

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

May 3, 2026



3rd Sunday of Easter

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 Vicic*

"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, May 2

5:00 p.m. Samkavitz & Orzechowski Family
(M/M Joseph Orzechowski)

Sunday, May 3

8:15 a.m. Charles & Matilda Schaeffer
(Eleanor Schaeffer)

Sunday, May 3

10:30 a.m. Alesandro Clare Alfonso
(Majestic & Semanchick Families)

Monday, May 4

6:30 p.m. Tony Kochol
(Patricia Mitnitsky)

Tuesday, May 5

9:00 a.m. Gustitus & Lisowski Family
(John & Annette Lisowski)

Wednesday, May 6

9:00 a.m. John Gerace
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

Thursday, May 7

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

Friday, May 8

9:00 a.m. Daniel Murray
(Anthony Gaburick Family)

Saturday, May 9

5:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Mothers
of St. John's Parish Family

Sunday, May 10

8:15 a.m. Living & Deceased Mothers
of St. John's Parish Family

Sunday, May 10

10:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Mothers
of St. John's Parish Family

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

In our series on the seven sacraments, we have looked at Baptism and Confirmation. Today we begin to reflect on the Eucharist. Although the Eucharist tends to be grouped with Baptism and Confirmation as the three Sacraments of Initiation (bringing us into full membership in the Church), the Eucharist stands apart from all the sacraments. All seven sacraments bring us into contact with the risen Jesus. But the Eucharist *is* the risen Jesus: His Real Presence, His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity under the sensible appearances of bread and wine.

The Eucharist is not just one element of the Catholic faith. It is the heart of our faith. It is the presence of the risen Jesus abiding in His Church today. The celebration of the Eucharist – the Mass – is the central act of worship of our faith. The Eucharist is described as the “source and summit” of our faith.

The Eucharist is a huge topic and it is impossible to say everything in a few bulletin articles. Maybe a good way to begin is with some terminology. We tend to use three terms to refer to the same thing: the Eucharist, the Blessed Sacrament, and Holy Communion. (Holy Communion refers more to our reception of the Eucharist.) During the consecration at Mass, “transubstantiation” occurs. This is the technical term that means the bread and wine are totally changed (their “substance” is totally changed) into the Body and Blood of Jesus. After the consecration, the bread is no longer bread but the Body of Christ (the word “host” can properly refer to the wafer either before or after the consecration); the wine is no longer wine but the Precious Blood. It is very important to use correct language to express what we believe about the Eucharist.

“Eucharistic Adoration” or simply “Adoration” refers to praying in the presence of the Eucharist. “Exposition” refers to putting the Eucharist on the altar for Adoration in the monstrance, the vessel that allows us to see the consecrated host.

In Christ,

Fr. Bobbin

Readers, Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.

Please consider if our Lord is calling you to one of these roles. Our current liturgical ministers are sometimes spread very thin, especially in the summer, making it difficult to fill the schedule. If you might be interested in one of these roles, please see Fr. Bobbin.

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study

... will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on **May 14 & 21**. 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.

Next Week's Readings

6th Sunday of Easter (May 9/10)

Reading I: Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17

Reading II: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Gospel: John 14:15-21

Upcoming Events

May

3	10:30 a.m.	CCD/Rosary/May Procession.....	Church/Grotto
3	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children's Liturgy May Procession...	Church/Grotto
4	6:30 p.m.	Anointing Mass.....	Church
7	7:00 p.m.	Summer Festival Mtg.....	R.B.
8	4-7 p.m.	Yard Sale/Curiosity Shop.....	R.B.
9	9 am-noon	Yard Sale/Curiosity Shop.....	R.B.
12	7:00 p.m.	Ladies of the Rosary.....	L.H.
13	7:00 p.m.	Ascension Thursday Mass.....	Church
14	9:00 a.m.	Ascension Thursday Mass.....	Church
14	5:15 p.m.	Ascension Thursday Mass.....	Church
14	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study.....	L.H.
16	after Mass	Wine & Cheese.....	L.H.
17	after Masses	Coffee & Donuts.....	L.H.
20	6:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union 'Covered Dish'.....	L.H.

