

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

March 31, 2024



Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Mass Intentions

Monday, April 1 NO MASS

Tuesday, April 2

9:00 a.m. Francis & Mary Burns

Wednesday, April 3

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

Thursday, April 4

9:00 a.m. James Cunningham Jr.
(M/M George Halcovage)

Friday, April 5

9:00 a.m. James Pugh Jr.
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

Saturday, April 6

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

Sunday, April 7

8:15 a.m. Mary Connell
(Catholic Women's Union)

Sunday, April 7

10:30 a.m. Mary Yenilaitus
(Zambo Family)

Next Week's Readings

Divine Mercy Sunday

(April 6/7)

Reading I: Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35

Reading II: 1 John 5:1-6

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Confirmation Prayer Sponsors



Our 8th graders are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Thursday, April 25th** at St. Patrick's. Please consider supporting this important decision by praying for one or more of our candidates. Cards contain-

ing 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.

Message from Father Bobbin

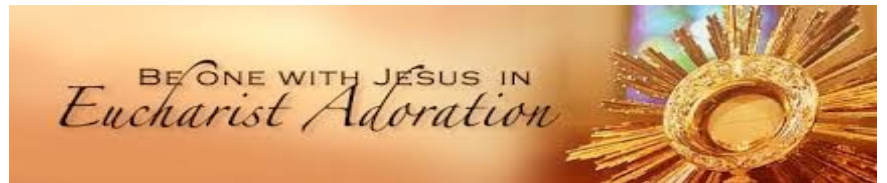
Dear Parishioners,

Easter is not just something we celebrate. Easter is who we are. A Christian is someone who knows Jesus Christ rose from the dead and He lives among us today. A Christian tries to live his or her life in the company of the risen Jesus, building a relationship with Him, walking through life with Him as one's closest friend.

As we do this, our lives change because we realize Jesus has conquered sin, evil, suffering, and death. No matter what troubles life brings, we live with less fear, we are able to keep everything in perspective, and we grow toward our full potential. Our hearts change and our attitude toward all other people comes from a place of love and genuine concern for the good of all. Jesus's victory over sin and suffering becomes real in our own lives and touches other people's lives through us.

This Easter season, may we know the joy of living in the company of the risen Jesus.

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.
- ◆ 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.

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 • James Minchhoff*

Thank You

Our new Paschal Candle in the church sanctuary was donated ...
In Memory of Edward Smith
by wife Dolores Smith, Children & Grandchildren



Upcoming Events

April

7	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
11	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
14	9:15 a.m.	CCD Parent Mtg	L.H.
17	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women’s Mtg	L.H.
18	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
21	9:15 a.m.	CCD Community Mtg	L.H.
21	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.

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

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

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

Weekly Collection

March 23/24\$5,357.50

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

Candles

BVM

1. Special Intention
2. IMO Andrew R. Herwig by Lorraine Murphy

St. Joseph

1. IMO Ronald Pillo by Steve & Chris Zanis
2. IMO David Zanis by Steve & Chris Zanis

Sanctuary

IMO Joseph Wollyung Jr. by Barb Wollyung & Family

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Gladys Kuperavage by Steve & Chris Zanis
2. IMO Edward Kuperavage by Steve & Chris Zanis
3. IMO Mary Buber by Paul & JoAnna Buber
4. Living & Deceased of St. John’s Catholic Women’s Union

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered **Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on 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.

St. Monica Ministry Retreat

...for families and friends of lapsed Catholics. Presentations by Dr. Michael Behe, Deacon Chris May, Rev. Adam Sedar. Friday Holy Hour / Mass / Rosary Walk / Wine & Cheese Mixer / Irish Music by Rev. Alex Brown. **Fri-day, April 19—Sunday, April 21** at the Peace Retreat House in Weatherly. Weekend cost \$200 / Saturday only \$50. Please email StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com before April 7th.



Communion to the Sick and 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.



CRS Rice Bowl

Happy Easter! As our CRS Rice Bowl journey comes to an end, may the Eucharist continue to transform our lives and help us respond to God’s call to serve our global family. Let us commit to sharing the joy of the Resurrection with people in our local community and around the world. Don’t forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl in the boxes provided at the church exits or donate online at crsricebowl.org/donate.

