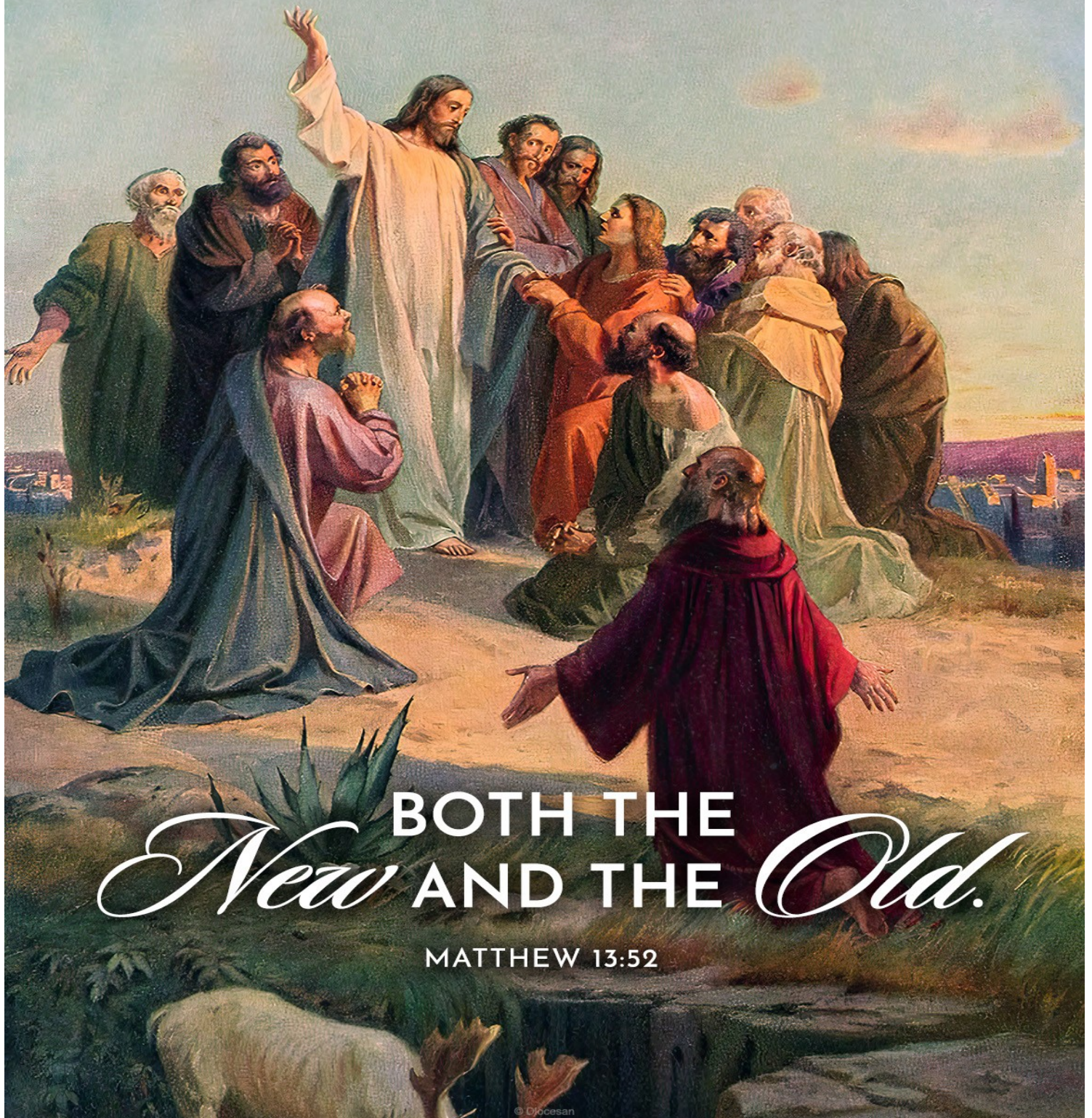


St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

July 26, 2026

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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, Charles Reber, Cecelia Burns., Thomas Muldowney, Dottie Kull, Carol Lasco*

"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, July 25

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

Sunday, July 26

8:15 a.m. Anna Kurtek
(Steve & Jan Kurtek)

