


St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

September 21, 2025 • 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time



May I love the Lord
more
**than the Treasures
of this World**

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 20

5:00 p.m. Bob Porter, 1st Anniv.
(Mary Porter)

Sunday, September 21

8:15 a.m. Mary Ann Holley
(Deborah & Mark Purcell)

Sunday, September 21

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

Monday, September 22

6:30 p.m. William Schweikert Sr.
(Bill Schweikert)

Tuesday, September 23

9:00 a.m. Ramon Grapsy
(Joan Grapsy & Family)

Wednesday, September 24

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

Thursday, September 25

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

Friday, September 26

9:00 a.m. Joseph Toomey
(Sons, Dan, Jim, John)

Saturday, September 27

5:00 p.m. James & Lillian Connelly
(Maureen & Dave Derbes)

Sunday, September 28

8:15 a.m. Eleanor Pothering
(George Pothering)

Sunday, September 28

10:30 a.m. William Lecher Jr.
(Mom & Dad)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

For quite awhile now, we've been taking a tour of the New Testament. We looked at each of the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Now it's time to move on to the rest of the New Testament.

Immediately after the Gospels, we come to a unique book: the Acts of the Apostles. Acts is a history book. It recounts some of the key events following the death and resurrection of Jesus. It tells us how the Church as we know it came to be.

Acts was written by Luke, the author of the Gospel According to Luke. Compare the introductions of the Gospel and Acts and it is obvious they were written by the same person. Luke and Acts are really two volumes of one work. This is important because it demonstrates continuity between the ministry of Jesus Himself and the activity of the Apostles at the foundation of the Church. There are and have been many people who believe that Jesus never really intended there to be an institutional Church, at least not as we know it today. The Church was "invented" by the Apostles. But this could not be farther from the truth. The ministry of Jesus, culminating in His death and resurrection, the sending of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, the ministry of the Apostles and the key events that established the Church were all part of God's plan of salvation.

More on this next week...

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

SCRIPTURE STUDY

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



Flowers at the Altar

The flowers at the altar this weekend are donated ...
IMO of Bob Porter
by Mary Porter

Next Week's Readings

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(September 27/28)

Reading I: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Reading II: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

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

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|--|
| 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 Masses | | Coffee & Donuts L.H. |
| 28 | 6:30 p.m. | Confirmation Class..... L.H. |

October

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|--|
| 5 | 9:00 a.m. | CCD Class L.H. |
| 5 | 10:30 a.m. | Sunday School & Children's Liturgy L.H. |
| 11 | after Mass | Wine & Cheese Social L.H. |
| 12 after Masses | | Coffee & Donuts L.H. |
| 12 | 6:30 p.m. | Confirmation Class..... L.H. |
| 15 | 7:00 p.m. | Catholic Women's Mtg L.H. |
| 16 | 6:30 p.m. | Scripture Study L.H. |
| 19 | 9:00 a.m. | CCD Service Project L.H. |
| 19 | 10:30 a.m. | Sunday School & children's Liturgy L.H. |
| 19 | 6:00 p.m. | Praise, Worship, Adoration Church |
| 20 | 6:30 p.m. | Mass with Bishop Schlert, Reception afterwards .Church |
| 23 | 6:30 p.m. | Scripture Study L.H. |
| 25 | 2:00 p.m. | Trunk or Treat..... R.B. |
| 26 after Masses | | Coffee & Donuts L.H. |
| 26 | 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.

Weekly Collection

September 13/14\$4,860.00
Improv.& Repairs\$1,500.00

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&2. IMO Mary Eileen Grabowski
by Stan & Geri Grabowski

St. Joseph

1&2. IMO Joseph Brahler
by Kathy Brahler

Sanctuary

IMO Amelia Minchhoff Androsko
by Joanne Wood

Guardian Angels

1&2. IMO Joseph Brahler
by Kathy Brahler
3. IMO Leona & Ed Buber
by Christine Maccarone
4. IMO George Klassen Jr.
by Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 27th—5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Bill Gianfagna

EM: Dan & Hermine Murphy

Servers: Colin McGinley
Gabriel Scheidel

Cantor: Joann Matina

September 28th— 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: John Crane

EM: Heidi Gorski, Joseph Palmieri

Servers: Sophia Palmieri
Colin McGinley

Cantor: Vincent Prestileo

September 28th —10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Jennifer Daubert

EM: Janet Daubert, Justina Majestic

Servers: Jackson Daubert
Finley McNamara

Cantor: Dave Derbes

Weekend Sacristan: Connor Felty

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 stjbp@comcast.net

March for Life

Pennsylvanians for Human Life (Schuylkill/Carbon Chapter) is sponsoring a bus trip to the Pennsylvania MARCH FOR LIFE on **Monday, September 22nd** 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.

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:

Sandy Frinzi, Phyllis Hess, Theresa Skrobak, Beth Smith, Joanne Wood.

The more the merrier — new-comers are always welcome — please call the rectory if interested or just show up at our next cleaning.

Family Matters

Teachers. Teachers shape the lives and minds of the children of our families. We ask God to bless all of our teachers — those who teach in our schools, in our community and in our parish. May God give them wisdom and patience daily in their service to our children.

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.

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!



Praise, Worship & Adoration.

An Evening with the Ensemble Sunday, October 19th from 6 to 7 p.m.

St. John's Ensemble invites you to an opportunity to praise the Lord with uplifting, contemporary Christian music and traditional hymns in our church on **Sunday evening October 19th ...**

Father Bobbin will start with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Scripture and singing to the themes of Praising God and God's Mercy. We will close with Benediction. Come share our love of music and faith and be renewed!



Trunk or Treat — Saturday, October 25 — 2 to 4 p.m.

