

Welcome

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

Reverend Robert T. Finlan, Pastor

Deacon Edward J. Girard

September 14, 2025

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross



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@allentowndiocese.org

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak ~ 800-791-9209
victimsassistance@allentowndiocese.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 or by calling 800-276-1562.

Saturday, September 13 2:45PM – 3:15PM Confessions: SJ 3:30PM Mass: SJ 5:00PM – 5:15PM Confessions: SR 5:30PM Mass: SR	Vigil to The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Mass Intention: Peter and Rose Stricek Mass Intention: Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. Richard and St. John XXIII Parishes
Sunday, September 14 8:30AM Mass: SJ 10:30AM Mass: SR	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Mass Intention: Deceased Members of the Kenesky and Bobarsky Families Mass Intention: Pat Firkal
Monday, September 15 7:00AM Mass: SR (<i>held at St. Richard Church</i>)	Our Lady of Sorrows Mass Intention: Edward Porambo
Tuesday, September 16 7:00AM Mass: SR (<i>held at St. Richard Church</i>) 8:30AM Eucharistic Adoration/Benediction: SJ	Ss. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs Mass Intention: Eternal Remembrance Society
Wednesday, September 17 7:00AM Mass: SR (<i>No Eucharistic Adoration or Confession</i>)	Weekday Mass Intention: John Dunleavy
Thursday, September 18 7:00AM Mass: SR	Weekday Mass Intention: Patrick David Bowe
Friday, September 19 <i>No Daily Mass at either church</i>	Weekday
Saturday, September 20 2:45PM – 3:15PM Confessions: SJ 3:30PM Mass: SJ 5:00PM – 5:15PM Confessions: SR 5:30PM Mass: SR	Vigil to the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. John XXIII and St. Richard Parishes Mass Intention: Alvin Fritz
Sunday, September 21 8:30AM Mass: SJ 10:30AM Mass: SR	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Thomas Milot Mass Intention: Thaddeus Oliva

TODAY’S LITURGY OF THE WORD: In the first reading, the people complain against God and Moses, so the Lord punishes them by sending a plague of serpents. Then God heals his people of the plague by instructing Moses to make a serpent and mount it on a pole. Anyone who looks at the serpent will be healed. In the second reading, Paul writes of Christ who emptied himself, becoming obedient even to death. In the Gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus that the Son of Man must be lifted up like the serpent in the desert so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. The cross, a horrible instrument of death, can be celebrated because there is no evil, no pain, no darkness which cannot be transformed by Christ. He enters into whatever we may be confronting to bring his perfect love, goodness, truth, and life to us. Lift high the cross, for through it, God has worked our salvation. In the cross is our hope.

TODAY’S RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Do not forget the works of the Lord.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, SEPT 21: Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8; 1 Tim 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13

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 In the Cross of Christ I Glory – Meditation on the Hymntune “Rathbun” by Robert Lau (b.1943) The postlude is Jerusalem by Charles Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918) The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in Thanksgiving for all God’s many blessings to our parish.
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PRAYER LIST FOR BOTH PARISHES

Please remember in your prayers...

Roy Paisley, Marie Kalpinsky, Ellie Setlock, Chase Schaller, Kathy Sanchez, Quinn Derlunas, Mary Sloboda, Joseph Holly / Magnolia Pavlovich, Craig Goida, Joe McDonald, Lou Ann Knittle, Cheryl Keifer / David Rickert, Andrew Eremus, George Koval, Marci Bonner, Arabella & Magnolia (*infant twins*)

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

Richard Light

DEVOTIONAL CANDLES

St. John XXIII Sanctuary Lamp

In Memory of Michael J. Bubel Jr.

Crucifix Candle

In Memory of Russell C. Nelson

St. Richard

Sanctuary Lamp

Francis "Buddy" Trackim

Blessed Virgin Mary

Special Intention

YOUTH FORMATION

Children's bulletins are available in Narthex/Vestibule

St. John XXIII

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2025-2026

Registration forms are available in the Parish Hall.

Grade 1 (Classes will begin in January!)

