

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

September 6, 2026

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Whatever you bind on earth
shall be bound in heaven*

MATTHEW 18:18

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, Carol Lasco.* **Deceased:** *Agnes Palko*

"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, September 5

5:00 p.m. Tony Kochol
(Dan & Hermine Murphy)

Sunday, September 6

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

Sunday, September 6

10:30 a.m. Harry, Paul, Loretta Boyer
(Pat Kutch)

Monday, September 7—NO MASS

Tuesday, September 8

9:00 a.m. Rodney Schaeffer
(Joyce Gerace)

Wednesday, September 9

9:00 a.m. Angeline Hummel
(M/M Michael Ryan)

Thursday, September 10

9:00 a.m. Clara Rose Fahim
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

Friday, September 11

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

Saturday, September 12

5:00 p.m. Gail Garland Vesay
(Garland & Kurtek Family)

Sunday, September 13

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

Sunday, September 13

10:30 a.m. Catholic Women's Union
100th Anniversary

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

This summer we've been discussing the Sacrament of Confession. Just one or two more bulletin messages about Confession before we move on to another sacrament...

After confessing one's sins, receiving a penance, and saying an Act of Contrition, the priest gives Absolution. This is the prayer of forgiveness. This is the most important part of the sacrament! It's the reason we go to Confession: to hear the words of forgiveness from God Himself through the priest. (In my experience, sometimes people who don't go to Confession regularly will receive the penance, say thank you, and start getting up to leave before I have chance to say the Absolution!)

The words of Absolution are like the words of Consecration at Mass ("This is my Body... This is my Blood..."). These are the words of Jesus Himself spoken through the priest. Just as the bread and wine are transformed by the words of Consecration at Mass, the words of Absolution do what they say. When we hear these words, we know for certain that God has forgiven us (provided we honestly confessed our sins to the best of our memory, we are contrite, and we have a firm purpose of amendment, which means, as we clarified a couple weeks ago, at least a desire to not sin again even though we know we will continue to struggle with certain sins).

Sometimes people admit that they've confessed certain sins in the past, and they've received Absolution, but they don't *feel* forgiven, so they think they have to confess the sins again. This does not mean God hasn't forgiven you. Never doubt His forgiveness. But it could mean there is need for healing from whatever happened. And healing takes time. It takes prayer, and possibly assistance from a professional source, depending on the nature of the problem. But one of the blessings of the Sacrament of Confession is that you can know *for certain* that God has forgiven you.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on September 17, 24, October 8, 15, 22, and 29. 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.

Next Week's Readings

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(September 12/13)

Reading I: Sirach 27:30-28:7

Reading II: Romans 14:7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

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.

Upcoming Events

September

9	8:00 p.m.	St. John's Beneficial Society Mtg	F.R.
12	3-7 p.m.	Grilled Stickies Pick-up	L.H.
13	10:00 a.m.	CCD Mass	St. Patrick's
13	10:30 a.m.	Catholic Woman's Union 100th Anniversary	
13		Coffee & Donuts after 10:30 a.m. Mass	L.H.
13	8-10 a.m.	Grilled Stickies Pick-up	L.H.
13	12-1 p.m.	Grilled Stickies Pickup.....	L.H.
15	6:30 p.m.	Ladies of the Rosary	L.H.
16	7:00 a.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg	L.H.
17	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
20	10:00 a.m.	CCD Mass.....	St. Patrick's
24	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
26	after Mass	Wine & Cheese	L.H.
27	after Masses	Coffee & Donuts	L.H.
27	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.

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

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

Candles

BVM

1. For Erika Lee Hauptly
by Bill & Denise Hauptly
2. Special Intention
by Heidi Gorski

St. Joseph

1. Special Intention
by Keith & Mary Jo Laslow
2. For Erika Lee Hauptly
by Bill & Diane Hauptly

Sanctuary

Special Intention
by Stan & Heidi Gorski

Guardian Angels

1. In Honor of our 55th Anniversary
by Barb & Al Munster
2. IMO Beth Resnick
by Barb Wollyung
- 3.&4. IMO Marjorie Angelo
by Frank Angelo

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>



Liturgical Min. Schedule

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 12— 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Michelle Heenan

EM: John Crane, Sharon Snyder

Server: John Crane

Cantor: Dave Derbes

September 13 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Jeff Naffin

EM: Bill Gianfagna, Gerry Schwartz

Servers: Finley McNamara

Maria Neifert

Cantor: Dave Derbes

September 13—10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Vince Balulis

EM: Joseph Palmieri, Mike Ambrose

Servers: Sophia Palmieri

Callie Felty

Cantor: Ensemble

Sacristan: Connor Felty



Attention — All Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, and Servers

Please let us know your plans for **October & November** so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. Please email or call the rectory by **September 14th**.

