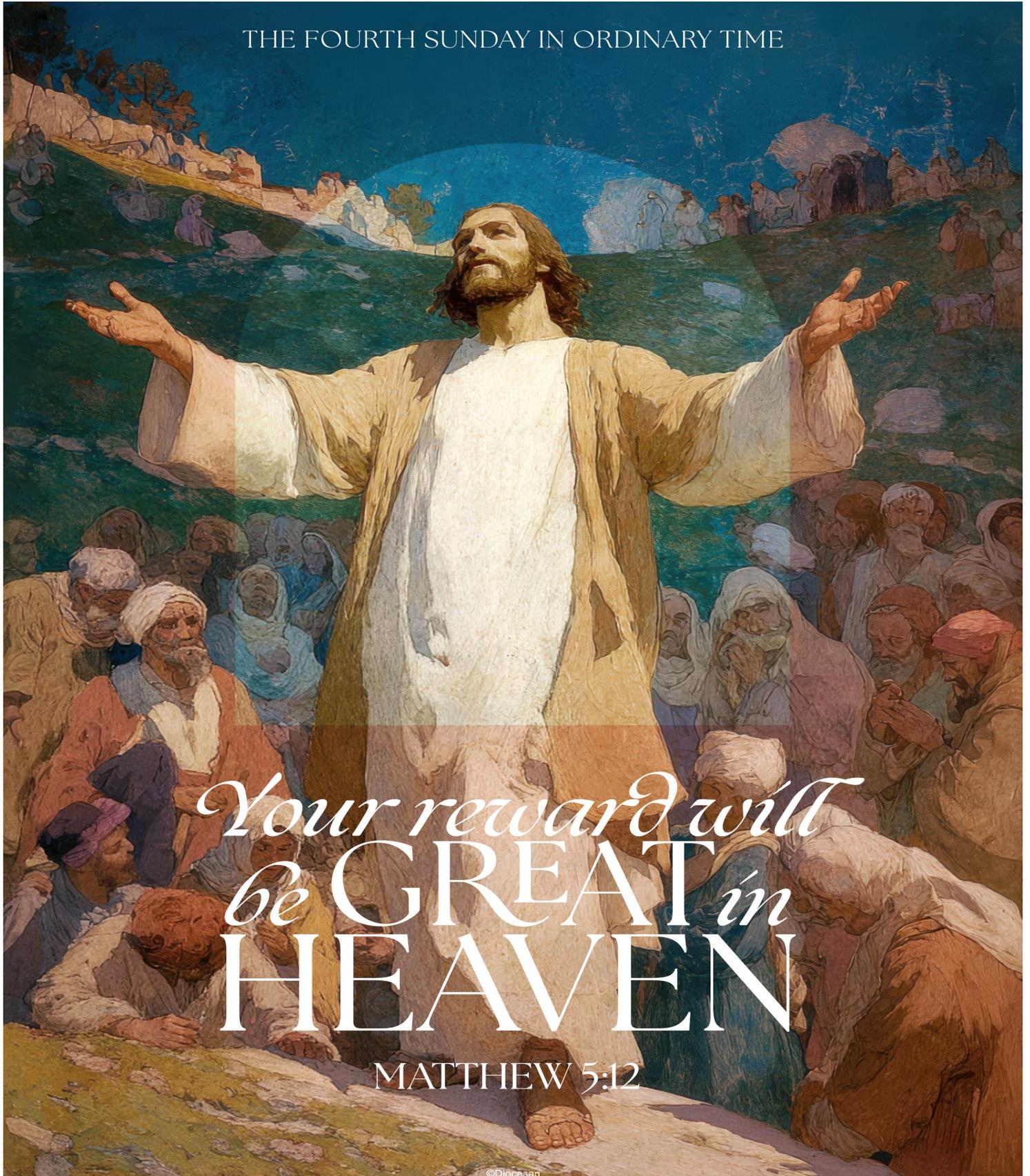


St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

February 1, 2026

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Your reward will
be GREAT in
HEAVEN

MATTHEW 5:12

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@allentowndioocese.org

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

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

Diocese of Allentown Website

www.allentowndioocese.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, Kathy Vivic
 Doug Broughton, Jane Baker, Brenda Helt, Beth Ann Clark*

"Note: We will keep names on the prayer list for a period of three months. Please let us know if you would like your name or your family member's name to remain on the list longer."

