

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

October 25, 2026



30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment.”

Matthew 22:37-38

Christ Among the Pharisees by Jacob Jordaens, 1600's
© Diocesan

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 stjparish@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, Fr. John Schweikert, Joanne Kitsock, Carol Lasco, Michael Schuettler, Steve Kurtek.*

"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."

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 24

5:00 p.m. Lynn & Post Family
(George, Joan Marie, Bob & Dave)

Sunday, October 25

8:15 a.m. Jack & Dot Ryan
(John & Chris Eagan)

Sunday, October 25

10:30 a.m. Joan Grapsy
(Catholic Women's Union)

Monday, October 26

6:30 p.m. William Pugh
(Ed & Gerry Schwartz)

Tuesday, October 27

9:00 a.m. Angeline Hummel
(Lucilla Kochol)

Wednesday, October 28

9:00 a.m. James Cavanaugh
(Ed & Scott Hahner)

Thursday, October 29

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

Friday, October 30

9:00 a.m. Rodney Schaeffer
(Angela Pasco Family)

Saturday, October 31

5:00 p.m. Florence Lescavage
(Linda & Martin Smith)

Sunday, November 1

8:15 a.m. William & Marie Flynn

Sunday, November 1

10:30 a.m. Mark McCormick
(Eric & Jennifer Lieberman)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

The last few weeks we discussed the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Before moving on to the remaining sacraments, let's discuss Catholic funerals.

We live in a culture that, in many ways, has been drifting farther and farther away from God. Our culture is less and less shaped by Christian values and a Christian understanding of life. This is manifested in many ways including in the way people approach funerals. Today it is very common to refer to a funeral as a "celebration of life." Memorial services are centered on remembering and celebrating the deceased, with little or no reference to faith. Behind this is an assumption that everyone automatically goes to heaven. There is no need for salvation. No need for faith. No need for Jesus.

By contrast, a Catholic funeral is much more than just celebrating a person's life. We certainly thank God for the gift of our deceased loved one, but this is not the primary focus of a Catholic funeral. Rather, we focus on *praying* for the person's salvation and *praying* for the consolation of his or her loved ones. These are the two purposes of a Catholic funeral: praying for the deceased and leading the loved ones from grief to a deeper faith in the Paschal Mystery of our Lord's death and resurrection for our salvation.

In order to fulfill these purposes, a Catholic funeral is not celebrated in a single moment. Rather it is a journey with several steps. We will look at this next week.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture: is offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 pm, October 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 Benediction. This event is open to all, and we welcome children and families. Come and be renewed!

**Sunday, October 25th at 6:00 pm
in the main Church.**

Next Week's Readings

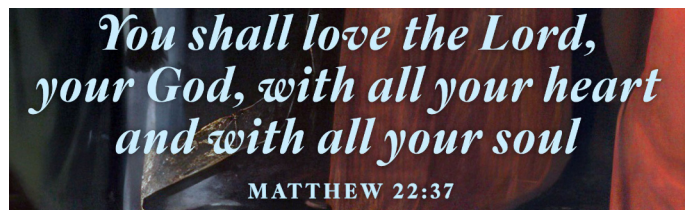
All Saints Day

(October 31/November 1)

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

Reading II: 1 John 3:1-3

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a



Upcoming Events

October

25	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
25	6:00 p.m.	Adoration Service	Church
29	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.

November

1	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
1	after Masses	Coffee & Donuts	L.H.
8	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
8	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School	L.H.
8	10:30 a.m.	Children's Liturgy.....	Chapel
8	11:30 am-7 pm	Eucharistic Day	Church & L.H.
14	11 am-7 pm	Christmas Bazaar	R.B.
15	9 am - 2 pm	Christmas Bazaar	R.B.
15	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
17	6:30 p.m.	Ladies of the Rosary	L.H.
18	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg	L.H.
22	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
22	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School	L.H.
22	10:30 a.m.	Children's Liturgy.....	Chapel
22	after Masses	Coffee & Donuts	L.H.
26	8:00 a.m.	Thanksgiving Day Mass	Church

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

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

Eucharistic Day

On **Sunday, November 8th** the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at the end of the 10:30 Mass. We invite you to spend some time with our Lord in prayer on Sunday afternoon. We will celebrate Vespers and Benediction at 3:00 p.m. More details to come.

