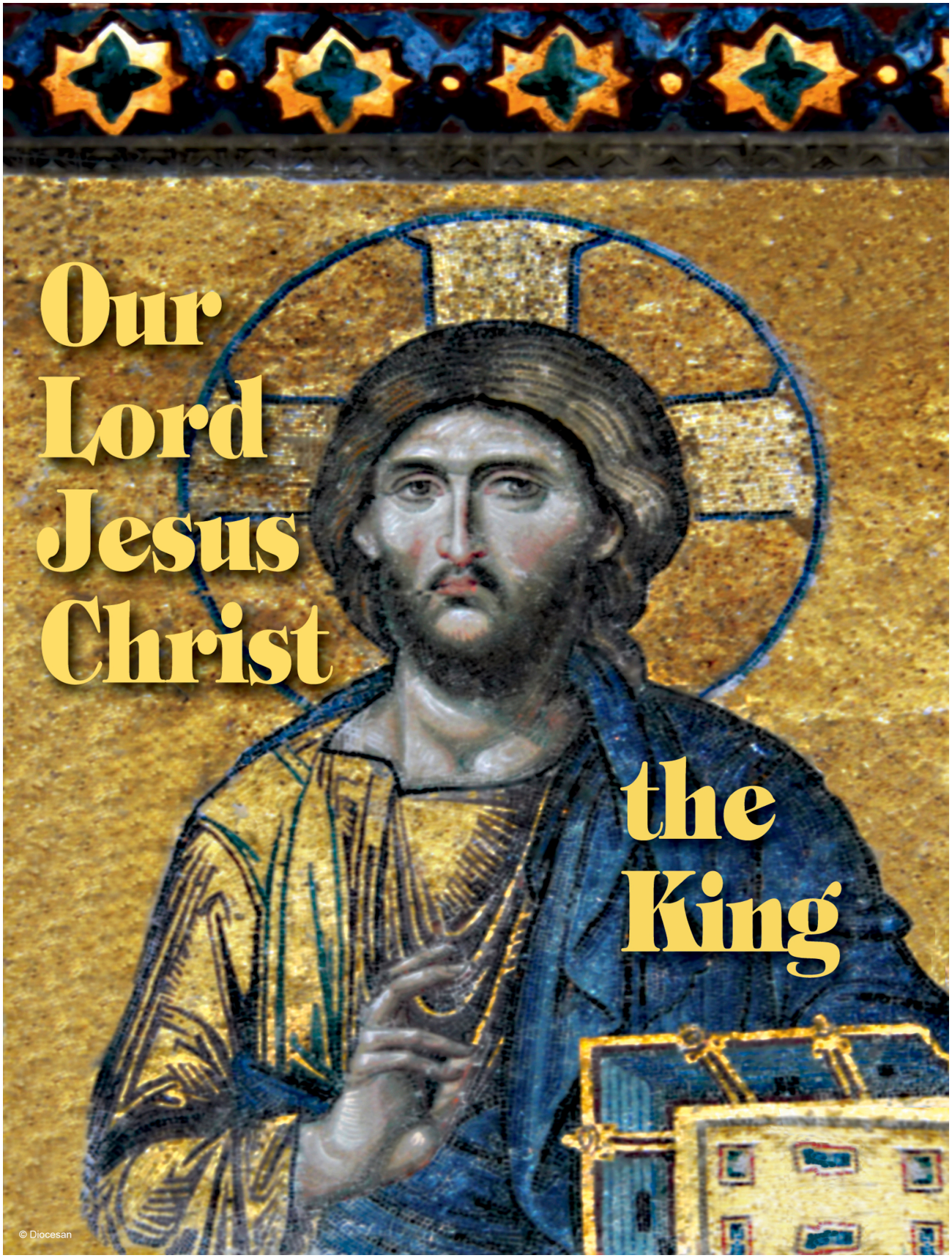
St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

November 22, 2026



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 assist- ed 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.*
Deceased*: Mim Tirjan, Doug Broughton.*
"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, November 21
5:00 p.m. Living & Deceased of
St. John's Beneficial Society

Sunday, November 22
8:15 a.m. Wedding Anniversary
of Dorothy& Joe Stangl
(Dorothy & Joe Stangl)

Sunday, November 22
10:30 a.m. Annette Lieberman
(Lieberman Family)

Monday, November 23
6:30 p.m. John Graeff
(Maria Deichert)

Tuesday, November 24
9:00 a.m. Jeanne & Phil Marzello
(Marianne Wollyung)

Wednesday, November 25
9:00 a.m. Mary Hahner
(Mary Jane Hahner)

Thursday, November 26
8:00 a.m. St. John's Parish Family
(Time Change)

Friday, November 27 -- NO Mass

Saturday, November 28
5:00 p.m. Angeline & Nicholas DeStefano
(Maccarone Family)

Sunday, November 29
8:15 a.m. Carl & Ada Hahner
(Children - Dorothy, Butch, Lois
Carolyn, Bob)

Sunday, November 29
10:30 a.m. Juleanne Steffan
(Grandchildren)

Next Week's Readings

First Sunday of Advent (November 28/29)
Reading I: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7
Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Since June we've been discussing the healing sacraments: Confession and Anointing of the Sick, followed by a look at Catholic funerals. Now we move on to the remaining two sacraments: Matrimony and Holy Orders. These can be called "sacraments of vocation" because they have to do with our vocations in life: marriage for most, priesthood for a few.

