

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

September 7, 2025 • 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Whoever does not carry his own cross
and come after me cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:27



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, Doug Broughton, Kathy Vicic, Joanne Kitsock, Jane Baker*

Mass Intentions

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)

Monday, September 8

6:30 p.m. Thomas & Eva Francis
(Joseph, Sonya, Joey Halsey)

Tuesday, September 9

9:00 a.m. James Minchhoff Sr.
(Lucilla Kochol)

Wednesday, September 10

9:00 a.m. Anna D'Alessandro
(Michelle Baron)

Thursday, September 11

9:00 a.m. Charles Tamburelli
(Francis Tamburelli)

Friday, September 12

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

Saturday, September 13

5:00 p.m. Paul Filiac
(Mary Ann Filiac)

Sunday, September 14

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

Sunday, September 14

10:30 a.m. Margaret Pfluger
(Joe Orlowsky)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

We've been looking at the Gospel According to John. Here are just a couple more features of the Gospel before we move on to the rest of the New Testament.

A couple weeks ago, we mentioned that John, in a sense, builds upon Matthew, Mark, and Luke. John is believed to have been the last Gospel to be written, which means the other three Gospels were already known, and John represents a longer period of time to reflect on and understand the mystery of Jesus Christ. One way we see this is in John's understanding of sacraments. Chapter 3 contains a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus about Baptism. Chapter 6 contains the Bread of Life discourse about the Eucharist. Both chapters demonstrate a deeper understanding of these sacraments. We might also note that John highlights the risen Jesus giving His Apostles the power and duty to forgive sins in His name: the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Finally, we haven't said anything yet about the author. We traditionally identify John as the Apostle John, the brother of James. We should acknowledge, however, that even from early Christian times, there was some question about the exact identity of the author of this Gospel. Nevertheless, there are good arguments in favor of the author being John the Apostle. We should always keep in mind that the Author of the inspired text is God, regardless of the identity of the human authors. The author of this Gospel is also believed to be the author of the three letters of John in the New Testament, and the Book of Revelation, all of which we will eventually look at.

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.

Next Week's Readings

Exaltation of the Cross
(September 13/14)

Reading I: Numbers 21-4b-9

Reading II: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: John 3:13-17

Diocesan Pilgrimage / Bus Trip. 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 6 am. Pilgrimage program begins at 10 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 stop 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

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.

WE SHALL NEVER FORGET.



March for Life

Pennsylvanians for Human Life (Schuylkill/Carbon Chapter) is sponsoring a bus trip to the Pennsylvania MARCH FOR LIFE on **Monday, September 22** in Harrisburg. Departure from the St. Clair Walmart at 8:00 am with a stop at St. Mary's Parish in Hamburg for 9:00 am Mass with Bishop Schlert before proceeding to Harrisburg. A donation of \$20 is requested to help defray the cost of the bus. Arrival back at Walmart will be mid/late afternoon. For more information or to register, please call or text Kathleen at 570-249-0519. If you are unable to attend but would still like to support this important effort, please consider sponsoring another attendee.

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.



Candles

BVM

1. IMO Philomena Carroll by Family
2. IMO Marjorie Angelo by Frank Angelo

St. Joseph

1. IMO M/M Bruno Tassone by Abigail & Rose Anthony
2. IMO Frank & Rose Boris by Richard Naffin

Sanctuary

IMO Carolyn L. Leinheiser by Pat & Bernia Boran

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Beth Resnick by Barb Wollyung
2. IMO Marjorie Angelo by Frank Angelo
3. For Felicidad & Frances by Neil & Frances Manus
4. For Zacarias & Neil by Neil & Frances Manus

Liturgical Min. Schedule

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

September 13th—5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Michelle Ambrose
EM: Michael Ambrose, Joe Palmieri
Servers: Sophia Palmieri
 Colin McGinley
Cantor: Joann Matina

September 14th — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Bob Bechtel
EM: Heidi Gorski, Jeff Naffin
Servers: Michael & Spencer Prestileo
Cantor: Vincent Prestileo

September 14th—10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Raymond Petrilla
EM: John Crane, Justina Majestic
Servers: Gabriel Scheidel
 Finley McNamara
Cantor: Ensemble

Weekend Sacristan: Ryan Grabowski

Attention — All Readers, Servers, and Extraordinary Ministers ...

Please let us know your plans for **October & November** so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. Please call or email the rectory **before September 16th**. We appreciate your cooperation.

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:

Monday, September 15th.

Elected Members

Vincent Balulis
Chris Black *
Ann Blankenhorn
Bob Burns
Kenneth Cooper *
John Crane
Michelle Darhun
Darren DeArment
Tara DeStefano
Kelley Eroh *
Heidi Gorski
Charles Kustan *
Barbara Munster *
Reene Reddington
Missy Scheetz
Michelle Stone
Gretchen Witman
Kay Wollyung
Marianne Wollyung *
Robert Wollyung

Appointed Members

John Consugar
Tina Seiger

Ex-Officio

Father Kevin Bobbin
Deacon Robert Reiley
Ray Petrilla
Ed Brahler

* Denotes New Members

Neighboring Events.

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.

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

PASSES ... \$5.00

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

Presale

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sept. 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.

Sept. 20, 27, October 18

11 a.m.—3 p.m.

Sept. 13, October 11

12 noon to 3 p.m.

September 14, 21, 28
October 5, 12, 19

October 22—8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

*Thank you in advance
for your support!*

Happy Grandparents Day—September 7th

We honor the gift of grandparents, great-grandparents, and all the "spiritual grandparents" in our parish family. Their love, wisdom, and faith bless our families and church community. We give thanks for their example of perseverance, their stories of faith, and their prayers that guide us closer to God. May the Lord continue to bless them with health, joy and peace and may younger generations cherish the treasure of their presence.

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

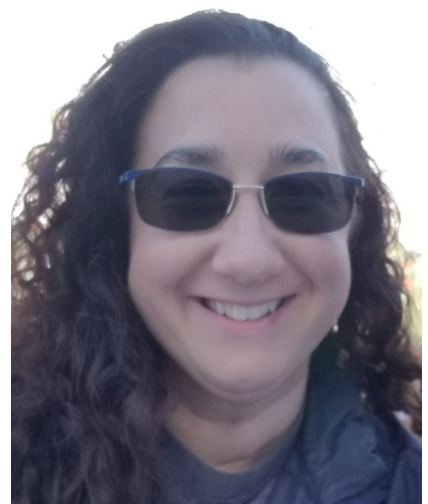
Address: 9924 Long Star Drive, Auburn

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

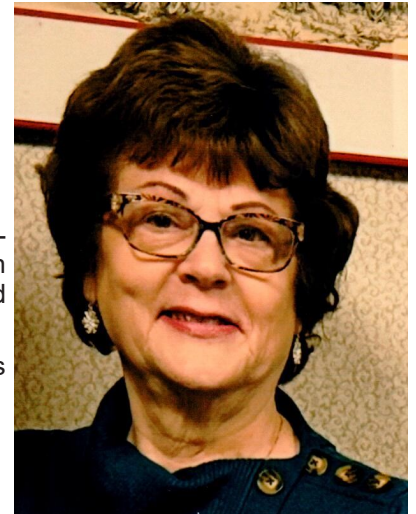
Address: 339 Carbon St., Minersville

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.

