

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

August 31, 2025 • 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

A painting of a sunset over a turbulent sea. The sky is a deep, dark teal with a small, bright orange sun setting on the horizon. The sea is dark and choppy, with white foam from waves crashing against rocks in the foreground. The overall mood is dramatic and powerful.

The one who humbles himself

WILL BE EXALTED

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 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)

Monday, September 1 NO MASS

Tuesday, September 2

9:00 a.m. Joseph Rodnick Jr.
(Eric & Jennifer Lieberman)

Wednesday, September 3

9:00 a.m. Robert Kline
(Joan Kline)

Thursday, September 4

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

Friday, September 5

9:00 a.m. Brian Eckley
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

Saturday, September 6

5:00 p.m. Lynn & Post Families
(Dave, Tony, Joan Marie,
Bob Lynn)

Sunday, September 7

8:15 a.m. Joseph & Philomena Ryan
(Donna & Jim Pugh)

Sunday, September 7

10:30 a.m. Gail Vesay
(Joe, Maureen, Joey Kurtek)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

We've been looking at the Gospel According to John. It is very interesting how John reveals the person of Jesus to us.

The Gospel of John actually imitates the Old Testament Book of Wisdom. Wisdom reflects on the defining act of salvation of the Old Testament: the Exodus, God liberating His people from slavery in Egypt. As you know, the Exodus was preceded by ten plagues, or "signs and wonders" that God worked through Moses, leading to the ultimate sign and wonder: the Exodus itself. The Book of Wisdom, however, chooses only seven of the plagues to reflect upon, and then recounts the Exodus.

Similarly, while Jesus performed many miracles (as we know from Matthew, Mark, and Luke), the Gospel of John only tells us about *seven* of Jesus's miracles. And John does not call them miracles, but *signs*. They include: Jesus changing water to wine at the wedding of Cana, the healing of the royal official's son, the healing of the paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda, the multiplication of loaves, the giving of sight to the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus. Actually, that's only six... The seventh and ultimate sign is Jesus's own death and resurrection, the ultimate act of salvation, liberating us from sin and death.

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 stjbparrish@comcast.net

Next Week's Readings

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
(September 6/7)

Reading I: Wisdom 9:13-18b

Reading II: Philemon 9-10, 12-17

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

Upcoming Events

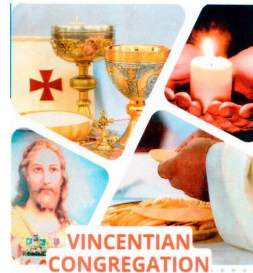
September

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

Mission Appeal—Thank You

All the Vincentian Missionaries thank you for your prayers and generous mission offering last weekend. Your offerings will help them to carry out their many missionary, educational and charitable activities in their mission and will help them educate young men studying for priesthood. If you did not have an opportunity to make an offering or would like to make an additional offering, you may make your offering through the general parish collection in a specially marked envelope. Thank you very much for your generous support. If you like to sponsor a seminarian and help him to become a priest, you may write to: Fr. Francis Cheruparampil V.C., Mission Procurator, P.O. Box 45, Hazley, NJ 07730. or email: Fcheru@aol.com. The Vincentian Missionaries keep you and our parishes 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.



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.

Weekly Collection

August 23/24\$4,709.00

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 Annette Lieberman
by Eric & Jennifer Lieberman
2. IMO Marjorie Angelo
by Frank Angelo

St. Joseph

1. IMO Jim Wollyung
by Wollyung Family
2. IMO James Cavanaugh
by Hahner Family

Sanctuary

IMO Michael Maccarone
by Chris Maccarone

Guardian Angels

1. For Joseph Manus
by Neil & Frances Manus
2. For Chloe Manus
by Neil & Frances Manus
- 3&4. IMO Ronald Kriston
by Joan Grapsy Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 6th—5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Patricia O'Neill

EM: Debbie Herb, John O'Neill

Servers: Cooper & Cole Felty

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

September 7th — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Jeff Naffin

EM: John Corbacio, Bob Bechtel

Servers: Maggie & Rhyann Brennan

Cantor: Tina Seiger

September 7th — 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Vince Balulis

EM: Frank Murphy, Janet Daubert

Servers: Kyle & Preston McCormick

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

Weekend Sacristan: Connor Felty

Seeking Donations

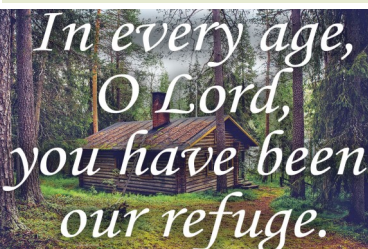
We are seeking donations in the form of gift cards for our Sunday School, CCD program, and Sacramental Prep classes for Confirmation. These gift cards will be used to provide snacks for our students. We will accept gift cards from Boyer's, Weis, Walmart or Giant food stores. Gift cards can be dropped 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.

Wine & Cheese

Please join us in Longinus Hall after 5 p.m. Mass next Saturday, **September 6th** for a Wine & Cheese Social. It's a wonderful opportunity to relax, connect, and enjoy fellowship with our parish family. Hope to see you there!



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

Parish Council—New Members—2025

CHRISTINE BLACK

Address: 813 Pinewood Drive, Pottsville

Occupation: Retail Management

Length of time in parish: 16 years

Experience and activities: Eucharistic Minister in previous parish; CCD Instructor; Volunteer for various parish fundraisers; Parish Minister of Hospitality.

Why I Wish to Serve: It would be a privilege to contribute to the growth and success of St. John's Parish.



