

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

March 3, 2024

He made a whip
out of cords
and drove them
all out of the
temple area.
“Take these out
of here, and
stop making my
Father’s house
a marketplace.”

John 2:15,16

Jesus Casting Out the Money
Changers at the Temple
by Carl Bloch, circa 1800s



3RD SUNDAY OF
LENT

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 2

5:00 p.m. R.J. Post
(Bob & Irene Post)

Sunday, March 3

8:15 a.m. Gerald Hudock
(Feeney Family
& Cehelsky Sisters)

Sunday, March 3

10:30 a.m. Ernest Zambo
(Zambo Family)

Monday, March 4

6:30 p.m. Earl Davenport
(John & Mary Jean Morgalis)

Tuesday, March 5

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

Wednesday, March 6

6:30 p.m. Jacqueline Kost
(Bob, Irene, Sandi, Sheri, R.J. Post)

Thursday, March 7

9:00 a.m. Michael Maccarone
(Lynn Dudash)

Friday, March 8

9:00 a.m. Elizabeth Lechleitner
(Eric & Jennifer Lieberman)

Saturday, March 9

5:00 p.m. Francis Bercher
(Scott Williams)

Sunday, March 10

8:15 a.m. Frederick & Marie Eagan
(John & Christine Eagan)

Sunday, March 10

10:30 a.m. Joe Brahler
(Kathy Brahler)

Message from Father Bobbin

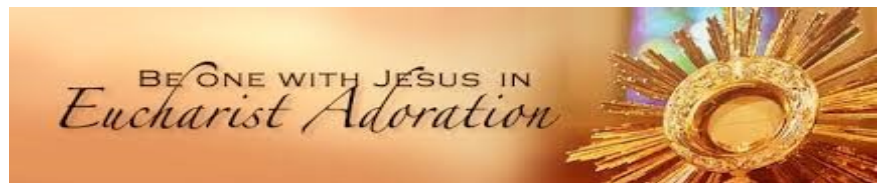
Dear Parishioners,

Continuing to reflect on the Corporal Works of Mercy, consider the next one: "visit the sick." So far, the Corporal Works of Mercy all deal with meeting people's physical needs: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, and shelter the homeless. But now we come to "visit the sick." We are not told to *cure* the sick (that would be the role of medical professionals) but simply to *visit* people who are sick.

Sickness is not just a physical problem. It affects the whole person. Serious or prolonged illness can cause fear and anxiety, anger and frustration, depression, and even doubts about one's faith. Sickness can lead to isolation and loneliness. People who are faced with any sort of serious or prolonged illness or disability need the love of Christ expressed through our love and company.

Is there someone in your life who is dealing with sickness, someone you can reach out to this Lent – not just with a phone call, text, or card – but with a visit in person, making the sacrifice of time and energy to be with that person?

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.

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 • Chuck Majestic*

Next Week's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Lent
(March 9/10)

Reading I: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

Reading II: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: John 3:14-21



Confirmation Prayer Sponsors

Our 8th graders are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Thursday, April 25th** here at St. John's. Please consider supporting this important decision by praying for one or more of our candidates. Cards containing their names can be found in the basket on the table in the back of church. Please take one, and during this time of preparation, pray for this student in a special way and write notes of encouragement. Our parish will be double blessed.

Upcoming Events

March

3	9:15 a.m.	CCD Parent Mtg	L.H.
3	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.
3	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
4	7:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations practice.....	Church
5	7:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations practice.....	Church
6	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church
7	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
7	7:30 p.m.	Summer Festival Mtg.....	L.H.
8	4-7 p.m.	Lenten Dinners.....	R.B.
10	8:00 a.m.	First Communion Class	L.H.
10	4:00 p.m.	Lenten Vespers	Church/L.H.
11	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council	L.H.
12	7:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice.....	Church
13	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church
13	8:00 p.m.	St. John’s Beneficial Society Mtg	F.R.
14	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
14	7:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice.....	Church
15	4-7 p.m.	Lenten Dinners.....	R.B.
17	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.
17	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
19	6:30 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Dress Rehearsal	Church
20	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church
20	7:30 p.m.	Catholic Women’s Union Mtg.....	L.H.
21	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
21	6:30 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Dress Rehearsal	Church
22	4-7 p.m.	Lenten Dinners.....	R.B.
24	7:30 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Presentation	Church

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

Tuesdays 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men’s Group

<><><> MARK YOU CALENDARS <><><>
SUMMER FESTIVAL—July 19 & 20, 2024

Weekly Collection

February 24/25\$4,038.00

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

All Candles

IMO Erika Stangl Seasock by Dorothy & Joe Stangl & Michael Felker

Liturgical Min. Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 9 — 5:00 p.m.