Sunday, July 26

10:30 a.m. Joseph A. Orlowsky
(Joe Orlowsky)

Monday, July 27

6:30 p.m. Robert & Rita Lotz

Tuesday, July 28

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

Wednesday, July 29

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

Thursday, July 30

9:00 a.m. Tony Kochol
(Mary & John Bound)

Friday, July 31

9:00 a.m. Leo & Dorothy Lotz
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

Saturday, August 1

5:00 p.m. Virginia & Barney Comfort
(Chris & Jared Black)

Sunday, August 2

8:15 a.m. Rita Gemmell
(Dominic & Rachael Chiplonia)

Sunday, August 2

10:30 a.m. Carl & Barbara Weiss
(Weiss Children)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

We have been discussing the Sacrament of Confession these last few weeks. We've considered when and where to go to Confession. We spoke about preparing for Confession by doing an examination of conscience. Now let's go through the sacrament step-by-step.

So, 99 percent of people start by saying: "Bless me Father, for I have sinned..." That's fine. But you may be surprised to know those words are not actually in the ritual for Confession. Whether or not you say those words, it is appropriate to begin with the Sign of the Cross, as we do all prayers.

Next the penitent mentions how long it's been since his or her last Confession: a week, a month, six months, years... Obviously God knows how long it's been. You're not telling Him anything He doesn't already know. We say how long it's been since our last Confession because this helps the priest know where we're coming from. So, for example, if someone says: "Bless me Father, for I have sinned. It's been one week since my last Confession," I know that this is someone who probably goes to Confession on a regular basis. That's a good thing... but, with that comes the danger of routine. Hopefully the penitent is not just mindlessly repeating the same script week after week without honestly considering how he or she can grow.

Or, consider the other extreme. Sometimes people say it's been years – even decades – since their last Confession. As a priest, I am always very moved and humbled when someone returns to the sacrament after many years. I try to be sensitive to whatever may have prompted the person to return to Confession. I appreciate the courage it took to come back. The most important thing is to leave the person with an experience of God's love and mercy.

It is helpful to the priest to mention how long it's been since your last Confession. But it is not necessary to be scrupulous about it (it's been nine days since my last Confession, or wait, maybe it was ten days...). There is no need to worry if you can't remember exactly how long it's been. But please don't just say "It's been a long time." A "long time" could mean different things to different people. Be honest. Help the priest help you.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

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.

Next Week's Readings

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(August 1/2)

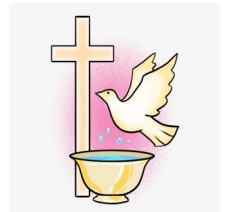
Reading I: Isaiah 55:1-3

Reading II: Romans 8:35, 37-39

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

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.



Share Your Catholic Faith

We are in search of teachers for the faith! Are you the person we are looking for? You do not need a teaching degree, Just the desire to teach. Who do we need?

- CCD teachers—teaching students 1 to 8 grades
- Pre-school teachers—teaching students ages 3 to 6
- Assistants—assisting the CCD or pre-school teachers
- OCIA teachers—teaching the faith to adults who wish to join the Catholic Church

We can support you with guidance and training. Please prayerfully consider helping the children and adults of our community come into full communion with the Catholic faith and our parish family. Clearances are required and we can help you obtain them. Please contact Tina Seiger or Lucilla Kochol at the rectory to volunteer.

Registration for 2026-2027 CCD School Year

All children grades 1st through 8th, who do not attend Catholic school, are required to register. There are various ways to register. Registration forms can be found in the back of church on the large rectangular table. You can return the form to the rectory or in an envelope to be placed in the weekly collection basket. Forms will be available from now until September 6th.

You can type this link into any web browser. <https://forms.gle/n1jnpN8Qip9QPBZE9>

You can also scan the QR code. You will need a Google email to complete the form.



Assumption BVM School

Assumption BVM School, Pottsville, is the Catholic school serving not just the students of Schuylkill County, but your parish. Our students receive a values-based education rooted in the Gospel, allowing them to build a strong moral compass, self-discipline and a foundation for ethical decision making. Our curriculum is excellent and provided with the strong support of our faculty and administration. Our students learn and practice the Catholic faith.

