



St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10th
& Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901

Pastor: *Rev. David J. Loeper*

Deacons: *Luis R. Visot / Lawrence Lonergan*

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 24, 2020

Rectory (570) 622-5470
Rectory Fax (570) 622-4589
Russell Building (570) 628-3002
Website – SaintJohnPottsville.org.

Parish Council President: *Robert Bechtel*
Choir Director/Organist: *David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator: *Lucilla Kochol*
E-mail – stjbparish@comcast.net

Nativity BVM High School (570) 622-8110
Assumption BVM Elementary (570) 622-0106
St. Joseph Center for Special Learning (570) 622-4638

Cemetery Information

John Consugar (570)-449-1675
St. John's Rectory (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.

New Parishioners

Please call the Rectory for an appointment to register.

Bulletin Deadline Tuesday prior to publication.

Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office

Sacrament of Marriage

Please call the Rectory one year in advance.

Sacrament of Baptism

First Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m.
Second Sunday during 10:30 a.m. Mass
Baptismal Preparation for Parents **MUST** precede the Baptism
Please contact Father Dave for an appointment.

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC,LPC
Direct Telephone: (800) 791-9209

Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection

Pamela Russo, MSW, MS
610-871-5200, Ext. 2204
prusso@allentowndiocese.org

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR, FR. DAVE

DEAR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS:

Please know that all of you, as parishioners of St. John's, were greatly missed over the weekends. Our seminarian Bobby Rienzo and I remembered all of you in the Masses we celebrate not only for the intentions that were scheduled but for all the parishioners of the parish.

Continue to stay safe and healthy and know that our prayers are with you. As of now, there is no indication as to when Mass and other activities in the parish can resume. Pray for all those who are in any way affected by this whole situation. Know that God will bring good and blessings out of all this. Now is a good time to quiet our spirits and turn to God and allow him to work in our lives. If there is anything we can help you with, please do not hesitate to call the rectory 570-622-5470.

Father Dave

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ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS

A reminder to all parishioners that the church will be open for private prayer and time before the Blessed Sacrament on the following days and times:

Saturday --- 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Sunday --- 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Confessions will be heard on the following days and times:

Saturday --- 10:30 to 11 a.m. and 4 to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday --- There will be no confessions.

Please use the upper side door of the church where the ramp is located.

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Rosary prayed on Facebook

Divine Mercy prayed on Facebook

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PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Parish Council was scheduled to have our next meeting on Monday, June 8th. Unfortunately, due to COVID, that meeting will be cancelled. Obviously, health concerns prevent us from meeting but since lockdown orders started not long after our last meeting in March, there wouldn't be much to discuss anyway. Our next meeting will be slated for late summer/early Fall.

While the world seems to have grinded to a halt, parish life continues at Saint John's! The church remains open on the weekend for private prayer and confessions. We are also livestreaming several things over Facebook including: daily Mass, daily Rosary recitations, and weekend Mass. In addition, there was a livestreamed organ concert which can still be viewed on the parish Facebook page.

Although we haven't been at Mass in some time, in speaking with Father Dave, the Parish is able to keep our head above water due to the generosity of you - our parishioners! Please continue to support Saint John's if you have the means. As a reminder, you can set up a recurring contribution online at the church website. It's safe and free! You can also mail or drop off your Sunday collection at the church rectory.

Lastly, I've heard great feedback on the improvisations which have gone on in our Parish during the pandemic. While we can't share in fellowship and Communion in person, we can however share in Communion spiritually and in fellowship virtually. We thank all of our front-line workers, medical workers, and first responders. Please remember them in your prayers but also remember the ordained, especially Father Dave, Deacons Luis R. Visot and Larry Lonergan. We thank them as they are not only responsible for their own families, but also the physical and spiritual needs of our Parish! Please pray for an end to the pandemic!

Yours in Christ,

Bobby Bechtel

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

In this Sunday's readings after Jesus' Ascension, the disciples went to the Upper Room and devoted themselves to prayer. Peter in his epistle encourages the beloved community to rejoice in persecution; privileged to suffer with Christ, they will also glorify God. In John's gospel Jesus nearing the end of His earthly life, prays for His followers who remain in the world.

Knowing God in a way that brings eternal life is no casual acquaintance but an intimate friendship. When we know someone as a friend we know likes and dislikes, character and personality. God knows us intimately and, amazingly, desires to be known and makes Himself known to those created in His image.

Yours in Christ,

Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

(Services are not open to the public)

Monday – May 25

DECEASED OF ST. JOHN'S PARISH FAMILY

Tuesday, May 26

KATHY NORKUS (Art & Gloria Shay)

Wednesday, May 27

**LIVING & DECEASED OF ST. JOHN'S
8TH GRADE CLASS OF 1964**

Thursday – May 28

SUZANNE KERN (Joseph R. Rodick)

Friday, May 29

WILLIAM STOPPI (John & Joyce Gerace)

Saturday – May 30

EARL & FLORENCE TROPP

Sunday, May 31

ESTHER SMITH (Bill & Diane Haney)

ANNA ORLOWSKY (Joe Orłowski & Family)

CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM – IMO Frances Prokop by Peggy & Gene Ebling

St. Joseph – IMO Leo & Dorothy Lotz by Family

Tabernacle – Special Intention

Sanctuary

1&2. IMO Frances Prokop by Peggy & Gene Ebling

3. IMO Francis King by Grace King

4. Special Intention

Guardian Angels

1&2. Special Intentions

This Week's Readings

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (May 23/24)

Reading I: Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14

Reading II: 1 Peter 4:13-16

Gospel: John 17:1-11a

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Whom do you see as a witness to the Word of God?

