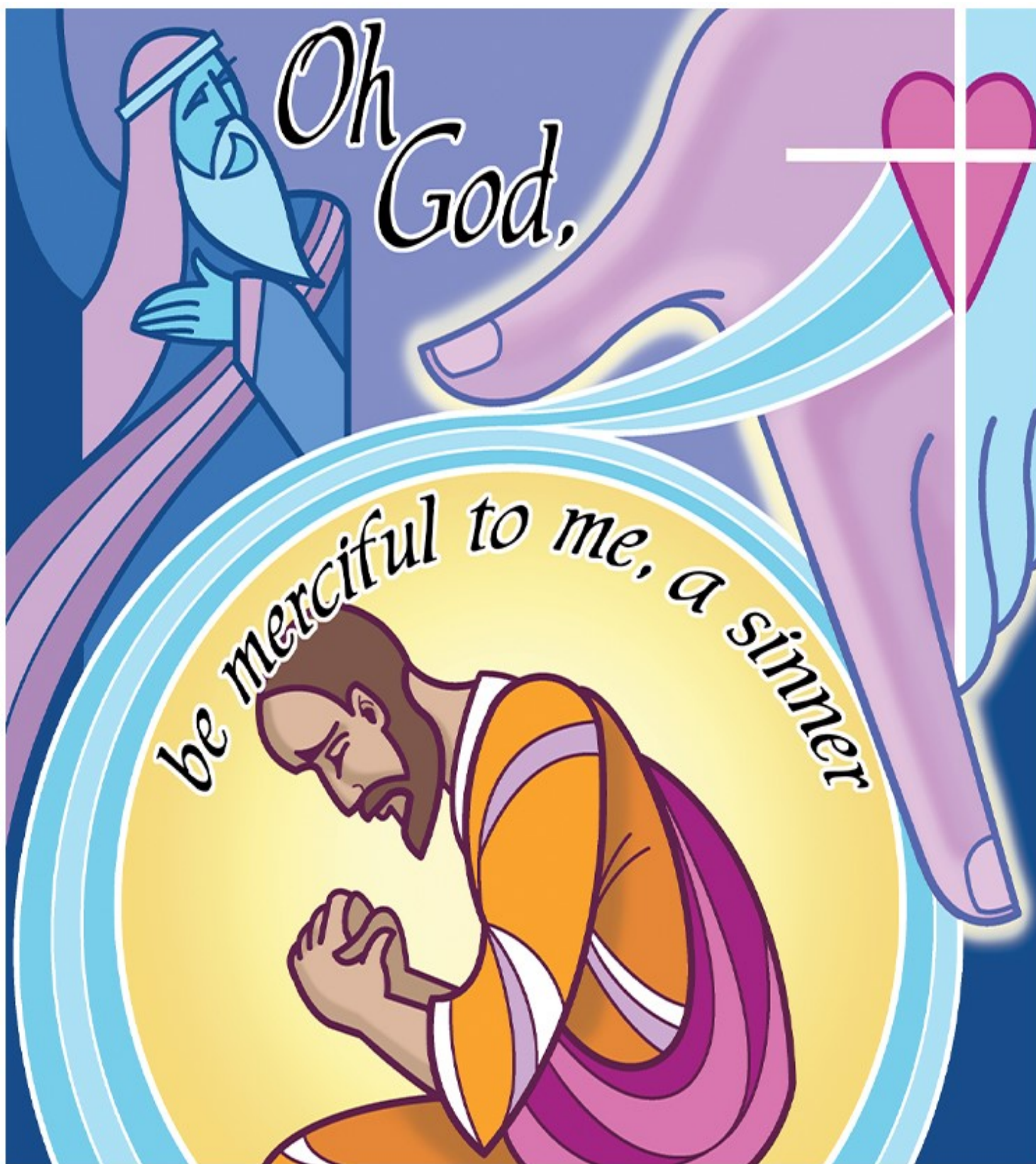


St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

October 26, 2025 • 30th 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

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, Brenda Helt.*

For our Deceased: *Robert Doyle*

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 25

5:00 p.m. R.J. Post
(Bob & Irene Post)