Reader: John Crane

Euch.Min.: Dan & Hermine Murphy

Server: Sophia Palmieri

Cantor: Dave Derbes

March 10 — 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Janet Daubert

Euch.Min.: George Forney
Jeff Naffin

Servers: Luke Schane

Cantor: Dave Derbes

March 10— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Ray Petrilla

Euch.Min.: John Matulevich
Frank Murphy

Servers: Connor, Cole, Cooper Felty

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered **Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on 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). 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 7:00 p.m. during Lent in the Church Consider making this devotion a part of your Lenten observance.

CRS Rice Bowl

Raising Chickens to Support Her Family. Nowadays, in Morazan, El Salvador, it is very difficult to know when the rainy or dry seasons will be. The unpredictable weather puts the livelihood of Sandra’s family in jeopardy. Despite the challenges, Sandra and her husband, Santos, remain dedicated to ensuring their children grow healthy and succeed in school. Learn how their strong family dynamic enabled Sandra to participate in a Catholic Relief Services’ project on raising chickens and how her determination has helped her family and community. Visit crsricebowl.org to read this week’s Story of Hope.

LENTEN DINNERS

4 to 7 p.m. at the Russell Building.

Dinners will be dine-in or take-out.

Menu is as follows:

Baked Haddock **OR** "Special Fish of the Week" includes: Macaroni and Cheese with Stewed Tomatoes **OR** Mashed Potatoes
Clam Chowder, Side Salad, Fresh Vegetable of the Week, Roll, Beverage, and Dessert.

The "Special Fish Options" are as follows:

March 8: Stuffed Flounder with Lemon Butter

March 15: Herb and Panko Crusted Tilapia

March 22: Baked Haddock only (may change)



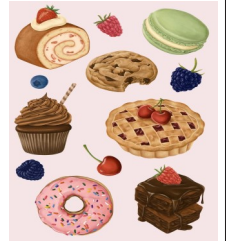
Prices are as follows:

Adult meal with Fish ———\$18.00

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 after 1 p.m.**

50/50 Chances ... available at the door from the Catholic Women's Union; drawing takes place at 7 p.m. each week. (February 23rd 50/50 winner: Frances Lorenz)

Dramatic Station Practice and Presentation

Please make this Lenten Season be the year you join the Dramatic Station cast. Realizing everyone is busy, come when you can. No acting skills needed-just a heart for the Lord. Call Debbie at [570.691.8874](tel:570.691.8874) with any questions.

Practice Dates:

March 4 at 7:00 p.m.

March 5 at 7:00 p.m.

March 12 at 7:00 p.m.

March 14 at 7:00 p.m.

March 19 at 6:30 p.m.— Dress Rehearsal

March 21 at 6:30 p.m.—Dress Rehearsal

March 24 at 7:30 p.m.— Presentation



Meet Gianna Jessen and Pray for Her

Gianna Jessen is a pro-life advocate, speaker, writer, singer and she is coming to our area on Tuesday, April 16th, 2024 -- 6:30 p.m. at the Holy Family Parish Center at Hillcrest Hall in Minersville. Her story is remarkable, awe inspiring and will make you realize she relies on Jesus for everything.

You see, Gianna Jessen was intended to die before she was born, just another one of the 1.2 million abortions each year in the United States. Instead of death, though, Gianna was bathed in a burning saline solution, but she overcame to enter the world.

Mark your calendar for this event and pray for its success. We will be selling a 3 prize gift card and cash ticket to raise funds for this event in the near future. More information to come in the following weeks.

Parish Council

Please approach any Parish Council Member listed below and ask that a question, concern, etc. be brought up at the next meeting on **Monday, March 11th.**

Elected Members

- Vincent Balulis
- Ann Blankenhorn
- Michael Brennan
- John Crane
- Michelle Darhun
- Darren DeArment
- Joseph Gerchak
- Heidi Gorski
- Sr. Mary Jane Hahner
- Michael Hummel
- Joseph Kurtek
- Nannette Major
- John Powers
- Reene Reddington
- Kay Wollyung
- Robert Wollyung

Appointed Members

- Lucilla Kochol
- John Consugar

Ex-Officio

- Father Kevin Bobbin
- Deacon Larry Lonergan
- Deacon Luis R. Visot
- Ed Brahler

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.