Let's look at Matrimony first since this is the state most people are called to. The first thing we notice about marriage is that it is different from all the other sacraments because marriage existed long before Jesus gave us the sacraments. Marriage existed from the beginning of humanity. It is a natural reality. God made man and woman to come together in a loving exclusive relationship to bring new life into the world. Marriage is a reflection of God. Just as God is a Trinity, a communion of three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, united in perfect love, which brings life, so marriage is a loving and life-giving communion of persons. Marriage and the family is a sign of God in the world.

Marriage is part of humanity. But Jesus elevates marriage to a sacrament. Marriage *between two baptized Christians* is a sacrament. What is the difference between a sacramental marriage and a natural marriage? Sacraments are sacred signs. What is the sacrament of Matrimony a sign of? Jesus' relationship with the Church – us, His people. Just as Jesus gave Himself totally for us in His death and resurrection, Matrimony is meant to reflect this: husband and wife are called to *give themselves to each other totally* with a self-sacrificing love like that of Jesus Himself. We will say more about this love and what it means for Matrimony next week.

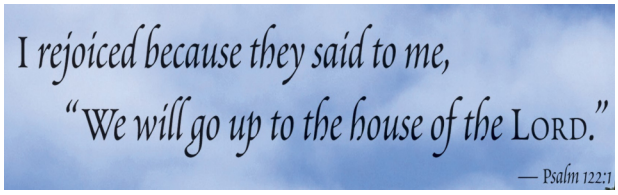
In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

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.

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.



Upcoming Events

November

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

December

5	1-6 p.m.	Meatloaf - Halupki Food Sale	R.B.
6	11 am-2 pm	Meatloaf - Halupki Food Sale	R.B.
6	10:30 am.	Sunday School	L.H.
6	10:30 a.m.	Children's Liturgy	Chapel
6	3:00 p.m.	Schuylkill Choral Concert	Church
8	9am/5:15pm	Immaculate Conception	Church
12/13	after Mass	Catholic Women's Union Cookie Sale	L.H.
14	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council Mtg	L.H.
19	10:00 a.m.	First Reconciliation	Church
21	7:00 p.m.	Penance Service	Church
24	4 & 8 p.m.	Christmas Masses	Church
25	10 a.m.	Christmas Mass	Church
31	5:00 p.m.	Solemnity of Mary Mass	Church

January

1	10:00 a.m.	Solemnity of Mary Mass	Church

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

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

The Giving Tree .... *Helping Those in Need ....* UPDATE OF ANY TAGS LEFT

Last weekend a barren tree was placed in the front of church adorned with gift tags. The gift tags will have suggestions for the needy in our area. If you are able, please take one. Return your gift wrapped with the gift tag on the outside, attached to the ribbon. Please return the package under the tree before the weekend of **November 28/29**. . The tag is very important because it has the person's identity number on it. If you are not able to purchase the item on the gift tag, please return it to the tree.

PLEASE DO NOT TAPE TAG TO THE PAPER

Our gifts each year to the needy of the area are our way of reaching out to those who have meant so much and saying we love them and wish them the blessings of Christmas.

GIFTS ARE DUE BACK BEFORE November 29/30 weekend.

Meatloaf and Halupkie Dinners

We will be selling tickets for this upcoming food sale next weekend, November 21/22, after all Masses in church.

Meatloaf and Halupkie Dinners for $13 which includes for following ... Choice of 2 slices of Meatloaf **OR** 2 Halupkies. Sides are Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable and Roll. We are also selling **Halupkies** and will take orders as well. Individual Halupkies orders are **6 for $24 or 12 for $40.** Take Out only. Sale of tickets and orders will continue until December 5. All orders will be ready for pickup at St. John's Russell Building on **December 5th from 1 to 6 p.m. and Sunday, December 6th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** For questions, please call Shanna Deibert at 570-617-4769.

Schuylkill Choral Society. *Christmas - Past, Present, Future.*

Featuring carols and songs throughout time. Saturday, December 5th at 7 p.m. at St. Clare of Assisi Church and **Sunday, December 6th here at St. John's at 3 p.m.** Tickets $20, Senior/Students (K-12) $15. For more information, contact any Chorus member or 717-450-7263.

