

**St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family**

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

October 12, 2025 • 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

# YOUR FAITH



# HAS SAVED YOU

**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*

**For Our Deceased:** *Joseph F. Burns Sr.*

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, October 11

5:00 p.m. Paul Filiac  
(Paula, Mike, Emily Lorence)

### Sunday, October 12

8:15 a.m. Deceased Walkusky Family  
(Karen Lenard)

### Sunday, October 12

10:30 a.m. George A. & Dolores Lynn  
(Dan, Tony, Joan Marie,  
& Bob Lynn)

### Monday, October 13

6:30 p.m. Teresa & Joseph Fanelli  
(Lucilla Kochol)

### Tuesday, October 14

9:00 a.m. Francis & Mary Burns

### Wednesday, October 15

9:00 a.m. Marie Murphy  
(Family)

### Thursday, October 16

9:00 a.m. Ted Casey  
(Bill & Sally Casey)

### Friday, October 17

9:00 a.m. Margaret (Maggie) Glunz  
(Family)

### Saturday, October 18

5:00 p.m. Michael Klembara  
(Anita Klembara)

### Sunday, October 19

8:15 a.m. David & Bastina Nicastro  
(Julian Chiplonia)

### Sunday, October 19

10:30 a.m. Carl & Barbara Weiss  
(Weiss Children)

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Last week, in looking at Acts of the Apostles, we noted that one of the critical events in Acts that was formative for the Church today was the controversy over bringing Gentiles (non-Jewish people) into the Church. If Jesus is the awaited Messiah, the fulfillment of the Old Testament, shouldn't new converts have to become *Jewish* in order to follow Jesus? Shouldn't Christians have to follow the Old Testament Law and various other practices of the Jewish faith? What is really necessary for salvation?

Read Acts for an account of the important events and circumstances surrounding this controversy. But, long story short, the Apostles decided this question was so important that they ought to meet as a body to discuss it and come to a definitive answer. It was the very first ecumenical Church council: a meeting of the pope and bishops to discuss matters that are important for the universal Church. Guided by the Holy Spirit, they discerned it was *not* necessary to observe the Law of Moses in its entirety or other Jewish practices in order to be Christian. What is truly necessary for salvation is faith in Christ, not necessarily belonging to the Chosen People. The Apostles discerned that some parts of the Old Testament Law are timeless moral truths, like the Ten Commandments. But other elements of the Law were only meant for a particular time and culture and no longer apply universally once they have served their purpose.

Based on this theology, the Church came to understand its mission more clearly: inviting all people throughout the world into a relationship with Christ. This mission continues to unfold to this very day.

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.

## United in Prayer with the Missions

As World Mission Month continues, we are invited not only to give but to pray for the Church in mission territories. One powerful way to do this is by praying the World Mission Rosary, introduced by Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen in 1951. Each decade is a different color, representing a region of the world.

In *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, St. Pope Paul VI reminds us that prayer is the soul of all mission: "It is the Holy Spirit who today just as at the beginning of the Church, acts in every evangelizer" (75). Through our prayers, we unite ourselves with missionaries bringing true Gospel to the ends of the earth.

Let us offer our rosaries and Masses this week for those who bring Christ's love to the margins, often at great personal cost. And let us ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle the fire of hope in our own hearts, that we may also be missionaries, wherever we are.

### Next Week's Readings

**29th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
(October 18/19)

**Reading I:** Exodus 18:8-13  
**Reading II:** 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2  
**Gospel:** Luke 18:1-8

## Upcoming Events

### October

11	after Mass	Wine & Cheese Social .....	L.H.
12	after Masses	Coffee & Donuts .....	L.H.
12	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
13	4:30 p.m.	Christmas Bazaar Basket Drop Off.....	R.B.
15	4:30 p.m.	Christmas Bazaar Basket Drop Off.....	R.B.
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	4:30 p.m.	Christmas Bazaar Basket Drop Off.....	R.B.
20	6:30 p.m.	Mass with Bishop Schlert, Reception afterwards .	Church
22	4:30 p.m.	Christmas Bazaar Basket Drop Off.....	R.B.
23	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.
25	2:00 p.m.	Trunk or Treat .....	R.B.
26	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
27	4:30 p.m.	Christmas Bazaar Basket Drop Off.....	R.B.

### November

2	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class .....	L.H.
2	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School / Children's Liturgy .....	L.H.
9	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
13	6:30 P.M.	Scripture Study .....	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.

## Mass with Bishop Schlert

Bishop Schlert will celebrate Daily Masses at parishes in every county in the Diocese in honor of individuals and families who give and benefit from the Because We Are Catholic Annual Appeal.

All are invited to attend Mass on **Monday, October 20th at 6:30 p.m.** here at St. John's. A reception will take place afterwards in Longinus Hall. Please join us!

