

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

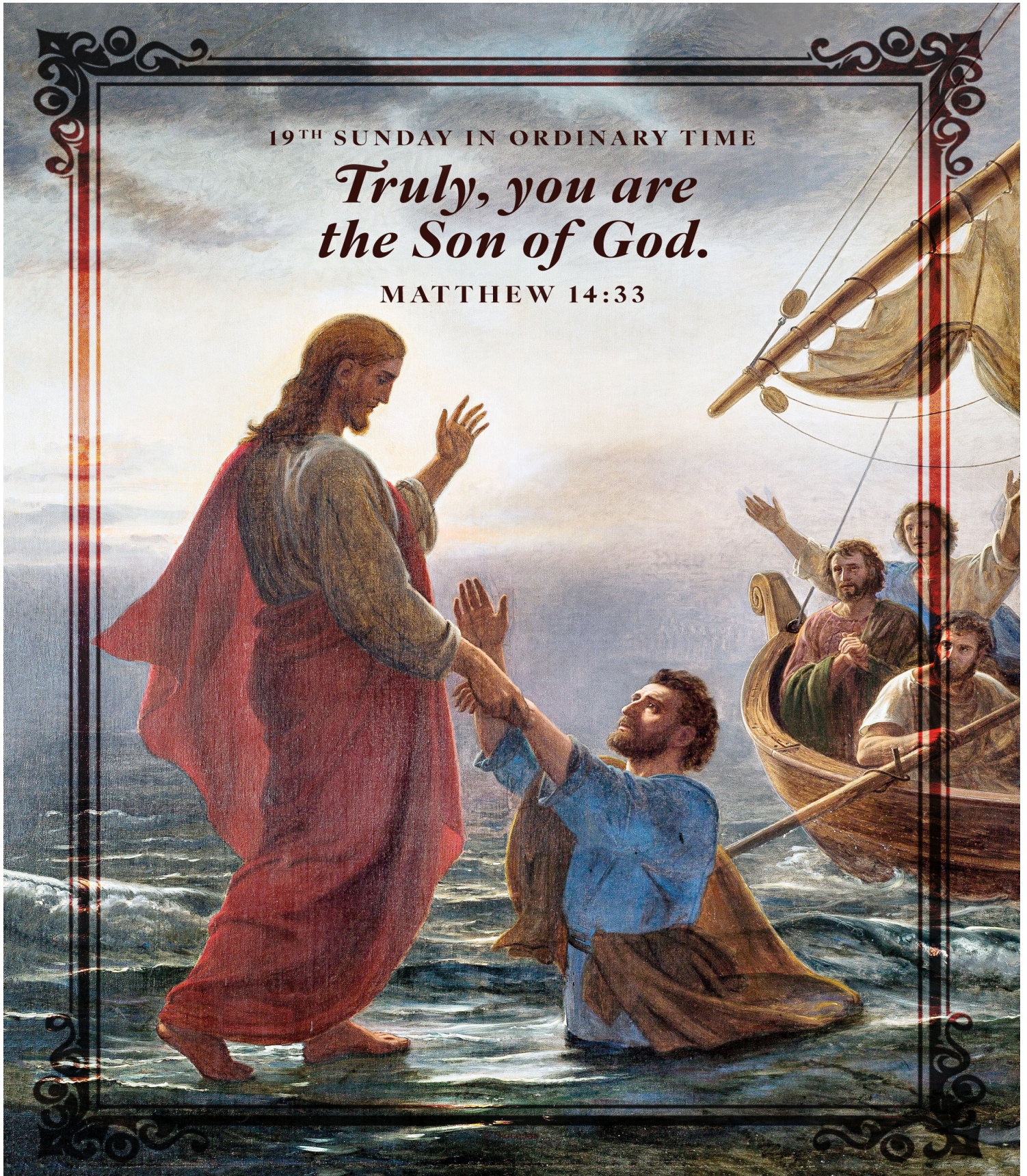
10th & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • www.saintjohnpottsville.org

August 9, 2026

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Truly, you are
the Son of God.*

MATTHEW 14:33



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, August 8

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

Sunday, August 9

8:15 a.m. Julian & Mary Chiplonia
(Julian Chiplonia)

