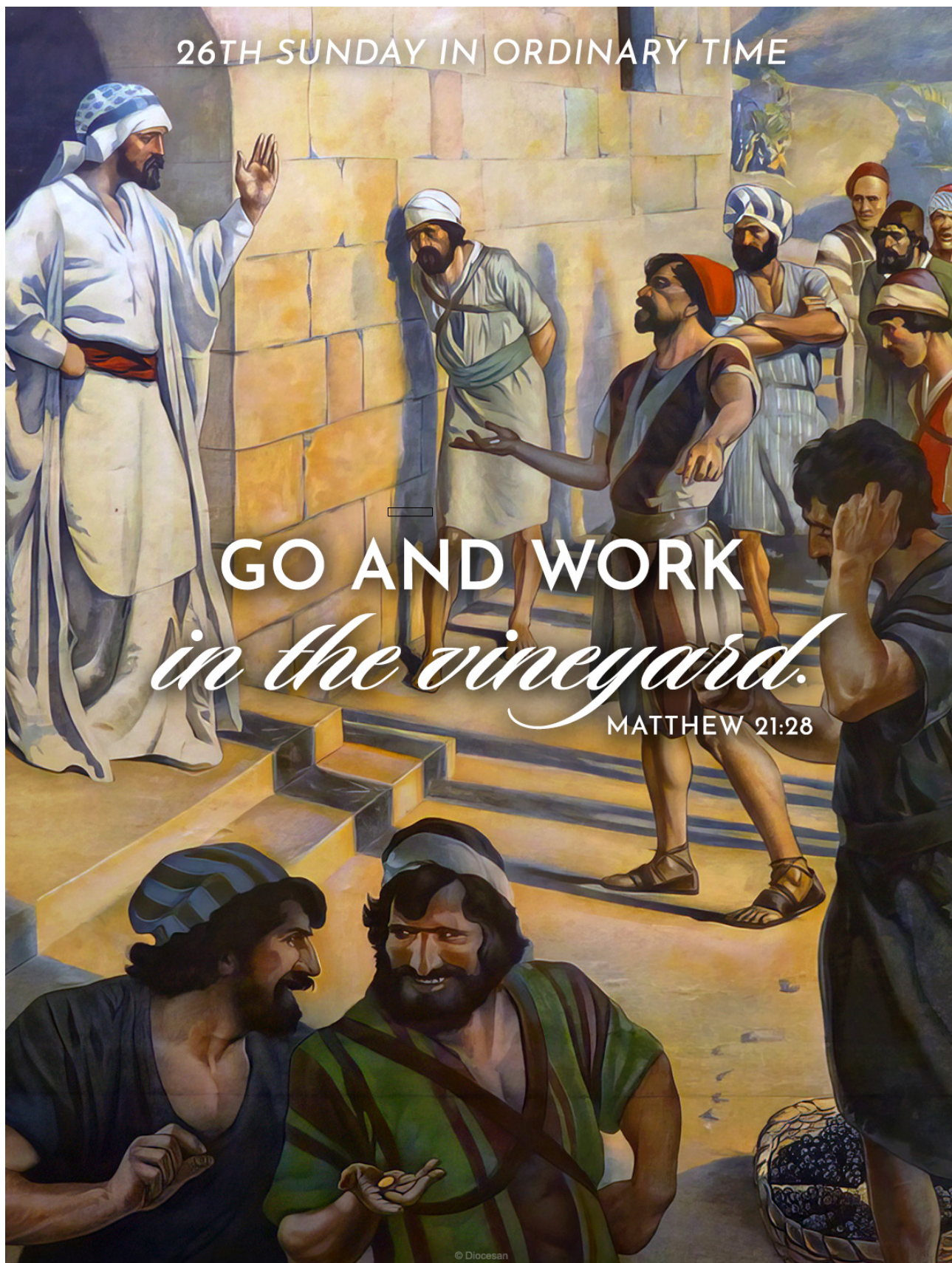


St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

September 27, 2026



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 stjbparrish@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



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, Carol Lasco, Fr. John Schweikert.*

"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."

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.