Liturgical Min.Schedule

Second Sunday of Easter

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 6 — 5 p.m. Mass

Reader: Carleigh Palmieri

Euch.Min.: Joe Palmieri
Heidi Gorski

Servers: Sophia Palmieri

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

April 7 — 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Michelle Heenan

Euch.Min.: George Forney
Jeff Naffin

Server: Ethan Grabowski

Cantor: Amy Joyce

April 7— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Ray Petrilla

Euch.Min.: John Matulevich
Bill Gianfagna

Servers: Ryan Grabowski

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

GIANNA JESSEN

Speaker—Advocate—Pro Life



"God is using Gianna to remind the world that each human being is precious to Him. It is beautiful to see the strength of the love of Jesus, which he has poured into her heart. My prayer for Gianna, and for all who listen to her, is that this message of God's love will put an end to abortion with the power of love."
- Mother Teresa

Gianna Jessen is a pro-life advocate, speaker, writer, singer and she is coming to our area ...

Tuesday, April 16th, 2024 -- 6:30 p.m.

at the Holy Family Parish Center at Hillcrest Hall in Minersville.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Free Admission

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 .

"An Evening with Gianna Jessen" chance tickets are now on sale. You have a chance to win three prizes of \$500 Amazon Gift Card, \$200 Boyer's Gift Card, \$100 Cash. Ticket price is \$10. All profits go to defray the cost of the event. Tickets will be sold after Masses for the next few weeks, You can also contact Tina Seiger to purchase tickets 570-789-3453.

Volunteers Needed ... We need a driver for Miss Gianna Jessen the day of the event. This will entail driving to an airport, hotel and to the event. Also, we are asking for volunteers to either purchase or make a few baked goods for this event. Donations of cases of water are also appreciated. Please call Tina Seiger if interested in helping with these requests 570-789-3453. Thank you in advance!



Baptismal Preparation

Before your youngest members are baptized, parents are asked to come for Baptismal Preparation. It is preferable that this be done **before** your baby is born. Please call Father Bobbin to arrange for this important preparation. Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

Baptized in Christ

On March 17th, we celebrated the glorious baptism day of **Blaise Patrick Hippeli**, son of Christopher and Caitlin (Goodman) Hippeli. 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 Blaise into our parish family.

St. John's Choir

St. John's Choir is welcoming new and current members to the choir to sing Saturday 5:00 p.m. Masses and special Masses. This is a very rewarding experience for anyone seeking to become more involved in our Parish Family. No prior singing experience or reading of music is required. Contact St. John's Rectory 570-622-5470 for more information.

St. John's Ensemble

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.

We invite **ANYONE** in the parish wanting to share his or her voice and musical gifts whether you are a beginner or more experienced. Arrangements are not complicated and songs are familiar. You do not need to know how to read music to join us. We will teach anyone who has a willing heart. Our goal is to play/sing once a month at one of the weekend Masses. This is a great way to participate in parish life and have fun with only a small commitment of your time. Why not give it a try and give back to your parish family by sharing the gifts God has given to you? If interested please call the rectory 570-622-5470.



Divine Mercy

PRAYER

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!
[Repeat 3x]

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
[Repeat 3x]
Amen.

Jesus, King of Mercy, We trust in You.

Divine Mercy Sunday—April 7th

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in church from 1:00-3:00, concluding with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction at 3:00. Father will also be available for Confessions 1:00-2:00. Join us for any part of the afternoon to celebrate God's mercy and pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

Easter

The Paschal mystery— Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again — reminds us that we are called to live a new life in Christ this Easter season. As a family we too can embrace the Paschal mystery — by dying and rising to new life in loving our neighbor — the ones we live with. Have a joy filled Easter with your family!

Cemetery News ...

After a long winter the grass is starting to grow and the flowers are trying to bloom, which means maintenance at St John's cemetery #2 will be happening once again. Now is the time to plan for the upcoming year. If any parishioner has any ideas, complaints, or compliments for the cemetery please contact the rectory with the information. It will then be passed onto the cemetery committee for consideration in the upcoming months. Practically everyone at St. John's Parish either has, or knows someone whose final resting place is in our cemetery, and it is up to us to make sure the grounds are the best they can be.



Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop Drop Off — Saturday, April 6th —

Look around your home for any items you wish to donate to our next Yard Sale. You'd be surprised what you might find. Here are some suggestions:

Decorations for Fall, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Puzzles, Knick Knacks, Kitchen Items, Purses, Small Appliances, Candles, Toys, Games, Jewelry, Tablecloths, CD's, DVD's, Bakeware, Phones, Vintage items, etc.

