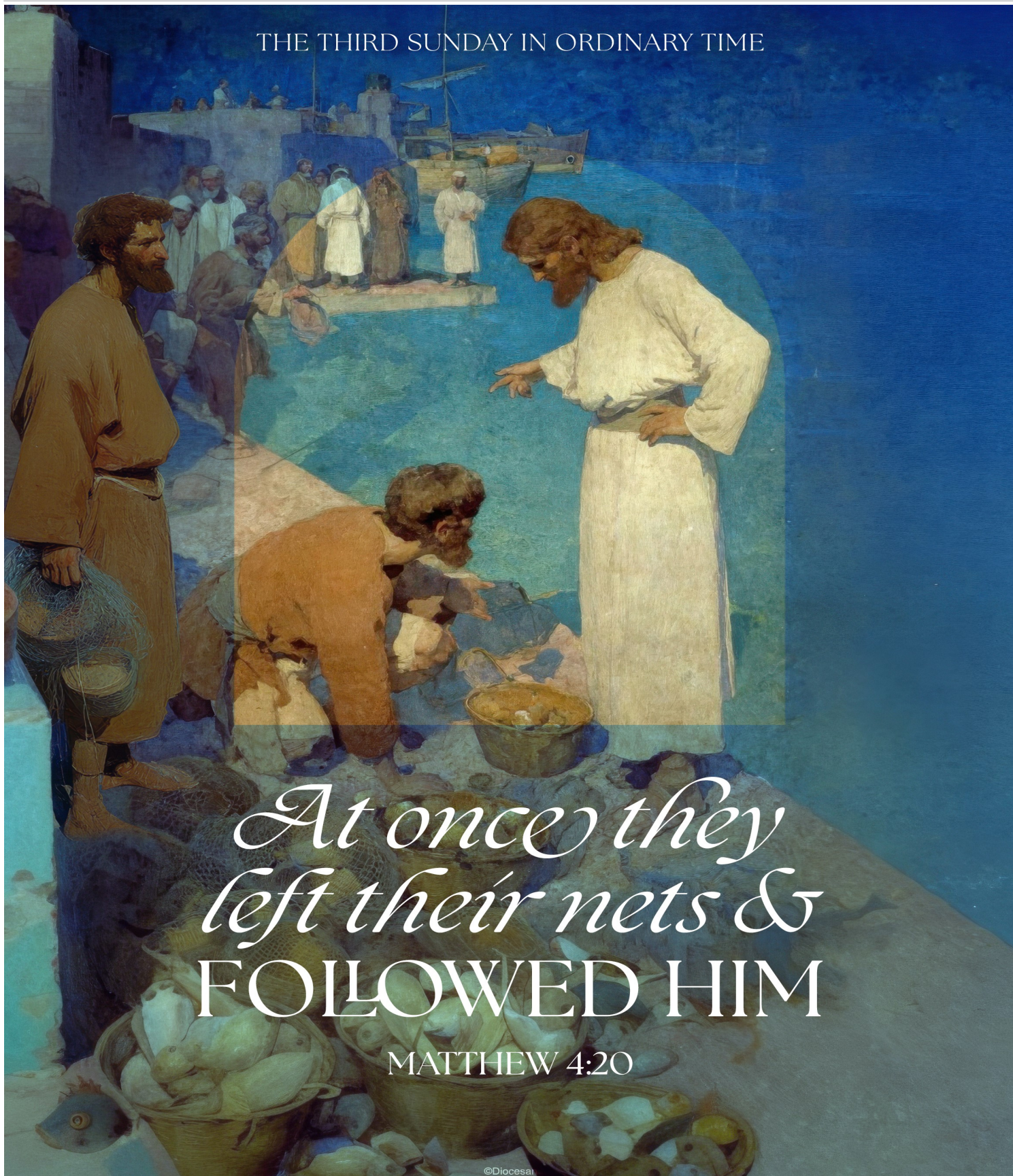


St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

January 25, 2026

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Pastor..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*
Deacon.....*Robert A. Reiley*

Parish Council President *John Crane*
E-mail.....*johncrane1@mac.com*
Choir Director/Organist*David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator..... *Tina Seiger*
Rectory (570) 622-5470
Rectory Fax (570) 622-4589
E-mail.....*stjbparish@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

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

1-800-276-1562 www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

Diocese of Allentown Website

www.allentowndiocese.org



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.
- ◆ A holy hour in the **main church on the eve of First Friday** from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. This will be a formal holy hour ending with Benediction. Father will be available for Confessions.

Communion for the Homebound



If you or a family member, friend, or neighbor who is a member of St. John is confined to home, a nursing home or assisted living facility because of illness, age, or disability and would like to receive Holy Communion on a monthly basis, please call the rectory. We traditionally visit the sick and homebound on or around the first Friday of the month. Please help us meet the spiritual needs of our homebound parishioners.