Mass Intentions

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)

Monday, September 28

9:00 a.m. Eleanor Pothering, 13th Anniv
(George Potherinig)

Tuesday, September 29

9:00 a.m. John & Lorraine Tasso

Wednesday, September 30

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

Thursday, October 1

9:00 a.m. Rita & Robert Lotz

Friday, October 2

9:00 a.m. Tony Kochol
(Sr. Mary Jane Hahner)

Saturday, October 3

5:00 p.m. Charlie & Catherine Schaeffer
(Maria Schaeffer)

Sunday, October 4

8:15 a.m. Joseph Burns
(Rossi Family)

Sunday, October 4

10:30 a.m. Frank Nicastro
(Julian & Nora Chiplonia)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Last week we started looking at Anointing of the Sick. We explained that this is a sacrament of *healing*. It is not only for the dying. We are strongly encouraged not to wait for a loved one to be in his or her final hours before requesting the sacrament.

What kind of healing are we talking about? Possibly physical healing. There are times when Anointing of the Sick is followed by a recovery of health. But this is not the primary purpose of the sacrament. It is the job of medical professionals to heal illnesses and injuries. Jesus, through the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, wants to heal the *whole person*.

Illness and injury is not just a physical problem. It affects us spiritually, emotionally, and socially. Illness, especially serious or prolonged illness, can cause fear and anxiety, anger and frustration, and even doubts about one's faith. A prolonged illness can cause a person to become isolated from others. Illness and injury can profoundly change a person's lifestyle.

Through Anointing of the Sick, the healing touch of Jesus comes to us in the midst of these difficult experiences. Anointing brings peace and strength, renewed faith, and a reminder that we are not alone. We are accompanied by Jesus and joined to the Church. Our suffering is united to the suffering of Jesus on the Cross for the salvation of the world. Anointing helps us be in right relationship with God, especially for those nearing the end of their journey through this present life. Or it can also lead to a recovery of health, if this for the person's good.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture: is offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 pm, 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.) Father 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.

Praise, Worship, Adoration

St. John's music ensemble invites you to an opportunity to praise the Lord with uplifting, contemporary Christian music and traditional hymns. We will end with a blessing. This event is open to all, and we welcome children and families. Come and be renewed!

Sunday, October 25th from 6 to 7 p.m.

Next Week's Readings

22th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(October 3/4)

Reading I: Isaiah 5:1-7

Reading II: Philippians 4:6-9

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43

Upcoming Events

September

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	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
18	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School	L.H.
18	10:30 a.m.	Children's Liturgy.....	Chapel
21	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg.	L.H.
22	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
25	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
25	after Mass	Coffee & Donuts	L.H.
25	6:00 p.m.	Adoration Service	Church
29	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.

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

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

Mass Intention Book

The Mass Intention Book for the year 2027 will open ...

Wednesday, October 14th to Wednesday, October 21st

Masses can be scheduled from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 14th in Longinus Hall.

All other Mass intentions can be scheduled by calling the rectory, placing in the collection basket or email ... **Three Masses ONLY** ... The remaining dates will be used to schedule previously requested Masses as well as keep dates open for those deceased in 2027.

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, cole 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 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, 1:00 pm** 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

Sept. 19/20\$4,220.20

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 Amelia Minchhoff Androsko
by Joanne & Ralph Wood
2. IMO Nancy Folino
by Joanne & Ralph Wood

St. Joseph

1. IMO Joseph E. Rosenberger
by Wollyung Family
2. IMO George Hahner Jr.
by Hahner Family

Sanctuary

Soul in Purgatory Closest to Heaven
by Anonymous

Guardian Angels

- 1&2. IMO Ronald Kustan
by Joan Grapsy Family
- 3&4. IMO George Klassen Jr.
by Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 3— 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Patty O'Neill

EM: Heidi Gorski, John O'Neill

Server: Heidi Gorski

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

October 4 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Bob Bechtel

EM: Jeff Naffin, Barb Munster

Server: Finley McNamara

Cantor: Dave Derbes

October 4 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Janet Daubert

EM: Joe Palmieri, Gerry Schwartz

Servers: Maria Neifert

Gabe Scheidel

Cantor: Dave Derbes

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday and Sunday, November 14 & 15

We are asking families to donate a **Theme Basket** with a suggested value of at least **\$25.00 Baskets must be completed and wrapped.** Be creative and come up with your own unique idea! Homemade craft items are also very welcome! So many families donated baskets last year — it was wonderful to see the spirit of St. John's shine through again!

