



St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

Established in 1841

10th & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OCTOBER 25TH, 2020

Pastor: *Rev. David J. Loeper*

Deacons: *Luis R. Visot and Lawrence Lonergan*



Pastoral Assistant: *Bobby Rienzo*

Parish Council President: *Robert Bechtel*

Choir Director/Organist: *David Derbes*

CCD Coordinator: *Lucilla Kochol*

Rectory (570) 622-5470

Rectory Fax (570) 622-4589

Russell Building (570) 628-3002

E-mail stjbparrish@comcast.net

Website SaintJohnPottsville.org

Nativity BVM High School (570) 622-8110

Assumption BVM Elementary (570) 622-0106

St. Joseph Center (570) 622-4638

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

 **Instagram** stjbparrish

Cemetery Information

John Consugar (570)-449-1675

St. John's Rectory (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.

New Parishioners

Please call the Rectory for an appointment to register.

Bulletin Deadline Tuesday prior to publication.

Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office

Sacrament of Marriage

Please call the Rectory one year in advance.

Sacrament of Baptism

First Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m.

Second Sunday during 10:30 a.m. Mass

Baptismal Preparation for Parents **MUST** precede the Baptism

Please contact Father Dave for an appointment.

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC,LPC

Direct Telephone: (800) 791-9209

Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection & Catholic Human Services

Office of Safe Environment

Pamela Russo, MSW, MS

610-871-5200, Ext. 2204

prusso@allentowndiocese.org

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

The Old Testament lists more than 600 laws by which the Israelite people were to live. In this Sunday's first reading the Lord tells the Israelites the laws regarding treatment of aliens, widows, and orphans, and the lending of money to the poor. Jesus in the gospel is asked by a scholar of the law what is the greatest commandment in the law. Jesus answers with two commandments concerning the love of God and the love of neighbor.

Jesus, in fulfilling the law, tells us that the whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments – loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves. Living by God's law is the best advertisement in drawing others who want to know and follow Jesus Christ. Our actions really do speak louder than our words.

Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, October 26 – 9:00 a.m.

KATHY CASE (Ed & Gerry Schwartz)

Tuesday, October 27 – 9:00 a.m.

DOROTHY ELISON (Denise & Joe Gerchak)

Wednesday, October 28 - 9:00 a.m.

JAMES CAVANAUGH (Ed & Scott Hahner)

Thursday, October 29 – 9:00 a.m.

MARIE GERACE (Joan Grapsy)

Friday, October 30 – 9:00 a.m.

JOHN J. CARROLL SR. (Family)

Saturday, October 31 – 5:00 p.m.

KATHY NORKUS (Norkus Family)

Sunday, November 1 – 8:15 a.m.

WILLIAM STOPPI (Ed & Gerry Schwartz)

Sunday, November 2 – 10:30 a.m.

ESTHER SMITH (Pat & Betty Elko)

CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM – IMO Florence Lescavage

by Linda & Martin Smith

St. Joseph – IMO Florence Lescavage

by Linda & Martin Smith

Tabernacle - IMO Daniel Fox by Barbara Fox

Sanctuary

1. IMO James Cavanaugh by Hahner Family

2. IMO Barbara M. Schmidt by Barbara Fox

3. IMO John J. Schmidt by Barbara Fox

4. IMO Sr. Mary Anna Heffron IHM

by Paul & Bernadette Gombola

Guardian Angels

1&2. IMO Erika Stangl Seasock

by Dorothy & Joe Stangl

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Whom does your family consider as “neighbors”?

How can you expand whom you call neighbor?

Next Week's Readings

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS (October (31/November 1)

Reading I: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

Reading II: 1 John 3:1-3

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a



PRAY FOR OUR SICK / DECEASED

We remember in prayer those who are ill. We commend to our Divine Lord all of our aged people and those residing in nursing homes.

Sick: *Lawrence Haffey, Anthony Gaburick Sr., John Kutch, John Morgalis.*

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

October

26 Adoration & Confession – 7 to 8 p.m. in Church

27 Men's Gospel Reflection – 7 p.m. – Zoom

29 ChristLife: Week 4 – 7 p.m. in Church

November

2 Adoration & Confession – 7 p.m. – in Church

3 Men's Gospel Reflection – 7 p.m. – Zoom

5 Christ Life: Week 5 – 7 p.m. in Church

7/8 Christmas Bazaar Preview after Masses – R.B.

