

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

February 15, 2026

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GO FIRST AND BE
Reconciled.

MATTHEW 5:24



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, 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, February 14

5:00 p.m. Tony Kochol
(Patricia Mitnitsky)

Sunday, February 15

8:15 a.m. Scottie Glunz
(Karen Lenard)

Sunday, February 15

10:30 a.m. Wellington Daubert
(Janet Daubert)

Monday, February 16

6:30 p.m. Maurice & Helen Mirabella
(Christine Mirabella)

Tuesday, February 17

9:00 a.m. Catherine & Bob Becker
(Bob Porter III)

Ash Wednesday, February 18

9:00 a.m. Donna Bound Steidle
(Paul & Bernie Gombola)

5:15 p.m. St. John's Parish Family

Thursday, February 19

9:00 a.m. Mary Hahner
(Ed Hahner)

Friday, February 20

9:00 a.m. Andrew Walcott
(Ronald & Mary Ellen Renninger)

Saturday, February 21

5:00 p.m. Bill Pugh
(Reene Reddington)

Sunday, February 22

8:15 a.m. Donald & Nancy Doyne
(Don & Joanne Doyne)

Sunday, February 22

10:30 a.m. John B. Lieberman IV
(Lieberman Family)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Last week we looked at Baptism for adults. But most Catholics are baptized as infants. Some Christian traditions only baptize people old enough to choose it for themselves. If Baptism is a commitment to following Christ, why do we baptize infants instead of waiting until we are old enough to make a mature decision to follow Christ? Remember what Baptism is and what it does. If Baptism frees us from original sin, imparts the Holy Spirit to us, and makes us adopted sons and daughters of God and members of His family, the Church, why would we not want to share this profound gift with our children as early as possible? It is true that infants cannot yet understand or choose for themselves. But, in infant Baptism, the parents and godparents take on the responsibility of bringing up the child in the faith. More on this later.

We should also note that there are differences in practice among the various rites of the Catholic Church. Roman Catholics baptize infants but then wait until the children are old enough to understand before celebrating First Communion (in 2nd or 3rd grade) and Confirmation (8th grade in many places). Eastern Catholics (Byzantine, Ukrainian, etc.) baptize infants but also give Confirmation and even First Communion (a tiny drop of the Precious Blood) in the same ceremony, keeping all three Sacraments of Initiation together.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study

... will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on **Feb. 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.



With the sign of ashes we begin our journey to Easter. With the sign of ashes we are summoned to live with Christ. We make a beginning with ashes on this day and we will end this season in the fire of the Easter Vigil.

Mass times: 9:00 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.

Next Week's Readings

First Sunday of Lent
(February 21/22)

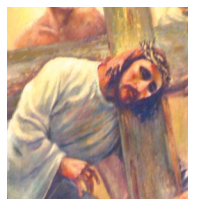
Reading I: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

Reading II: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held every **Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. followed by Mass at 6:30 p.m.** during Lent in the Church **starting on February 25**. Consider making this devotion a part of your Lenten observance.



Upcoming Events

February

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.
21	after Mass	Wine & Cheese Social	L.H.
22	after Masses	Coffee & Donuts	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.
25	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church
26	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
27	4-6:30 p.m.	Lenten Fish Dinner.....	R.B.

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

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

Soup & Scripture

Transform your soul this Lent with St. John's Soup and Scripture. Join us on **Sundays, February 22, March 8th and March 15th from 4:00 to 6pm in Longinus Hall.**

Homemade soup and bread will be served. Scripture will be based on the Sunday Gospel readings. All are welcome. Pre-registration is necessary to prepare the food. Sign-up in back of church, call the rectory, reply on our Facebook page or email loveyouubu@gmail.com with the subject line, Soup and Scripture.

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.

St. John's Ensemble

... will play/sing at 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 22nd.

The purpose of this ministry is to serve the parish at Mass, singing liturgical hymns, using contemporary instruments like the guitar, keyboard, drums or other instruments, and using contemporary music arrangements.

Catholic Home Missions

Next week we will take up the **Catholic Home Missions Appeal**. Today, nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its current and former territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support for this appeal helps them meet these faith formation and sacramental needs. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. Find more information at www.uscccb.org/home-missions.

Weekly Collection

February 7/8\$4,426.60

Improv.&Repairs:.....\$1,346.00

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Robert & Joanne Doyne
by Don & Joanne Doyne
2. IMO Scottie Glunz
by Karen Lenard

St. Joseph

- 1&2. IMO Ramon Grapsy
by Joan Grapsy Family

Sanctuary

- IMO Mary Hahner
by Hahner Family

Guardian Angels

1. IMO R.J. Post
by Bob & Irene Post
2. Health of Sandi Post
by Bob & Irene Post
3. A Soul at the Hour of Death
4. Special Intention

Liturgical Min. Schedule

Ash Wednesday

February 18—9:00 a.m.

Reader: Assumption School

EM: Assumption School

Servers: Assumption School

Cantor: Assumption School

February 18—5:15 p.m.