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

AND

CONFIRMATION

**... have been cancelled until
further notice ...**

PRAY FOR OUR SICK / DECEASED

We remember in prayer those who are ill. We commend to our Divine Lord all of our aged people and those residing in nursing homes.

Deceased: *Joseph Conway Sr.*

PRAY THE ROSARY

Recite the rosary daily during the month of May, which is dedicated to the Blessed Mother. There is no prayer more pleasing to Our Lady and more efficacious in asking for her intercession.



Pope Francis is asking Catholics to make a special effort to pray the Rosary

asking for Mary's intercession in stopping the coronavirus pandemic. The month of May is traditionally devoted to Mary and many Catholics already pray the Rosary during the month. Pope Francis has written a prayer to Mary that specifically references the pandemic, which can be recited at the end of the Rosary. The prayer is on our website.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC

May we who are merely inconvenienced, remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May those who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May those who have the flexibility to care for our children when schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel a trip remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May those who settle for quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love during this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us find ways to be the loving embrace to God and our neighbor.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We appreciate advertisers who support St. John's by advertising in our bulletin. Please patronize their business and let them know you saw their ad in our bulletin.

Roma Pizzeria & Restaurant
116 West Market St Pottsville, PA
570-628-5551
Private Dining Area
Catering For all Occasions
Best Pizza In Schuylkill County
www.RomaPizzaPottsville.com

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PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS - 2020

It is now time to nominate new members to the council to fill the places of those whose term has expired. The term of office is three (3) years with the possibility of a second consecutive term

Any parishioner who is at least 21 years old is eligible for nomination. You may nominate yourself or someone else. Please put nominations in the collection or mail your nomination to the rectory. When nominating, please don't choose just the most popular people, but choose people who will work for the parish.

We wish to thank the following members who will be completing a three-year term on the Parish Council. They are **eligible** to be nominated for a second three-year term.

Joseph Gerchak
Alicia Kleman
Al Norkus

Josette Peckman
John Powers

The following should **NOT** be nominated as they are presently serving or finishing their term:

Term expires 2021

Heidi Gorski
Eric Lieberman
Melissa Scheetz
Martin Smith

Term expires 2022

John Consugar
Darren DeArment
Patty O'Neill
Nick Quinn

President: Robert Bechtel
1st Vice-President: Kevin McNamara
2nd Vice- President: Darren DeArment
Past President: Paul Datte

NOMINATION BALLOT

I Nominate:

- (a) _____
(b) _____

Please email your nominations to:
stjbparish@comcast.net
or mail to: **St. John's Rectory**
913 Mahantongo St., Pottsville, Pa. 17901

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE REPORTING SERVICE
If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting

Service at www.ReportBishopAbuse.org or by calling 800-276-1562.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Happy Memorial Day! Create special memories for your marriage on a WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER weekend. For information call 610-449-1859 or visit www.wwme.org.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

May 17: \$ 3,095.26

Improvements & Repairs: \$ 535.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving.

CEMETERY REGULATIONS

- All decorations must be removed within 14 days after specified holidays which are: Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day and Christmas.
- All decorations except those flowers or plants planted in the ground, must be removed by **July 1st**
- Placing of artificial flowers in the ground is forbidden.
- All rubbish should be taken with you or placed in receptacles at Cemetery

FAMILY MATTERS

Honoring Veterans. In our families, over the years many have served in the military. Too many have given the ultimate sacrifice for our country's freedom. Today we give thanks to God for all those families who have had loved ones die for the cause of freedom. We salute also our veterans and thank them for their service.

You pray for my family and I'll pray for yours.

from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2 Chr. 7:14 NIV)

Please join us in our prayers for the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States of America and other countries who are now in harm's way in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other parts of the world. We thank them and their families for their sacrifices.



We are grateful for the ultimate price of freedom paid by those fallen. We pray for strength and courage for the POWS and Missing in Action and those held hostage.

We pray for the protection and safety of selfless relief workers and missionaries who help those in need.

We pray for the protection of children and innocent civilians.

We pray for our nation and our leaders.

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please remember in your prayers those who during the past year have completed their pilgrimage of faith on earth.

May 2019 - May 2020

Charles Becker Jr.	Linda Houser
Lorrie Cunningham Botella	Ann Marie Koch
Joseph A. Brahler	Dorothy Lotz
Paul Burns	Leo Lotz
James Campion Sr.	Sue Klem Moore
Kathryn Case	Joseph Rehnert
Theodore Casey	Beth Ann Resneck
Viola DiRenzo	Erika Stangl Seasock
Mildred Ditzler	Esther Smith
Eugene Gustitis	John J. Steffan Jr.
Carole Heacock	John Whelski

Pray FOR OUR TROOPS

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn