

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

September 20, 2026

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE *Last* WILL BE
First, AND THE FIRST
WILL BE LAST.

MATTHEW 20:16

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, Father John Schweikert.*

Deceased: *Agnes Palko, Geraldine Lubinsky*

"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 19

5:00 p.m. Virginia & Barney Comfort
(Chris & Jared Black)

Sunday, September 20

8:15 a.m. Deceased of Lorenz
& Bartholomew Families
(Frances Lorenz)

Sunday, September 20

10:30 a.m. Deceased of
John & Gretchen
Lieberman Family
(Lieberman Family)

Monday, September 21

6:30 p.m. Ramon Grapsy
(Joan Grapsy Family)

Tuesday, September 22

9:00 a.m. Bob Porter Jr.
(Mary Porter)

Wednesday, September 23

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

Thursday, September 24

9:00 a.m. Leo & Dorothy Lotz
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

Friday, September 25

9:00 a.m. Joseph Toomey, 47th Anniv.
(Sons—Dan, Jim, John)

Saturday, September 26

5:00 p.m. Mary Ann Holley
(Deborah & Mark Purcell)

Sunday, September 27

8:15 a.m. Ralph & Anna Chiplonia
(Julian Chiplonia)

Sunday, September 27

10:30 a.m. John B. Lieberman III
(Gerace Family)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

After spending a long time discussing the Sacrament of Confession, we come to the next sacrament: Anointing of the Sick. Like Confession, Anointing is considered a sacrament of healing. Later we'll explain what *kind* of healing we're talking about.

First we must try to clear up misunderstandings. Many people know this sacrament as the "Last Rites" and associate it with calling a priest for someone who is dying (or has just died). We get the term "Last Rites" from the former name of this sacrament: Extreme Unction. For a long time, there was an emphasis on giving this sacrament to the dying. However, in more recent times the Church has come to a renewed appreciation for the original intention of this sacrament: healing.

So, Anointing is not *only* for the dying. It is meant for anyone with a serious illness, even if it's not a life-threatening illness. It is meant for someone who is going to have surgery, even if it's not a major, life-threatening surgery. We can even receive this sacrament as we start to feel the burdens of old age, even if we're not sick. We should also note that Anointing can be received for mental illness, not just physical problems.

With this in mind, on a practical note, we are encouraged to *not wait for someone to be actively dying* before we ask a priest to give them this sacrament. Unfortunately, priests are fewer and busier today and may not be able to come at a moment's notice when someone is dying. When there is a decline in health, perhaps a hospitalization or a move into a nursing home: this is a good time for someone to receive Anointing of the Sick. The sacrament can be received more than once. But if someone has already received Anointing days, weeks, or even a few months before his or her death, it avoids an emergency situation when they are in their final hours.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on September 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.

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.

Next Week's Readings

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(September 26/27)

Reading I: Ezekiel 18:25-28

Reading II: Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

Upcoming Events

September

20	10:30 a.m.	Children's Liturgy.....	Chapel
24	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
26	after Mass	Wine & Cheese	L.H.
27	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
27	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School	L.H.

October

4	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
4	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School	L.H.
4	10:30 a.m.	Children's Liturgy.....	Chapel
4	1:00 p.m.	Blessing of Animals.....	R.B.
8	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
10	11 am-7 pm	BBQ Chicken Dinner	R.B.
11	11 am-3 pm	BBQ Chicken Dinner	R.B.
11	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
15	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
18	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School	L.H.
18	10:30 a.m.	Children's Liturgy.....	Chapel
22	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
25	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
29	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.

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

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

Wine & Cheese Social

Please join us after Mass in Longinus Hall on **Saturday, September 26th** for our Wine & Cheese Social which will take on an Oktoberfest theme ... Hot Dogs & Kraut, plus other snacks and beverages. Should you have a dirndl (dress) or lederhosen, please feel free to wear your German attire. Bitte tritt uns bei ! (Please join us!)

St. John's 'BBQ CHICKEN DINNER'

We are very excited to have Don Tassone in our kitchen once again! We are having a **BBQ Chicken Dinner** to help raise funds for improvements and repairs to the Russell Building. Take-out ONLY or delivery is possible in the Pottsville area. Dinner will include 1/2 a BBQ Chicken, roasted potatoes, Coleslaw slaw, and roll. Cost \$13.00.

Saturday, October 10th from 11 am to 7 pm; Sunday, October 11th from 11 am to 3 pm

Delivery accommodations — please call Don Tassone 570-573-3849.

