacrament of Marriage**

Arrangements should be made at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date to begin pre-nuptial instructions before making any arrangements. Please call the parish office for more information and to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.

#### **Parish Prayer List**

To be placed on the Parish Prayer List or to be removed when appropriate, please call either Parish Office and someone will be happy to assist you. Names placed on the Prayer List are automatically removed after three months.

#### **Diocesan Secretary for Office of Safe Environment**

Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS ~ P.O. Box F Allentown, PA 18105  
610-871-5200 ext. 2204 ~ prusso@allentowndioocese.org

#### **Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator**

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak ~ 800-791-9209  
victimassistance@allentowndioocese.org

#### **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service**

If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) or by calling 800-276-1562.

<p><b>Saturday, May 2</b>                  2:45PM – 3:15PM Confessions: SJ                  3:30PM Mass: SJ</p> <p>5:00PM – 5:15PM Confessions: SR                  5:30PM Mass: SR</p>	<p><b>Vigil to the Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>                   Mass Intention: Catherine Tracy</p> <p>Mass Intention: Olivia, Elijah, and Paul</p>
<p><b>Sunday, May 3</b>                  8:30AM Mass: SJ</p> <p>10:30AM Mass: SR</p>	<p><b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>                  Mass Intention: Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. John XXIII and St. Richard Parishes</p> <p>Mass Intention: Thomas Demko</p>
<p><b>Monday, May 4</b>                  7:00AM Mass: SJ (<i>held at St. Richard</i>)</p>	<p><b>Easter Weekday</b>                  Mass Intention: The Camerini Family</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, May 5</b>                  7:00AM Mass: SJ (<i>held at St. Richard</i>)                  8:30AM Eucharistic Adoration/Benediction: SJ</p>	<p><b>Easter Weekday</b>                  Mass Intention: The Ginda Family</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, May 6</b>                  7:00AM Mass: SR</p>	<p><b>Easter Weekday</b>                  Mass Intention: Joan Logan</p>
<p><b>Thursday, May 7</b>                  7:00AM Mass: SR</p>	<p><b>Easter Weekday</b>                  Mass Intention: Mary Frances Dunleavy</p>
<p><b>Friday, May 8</b>  <i>No Daily Mass at either church</i></p>	<p><b>Easter Weekday</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday, May 9</b>                  2:45PM – 3:15PM Confessions: SJ                  3:30PM Mass: SJ</p> <p>5:00PM – 5:15PM Confessions: SR                  5:30PM Mass: SR</p>	<p><b>Vigil to the Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>                   Mass Intention: Mother’s Day Memorials</p> <p>Mass Intention: Mother’s Day Memorials</p>
<p><b>Sunday, May 10</b>                  8:30AM Mass: SJ</p> <p>10:30AM Mass: SR</p>	<p><b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>                  Mass Intention: Mother’s Day Memorials</p> <p>Mass Intention: Mother’s Day Memorials</p>

**TODAY’S LITURGY OF THE WORD:** In the first reading, the Twelve choose from among the community the first deacons. The second reading from the First Letter of Peter provides a beautiful and yet challenging description of who we are as Christians. We are, by virtue of baptism, a chosen race, a royal priesthood, and a people set apart to give praise to God. Taken together, these statements remind us what a grace and privilege it is to be chosen, but they also reassure us of how God sees us and how we ought to see ourselves and others. Everything we do must reflect this holy and royal status. In the Gospel, Jesus encourages the disciples by promising to return and take them to his Father’s house.

**TODAY’S RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 10:** Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

**St. John XXIII**

The **Order of Mass** can be found starting on page 140 in the Journeysongs Hymnal.

The **Heritage Mass** can be found on the following pages:  
 Glory to God – 226 / Holy, Holy, Holy – 227 / Memorial Acclamation – 228 / Amen – 231 / Lamb of God – 232

The prelude is **Sheep May Safely Graze** by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)  
 The postlude is **Fugue sur l’Hymne Ave Maris Stella** by Jean-François Dandrieu (1682-1738)

The altar flowers are in celebration of the 40th wedding anniversary of Dr. Tom and Elinor Dirnberger.