KENNETH COOPER

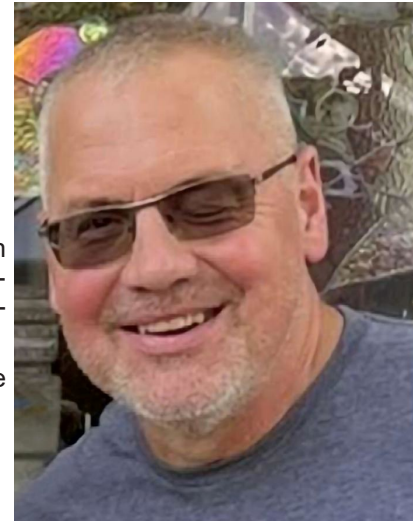
Address: 106 Cross Creek Drive, Pottsville

Occupation: Retired Police Officer

Length of time in parish: 12 years

Experience and activities: Husband and father of two adult sons; Retired from Penn State University Police Department after 30 years; Enjoy hiking with my dog, Laken; Volunteered at Pottsville Soup Kitchen until its closure; Volunteer at Beverly Mattson Memorial Food Bank; Parish Minister of Hospitality

Why I Wish to Serve: I feel the current Parish Council has done great work. I would like to continue that tradition by serving.



KELLEY EROH

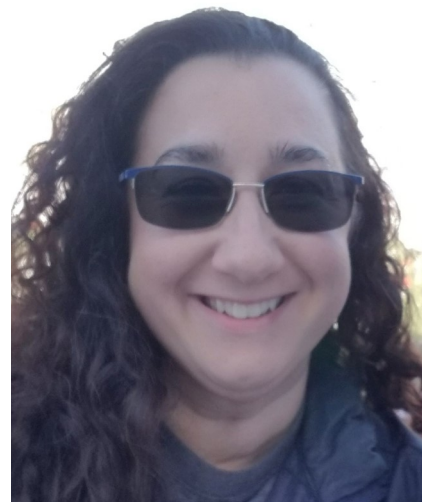
Address: 9924 Long Star Drive, Auburn

Occupation: Director of Religious Education

Length of time in parish: 2 years

Experience and activities: My background is in education. I graduated from Penn State in 1999 and have worked in education for the past 25 years. I taught public school for 12 years in urban districts and have been working as a Director of Education for the Diocese of Allentown since 2011. The Catholic Women's Union, Lenten Fish Dinners, and Summer Festival are activities that I have participated in since joining the parish. Presently, I am secretary for the Catholic Women's Union, and I coordinated the Lenten Fish Dinner for the past two years. I also enjoy most activities involving water.

Why I Wish to Serve: I enjoy being a member of the parish. I have been very fortunate to make some wonderful friends through the Lenten Dinners and Catholic Women's Union. I love attending Mass at the parish. My goal in life is to die with the epitaph that St. Gregory the Great used as his title in all of his correspondence: "Servus Servorum Dei", which translates to "Servant of the Servants of God". I wish to serve in any matter that will benefit St. John the Baptist Parish.



Parish Council—New Members—2025

CHARLES KUSTAN

Address: 337 Pine St., Cumbola

Occupation: Teacher

Length of time in parish: 1.5 years

Experience and activities: I have been teaching theology and social studies combined for over 10 years at Nativity BVM High School. I graduated with a degree in history from DeSales University. I am an avid fan of Nativity sports and am a member of the Green and Gold Booster Club. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, traveling, good food, good drink, and good conversations!

Why I Wish to Serve: I was hesitant at first, due to the limited time I have been a member of the parish. However, I felt that if I am blessed to have God-given talents, I have the responsibility to use them for the betterment of my fellow brothers and sisters and to support my parish.



BARBARA MUNSTER

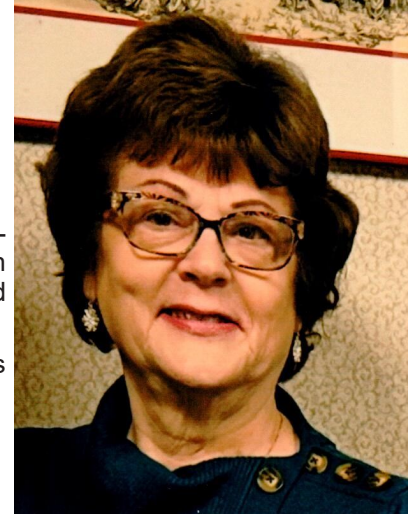
Address: 339 Carbon St., Minersville

Occupation: Retired

Length of time in parish: 23 years prior to marriage; 10 years currently

Experience and activities: I was Baptized, Confirmed, eight years of school and married at St. John's. In my 28 years at St. Barbara's Parish in Minersville, I was on Parish Council, Secretary of St. Ann's Sodality and Choir. When St. Barbara's closed, I returned to St. John's where currently I am President of the Catholic Women's Union.

Why I Wish to Serve: As a parish Council member, I hope to contribute my time, talents and experience to serve and help guide the future of our parish.



MARIANNE WOLLYUNG

Address: 2001 W. Norwegian St., Pottsville

Occupation: Registered Nurse

Length of time in parish: 36 years

Experience and activities: Member of Saturday Night Choir and Ensemble; Cantor; Registered Nurse with over 40 years experience; Currently a Nursing Instructor at Reading Area Community College; Member of Schuylkill Choral Society; Member of Pottsville's Third Brigade Band; Member of Cressona Band; Member of Yorkville Hose and Fire Company in Pottsville

Why I Wish to Serve: I want to serve on Parish Council because I love being a part of this parish. I have always felt welcome. In the happiest and saddest moments of my life, I have found comfort and support here. I want to ensure that this parish continues to thrive and grow. I also want the parish to be a place where my son, Christ, daughter-in-law Rachel, and granddaughter Audrey, can be close to God and find comfort and community.