8 Christ Life Retreat – 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Church

9 Adoration & Confession – 7 p.m. – in Church

10 Men's Gospel Reflection – 7 p.m. – Zoom

12 Christ Life: Week 6 – 7 p.m. in Church

14 Christmas Bazaar – 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. – R.B.

15 Christmas Bazaar – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. – R.B.

16 Adoration & Confession – 7 p.m. – in Church

17 Men's Gospel Reflection – 7 p.m. – Zoom

18 Catholic Women's Union – 7 p.m. – L.H.

19 Christ Life: Week 7 – 7 p.m. in Church

22 CCD Class – 9 a.m. – in School

22 Confirmation Class – 6:30 p.m. – L.H.

23 Adoration & Confession – 7 p.m. – in Church

24 Men's Gospel Reflection – 7 p.m. – Zoom

** **L.H.** – Longinus Hall

** **F.R.** – Rectory Fellowship Room

** **R.B.** – Russell Building

WEEKLY COLLECTION

October 17/18: \$ 3,433.00

World Mission Sunday: \$ 835.00

*We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving
by dropping envelopes at the rectory,
by mail and online giving.*

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Our Annual Christmas Bazaar will take place ...

Saturday and Sunday, November 14 & 15

'View & Drop' Preview weekend is November 7th & 8th.

We are asking families to donate a **Theme Basket** with a suggested value of at least **\$25.00** in merchandise or gift certificates. If you would like to donate the items, we would be happy to put a basket together and wrap it for you. Be creative and come up with your own unique idea!

Our **'Lottery Baskets & Lottery Frames** are always a huge success. If you would like to donate **lottery tickets** (any amount), please drop tickets off at the rectory or place in the collection basket at Mass.

As always, **Monetary donations** are greatly appreciated.

Homemade craft items are also very welcome.

Gift Cards / Certificates are especially needed.

So many families donated baskets last year --- it was wonderful to see the spirit of St. John's shine through.

In addition to our many various **THEME BASKETS**, there will be beautiful **CRAFTS**, many of which are handmade, **SPECIALS**, and of course, delicious **FOOD** and our famous homemade **BAKED GOODS**.

Helping hands at the Bazaar are always welcome. If you can help or have questions, please call the **Rectory 622-5470 ext. 3**

Baskets should be dropped off at the Russell Building

Last day for Drop-Off is:

Monday, October 26

4:30 to 5:30 p.m. ONLY

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

We wish to thank the following for their donations ...

A Friend	Crockpot Bskt.
Adelphia	Gift Cards
Auto Zone	Car Wash Bucket
Bake Shop VI	Gift Card
BeeHive Salon	Cosmetic Bskt.
Carolyn Bernatonis	Tote Bags/Purses
Chris Black	Christmas Bskt.
Mary Bound	Wreaths (2)
Joan Bowers	Wine & Snack Bskt.
Cake Pros	Gift Cards
C & C Candy	Gift Card