Sunday, August 9

10:30 a.m. Richard Setlock
(Natalie Setlock & Sons)

August 10 to August 14 — NO MASSES

Saturday, August 15

5:00 p.m. George & Sadie Post)

Sunday, August 16

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

Sunday, August 16

10:30 a.m. Joseph & Anna Orlowsky
(Joe Orlowsky)

Next Week's Readings

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(August 15/16)

Reading I: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Reading II: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

St. John's Ensemble

... will play/sing at 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, August 16th. The purpose of this ministry is to serve the parish at Mass, singing liturgical hymns, using contemporary instruments like the guitar, keyboard, drums or other instruments, and using contemporary music arrangements.

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Last week we were talking about the actual confession of sins within the Sacrament of Confession. To continue...

We mentioned a few weeks ago that Confession is not a form of counseling or spiritual direction. We should confess our sins in a way that is brief and to-the-point. It is not necessary to go into great detail. It is not necessary to tell stories or give a lot of background information. Frankly, there are many people who come to Confession simply because they want someone to talk to. That's understandable. But Confession is not the place for this. If you truly would like to take more time for Confession, please make an appointment with a priest. However, even when making an appointment and taking an extended time for Confession it is very important to distinguish what is part of the Sacrament of Confession (and thus under the seal of Confession) from any conversation with a priest that is not part of the sacrament.

Another reason to be brief and to-the-point when confessing, and avoid getting into stories and explanations is that many people tend to start confessing *other people's sins* rather than their own! Remember, it's *your* confession, not your spouse's, not your children's, not your boss's!

Finally, as I always say when I teach about Confession: Approach Confession in a positive way. It's not just: "What did I do wrong?" It's: "How can I be a better person?" Instead of looking at our sins as areas where we failed, look at them as areas where we need to grow. As we said before, Confession does not just erase the guilt of sin. It gives us powerful graces to help us grow.

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.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

....is for anyone who desires to enter the Catholic Church or complete his or her initiation into the Church (i.e. people who are baptized Catholic but have not received Communion and/or Confirmation). If you or someone you know is interested, please call the rectory.

Catholic Women's Union Fundraiser

The CWU is selling Penn State Ye Olde Diner World Famous "Grilled Stickies". Members will be taking orders after Masses the weekend of **August 8 & 9**.

Pick Up is from Longinus Hall on:

Saturday, September 12th from 3 to 7 p.m.

Sunday, September 13th from 8 to 10 a.m. & 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Plain \$9.00 — Nut \$12.00 — Apple \$12.00.

For more information, please contact Kelley Eroh 610-413-0192 or St. John's Rectory 570-622-5470 ext. 3



Registration for 2026-2027 CCD School Year

Children ages three to six are welcome to join our **Sunday Pre-school** program. We will have classes twice a month starting in September until May in Longinus Hall from 10:30am to the end of Mass. We ask for you to stay during class if your child is not yet toilet trained.

Children in grades first to third are invited to join **Children's Liturgy** during the 10:30 am Mass. This is held in the Chapel. They will learn more about the Mass and the weekend scripture readings. Children will return to Mass with their parents after the offertory.

Children in grades first through eight grade attending public school, charter or virtual school should be registered for **CCD prep classes** to be eligible to receive their sacraments of initiation.

We could always use volunteers to help as teachers or aides. If you are interested please call the rectory and contact either Tina Seiger or Lucilla Kochol.

Registration can be completed in three ways. Paper forms are located on the table in back of the church.

Google links listed below. You will need a Google email account. Scan the QR code using your phone's camera.

Google Link to Children's Liturgy:

<https://forms.gle/5JNVENiUUgCaL5py6>



Google Link to Sunday Preschool :

<https://forms.gle/q599pzT6n8KWNCb5A>



Google Link to CCD registration:

<https://forms.gle/ujXmaw61S3THka6g6>



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!

Now Hiring at St. Joseph Center for Special Learning! St. Joseph Center in Schuylkill Haven is seeking caring, dedicated individuals to join our mission of serving children and adults with diverse abilities in a faith-filled, supportive environment. We are currently hiring for a **full-time Special Education Teacher**, **full-time Direct Service Worker** for our Adult Program, **part-time Administrative Assistant**, **part-time Behavioral Health Support**, and **part-time Teacher Aide** positions. If you're looking for a rewarding career where you can make a meaningful difference every day, we'd love to hear from you. To learn more or apply, please visit our website or contact us at **(570) 622-4638**.