We are excited to have our Trunk or Treat event again this year! This will take place on **Saturday, October 25th from 2 to 4 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!

St. Patrick's Church is also hosting their Truck or Treat the same day from noon to 1:30 p.m. Make it an entire day of spooky fun and sweet treats!

Diocesan Events.

Retrouvaille: Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage. Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. Upcoming programs will be the weekend of **October 3 - 5** at the Family Life Center in Malvern, Pa.. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Retreat to Fatima and Lourdes with Fr. John Frink. Take a pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes from **June 7-16, 2026** under the spiritual direction of Fr. John Frink. Click this link: <https://www.206tours.com/cms/frfrink/> to view detailed itinerary, pricing information, and to book.

HELP NEEDED

My name is Anthony J. Gaburick 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!

Burial Flag Donations.



For many years, Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery has had an Avenue of Flags displayed from Memorial Day in May until Veterans Day in November. If your family has a burial flag—often encased in a triangular wooden and plastic container—and would like to donate it so that it can be properly flown at the GAP Cemetery, please call 570-628-9619 and either talk to me or leave a message so that I may contact you. Thanks, Frank Peron Jr.

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.

Food Pantry Collection

Thank you for doing the small things, like feeding your neighbors, with great love. God bless.

Kindly place your donations in the basket at the 10th Street entrance at the bottom of the steps. Thank you.

**NO OUTDATED ITEMS
PLEASE**

Back to School Prayer

Almighty God We give you our school. We give you all the teachers and staff who work here, We give you all the children who study here. We pray our school would be place of great discovery, adventure and creativity. May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love, A place where every one is respected and all are deeply valued. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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." Amen.

Neighboring Events

Cash Bingo sponsored by Holy Family Parish of Minersville on **Sunday, September 28th** at the Parish Center at Hillcrest. Admission \$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 11 a.m.; Bingo begins 1 p.m. Tickets are available at the door or in advance at the Parish Office. For more information call 570-544-4741 ext 1.

Women's Catholic Bingo sponsored by St. Ambrose Parish, 302 Randel St. in Schuylkill Haven, on **Wednesday, October 1st**. Doors open 5:30 p.m.; Games begin 6:30 p.m. Food & Drinks included (BYOB), Gift Baskets & Cash Prizes. \$20.00 for 20 Games! Space is limited, please pre-register by contacting Maggie Riggins at mriggins@allentowndiocese.org. Celebrating the Feast of St. Therese, the Little Flower. **Floral attire is encouraged!**

Harvest Fest '25 at St. Mary Church, 94 Walnut Road, Hamburg ... **Friday, October 3rd** (4-9 pm) and **Saturday, October 4th** (12-9 p.m.). 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 more! Free admission, plenty of parking, no coolers, no HYOB/F. Questions 610-562-7657 ext. 0 or www.stmaryhamburg.org or Facebook.

Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by St. Patrick Church, 313 Mahantongo St., Pottsville, on **Sunday, October 5th** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or sell out. Spaghetti platter includes: Pasta with our homemade sauce, two meatballs, salad, bread. Cost \$12.00 per platter. Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase.

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning invites you to join us for our 70th Anniversary Platinum Gala: *70 Years of Dedication and Light, A Legacy That Shines Bright* on **Saturday, November 9**, at Mountain Valley Seasons Restaurant. This special evening will celebrate our history, our mission, and the incredible students and adults who inspire us every day, while honoring seven decades of providing faith-filled education, care, and opportunities for individuals with special needs. For more information, please visit www.stjosephctr.com or Monica Walborn at 570-622-4638.

**ONE DAY ONLY - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025
SHOP 8AM - 11PM**

DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:

- **25% OFF** DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS*
- **REGISTER TO WIN** A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD
One Winner at every Bosco's store

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION

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. 24, 25, 26

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

10 a.m.—3 p.m.

Sept. 27, October 18

11 a.m.—3 p.m.

October 11

12 noon to 3 p.m.

September 21, 28

October 5, 12, 19

October 22—8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

*Thank you in advance
for your support!*

September 21, 2025

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Am 8:4-7 | 1 Tim 2:1-8 | Lk 16:1-13

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

As Catholics we understand that none of our actions are truly isolated. Every virtue we practice or sin we commit affects others because we are all members of the body of Christ. Today's readings from the Old and New Testaments highlight our interconnectedness and offer guidance for how to order the life of the community according to God's will. The key to tranquil communal life is to consider the needs of others as important as our own. In the first reading, the prophet Amos decries those who exploit the poor for personal gain, putting profit over the common good. In the second reading, St. Paul begs the community to pray not only for themselves and for their close relatives, but to offer prayer and supplication for *everyone*. It's tempting to buy into the perspective that we need only focus on *our own* life. But the Lord invites us into authentic community where we intercede, sacrifice for and build up the kingdom *together*.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I like to think of myself as a trustworthy person, and I'd expect most of us would consider ourselves the same. But as the Lord convicts my heart with today's Gospel reading about those who are trustworthy or untrustworthy in big and small matters, I hear the Holy Spirit inviting me to ponder deeper questions: Perhaps I don't intentionally deceive people and I aim to keep my word, but when someone's name or reputation comes up in conversation, can I be trusted to build them up? Do I fall prey to petty gossip, or simply sit idly by as others fall? I am true to scheduled commitments I make, but am I trustworthy with how I spend all my time? Do I use the gift of time for God's greater glory, or do I squander it with excessive scrolling or mindless TV shows? The Spirit doesn't want us to be scrupulous, and everything must be understood through God's merciful gaze. But the Lord does intend to purify us so that we can live more fully in communion with him.

REFLECT

Today, consider how you are invited to live in community and contribute to the building of a Christ-like culture. How are you called to more trustworthy stewardship of the gifts and time God has given you so that you can use them for building up the body of Christ?