

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

August 24, 2025 • 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Jesus said,
"People will come from
the east and the west
and from the
north and the south
and will recline at table
in the kingdom of God."*

Luke 13:29



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, August 23

5:00 p.m. Peggy & Edward Petrovich
(Kelly & Becky Derbes)

Sunday, August 24

8:15 a.m. Paul Filiac
(Mary Ann Filiac)

Sunday, August 24

10:30 a.m. Joseph Garland
(Garland & Kurtek Family)

Monday, August 25

6:30 p.m. Michael Chylock
(Anonymous)

Tuesday, August 26

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

Wednesday, August 27

9:00 a.m. Xenia Pristas
(George & Pat Forster)

Thursday, August 28

9:00 a.m. Carolyn L. Leinheiser
(Pat & Bernie Boran)

Friday, August 29

9:00 a.m. Michael Klembara
(Anita Klembara)

Saturday, August 30

5:00 p.m. Charles (Pudge) Bowers
(M/M Ralph Carestia Fam)

Sunday, August 31

8:15 a.m. Carolyn L. Leinheiser
(Peg Zacko)

Sunday, August 31

10:30 a.m. Josephine Kochol
(Tony & Lucilla Kochol)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Last week we started to look at the Gospel According to John, and what makes it unique compared to the other three Gospels.

We saw that Matthew and Luke begin their Gospels with Infancy Narratives, the familiar stories of the birth of Jesus and the events surrounding the birth of Jesus. We noted that Mark does not include Infancy Narratives. His Gospel simply begins with John the Baptist announcing the coming of Jesus and then the adult Jesus coming on the scene. John does not include Infancy Narratives either, but begins His Gospel with a beautiful and poetic prologue (John 1:1-18) that essentially sums up the theological focus of his Gospel: Jesus is God's Word. The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we can see God's glory.

Besides omitting Infancy Narratives, it may come as a surprise that John leaves out other major events such as the calling of the twelve Apostles and even the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. (John actually spends a few chapters on the Last Supper but nowhere does he actually describe Jesus instituting the Eucharist.) Does this mean these events are less important than we think? Not at all. These events are so important that John assumes his readers are already familiar with them. In a sense, John's Gospel builds upon Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Again, at the risk of oversimplifying, Matthew, Mark, and Luke tend to give us the basic facts about Jesus. John reflects upon these facts and deepens our understanding of Jesus.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on Sept. 11, 18, 25, Oct. 16, 23, and Nov. 13. 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.

Diocesan Pilgrimage. Please join us on **Tuesday, October 7th** for a Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Bus departs from St. John's at 6 am. Pilgrimage program begins at 10:00 am with arrivals and guided tours, followed by time to visit the over 80 chapels and oratories that make up "Mary's House." Throughout the day, there will be guest speakers and confessions available. The Rosary will be said before we end the day with Mass celebrated by Bishop Schlert at 3 pm. The Basilica has a cafeteria; pilgrims can pack a lunch or purchase one. Lunches at the Basilica cafeteria are approximately \$8 to \$10 with à la carte items also available. On the way home, we will be stopping at the Broadway Diner in Baltimore for dinner. The diner has an extensive menu (<https://broadway-diner.res-menu.com/menu>); please bring cash since the diner has requested that there will only be one check for our reservation. Cost for the trip is \$50 which includes transportation, driver tip, plus a Shrine donation. This bus trip is for **adult parishioners**. To register, please call 570-622-5470 or email John's Office at stjbparish@comcast.net

Next Week's Readings

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

(August 30/31)

Reading I: Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

Reading II: Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Upcoming Events

September

6	after Mass	Wine & Cheese	L.H.
7	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	L.H.
7	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School & Children's Liturgy	L.H. & Chapel
10	4-6 p.m.	Penn State Stickies Pickup	R.B.
10	8:00 p.m.	St. John's Beneficial Society	F.R.
11	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
14	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class	L.H.
15	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council	L.H.
17	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg	L.H.
18	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
21	9:00 a.m.	CCD—Service Project	L.H.
21	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School & Children's Liturgy	L.H. & Chapel
25	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
28	after Mass	Coffee & Donuts	L.H.
28	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class	L.H.

