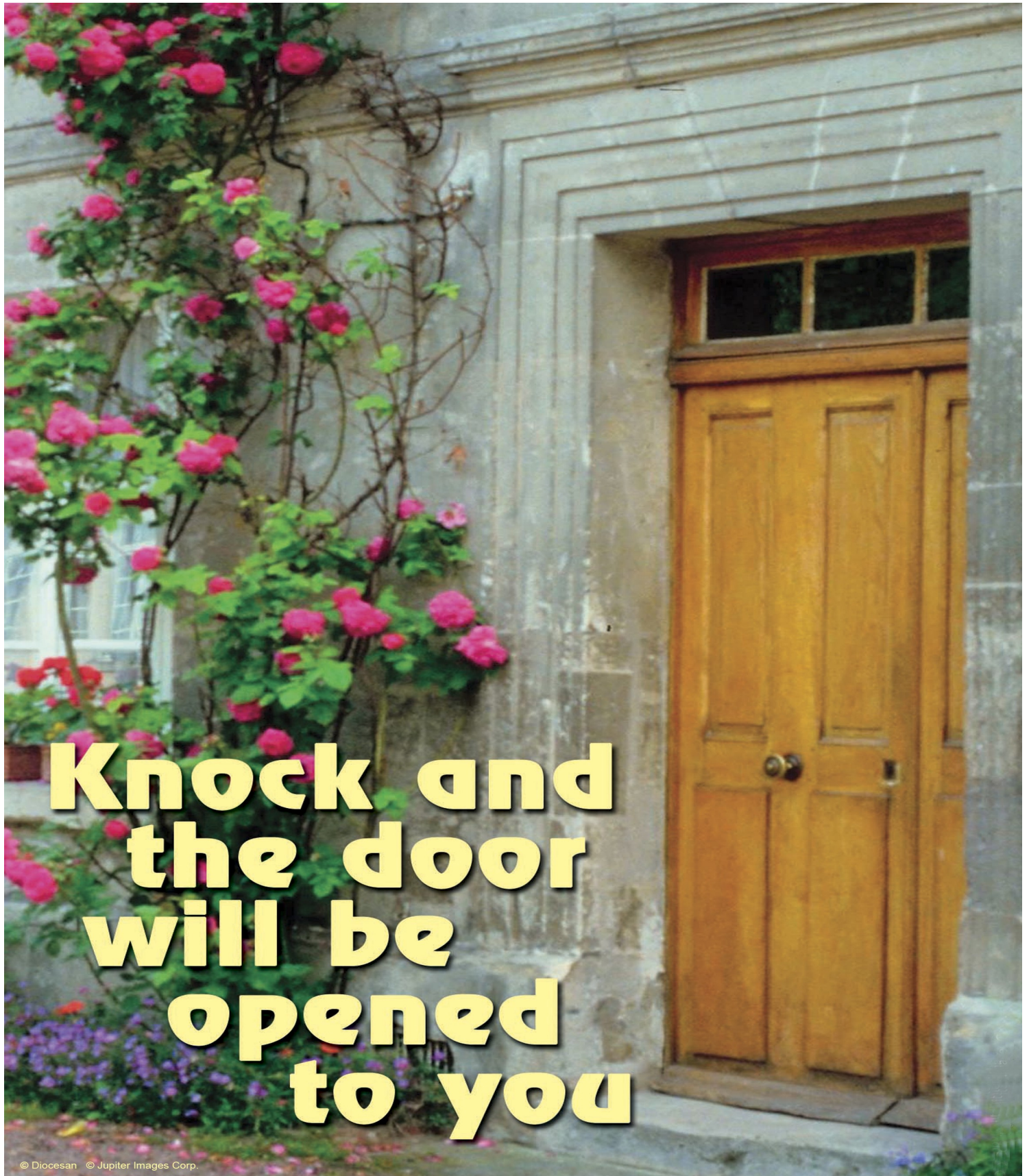


St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

July 27, 2025 • 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Pastor..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*
Deacon.....*Robert A. Reiley*

Parish Council President*Darren DeArment*
E-mail.....dbd269@gmail.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, Doug Broughton, Kathy Vicic, Joanne Kitsock, Jane Baker*

Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 26

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

Sunday, July 27

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

Sunday, July 27

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

Monday, July 28

6:30 p.m. Earl & Florence Tropp
& Martin J. Kern

Tuesday, July 29

9:00 a.m. Robert & Rita Lotz

Wednesday, July 30

9:00 a.m. Rosemary Shirirski
(Sr. Mary Jane Hahner)

Thursday, July 31

9:00 a.m. Betty Ketner
(Josephine Gallagher
& Mary Ann Schweikert)

Friday, August 1

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

Saturday, August 2

5:00 p.m. Scott Bowers
(Scott Williams)

Sunday, August 3

8:15 a.m. Francis & Verna Sauers

Sunday, August 3

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

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Last week we were looking at the Gospel According to Matthew, which aims to demonstrate that Jesus is the Messiah awaited by the people of Israel. Jesus fulfills the Old Testament. We noted a few ways Matthew does this.

Continuing on, one of the unique features of Matthew's Gospel is the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7). One of the ways Matthew introduces Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament is by presenting Jesus as a new Moses. Just as Moses gave the Ten Commandment from Mount Sinai, Jesus gives us the New Law in the Sermon on the Mount. Throughout the Gospel, Matthew presents Jesus as Teacher, or Rabbi. For example, Matthew includes many parables.

Besides the features of Matthew's Gospel, we should say something about the author himself. While modern scholars sometimes cast doubt on these things, the Church has always held, and we have every reason to believe, the author is none other than Matthew, one of the twelve Apostles who accompanied Jesus in His public ministry and witnessed His death and resurrection. Interestingly, in the other Gospels, the name Levi is used. In Matthew's Gospel alone, the name "Matthew" is used in the list of Apostles, most likely an autobiographical reference. Matthew the Apostle was a tax collector. Several of the unique passages in his Gospel (that is, passages that are not found in any of the other Gospels) have something to do with *money*, evidence of Matthew's authorship.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

New Altar Servers

We invite any boys and girls currently finishing fourth grade or older to consider becoming altar servers. Parents, please speak with Father Bobbin or call the rectory. We will arrange a mutually convenient time to meet for training.



Church in Central & Eastern Europe Collection

Thank you for your generous contributions. As a parish, we collected **\$805.00** to restore the Church and build the future in more than 25 countries. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give. Visit www.usccb.org/ccce. #1GiveCatholicTogether also accepts funds for this collection if you prefer to donate online.

Retrouvaille: Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. Upcoming programs will be the weekend of August 1-3 and October 3-5 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Next Week's Readings

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(August 2/3)

Reading I: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23

Reading II: Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

Summer Festival

Sponsors

Hahner Bros. Inc. —Chance Books

Festival Patrons

\$500.00

CACL Federal Credit Union
Ed & Carole Quirin
Robert & Maria Rowlands
Joe & Sherri Souchak

\$300.00

Brahler Roofing

\$250.00

Jim Toomey

\$200.00

Paul & Joanna Buber
John B. Lieberman III

\$100.00

Bill & Sally Casey
Friend of St. John's
Gorski Family
George Harig
John Jefferson
Kalovcak Family
Alicia Kleman
Keith & Mary Jo Laslow
Christine Maccarone
Charlie & Patty Miller
Dan & Hermine Murphy
Mary Porter
Bill, Kelly, Brady Rhoades
Caroline Vinskie
Judith Williams
Marianne Wollyung
Jay & Ellen Zane

\$80.00

Dave & Alice Bechtel

\$75.00

Frances Lorenz

\$55.00

The Tamalavage

\$50.00

Ed & Jane Baker
Ann Blankenhorn
Dolores Brophy
Catholic Women's Union
Bob Daniels
Tom & Cindy Elison
Vince & Darla Fabiani
Fetterolf Family
Barbara A. Fox
Millie Fredericks
Joyce Gerace
Joseph, Sonya, Joe Halsey
Heenan Family

\$50.00

Diane Hudock
Carl & Kathy Hughes
Patricia Kutch
Eric & Jennifer Lieberman
Pat & Phil Markovich
Babe Murphy
John & Barb Powers
Nicholas & Maria Quinn
Charles & Cathy Reber
Eleanor Schaeffer
Butch & Sue Scheetz
Martin & Linda Smith
Dianne Stoudt
Luis & Virginia Visot
Barb Wollyung
Robert & Kay Wollyung

\$40.00

Robert Burns Masonry Contactor
Joe & Dorothy Stangl

\$35.00

Jim Brentari
Grace King

\$33.00

Ted Gurecki Jr.