Reader: Patricia O'Neill

EM: John O'Neill, John Crane

Server: John Crane

Cantor: Dave Derbes

First Sunday of Lent

February 21—5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Patricia O'Neill

EM: John O'Neill, Frank Murphy

Server: Frank Murphy

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

February 22 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Joseph Palmeiri

EM: John Corbacio, Bob Bechtel

Servers: Maggie & Rhyann Brennan

Cantor: Dave Derbes

February 22—10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Vincent Balulis

EM: Justina Majestic, Heidi Gorski

Servers: Gabe Scheidel, Connor Felty

Cantor: Ensemble

Weekend Sacristan: R.J. Post

Our Lenten Obligations

Church law considers every Friday and the season of Lent as penitential days and times. The practice of penance is a part of our faith and Christian life. When we do penance, we imitate Jesus, who Himself recommended it as necessary to His followers, and gave them the example of His prayer and fasting.

The Lenten obligation as determined for Catholics in the United States by our bishops, requires that fasting be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Who must fast? All Catholics who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The obligation ceases when one begins his/her 60th year on his/her 59th birthday.

Who must abstain? All Catholics who are 14 years and older.

What does fasting mean? The observance of fasting means that those obliged may take only one full meal on the day of fast. Two lighter meals (not equal to another full meal) may be taken to maintain strength according to one's needs.

What does abstinence mean? The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat, including poultry. Voluntary abstinence refers to refraining from lawful pleasures in a spirit of penance.

Can anyone be dispensed or excused from fast and/or abstinence? Individuals for a just cause may be dispensed by their pastor or by a priest with the faculty do so. In our Diocese all priests may dispense individuals who are committed to their pastoral care. Those who are ill or have a similar excused from the observance of fast and abstinence. Catholics are reminded that they should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

Are there other obligations which we should fulfill? Catholics are obliged to fulfill what has been called their "Easter Duty." They are required to receive Holy Communion during the Easter time. In the United States this obligation can be fulfilled from the First Sunday of Lent until Trinity Sunday (February 22 until May 31, 2026). Those conscious of serious sin are reminded of the obligation to confess their sins at least once a year during this time.

Catholics also are encouraged to make Lent a time of more intense prayer and to practice almsgiving and other works of charity. Parishes are encouraged to continue participation in Rice Bowl.

LENTEN DINNERS — Fridays during Lent

February 20 to March 27 — 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

(no Dinner on Good Friday)

Menu includes: Baked Haddock or "Special Fish of Week" includes: Macaroni and Cheese OR Chef's "Starch of the Week", New England Clam Chowder, Side Salad, Chef's "Vegetable of the Day", Roll, Beverage and Dessert.

Weekly Specials

February 20: Dijon Panko Crusted Cod—topped with Dijon herb panko crumbs

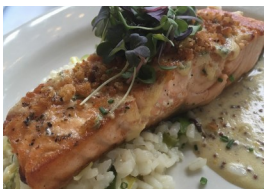
February 27: Balsamic Glazed Salmon roasted with a sweet balsamic glaze

March 6: Parmesan Cod—baked with a crispy parmesan crust

March 13: Flounder Bruschetta—topped with tomatoes, basil and balsamic glaze

March 20: Florentine Style Salmon—baked with a creamy spinach topping

March 27: Crab Cakes



Prices are as follows:

Adult meal with Fish	\$19.00
Adult meal without Fish	\$14.00
Child's meal with Fish	\$10.00
Child's meal without Fish	\$ 6.00

**DINE-IN OR
TAKE-OUT**

Homemade Desserts Needed ... "St. John's is famous for their delicious homemade desserts." Each year we look forward to these delicious desserts. If you would like to make Jello, Pudding, Pies, Cakes, Cup Cakes, Cookies, or anything you can dream up, we will greatly appreciate it. Please make your favorite dessert and drop it off at the Russell Building on Fridays during Lent.

50/50 Chances ... available at the door from the Catholic Women's Union; drawing takes place at 6:30 p.m. each week.

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. Thank you again for your continued generosity!!

Catholic Women's Union— Meeting

Women of all ages are invited to join the Catholic Women's Union. Learn how you can become involved with the Catholic Women's Union by joining us on **Wednesday, February 18th at 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall.** Meet the members and learn how you can be part of this unique organization. We share ideas and light refreshments are served. We work to raise money for our parish and have fun doing it. We also share in fellowship by sharing in a Spring and Fall Auction, Christmas Party, and the Covered Dish Dinner. Your ideas, friendship and membership are always welcomed.



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.



Neighboring Events ...

Piano Concert with Andrew Sheranian, Boston-based pianist, organist, and conductor, and artistic director of the Bach Project, will offer a piano recital featuring music by Bach, Chopin, Debussy, and Mozart on February 20th at 7 p.m. at St. John XXIII Church, 307 Pine St. in Tamaqua. Light refreshments afterwards in the parish hall. Doors open 6 p.m.; Tickets \$10 at the door. For more information call 570-225-7410.