Sunday, October 26

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

Sunday, October 26

10:30 a.m. Jerry Hudock
(Gregory Sekela)

Monday, October 27

6:30 p.m. James Cavanaugh
(Ed & Scott Hahner)

Tuesday, October 28

9:00 a.m. Florence Lescavage
(Linda & Martin Smith)

October 29 – October 31—NO MASSES

All Saints Day

Saturday, November 1

11:00 a.m. Anna D'Alessandro
(Marie Romano)

All Souls Day

Saturday, November 1

5:00 p.m. M/M William Bercher
(Scott Williams)

Sunday, November 2

8:15 a.m. Jerry Hudock
(Diane & Jack Sabados)

Sunday, November 2

10:30 a.m. Memorial Mass for
Deceased Parishioners
from the past year

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

As we journey through the New Testament, last week we introduced Paul and his letters. You have to read the letters to appreciate Paul's style and personality, but we will give a brief summary of some of the major topics and features of each letter.

We start with the first and second letters to the Thessalonians, because these are believed to be Paul's earliest surviving letters. They are both relatively short. Thessalonica was a city in Macedonia, which is the northern part of Greece. Like any personal letters, they contain a variety of topics and personal greetings. One noteworthy topic that stands out is what happens when we die. Reading the first letter to the Thessalonians, especially 4:13-18, it would seem that the earliest Christians thought that Jesus would return soon. Of course, we believe in the Second Coming of Jesus at the end of the world, but it is possible that the first generation of Christians believed Jesus would return *very* soon: within their lifetimes, perhaps any day now... But, as time went by, some of these Christians died, which caused others to worry. What would happen to their loved ones who died before the return of Jesus? Paul responds that it doesn't matter whether one is still living or has already died when Christ comes again. All will be raised to new life.

The second letter to the Thessalonians suggests that some of the Christians of Thessalonica may have misunderstood what Paul said, or simply didn't get the message. Reading chapter 3 of the letter, it seems possible that some Christians thought that, if Jesus is returning any day now, there is no point in working. Paul tells them to mind their own business and carry out their responsibilities. This is an important lesson for all of us. When Christ does return (or when we leave this world at the moment of death) we want to be found faithful to our responsibilities and commitments in life.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on **Nov. 13**. Join us in person in Longinus Hall or at home on Zoom (*Please email Father for the Zoom link: 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.

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.

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.

*“O God be merciful to me
a sinner”*

Upcoming Events

October

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.
12	7:00 p.m.	Women's Fellowship	L.H.
13	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
15	11 am-7 pm	Christmas Bazaar	R.B.
15	9 am-2 pm	Christmas Bazaar	R.B.
16	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class—Service Project	L.H.
16	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School / Children's Liturgy	L.H.
19	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union	L.H.
23	after Masses	Coffee & Donuts	L.H.
30	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class—Service Project	L.H.
30	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School / Children's Liturgy	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.

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 11th and 12th. 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 Mashed 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!

Mission Does Not End with October.

As we conclude World Mission Month, we remember that the Church's missionary work is ongoing. Our baptismal call to share the Gospel continues beyond this season, inviting us to remain engaged — through prayer, storytelling, and generous action. The first World Mission Sunday was celebrated nearly a century ago in 1926. The need today remains urgent: missionaries will serve in remote villages, conflict zones, refugee camps, and urban slums. They bring more than aid — they bring Jesus Christ. As St. Paul VI reminded us 50 years ago in his historic exhortation *Evanfeli Nuntiandi*: "The Church exists in order to evangelize". We are grateful for your support this October — and we invite you to continue the journey. Subscribe to Mission Magazine, join us in praying the World Mission Rosary year-round, and stay connected to the Pope's missions through www.pontificalmissions.org. Hope does not disappoint — and the world still needs hope!

Weekly Collection

October 18/19\$4,331.00
Mission Sunday.....\$1,093.00

Thank you for your sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving.