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.

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.

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: *Michelle Ambrose, Sandy Frinzi, Phyllis Hess, Liz Kleckner, Theresa Skrobak.*

The more the merrier — newcomers are always welcome — please call the rectory if interested or just show up at our next cleaning in November.

Weekly Collection

Oct. 17/18 \$4,192.00
World Missions \$819.00

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 Barbara M. Schmidt
by Barbara A. Fox
2. IMO Florence T. Fox
by Barbara A. Fox

St. Joseph

1. IMO Daniel Fox Sr.
by Barbara A. Fox
2. IMO John J. Schmidt
by Barbara A. Fox

Sanctuary

IMO Robert Doyle, 1st Anniv.
by Family

Guardian Angels

1. IMO James Cavanaugh
by Hahner Family
2. IMO Marjorie Angelo
by Frank Angelo
- 3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy
by Joan Grapsy Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

All Saints Day

October 31— 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Ann Blankenhorn

EM: Ray Petrilla, Hermine Murphy

Server: Ray Petrilla

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

November 1 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: John Crane

EM: Bob Bechtel, Mike Ambrose

Servers: Preston & Kyle McCormick

Cantor: Dave Derbes

November 1—10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Joseph Palmieri

EM: Frank Murphy, Justina Majestic

Servers: Sophia Palmieri

Maria Neifert

Cantor: Ed Brahler

Sacristan: R.J. Post

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 -- **Sponsors** -- 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**. Christmas items are also available in our '**Treasures from Christmas Past**' section.

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

Drop Off Date & Time Monday, October 26 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Pecans: St. John's Catholic Women's Union will be selling pecans at the Bazaar.

Donated Baskets

A Toast to the Season - Fran Lorenz
 Art - Mary Beth Harvey
 At Home Movie Theatre - Pat Scheetz
 Boscov's - \$50 - Linda & Martin Smith
 Bedtime Stories&Snacks - Jane , Ray Petrilla
 Chillin' Out & Slushin 'On-Sandy & Joe Frinzi
 Christmas Centerpiece - Darla Fabiani
 Crocheted Afghan, Crafts - Carol Rehnert
 CrossOver Bag - +\$100 - Deb Herb
 Fall Spirits - Eleanor & Joe Orzechowski
 Fueled by Jesus/Coffee - Oswald Family
 In the Kitchen - Rosann Sitkus
 Lottery Frame by \$50 - Mary Porter
 Off the Grid - Fetterolf Family
 Painting - Fr. Bobbin
 Puzzle Me - Lucilla Kochol
 Scentsy + \$25 Amazon Gift Card
 - Chris Zanis & Nora Chiplonia

Donated Baskets

Self Care - McCarthy Family Snowman -
 Hydrangea
 Toast to Elegance - Mary Porter
 Tour of Italy - Barb & Al Munster
 Walmart Gift Card- \$100 - Eleanor Schaeffer
 Wine - Luis R. Visot
 Wine & Cheese - Teresa Hossler
 Winter Escape - Pat Kutch

Sponsors

\$100 - Frances Lorenz
 \$50 - Joan Bowers
 \$50 - Barb Wollyung

Crafts

Various Crafts - Mary Bound
 Card Holders - Carol Rehnert



Flower Donations

If anyone wishes to memorialize flowers in the sanctuary for the weekend Masses for a living or deceased intention, 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.

Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshiping 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!

Families Matter

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.

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.

SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES

October 28

Saint Jude, apostle and . . . Hollywood success story? Indeed! Beyond Simon's being a "Zealot" for Israel's liberation and Jude's question about Jesus revealing himself (John 14:22), no historic facts are known about either saint. But Saint Jude's well-known patronage of "lost causes" and "hopeless cases" is largely due to a desperate vow made just before World War II by a struggling entertainer, the son of Arab-American immigrants, Danny Thomas. Unemployed, his wife about to give birth, Danny, attending Mass, impulsively donated his last \$7.00 to the collection, promising: "Saint Jude, if you help me find my way in life, I will build a shrine in your honor!" Older Americans remember well Danny's long, successful movie and television career. Grateful parents worldwide know the miracles that have taken place for fifty years at his Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital, where needy children are cared for regardless of race, religion, or financial resources, and monumental advances continue in healing and preventing pediatric cancers and catastrophic childhood diseases. A living, life-giving partnership is this "Communion of Saints": Simon, Jude, Danny Thomas—us!

