

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

February 22, 2026

First Sunday of LENT



**The Lord, your God,
shall you worship and him
alone shall you serve.**
Matthew 4:10

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 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)

Monday, February 23

6:30 p.m. St. John's Parish Family

Tuesday, February 24

9:00 a.m. John & Lorraine Tasso

Wednesday, February 25

6:30 p.m. Josephine Toomey, 43 Anniv.
(Time Change) (Sons-Dan, Jim, John)

Thursday, February 26

9:00 a.m. Porter & Becker Families
(Mary Porter)

Friday, February 27

9:00 a.m. John Fredericks
(Peggy Stoppi)

Saturday, February 28

5:00 p.m. Ed Smith
(Family)

Sunday, March 1

8:15 a.m. John Gerace
(Ed & Gerry Schwartz)

Sunday, March 1

10:30 a.m. Michael Maccarone
(Chris Maccarone)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Continuing our discussion of Baptism, we are ready to look at the ceremony for infant Baptism step-by-step. In many churches, like ours, the Baptismal font is located just inside the church doors. This is symbolic of the fact that Baptism is our gateway into the Church family. Welcomed by the priest or deacon presiding, the parents present their child, giving his or her name, requesting Baptism, and affirming their commitment to bringing up their child in the faith. The presider, followed by the parents and godparents, trace a cross on the child's forehead: the symbol of the Christian faith.

As in all liturgical celebrations, we listen to God's Word (one or more readings from Scripture), followed by a brief homily and petitions. In preparation for Baptism, the presider says the Prayer of Exorcism (invoking God's protection against sin and evil) and then anoints the child with the Oil of Catechumens, a sign of calling upon God's grace and strength. The water in the baptismal font is blessed with a lengthy prayer that recalls the role of water in salvation history (in creation, Noah and the flood, the crossing of the Red Sea, the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, etc.). Finally, on behalf of the child, the parents and godparents (and all present) renew their baptismal promises by answering "I do" to three questions rejecting sin and three questions embracing the Christian faith.

Now the child is ready for the Baptism itself: the pouring of water on the head accompanied by the words: "(Name), I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Following this are four powerful symbolic gestures that help draw out the meaning of what is happening. We will look at these next weeks.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

SCRIPTURE STUDY

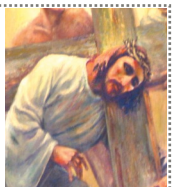
Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study

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

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



Next Week's Readings

2nd Sunday of Lent

(February 28/March 1st)

Reading I: Genesis 12:1-4a

Reading II: 2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

CRS Rice Bowl

CRS Rice Bowl—Born in our Diocese! Did you know that CRS Rice Bowl began in 1975 right here in the Diocese of Allentown? This Lent, we join parishes across the U.S. to help families facing drought and hunger. Pick up your CRS Rice Bowl in the back of church. Let's make our prayers, fasting, and almsgiving count for our sisters and brothers worldwide.

Upcoming Events

February

21 after Mass	Wine & Cheese Social	L.H.
21 2:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice	Church
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.
24 7:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice	Church
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 Dinners	R.B.

March

1 2:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice	Church
1 6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
4 6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross.....	Church
6 4-6:30 p.m.	Lenten Dinners	R.B.
8 9:00 a.m.	CCD	L.H.
8 10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children's Liturgy	L.H.
8 4:00 p.m.	Soup & Scripture.....	L.H.
9 7:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice	Church
11 6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross.....	Church
12 6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
12 7:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice	Church
13 4-6:30 p.m.	Lenten Dinners	R.B.

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

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

Dramatic Stations of the Cross

Join us as we continue to tell our story. All ages welcome! Speaking and non-speaking parts and stage crew needed. Make this year you become part of the Dramatic Stations of the Cross gang!



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.

Weekly Collection

February 14/15\$6,820.15

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Donald & Nancy Doyne by Don & Joanne Doyne
2. Most abandoned soul in Purgatory

St. Joseph

1. IMO Babe Heller by Barb Wollyung & Family
2. Fr. Bobbin's Intentions

Sanctuary

IMO Marion Herwig by Babe Murphy

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Marjorie Angelo by Frank Angelo
2. IMO Leo Leinheiser Jr. by Family
3. IMO Baby Robbie Doyle by Family
4. Special Intention

Liturgical Min. Schedule

Second Sunday of Lent

February 28—5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Michelle Heenan

EM: Danny & Hermine Murphy

Servers: Cole & Callie Felty

Cantor: Dave Derbes

March 1 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Jeff Naffin

EM: Joseph Palmieri, Mike Ambrose

Servers: Sophia Palmieri
Finley McNamara

Cantor: Vincent Prestileo

March 1—10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Sean Crane

EM: Gerry Schwartz, John Crane

Servers: Kyle & Preston McCormick

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

Weekend Sacristan: Connor Felty

Attention — All Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, and Servers

Please let us know your plans for **April & May**, so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. Please email or call the rectory by **March 16th**. We appreciate your co-operation. Thank you.