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

August 1/2\$4,726.60

Parish Dues\$1,051.00

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 Philomena Carroll

by Family

2. IMO Diane & James A. Whitaker

by Rebecca Weiss

St. Joseph

1. IMO Joseph Hudak

by Rebecca Weiss

2. IMO George Hahner Jr.

by Hahner Family

Sanctuary

IMO Frank, Mary, Robert Holdyk

by Paul & JoAnna Buber

Guardian Angels

1&2. IMO Mildred Ditzler

by Eleanor Schaeffer

3&4. IMO M/M Richard H. Weiss

by Rebecca Weiss

Liturgical Min. Schedule

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 15— 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Heidi Gorski

EM: Frank Murphy, Danny Murphy

Server: Frank Murphy

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

August 16— 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Lucilla Kochol

EM: Michael Ambrose, Jeff Naffin

Server: Rhyann Brennan

Cantor: Tina Seiger

August 16—10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Vincent Balulis

EM: Joseph Palmieri, Ray Petrilla

Servers: Sophia Palmieri, Callie Felty

Cantor: Ensemble

Parish Council—Nominations—2026

The following biographies and photos have been provided by each nominee to help you become better acquainted with them and their backgrounds. We encourage all parishioners to take a few moments to read about each candidate and keep them in your prayers as we prepare for the upcoming Parish Council election. (Voting will take place at all Masses the weekend of 8/22&23)

VINCENT BALULIS

Address: 1530 W. Norwegian St., Pottsville

Occupation: Human Services Program Specialist

Length of time in parish: 5 years

Experience and activities: Catechesis Teacher, Dramatic Stations, Summer Festival, Reader, Prayer Team Member

Why I Wish to Serve: Help our parish grow in faith and community. Promote a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.



ANN BLANKENHORN

Address: 2132 West End Ave., Pottsville

Occupation: CEO of Geisinger Behavioral Health Center, Danville

Length of time in parish: 18 years

Experience and activities: I am happy to be involved in our parish serving as a Reader and Extraordinary Minister. I have served on Parish Council this last term and filled the role of secretary. I have been a part of Parish Retreat and the planning team. I enjoy donating to parish events and giving of my time.

Why I Wish to Serve: I wish to serve on council for a second term to support our parish in initiative of fellowship and engagement of all, in addition to sharing my time and gifts to support everyone.



SHANNA DEIBERT

Address: 308 Fleet St., Pottsville

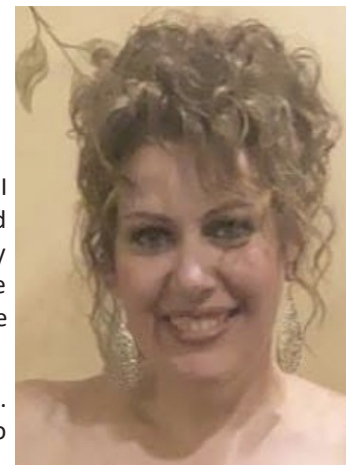
Occupation: Hairstylist and Co-owner of the Looking Glass Salon

Length of time in parish: 40 years

Experience and activities: I was born, baptized and raised at St. John's church. Which is also where I received all my sacraments. I attended All Saints School (now Assumption BVM) until our family moved to Virginia. I returned to Pottsville and then attended Empire Beauty School years later. I married my husband of 27 years, Matt, in our beautiful church. We have two children, Camden and Amelia. I have been an active volunteer at St. John's, on several different committees. I am currently co-chair of the Summer Festival. I also help run the Trunk n Treat.

Why I Wish to Serve: St. John is an always will be home. My family has six generation in our church. The church and parish family mean the absolute world to me! I am so honored to be nominated to council

I look forward to continuing helping and supporting our parish, make hopeful improvements, have better connections and communication amongst all committees and most importantly making our parish needs heard. Thank you for considering me for this opportunity.