Mass Intentions

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)

Monday, February 2

6:30 p.m. John Gerace
(Mary Porter)

Tuesday, February 3

9:00 a.m. Dorothy Iannola
(David Kasper Family)

Wednesday, February 4

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

Thursday, February 5

9:00 a.m. John Fredericks
(Ann & Dave Moyer)

Friday, February 6

9:00 a.m. Tony Kochol
(Pat Klassen)

Saturday, February 7

5:00 p.m. Robert Carestia
(Joan Bowers)

Sunday, February 8

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

Sunday, February 8

10:30 a.m. Robert Orlowsky
(Orlowsky Family)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

These last few weeks we have started looking at the seven sacraments by discussing Baptism. We discussed the theology of Baptism. Now let's look at how we celebrate the sacrament.

As we said, Baptism joins us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. In the Early Church, people were baptized by descending into a pool, being completely submerged, and rising out of the other side. When we are baptized, we die with Jesus, descending into the tomb (death: we can drown in water) and then rise with Jesus (life: we need water to live). Today people can still be baptized by immersion in water but pouring water on the head is more common and just as valid. The pouring of water or immersion is accompanied by the words: "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." These words and the pouring of or immersion in water are the essential elements of Baptism. If the words are altered in any way or the material sign is changed (e.g. using some other liquid than water), the Baptism is invalid and nothing happens.

Priests and deacons are the ordinary ministers of Baptism. However, in an emergency, anyone can baptize a person as long as they follow the form described above. The person doing the emergency Baptism does not even have to be Christian or even believe in Baptism themselves. It is not uncommon for an infant in danger of death to be baptized in the hospital, perhaps by a nurse.

Of course, there is much more to the celebration of Baptism than the water and words. More on this next week...

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

SCRIPTURE STUDY

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.

Catholic Relief Services Collection

Thank you for your generous support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection and for revealing Christ's love to those who are poor and marginalized around the world. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Just visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections for more information.

Next Week's Readings

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(February 7/8)

Reading I: Isaiah 58:7-10

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

*Who is this King of Glory?
IT IS THE LORD*

Psalms 24:8

Upcoming Events

February

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.
20	4-6:30 p.m.	Lenten Fish Dinner	R.B.
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.
25	after Masses	Coffee & Donuts	L.H.
26	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
27	4-5:30 p.m.	Lenten Fish Dinner	R.B.

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



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.

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.

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.

Brothers and Sisters,

Go forth! Remember the beauty of your first call.

Jesus continues to call you today with the same full love and untamed grace.

- Pope Francis

Weekly Collection

January 24/25\$3,120.00

Catholic Relief Services\$737.00

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&2. IMO Mary Ann Holley
by Deborah Purcell

St. Joseph

1. IMO Eleanor Frank
by John & Susan Minnichbach
2. IMO Ruth Minnichbach
by John & Susan Minnichbach

Sanctuary

IMO George Bobinis
by Majestic & Semanchick Family

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Ronald Pilo
by Steve & Chris Zanis
2. IMO David Zanis
by Steve & Chris Zanis
3. IMO Carl Wiest
by Steve & Chris Zanis
4. Special Intention
by Jule Quandel

Liturgical Min. Schedule

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 7—5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Patricia O'Neill

EM: John O'Neill, Sharon Snyder

Servers: Callie & Cole Felty

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

February 8 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Bob Bechtel

EM: Jeff Naffin, Michael Ambrose

Servers: Maggie & Rhyann Brennan

Cantor: Vincent Prestileo

February 8 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Janet Daubert

EM: John Crane, Frank Murphy

Servers: Luke Lieberman

Gabriel Scheidel

Cantor: Dave Derbes

Weekend Sacristan: Connor Felty

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](https://www.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 anyplace 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.