\$30.00

Connie Brown
Ken & Tammy Cooper
Maria Goodman
Grabowski Family
Henry Minnig
Robert & Irene Post
Larry Steficek
Peggy Stoppi

Stan & Stephanie Viduszynski

Dave & Trish Wartella

\$25.00

Cathy Cooper
DeArment Family
Mary Ann Filiac
Stan & Geri Grabowski
Rik & Sue Jochems
Rosie Kenderes
Ron & Pat Lombel
Frances Brahler Mickey
Ann Marie Souchak
Christine Tray
Michael & Elizabeth Tyson

\$20.00

Jim & Leah Donovan
Dan & Anne Wachter

\$15.00

Natalie Setlock

Festival Patrons

\$10.00

Lou Cross
Harriet Peiffer

Festival Sponsors

Band Sponsor \$100.00 each

Bleenie Mix \$ 40.00 each

Coke Sponsor \$ 50.00 each

Ice Cream \$ 25.00 each

Pizza Sponsor \$ 50.00 each

Band Sponsor(1) - Frank & Annie Murphy

Band Sponsor(2) - Caroline Vinskie

Bleenie Mix (1) — Paul & JoAnna Buber

Bleenie Mix (1) — Doyle Family

Bleenie Mix (1) — Don & Joanne Doyne

Bleenie Mix (2) — Joe & Eleanor Orzechowski

Bleenie Mix (1) — Theresa Skrobak

Ice Cream (1) — Ray & Jane Petrilla

Ice Cream (1) — Anonymous

Ice Cream (1) — Mary Ann Filiac

Ice Cream (1) — Al & Barb Munster

Ice Cream (1) — Barb Schoenauer

Pizza (1) — Mary Jo Nabholz

Pizza (1) — Jim & Carolyn Orlowsky

Pizza (1) — Mark & Deborah Purcell

Pizza (1) — Dan & Ann Wachter

Pizza (1) — Ralph & Joanne Wood

Coke (1) — John & Sandy Bosche

Coke (1) — David & Mary Ann Shoopack

Special Basket Table

Beach Bskt. — Ann Blankenhorn

Birthday Bskt.—Ryan Family

Craft Bskt — Michael & Janet Dzurani

Crystal Candy Bowls (2)— Carol Bilinski

Doggie Bskt — Anonymous

Fall Bskt—Chris Black

First Aide Bskt — Anonymous

Glitzy Glam Bskt—Christine Maccarone

Grilling Bskt.—Steve & Jan Kurtek

Your Lawn Care Solutions—Gift Cards

Lottery Frames (2)—Prezelski Family

Lottery / Visa Gift Card—Parishioners

Lowe's—Parishioners

Painting - Fr. Bobbin

Purse Bskt.—Rosann Sitkus

Snack & Puzzle Bskt. — Barb Munster

Summer Fun Bskt—Kimberly Kalovcak

Tropical Wreath—Pod & Petal

Vera Bradley Bskt — Sandy Frinzi

Vera Bradley Back to School—Lucilla Kochol

NEW CCD and Sacramental Preparation Registration

Parents of children in grades 1st through 8th please fill out the CCD registration using the QR code. If your child has been previously enrolled from years past, it is not necessary to do this link. Any **new students in public school grades 1-8** should fill out this form. Students in **parochial school** whose child is in third or eighth grade that are to receive a sacrament this coming school year please use this QR code to register your child. You may also call the rectory at 570-622-5470 and speak with Miss Kochel to register your child.



Share Your Catholic Faith

We are in search of CCD teachers, OCIA instructors and preschool teacher assistants. Are you the person we are looking for? You do not need a teaching degree. Just the desire to teach. We need someone who loves their faith, desires to know more and to share the Catholic faith with others.