We are different. You have a choice for your children. You can choose Catholic education. It is more affordable than you think! Now accepting applications for most grades for the 2026-2027 school year. Call us: 570 622 0106

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning Is Hiring!

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning is seeking compassionate and dedicated individuals to join our team. We are currently hiring for full-time Direct Support Professional positions, along with part-time opportunities for a Behavioral Support Specialist and Administrative Assistant. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about these opportunities, please call SJC at **570-622-4638** and ask to speak with Bob Giba. Join us in making a difference in the lives of children and adults with special needs.

Cash & Gift Card Bingo

Join St. Joseph Center for Special Learning on **Sunday, August 16th**, for a fun-filled event at the Center—302 Randel St. in Schuylkill Haven. Doors open 11:30 a.m.; Bingo begins 1 p.m. Enjoy cash and gift card games, delicious food raffles, and a chance to win our \$1,000 Jackpot Game. Proceeds benefit the St. Joseph Center School and Adult Programs, helping us continue our mission of serving children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Purchase your tickets at tinyurl.com/sjcbingo or call 570-622-4638 for more information. We hope to see you there!

Weekly Collection

July 18/19\$5,091.00

European Relief\$852.00

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

Please **DO NOT** use **TAPE** or **STAPLES** to seal your offertory envelopes, or **CUT** your envelopes.

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Mary Wollyung

by Wollyung Family

2. IMO Mary Hahner

by Hahner Family

St. Joseph

1. IMO Frank A. Tobin

by Rick & Michelle Stone

2. IMO Edward P. Lubinsky

by Rick & Michelle Stone

Sanctuary

IMO Emily Leinheiser, 4th Anniv.

by Family

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Dorothy Elison

by Eleanor Schaeffer

2. IMO Albert & Viola Lubinsky

by Rick & Michelle Stone

3&4. IMO Ronald Kriston

by Joan Grapsy Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 1 — 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Patty O'Neill

EM: John O'Neill, Danny Murphy

Server: Colin McGinley

Cantor: Dave Derbes

August 2— 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Michelle Ambrose

EM: Mike Ambrose, Barb Munster

Servers: Rhyann Brennan

Cantor: Tina Seiger

August 2 —10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Sean Crane

EM: Justina Majestic

Gerry Schwartz

Servers: Cooper & Cole Felty

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

Sacristan: Connor Felty



July 26, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12 | Rom 8:28-30 | Mt 13:44-52

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

Today we continue to hear parables about the kingdom of God and the reaction of those who find it. The merchant and the person in the field joyfully sell all they have to acquire their treasures. In a world in which we have so many responsibilities, following God may sometimes feel like an obligation. We abide by truths of the Church that are countercultural and challenging. We give our time and our money for the benefit of our community. We profess bold belief in a Gospel truth that is often questioned. These parables remind us that God desires that we move past seeking him out of a sense of obligation or duty – to a place of joy-filled abandonment to him. To experience the full joy that comes from living the Gospel, Jesus comes to us and remains with us in his sacraments. He invites us over and over again to experience his love and his joy until our hearts are changed and we joyfully put everything aside in pursuit of him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I was pulling weeds in the garden when my daughter asked how I knew which plants not to pull. I realized that I simply recognize a weed from a desired plant because I have spent time in my garden. As we journey with Christ, our eyes become fine-tuned to see the difference between what is characteristic of the kingdom of God and what is of this world. King Solomon had eyes fixed on the kingdom, and he knew the value of asking for an understanding heart to help him see more clearly. We must also ask for the wisdom to see clearly what is from God. As we encounter the beauty of God and the truth of his word, we are called to share those encounters with those who are still searching and whose eyes are untrained. Not unlike pulling weeds in the garden, we must train our eyes to find the longed-for pearl as we see and experience the truth of God's love as a community of believers.