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Marie Scislaw
by Dirk, Jennifer, Rex Berger
2. IMO Victoria Fetterolf
by Fetterolf Family

St. Joseph

1. IMO James Cavanaugh
by Hahner Family
2. IMO Theresa Drahovsky
by Fetterolf Family

Sanctuary

IMO Franklin Fetterolf
by Fetterolf Family

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Barbara M. Schmidt
by Barbara A. Fox
2. IMO Florence Fox
by Barbara A. Fox
3. IMO Elizabeth Koropchak
by Barbara A. Fox
4. Health & Welfare of Maria Fox
by Barbara A. Fox

Liturgical Min. Schedule

All Souls Day

November 1 — 5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Patty O'Neill

EM: John Crane, John O'Neill

Server: John Crane

Cantor: Dave Derbes

November 2 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Bob Bechtel

EM: Jeff Naffin, Debbie Herb

Servers: Kyle & Preston McCormick

Cantor: Vincent Prestileo

November 2 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Michael Ambrose

EM: Janet Daubert,
Michael Ambrose

Servers: Cole & Callie 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 Monday, October 27 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: & Crafts

Afghan Crocheted—Carol Rehnert
Air Fryer Oven—Peggy & Walter Darmohray
Art—Mary Beth Harvey
Autumn Lantern—Pod & Petal
Barbie —Lucilla Kochol
Blanket Plus—Natalie Setlock
Christmas—Darla & Vince Fabiani
Christmas Centerpiece—Mary Bound
Cozy Night In—Missy & Pat Scheetz
Crocheted Hats & Scarves —Carol Rehnert
Doll House—Phil & Carol Lasco
Estate Planning—Eric Lieberman
Key Music Board—Al & Barb Munster
Nativity BVM High School—Nativity Family
Painting—Fr. Bobbin
Sip/Snack/Scratch—Carl & Kathy Hughes



Donated Baskets & Sponsors & Crafts

Snacks—Miller Distributing
Snowman & Basket—Donna Pugh
Tea & Snacks—Parishioners
Various Crafts/Wreaths—Mary Bound
Wine—Bill & Kathy Gianfagna
Wine—Luis & Virginia Visot
Winter Warm Up—Pat Kutch
\$25 Boyer's Gift Card—Joe & Judy Piel
\$25 Hadesty's Ace Gift Card—Joe & Judy Piel
\$50 Low's Gift Card—Linda & Marty Smith
\$50 Lottery Frame—Mary Porter
Sponsor—\$100.00—Joe & Sherri Souchak
Sponsor—\$100.00—Frances Lorenz
Sponsor—\$50.00—Barbara Wollyung
Sponsor—\$50.00—St. John's Catholic Women's Union
Sponsor—\$25.00—Joe & Dorothy Stangl

A PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

O Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, at this most critical time, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care.

Most Holy Mother, we beg you to reclaim this land for the glory of your Son. Overwhelmed with the burden of the sins of our nations, we cry to you from the depths of our hearts and seek refuge in your motherly protection.

Look down with mercy upon us and touch the hearts of our people. Open our minds to the great worth of human life and to the responsibilities that accompany human freedom.

O Merciful Mother, give us the courage to reject the culture of death and the strength to build a new Culture of Life. Amen.

Mary Immaculate, Patroness of the United States Pray for Us.



Welcome to St. John's

This week we welcome **Jordan & Kayla Murrell** and their children, **Eisley, Harper and Lena**. Jordan is employed by Hydro and Kayla is employed by Lehigh Valley Health Network. Warmly welcome the **Murrell Family** into our parish family with a big dose of St. John's hospitality.

Bulletin Boosters

IMO Carl Bartholomew
IMO Harold Bartholomew
IMO James J. Bartholomew
IMO Robert Berger
IMO Rita Bartholomew Foley
John & Mildred Fredericks
Fr. Don Henry
IMO M/M Herbert Henry
IMO Joanne Hepler
IMO Clare & Linda Houser
MO Charles Lorenz
IMO Charles & Matilda Schaeffer
IMO Charlie & Catherine Schaeffer
IMO Erika Stangl Seasock
IMO Theresa Bartholomew Sencak
IMO Janet Bartholomew Whitaker
IMO Margaret & Guy Zelinsky
Living & Deceased of St. John's
CYO Program

Thank you for supporting our bulletin this month!