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: *Sherri Post, Tom Jefferson, Doug Broughton, Kathy Vicic, Jane Baker, Brenda Helt, Beth Ann Clark*

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 24

5:00 p.m. Mary Ann Holley
(Deborah & Mark Purcell)

Sunday, January 25

8:15 a.m. Rose Kauffman
(Julian & Nora Chiplonia)

Sunday, January 25

10:30 a.m. Thomas Bartashus
(Nativity Baseball Team)

Monday, January 26

6:30 p.m. Andrew Walcott Jr.
(Mary Jane Ludwig)

Tuesday, January 27

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

Wednesday, January 28

9:00 a.m. Danny Werner
(Kathy Hughes)

Thursday, January 29

9:00 a.m. Josephine Cavanaugh
(Rick Cavanaugh)

Friday, January 30

9:00 a.m. Francis & Verna Sauers

Saturday, January 31

5:00 p.m. Virginia, Barney, Karen
Comfort
(Chris, Jared, Brian)

Sunday, February 1

8:15 a.m. George & Sadie Post
(Bob & Irene Post)

Sunday, February 1

10:30 a.m. George Bobinis
(Majestic & Semanchik
Families)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

We have been discussing Baptism, the first of the sacraments, the sacrament that makes us part of God's family and destines us for heaven. But this raises certain questions. Is Baptism absolutely necessary to be saved? What about all the people in the world who are not baptized? What about people who are not Christian through no fault of their own but try to be good people?

Jesus is the Savior of the human race. Period. Whoever is in heaven is there because of Jesus. The sacraments, like Baptism, are the *usual* means by which the saving power of Jesus affects our lives. However, God makes the rules. He can certainly work in people lives outside the usual means. So, yes, people who are never baptized, people who never become Christian can enter eternal life by trying to live good lives according to their understanding.

But, if this is true, why bother sharing our faith? Why bother trying to evangelize people who are not Christian? Because Jesus is *the Way, the Truth, and the Life*. Following Jesus is the surest way to eternal life. When you are trying to get to some destination, wouldn't you want to follow the most reliable route? If you try to go your own way, you *might* get there, but you might also have a much harder time of it, you might get lost, and possibly not make it to your destination. Why would we not want to share Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life with everyone?

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study

... will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on **Feb. 12, 19, 26, March 12, 19, 26, April 9, 23, and May 7, 14**. 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.

Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest, call forth vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from our diocese and our families. Inspire men to imitate Christ, the Eternal High Priest, in sacrificial service to your Church. Move the hearts of men and women to offer themselves wholly to You in poverty, chastity and obedience. Send them as laborers for Your harvest. Inspire the faithful to support them with prayers and sacrifice. Raise up holy families who foster openness to your call. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Next Week's Readings

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(January 31/February 1)

Reading I: Zephariah 1:3; 3:12-13

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a



Upcoming Events

February

1	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
4	7:00 p.m.	Ladies of the Rosary	L.H.
8	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	Chapel/L.H.
8	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children's Liturgy	L.H.
12	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
18	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg	L.H.
19	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
22	9:00 a.m.	CCD—Blessing Blankets	L.H.
22	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children's Liturgy	L.H.
22	4:00 p.m.	Soup & Scripture.....	L.H.
22	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
24	after 5 p.m.	Mass Wine & Cheese Social	L.H.
26	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.

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

Parish Retreat

Our second annual **Parish Retreat**, "Watering the Seeds," will be held on Saturday, **March 21**, in Longinus Hall, beginning at 9:00am and concluding with the 5:00pm Mass. Consider joining us for a day of talks, prayer, reflection, and fellowship. Lunch will be included. It is necessary to register in advance. **RSVP by March 10** by calling or emailing the rectory. We ask a \$10 registration fee to help cover the costs of lunch and supplies. Please see Fr. Bobbin with any questions.

Catholic Relief Services Collection

This week we take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection to reveal Christ's love to our brothers and sisters in need. This collection makes grants to six Catholic agencies that provide relief and support for struggling communities and work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters, both here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection.

Church Cleaning Crew—Thank You

We thank our Church Cleaning Group for doing a wonderful job cleaning our beautiful church including Longinus Hall and the Chapel. Everything looks just perfect! Those volunteering their time and talent this month: *Sandy Frinzi, Phyllis Hess, Judy Meseravage, Ray Petrilla, Lisa Schlitzer, Kathy Vicio*

The more the merrier — newcomers are always welcome — please call the rectory if interested or just show up at our next cleaning in February

Giving Tree Thank you

Dear Congregation of St. John the Baptist Church — thank you so very much for the beautiful Christmas presents for all the clients here at Jewel. Your generosity and thoughtfulness is so greatly appreciated. You filled the hearts and gave joy to many families in our local community. Thank you again!