## 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.



## Flowers at the Altar

The flowers at the altar this weekend are donated ...  
In Memory of John Fredericks  
by Family

## Weekly Collection

**October 4/5 .....\$5,281.03**  
**Parish Dues .....\$1,094.00**

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. IMO April & Sky Kishlo  
by Anne Marie & Dan Wachter
2. IMO Paul & Ronald Searle  
by Anne Marie & Dan Wachter

### **St. Joseph**

1. IMO Joseph Murphy  
by Anne Marie & Dan Wachter
2. IMO Charles Bowers Jr.  
by Joan Bowers

### **Sanctuary**

IMO Joe Wollyung  
by Barb Wollyung & Family

### **Guardian Angels**

1. IMO M/M William Bercher  
by Joan Bowers
2. IMO Debbie Bowers  
by Joan Bowers
- 3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy  
by Joan Grapsy Family

## Liturgical Min. Schedule

### **29th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **October 18th —5:00 p.m. Mass**

**Reader:** Michelle Ambrose

**EM:** Gerry Schwartz  
Michael Ambrose

**Server:** Gerry Schwartz

**Cantor:** Lucilla Kochol

### **October 19th — 8:15 a.m. Mass**

**Reader:** Jeff Naffin

**EM:** Bob Bechtel, Debbie Herb

**Servers:** Colin McGinley

Finley McNamara

**Cantor:** Vincent Prestileo

### **October 19th —10:30 a.m. Mass**

**Reader:** Frank Murphy

**EM:** Justina Majestic, John Crane

**Server:** Connor & Cole Felty

**Cantor:** Marianne Wollyung

**Weekend Sacristan:** Connor Felty

# CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

**Saturday and Sunday, November 15 & 16**

We are asking families to donate a **Theme Basket** with a suggested value of at least **\$25.00** in merchandise, gift cards, or lottery tickets. If you would like to donate the items for a basket, we would be happy to put it together and wrap it for you. 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 27th** at the Russell Building on the following dates:

**Drop Off Dates & Times .....** **Mondays, October 13, 20, 27 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.**  
**Wednesdays, October 15, 22 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.**

Baskets / Items for baskets **CANNOT** be dropped off at the rectory.

**Pecans:** St. John’s Catholic Women’s Union will be selling pecans again this year at the Christmas Bazaar.

**Donated Baskets & Sponsors to date:**

Autumn Lantern—Pod & Petal Florist // Barbie Basket—Lucilla Kochol // Wine Basket—Luis & Virginia Visot

## 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. We could still use a few more cars .. Join us!

All participating trunks should arrive at 1 p.m. in the Russell Building parking lot at 9th St. & Schuylkill Ave. We would like to close the lot off to incoming traffic by 1:30 p.m. for safety purposes.

We are hoping to have lots of children join us for trick or treat! Please tell a neighbor, family and friends! There will be light refreshments available and spooky fun for everyone!

There is a sign-up sheet for participating vehicles in the back of church. Join us!



## Baptized in Christ

On September 28th, we celebrated the glorious baptism day of

**Cameron Robert Witman**, son of Robert and Claire (Gibbons) Witman. He became a new creation in Christ in the waters of Holy Baptism and is now joined to us by the gifts of faith, hope and charity.

## Pray the Rosary



The month of October and May are dedicated by the Church to the Blessed Mother.

There is no prayer more pleasing to Our Lady and more efficacious in asking for her intercession.

## 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.

## 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.*

## Catholic Women's Union— Meeting

Women of all ages are invited to join the Catholic Women's Union. Learn how you can become involved with the Catholic Women's Union by joining us on **Wednesday, October 15th at 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall.** Our **Harvest Auction** will be featured. Meet the members and learn how you can be part of this unique organization. We share ideas and light refreshments are served. We work to raise money for our parish and have fun doing it. We also share in fellowship by sharing in a Spring and Fall Auction, Christmas Party, and the Covered Dish Dinner. Your ideas, friendship and membership are always welcomed.



## Food Drive for Thanksgiving Baskets

We are seeking non-perishable food items for Thanksgiving Baskets that our Religious Education students will be making for those in need in our community. Below is a list of desired items. **Please do not donate expired food items or food in glass containers.**

Large tote containers will be placed in the back of church starting the weekend of October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. We are also seeking anyone willing to donate a gift card or monetary donation for a turkey or ham. If you are interested in helping, please contact Miss Kochol at the rectory, 570-622-5470.