DO NOT donate the following: Plastics, VHS tapes, Glasses, Cups, Televisions, Bedding, Computers, Monitors, Keyboards, Books, Clothing, Large Furniture, Stuffed Animal Toys, Large Christmas Trees.

ONLY ONE DROP-OFF DATE on **Saturday, April 6th from 9 a.m. to noon** at the Russell Building. No items will be accepted before or after this date. Do not leave articles at the door or in the parking lot. Call the parish office 570-622-5470 ext. 3 for more information.



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 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](https://www.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. Thank you very much for your generosity.



Amazon Gift List QR Code

Nativity BVM High School—Happenings

Seniors **Ethan Grabowski** and **Rylee Denion** have been selected as Nativity's Bishop's Catholic Scholars for the 2023-2024 school year. Congratulations to both of these students!

Nativity BVM finished third in the Schuylkill Academic League during the regular season, which qualifies for a bronze medal. The league tournament took place on March 18th. Great job team!

Athletic Hall of Fame. Congratulations to the newest members: Angela Altemose '08, Ashley Smith Hoak '98, Katelyn MacCready McCann '05, Lt. Col. David Mills '56, Joseph Schaeffer '96 and David Sabol (Athletic Director/Coach). Induction ceremonies for Nativity's Athletic Hall of Fame will take place Sunday, April 7th, 2024 at the school. A lunch reception for inductees and their families will take place at the school beginning at 1 p.m. The formal induction ceremony will be held in the gymnasium at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Nativity BVM High School Century Benefit. Everyone is welcome to attend and help support Nativity BVM High School as we hold our 2024 Century Club Benefit on **Saturday, April 27th** at Mountain Valley Golf Course in Barnesville. The Golden Cross Society recipients will be inducted at the dinner. The cost is \$150 per person. Cocktail hour begins at 6 p.m., Dinner at 6 p.m., induction of the Golden Cross Society members and dancing will follow. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please contact Jenn Daubert at Nativity BVM High School at 570-622-8110. The Golden Cross Society inductees for this year are Megan Brennan '80, John Crane, Patrick "PJ" Lechleitner '90 and Atty. John B. Lieberman III.

Nativity Girl's Basketball Skills Clinic. Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, 28 for girls in kindergarten to 8th grade (all schools and school districts are welcome). Grades K-4 will take place 1 to 2 p.m.; grades 5 to 8 will take place 2 to 3 p.m. The clinic will be held at Assumption BVM School, 112 S. 7th St. in Pottsville. Cost is FREE. To register contact clinic director, Coach Scott Forney by Cell Phone (call/text) at 570-573-4275 or email at Forney.scott@gmail.com

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-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



March 31, 2024 | Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34a, 37-43 | Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8 | Jn 20:1-9

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Wishing you a blessed Easter! One of our commitments in growing as disciples of Jesus, especially at the beginning of this most important season of Easter, is to *study* Scripture. John’s Gospel today depicts the story of the empty tomb – the reactions of Mary of Magdala and the two disciples trying to make sense of what they had seen. What we may have missed, however, are the words of St. Peter in the first reading from Acts speaking of Jesus: “This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, *not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance*, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.” Jesus appeared post-resurrection to those to whom he was closest – the witnesses chosen by God whom he had commissioned to preach the Gospel to all people, so all might believe in him. In this way the chosen few, Christ’s heralds, would bring the Good News of his resurrection to the many. So we too, now, are witnesses, chosen by God in our baptism and come to this table of thanksgiving and sacrifice. By faith we grow as his disciples, ready to go forth to lead others to him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As we know, these first disciples of Christ went on mission throughout the known world to preach to the Jews as well as the Gentiles. Their task was not easy; all endured opposition and hardship; many were martyred. But gone was the fear they may have felt at the crucifixion; by the power of the Holy Spirit these early missionaries were full of courage and commitment, and were driven to proclaim the risen Jesus to all. What does this have to do with us today? By virtue of our baptism, we also are chosen by God to be his witnesses in the world. We are called to “preach the Gospel!” with how we live our lives. When we trust in the promises of Christ and know the peace that only he can bring, it gives us the strength to testify to friends, family and others that God loves us and has redeemed us. Good News indeed.

GROW & GO Christ is risen, Alleluia! The Resurrection means that nothing can separate us from God’s love and presence with us. Spend time this week in prayer contemplating these two truths: The purpose of our lives is to continually GROW in intimate relationship with God; and Jesus’ final command to his disciples and us is to “GO and make disciples of all nations.” (Mt 28:19)