

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10th & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • www.saintjohnpottsville.org

January 7, 2024 • Epiphany of the Lord



Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 6

5:00 p.m. Harold Bercher
(Joan Bowers)

Sunday, January 7

8:15 a.m. Nancy Brahler Newton
(Robin, Jimmy, Rory Reiley)

Sunday, January 7

10:30 a.m. John Wollyung
(Paul & Bernadette
Gombola)

Monday, January 8

6:30 p.m. Ann Lowe
(Pat, Missy, Amy Scheetz)

Tuesday, January 9

9:00 a.m. Serino Catalano
(Bill & Kathy Gianfagna)

Wednesday, January 10

9:00 a.m. Sr. Mary Doris Burkot
(Margaret Daniela
& Rosemarie Jefferson)

Thursday, January 11

9:00 a.m. George Hahner Jr.
(Ed & Bill Hahner)

Friday, January 12

9:00 a.m. St. John's Parish Family

Saturday, January 13

5:00 p.m. Paul Fiiac
(Ed & Gerry Schwartz)

Sunday, January 14

8:15 a.m. Christine Chiplonia
(Julian Chiplonia)

Sunday, January 14

10:30 a.m. John J. Minchhoff Family
(Rita Lotz)

Next Week's Readings

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
(January 13/14)

Reading I: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Gospel: John 1:35-42

Message from Father Bobbin

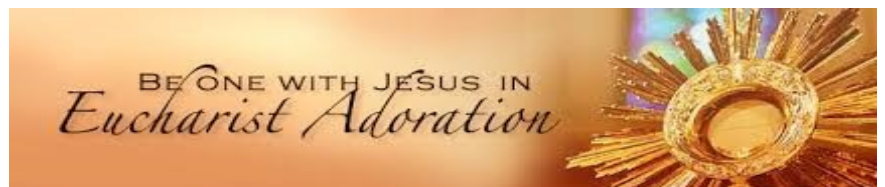
Dear Parishioners,

We had a very short Advent, and now the Christmas season comes to a close all too quickly. We end the Church's Christmas season with a pair of feasts: the Epiphany this Sunday and the Baptism of the Lord on Monday. Both of these celebrations take us beyond the Christmas season to life as disciples of Jesus.

The Epiphany reminds us that Christ comes as Savior for all people. This may seem obvious to us but, for the people of the Old Testament, it was a revelation. As followers of Jesus today, we are called to extend our care to all people, starting with those closest to us, but then moving outward without limit. We are called to be ready and willing to share our faith with anyone and everyone. Maybe in this new calendar year there is someone you know or someone you will meet who you can lead closer to Christ, maybe by teaching them something about our faith, inviting them to join us for liturgy or parish activities, or witnessing to the importance of faith for you.

The Baptism of the Lord reminds us of our own Baptism, which joins us to the death and resurrection of Jesus and adopts us into God's family as the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us. Just as Jesus's Baptism was the start of His public ministry, our Baptism is something we must embrace as a mission and live daily.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin



Eucharistic Adoration

We offer opportunities to spend time in prayer with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament ...

- ◆ A holy hour in the **chapel every Monday evening** (unless announced otherwise) from **5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** This is a simple holy hour without any formal prayer or Benediction. It is not necessary to come for the entire hour. Just stop by as you desire.

Pray

We remember in prayer those who are ill or recently deceased. We commend to our Divine Lord all of our aged people and those residing in nursing homes.

For our Sick

Sheri Post • Robert Kline • Tony Kochol • Josephine Gallagher
Tom Jefferson • Christine Kurtek • Dominic Maccarone • Drew Schaeffer
Shawn Matz • Gerald Hudock • Miriam Tirjan • John Bernetsky
Sue Mengle

For our Deceased

Anthony S. Gaburick

Upcoming Events

January

7	9:15 a.m.	CCD Parent Mtg	L.H.
7	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.
21	9:15 a.m.	CCD Community Mtg	L.H.
21	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.
25	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.

L.H. = Longinus Hall F.R. = Rectory Fellowship Room R.B. = Russell Building

Tuesdays 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men's Group F.R.

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered **Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on Jan. 25, Feb. 8, 15, 22, March 7, 14, 21, April 11, 18, May 16, 23.** Join us in person in Longinus Hall or at home on Zoom (*Please email Father for the Zoom link: kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org). Fr. Bobbin's Scripture study attempts to give an overview and background for the books of Sacred Scripture to be of help with personal reading and study, Bible study groups, and getting more out of hearing the Word proclaimed at Mass. All are welcome.

Lenten Dinners – Kitchen Coordinators Needed

This past year we were fortunate to bring back our Friday Lenten Dinners at the Russell Building, with the option of dining in or taking out. We are grateful to all the people who took charge and organized the dinners, and to the many volunteers. Unfortunately, some of our key people are no longer able to help organize the dinners because of changes in their personal circumstances. Therefore, future Lenten dinners will depend on one or more persons stepping forward to fill the role of kitchen coordinator(s). This is a leadership role, which would involve taking charge of the kitchen, planning the menu and determining what foods and supplies must be purchased, and delegating responsibilities to the volunteers. This role can be shared by two or three people working together. Please call the rectory or speak with Father as soon as possible if you can help.