## PRAYER LIST FOR BOTH PARISHES

### Please remember in your prayers...

David Rickert, Mildred Cara, Sandy Mehalko, Tom Fredericks, Andrew Eremus, Rita Klekamp, Anthony Vevasis, Joan Strause, Regina Pavlovich, John Gallagher /Shelley Lazarchick, Alonzo Borja, Marlene Fatula, Roy Paisley, Marie Kalpinsky, Ellie Setlock, Chase Schaller, Kathy Sanchez, Quinn Derlunas, David Manos, Rob Weed, Joan Manos, Mary Ellen King, Thomas Graboritz, Sue Mannello, Pastor Jack Murry / Magnolia Pavlovich, Barbara Karnish, Jack Praskac

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them...**

John Cremwalk

## DEVOTIONAL CANDLES

<p><b>St. John XXIII</b> <b>Sanctuary Lamp</b> In Memory of John Longhi <b>Crucifix Candle</b> In Memory of Deceased Members of the Castagna Family</p>	<p><b>St. Richard</b> <b>Sanctuary Lamp</b> My Special Intention <b>Blessed Virgin Mary</b> Healing Prayers for Sara Gursik <b>Sacred Heart</b> Special Intention</p>
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## YOUTH FORMATION

**Children's bulletins are available in Narthex/Vestibule**

<p><b>St. John XXIII</b> <b>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2025-2026</b> <b>Saturday, May 9th</b> – 12 noon – First Holy Communion <b>Sunday, May 10th</b> – 8:30AM Mass – May Crowning  Please pray for the children who are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion on May 9th.</p>	<p><b>St. Richard</b> <b>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2025-2026</b> <b>CCD/PREP CLASSES - UPCOMING EVENTS</b> Grades 1-4; Sunday, May 3rd at 9:30AM <b>First Penance:</b> Thursday, May 7th at 6:00PM <b>First Holy Communion:</b> Saturday, May 9th at 10:00AM Any questions, contact Krissy Wonsock at 732-687-0433  <b>CUB SCOUT MEETINGS / EVENTS</b> Every Sunday from 4:00PM-6:00PM in the Parish Hall</p>
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## ADULT FORMATION

**Adult Small Group:** Do you feel overwhelmed by the bible or guilty for not knowing it better? John Bergsma provides an easy-to-understand and fresh walk-through salvation history with insights to help you to see how God's love story unfolds in scripture in his book: Bible Basics for Catholics: A New Picture of Salvation History (Expanded Edition). Join us for small group discussion as we explore this book and gain a deeper understanding of salvation history and ourselves. Call Cheryl at 484-866-3835 with any questions. Tuesdays from 10:00AM until 11:30AM in the St. John XXIII Parish Hall.

**Bible Study:** Wednesday evenings from 4:00PM – 6:00PM in the St. Richard Cry Room. This is an open invitation to all from both St. Richard and St. John XXIII Parishes. The topic is Psalms.

**OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults),** formerly called "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)," is the process through which one becomes a full member of the Roman Catholic Church. Full membership in the Catholic Church involves a whole formation process, which includes the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Most Holy Eucharist. For those who are already baptized and want to be received into the Catholic Church, please contact either Parish Office. Mystagogogy (living the mystery) to Pentecost. New inquirers are welcome.

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today's second collection is for the Parish Facility Fund.

Upcoming collections are...