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

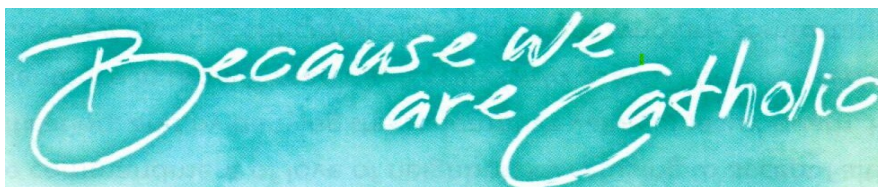
Tuesdays 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men's Group..... F.R.

<><><> MARK YOUR CALENDARS <><><>

SUMMER FESTIVAL—July 17/18, 2026

Anointing Mass

On **Monday, May 4**, at the usual **6:30pm Mass**, we will offer the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. While many Catholics think of this sacrament as “Last Rites,” it is not only for the dying. It is a sacrament of spiritual healing for anyone who is seriously or chronically ill, including mental illnesses, for the elderly, and for anyone who will have surgery in the near future. If you or a family member fits into one of these categories and would like to receive the sacrament, please call the rectory. **It is important to register in advance so we can keep proper records of the sacraments.** Mass will be celebrated in the main church. There will be pews reserved for those receiving Anointing and for family or caregivers.



Because We Are Catholic Annual Appeal—2026

It's underway! Our parish support is a vital part of this Diocesan-wide effort to serve children and families in our own community and throughout the Diocese of Allentown. You can scan the QR code and make your gift today at www.BecauseWeAreCatholic.org. 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.

Weekly Collection

April 25/26.....\$5,034.00

Improv. & Repairs.....\$1,345.00

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Joseph Brahler
by Kathy Brahler
2. Special Intention
by Jule Quandel

St. Joseph

1. IMO Joseph Brahler
by Kathy Brahler
2. For Rose Manus
by Neil & Frances Manus

Sanctuary

IMO Alesandro & Clare Alfonsi
by Majestic & Semanchik Family

Guardian Angels

- 1&2. IMO Joseph Brahler
by Kathy Brahler
- 3&4. IMO Ronald Kriston
by Joan Grapsy Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9 — 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Heidi Gorski

EM: John Crane, Sharon Snyder

Server: John Crane

Cantor: Dave Derbes

May 10— 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Michelle Ambrose

EM: Michael Ambrose, Jeff Naffin

Servers: Sophia Palmieri

Finley McNamara

Cantor: Tina Seiger

May 10 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Michelle Heenan

EM: Frank Murphy, Justina Majestic

Servers: Luke Lieberman

Gabriel Scheidel

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

Weekend Sacristan Ryan Grabowski

Attention — All Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, and Servers

Please let us know your plans for **June & July** so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. Please email or call the rectory by **May 11th**. Thank you.

Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop — May 8/9

Friday, May 8th from 4 to 7 p.m. and **Saturday, May 9th** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Russell Building 9th & Schuylkill Ave. Pottsville.

Don't miss it! If you like yard sales, this is the place to be. Various items including ... Christmas decorations, knick-knacks, kitchen items, appliances, jewelry, various holiday decorations, framed prints, special Vintage Section and much, much more, plus food is available for purchase. Something for everyone! Join us! Call the Rectory office 622-5470 ext 3 for more information.



Desserts/Baked Goods needed—If you would like to donate a dessert, please drop off at the times listed above or call the rectory 622-5470 ext 3. Please individually wrap or bag all dessert items to be sold.

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, 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!!