Grade 2 Registration- \$70

Blessed First Reconciliation/ First Communion

Grade 3-6 Registration- \$70

A Family of Faith

Grades 7 & 8 (Confirmation) Registration- \$70

Chosen

Books are on the table in the Parish Hall.

*All students will meet in the upstairs classrooms
after the 8:30AM Mass until 11:00AM*

Sunday, Sept. 14 – Youth Formation Grades 2-8

Sunday, Sept. 21 – Sacramental Prep Grades 2, 7 & 8
(Sacramental Prep Parent Meeting in the Conference Room)

Sunday, Sept. 28 – Sacramental Prep Grades 2, 7 & 8

St. Richard

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2025-2026

CCD/PREP CLASSES:

Grades 5-8; Sunday, September 14th at 9:00AM

Grades 1-4; Sunday, September 21st at 9:30AM

Grades 5-8; Sunday, September 28th at 9:00AM

*All classes are held in the Parish Hall unless noted.

Need registration information or have questions, please
contact Krissy Wonsock at 732-687-0433.

SCOUT MEETINGS / EVENTS

Cub Scouts – Sunday, September 14th
4:00PM – 6:00PM in the Parish Hall

ADULT FORMATION

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.

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.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today's second collection is for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Upcoming collections are...

9/21 ~ Stained-Glass Window Renovation: SR / Parish Cemeteries: SJ

9/28 ~ Churches of Latin America

ST. JOHN XXIII AND ST. RICHARD NEWS AND UPDATES

This Week

Sunday	Communion to the Homebound immediately after the 8:30AM Mass
Thursday	10:00AM St. Vincent de Paul Society meeting in the St. John XXIII Parish Hall 6:00PM Thank You Dinner at Basile's Restaurant for anyone who volunteers in any way at St. John XXIII
Saturday	9:00AM-11:00AM St. Vincent de Paul Baby Food Distribution – St. John XXIII Parish Hall – 570-225-8620

Upcoming Events

September 22	March for Life in Harrisburg – for more info go to www.marchforlife.org/pennsylvania or call 484-866-3835 6:00PM Pastoral Council Meeting at St. John XXIII Parish Hall (meeting includes members from St. Richard)
September 24	Catholic Charities Community Café Food Truck – noon until 1:30PM in the St. John XXIII parking lot
September 25	The choir's summer break is over and the weekly 6:00PM Choir Rehearsals resume starting today

ST. JOHN XXIII VOLUNTEER THANK YOU DINNER

The special dinner which is meant as a “thank you” to anyone who volunteers in any way at St. John XXIII is this Thursday, September 18th at Basile's Restaurant. It will be a buffet dinner starting at 6:00PM with a cash bar. We are thrilled that so many parishioners have RSVP'd to attend the dinner, and we look forward to seeing all of you there.

ST. JOHN XXIII FUNDRAISING ANNOUNCEMENT

We recently received our semi-annual check from Boyer's in the amount of \$896.77! This is free money just for grocery shopping and scanning your fob! Much thanks to everyone who made this possible. You need not be a parishioner to participate. If you know ANYONE who shops at Boyer's and is willing to scan a fob, there is a supply of them in our Family Room.

NEW BEREAVEMENT CARD SENDING MINISTRY

We are adding another piece to the Bereavement Ministry to help with the grief process – a Card Sending Ministry. We will keep in touch with the grieving person by sending cards and other resources throughout the year at important dates for the grieving person, and make sure they are doing OK. If anyone is interested in learning more about this Card Sending Ministry or wants to become part of it, please contact Cheryl at 484-866-3835. We will set up a meeting with interested individuals to learn more.

NEW “5 & 2” MINISTRY

This ministry will help to plan events and outreach. Included in the event list are two events we already have been doing: the Advent Dinner and Movie in December, and the Culture of Life Celebration in January. Other possible events to consider are an Ethnic Potluck dinner, Movie Nights, Music Night, collections for marginal populations, an outreach table at Tamaqua Heritage Day, and more. Join us in planning, gathering ideas, and bringing these things to our parishes. Contact Cheryl at 484-866-3835 if interested in learning more.