5/10 ~ Mother's Day      5/14 ~ Ascension      5/17 ~ Parish Utilities

## ST. JOHN XXIII AND ST. RICHARD NEWS AND UPDATES

This Week	
Sunday	BINGO at West Penn Fire Co., 21 Municipal Road, New Ringgold – doors open 12 noon, BINGO starts 1:00PM
Monday	6:30PM St. John XXIII Fundraising Meeting held in the Parish Hall
Thursday	6:00PM St. John XXIII Parish Choir rehearsal in the balcony 6:00PM First Penance at St. Richard
Saturday	First Holy Communion: 10:00AM at St. Richard, 12:00PM at St. John XXIII
Upcoming Events	
May 10	May Crowning at both Sunday Masses and flower carnation sale at St. John XXIII Communion to the Homebound immediately after the 8:30AM Mass
May 12	7:00PM Rosary and Mass of Remembrance for anyone who has lost a child of any age at St. John XXIII 7:00PM St. Richard Fundraising Meeting held in the Parish Hall
May 13	Ascension Thursday Vigil Mass: 7:00PM Wednesday at St. John XXIII
May 14	Ascension Thursday Mass: 7:00AM Thursday at St. Richard
May 15-17	St. Richard Annual Basket Raffle fundraiser (see details below)
May 17	7:00PM Tamaqua Area High School Baccalaureate Service at St. John XXIII
May 18	6:00PM Pastoral Council Meeting in the St. Richard Parish Hall (meeting includes both parishes) Freckled Moose order forms due on May 18th – order pick-up date is June 3rd in St. John XXIII Parish Hall

### OUR PARISH BINGO IS TODAY – MAY 3rd

As in year's past, it will take place at the West Penn Fire Co., 21 Municipal Road, New Ringgold – Sunday, May 3rd – doors open at 12 noon and BINGO starts at 1:00PM. Tickets are \$25 and are available after Mass in the Family Room or at the door.

### “33 DAYS TO EUCHARISTIC GLORY” BOOK

In honor of the Diocese's 65th Jubilee Year, Bishop Schlert invites all parishioners to join a diocesan-wide Eucharistic Consecration. Beginning this Tuesday, May 5th, we will spend 33 days in prayer together, leading to our Consecration on Sunday, June 7th – the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. Free copies of the book “33 Days to Eucharistic Glory” by Matthew Kelly are available at all Masses this weekend. Please take one home and join us on this journey of grace.

### GOLF OUTING AT MOUNTAIN VALLEY – MAY 16th

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning will host its 35th Annual Golf Classic on May 16th at Mountain Valley Golf Course. Join us for a day of food, fellowship, and golf in support of the students and adults we serve. For more information or to register, please visit [www.stjosephctr.com](http://www.stjosephctr.com) or call 570-622-4638.

### SERVICE AWARD AT ST. JOHN XXIII

St. Vincent de Paul Society will present an 8th Grade Service Award of \$100 each to one boy and one girl graduating from the 8th Grade who: 1) Intends to enter Marian High School as an incoming freshman and 2) Has demonstrated service to his/her Parish, School, and Community. Applications are available at SJRS and in the Family Room and are due on May 21.

### FRECKLED MOOSE PASTRY FUNDRAISER

Order forms for the Freckled Moose Pastry Fundraiser are in the St. John XXIII Family Room. Order forms with payment are due on May 18th. Order pick-up is on June 3rd.

### SAFE ENVIRONMENT CLEARANCES

A table is set up in the Parish Hall, and the instructions and policies are available to read and sign. If you volunteer at St. John XXIII, please visit the table after Mass to pick up your packet. Contact Cheryl with any questions – 484-866-3835.

### ST. JOHN XXIII CAFÉ IN THE PARISH HALL

Please join us in the Parish Hall immediately after Mass for coffee, cookies, and fellowship.

### FROM THE DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN

The 2026 *Because We Are Catholic Annual Appeal* is underway! Our parish support is a vital part of this Diocesan-wide effort to serve children and families in our own community and throughout the Diocese of Allentown. Many thanks to those who have made a commitment, however if you have not done so already, please bring your pledge form to Mass next weekend. The participation of all our parish families makes it possible to serve those in need. Remember every gift counts, no matter how big or small. Please visit [www.BecauseWeAreCatholic.org](http://www.BecauseWeAreCatholic.org) and make your gift today.

### ST. RICHARD BASKET RAFFLE 2026

The event will begin on Friday, May 15th, and continue Saturday, with drawings to begin on Sunday, May 17th at 1:00PM. Please consider donating a basket for this fundraiser. **To donate**, contact Joann at 570-640-1034, Jack at 570-225-1771, or the Parish Office at 570-467-2315. **To volunteer selling tickets**, contact Joann. **PRE-SALE TICKETS** will be sold before and after all Masses this weekend in the Vestibule. Cost is \$20 for five sheets.