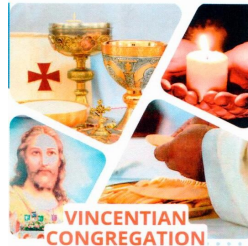
L.H. = Longinus Hall F.R. = Rectory Fellowship Room R.B. = Russell Building

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

Mission Appeal

We welcome, Fr. Joby Joseph V.C, a Vincentian Missionary Priest from India, to our parish this weekend to participate in our Annual Missionary Cooperation Plan. He will share his missionary, educational and charitable activities in their missions. They also request our special financial support for the training of young men studying for priesthood. There will be a special collection today to help the Missionary work of the Vincentian Missionaries. We urge you to be very generous in your mission offering since these Missionaries need our help.

If you did not have an opportunity to make an offering today or would like to make an additional offering, you may make your offering through the general parish collection next weekend in a specially marked envelope. Thank you very much for your prayers and generous financial support. The Vincentian Missionaries keep you and our parish in their prayers and Masses.



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. Pick up date is September 10th at the Russell Building from 4 to 6 p.m. 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, Ray Petrilla, Lisa Schlitzer, 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 September.

Weekly Collection

Assumption.....\$1,441.00

August 16/17\$4,261.06

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&2. IMO Mary Ann Holley
by Deborah & Mark Purcell

St. Joseph

1. For Zacarias & Neil
by Neil & Francis Manus
2. For Chloe & Joseph Manus
by Neil & Francis Manus

Sanctuary

For Neil Manus
by Neil & Francis Manus

Guardian Angels

1. Living & Deceased of St. John's Catholic Women's Union
2. IMO Michael Klembara
by Anita Klembara
3&4. IMO Thomas Smith
by Peggy Smith

Liturgical Min. Schedule

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 30 — 5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Frank Murphy

EM: Dan & Hermine Murphy

Servers: Michael & Spencer Prestileo

Cantor: Dave Derbes

August 31 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Bob Bechtel

EM: Joseph Palmieri, Jeff Naffin

Servers: Sophia Palmieri
Collin McGinley

Cantor: Joann Matina

August 31 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: John Crane

EM: Raymond Petrilla, Heidi Gorski

Servers: Finley McNamara
Gabriel Scheidel

Cantor: Ensemble

Weekend Sacristan: R.J Post

Seeking Donations

We are seeking donations in the form of gift cards for our Sunday School, CCD program, and Sacramental Prep classes for Confirmation. These gift cards will be used to provide snacks for our students. We will accept gift cards from Boyer's, Weis, Walmart or Giant food stores. Gift cards can be dropped off at the rectory or placed in the offertory basket at church. Please put the card in an envelope marked Religious Education. We also have a wish list on Amazon, St. John's Religious Ed List, for a few school items that we need for this school year. Please prayerfully consider donating to support our students' learning of the Catholic faith. Any questions, please contact Tina Seiger or Lucilla Kochol. Thank you in advance.

Women's Fellowship

There is growing interest in starting a Women's Fellowship for our parish. The purpose of this group would be to grow in our faith and support one another. All adult women are welcome. We would meet on a regular basis. If you are interested in joining, please contact Tina Seiger by email.loveyouubu@gmail.com.

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.

SOME WHO ARE LAST
WILL BE FIRST
AND SOME WHO ARE FIRST
WILL BE LAST

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 Kochol 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.

Sunday School Registration ... 2025-2026 ... Ages 3-6

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

Children's Liturgy ... 2025-2026 ... Grades 1-3

Children in grades first to third are invited to join Children's Liturgy also held during the 10:30 a.m. Mass 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.

Please register by filling out this form that you can cut out and return it to the rectory. Or use the Google link below. To use the link, you will need a Google email account.

Google Link to Children's Liturgy: <https://forms.gle/bbqrfdV2SmS1g3NXA>

Google Link to Preschool: <https://forms.gle/FXXN9UwNU7o3xslx7>

Please circle one below:

Little Saints Preschool Registration

Children's Liturgy

Parent's Name: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: - _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Any Allergies: _____

Circle how you can help: teacher helper snacks



THE BOARD OF PASTORS ANNOUNCE

Mrs. Carol Boyer will continue as interim school principal for this school year. This assures the quality of education and standard of leadership required for the education of our children, seriously, socially and academically.

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.

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>



St. Joseph Center for Special Learning

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning invites you to join us for an exciting upcoming event in support of our students and adults with special needs. Don't miss our **Saturday Night Fever Disco** on the evening of **Friday, September 6**, at the SJC Parish Center! This groovy night will kick off our **70th anniversary celebrations** with live music by local favorite, *The Boys Upstairs*. Get ready to dance the night away while celebrating our mission and the incredible individuals we serve. Follow our FB for event updates. Questions? Contact Monica Walborn at 570-622-4638.