Our '**Lottery Baskets**' and '**Lottery Frames**' and '**Wine Baskets**' and "**Gift Cards**" are always a huge success. If you would like to donate Lottery Tickets (any amount), please drop off at the rectory or at one of our drop off days at the Russell Building. As always, monetary donations are greatly appreciated and helping hands at the Bazaar are always welcome. If you can help or have questions, please call the rectory 622-5470 ext. 3.

In addition to our many various **Theme Baskets**, there will be beautiful **Crafts**, many of which are handmade by our very talented parishioners, **Specials**, and of course, delicious **Food** and our famous homemade **Baked Goods**.

Baskets should be dropped off by **October 26th** at the Russell Building on the following dates:

Drop Off Dates & Times

Mondays, October 12—19—26 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, October 14, 21 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Baskets **CANNOT** be dropped off at the rectory.

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!

Bosco's Friends helping Friends ... One Day Only ... Wednesday, October 21st ... Shop 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. 25% Off lowest sale prices. Shopping Pass .. \$5.00 donation per Pass.

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

Presale: from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on September 28, 29, 30, October 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20.

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on October 17, 12 noon to 2 p.m. on October 4, 11, 18. October 21st from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Thank you in advance for your support!

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 at 570-622-5470.

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 (ad-lumenchristi.org)
3. Or contact Fr. Bobbin for a confidential appointment.

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.

Sports passes are also available in our Main Office. The cost is \$75 and is good for all home (non playoff) games all year long.

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**.

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**.

Neighboring Events ...

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.

Shower of Roses Festival on October 4th at the Shrine of St. Therese, 1 E. Garibuldi Ave., in Nesquehoning. 11 a.m. Food Sales, 1 p.m. Mass, 2 p.m. Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 3:30 p.m. Recital of the Rosary, 4 p.m. Novena/Benediction and Rose Distribution. Ethnic Foods, Spaghetti Dinner, Raffle Tickets available. For information contact St. Joseph's Rectory 570-645-2664 or visit www.shrineofsainttherese.com.

Holly Jolly Holiday sponsored by St. Patrick Church on November 20th at the Dutch Apple Theatre in Lancaster. Cost \$125 which includes bus, buffet, tax, gratuity, and the show which must be paid by October 19th. For more information and details, please call Debbie at 570-622-1801 ext. 3

“
 HAVE IN YOU
 THE SAME
 ATTITUDE THAT
 IS ALSO IN
Christ Jesus.
 ”
 (PHIL 2:5)

September 27, 2026

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
 THE
 FAITHFUL
 DISCIPLE

Ez 18:25-28 | Phil 2:1-11 | Mt 21:28-32

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

Ask any long-time educator, and they'll tell you we often learn more from our mistakes than from doing it perfectly from the start. Today's Gospel also seems to send the same message: Jesus tells us that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before the chief priests and elders. Perhaps this is because they – having lived a sinful life – know firsthand the emptiness of not following God's ways. Having gotten it wrong, they now earnestly seek what is right. The mystic Julian of Norwich writes, “First the fall, and then the recovery from the fall, and both are the mercy of God.” Even in our wanderings, God is at work, drawing us to return to him. Ezekiel tells us that when we respond to that grace and turn from the wickedness we have committed, doing what is right and just, we will surely not die, but receive the gift of eternal life from the God who is Mercy itself.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Speaking to the Christian community at Philippi, St. Paul reminds them to have “the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus.” The previous lines offer a glimpse of what that attitude entails: encouragement, love, compassion, mercy, unity, humility, regarding others as more important than ourselves. These attitudes should shape our way of relating to those whom we are trying to evangelize. Rather than judging them or thinking of ourselves as more important, we are called to serve them with humility, offering them our encouragement to seek the Lord who loves them so much that he gave his life for them.

REFLECT

Today's Gospel includes the story of a son who initially says no to his father's request but then changes his mind and does it. The Gospel ends with a line about how the chief priests and elders did not change their minds even when they saw tax collectors and prostitutes responding to John's call to repentance. Indeed, the Greek word for conversion is *metanoia*, which has been defined as “a change of mind that leads to a change in action.” Take some time today to do an examination of conscience, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal areas of thinking that need conversion and change. What might the Holy Spirit want to change your mind about this day?