

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

March 8, 2026 • Second Sunday of Lent

Almsgiving  Praying  Fasting

L E N T



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

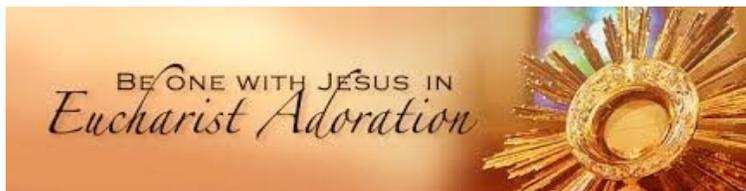
Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W., M.S.
 Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services
 P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538
 610-871-5200 ext. 2204
 prusso@allentowndiocese.org

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.*

For our Deceased: *Joseph Burns*

"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, March 7

5:00 p.m. Fred & Marie Eagan
(Chris & John Eagan)

Sunday, March 8

8:15 a.m. Paul Filiac
(Mary Ann Filiac Family)

Sunday, March 8

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

Monday, March 9

6:30 p.m. Lena Semanchick
(Christine Maccarone)

Tuesday, March 10

9:00 a.m. Andrew Walcott Jr.
(Mary Jane Ludwig)

Wednesday, March 11

6:30 p.m. St. John's Parish Family
(Time Change)

Thursday, March 12

9:00 a.m. John Fredericks
(Bob & Kathy Verbosh)

Friday, March 13

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

Saturday, March 14

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

Sunday, March 15

8:15 a.m. Robert Doyle Sr.
(Ed & Gerry Schwartz)

Sunday, March 15

10:30 a.m. Atwood & Margaret
Daubert
(Janet Daubert)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

For several weeks we have been looking at the sacrament of Baptism. Before moving on to the other sacraments, we need to remind ourselves of the important roles of parents and godparents when a child is baptized.

We mentioned previously that some Christian traditions wait until a person is older and can make a mature decision for him or herself before baptizing that person. But Catholics favor infant Baptism because of what Baptism is and what it does for us. Therefore, the child's parents take on the commitment of bringing up the child in the faith. This includes teaching simple prayers at home, bringing the child to Mass every Sunday, making sure the child receives religious education through Catholic school, parish-based religious ed, or homeschooling, and of course, setting a good example for the child at home.

Godparents share the parents' responsibilities. They support the parents by accompanying the child through life, as much as possible, modeling how to live the Catholic faith. Because of this serious role, godparents must be fully-initiated practicing Catholics. In other words, they themselves have received Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion, and attend Mass every Sunday. They are also expected to model the Church's understanding of Matrimony by being validly married in the Catholic Church, or living a chaste life if they are not married. A child must have at least one godparent who fits this profile. A second godparent who is Christian but not Catholic is permitted as long as this in no way sends "mixed messages" to the child. (We call this non-Catholic godparent a "Christian witness.")

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

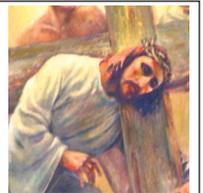
SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study

... will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on **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. Consider making this devotion a part of your Lenten observance.



Next Week's Readings

4th Sunday of Lent

(March 14/15)

Reading I: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Reading II: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-41

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.

Upcoming Events

March

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
11	8:00 p.m.	St. John's Beneficial Society.....	F.R.
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.
15	4:00 p.m.	Soup & Scripture.....	L.H.
15	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
17	7:00 p.m.	Ladies of the Rosary	L.H.
18	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross.....	Church
18	7:00 a.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg	L.H.
19	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
20	4-6:30 p.m.	Lenten Dinners	R.B.
21	9:00 a.m.	Parish Retreat	L.H. & Church
22	2:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice	Church
22	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
23	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council Mtg.....	L.H.
24	6:30 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Dress Rehearsal.....	Church
25	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church
26	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
26	7:30 p.m.	Summer Festival Mtg.....	L.H.
27	4-6:30 p.m.	Lenten Dinner	R.B.
29	9:00 p.m.	CCD	L.H.
29	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children's Liturgy.....	L.H.

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

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

Soup & Scripture

Transform your soul this Lent with St. John's Soup and Scripture. Join us on **Sundays, 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 the **10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, March 15th.** 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.

Weekly Collection

February 28/March 1\$5,198.70

Dues\$1,394.00

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

Candles

BVM

1&2. IMO Joe Brahler
by Kathy Brahler

St. Joseph

1. IMO Joseph Wollyung Sr.
by Wollyung Family
2. IMO Joe Brahler
by Kathy Brahler

Sanctuary

IMO Joe Brahler
by Kathy Brahler

Guardian Angels

1,2,3,4. IMO Joe Brahler
by Kathy Brahler

Liturgical Min. Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 14—5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Frank Murphy

EM: Danny & Hermine Murphy

Servers: Colin McGinley
Gabriel Scheidel

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

March 15 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Michelle Ambrose

EM: John Crane, Joseph Palmieri

Servers: Sophia Palmieri
Finley McNamara

Cantor: Vincent Prestileo

March 15—10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Heidi Gorski

EM: Gerry Schwartz, Ray Petrilla

Servers: Kyle & Preston McCormick

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

Weekend Sacristan: R.J. Post

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 cooperation. Thank you.

LENTEN DINNERS — Fridays during Lent

March 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

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. 50/50 Winner on March 6: Rick Smith

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!!



Mustard Seedlings



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

Join us Thursday mornings, March 12 & 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.