We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

Catholic Women's Union — 100th Anniversary

Please join us for a Special Mass on **Sunday, September 13, 2026, at 10:30am** as we joyfully celebrate Catholic Women's Union 100 years of service to the Church. Together, we will give thanks and pray for continued blessings in the years ahead. All are welcome to celebrate this special occasion with us in Longinus Hall after Mass for Coffee and Doughnuts.

Catholic Women's Union Fundraiser

The CWU Penn State Ye Olde Diner World Famous **"Grilled Stickies"** will be available for **pickup in 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.

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

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**.

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!

Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop -- Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make our yard sale a success!

We sincerely appreciate all who donated items, baked delicious goodies, purchased items, and volunteered their time to work at the sale. Your generosity, hard work, and support are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for helping our parish!

Our Volunteers Chris Black, Mary Bound, Kathryn Carroll, Janet Daubert, Darla Fabiani, Millie Fredericks, Joyce Gerace, Pat Klassen, Lucilla Kochol, Charlene Leshner, Fran Lorenz, Chris Maccarone, Judy Meseravage, Carole Quirin, Carol Rehnert, Pat Scheetz, Natalie Setlock, Theresa Skrobak, Linda Smith, Beth & Rick Smith, Peggy Smith.

Our Bakers Chris Black, Mary Bound, Marie Doyle, Darla Fabiani, Millie Fredericks, Sr. Mary Jane Hahner, Fran Lorenz, Chris Maccarone, Jane Petrilla, Carole Quirin, Pat Scheetz.

Total Profits: \$ 1,437.25

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."



Boscov's
FRIENDS
HELPING
FRIENDS
ONE DAY ONLY
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026 - SHOP 8AM - 11PM

25% OFF*
LOWEST SALE PRICES
SHOPPING PASS

Enjoy 25% off* your purchase in-store or online. Not valid with other discounts or promotions. Present this pass at checkout to receive your discount. Valid Wednesday, October 21, 2026 only.

\$5 DONATION PER PASS

PASSES ... \$5.00

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

Presale

10 a.m.—1:30 p.m.—Sept. 17

10 a.m.—2 p.m.

Sept. 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30; Oct. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20.

11 a.m.—2 p.m.— Sept. 12; Oct. 17

12 noon to 3 p.m.

Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27;
Oct. 4, 11, 18.

October 21 — 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Parish Council

Please approach any Parish Council Member listed below and ask that a question, concern, etc. be brought up at the next meeting on **September 14.**

Elected Members

Vince Balulis **
Chris Black
Ann Blankenhorn **
Bob Burns
Kenneth Cooper
John Crane
Shanna Deibert **
Tara DeStefano
Kelley Eroh
Darla Fabiani **
Heidi Gorski
Charles Kustan
Barbara Munster
Frank Murphy **
Missy Scheetz
Michelle Stone
Gretchen Witman

Kay Wollyung
Marianne Wollyung

Appointed Members

John Consugar
Tina Seiger

Ex-Officio

Father Kevin Bobbin
Deacon Robert Reiley
Ray Petrilla
Ed Brahler

** denotes new members

Families Matter

Labor Day & Family. On Labor Day we pray that our society acknowledge the need for just wages for all workers in families. We also pray for those workers and their families who struggle from paycheck to paycheck.

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."

Diocesan News & Events

St. Monica Ministry. "Love Jesus Back"

... presents a family holy hour on **Tuesday, September 8,th from 6 to 7 pm** at St. Theresa Church, 1408 Easton Road, in Hellertown. Children of all ages are invited to visit with Our Lord, thanking Him for His great love and praying for those who do not yet love Him in return. Presiding will be Fr. Brendon Laroche, Pastor of St. Ursula Parish, Fountain Hill. A potluck fellowship dinner will precede the Holy Hour. To sign up for the potluck, visit tinyurl.com/4t34wr58. For more information, please email StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com or call the St. Theresa Rectory [610-838-7045](tel:610-838-7045).