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Nora Chipлонia/Chris Zanis	Lottery Bskt.
Crimson House	\$25.00
Dairy Queen	Gift Cards
Peggy Ebling	Starbuck's Gift Card
Joyce & John Gerace	Lottery Wreath
Joyce & John Gerace	Wine Baskets (3)
Giant	Gift Card
Gorski Family	\$50.00 Sponsor
Mary Beth Harvey	Art Basket
Mary Hauck	Christmas Bskt.
Kathy & Carl Hughes	Wine/Lottery Bskt.
John Jefferson/Donna Kerns	Dolls/Wine Glasses
Lucilla Kochol	Beekman 1802 Bskt.
Lucilla Kochol	Barbie Bskt.
Joey Kurtek	\$50.00 Sponsor
Lieberman, Tamulonis, Hobbs	Estate Planning
Sharon & Larry Lonergan	FWGS Gift Card
Frances Lorenz	\$35.00 Sponsor
Sharon & Lou Miller	Winter Wreath
Sharon & Lou Miller	Mrs.Meyer's Bskt.
Miller's Distributing	Snack Bskt.
Momma Millie's	Gift Card
Moore's Sneakers	Gift Card
Hermine & Dan Murphy	\$50.00 Sponsor
Patty & John O'Neill	Surf & Turf Bskt.
Palermo's	Gift Card
Parishioners	Ladies Bskt.
Parishioners	Children's Bskt.
Parishioners	Kitchen Bskt.
Pottsville Pizzeria	Gift Card
Mary & Bob Porter	Lottery Frame
Carole & Ed Quirin	Lottery Board
Roma Pizzeria	Gift Card
Rosie Write Craft	Gift Card
Natalie Setlock	Cozy Christmas
Rosann Sitkus	Jewelry Bskt.
Rosann Sitkus	For Kid's Only Bskt.
Linda & Martin Smith	Cracker Barrel Gifts Cards
Linda & Martin Smith	Dairy Queen Gift Cards
Dorothy & Joseph Stangl	\$25.00 Sponsor
Larry Steficek	Wine Bskt.
Sunseekers	Gift Card
Visot's	Wine Bskt.
Weis	Gift Card
Toni & Carl Wiest	Longaberger Bskt.(2)
Toni & Carl Wiest	Boyd's Bears (6)
Toni & Carl Wiest	Porcelain Dolls
Toni & Carl Wiest	Beanie Babies
Toni & Carl Wiest	Afghan
Joanne & Ralph Wood	Dunkin Donut G.C.
Yuengling Gift Shop	Signed Dog Mirror
Ellen & Jay Zane	\$50.00 Sponsor

There will be Adoration and Confessions on Monday 10/26 at 7 p.m.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Thank you for your generous response to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith last weekend on World Mission Sunday. Our parish raised \$835.00. You may stay connected year-round to the Pope's missions, continuing the commitment of World Mission Sunday, by visiting MISSIO.org.

ALL SOULS DAY ENVELOPES

Please drop your All Souls Day envelope in the collection as soon as possible so your intentions can be placed on the altar for All Souls Day. Additional envelopes for your intentions can be found at the church exits.

--- ATTENTION ---

YOUNG ADULTS & YOUNG FAMILIES

Please like the Facebook page

"Schuylkill County Catholic

Young Adults and Young Families."

The purpose of this group is to connect one another across parishes and form a young adult community in our area.

Please 'like' our **St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish Family** Facebook page. We currently have 893 followers.



Help us get to
1000 Likes!

CEMETERY FLAG REMOVAL

PLEASE NOTE: All flags in the cemetery are required to be removed **AFTER** Veterans Day. Removal will take place sometime after that date. Please call the rectory with any questions.



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."

WINE / CHEESE / SNACK BASKETS If you would like to donate **Wine, Cheese, or Snacks** for our *Wine/Snack Baskets* for this year's Christmas Bazaar, please drop your donation off at the **Russell Building on the dates and times listed above.**

PECANS - PECANS

St. John's Catholic Women's Union will be selling Pecans again this year at the Christmas Bazaar. For more information, please contact the rectory.

\$14.00 lb – Mammoth Halves

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We appreciate advertisers who support St. John's by advertising in our bulletin. Please patronize their business and let them know you saw their ad in our bulletin.



12 N. 22nd Street Phone: 570-622-6150
Pottsville, PA 17901 Fax: 570-622-7050
Email: scott@hahnerbrosoofing.com

Why Advertise In A Church Bulletin?

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- * It's Effective in Catching New Neighbors' Attention
- * It's Advertising Concentrated in Your Neighborhood
- * It Develops Good Community Relationships
- * It's Good For Developing Loyal Customers

NEIGHBORING EVENTS

SPAGHETTI DINNER ... sponsored by St. Patrick Church, Pottsville ... **Take Out ONLY** --- on **Sunday, November 1st** from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm (or sell out) at 313 Mahantongo St. Cost: \$8 per spaghetti platter (which includes pasta with our homemade sauce, two meatballs, a salad, and bread). Extra meatballs or Just meatballs - with sauce - \$6 for six (sold in half dozens)

WINTER BAZAAR ... sponsored by St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Ashland on **Saturday, November 7th** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Parish Hall – 1115 Walnut St. in Ashland. Basket Raffle, Bake Sale, Soups, Halupkies, Halushki, BBQ, Sausages, Door Prizes and more! For more info please call the parish office at 570-875-1521.