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BARBARA DEWALD

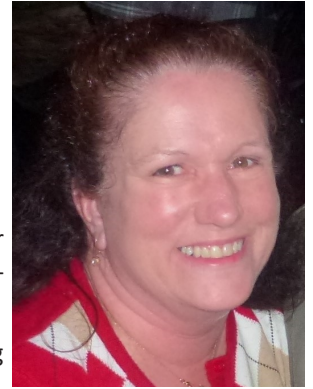
Address: 1237 Oak Road, Pottsville

Occupation: Retired

Length of time in parish: 4 years

Experience and activities: I attended St. Patrick's grade school and Pottsville High School; LAOH member John F. Kennedy Division 2. Since retirement my life is busy with family. I'm kept busy with baking, gardening, watching wildlife in back yard, and home projects.

Why I Wish to Serve: I believe I can contribute to the council by having a positive effect with welcoming new members, due to experiencing a very warm reception myself as a new member..



WILLIAM DEWALD

Address: 1237 Oak Road, Pottsville

Occupation: Retired

Length of time in parish: Lifetime

Experience and activities: I attended St. John the Baptist grade school, Nativity BVM High School, Penn State University para-legal program; Pa. State Police Academy in Hershey; National Fire Academy Emmitsburg MD; Memberships in AOH, FOP, Pottsville Fire Dept; Instructor for Berks Co. College in fire program; Tulpehocken Gun/Rifle Club

Why I Wish to Serve: If selected, it would be my pleasure to work with other members and our pastor. Assist in the coordination and promotion of our parish activities.



JOANNE DOYNE

Address: 2018 Elk Ave., Pottsville

Occupation: Retired

Length of time in parish: 40 years

Experience and activities: I was an insurance agent for 41 years, retiring in August 2025. I live in Pottsville with my husband Don, who I am happily married to for 33 years. I enjoy gardening and traveling. I have been involved with our church Outreach Program, 150th Anniversary Campaign, volunteer at our Summer Picnic, and a member of the Collection Counter team, a past member of Dramatic Stations.

Why I Wish to Serve: I have a deep desire to see our congregation grow in faith and fellowship, and to assist our Pastor in any area of concern.



Parish Council—Nominations—2026

DARLA FABIANI

Address: 66 4th St. W.W. Terrace, Pottsville

Occupation: Retired

Length of time in parish: 5 years

Experience and activities: I have been married to Vince Fabiani for 47 years. We have two adult daughters, Melissa & Alicia. We have two wonderful Grandchildren who are the light of my life. I retired five years ago from the Bidden River Credit Union after 30 years of service. I took care of the financial needs of the members. During my many years there I met many wonderful members. I volunteered for Meals on Wheels for about twenty years during my lunch breaks. I also volunteered for about 10 years with the Pottsville Soup Kitchen. I believe that when you help people, it comes back to you in your life.

Why I Wish to Serve: I wish to serve because I love our church and want to help grow our congregation and make our parish a wonderful place to belong. I help on the church cleaning committee. I also help on the decorating committee during the holidays. I belong to the Catholic Women's Union and help as needed. I think my experience of working at the Credit Union give me a financial background to help support the Parish Council. I believe I could benefit the Parish Council and learn from the other members. I believe service is important to my life as a Christian.



FRANK MURPHY

Address: 1307 W. Market St., Pottsville

Occupation: Retired Construction Manager

Length of time in parish: Lifetime

Experience and activities: Extraordinary Minister, Reader, server for funerals and 5 pm Masses. Presently a member of the parish Building Committee (meeting minutes transcriber), member of the Allentown Diocese Disciple Maker Index Committee; previously served two terms on Parish Council.

Why I Wish to Serve: I believe I can offer the council information regarding the various ministries that I am involved with.



ELLEN M. ZANE

Address: 1401 Howard Ave., Pottsville

Occupation: Retired Elementary Teacher

Length of time in parish: Lifetime

Experience and activities: I taught CCD for over six years. I assisted with Sunday pre-school for several years. I was an active member of the Family Guild. I have continually supported church activities (baked good for Lenten dinners, etc.).

Why I Wish to Serve: I am a life member with deep commitment to the parish and the old elementary school, and its history I have many happy memories of the people at St. John's. I want to be a contributing member of the council and open to new ideas and suggestions.