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.

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.

Nativity BVM High School Happenings

The month of November, Nativity's Green and Gold Club will be selling **Gift Card Calendars**. The Club will be mailing out 5 calendars to each Nativity family to sell and additional calendars will be available in the main office. The cost of each calendar is \$10.00.

On **Sunday, November 23rd**, Nativity will be hosting a **Fall Open House** for potential students for the 2026-2027 school year beginning at 4:30 PM at the school. Nativity BVM High School administration, faculty, staff, students, parents and Board Members will be on hand to discuss specific information about academics, financial aid, guidance services and opportunities for students. This information will be particularly helpful for incoming freshmen, transfer students, new students and potential host families. We invite you and your family to join us for this event. No pre-registration is required. All are welcome! Please contact the school at 570-622-8110 or jldaubert@nativitybvm.net with any questions.

CYO BASKETBALL

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>

Diocesan Events

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 charms of healing and deliverance. Admission is free.

Rachel's Vineyard: Healing Retreat from Abortion. Are you struggling from an abortion? Whether you were pressured into an abortion, were unable to prevent a family member from having one, or you were a part of the abortion decision, this retreat will help you move beyond any guilt, shame, or anger you have. Our weekend retreats are uniquely designed to help you experience the mercy and compassion of God in a safe, confidential, non-judgmental group environment. This weekend will help you find a new voice and transform the pain of the past into hope. Discover peace and healing.

When: November 21-23 2025 in Washington, NJ. To register, or for more information, please contact Leah by email at leah@soulfilledbygrace.co.site or text/call (609)709-3479 and Ana at ana@soulfilledbygrace.co.site or text/call (908)319-2950. Website is rachelsvineyard.org.

Neighboring Events

Basket Auction to benefit St. Nicholas School in Minersville ... Sunday, November 9th; Drawing at 1 p.m. at St. Nicholas Hall in Primrose. Browse & Bid on November 6th (4-7 pm), Nov. 7th (10 am-1 pm) & (4-7 pm), Nov. 8th (4-7 pm), Nov. 9th (10 am to 12 noon). Homemade foods, 50/50. Kitchen open Friday, Saturday, Sunday. For more information call St. Nicholas School 570-544-2900.

HELP NEEDED

My name is Anthony J. Gaburick 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 26, 2025

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 35:12-14, 16-18 | 2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18 | Lk 18:9-14

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Today's first reading says, "The Lord is a God of justice who knows no favorites." While we humans show deference to people we admire or give preferential treatment to those we like, God loves all his creatures with the same perfect love. But then the reading goes on to say something that seems to contradict that opening line, even suggesting that God has a soft spot in his heart for the poor: "Though not unduly partial toward the weak, yet he hears the cry of the oppressed." The text mentions that God hears the prayers of the widow and orphan, and that "the prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds." So what are we to make of all this? While God loves all perfectly, his heart is moved to mercy particularly toward the poor and lowly. And so the tax collector's humble prayer is heard, and he goes home justified, while the Pharisee does not.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Jesus knew how to tell stories that acted as a mirror to reveal the state of peoples' hearts. Today's Gospel opens with the line: "Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness." Because we cannot know what's going on in someone's heart the way Jesus knows, we have to be careful not to assume we know what another needs to hear. Yet, in our efforts to accompany others on the road to discipleship, there may be moments where we're called to speak a word that "afflicts the comfortable or comforts the afflicted." If we do, we must always do so from a place of love and humility, recognizing that sometimes we are sharing this word because God has convicted *us* of precisely the same thing we're sharing with another! In that way, our sharing becomes more *witness* to the ways God has humbled us.

PRAY

There is a short, ancient Christian prayer known as the Jesus Prayer that is derived, in part, from our Gospel reading today. The entire text of the prayer is one line: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner" which is repeated over and over again. Consider praying this prayer throughout the week as a way of rooting yourself more deeply in humility and an awareness of our need for God's mercy.