For questions/ information please call Shanna Deibert 570-617-4769.

Pre-sale tickets will be sold in the back of church after Masses on the weekends of September 19/20, September 26/27, October 3/4.

Blessing of Animals

The Blessing of Animals for the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi will take place on **Sunday, October 4, 1:00pm** in the Russell Building parking lot. All are welcome. There is no need to register in advance. If attending, please make sure your pets are secured!

Weekly Collection

September 12/13\$4,696.20
Imp.&Repairs\$1,203.00

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. Health of Susan DeJesus by Steve & Jan Kurtek
2. Health of Ron Kegerreis by Steve & Jan Kurtek

St. Joseph

1. IMO Charles & Elizabeth Tamburelli by Francis Tamburelli
2. IMO Chick Tamburelli by Francis Tamburelli

Sanctuary

IMO Chick Tamburelli by Francis Tamburelli

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Mary Ann Holley by Deborah & Mark Purcell
- 2, 3, 4. Peace by Anonymous

Liturgical Min. Schedule

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 26— 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Bill Gianfagna

EM: John Crane, John O'Neill

Server: John Crane

Cantor: Ed Brahler

September 27 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Lawrence Steficek

EM: Michael Ambrose

Ann Blankenhorn

Servers: Rhyan Brennan

Maria Neifert

Cantor: Amy Joyce

September 27 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Jennifer Daubert

EM: Ray Petrilla, Barbara Munster

Servers: Jackson Daubert

Luke Lieberman

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

Nativity BVM High School

Celebrating Nativity BVM High School's 70th Anniversary!

70 years of faith, academic excellence, service and leadership.

We invite our Nativity families, alumni, and friends to join us on **Saturday, October 10th from 7 to 10 p.m.** as we celebrate 70 years of faith, academic excellence, service, and leadership.

The celebration will be held here at Nativity High School and will feature tours of the building and memorabilia room, small plates, a dessert array, and an open bar.

Tickets are \$70 per person.

Come celebrate seven decades of Nativity tradition and the people who have made our school community so special!

For more information please contact Nativity at 570-622-8110.

We hope you'll join us as we celebrate Nativity BVM High School's 70th Anniversary

Homecoming Football Game 50/50

Our annual Homecoming 50/50 Drawing is one of Nativity's biggest fundraisers of the year, and we are excited to continue this important tradition!

This year's Homecoming Football Game against Shenandoah Valley will be held at St. Clair on **Friday, October 16th at 7 p.m.**

We greatly appreciate your continued support of Nativity and our 50/50 Drawing. Your participation helps make this fundraiser a success and directly supports our school and students. Please call us at 622-8110 to get your tickets.

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning Is Hiring!

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**.

Trunk or Treat — Saturday, October 24 — 1 to 3 p.m.

We are excited to have our Trunk or Treat event again this year! This will take place on **Saturday, October 24th from 1 to 3 p.m.** at the Russell Building parking lot.



A Trunk or Treat is when you park your vehicle in our lot, open the trunk and decorate it for Halloween and hand out your treats to all the trick or treaters. If you don't have a vehicle available, we can offer a space and chairs for you to hand out your candy or treats! Candy donations can also be accepted.

Everyone is welcome, including spectators! Light refreshments will be available and a prize given for the best dressed trunk! There is a sign-up sheet for participating vehicles in the back of church. We want to ensure that we have enough interest. Join us!

Flowers at the Altar



**In Memory of Bob Porter Jr.
Donated by Mary Porter**

Catholic Charities

Sharing Compassion, Serving in Faith, Spreading Hope

Services We Offer:

Professional Counseling Services
Pregnancy & Parenting Support
Immigration Legal Services
Supportive Services for Veterans & Families
Basic Need Services
Rural Support Services
Food & Nutrition Hubs
Food Pantry
Community Café Food Truck

Schuylkill County Office

99 Valley St.

New Philadelphia

570-628-0466

www.catholiccharitiesad.org

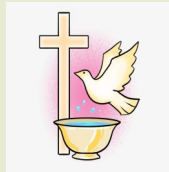
There is hope in the battle against pornography.

Educate yourself, protect yourself and your family, and seek help and healing. Explore the resources offered by:

1. Integrity Restored (integrityrestored.com)
2. The Diocese of Allentown's Lumen Christi Commission (adlumenchristi.org)
3. Or contact Fr. Bobbin for a confidential appointment.