Summer Festival — T-Shirts

If something new and exciting to add to your Summer Festival attire is what you have been looking for- the Summer Festival Committee is ready to deliver! We are offering St John's Summer Festival t-shirts for all to buy! You may have seen some of our committee members fashioning these fabulous shirts last year. The t-shirt brand is Comfort Colors- incredibly soft and very durable to last! It will be a one sided design on the front of the shirt - a beautiful drawing of our church and some fun festival food as well! The shirt was designed by a well loved local graphic design business Nora's Pawesome Tees! We will offer online ordering (for a small processing fee) or also for no fees, we will be doing some pre-sales in the back of church after Masses until 5/24- the shirts will be ready and delivered in June. There will be extras ordered to sell at the Festival but to be sure to get your specific size, we highly recommend doing the pre-sale. All shirts must be paid for at time of the order. The color of the shirts is Lagoon Blue—it's a shade of teal. We will have a sample shirt in the back of the church for everyone to see!

Summer Festival T-Shirt

Please complete this order form, enclose in an envelope, drop in the collection basket along with the cost.

Name _____ Phone _____

Size (s) _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Adults: S—XL = \$23.00 / 2 XL: \$25.00 / 3 XL: \$27.00 / 4 XL: \$29.00 / Children: \$18.00

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."

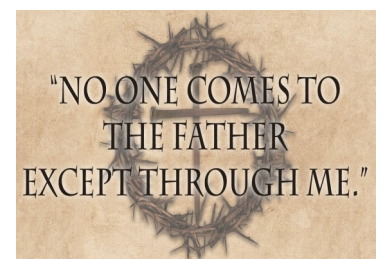
Moving? Relocating? Let us Know!

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!

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.



Because we are Catholic



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE of ALLENTOWN
CELEBRATING 65 YEARS

Contributions to the **Because We are Catholic Annual Appeal** directly fund vital Community Services, Catholic Education, Vocations, and Parish Life programs across our Diocese.

To ensure your gifts are used as intended, these funds are held in a restricted Trust overseen by dedicated volunteer advisors from Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill counties.

As we celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the Diocese of Allentown, please enjoy this collection of new and "throwback" photos highlighting our shared journey!

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

- Services for students with special needs.
- Scholarships and grants for needy and deserving students

18.2%
OF APPEAL



DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN

Donate online at BecauseWeAreCatholic.org • 800-831-4443



May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7 | 1 Pt 2:4-9 | Jn 14:1-12

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

When the needs of ministry became overwhelming, the Apostles did not say they would sleep less or pray less in order to have more time to serve others. Instead, they appointed leaders from the community to help so they could continue to devote themselves to prayer and preaching. This reminds me of a story I read about Saint Teresa of Calcutta, in which the sisters of the Missionaries of Charity asked to be excused from the mandatory daily Holy Hour because the needs of the poor were so overwhelming. Saint Teresa is said to have responded that the sisters should then spend not one, but two hours in prayer each day. She knew that the foundation of a life of service was a life of prayer. We are asked in all that we do to rely not on our own abilities, but to humbly recognize that all we have to give comes from God.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The cornerstone of our lives - the piece that gives strength to everything else that grows within us - is our relationship with God. The works of our vocation are meant to flow from that relationship. And so coming to know Jesus through prayer is at the core of serving others. In my vocation as a wife and mother, I sometimes get consumed in completing tasks and only realize at the end of the day that I have not prayed. But even Christ, the Son of God, tells us in the Gospel that "the Father who dwells in me is doing his works." Life in the Trinity means that the love of the Father flows through the Son. If Jesus does not rely on his own being to preach and serve, I certainly cannot respond to God's call to love my family apart from him. As we complete the daily tasks of our vocations, we must remember that the ultimate call of a life of holiness is to allow God's love to flow forth through us.

PRAY

This week, consider how you can develop or strengthen a habit of prayer as the first act of your day. You might be able to pray in silence, or you might choose to incorporate prayer into the activity of your morning. However you are able to establish this routine, be intentional about how you recognize prayer as the cornerstone of all that you do.