

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • [www.saintjohnpottsville.org](http://www.saintjohnpottsville.org)

April 7, 2024

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the  
Heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us,

**I Trust In You!**



**DIVINE  
MERCY**

## Mass Intentions

### 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)

### Monday, April 8

6:30 p.m. James Cunningham Sr.  
(M/M George Halcovage)

### Tuesday, April 9

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

### Wednesday, April 10

9:00 a.m. Charlie Schaeffer  
(Maria Schaeffer)

### Thursday, April 11

9:00 a.m. Matthew Halsey  
(Joseph, Sonya, Joe Halsey)

### Friday, April 12

9:00 a.m. Kriston & Grapsy Family  
(Joan Grapsy & Family)

### Saturday, April 13

5:00 p.m. Mary Ellen Cross  
(Lou Cross & Marlo Lipko)

### Sunday, April 14

8:15 a.m. James Pugh Jr.  
(Donna & Jim Pugh)

### Sunday, April 14

10:30 a.m. Peter Meseravage,  
Dec. of Daubert Family  
(Judy Meseravage)

## Next Week's Readings

### Third Sunday of Easter

(April 13/14)

**Reading I:** Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15, 17-19

**Reading II:** 1 John 2:1-5a

**Gospel:** Luke 24:35-48

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

On the Sundays of Lent I commented on the Corporal Works of Mercy. On the Sundays of the Easter season, I invite you to think about the Spiritual Works of Mercy, which are traditionally listed as: counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offenses, bears wrongs patiently, and pray for the living and the dead.

The Corporal Works of Mercy (feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, etc.) are very important. But the Spiritual Works of Mercy are even more important because they care for a person's soul. They help people get to heaven.

Consider the first: counsel the doubtful. Many times we have difficult decisions to make. We are sometimes faced with decisions that have moral implications. When a family member, friend, or acquaintance shares such a dilemma with you, how do you respond? Do we sometimes keep quiet or simply tell the person what he wants to hear to avoid upsetting him or placing a burden on him? Or do we encourage him to make the decision in a way that is guided by the truth of our faith and morality?

Encouraging someone to do the right thing is not an easy thing to do. And, in the end, it is the other person's decision, not yours. But counseling the doubtful is a work of mercy. We can pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to know the right thing and help us make good decisions in times of doubt.

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.



## Thank You

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



## 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*

### 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 30/31 .....\$3,815.00

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

### Candles

#### BVM

1&2. IMO Anna Drye  
by Karen Schmitt

#### St. Joseph

1. For Ferdinand & Rosie  
by Neil & Frances Manus
2. For Frances Manus  
by Neil & Frances Manus

#### Sanctuary

IMO Charlie Schaeffer  
by Maria Schaeffer

#### Guardian Angels

1. IMO Josephine Cavanaugh  
by Hahner Family
2. IMO Josephine & Frank Brozana  
by Don & Joanne Doyne
3. For Neil Manus  
by Neil & Frances Manus
4. For Chloe & Joseph Manus  
By Neil & Frances Manus

### Liturgical Min. Schedule

#### **Third Sunday of Easter**

**April 13— 5 p.m. Mass**

**Reader:** Bob Wollyung

**Euch.Min.:** Dan & Hermine Murphy

**Servers:** Cooper & Cole Felty

**Cantor:** Dave Derbes

#### **April 14 — 8:15 a.m.**

**Reader:** Michelle Ambrose

**Euch.Min.:** Mike Ambrose  
Janet Daubert

**Server:** Connor Felty

**Cantor:** Dave Derbes

#### **April 14— 10:30 a.m.**

**Reader:** Vince Balulis

**Euch.Min.:** Justina Majestic  
John Crane

**Servers:** Kelly, Lauren, Megan  
Goodman

**Cantor:** Ensemble

# 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](mailto: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.

### Introduction to Mass

You have probably noticed that we stopped announcing the names of the liturgical ministers at the beginning of Mass. After giving it a lot of thought, we decided to discontinue this practice for the following reasons (from least important to most important).

1. This is not common practice in most parishes. There is no need for it.
2. There are often changes and substitutions among the liturgical ministers, which leads to frequent mistakes in announcing names.
3. It frees readers from worrying about announcing the right names and allows them to concentrate on proclaiming God’s Word.
4. When we serve as liturgical ministers at Mass, we do not draw attention to our individual personalities. We are placing ourselves at the service of something much greater. The priest represents Jesus (not himself). Readers proclaim God’s Word (not their own). Altar servers, cantors, and anyone else who assists at Mass are placing themselves at the service of the liturgy and the community.

