

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • [www.saintjohnpottsville.org](http://www.saintjohnpottsville.org)

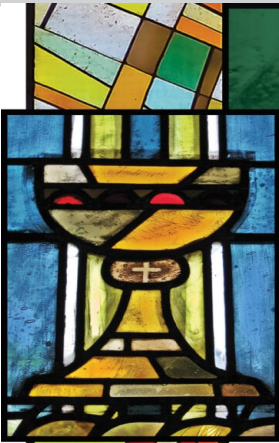
January 28, 2024

## 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus rebuked him and said,  
"Quiet! Come out of him!"

The unclean spirit convulsed him  
and with a loud cry came out of him.

Mk 1:25-26





## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, January 27

5:00 p.m. Ann Lowe  
(Ed & Gerry Schwartz)

### Sunday, January 28

8:15 a.m. Mary Ann Holley  
(Mark & Deborah Purcell)

### Sunday, January 28

10:30 a.m. Nancy Centra  
(Lieberman Family)

### Monday, January 29

6:30 p.m. Josephine Cavanaugh  
(Rick Cavanaugh)

### Tuesday, January 30

9:00 a.m. Francis & Verna Sauers

### Wednesday, January 31

9:00 a.m. Robert Burns Jr.  
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

### Thursday, February 1

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

### Friday, February 2

9:00 a.m. Gerald Hudock  
(Barbara Kasper)

### Saturday, February 3

5:00 p.m. Fred Brahler  
(Saturday Night Choir-

### Sunday, February 4

8:15 a.m. Dot Ryan & Mary Louise  
Hornberger  
(Crystal Pugh)

### Sunday, February 4

10:30 a.m. Leonard Yenilaitus  
(Zambo Family)

## Message from Father Bobbin

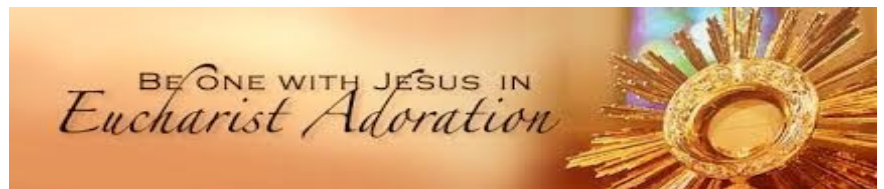
Dear Parishioners,

This week is Catholic Schools Weeks. Whether you or your children are connected with a Catholic school, public school, homeschool, or another educational option, our Catholic schools belong to all of us. Education is part of the Church's mission.

As you know, I have the privilege of serving as chaplain of Nativity BVM High School, and also being involved with Assumption. Both of our schools are a source of great joy for me. I am grateful to the faculty and administrators, families, and all who support our schools. They work hard, often making significant sacrifices of time, energy, and finances for the sake of our schools and young people.

Again, whether or not you are connected with our local Catholic schools, please support them with your prayers and in any other ways possible.

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.
- ◆ 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.

## Flowers at the Altar

In Memory of: Mary Ann Holley  
Donated by: Deborah & Mark Purcell



## Next Week's Readings

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
(February 3/4)

Reading I: Job 2:1-4, 6-7

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

## 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 • Dominic Maccarone • Drew Schaeffer Shawn Matz •  
Miriam Tirjan • John Bernetsky

## Upcoming Events

### January

27 after Mass Dramatic Stations Mtg ..... L.H.

### February

4 9:15 a.m. CCD Parent Mtg. .... L.H.  
 4 10:30 a.m. Sunday School..... L.H.  
 4 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class..... L.H.  
 8 6:30 p.m. Scripture Study ..... L.H.  
 12 7:00 p.m. Vision Committee Mtg..... F.R.  
 14 9:00 a.m. Ash Wednesday Mass..... Church  
 14 5:15 p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass..... Church  
 15 6:30 p.m. Scripture Study ..... L.H.  
 18 9:15 a.m. CCD Community Mtg ..... L.H.  
 18 10:30 a.m. Sunday School..... L.H.  
 18 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class..... L.H.  
 21 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross..... Church  
 21 7:30 p.m. Catholic Women's Union Mtg..... L.H.  
 22 6:30 p.m. Scripture Study ..... L.H.  
 28 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross..... Church

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

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

<><><> MARK YOU CALENDARS <><><>

SUMMER FESTIVAL—2024

July 19 & 20

# SCRIPTURE STUDY

**Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study:** will be offered **Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on 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](mailto: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.