Ladies of the Rosary



All ladies of the parish come and join us at our next meeting **Wednesday, February 4th at 7pm in Longinus Hall**. Fr. Christopher Zelonis, pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Parish of Lehighton has agreed to be our guest speaker. He will give a talk on our Lady of Lourdes. Bring your rosary and a friend to share in prayer and fellowship. You do not have to be a parishioner to join us.

Mustard Seedlings

A Supportive Community for Moms from the newly pregnant to Pre-school parenting stage.

Join us Thursday mornings, February 12 and 26 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in Longinus Hall. Kids age 0-5 are welcome to come enjoy provided toys! Home-schooled siblings are welcome to attend as well. Moms will enjoy a hot tea and some guided discussion as we move through our faith formation study about the life and works of St. Teresa of Avila. Bring a journal! Scan the QR code to connect with the group on Facebook.



St. Joseph Center for Special Learning—

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 ...

National Marriage Week Opportunities. Join us in celebrating National Marriage Week from February 7 to 14! National Marriage Week is a special time to reflect on the beautiful gift of the sacrament of matrimony. This year's theme from the USCCB is "Man and Woman, He Created Them: Together with Purpose," inviting couples to recognize their unique gifts and how they might use them to build one another up in joy and complementarity.

The USCCB Secretariat on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth is offering a variety of resources for those discerning marriage, engaged couples, and those already living out the vocation of marriage. These include an at-home week-long retreat, a marriage-centered Lectio Divina, and social media graphics. For more information visit foryourmarriage.org.

Bulletin Boosters

IMO Carl Bartholomew
 IMO Harold Bartholomew
 IMO James J. Bartholomew
 IMO Robert Berger
 IMO Rita Bartholomew Foley
 John & Mildred Fredericks
 Fr. Don Henry
 IMO M/M Herbert Henry
 IMO Joanne Hepler
 IMO Clare & Linda Houser
 MO Charles Lorenz
 IMO Charles & Matilda Schaeffer
 IMO Charlie & Catherine Schaeffer
 IMO Erika Stang! Seasock
 IMO Theresa Bartholomew Sencak
 IMO Janet Bartholomew Whitaker
 IMO Margaret & Guy Zelinsky
 Living & Deceased of St. John's
 CYO Program

Thank you for supporting our bulletin this month!

2025 Contribution Record

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

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."

Blessed are the poor
in spirit; the kingdom of
heaven is theirs!

DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX — PARISH UPDATE

Success Stories of the Parish Priority Plan

We realize it's been some time since everyone has heard anything about the DMI tea. So we decided to put together a list of our successful programs that had been stated in 2025. Below you will find a list of eight items we felt were very well received and are in line with what we learned from the survey that was done in 2024.

Also, I'd love to say that our DMI (Disciple Maker Index) team could take credit for the total creation and implementation of these programs. We created a structure (the Parish Priority Plan).....we consider it to be a living document. It's something that can evolve from the original idea, based upon the ideas and abilities of the people committed to organizing the activities. But the "Team" had little to do with the efforts of many exceptional parishioners who committed to organizing & running these wonderful, small, faith based groups.

1. Active use of Social Media to improve communication was started in July of 2025. It has been consistent and professional. Nothing is going on at our church that isn't broadcast there. We have a very active parish page.

Thank you to Sarah DeArment and Tina Seiger for Volunteering an amazing amount of time to make this a consistent success.

2. July 27th was our first Coffee & Donuts. We've held one every month, except for December. Attendance has been consistent (25/65). Thank you to our volunteers and especially our 2 major volunteers who prefer to not get any public credit....

Thank you SF and RR. It's been well attended, AND VERY WELL advertised. Going forward in 2026, we will be having a Coffee and Donuts every month on the last weekend of every month.