### St. Monica Ministry

The St. Monica Ministry sponsors a monthly Holy Hour to ask Our Lord's mercy and to invoke the intercession of St. Monica for our fallen-away loved ones. It’s next Holy Hour will take place at St. Theresa Church, 1408 Easton Road, Hellertown on **Tuesday, April 9, at 6:00pm.** Presiding will be Rev. Christopher Zelonis, pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Lehighton. Immediately following the Holy Hour, a St. Monica Ministry meeting and book discussion will take place in Friendship Hall. All are welcome to attend both the Holy Hour and the meeting, and no registration is required. For information, please email [StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com](mailto:StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com)



### An Evening with Gianna Jessen

What do you do with your LIFE when you weren't supposed to have one? Come and find out as a voice meant to be silenced speaks on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6pm at Holy Parish Family Center at the former Hillcrest Hall, 631 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Minersville, PA 17954. Gianna will promptly speak at 6:30pm. This is a no cost event, and light refreshments will be served. Don't miss your chance to meet a miracle!

"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!

### 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 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



### Grotto Flowers

Just a reminder when placing flowers at the Blessed Mother Grotto located behind the church, please **DO NOT** use glass or any breakable vases or containers for your flowers. Sometimes the wind knocks them over and the glass is shattered in the area. Please use plastic or an unbreakable material.

Thank you.



## 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

## Rice Bowl

**Thank You.** Together, we changed lives this Lent—through CRS Rice Bowl! THANK YOU for being a part of this effort! Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl at the church exits, or donate online at [crsricebowl.org/donate](http://crsricebowl.org/donate).

### Rice Bowl Boxes

The Rice Bowl boxes can be dropped off at the rectory or placed in the boxes by the upper side door of church.

## Welcome to St. John's

This week we welcome **Ann Marie Souchak**, and **Joseph & Sherri Souchak** into our parish family. Warmly welcome the Souchak Family with a big dose of St. John's hospitality.

## 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."*



## Divine Mercy Sunday—April 7

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.

### 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 3 x)

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

## Nativity BVM High School—Happenings

**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.

## Assumption BVM News ...

**Cash & Gift Card Bingo ...** sponsored by Assumption BVM School on **Sunday, April 21st** at Hillcrest Hall in Minersville. Doors open 11 a.m. and Bingo begins 1 p.m. Advance tickets are \$35; at door \$40. Only 300 tickets sold, so email or call to purchase advance tickets and secure your spot ... [abvm.bingo@gmail.com](mailto:abvm.bingo@gmail.com) or call 570-205-3672. For more information visit [tinyurl.com/yeh9zby](http://tinyurl.com/yeh9zby)

### Calling All Parishioners who love St. John's hospitality and/or Yuengling Lager!



Did you know that St. John's is right on the race route for the annual Yuengling Lager Jogger 5k race? This year's race will take place Saturday morning, April 20th, starting at 9 a.m. Our parish family would like to extend a warm welcome to the thousands of individuals who pass our doors at this event. You can get involved in the following ways: Donate small (3-5 oz) cups / Donate gallons of water / Donate your time by either ... making fun, encouraging signs with your family, or even better ... coming out to our parish steps on April 20th with your signs, bells and whistles to cheer for participants and hand out waters. Please consider coming out for some parish fellowship and showing our community some St. John's hospitality! On the day of the event, please arrive to the parish parking lot between 8 and 8:30 a.m. due to road closures. Call Sarah DeArment (570-617-8418) to sign up or donate. Please join us!

April 7, 2024

## Second Sunday of Easter Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 4:32-35 | 1 Jn 5:1-6 | Jn 20:19-31

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

We tend to beat up St. Thomas for his doubt, when what is really most amazing in the scene from today's Gospel is his understanding, and the first public pronouncement of, Jesus Christ's divinity. He *gets* it. And he proclaims it without hesitation: "My Lord and my God." I think about what Thomas' face might have looked like at that moment, and I imagine a countenance of conviction alongside humility - joyful tears in the eyes that reflect awe and wonder. The truth behind his realization and understanding is that God is faithful, God is loving, God is merciful. Of course, *knowing* that with our heart and mind needs to be translated into *doing* with our every action. The early Christian communities seemed to have lived this well, happily sharing their possessions and selling what they didn't need. Not because they had been forced to, but because the "commandments [were] not burdensome" for those who loved God. God loved us first, and by his grace, and his mercy, we are commanded and empowered to love one another.

### GO EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

God is merciful - Divine Mercy. And that is what we celebrate today, in addition to the second Sunday of Easter. The first Divine Mercy Sunday observance occurred in the year 2000, when St. John Paul II canonized Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska. The Polish sister received private revelations from the Lord about his great mercy in the 1930s, and she outlined these in a diary she kept at the instruction of her confessors. A passage from her diary says: "The graces of my mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is - trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive." (1578) The apostles in today's passage told Thomas that they had *seen the Lord* - the resurrected Lord. They trusted that Jesus' messages to them were true and that they indeed need not fear. The message of Divine Mercy should likewise comfort us and also provide a model for our actions. In the same way the apostles helped Thomas to trust and come to deep knowledge and understanding, let us strive to be "of one heart and mind" with our fellow disciples and love them as we have been loved by God.

**PRAY** The words of St. Faustina's diary have been used to create the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. This prayer is said using a rosary, but with some differences in the prayers. Once you know the words, the chaplet is a simple prayer to recite, and it is traditionally said at 3 p.m. in remembrance of Jesus' merciful act of dying on the cross for us. If you have never recited the chaplet, try praying it this week.



**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