We have a great preschool and CCD staff. We are a small staff and need to grow our numbers because we have more families with children joining our church all the time. We also have people joining the faith that are adults or young people that would be better served by Order of Christian Initiation of Adults -OCIA (the former RCIA). We need instructors to help these candidates become full members of the Church.

Preschool has many wonderful parents helping as teachers, but we do need a Teacher Assistant to help with the busy hands and feet of our students. We are hoping a high school student would be a perfect fit. You can use this experience on a resume or for community service hours at your school.

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. Please contact Tina Seiger or Lucilla Kochol at the rectory to volunteer.

Catholic Women's Union Fundraiser

Our 2024 Penn State Ye Olde Diner World Famous "Grilled Stickies" was a huge success last year

We are hoping to sell even more this year.

Members will be taking orders after Masses on the weekends of ... **August 9/10 and August 16/17.**

Pick up date is September 10th at the Russell Building.

Plain \$9.00 — Nut \$12.00 — Apple \$12.00. For more information, please contact Joan Deiter 570-622-1381 or St. John's Rectory 570-622-5470 ext. 3.



Church Cleaning Crew—Thank You

We thank our Church Cleaning Group for doing a wonderful job cleaning our beautiful church including Longinus Hall and the Chapel. Everything looks just perfect!

Those volunteering their time and talent this month: *Michelle Ambrose, Sandy Frinzi, Phyllis Hess, Liz Kleckner, Theresa Skrobak, Beth Smith, Joanne Wood.*

The more the merrier — newcomers are always welcome — please call the rectory if interested or just show up at our next cleaning in August.

Weekly Collection

July 19/20\$4458.03
European Relief..... \$805.00

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

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Mary Wollyung
by Wollyung Family
2. IMO Emily Leinheiser
by Family

St. Joseph

- 1&2. IMO Raymond Frank
by John & Susan Minnichbach

Sanctuary

- IMO Mary Hahner
by Hahner Family

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Dorothy Elison
by Eleanor Schaeffer
2. M/M Richard H. Weiss
by Becky Weiss
3. IMO Joseph Hudak
by Becky Weiss
4. IMO Anna Maguire Melacharik
by Becky Weiss

Liturgical Min. Schedule

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 2 — 5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Patricia O'Neill

EM: John O'Neill, Sharon Snyder

Servers: Michael, Spencer Prestileo

Cantor: Dave Derbes

August 3 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Jeff Naffin

EM: Debbie Herb, Heidi Gorski

Servers: Cooper & Cole Felty

Cantor: Tina Seiger

August 3 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Vincent Balulis

EM: Justina Majestic, John Crane

Servers: Kyle, Preston McCormick

Cantor: Dave Derbes

Weekend Sacristan: RJ Post

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.

Family Matters

Retirement Years. The retired members of our families are so important to our communities. They share their gifts and talents — babysitting their grandchildren, volunteering in schools and at community activities. They willingly share their wisdom and time with others. Our parish salutes our retirees and their generous spirit!

Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshiping 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."

CYO Volleyball

Again this school year, Diocese of Allentown CYO Volleyball will be open to any girl who will be in grade 6, 7 or 8 this Fall who attends a Diocesan Elementary School or who is a member of the following Parishes: St. John the Baptist, St. Patrick, St. Ambrose, St. Clare of Assisi, Holy Family Minersville, Holy Cross, Most Blessed Trinity and St. Nicholas in Minersville. Practices and home matches for the season will be held at Nativity High School. Please see the link/scan code below for sign-ups. Do not hesitate to contact Amanda Bobella at Nativity High School with any questions at abobella@nativitybvm.net or 570-622-8110. <https://forms.gle/b2AmW4Gd4FakfwNG8>



Nativity BVM High School Host Families Needed.

Nativity BVM High School has accepted several wonderful international students from Spain, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Japan. These students are excited to begin school in late August, but are in need of loving host families. All types of families are eligible to host: empty-nesters, single people, families with children. Students speak good English, and they have their own spending money and insurance. Host families receive a generous monthly stipend. For more information, please contact mchallenger.educatus@gmail.com.