3. On September 6th our first Wine and Snacks was held and hosted by **Patty and John O'Neill**. It was a big success and approximately 30 people attended. They had a second event held on October 11th with an Oktoberfest theme. That was very successful as well. **We owe a big thank you to Patty and John for starting up this great Saturday evening program**. We will also be having 6 Wine and Snacks next year. Every other month starting in January.

4. On October 19th, our Choir and Ensemble held it's Praise, Worship & Adoration.....an evening of uplifting music and traditional hymns at our church. It was a beautiful evening and well attended. Father Bobbin started the evening with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Scripture and music. Father closed the evening with Benediction.

A big thank you to everyone in the Choir and Ensemble. There was a LOT of time and effort spent preparing for this event. And a great amount of gratitude is put out to Dave Derbes, Dr. Bill Gianfagna and Jason Prestileo for leading this event.....

Thank you Dave, Bill and Jason.

5. On October 25th A Trunk or Treat was held in the Russell Building parking lot and it was INCREDIBLY SUCCESSFUL. The parishioner participation for handing out candy and dressing up was phenomenal.....just check out our Facebook page to see what I mean.

An enormous thank you goes out to Shanna Deibert & her team for organizing this event and making it such a wonderful success.

6. We have formed a Stained Glass Window team. They will start giving tours of our historic church windows at the beginning of March 2026. We truly believe that we can educate people about the beautiful and historic nature of our windows and we want to promote them as a great source of pride for our parish community.

7. Ladies of the Rosary was formed in the Fall of 2025 and has been very successful. This is a small faith-based group who centers their gatherings on praying the rosary, sharing some wine and snacks, or potluck dinners. It has been incredibly popular and has 5 current dates set for 2026.

8. Lenten Soup and Scripture.....starting this Lent with first date of February 22nd. We expect this to become very popular since everyone loves soup..

We owe a big thank you to **Father Bobbin** for agreeing to almost all the programs that were brought to him. He has an uncanny ability to recognize the value of everything that's being asked.....And a wonderful ability to let the volunteers "Do their thing" all while giving his support to those programs.



February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Zeph 2:3; 3:12-13 | 1 Cor 1:26-31 | Mt 5:1-12a

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

There have been many times when I have experienced “imposter syndrome” in my work, where I doubt my own ability. In these times, I often looked to others to try to determine if I was doing enough. But instead of giving me the validation and encouragement I was seeking, this act of comparison frequently led to dissatisfaction. I began to wish I was more like others — more outgoing, more disciplined, more organized. But who I am and the gifts that I have to offer are exactly what I am being called to give in my vocation. Saint Paul reminds us in his First Letter to the Corinthians that we were not called because we possess a specific talent or personality; we have been called to bear witness to the work Christ is doing in us. And this witness comes from living our vocation authentically, with the gifts we naturally possess. When we not only accept but love and value our unique qualities, we give glory to the One who so lovingly and perfectly created us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In proclaiming the beatitudes, Christ reveals that those who will experience the rewards of heaven aren't those we might consider “blessed” by human standards. What our culture values as markers of success and happiness are not always what is valued in the kingdom of God. Indeed, the joys of life in the kingdom are deeper than those here on earth; we were created for fulfillment greater than what this world can offer. Therefore, we must live confidently in the hope of Christ's promises instead of comparing ourselves to others who might appear more successful. And as we live our vocation, we are called to live out the countercultural message of the beatitudes — a radical trust in the eternal promises of God in spite of earthly poverty, grief, or persecution. In doing so, we invite others to see and experience the joy of the abundant life that Christ proclaims.

REFLECT

As we go through life, there can be times when we feel unprepared for the vocation God has called us to. Consider how these feelings of inadequacy may be an invitation for us to rely more fully on Christ working within us. Bring this to prayer and ask the Lord to reveal how he may be using this particular circumstance to draw us closer to him.