Red, White & Blue Mass on 9/11

Join the Diocese of Allentown for a special **Red, White & Blue Mass** honoring those who serve our communities and our nation. On **Friday, September 11,** Bishop Alfred Schlert will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at 8:46 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena in Allentown. The 8:46 start time commemorates the moment the World Trade Center's North Tower was struck on September 11, 2001. There will also be a reception at 10:00 a.m.

Police, firefighters, first responders, health care workers, members of the military, legal professionals, elected officials, and their families are warmly invited to attend. Those who serve are encouraged to wear their uniforms.

Following Mass, join us for a light reception and remarks from Sr. Deirdre (Dede) Byrne, M.D., U.S. Army Colonel, renowned surgeon, and consecrated religious.

RSVP to stewardship@allentowndiocese.org.

Bus to PA March for Life

A bus is scheduled for the Pennsylvania March for Life taking place at Harrisburg State Capitol Building on **Monday, September 21.** Before departure, there will be an optional Mass at 7:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church located 1817 1st Street, Bethlehem PA 18020. Bus Departure is at 8:00 a.m. from Sacred Heart Church. Please park 1814 Second Street in Bethlehem, PA across from church parking lot (in school chain linked fence).

Time permitting, we might enter the PA Capitol to visit politicians or grab a bite to eat at cafeteria. Bus will return around 4:00 p.m. to Sacred Heart Church; we will make a gas station stop to grab a bite to eat and use restrooms. You may also bag a lunch.

Email andrewazan3rd@gmail.com to reserve a seat. Include rider's names and mobile number. Payment is \$20.00 per rider. Pay in advance with checks made out to Sacred Heart. Mail checks to Andrew Azan: PO Box 3278, Bethlehem, PA 18017. Please bring \$5.00 for bus driver tip, which we will collect on the way home.

OCIA ... 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.

Mustard Seedlings

..... A Supportive Community for Moms from the newly pregnant to preschool parenting stage . Join us on, **September 10 & 24, from 9:30-11:00AM in Longinus Hall,** Kids age 0-5 welcome to come and enjoy provided toys! Home-schooled older siblings are welcome to attend as well. Moms will enjoy a hot tea and some guided discussion as we begin our autumn faith formation study about the philosophies of Saint Thomas Aquinas. Purchase of the study is not required to participate. Find the group on Facebook to stay updated!





September 6, 2026
 Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Ez 33:7-9 | Rom 13:8-10 | Mt 18:15-20

Written by
 THE
 FAITHFUL
 DISCIPLE

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

St. Teresa of Calcutta once wrote, "If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." Community, when lived according to Christ's command to love one another, fills us with joy and companionship. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that living as a Church also means holding one another accountable when a member of the community has gone astray. While we are not responsible for the choices others make, we have a responsibility to help one another out of love. Ezekiel's task as a prophet was not always an easy one, nor is it easy today to speak out against injustice or wrongdoing. But the good news of our faith and our Church is that we belong to Christ and to each other. When we speak the truth in the face of injustice, it should serve to rally one another toward righteousness as we journey as one Body to the eternal glory of heaven.

PRAY

A prayer before confession:

*God, you know all that I do and all that is in my heart.
 I turn to you today because I know that I have made
 choices that have hurt others and rejected you.*

*You have made me conscious of an emptiness in my
 life because of my sinfulness.*

*I want to turn back to you and the way of life to which you call me.
 In your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.*

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Our Gospel speaks about moments where members of the Church help one another to recognize and turn away from sin. Each of us will have moments in which we need to be reminded of God's commands and called to conversion. In those moments, we can give powerful witness to Christ by receiving the truth with humility and allowing ourselves to be led back to the loving arms of the Good Shepherd. Acceptance of our own shortcomings and flaws can be an opportunity to recognize that we are not the agents of our own salvation. Then, by seeking the love and forgiveness of God – especially in the sacrament of reconciliation – we show, by our example, that all people are called to be reconciled with our Lord so that we may live together in the fullness of his glory for all eternity.

WE SHALL NEVER FORGET.



9.11.2001