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning Is Hiring!

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning is seeking a dedicated and compassionate Principal to lead our school community. This is an opportunity to build on a strong foundation and continue the mission of providing quality education and support to students and adults with special needs.

If you or someone you know may be a good fit for this important role, please help us spread the word. For more information about the Principal position, application instructions, and other current employment opportunities at SJC, please visit <https://stjosephctr.com/employment-opportunities/>

CYO Basketball Sign-ups

CYO Basketball is back in Schuylkill County! Any girl or boy in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 that attends a Diocesan Elementary School or is a member of An Allentown Schuylkill County Parish is eligible to participate. Use the link below to register for the season. <https://forms.gle/FdYWJim8rqkEVq3YA>.

Neighboring Events ...

Fall Haul & Food Sale on Saturday, October 24th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Indoor rummage sale and food sale at Mary Queen of Peace Chapel, 730 N. Centre St., Pottsville. Rain or shine ... treasures priced to sell ... homemade food for sale as well.

Big Band Concert at St. John XXIII Parish, 307 Pine St. in Tamaqua on Sunday, November 1st from 3 to 5 p.m. Featuring M&J Big Band of Pottsville. Admission \$10 per person. General seating, Beverages & Food available for purchase via the La Dolce Casa Food Truck. Concert is sponsored by the Boyle, Odorizzi & Sweeney Families. For more information please contact Cindy at 570-952-4396.

Spaghetti Dinner Eat in or Take out... sponsored by St. Patrick Church on Sunday, November 1 from 11 am to 2 pm or sell out at 313 Mahantongo St. Cost \$12 which includes pasta with our homemade sauce, two meatballs, salad, bread. Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase.

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.

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 (adlumenchristi.org)
3. Or contact Fr. Bobbin for a confidential appointment.

HELP NEEDED

My name is Anthony J. Gaburick. I 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!



October 25, 2026

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ex 22:20-26 | 1 Thes 1:5c-10 | Mt 22:34-40

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Sounds simple, right? Not so much. Jesus' words in today's Gospel can't help but take us back to that age-old question: "And just who is my neighbor?" According to the Lord's words in the reading from Exodus, our neighbors are the alien, the widow, and the orphan. Documents from the USCCB such as "Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity" and its writings on the Life and Dignity of the Human Person clearly reflect the position of the U.S. Bishops that it is essential for public policy to respect the dignity of all. While challenging at times, our faith doesn't offer guidance only for interior, spiritual realities. Indeed, our Church proclaims that we must let the demands of the Gospel shape the whole of our society. We are – to use St. John Paul II's phrase – to work to build a "culture of life," a "civilization of love." In the end, Catholic Social Teaching is nothing but the Church's effort to live Christ's call to love our neighbor as ourselves in the wider human community.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In response to the scholar of the law's question about which commandment is the greatest, Jesus responds by saying that it is to "love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Heart, soul, and mind are words that describe the innermost self. The Lord – it is clear – wants to be loved fully, by all that we have and are. He wants to be loved as the only Lord in our lives; there can be no other. St. Paul praises the Thessalonians for turning "to God from idols to serve the living and true God." In other words, they underwent a change of heart, where they turned away from loving things that were not God to loving and serving the only true God. This change of heart has enabled them to become witnesses to others of Christ's love. In our own lives, we must also undergo conversion if we wish to bear authentic witness to the Lord and to our faith. What are the idols we need to let go of to surrender our hearts, souls, and minds more fully to the Lord?

STUDY

As Catholics, we all have a responsibility to form our consciences and deepen our knowledge of the Church's teaching surrounding critical issues facing our world today. Spend some time this week familiarizing yourself with the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching, which are "a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amid the challenges of modern society." (USCCB)