


# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • [www.saintjohnpottsville.org](http://www.saintjohnpottsville.org)

September 28, 2025 • 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The background of the lower portion of the page is an abstract design. It features several overlapping circles and arcs in various shades of green, from deep forest green to bright lime green. These shapes are outlined with a thin, textured gold or bronze line. The overall effect is a vibrant, organic pattern.

26th Sunday  
in Ordinary Time



**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](mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org)

#### Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

1-800-276-1562      [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org)

#### Diocese of Allentown Website

[www.allentowndiocese.org](http://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 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)

### Monday, September 29

6:30 p.m. Michael Chylock  
(Keith & Mary Jo Laslow)

### Tuesday, September 30

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

### Wednesday, October 1

9:00 a.m. Rita & Robert Lotz

### Thursday, October 2

9:00 a.m. Charles & Matilda Schaeffer  
(Eleanor Schaeffer)

### Friday, October 3

9:00 a.m. William Lecher Jr.  
(Edward & Donna Palamar)

### Saturday, October 4

5:00 p.m. Charles Bowers  
(Nancy Riegel)

### Sunday, October 5

8:15 a.m. Anthony S. Gaburick  
(Anne Gaburick & Family)

### Sunday, October 5

10:30 a.m. Ernest Zambo  
(Wife & Children)

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Last week we started looking at the Acts of the Apostles, a history of the beginning of the Church following our Lord's death and resurrection.

One thing we should point out is that Acts is clearly intended as a *history* book (not fiction, myth, symbolic stories, prophecy, etc.). It recounts real events. But it is not history in the modern sense of simply recounting facts. It has a theological purpose. The book opens with an account of Jesus's Ascension (forming a link with Luke's Gospel, which ends with the Ascension). When Jesus is about to ascend to heaven, His followers ask: "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6). Jesus tells His Apostles that the Holy Spirit will come upon them and that "you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

This verse is a roadmap of the entire book. Acts is all about the establishing of God's Kingdom (embodied in the Church) through the ministry of the Apostles (empowered by the Holy Spirit). The book begins with the Apostles witnessing to Jesus *in Jerusalem* and then, as they encounter persecution, they move outward to *Judea and Samaria*. Then we hear of Paul's travels to bring the Gospel *to the ends of the earth*. Acts ends with Paul under house arrest in Rome, where he continues to preach the Gospel to all who come to him. Rome was viewed as the center of the world. Thus, Acts of the Apostles ends with the fulfillment of Jesus's words that the Apostles would witness throughout the entire world.

In Christ,  
Fr. Bobbin

## SCRIPTURE STUDY

**Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study:** will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on 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](mailto: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.

## 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.



## Next Week's Readings

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
(October 4/5)

**Reading I:** Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4

**Reading II:** 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

**Gospel:** Luke 17:5-10

## 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

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 20/21 .....3,704.09**

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 Eleanore Forney  
by Heenan Family
2. Special Intention

### St. Joseph

1. IMO Joseph E. Rosenberger  
by Barb Wollyung
2. IMO Carolyn Leinheiser  
by Family

### Sanctuary

IMO George Hahner Jr.  
by Hahner Family

### Guardian Angels

- 1&2. Special Intention  
by Stan & Heidi Gorski & Sons
3. IMO Rita Mae Switzler  
by Stan & Heidi Gorski & Sons
4. IMO Leo Leinheiser Jr.  
by Family

## Liturgical Min. Schedule

### 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### October 4th —5:00 p.m. Mass

**Reader:** Frank Murphy

**EM:** Michael Ambrose  
Sharon Snyder

**Servers:** Maggie & Rhyan Brennan

**Cantor:** Lucilla Kochol

### October 5th — 8:15 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Bob Bechtel

**EM:** Jeff Naffin, Debbie Herb

**Servers:** Cooper & Cole Felty

**Cantor:** Vincent Prestileo

### October 5th —10:30 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Vincent Balulis

**EM:** Ray Petrilla, Justina Majestic

**Server:** Collin McGinley

**Cantor:** Marianne Wollyung

**Weekend Sacristan:** Ryan Grabowski

## Mass Intention Book

The Mass Intention Book for the year 2026 will open

**Wednesday, October 15th to Wednesday, October 22nd**

**Masses can be scheduled from 10 to 11:30 a.m.**

**on Wednesday, October 15th 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 2026.

**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 [stjbparish@comcast.net](mailto:stjbparish@comcast.net)

## 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. 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!

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!