PRAY

As you seek to grow in understanding, pray the prayer of St. Anselm of Canterbury this week: *O Lord, my God / teach my heart this day where and how to see you / where and how to find you / Let me find you by loving you / let me love you when I find you. Amen.*

Summer Festival

Festival Patrons

\$500.00

Larry Lonergan
Ed & Carole Quirin
Maria Rowlands
Joe & Nancy Schlitzer
Joe & Sherri Souchak

\$350.00

James & Angela Toomey

\$250.00

Paul & JoAnna Buber

\$200.00

George Harig
Charles & Patricia Miller
Frank & Annie Murphy
Judith Williams

\$150.00

Gorski Family

\$100.00

Dave & Alice Bechtel
Bill & Sally Casey
Sandy & Joe Frinzi
Donna & John Kalovcak
Alicia Kleman
Keith & Mary Jo Laslow
Lieberman & Tamulonis Law
Joseph Liptok
Frances Lorenz
Dan & Hermine Murphy
Mary B. Porter
John & Gayle Rehnert
Bill, Kelly, Brady, Briar Rhoads
Tamalavage Family
Carol Vinskie

\$75.00

Fetterolf Family

\$50.00

Ed & Jane Baker
Ann Blankenhorn
Joan M. Bowers
Kathy Brahler
Dolores Brophy
Robert Burns Masonry Contractor
Catholic Women's Union
DeArment's
The DeWald's
Tom & Cindy Elison
Mildred Fredericks
Paul & Bernie Gombola

Festival Patrons

\$50.00

Stan & Geri Grabowski
Heenan Family
Carl & Kathy Hughes
Barbara & Bruce Krupa
Patricia Kutch
Eric & Jennifer Lieberman
Ron & Pat Lombel
Christine Maccarone
Patricia & Phillip Markovich
John & Susan Minnichbach
Babe Murphy
John & Bernice Petock
Robert & Irene Post
JP & Barb Powers
Nick & Maria Quinn
Charles & Kathleen Reber
Eleanor Schaeffer
Butch & Sue Scheetz
David & Mary Ann Shoopack
Karin & Mike Sirbaugh
Martin & Linda Smith
Dianne Stoudt
Robert & Gretchen Witman
Barbara Wollyung
Jeff & Linda Zwiebel

\$40.00

Mary Beth Harvey
Theresa Skrobak

\$35.00

Mary Ann Filiac
Henry Minnig

\$33.00

Ted Gurecki Jr.

\$30.00

Grabowski Family
Diane Hudock
Mary Jo Nabholz
Joe & Eleanor Orzechowski
Dorothy & Joe Stangl
Larry Steficek
Wartella Family
Bob & Kay Wollyung

\$25.00

Brennan Family
Jim Brentari
Ken & Tammy Cooper
Janet Daubert
Jennifer Daubert

Festival Patrons

\$25.00

Barbara Ann Dietz
Marie Doyle
Grace King
Greg Lieberman Family
Hal J. Messer
Jack & Aggie Messner
Frances Brahler Mickey
M/M A.J. Munster
Ann Marie Souchak
Peggy Stoppi
Bruno M. Tassone
Michael & Elizabeth Tyson
Daniel & Anne Marie Wachter

\$23.00

Ted Gurecki

\$20.00

Ron & Donna Dermo
James & Laura Kramer
Tina Seiger
Natalie Setlock
Rick & Michelle Stone
Christine Tray

\$10.00

John & Joanne Mestishen
Harriet Pfeffer
Mary Ann Schweikert

Festival Sponsors

Hahner Bros. Inc. — Chance Books
Joanne & Don Doyne - Ketchup & Mustard
Anne & Tony Ganurick - Hot Dogs & Buns