LENTEN DINNERS — Fridays during Lent

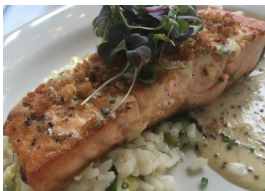
February 27—March 6, 13, 20, 27 — 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

(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 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

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!!



Cleaning Crew—Thank You

Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who gave their time and energy to clean our beautiful church including Longinus Hall and the Chapel. Your hard work and care help keep our parish a welcoming and a beautiful place for everyone. We are truly grateful for your dedication and generous spirit. Those volunteering their time and talent this month: **Michelle Ambrose, Sandy Frinzi, Phyllis Hess, Ray Petrilla, Lisa Schlitzer, Theresa Skrobak, Joanne Wood, Angela Mason, Maria Mason.**

A sincere thank you to the volunteers who took the time to clean our Russell Building. Your generosity and hard work help keep our space welcoming and ready for fellowship. We are grateful for each of you and the care you show for our parish community. Those volunteering: **Carol Bilinski, Sandy Frinzi, Phyllis Hess, Judy Meseravage. Theresa Skrobak.**

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.

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-Thursdays, 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.

Mustard Seedlings

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

Join us Thursday mornings, **February 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.



Lenten Practices

The family that prays together ... stays together. What better time than Lent to consider a family prayer time. Take time during this Lent to grow closer to Jesus and to each other.

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."

Moving? Relocating? Let us Know!

Have you moved, changed your phone or email address? If so, would you please contact the Rectory Office at 622-5470 ext. 3. Help us update records!

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 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7 | Rom 5:12-19 | Mt 4:1-11

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Although we're at the very beginning of Lent, today's first reading from Genesis prepares us for words we will hear on the night of the Easter Vigil: "O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ! O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!" (Exsultet) *O truly necessary sin?! O happy fault?! What could these words actually mean?* I think the Exsultet is drawing us to see that sin is not the end of the story. In the mysterious working of grace, being in a state of needing God's forgiveness (sin) opens us up to the possibility of experiencing and receiving his endless love and mercy. As we take on practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving this Lent, may we not grow discouraged when we inevitably fall short, but may we recognize that our very weakness presents us with an opportunity to rejoice in his merciful love.

REFLECT

Throughout the Gospels, we hear story after story of sinners ending up closer to God than those who think themselves to be perfectly obedient (The Prodigal Son [Lk 15:11-32]; the Pharisee and the Tax Collector [Lk 18:9-14]). As you contemplate which Lenten practices to adopt in these next few weeks, keep in mind that holiness isn't found in perfect adherence to these practices, but by humbling yourself to recognize the God who loves you even when you fall.

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

At the heart of evangelization is announcing the good news that our sin doesn't have the last word. St. Paul puts it this way: While death came through Adam's sin, "the gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one, the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many." While sin certainly wreaks havoc by bringing suffering and death into our world, the conviction of the Church is that the restoration God brings about through the death and resurrection of Jesus elevates humanity to a state far better than what we lost in the fall. What might it look like to witness to this great hope we have in Jesus in our own lives? How can we offer encouragement to those who feel they have fallen too far from grace that God's mercy is far more powerful than any transgression they may have committed?

1st Sunday of Lent

G	E	W	O	R	S	H	I	P	H
A	T	E	M	P	L	E	X	G	U
S	T	O	N	E	S	B	M	Q	N
B	Y	W	R	I	T	T	E	N	G
R	I	P	I	K	L	H	C	C	R
E	F	O	R	T	Y	S	D	N	Y
A	O	E	U	A	N	G	E	L	S
D	W	U	D	S	N	C	Y	C	C
V	D	E	S	E	R	T	W	U	P
U	F	A	S	T	E	D	G	S	N

Desert
Angels
Forty
Bread
Stones
Hungry
Temple
Fasted
Written
Worship

**SUNDAYKIDZ**

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