WEEKLY CHOIR REHEARSAL RESUMES NEXT WEEK

The choir's summer break is over, and weekly rehearsals will resume next Thursday, September 25th. We unfortunately had the death of one of our long-time choir members a few weeks ago. New members of the choir are always welcome.

ST. JOHN XXIII BASKET RAFFLE IN OCTOBER

Information and sign-up sheets for the St. John XXIII Basket Raffle in October are in the Family Room.

ST. JOHN XXIII CAFÉ IS OPEN TODAY

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

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.

ST. RICHARD RECENT DINNER

MANY THANKS to our parish crew of volunteers and all those who purchased our Halupki Dinner this past weekend & 50/50 chances. The profit for this fundraiser was \$3,791.00! Also, CONGRATULATIONS to Steve Souchak for being the 50/50 winner of \$679.00!

COOKS WITH COLLARS 2025 HAS BEGUN

Fr. Finlan is back at it again! This year he will be showing the beginning stages of “meatball making” for St. Richard Food Festival held every August. “Cooks with Collars” is the online cooking competition that raises funds for parishes in the Diocese of Allentown, and everyone is invited to “relish every moment”! Watch the videos of priests getting creative in the kitchen at www.cookswithcollars.com and cheer for our favorite chef and support your local parish by clicking the button to vote early and often during the month of September! All voting dollars go directly to local parishes in the Diocese of Allentown. Be inspired and support our favorite Cooks with Collars today!

75TH ANNIVERSARY MASS AND CELEBRATION

On Sunday, October 19, 2025, we will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of St. Richard Parish. The celebration begins at 10:30AM Mass with His Excellency Bishop Alfred A. Schlert followed by a catered dinner at Capriotti's in McAdoo. The invitations for this milestone event have been sent. Please return your RSVP with payment to the Parish Office either by mail or the secure drop box on the Rectory porch.

A WARM WELCOME TO FR. RITZ

Now that Fr. Finlan is Principal of Marian, Fr. Ritz will be assisting with the weekend Masses on a somewhat regular basis. Fr. Ritz, who is a native of McAdoo, will be covering both the Saturday Masses this weekend. We are grateful for his assistance, and we hope that you will greet him after Mass.

“FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS” AT ST. RICHARD

Bosco's shopping passes are currently in the St. Richard vestibule and on the table entering from the handicap ramp. Please take a pass and leave your \$5 donation per pass.

BOYER'S KEY TAG PROGRAM REMINDER

Thank you to everyone who is continuing to participate in this ongoing fundraiser. It is an easy way to earn money for our parish. Just have the cashier scan the key tag at checkout. Key fobs are located at both entrances.

HOME VISITATION AT ST. RICHARD

We are currently updating our Home Visitation/Communion Call List. If anyone would like to be added, please contact the Parish Office.

BOSCOV'S SHOPPING PASSES AT ST. JOHN XXIII

Bosco's shopping passes are on sale in the Family Room for \$5 each. The passes are valid for purchases all day on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, only. The pass entitles the buyer to a 10%, 15%, or 25% discount on the lowest sale price of most items.

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.

ATTENTION ALTAR SERVERS

Please consider signing up for one Saturday a month, where servers are most needed. If you are interested in becoming an Altar Server at either parish, or know someone who is, please reach out to Deacon Ed, Krissy Wonsock, or Melissa Grimminger to schedule your training!

no matter how big or small. You can also

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AT ST. RICHARD

On Sunday, October 19, 2025, we will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of St. Richard Parish. The celebration begins at 10:30AM Mass with His Excellency Bishop Alfred A. Schlert followed by a catered dinner. More details to come.

2025 MASS BOOK AT ST. RICHARD

Daily Mass dates are still available. Please also consider the Eternal Remembrance Society or any of the Devotional Candles including the Sanctuary Lamp. All requests may be mailed, placed in the collection basket, or dropped at the office.

INCLEMENT WEATHER REMINDER

In case of bad weather of snow or ice, St. Richard will follow Mahanoy Area School District and St. John XXIII will follow Tamaqua Area School District. If the district has a cancellation or delay because of weather, there will be no weekday Mass.

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