Spaghetti Dinner Eat in or Take out Sponsored by St. Patrick Church, Pottsville, on Sunday, March 1st from 11 am to 2 pm (or sell out) at 313 Mahantongo St. Spaghetti platter includes Pasta with our Homemade Sauce, Two Meatballs, Salad, Bread. Cost is \$12 per platter. Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase.

Lenten Food Sales at Holy Family Parish in Minersville on Fridays, February 20th, March 6, March 27th. Homemade pierogies, halushki, macaroni & cheese, potato soup, frozen kielbasa are on the menu! These are pre-order **ONLY**. Place your orders to Jean at 570-640-0140 or Rosalie 570-544-2172 by the Tuesday before each sale.



Flowers at the Altar

The flowers at the altar this weekend are donated ...

In Memory of the
Porter & Becker Families
by Mary Porter

Join us February 21/22

Wine & Cheese Social in Longinus Hall after 5 p.m. Mass. Stop in for a beverage (wine, beer, non-alcoholic options) and snacks, and mingle with fellow parishioners for a bit before heading back out in the cold weather.

Coffee & Donuts in Longinus Hall after Sunday Masses. Coffee will be brewed and sweet treats ready to be enjoyed. Come join us for refreshments and fellowship.

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."

2025 Contribution Record

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



February 15, 2026

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 15:15-20 | 1 Cor 2:6-10 | Mt 5:17-37

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that "unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." In Matthew 23:3-5, Jesus says, "Do and observe all things whatsoever [the scribes and Pharisees] tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice ... All their works are performed to be seen." What Jesus is inviting us to see is that to authentically live the commandments requires more than mere external compliance with the letter of the law. It's also not about putting on a show so that others think we're "holy." Rather, it's about the quiet, inner transformation of our hearts. The Gospel tells us it's not enough that we avoid murder; God wants to free us from anger and wrath. It's not enough to avoid unfaithfulness in marriage; God wants to give us hearts that are pure and free from lust. Our task is to open our hearts to the transforming power of his commandments which, if we live them, lead us to fullness of life.

PRAY

Accepting the Lord's teaching in the commandments requires humility, and understanding their true meaning and depth is the result of the Spirit's work in our lives. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you true insight to live the commandments with your whole heart. Consider using these lines from today's psalm in your prayer: "Open my eyes, that I may consider the wonders of your law. Instruct me, O Lord, in the way of your statutes, that I may exactly observe them. Give me discernment, that I may observe your law and keep it with all my heart."

GO EVANGELIZE**PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

In our second reading, St. Paul speaks about some challenges we face when sharing the faith with others. There are those who are unable to grasp God's wisdom, which is different from the wisdom of this age. God's wisdom is mysterious, hidden, and can only be understood and grasped through a revelation of the Spirit. This is an important concept for us as evangelizers. Sometimes no matter how hard we try, no matter how eloquent we are at explaining something, those who are not ready to receive what we have to share will not be able to receive it. In order for others to understand the Gospel, the Spirit must open their hearts to receive it. While we are responsible to share the Gospel as well as we're able, it is up to the person before us to respond to God's invitation.

Diocesan Events ...

Women's Lenten Conference. In a world of division and strained relationships, the Women's Lenten Conference offers hope and practical tools for unity. Join the Bishop's Commission for Women on **Saturday, March 7 from 8am to 3pm** for Mass with Bishop Schlert, lunch, Confessions, Adoration, and keynote talks. Hear from Noelle Mering, an author and cultural commentator known for *Awake, Not Woke* and her writing on faith, culture, and public life, as well as Dr. Ray Guarendi, a Catholic clinical psychologist, author, and national radio and television host known for practical, faith-based advice on parenting, family life, and relationships. Register at <https://www.allentowndiocese.org/catholic-life/resources-women/love-hope-holiness-womens-lenten-conference-2026>.

Enroll Names of the Departed for 'We Are Remembered' Mass. The 35th Annual Easter Mass sponsored by the Diocesan "We Are Remembered" Ministry will be celebrated by Rev. Joseph Kweder with homilist, Rev. John Gibbons on **Wednesday, April 8th at 7 p.m.** at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church in Whitehall. Enroll the names of your beloved ones by Monday, March 30th to ensure their inclusion in the Book of the Remembered and the enrollment list that will be printed afterward in the AD Times newspaper. A \$5 donation is requested for each name enrolled to cover expenses, but every name submitted will be enrolled regardless of donation. To register, send the following information and checks to We Are Remembered Ministry, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, 618 Fullerton Ave. Whitehall, Pa. 18052. Sponsor(s) name, Donation amount, address, phone number, Email and Name(s) of the deceased.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. Join us for an intimate spiritual journey for anyone seeking healing after abortion. In a safe, supportive, non-judgmental environment, you can focus on this painful time in your life and enter into the process of healing. Through scripture readings, guided meditations and activities flowing from the meditations, you can experience God's compassion and forgiveness. For registration information contact: Carol Swavely, MA, OSF at 1-866-3RACHEL (Toll free) or 610-435-1541ext 5341.

You may also email Carol at cswavely@allentowndiocese.org.

The retreat will be held April 24-26, 2026. Deadline for registration is April 17, 2026.