*"Thus, the
Last
will be
First..."*

Baptismal Preparation



Before your youngest members are baptized, parents are asked to come for Baptismal Preparation. It is preferable that this be done **before** your baby is born. Please call Father Bobbin to arrange for this important preparation. Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

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Families Matter

College Students. As the new school year begins, we pray especially for our college students. May the Lord bless our family members as they begin their studies and time of learning. We ask the Lord to guide and direct them in all their efforts to grow, academically, personally and spiritually.

Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshiping 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.

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."

Mustard Seedlings

..... A Supportive Community for Moms from the newly pregnant to preschool parenting stage. Join us on, September 24, from 9:30-11:00AM in Longinus Hall, Kids age 0-5 welcome to come and enjoy provided toys! Homeschooled 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!



Neighboring Events ...

Basket Auction sponsored by St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 1115 Walnut St. in Ashland will take place on September 20th beginning at 2 p.m. Grand Prizes include \$1,500 Cash, \$500 in Gift Cards, \$300 in Lottery Tickets + \$200 Cash, \$300 Walmart Gift Card. Kid prizes, Gift cards and so much more! Shop and Drop days and times are as follows:
Sept. 19th 2 to 6 p.m., Sept. 20th 10 to 2 p.m.

Cash Bingo sponsored by Holy Family Parish of Minersville on Sunday, September 27th at their Parish Center at Hillcrest. Admission is \$25 for 20 games with prizes of \$100 each! Food, specials, and tickets for a 50/50 drawing will also be available for purchase. Doors open at 11am and bingo begins at 1pm. Tickets are available at the door or in advance at the Parish Office. Call 570.544.4741 ext 1 for more information.

Harvest Fest '26 at St. Mary Church, 94 Walnut Road in Hamburg on Friday, Oct. 2 (4-9 pm) and Saturday, Oct. 3 (12 to 9 pm). Music, homemade ethnic food, activities, ongoing entertainment and games for all ages including bungee jump & rock wall, hay rides, bounce house, bingo, theme baskets, quilt & cash raffles, corn maze, and new Latin cuisine and more! Free admission, plenty of parking, no coolers, no BYOB/F. Questions 610-562-7657 ext. 0 or www.stmaryhamburg.org or Facebook.

Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by St. Patrick's Church on Sunday, October 4th from 11 am to 2 pm (or sell out) at 313 Mahantongo St. in Pottsville. Platter includes: Spaghetti with our homemade sauce, two meatballs, salad, bread. Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase.

Bosco's
FRIENDS
HELPING
FRIENDS IN-STORE & ONLINE
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 Bosco's on the following dates:

Presale

10 a.m.—2 p.m.

Sept. 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. — Oct. 17

12 noon to 3 p.m.

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

October 21 — 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Thank you in advance for your support!



September 20, 2026

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Is 55:6-9 | Phil 1:20c-24, 27a | Mt 20:1-16a

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

Writing to the Philippians while in prison, St. Paul feels complete peace about his fate. To stay on this earth means fruitful labor for him; to die means entering eternal life with God. Having lived apart from God in the past, he finds immense joy at being able to labor for the Lord, despite the suffering it entails. Upon first glance, the parable St. Matthew recounts in his Gospel offers a glimpse of God's generous mercy. But reading the parable alongside Paul's letter reveals another layer of meaning: Those who have more time to labor in the vineyard of the Lord are given a great gift – the chance to bear immense fruit. Our long hours laboring in the Lord's vineyard are not something we're meant to merely suffer through on our way to our eternal reward. Rather, they are an opportunity to be drawn into communion with the Lord. As with St. Paul, the joy that comes from realizing that we share in the very life and work of God is available to us now, not only in the life to come.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Each of the vocations to which God calls us requires sacrifice and includes challenges. Living in humble obedience to the will of God is not easy, but it is full of peace. To focus only on the eternal reward offered after death disregards the love, peace, and joy of the kingdom that we are gifted *now*. We are invited to be laborers in the vineyard, co-creators with the Master of the universe. As we creatively and compassionately allow God's love to flow through us, we infuse new life and love into the world around us. When we truly believe that a life lived in Christ is the most abundant life, we stop asking what is fair and we begin to eagerly invite others to join us in the vineyard. Doing the will of God in this life is a reward unto itself.

STUDY

This week, return to the first reading from the prophet Isaiah. As you reflect on his call to "seek the Lord while he may be found," consider the gift of God's love and presence in your life right now. And as we labor in the vineyard, keeping our eyes on the ultimate reward of eternity with our Creator, may we also recognize the immense gift of knowing, loving, and serving God in this life.