## Feast of the Presentation of the Lord ... February 2nd

Forty days after the birth of a child, the people of Israel presented the newborn to the Temple. The gospels say that the parents of Jesus obeyed this law. Forty days after our celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Church remembers His Presentation in the Temple.

## Dramatic Stations of the Cross

Join us on **Saturday, January 27th** in Longinus after 5:00 mass (6:00 approximately) for a pizza planning get together. We look forward to seeing past, present and future members to join this prayer through drama that we offer to our community. RSVP - text or call Debbie at 570.691.8874.



## Weekly Collection

January 20/21 .....\$4,047.00

Imp.&Repairs .....\$1,307.00

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

**Please do not use tape or staples to seal your offertory envelopes**

## Candles

### BVM

1. IMO Sharon Lonergan by Bob & Mary Porter
2. IMO M/M Robert Porter by Bob & Mary Porter

### St. Joseph

1. IMO M/M Robert Becker Sr. by Bob & Mary Porter
2. IMO Robert Becker Jr. by Bob & Mary Porter

### Sanctuary

Health of Bob Porter  
by Bob & Mary Porter

### Guardian Angels

1. IMO Josephine Cavanaugh by Hahner Family
2. IMO Marjorie Angelo by Frank Angelo
- 3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy by Joan Grapsy & Family

## Liturgical Min.Schedule

### February 3— 5:00 p.m.

**Reader:** Lucilla Kochol

**Euch.Min.:** Bill Gianfagna  
Gerry Schwartz

**Server:** RJ Post

**Cantor:** Dave Derbes

### February 4— 8:15 a.m.

**Reader:** Michelle Heenan

**Euch.Min.:** George Forney  
Jeff Naffin

**Servers:** Rhyann & Maggie Brennan

**Cantor:** Amy Joyce

### February 4— 10:30 a.m.

**Reader:** Ray Petrilla

**Euch.Min.:** John Matulevich  
Sharon Snyder

**Servers:** Kelly, Megan, Lauren  
Goodman

**Cantor:** Dave Derbes

## Christmas Pageant

Thank you to Sarah DeArment, Kelly Miller, Aubrey Peters for organizing the Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve.

## Welcome to St. John's

This week we welcome **Jason & Fran Shockley** who have recently moved into the area. Jason is an electrical engineer and musician and Fran is a genealogist and nurse.

Warmly welcome the **Shockley's** into our parish family with a big dose of St. John's hospitality.

## Food Pantry Collection

Thank you for doing the small things, like feeding your neighbors, with great love. God bless.

Kindly place your donations in the basket at the 10<sup>th</sup> Street entrance at the bottom of the steps. Thank you.

**NO OUTDATED ITEMS  
PLEASE**

## Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshipping 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."*

## St. John the Baptist will be participating in a parish-wide survey!

St. John The Baptist Church will be participating in a parish survey about discipleship conducted by the Catholic Leadership Institute! We need your help!

**Please help us by participating in a 10-15 minute survey online.**

The survey can be accessed through an online link from **February 14<sup>th</sup> until March 31<sup>st</sup>**, and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide feedback on our parish's efforts to help you grow. All responses will be confidential and the parish will only receive information about the community as whole. We will share the link with you a bit closer to the launch of the survey.

We are trying to get the highest response rate possible. This information will be invaluable to Father Bobbin and our various ministries as we plan for the future and strive to be the best disciples we can be. We will receive the results this spring/summer at which time we will share what we have learned with the entire parish.

### If you prefer a paper copy

You may pick up a paper copy of the survey after daily and Sunday Masses. They will be located at Longinus Hall. To submit the completed paper survey, please drop off **your completed survey after Saturday or Sunday Mass, during the survey date's shown above. You can give the survey to either Father Bobbin or John Crane.** To make special arrangements for getting a paper copy, please contact either John Crane at 570-292-0904, or the rectory office 570-622-5470 ext.3

## Neighboring Events

**Society of St. Stephen** ... "Live Today Well" ... Maggie Riggins will offer a reflection on Salesian Spirituality, which was born of the friendship between St. Frances DeSales (Feast Day January 24th) and St. Jane de Chantal on Tuesday, January 30th at 6 p.m. at St. Stephen Rectory, 218 Valley St. in Port Carbon. NO FEE. Attendees are encouraged to bring a canned good or warm clothing item. Please register on our Facebook page or email: [societyofstephen@proton.me](mailto:societyofstephen@proton.me).