The Jewel Team

Weekly Collection

January 17/18\$3,005.00

Improve. & Repairs\$783.00

Thank you for your sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving.

Candles

BVM

1. IMO John J. Carroll
by Family

2. IMO Josephine Cavanaugh
by Hahner Family

St. Joseph

1&2. IMO Ronald Kriston
by Joan Grapsy Family

Sanctuary

IMO Beverly Waltner
by John & Susan Minnichbach

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Hunter Renninger
by John & Susan Minnichbach
2. IMO Michael Waltner
by John & Susan Minnichbach
3. IMO Jennifer Waltner
by John & Susan Minnichbach
4. IMO Carolyn Leinheiser
by Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 31 — 5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Michelle Heenan

EM: Dan & Hermine Murphy

Servers: Maggie & Rhyann Brennan

Cantor: Dave Derbes

February 1 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Joseph Palmieri

EM: Heidi Gorski, John Crane

Servers: Finley McNamara
Sophie Palmieri

Cantor: Dave Derbes

February 1 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Raymond Petrilla

EM: Gerry Schwartz

Justina Majestic

Servers: Gabriel Scheidel

Luke Lieberman

Cantor: Dave Derbes

Weekend Sacristan: Ryan Grabowski

Parish Council

The following is a follow up to the December Parish Council meeting:

Security at our Church

Security Camera installation at the Church and Rectory has been explored. And more discussions are ongoing as more information is received.

The Panic hardware on all our doors has been reviewed and a few upgrades are planned. A few doors needed some adjustments to allow for easier locking/unlocking. Those adjustments have been made.

Eucharistic Day

A Eucharistic Day (similar to a 40 hours devotion, but only for a day) is being planned. A strong consideration is being given to having it close to the Feast Day of St. John The Baptist.....June 24th-----His birthday.

Photo Directory

An updated photo directory for our parish family has been discussed. We need a parishioner capable of assisting with the technical aspects of this project

Thanksgiving Day Mass time

The Mass time will remain at 8 a.m.

Russell Building

A question was asked if we could get a sign on the Russell building identifying the building as the "Russell Building". YES is the answer.

This will be of great assistance when we are directing someone who is unfamiliar with our campus to go there. (RE: Lenten Fish Dinners, Summer Festival, Christmas Bazaar, Yard Sales — various fundraisers that are held there).

Blessing of Animals

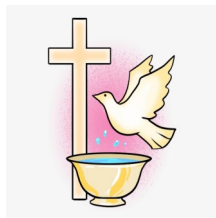
Father will conduct a blessing of animals on or around the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4th)

Summer Festival — Pot Luck Stand

We are in need of potluck prizes for our Summer Festival stand! There are a few easy ways to help donate. We have an Amazon wish list again this year. Go to Amazon.com/registries, search St John The Baptist Potluck, when purchasing an item it will default to ship to Fred Maley- you may send your items there for convenience or if you would prefer to ship to your own address and place item in the donation bin in the back of the church. Any questions, concerns, or to arrange drop off please call Shanna 570-617-4769.

If you'd like an even easier route, and have a smart phone or tablet, open your camera and hold over top and focus on the QR code box - a small link will pop up- tap on it and it will take you right to our Amazon wish list!

Gift cards are also a fantastic way to help! Any denomination and any place you love! They can be placed in the collection basket or please call Shanna Deibert 570-617-4769 to arrange for drop off or pick up.



Baptismal Preparation

Before your youngest members are baptized, parents are asked to come for Baptismal Preparation. It is preferable that this be done **before** your baby is born. Please call Father Bobbin to arrange for this important preparation. Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

Welcome to St. John's

This week we welcome

Francis & Lisa Mozloom. Francis is a mechanic at an envelope factory and Lisa is retired. Warmly welcome the Mozloom's into our parish family with a big dose of St. John's hospitality.



Flowers at the Altar

The flowers at the altar this weekend are donated

In Memory of

Mary Ann Holley

by Debbie & Mark Purcell

Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are visiting our beautiful church, please know you are most welcome!

If you have questions or are interested in joining our parish family, please call the rectory 570-622-5470.

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."

2025 Contribution Record

You can request a copy of your 2025 Contribution Record by calling the rectory Monday thru Thursday ... 622-5470 ext. 3.

Here am I, Lord;
I have come to do
your will.

Nativity Happenings

Nativity is currently accepting inquiries for enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year. Individual meetings, school tours and shadow days are being scheduled for possible enrollment. Please contact Mrs. Jennifer Daubert in the Development Office with any enrollment questions.

Open House & Registration for the 2026-2027 school year at Nativity is scheduled for Sunday, January 25, 2026 from 1 to 3 pm at the school. Faculty, staff, administration and coaches will be available to answer questions. Tours will be given and tuition assistance drawings will be available for those who register. Please contact Mrs. Jennifer Daubert @ 570-622-1810 with any questions.