Band Sponsor \$100.00 each

Coke Sponsor \$ 50.00 each

Ice Cream \$ 25.00 each

Pizza Sponsor \$ 50.00 each

Bleenie Sponsor \$ 40.00 each

Band (1) - Paul & JoAnna Buber

Band (1) 0 Joe & Denise Gerchak

Band (1) - Mary B. Porter

Band (1) - Ellen & Jay Zane

Band (1) - Marianne Wollyung

Bleenie Mix (1) — Paul & JoAnna Buber

Bleenie Mix (9) - Anonymous

Coke (1) - Robert & Elizabeth Reiley

Coke (2) - John Bosche

Ice Cream (1) — Jim & Carolyn Orlowsky

Pizza (1) - Jim & Carolyn Orlowsky

Pizza (1) - Daniel & Anne Marie Wachter

Pizza (1) - Joanne & Ralph Wood

Summer Festival

Special Basket Table

Alexa Power Me Up - Rosann, David, Tyler
 Amika Hair Care -Shanna Deibert/Linda Murphy
 Bath & Body - Barb Munster
 Bath & Body - Michelle Heenan
 Bicycle - John & Mary Jean Morgalis
 Christmas in July - Lucilla Kochol
 Dog Bskt. - Linda & Bob Stock
 Dog Care - Karen Muncy
 Family Fun Nite - Ann Blankenhorn
 Italian - Cathy Cooper

Knoebel's - Gerry Schwartz
 Lottery - Nora Chiplonia
 Lottery (2) - Prezelski's
 Painting - Father Bobbin
 Picnic - John & Patty O'Neill
 Pink Girl - DeStefano's
 Pod & Petal Florist
 Time for Me - Chris Black
 Wine - Luis R. Visot
 Wine - Gianfagna's (3)
 Celebrate America 250th

—Sandy & Joe Frinzi

Land of Peace Mission --- August 1 & 2

In these challenging times, we invite you to a special event next weekend. Following all Masses, Noel Alshomali from Land of Peace, a non-profit organization, will be with us to shed light on the struggles faced by Christians in the Holy Land. This mission aims to bring hope and support to Christian families and churches in the Middle East, who are enduring continuous violence and a decline in tourism. Your participation can help make a profound difference.

Avail for purchase will be religious articles made from Olive Wood, a material native to the Holy Land and Bethlehem. These items, including crucifix and rosaries, offer a tangible connection to a land that holds deep spiritual significance.

We encourage you to join us and support this meaningful cause. For more information, please visit www.landofpeace.org.

Neighboring Events ...

Annual Parish Festival sponsored by St. Joseph the Worker Parish, at St. Ann's Picnic Grove, Rear 49 N. Line St. in Frackville on July 31 from 3 to 10 p.m. and August 1 from 12 to 11 p.m. Food, Music and Fun! Gift Card Auction (in hall), Raffle Tickets, Homemade Food including Bean Soup, Bleenies, Halushki, Hot Dogs, Pierogies, Hamburgers, Baked Goods, Soda, Water, Ice Tea. Bar with adult beverages. Entertainment on Friday—Sakes Alice from 7 to 10 p.m.; Saturday Another Side from 7 to 11 p.m. Come join the fun!

Food Sale sponsored by Holy Cross Parish in New Philadelphia on Friday, August 7th from noon to 4 p.m. or sellout ... eat in or take out ... at Holy Cross Church Kitchen, 99 Lombard St. in New Philadelphia. Menu includes: Bean Soup, Hamburgers, Chicken Patty Sandwich, Chicken Fingers, Pierogies, French Fries, Macaroni Salad, Desserts, Coffee and Beverages. All are welcome!

Basket Auction sponsored by Holy Family Parish of Minersville at the Parish Center at Hillcrest, 631 Minersville-Llewellyn Hwy. Shop and Drop: Friday, August 14th from 5 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, August 15th from 4 to 8 p.m.; Sunday, August 16th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets will be drawn at 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 16th. Come take a chance on our great prizes ... 55" TV, Money Tree, Lottery Tree, and many more prizes. See you there!

**"The kingdom of heaven is like
 a treasure buried in a field..."**

Catholic Charities

Sharing Compassion, Serving in Faith, Spreading Hope

Services We Offer:

Professional Counseling Services
 Pregnancy & Parenting Support
 Immigration Legal Services
 Supportive Services for Veterans & Families
 Basic Need Services
 Rural Support Services
 Food & Nutrition Hubs
 Food Pantry
 Community Café Food Truck

Schuylkill County Office

99 Valley St.

New Philadelphia

570-628-0466

www.catholiccharitiesad.org

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.

Moving? Relocating?

Let us Know!

Have you moved, changed your phone or email address? If so, please contact the Rectory Office at 570-622-5470 ext. 3. Help us update our records!

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."