Neighboring Events

Summer Sizzler—August 24th ... Youth Ministry—Jr/Sr High. A cook out with games — 11:30 to 1 p.m. ... to thank you for being you! (Bring a towel in case we break out the water balloons.) Meet in St. Ambrose Rectory meeting room at 201 Randel St. in Schuylkill Haven. Let Mary Ellen Johns know you are coming: 570-385-1031 x 4 or stambroseprep@comcast.net Permission forms need to be completed upon arrival.

Mass and Dinner for the Memorial of St. Monica. Bishop Alfred Schlert will celebrate a Mass for the Memorial of St. Monica at 6:00pm on Wednesday, August 27, at St. Theresa Church, 1408 Easton Road, Hellertown. Mass will be followed by a buffet dinner in Friendship Hall. Tickets for the dinner are \$10 per person. R.S.V.P. at stmonicaministry27@gmail.com or call the St. Theresa Rectory at 610-838-7045. Come join in petition and fellowship with those who are praying for the return to the Church of fallen-away loved ones. This evening is being sponsored by the St. Monica Ministry.

Blue Mass. This Mass will be offered for all First Responders of all surrounding areas ... Sunday, September 7th at 9 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 1115 Walnut St. in Ashland. Everyone is welcome!

Fall Wine & Beer Festival. Hosted by St. Ambrose Parish on Saturday, September 13th from 5 to 10 p.m on the parish grounds at 201 Randel St. in Schuylkill Haven. The evening will feature local wineries, craft breweries, food trucks, and music by Another Side and the New Individuals. Admission \$15. A complimentary Fall Fest logo tasting glass with every paid admission. Hope to see you there!

HELP NEEDED

My name is Anthony J. Gaburick. I suffer from a nerve disease that requires treatments for me to stay functional. My treatments are out of town in places such as Allentown, West Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre and Wyomissing. I'm looking for drivers who can help me get to these treatments. Doctors will not allow me to drive myself to and from treatments. If anyone is interested in driving me, please contact the church rectory. I'll be very grateful for your help!

Thank you to everyone who has come forward to help me with transportation to my medical appointments. Your help is so very appreciated. I am truly grateful. Thank you again!



August 24, 2025

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 66:18-21 | Heb 12:5-7, 11-13 | Lk 13:22-30

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Have you ever felt as though God is punishing you? Throughout the course of our lives, we experience what might seem like a barrage of hardships. This battering down of our interior and exterior fortresses over time can test our faith and weaken our resolve. If you find yourself in this position, read today's passage from Hebrews again: "Do not disdain the discipline of the Lord," St. Paul reminds us, "for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines." In our human nature, we may find these "disciplines" painful (and rightfully so). But Paul urges us to shift our mindset, recognizing that just as a good father disciplines his children for their greater good, so our heavenly Father does the same for us. Paul goes on to explain that we may consider every trial we endure in this sense, as a loving "discipline" — a sign of the Lord's attention and desire for our sanctity.

GO EVANGELIZE**PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

Modern society loves the concept of a God who is soft, inviting, sweet, and tender. Of course, our Lord in his goodness and mercy can be described by those adjectives. But today's Gospel reminds us of an equally important characteristic of the Lord: He is the supreme and final judge, and at the final judgment we will be held accountable for our lives. In the end, we will stand before the Lord, and he will put all things in proper order. Will it be glorious, loving, and merciful? Yes. Painful and piercing? Perhaps. Our Lord's love knows no bounds, and he withholds his mercy from no one. It is precisely from this place of perfect love and profound mercy that rightful judgment emerges. May we live a life worthy of welcome when we meet him face to face.

REFLECT

In addition to accepting the discipline that the Lord sends our way, we can engage in voluntary practices to strengthen our spiritual lives. These practices are necessary, as Jesus tells us that many "will not be strong enough" to enter through the narrow gate that leads to life. Our second reading exhorts us to "strengthen [our] drooping hands and [our] weak knees." What spiritual disciplines have you found helpful to foster your growth in holiness? What areas are weak or need strengthening?

(Non-Profit Organization)



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PASSES ... \$5.00

St. John's will be available at Bosco's on the following dates:

Presale10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

August 28, 29,

September 3, 4, 5,, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26

October 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 20, 21

10 a.m.—3 p.m.

August 30, Sept. 1, 20, 27, October 18

11 a.m.—3 p.m.

August 16; Sept. 13, October 11

12 noon to 3 p.m.

August 31; September 14, 21, 28

October 5, 12, 19

October 22—8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

*Thank you in advance
for your support!*