Assumption BVM School—Open House

Assumption BVM School will be hosting an Open House at our school on **Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026 from 11:30 a.m.** to 1:30 p.m. Visit us to see some of the students' work, student Science Fair projects, browse at our Book Fair and meet the teachers and students. We look forward to showing off our wonderful school.

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning—

OPEN HOUSE. In celebration of Catholic Schools Week, St. Joseph Center for Special Learning invites families to our **Open House on Friday, January 30, from 4:00–6:00 p.m.** at 302 Randel Street, Schuylkill Haven. Guests are welcome to tour the school, meet our dedicated staff, connect with current families, and learn more about our individualized programs, life-skills education, and tuition assistance. All attendees will be entered into raffle drawings. All are welcome!

POSITION AVAILABLE. St. Joseph Center is seeking a **part-time PAES Lab Supervisor** to help students develop real-world job skills for the future. This hands-on role is perfect for a **creative, caring individual** who enjoys working with students with special needs in a supportive and positive environment. The position is 29 hours per week, year-round, and requires a high school diploma (experience with children with special needs recommended) and clearances. Interested applicants can **email their resume to Principal Bob Giba at rgiba@stjosephctr.com** or stop by the school between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to complete an application.

Diocesan Events

Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts & Our Lady of Martyrs in Fultonville, New York. Reserve your spot today for the next Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts & Our Lady of Martyrs in Fultonville, New York! Join Bishop Schlert and Father Hoffa on Wednesday, April 15, 2026–Thursday, April 16, 2026, for a 2-day pilgrimage. Double occupancy \$249/pp which includes hotel & tax, round trip motor coach transfers, breakfast at hotel, boxed lunch on both travel days, Mass at the National Shrine of Divine Mercy and Mass at Our Lady of Martyrs. Space is limited! Call 570-342-5790 today to secure your spot or register at <https://asktravelworld.wetravel.com/trips/divine-mercy-our-lady-of-martyrs-pilgrimage-travelworld-65157968#trip-overview>. For questions about reservations, please visit asktravelworld.com or email info@asktravelworld.com.

Retreat to Fatima and Lourdes with Fr. John Frink . Take a pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes from June 7-16, 2026 under the spiritual direction of Fr. John Frink. Click this link: <https://www.206tours.com/cms/frfrink/> to view detailed itinerary, pricing information, and to book.

HELP NEEDED

My name is Anthony J. Gaburick. I suffer from a nerve disease that requires treatments for me to stay functional. My treatments are out of town in places such as Allentown, West Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre and Wyomissing. I'm looking for drivers who can help me get to these treatments. Doctors will not allow me to drive myself to and from treatments. If anyone is interested in driving me, please contact the church rectory. I'll be very grateful for your help!

Thank you to everyone who has come forward to help me with transportation to my medical appointments. Your help is so very appreciated. I am truly grateful. Thank you again!

January 25, 2026

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 8:23—9:3 | 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 | Mt 4:12-23

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” For most of my life, any time I have heard these words of Jesus, the emphasis has always been on “*Repent*.” Recently, I’ve started to pay more attention to the second half of Jesus’ proclamation: “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Through his coming into our world and the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus’ reign has begun. The signs of his kingdom’s arrival are striking and immediate; we see Jesus “curing every disease and illness among the people.” This is cause for great rejoicing, like the rejoicing we hear of in today’s reading from Isaiah: “Anguish has taken wing, dispelled is darkness ... upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown.” Jesus’ miracles reveal that the reign of darkness, sin, and death is coming to an end; this is good news, indeed! It’s also a major part of our call as disciples. We’re called to pray (“thy kingdom come”) and to work to advance Jesus’ reign on earth.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Like the Apostles Peter, Andrew, James, and John in today’s Gospel, we, too, have been called to help build God’s kingdom on earth. We do this in a particular way by continuing the works of Jesus here on earth. As Pope Leo XIV reminds us in *Dilexi Te*, “The signs that accompany Jesus’ preaching are manifestations of the love and compassion with which God looks upon the sick, the poor and sinners ... The Church, if she wants to be Christ’s Church, must be ... a place where the poor have a privileged place.” (21) Part of the way we bear witness to the inbreaking of God’s kingdom on earth is to put those who are ill and marginalized at the center of our concern. Then the kingdom of God will be manifest and visible in the world, drawing others to Christ.

SERVE

This week, spend some time researching ways you can work with other Christians to serve the sick and the poor of our world. As we conclude this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (which ends Jan. 25, 2026), there’s no better witness we can offer to the dawn of the kingdom of God than being “united in the same mind and in the same purpose” (as Paul calls us to be today) in serving those in need.