CHRIST LIFE: FOLLOWING CHRIST

WEEK 3: THE POWER OF THE SACRAMENTS

Grace is God's Gift

- Grace is "free undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1996).
- Sacraments are visible signs of an invisible grace.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

- "The whole power of the sacrament consists in restoring us to God's grace and joining us with him in intimate friendship." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1468)
- There are 4 steps in this sacrament: conversion, confession, penance, and absolution.
 - Repentance is turning away from the way you were going and turning towards God.
 - Sin is personal, so we need to come to Jesus and repair our relationship with Him.
 - Penance is not to earn God's forgiveness, but it is done out of authentic sorrow for our sins.
 - When we receive absolution, our souls are healed.

Sacrament of the Eucharist

- "The source and summit of the Christian life." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1324)
- What does the Eucharist do for us?
 - We are nourished by the Lord's Supper.
 - We experience intimacy with Christ.
 - We are in communion with one another.
 - We offer thanksgiving to God.
 - We are given grace for the journey.

Parish Profile

Rick and Beth Smith



Rick and Beth Smith have been parishioners at St. John's for 35 years. They have been teaching 5th grade CCD together for over 25 years. They raised their 4 children in the parish and now have 6 grandchildren. In addition to teaching CCD, they have been involved with Children's Liturgy, marriage preparation, Dramatic Stations, Vacation Bible School, and they are trained as pastoral lay ministers.

What influence does your Catholic faith have on your life?

Rick: I spent a lot of time in prayer because there's been so much going on and my mom especially taught me how important God is with life in general. She instilled in me a deep prayer life. I try to bring everything into prayer. I get up early in the morning and raise up my family and my concerns and before I go to bed I make sure I end my day with prayer. My faith has helped me get through a lot of difficulties.

Beth: I wasn't always Catholic. I was Protestant. My grandparents went to church every Sunday. My parents never went. I used to walk across town on a Sunday morning and meet up with my grandparents to go to church with them. It wasn't until I married Rick that I went through RCIA and became Catholic. I was drawn to religion from the time when I was smaller. After my grandparents stopped going to church because of their health, I would go by myself. I used to get myself up on Sunday morning and go to church and then go to my grandparents after church. We used to spend Sundays at my grandparents' house.

Rick: I like that we both approach our faith differently. Beth's prayer life is more private. She will go for a walk alone. Mine is more public. People will see me pray. I think it gives us a full experience of the faith because we both get something from each other.

Our parish profile is published monthly and highlights parishioners' lived experience of their Catholic faith.

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**Ex 22:20-26; 1 Thes 1:5C-10; Mt 22:34-40**

GROW: In today's Gospel, Jesus has just silenced one group of religious leaders, the Sadducees (which seems to be quite a feat, if we look at their behavior in the Scripture!) and is now speaking to another group of religious leaders, the Pharisees. Jesus says that the greatest commandment in all the law is actually two: love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and soul; and love your neighbor as yourself. These two groups of religious leaders like to test him a lot, and while I might want to tell people like them to take a hike, Jesus never does. He always speaks the truth to them, in love, even if he is frustrated with their behavior.

GO: Sometimes it's hard to see how three particular readings fit together on a Sunday, but I was struck by how well these do. The first reading, listing ways that we should *not* behave, can easily be summed up as: love your neighbor as yourself. We all are, or have been, some form of what the Lord mentions: an outsider (alien), vulnerable (widow/orphan), in financial need (loan recipient), or requiring some other assistance (needing a cloak). How do we want others to treat us in those times? Then we should behave the same. It seems like the Thessalonians understood this, for Paul praises them for being a model for other believers. They have a reputation for being truly loving; of turning to God from idols, and serving him. We can be discouraged by our human failings, as all of us living in lockdown/quarantine these recent months know. It may not take much to set us off. But this is where God's grace can help us to speak truth in love, and be a model for those around us.

ACTIONS: Reflect on any obstacles to truly loving God with full heart, mind, and soul. Then think creatively about how to love God, and in turn others.

- *How I can love God with my whole heart?* After spending time in prayer, write down how you see God in your family and friends. And then go tell them!
 - *How I can love God with my whole mind?* Use "online time" to engage with a faith-related website such as Bishop Barron's wordonfire.org, or follow Pope Francis on Twitter.
 - *How I can love God with my soul?* Pray the litany of humility.
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