### MASS BOOK UPDATE AT ST. RICHARD

Mass dates are still available. Please also consider the Eternal Remembrance Society or any of the Devotional Candles including the Sanctuary Lamp. All requests must include the 2026 Intention Form and the \$10 per Mass/Candle stipend fee. The requests may be mailed, placed in collection, or dropped at the office.

### COMMUNION

Communion will be brought to all those seated in the front pews of St. Richard Church as well as the handicap pews in the back of St. John XXIII Church and the balcony.

### BOYER'S KEY TAG PROGRAM REMINDER

Thank you to everyone who is continuing to participate in this ongoing fundraiser. Key fobs are located at both entrances of St. Richard Church and on the table in the Family Room and Parish Hall of St. John XXIII Church.

### REMINDER

Bulletin announcements, including flyers, must be submitted no later than Tuesday at noon to the respective Parish Office.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER REMINDER**

Both St. Richard and St. John XXIII Parishes follow the Mahanoy Area School District for weekday Masses. If the district has a cancellation or delay because of weather, there will be NO weekday Mass. For Tuesday morning Holy Hour and Stations, we will follow the Tamaqua Area School District.

**CONFESSIONAL REMODEL UPDATE**

The roof directly above the confessional has developed a leak, and we plan to put a new roof on this section of the building. Until that happens, construction is halted. During this time, we will hold confessions in the actual confessional space, but please be aware that it's stripped down to the studs and concrete.

**CONFESSIONAL REMODEL UPDATE**

Our old confessional at St. John XXIII has been demolished, and a new one is being built in its place, however there is a delay. The roof directly above the confessional has developed a leak, and the roof in this section is at the end of its estimated life. We plan to put a new roof on this section of the building and until that happens, construction is halted for fear of more water infiltration. During this time, we will hold confessions in the actual confessional space, but please be aware that it's stripped down to the studs and concrete.

**MEALS-ON-WHEELS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

Meals-On-Wheels needs volunteers to help deliver meals to the Tamaqua area. If you are able to help, please contact Colleen at either taadcc@verizon.net or 570-668-6556.

**2026 MASS INTENTIONS AT ST. JOHN XXIII**

There is a limit of two Masses (one weekday, one weekend), one Sanctuary Lamp, and one Crucifix Candle. All requests must include the 2026 updated form along with a \$10 stipend per request. Forms are in the Parish Office and the Parish Hall. Requests must be made in person. Questions may be directed to Lisa in the Parish Office.

**OFFERTORY PROCESSION ANNOUNCEMENT**

We need three people to present the offertory gifts at each weekend Mass; children are welcome to participate. The individual or family (the Mass donor) who requested the Mass intention obviously takes precedence, but often they are not available for the offertory procession. This is when we offer the honor of taking up the gifts to any parishioner present at Mass. If there is a date that you know you want to take up the gifts during the offertory procession, please call Joan Marie Roth at 570-599-9809 and leave your name, phone number, and the date of the Mass you request.

**MORE ATTEMPTS AT FRAUD**

Over the past few weeks, someone has been impersonating Fr. Finlan and sending text messages and emails to parishioners from fake accounts pretending to be Fr. Finlan. None of these messages are legitimate. Fr. Finlan will never text or email requests for help or money or gift cards. If you do receive one of these fraudulent messages, just delete it and do not reply, but please let your respective Parish Office know.

**A WORD OF THANKS FROM ST. JOHN XXIII**

Thank you to all the volunteers who cleaned and decorated our church throughout the Lenten Season, prepared for Holy Week, especially the magnificent Altar of Repose in the Parish Hall on Holy Thursday, and beautifully decorated the church for Easter. Also, thank you to everyone who participated in the collection of food on Holy Thursday. A large quantity of non-perishable food was collected and donated to the Tamaqua Food Pantry.

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