**St. Monica Ministry.** Our next St. Monica Ministry Holy Hour of Petition and Hope will take place at St. Theresa Church, Hellertown beginning at 6:00pm on Tuesday, February 13. Rev. Stephan Isaac, Parochial Vicar at St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, will lead us in prayer for our fallen-away loved ones. All are warmly invited, and no registration is required.

A St. Monica Ministry meeting and book discussion will take place in the parish hall immediately following the Holy Hour. All are welcome to attend the meeting; it is not necessary for one to have read the book beforehand. For more information, please email ...

[StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com](mailto:StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com)

**Spaghetti Dinner** sponsored by St. Patrick Church on Sunday, February 4th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or sell out) at 313 Mahantongo St.... Dine In or Take Out ... Spaghetti Platter includes pasta with our homemade sauce, two meatballs, salad, bread. Cost is \$11 per platter. Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase. For more information please call 570-622-1802.

**Spaghetti Dinner** sponsored by St. Mary's Church in Ringtown on Sunday, February 18th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Church ... Eat In or Take Out ... Dinner includes Pasta, two meatballs, salad, bread, dessert . Cost is \$12. A 50/50 raffle will take place as well. For more information ...

## 2023 Contribution Record

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



January 28, 2024 | Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dt 18:15-20 | 1 Cor 7:32-35 | Mk 1:21-28

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

Oh, to not be anxious! What would that be like – to not have to worry about how we'll pay the bills or whether our kids are safe or if our health will fail? While anxiety is a very human emotion, we can take comfort in knowing that our God is more powerful than anything that may worry us. It is also important to note that in today's reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, what he means by "anxious" is not a modern psychological concept with only a negative connotation. The connotation is more "to be concerned with," or "caring about" something, and can refer to things that are very good – including spouses and families! But when we care for many things, including our relationship with God, it is only natural for us to be anxious at times. But Jesus Christ gives us the assurance that the troubles of this world are temporary, and the peace of God eternal. Paul is encouraging the Corinthians, and us, to understand the importance of an undivided devotion to God, to care for him above all things – no matter if we are married or single – so that our whole life is devoted to holiness.

**PRAY** Today's psalm (Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9) is a beautiful prayer of thanksgiving and encouragement. It helps us steer our minds from those things which may make us anxious. Spend time in the morning or evening each day of the coming week, praying and reflecting on the words.

## GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I am always thankful when something good that has been anticipated, or predicted, comes to pass: The sunshine and mild weather holds true for that outdoor event I hosted; or the generous gift that a longtime friend mailed arrives unscathed. There is some anxiety in the waiting for, but relief in the fulfillment of, these beneficent promises. And while these are somewhat superficial examples, they do point us in the same direction of hope and gratitude that the divine gifts of God elicit in us. In today's first reading, Moses promises the people that the Lord will raise up for them, from among their own kin, a prophet who will speak God's own words and to whom the people will listen. And the Lord did provide numerous prophets, and kings, and judges, and eventually his only begotten Son, to call his people back to himself, and to save them from the wages of sin and death. The hope and anticipation God's chosen people had was fulfilled in Jesus' life, death and resurrection. We share in that gift of hope and of gratitude for our salvation.

## Diocesan Events

**Retrouvaille: Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage.** Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille. If you know of anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program will be held February 16-18 at the Family Life Center in Malvern. For more information, or to register, visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

**Lent Retreat Series.** Join us for a Lent retreat series, featuring speakers from our Diocese. The event series is as follows:

Monday, February 19 - at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Roseto. Topic is "Healing" by Maggie Riggins  
 Monday, February 26 - at St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven. Topic is "Presence" by Lillian Fallon  
 Monday, March 4 - at St. Catharine of Siena, Reading. Topic is "Sacrifice" by Rob Johnson  
 Monday, March 11 - at SS. Peter & Paul, Lehighton. Topic is "Promise" by Kristin Osenbach  
 Monday, March 18—at Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown. Topic—"Holy" by Fr. John Trigilio  
 Schedule of the night: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adoration; 7:30 p.m. Presentation; 8:00 p.m. Refreshments