VOLUNTEER



Reminder.... Don't forget to use your Boyer key tags when shopping at any Boyers Food Market. If you lost your key tag or never picked one up, there are more tags available at the front and rear entrances to the church. Thanks for your continued support with this fundraiser.

Boyer's Food Market Caring & Sharing Program.....

How it works:

1. Use the scannable key tag and present it to the cashier, who will scan it and record with your order.
2. Boyer's will electronically accumulate all of our group members' purchases.
3. Boyer's will then rebate St John's 1% of the total purchases (excluding tax, milk, and cigarettes). Rebates are issued twice per year.
4. It's an ongoing program –year over year, just use the key tag every time you shop at Boyer's

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Martin & Anna Heffron
by Paul & Bernie Gombola
2. IMO Paul & Mary Gombola
by Paul & Bernie Gombola

St. Joseph

- 1, IMO James & Janet Bartholomew
by Frances Lorenz
2. IMO George Hahner Jr.
By Hahner Family

Sanctuary

IMO Sr. Mary Anna Heffron
by Paul & Bernie Gombola

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Bob Schaeffer
by Fred & Hilda Maley
2. IMO Joe Buehler
by Fred & Hilda Maley
3. IMO George Hertz
By Fred & Hilda Maley
4. IMO Maureen Kalymun
by Paul & Bernie Gombola

Liturgical Min.Schedule

January 13— 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Bob Wollyung

Euch.Min.: Heidi Gorski

Gerry Schwartz

Server: Aleksander Gorski

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

January 14— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Jeff Naffin

Euch.Min.: Bob Bechtel

Ray Petrilla

Servers: Lukas & Finley McNamara

Cantor: Ed Brahler

January 14— 10:30 a.m.

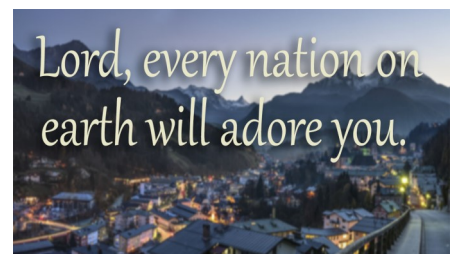
Reader: Michelle Ambrose

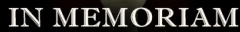
Euch.Min.: Michael Ambrose

John Matulevich

Server: Ethan Grabowski

Cantor: Ensemble





Theresa Tuite



You can request a copy of your 2023 Contribution Record by calling the rectory Monday thru Thursday ... 622-5470 ext 3

A Note of Thanks

A big and heartfelt thank you to all the organizations and people who do so much to keep our parish alive and kicking. The following list is but a sample of what takes place in an organized way at St. John's. However, there are also a number of people who do the quiet, behind the scenes work. To all of them, our sincere thanks! We truly apologize if we missed any group.

Let us continue to grow in all ways and keep the spirit of St. John's Parish alive for all to see and hear. May God continue to bless us.

Adult Faith Formation—Altar Servers—Bakers—Building Committee—Cantors—Catholic Women's Union—CCD Program—Cemetery Committee—Children's Liturgy—Choir—Choir Director/Organist—Christmas Bazaar—Christmas Pageant—Decorating Committee—Eucharistic Ministers—Finance Committee—Food Service—Giving Tree Helpers—Hospitality Ministers—Liturgy Committee—Monthly Cleaning Crew — Outreach Program—Parish Council—Parish Staff—Readers—Sunday Pre-School—Yard Sales

Christmas Eve Liturgies

Our Christmas Liturgies were so enhanced with the talents of the following people. Thank you for sharing these talents with us ...

Cantors

Dave Derbes, Stanley Gorski, Amy Joyce, Vincent Prestileo

Instrumentalists

Dave Derbes, Bobby & Chrissy DiCello, Bill Gianfagna, Jason Prestileo, Marianne Wollyung

Choir / Ensemble Members

Michelle & Mike Ambrose, Katie Blackwell, Ed Brahler, Janet Daubert, Barbara Fox, Bob Hahner, Rosemary Lynn, Barbara Powers, Michael Prestileo, Carol Rehnert, Ed Scheetz, Sue Scheetz

Organist

Dave Derbes

Church Decorating

Our thanks to the following for decorating the church so beautifully for our celebration of Christmas

Father Bobbin, Jillian & Vince Balulis, Blake Batory, Mary Bound, Ed Brahler, Mike Brennan, Darla Fabiani, Sandy Frinzi, Bob Hahner, Phyllis Hess, Liz Kleckner, Lucilla Kochol, Christine Maccarone, Shane Moyer, Dan Murphy, Ray Petrilla, Mike Rizzardi, Theresa Skrobak, Beth Smith

Giving Tree

You outdid yourselves again! The packages under our "Giving Tree" were overwhelming and beautifully wrapped. You are so good to others. What a wonderful spirit of giving and caring. You have made Christmas happier for all, especially those receiving presents. Those helped were: Our Communion Calls –12; Catholic Social Agency –102; Cloud Home –5 Jewel Women's Center –33 Thank you to the following who helped deliver the gifts: *Lucilla Kochol, Bob Hahner, Gerry Schwartz.*

Despite our very best efforts, we invariably misspell, misplace or omit the name of an important person ... YOU!