Canned Soup	Chicken or Vegetable Broth	Biscuit Mix
Canned Pumpkin	Instant Mased Potatoes	Canned Apple Sauce
Canned Gravy	White or Brown Rice	Stuffing Mix
Canned Vegetables	Canned Cranberry Sauce	Canned Yams
Canned Fruit	Macaroni & Cheese	Cooking Oil
Corn Bread	Coffee or Tea	

***Thank you in advance for your generosity!***

## CYO basketball is back!

Any girl in grades 5, 6, 7 or 8 that attends a Diocesan Elementary School or is a member of the following Parishes is welcome to join the CYO basketball program this year: St. John the Baptist, St. Patrick, St. Ambrose, St. Clare of Assisi, Holy Family (Minersville), Holy Cross, Most Blessed Trinity, and St. Nicholas (Minersville). Practice and home games will be held at Nativity BVM High School. Use the link below to register for the season which starts the last week of October.

<https://forms.gle/FdYWJim8rqkEVq3YA>

**Bosco's**  
FRIENDS  
**HELPING**  
FRIENDS IN-STORE & ONLINE

**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 Boscov's store

**100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION**

## PASSES ... \$5.00

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

### Presale

**10 a.m.—2 p.m.**  
October 16, 17, 20, 21

**10 a.m.—3 p.m.**  
October 18

**12 noon to 3 p.m.**  
October 12, 19

**October 22—8 a.m. to 11 p.m.**

***Thank you in advance  
for your support!***



October 12, 2025

## Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kgs 5:14-17 | 2 Tim 2:8-13 | Lk 17:11-19

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

After his healing in the Jordan river, Naaman returns to Elisha. It's clear from their ensuing conversation that his miraculous healing had led to him recognizing the God of Israel as the one who had healed him. In thanksgiving, he desires to offer sacrifice, and pledges that he "will no longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any other god except the Lord." In the Gospel, we see the Samaritan returning to Jesus after his healing, falling at the Lord's feet and "glorifying God in a loud voice." It's clear from both Scriptures that when we recognize what God has done for us, our first response is to worship. That's why our central act of worship as a Christian community is called *Eucharist* - from the Greek word for thanksgiving. When we come to worship God, what is it that we're grateful for? If gratitude is the heart of worship, it's a fruitful practice to intentionally spend some time considering God's providence in our lives over the past week so we come to the liturgy prepared to offer thanks.

### **REFLECT**

Take some time before Mass each Sunday to do an examine-style prayer, reflecting on where you've seen God's action in your life during the week. How has God provided for your needs? How has God accompanied you through challenges? How has the Spirit of God brought consolation and strength? Make a list of all the places you've experienced God's presence and grace and prepare to offer thanks to God for these gifts at Mass.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

Something that has always struck me about today's Gospel is that Jesus heals all ten of the lepers, not only the one who returned to offer thanks. While we, as humans, can be tempted to withhold love when we know it will not be acknowledged or appreciated, Jesus heals all ten. God is good to us, even when we're ungrateful. As Paul says, "If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself." God can do only one thing: love. How powerful would it be if we worked to imitate the kind of gratuitous love we see in today's Gospel? Think about opportunities to practice this kind of love. What a witness this would be to the world if we were to imitate God's way of loving. As the Persian poet Hafiz wrote: "Even after all this time, the sun never says to the earth, 'You owe me.' Look what happens with a love like that. It lights the whole sky."

## Rosary and Rosè

All women ages 21+ are invited to join the new Women's Fellowship group to kick off our first meeting. Our goal is to build up our community of strong, faithful women in our parish and support them to be bold in their catholic faith.

Join us in Longinus Hall (basement of the church) on **Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7 to 8pm**. We will pray the Rosary and then enjoy rosè and light refreshments after our prayer time. You are welcome to bring a friend, and non-parishioners are invited as well. Please sign up in the back of church or you may call the rectory to register. 570-622-5470.

## Diocesan Events

**St. Monica Ministry** Holy Hour of Petition and Hope will take place at St. Theresa Church (1408 Easton Road, Hellertown) on Tuesday, October 14 at 6:00pm. Presiding will be Rev. Aaron Scheidel, Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral Parish of St. Catharine of Siena. Please come join in praying for the return of Catholics who are no longer practicing the Faith.

To learn more about the St. Monica Ministry, please email Celeste at [StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com](mailto:StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com) or call/text 484-554-2022.

**White Mass for Health Care Workers.** The Allentown Guild of the Catholic Medical Association invites all health care workers to attend the annual Diocesan White Mass celebrated by Bishop Schlert at St. Thomas More parish, Allentown on Saturday, October 18, at 5pm. Reception to follow with a presentation by Deacon John M. Travaline, MD "Restoring Relationship in the Art of Medicine." RSVP to [allentowncma@gmail.com](mailto:allentowncma@gmail.com).

**Healing and Deliverance Service.** Join us for a Healing and Deliverance service on Tuesday, November 11 from 6-9 p.m. at St. Thomas More Church, Allentown. There will be Mass and Healing Adoration led by Fr. Dominic Valanmanal, a world-renowned Catholic priest with the charisms of healing and deliverance. Admission is free.