**Men's Lenten Morning Retreat** The Allentown Diocese's Men's Commission invites the men in the Diocese to attend their Lenten morning retreat. This year, the theme is "Brothers In Prayer" and will be held on March 2, at 9am at St. Jane de Chantal Church, 4049 Hartley Ave., Easton. The retreat will feature Bishop Alfred Schlert, Father Alex Brown, and Father Keith Laskowski. The morning will include Mass, talks, and confession. Register at: [www.MenAliveInChrist.org/events](http://www.MenAliveInChrist.org/events)

**Make Stewardship Your Resolution in 2024.** Making an estate plan is an act of care for yourself, your loved ones, and your community. By creating your plans, you can outline important financial and healthcare decisions for the future, provide for your loved ones, and ultimately, act as a steward of everything God has placed in your care.

Through our new partnership with **FreeWill**, you can start the new year by completing this important act of care. FreeWill is a secure online platform that can walk you through the process of creating your estate plan — 100% free of cost. To get started, visit: [FreeWill.com/AllentownDiocese](http://FreeWill.com/AllentownDiocese)



God of all creation, we know you care for all of us and desire only what is good for us. Please guide those who make policy decisions and laws that affect all of us, that these decisions will work for the good of the most vulnerable in our society. Help us to have the courage to speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Nativity is currently accepting inquiries for enrollment for the 2024-2025 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.

**Sunday, January 28, 2024 – Celebrating Our Future**

**Monday, January 29, 2024 - Celebrating Our School Community**

**Tuesday, January 30, 2024 - Celebrating Our Wonderful Students**

**Wednesday, January 31, 2024 - Celebrating Our Nation**

**Thursday, February 1, 2024 - Celebrating the Gift of Vocations**

**Friday, February 2, 2024 - Celebrating our Faculty and Staff**

## Open House

## Thank You Dept.– Giving Tree

Sincerely, the Jewel Team

**THANK  
YOU!**

**Pastor** ..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*  
**Deacon** ..... *Lawrence Lonergan*

**Parish Council President**..... *Darren DeArment*  
**Choir Director/Organist**.....*David Derbes*  
**CCD Coordinator** ..... *Lucilla Kochol*  
**Rectory**..... (570) 622-5470  
**Rectory Fax** ..... (570) 622-4589  
**E-mail** ..... [stjbparish@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org)

## **Assumption BVM School Happenings**

### **Sunday, January 28th—OPEN HOUSE AND REGISTRATION**

Student Council members will be present to assist in giving tours to prospective families; members of our Home and School Association will be present to answer questions and show families around, faculty & staff will be available to talk with new families and begin the enrollment process

### **Monday, January 29th - Rock Paper Scissor Challenge**

Students will challenge each other in class until there is one winner per class; then it will be class vs class, and then the student winner vs the teacher winner! Bring a can of soup today (no tomato soup) for the "Souper Bowl" and dress down by wearing your favorite sports team shirt, colors, or jersey. Vote on the team most likely to win the Super Bowl!

### **Tuesday, January 30th - Student Appreciation Day**

Students will enjoy Philadelphia Pretzels today. Twin Day! Twin Day! Plan to dress like a friend or two today as you plan your dress down wardrobe! No homework! 8:30-9 a.m. Teacher Swap for Religion lesson with a fun make and take project. 8/K, 7/1, 6/2&4, 5/3 9:30-11 a.m., K-4 students will take part in an Art collaboration with Nativity Youth Summit Students.

### **Wednesday, January 31th—School Mass with Bishop Schlert**

9:30 a.m. at St. Patrick's. Please join us afterwards for coffee and donuts in appreciation for all that our parents do for our school. Thank you cards for bus drivers, crossing guards, parents.

### **Thursday, February 1st - Crazy Hair / Crazy Hat Day / Scavenger Hunt**

For Sale: Dress Down Day Passes! \$2.00 Dress Down Day Pass to be used throughout the remainder of this school year. Maximum purchase per student is 10 tickets for \$10.00. Cannot be used on Student Council Dress Down Days, Mass days, or any other school select-ed dress down days. Must adhere to the dress down code policies. Last day to purchase 50/50 tickets.

### **Friday, February 2nd - Teacher Appreciation Day**

Students — dress like your teachers! Teachers—dress like your students! Winner of the 50/50 raffle chosen. Last day to purchase dress down tickets. Noon dismissal with no extended care.