Baptized in Christ

On February 11th we celebrated the glorious baptism day of **Maxiliano Quinn Fowler**, son of Christopher and Angie Fowler. He became a new creation in Christ in the waters of Holy Baptism and is now joined to us by the gifts of faith, hope and charity. We warmly welcome him into our parish family.

Summer Festival—Pot Luck Stand Donations



We are seeking gift donations for the Midsummer Festival adult and children Pot Luck stands. We thank you for your past generosity and hope we are can count on your support this year.

Gift cards are highly requested and can be placed in the weekly collection basket, marked "for Pot Luck stand". Your newly purchased gift items can include such things as: small kitchen appliances, bakeware, Yuengling items, puzzles, games, water guns, summer toys, Christmas items and wreaths. We also welcome

larger, and exciting prizes such as bicycles, scooters, televisions, Vera Bradley, Yeti and more. Prizes can be placed in the bins marked "Pot Luck" stand at the back of church.

To make donating more convenient, we've also set up an Amazon Gift List. Scan the QR code below OR visit Amazon.com/registries and search for "St. John the Baptist Pottsville" under the "Gift List" option. Items purchased will ship directly to Maureen Derbes.

Please remember we can only accept recently purchased, NEW items In their original package. Any old, used or opened items will not be able to be used for prizes. If you like, include your name so we can keep track of those who donated. If purchasing from Amazon please send a text with your name and what was purchased.



Any questions or concerns or wanting to arrange drop off please call or text Maureen at 570-691-6098.

St. John the Baptist is participating in a parish-wide survey!

We are very excited that the Disciple Maker Index survey has officially opened!

The survey will only be **available until March 31st**, and it will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide feedback on what efforts the parish is doing to help you grow. All responses will be confidential and the parish will only receive information about the community as whole.

Go to <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/b368x5> to complete the Survey.


If you prefer a paper copy:

You may pick up a paper copy of the survey after daily and Sunday Masses. They will be in the back of Church after all weekend Masses; and in Longinus Hall after daily Mass.

Printable version of the survey is also available for download from our website and our Facebook Posts. To submit the completed paper survey, please drop off the completed survey in the back of the Church during weekend Masses or in Longinus Hall during the week.

To make special arrangements for getting a paper copy, please contact the rectory office at 570-622-5470 ext 3 or John Crane at 570-292-0904.

Thank you for helping with this important project!