We apologize if we have done this.

Epiphany of the Lord

The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek epiphainen, a verb that means "to shine upon," "to manifest," or "to make known." Thus, the feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ has made Himself known to the world, mainly the three events that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11).

Neighboring Events

All are warmly invited to take part in a Holy Hour sponsored by the St. Monica Ministry. The Holy Hour will take place at St. Theresa Church, Hellertown at 6:00pm on Tuesday, January 9. We will come together before the Blessed Sacrament to ask Our Lord's mercy and to invoke the powerful intercession of St. Monica for our fallen-away loved ones. Presiding at the Holy Hour will be Rev. Stephan Isaac, Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral Church of Catharine of Siena, Allentown. Immediately after the Holy Hour, a meeting and book discussion will take place in the rectory. All are welcome, and no registration is required. For more information, please email StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com



Saint John Neumann

This American saint was born in Bohemia in 1811. He was looking forward to being ordained in 1835 when the bishop decided there would be no more ordinations. It is difficult for us to imagine now, but Bohemia was overstocked with priests. John wrote to bishops all over Europe but the story was the same everywhere no one wanted any more priests. John was sure he was called to be a priest but all the doors to follow that vocation seemed to close in his face.

But John didn't give up. He had learned English by working in a factory with English-speaking workers so he wrote to the bishops in America. Finally, the bishop in New York agreed to ordain him. In order to follow God's call to the priesthood John would have to leave his home forever and travel across the ocean to a new and rugged land.

In New York, John was one of 36 priests for 200,000 Catholics. John's parish in western New York stretched from Lake Ontario to Pennsylvania. His church had no steeple or floor but that didn't matter because John spent most of his time traveling from village to village, climbing mountains to visit the sick, staying in garrets and taverns to teach, and celebrating the Mass at kitchen tables.

Because of the work and the isolation of his parish, John longed for community and so joined the Redemptorists, a congregation of priests and brothers dedicated to helping the poor and most abandoned.

John was appointed bishop of Philadelphia in 1852. As bishop, he was the first to organize a diocesan Catholic school system. A founder of Catholic education in this country, he increased the number of Catholic schools in his diocese from two to 100.

John never lost his love and concern for the people -- something that may have bothered the elite of Philadelphia. On one visit to a rural parish, the parish priest picked him up in a manure wagon. Seated on a plank stretched over the wagon's contents, John joked, "Have you ever seen such an entourage for a bishop!"

The ability to learn languages that had brought him to America led him to learn Spanish, French, Italian, and Dutch so he could hear confessions in at least six languages. When Irish immigration started, he learned Gaelic so well that one Irish woman remarked, "Isn't it grand that we have an Irish bishop!"

Once on a visit to Germany, he came back to the house he was staying in soaked by rain. When his host suggested he change his shoes, John remarked, "The only way I could change my shoes is by putting the left one on the right foot and the right one on the left foot. This is the only pair I own."

John died on January 5, 1860 at the age of 48.

In His Footsteps:

John was a Redemptorist priest. To learn more about the Redemptorists visit the Web site for Redemptorist Publications in England, www.redempt.org.

Prayer:

Saint John Neumann, you helped organize Catholic education in the United States. Please watch over all Catholic schools and help them be a model of Christianity in their actions as well as their words. Amen



Pastor Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin
Deacon Lawrence Lonergan

Parish Council President..... Kevin McNamara
Choir Director/Organist.....David Derbes
CCD Coordinator Lucilla Kochol
Rectory..... (570) 622-5470
Rectory Fax (570) 622-4589
E-mail stjbparrish@comcast.net
Nativity BVM High School (570) 622-8110
Assumption BVM Elementary (570) 622-0106
St. Joseph Center (570) 622-4638

Cemetery Information..... (570) 622-5470

C.C.D.

All children preparing to receive any sacrament must be in a Religious Education Program for two consecutive years immediately prior to receiving a Sacrament. The child must also be a practicing Catholic.

Certificates of Eligibility

Certificates to act as sponsors, Godparents, etc. will only be issued to parishioners who are formally registered with the church and attend Mass on a regular basis.

Bulletin Deadline

Monday prior to publication

New Parishioners

Please call the rectory for an appointment to register.

Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays 4:15 to 4:45 p.m..
 Sundays..... 7:45 to 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 to 10:15 a.m..
 or by appointment

Sacrament of Marriage

Please call the Rectory one year in advance.

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 11:30 a.m.
 Baptismal Preparation for Parents must precede the Baptism.
 Please contact Father Bobbin for an appointment.

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., N.C.C., L.P.C. (800) 791-9209

Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection & Catholic Human Services

Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W., M.S.
 Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services
 P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538
 610-871-5200 ext. 2204
 prusso@allentowndiocese.org



*When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the
 days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in
 Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw
 his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."*

Mt 2: 1-2