Assumption BVM School. We're Hiring! Are you a dynamic and innovative educational and faith leader with a strong commitment to Catholic education, Catholic values, and academic excellence in Schuylkill County? ABVM is seeking a dedicated Principal to guide our students, staff, and community in faith, excellence, and service. We are looking for a leader who: * Has a passion for education * Inspires excellence in others * Nurtures a faith-centered school community. Apply today or share with someone who would be a great fit! Apply using the link below or the QR code. <https://allentowndiocese.isolvedhire.com/jobs/1437702>



St. Joseph Center for Special Learning

.... invites you to join us for two exciting upcoming events in support of our students and adults with special needs. First, mark your calendars for our **Christmas in July Basket Raffle**, taking place on **Friday, July 26, and Saturday, July 27**, in the SJC Parish Center. This fun-filled event offers a chance to win amazing baskets while supporting a meaningful cause. Then, don't miss our **Saturday Night Fever Disco** on the evening of **Friday, September 6**, also at the Parish Center. This special night will kick off our 70th anniversary celebrations with live music by local favorite, The Boys Upstairs. We hope to see you there as we celebrate our mission and the incredible individuals we serve. Questions? Contact Monica Walborn at 570-622-4638.

Neighboring Events.

Annual Festival in St. Joseph the Worker Grove, Rear of 49 N. Line St. in Frackville on **Friday, August 1st** from 3 to 10 p.m. and **Saturday, August 2nd** from 10 noon til 11 p.m. Homemade Foods: Pierogies, Bleenies, Bean Soup, Halupkies, Haluski, Hot Dogs, Baked Goods and more. Basket Auction and Raffle Tickets. Entertainment Friday—Sales Alive; Saturday—Another Side.

National Irish History Contest ... sponsored by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc (LAOH) for students in Grades 6 through 12. This year's topic is: **How the Irish affected the outcome of the American Revolution**. Students enrolled in parochial, private, public schools or who are home-schooled are eligible to participate. Students do not need to be Irish to participate in the LAOH National Irish History Contest. For more information, please contact Betty Murphy at betty@hanginghelper.com or 570-544-9848.



July 27, 2025

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gn 18:20-32 | Col 2:12-14 | Lk 11:1-13

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

“Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” Sounds lovely, doesn’t it? I remember understanding this verse as though God is like a genie in a bottle and prayer is like a delivery service. But when I encountered true hardship, this interpretation was tested. I was seeking, but I couldn’t find what I wanted. My request seemed to go unanswered. I was asking, but my hands were empty. I couldn’t reconcile this. Did this mean God wasn’t telling me the truth? Trusting that couldn’t be the case, I pressed in a little harder. In time, and through the grace of God, I realized I’d been reading this verse through selfish eyes. I was understanding this passage to say, “ask for whatever you feel like in the moment, and I’ll drop it on your doorstep.” But what does Jesus *actually* say? He says that if we ask, he will always give us *the Holy Spirit*. This understanding can change how we pray. The Lord doesn’t promise to instantly cure our maladies, or to remove every ounce of pain on this side of the veil. But he does promise to send his Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to be with us through it all. And that is far better than any type of delivery service.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today’s psalm echoes the Gospel message that the Lord never abandons us. In our response, we unite our voices with the universal Church as we say, “Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.” We encounter hardship on a daily basis. From the tiny irritations that tempt our tempers to flare to the heavy crosses we carry, we are reminded of how much we need God’s help. And yet, how often is our response to turn inward and grow weary, discouraged, or angry? Next time we come eye to eye with a challenge, let’s try to respond like the psalmist, and cry out to the Advocate. He is very near. *Come Holy Spirit.*

REFLECT

We are reminded in today’s readings that the Lord is always near, that he hears us, and that he responds generously. Thank God this is true even when it doesn’t seem like it. As we face our daily hardships, let’s not forget to ask Jesus for help. Don’t forget that he never rations the Spirit, and though he will never force himself on you, he’s waiting eagerly to pour his love into your heart. Ask! Seek! Knock! He knows your voice, and he is ready to respond.