## 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](http://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.

## Neighboring Events

**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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.stjosephctr.com) or Monica Walborn at 570-622-4638.



## Office of the Bishop

Post Office Box F  
Allentown, Pennsylvania  
18105-1538

17 September 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The murder of Charlie Kirk is the latest in a litany of appalling acts that are stealing the soul of our Nations. In these challenging times, when we witness so many struggles in our world—political violence, threats of war, a disregard for the sanctity of human life, and a growing culture of incivility—it can be very easy to feel overwhelmed. As your Bishop, I feel a deep responsibility to share with you my thoughts and pastoral care, grounded in the hope of the Gospel.

The sacred dignity of every human person, made in the image and likeness of God, lies at the heart of our Catholic faith. Violence in any form—whether motivated by ideology, political anger, or international conflict—denies this dignity. To embrace hatred or vengeance is to abandon the way of Christ, who calls us to be peacemakers: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God” (Mt 5:9).

War, too, brings devastation to countless innocent lives. As disciples of Jesus, we must reject the indifference that tolerates such destruction and instead stand in solidarity with those who suffer. We must advocate and pray for peace in our communities and in our world, becoming instruments of reconciliation in every circumstance.

In our own nations, the breakdown of civility has corroded public life. Political disagreements are natural in a free society, but contempt, insults, and hostility cannot be part of the Christian witness. The world needs to see from us a different way: respectful dialogue, patience, and charity grounded in truth.

I urge all Catholics in the Diocese of Allentown to recommit themselves to the Gospel of Life and Peace. Let us renew our dedication to defending human life at every stage, from conception to natural death. Let us also be steadfast in practicing charity in our conversations, courage in our convictions, and humility in our service.

In a particular way, to our young people, your voices and actions have the power to shape the world. I encourage you to take a stand for peace, justice, and respect in the face of division. Your energy, compassion, and faith are vital in building a culture of life and love.

At this time of great challenge and in this Jubilee Year of Hope, I invite every parish, family, and individual to pray earnestly for peace in our nation and our world, for the healing of division, and for the conversion of hearts. May Mary, Queen of Peace, intercede for us, and may her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in the part of nonviolence and love.

With prayerful gratitude for your faithful witness, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ

Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert  
Bishop of Allentown





September 28, 2025

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Am 6:1a, 4-7 | 1 Tim 6:11-16 | Lk 16:19-31

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

Have you ever had a moment when you felt yourself to be the underdog, and wished that there were some champion who would come and defend your cause? Today, we see God described in those terms. Our psalm tells us that the Lord “raises up those who are bowed down,” that he “protects strangers,” and “the fatherless and the widow he sustains.” But God doesn’t stop there. He wants *us* to become champions for the poor. Notice that our Gospel reading depicts the poor man named Lazarus in such a way that we cannot help but feel compassion for him. Here is a man who is in dire need, covered in sores, right outside the door of a rich man who has more than enough to provide for his own needs and those of Lazarus – but does nothing to help him. In fact, the rich man’s *dog* shows more compassion toward Lazarus (by licking his sores) than the rich man! The story is meant to prick our consciences and move us to have the same kind of response that God has – of compassion – leading us to become champions for those in need.

**SERVE**

One of the ways we can fight against complacency is to engage in service. Check your parish or local charitable organizations for opportunities to serve those in need in your community. No matter what kind of service you choose to engage in, do everything with “love, patience, and gentleness,” as Paul reminds us today. Then we will be models of God’s own care for the poor.

**GO EVANGELIZE****PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

Throughout our history, the Church has been particularly effective at spreading the faith during those times when we’ve put care for the poor and vulnerable at the center of our action. Before the advancements of modern medicine, members of the early Church risked their lives to care for those sick with contagious diseases. Their selfless example led many to faith in Christ. While our situation is much different today, we are called at the beginning of the first reading to not be complacent in our efforts to care for the poor. As we serve those most in need, our witness will likewise draw others to seek to know and follow the God of compassion whom we serve.

**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 570-5470.

**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.*

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

**DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:**

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- **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**

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

**10 a.m.—3 p.m.**

**October 18**

**11 a.m.—3 p.m.**

**October 11**

**12 noon to 3 p.m.**

**September 28**

**October 5, 12, 19**

**October 22—8 a.m. to 11 p.m.**

*Thank you in advance  
for your support!*