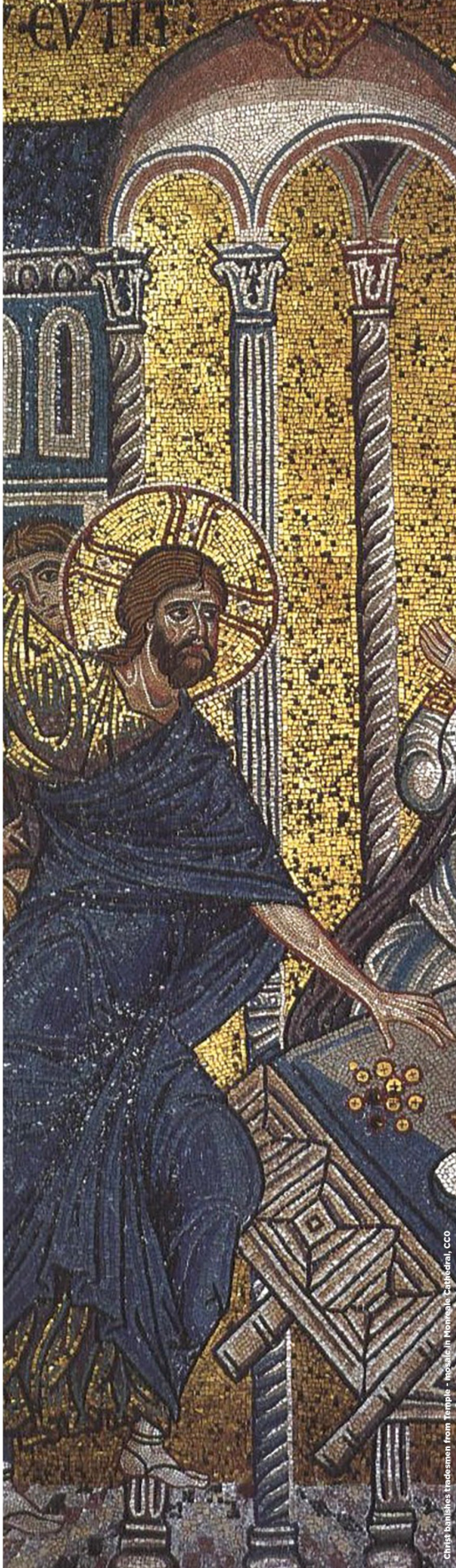
Daylight Saving Time

Don't be late for Mass!

Turn your clocks ahead

at 2 a.m. on March 10th





March 3, 2024

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 20:1-17 | 1 Cor 1:22-25 | Jn 2:13-25

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

When I was a kid, my older siblings used to tell me what to do (no surprise there!) and often backed up their, ahem, “commands,” by saying, “Mom and Dad said so.” Interestingly, sometimes that statement was not true (!), and I would get the right information – what to do and the correct way to do it – directly from my parents. My experience is not unlike that of the Israelites in today’s first reading. As they escaped from bondage in Egypt and followed the Lord through the guidance of Moses, they developed their own ways of doing things, listened to the wrong people and acted as if they were indeed conveying truth. But the Lord steps in to correct them, and in “a direct, unmediated communication” of truth to them, gives them commandments to follow. (USCCB commentary) These instructions for how to live a moral life in relationship with God and with one another are the basis of the covenant they made there with the Lord. They are the foundation of the new covenant in which we partake through Jesus Christ, who came into our history as the perfect, unmediated communication of God.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

How do you envision Jesus? It’s easy to think of him as kind and easy-going – the type of person who never lets his feathers get ruffled, no matter how many times the Pharisees question and challenge him. However, we see a different side of Jesus today – one in which he is flipping over tables and brandishing a whip. He is driving out those who are using his Father’s house as a place to make money rather than as a place to worship. In the drama of that scene, let’s not overlook what comes next in the reading. The people there at the temple, obviously taken aback by what they have seen, ask for a sign to justify what authority Jesus has to drive people out of the temple. Jesus says, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” That confused people then, but we know today that the true temple is Jesus and that his rising from the dead would be the sign they sought. Just as the commandments of God have authority, so does Jesus who came as perfect obedience to those commandments to help us follow them ourselves.

PRAY It’s easy for us to think we’re doing a good job keeping the Lord’s commandments, but at the same time the line between right and wrong can seem blurred at times and we may relax a bit on some of their finer points. Try this week to dig deep within ourselves and turn to prayer for the strength to do what is right, seeking the wisdom of God rather than relying on human wisdom.

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-mailstjbparish@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
Saturdays4:15 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

Neighboring Events

Holy Hour

with John Paul Kasperowicz at St. Ambrose Church in Schuylkill Haven on **Wednesday, March 13th at 6:30 p.m.** John Paul, founder of the Ministry of the Single-hearted retreat and music ministry as well as Big Heart Harvest farming ministry, will lead us in prayer and reflection before our Eucharistic Lord. For more information, please call St. Ambrose at 570-385-1031.

Homemade Chocolate Easter Candy

Butter Cream, Coconut Cream or Peanut Butter Eggs—\$22 per box. Sorry, no mixed boxes. Proceeds benefit St. Patrick Parish — **All orders due by March 8th.** To place an order please call the Parish Office at 570-622-1802 ext 0. Candy pick up at the Parish Center, 313 Mahantongo St. during Palm Sunday Weekend Bake Sale on March 23rd from 1 to 5:30 p.m. or March 24th from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. All candy **MUST** be pre-ordered and pre-paid.

Homemade Shoo Fly Pie & Pie Crusts

Wet Bottom Pie—\$9.00; Crust—\$3.00 ... made by members of St. Mary’s Church Choir in Ringtown. Pick up at St. Mary’s Church Rectory in Ringtown on Tuesday, March 19th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. **Deadline to Order is Wednesday, March 13th.** Call the Parish Office at 570-889-3850 to leave a message with Name, Phone # and your order.

Easter Duty — 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 18th until May 26th 2024). Those conscious of serious sin are reminded of the obligation to confess their sins at least once a year during this time. Catholics are also 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.