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 23rd—7 pm

Elected Members

Vincent Balulis
Chris Black
Ann Blankenhorn
Bob Burns
Kenneth Cooper
John Crane
Michelle Darhun
Darren DeArment
Tara DeStefano
Kelley Eroh
Heidi Gorski
Charles Kustan
Barbara Munster
Reene Reddington
Missy Scheetz
Michelle Stone
Gretchen Witman
Kay Wollyung
Marianne Wollyung
Robert Wollyung

Appointed Members

John Consugar
Tina Seiger

Ex-Officio

Father Kevin Bobbin
Deacon Robert Reiley
Ray Petrilla
Ed Braher

There is hope in the battle against pornography.

Educate yourself, protect yourself and your family, and seek help and healing. Explore the resources offered by:

1. Integrity Restored (integrityrestored.com)
2. The Diocese of Allentown's Lumen Christi Commission (adlumenchristi.org)
3. Or contact Fr. Bobbin for a confidential appointment.

Assumption BVM School News ...

Assumption BVM's HSA will host its **Annual Cash & Gift Card Bingo** on Sunday, April 19, at St. Ambrose's Parish Center. Doors open at 11:30 AM, and bingo begins at 1:00 PM. Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of exciting games, great prizes, and delicious food.

Advance tickets are \$35 and will be \$40 at the door. Purchase online at www.tinyurl.com/abvmHSAbingo, email ABVM.BINGO@gmail.com, or call/text (610) 618-0539 for tickets and information.

Diocesan Events ...

St. Monica Ministry Holy Hour of Petition and Hope will take place at St. Theresa Church (1408 Easton Road, Hellertown) on Tuesday, March 10 at 6:00pm. Presiding will be Rev. Christopher Zelonis, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Lehighton. Please come join in prayer for the return of Catholics who have left the Church. For more information on the St. Monica Ministry, please call the St. Theresa rectory at 610-838-7045 or email Celeste at StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com

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.

Neighboring Events ...

Homemade Chocolate Easter Candy - Butter Cream, Coconut Cream or Peanut Butter Eggs - \$12 per box. *Sorry, no mixed boxes.* Proceeds benefit St. Patrick Parish – All orders are due by March 13. To place an order, please call the Parish Office at 570-622-1802, ext 0. Candy may be picked up in our Parish Center (313 Mahantongo St., Pottsville) during the Palm Sunday Weekend Bake Sale - March 28 from 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm or March 29 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. All candy MUST be pre-paid.

Ham Bingo sponsored by Holy Family Parish in Minersville on Sunday, March 15th. Doors open 11 am and Bingo begins 1 pm. Tickets \$5 making this a great event to bring the whole family! Our kitchen will be open making all of your Holy Family favorites!

Easter Bazaar at St. Charles Borromeo Parish Hall, 1115 Walnut St. in Ashland on Saturday, March 21st from 10 am to 2 pm. Bake Sale, Huge White Elephant Sale, Homemade Soups, Pigeons, Halushki, Barbeque, Sausage, Door Prizes and more!

Cruise to the Caribbean with St. Ambrose (Schuylkill Haven) on August 19 to August 29 – Departing from NYC and traveling on the Norwegian Escape, we will be visiting San Juan, Puerto Rico; Philipsburg, St. Maarten; the U.S. and British Virgin Islands; and Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. There are cabin options for everyone. Optional bus transportation from St. Ambrose will also be available for an additional fee. For more information or to sign up, please reach out to Debbie Minnich at 484-934-1350.

16th Annual Golf Tournament sponsored by St. Patrick Church on Saturday, May 16th at Hidden Valley Golf Course in Pine Grove. Registration is Saturday, May 16th at 7 am; Shotgun start at 8 am. Early Bird Special price by April 30th is \$85. Please call Debbie at 570-622-1802, ext. 0 for more information.

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."

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.

HELP NEEDED

My name is Anthony J. Gaburick. I suffer from a nerve disease that requires treatments for me to stay functional. My treatments are out of town in places such as Allentown, West Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre and Wyomissing. I'm looking for drivers who can help me get to these treatments. Doctors will not allow me to drive myself to and from treatments. If anyone is interested in driving me, please contact the church rectory. I'll be very grateful for your help! **Thank you** to everyone who has come forward to help me with transportation to my medical appointments. Your help is so very appreciated. I am truly grateful. Thank you again!

March 8, 2026

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 17:3-7 | Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 | Jn 4:5-42

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

As the Israelites wandered in the desert, Moses heard their cries and recognized their deeper need, not simply for water, but for hope. And so Moses calls upon the Lord, who gives them water in the desert, revealing his trustworthiness. In the big and little ways that we ask the same question - "Is the Lord in our midst or not?" - our loving and generous Father reminds us that he has not abandoned us and that his goodness will ultimately prevail. It's easy to become disgruntled like the Israelites when there is great pain and suffering around us. But through the ways that we care for one another and the peace that we find in prayer, the Father reminds us that he stands with us, granting us sustenance and grace.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

When Christ told the woman at the well that those who drink the water he gives will never thirst again, she thought he was offering literal water. Christ was instead revealing his own identity as the Son of God. This woman, who hears the words of Christ and knows God's promise of a Messiah, is filled with hope as she comes to recognize that the Lord indeed was in her midst. And I find it interesting that when she told people in town of her encounter with Christ, she told them of how he saw the mistakes of her past. Jesus loved her, and called her to step into the fullness of who she could be by turning away from the past that she clung to. We live in a world where we have very real physical needs, like the Israelites who thirsted, and the need to be seen in love, like the Samaritan woman. Ultimately, at the core of both of these needs is the desire for the hope that only God can give. When we serve our neighbors and look upon others with love, we can also be the vessel through which the presence of God is made known.

WITNESS

In our world, people are constantly asking the question, "Is the Lord in our midst or not?" Reflect on one way that you can share the Good News of the Gospel through word or action to make the presence of God known to those in your community.



Woman at the Well by Carl Bloch (1834-1890), Public Domain