Weekly Collection

Nov.14/15 .... $4,357.35
Improv. & Repairs $3,079.00

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 Mary Ann Delpois
by Steve & Chris Zanis
2. IMO Mary Hahner
by Hahner Family

St. Joseph

1. IMO David Zanis
by Steve & Chris Zanis
2. IMO Joe Wollyung Jr.
by Barb Wollyung

Sanctuary

IMO Carl & Ada Hahner
by Children - Dorothy,Butch, Lois, Carolyn, Bob

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Carl Wiest
by Steve & Chris Zanis
2. IMO Edward Kuperavage
by Steve & Chris Zanis
3&4. IMO Erika Stangl Seasock
by Dorothy & Joe Stangl
& Michael Felker

Liturgical Min. Schedule

First Sunday of Advent
November 28— 5:00 p.m.
Reader: Michelle Ambrose
EM: Ray Petrilla, Dan Murphy
Server: Ray Petrilla
Cantor: Dave Derbes

November 29 — 8:15 a.m. Mass
Reader: Jeff Naffin
EM: Bob Bechtel, Barbara Munster
Server: Finley McNamara
Cantor: Dave Derbes

November 29 —10:30 a.m. Mass
Reader: Sean Crane
EM: John Crane, Joe Palmieri
Servers: Sophia Palmieri
Gabriel Scheidel
Cantor: Vivian Rupert

Sacristan: RJ Post

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 Hazelton, 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!

Thanksgiving Liturgy

There is so much for which we have to be thankful! As a family, join us in church for our **Annual Thanksgiving Day Mass – 8 a.m. – November 26th** Each year attendance has grown and our spirit of communal support and praise of God has been reflected in the enthusiasm and shared depth of feeling experienced at this Mass. As a country, parish family, and individuals, we have many reasons to come together on this special day. Please join us!

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving memorializes the kindness and generosity that Native people showed toward the European colonists. In the United States, Thanksgiving is a day set aside for the entire nation to celebrate the gifts of God in their lives. It is a legal holiday that commemorates an event in history. Even a secular society finds the need to thank God and for all that has been given.

Parishes all over the country celebrate with liturgies of Thanksgiving and projects to help the needy. It is a time when those who have been blessed can show their gratitude by sharing their riches, spiritual and material with others. It is a time to remember the gifts that have been bestowed upon you and your families.

And now, bless the God of all, who has done wondrous things on earth; Who fosters people's growth from their mother's womb, and fashions them according to his will! May he grant you joy of heart and may peace abide among you; May his goodness toward us endure in Israel to deliver us in our days.

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, 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 December.

Cemetery Burial Plots & Regulations

Burial Plots
Because tragedy can strike at anytime … when clear thinking and action can be sacrificed to the moment's need … we want to remind our parishioners and friends that St. John the Baptist Cemetery offers its services whenever that need occurs.

Grave Lots $ 600.00 each which includes Perpetual Care

Regulations / Guidelines
The following are guidelines established by St. John's Cemetery Committee ...

* Shrubs are not permitted on cemetery grounds
* Flowers or plants may be planted in the ground, but must remain within 12 inches of base of memorial. NO Perennials are permitted.
* All artificial decorations must be removed within 14 days after specified holidays which are: Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, July 4, Christmas, etc.
* Placing of artificial flowers in the ground is forbidden
* All rubbish is to be taken with you or placed in available receptacles located at top of cemetery
* Please refrain from placing any tombstone in or on the grounds for one year after a death to allow the ground to settle back to its natural state.

For more information please call St. John's Rectory 570-622-5470 ext. 3

Thanksgiving Food Drive 2026

St. John's and St. Patrick's Churches are united this year to feed the hungry for Thanksgiving. Please bring your canned good donations to St. John's now until **November 22nd.** A container will be provided in the back of church. Please check the list below as to what is needed and accepted. No glass jars or expired items please.
We are also accepting donations for turkeys and hams. You can donate those items by directly contacting Tina Seiger for details at the following email address: loveyouubu@gmail.com. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Canned Soup	Coffee or Tea	Canned Pumpkin
Canned Gravy	Chicken or Vegetable Broth	Stuffing
Cooking Oil	White or Brown Rice	Baking Spices
Boxed Mashed Potatoes	Canned Vegetables	Canned Fruits
Jello	Cranberry Sauce	Pudding
Boxed Mac & Cheese	Corn Bread	Canned Yams
Biscuit Mix		

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Nativity BVM High School Happenings

Care Packages for the Military. Nativity BVM will be sending care packages to servicemen and women. The Army 316th Unit of Pittsburgh has local men and women attached to it with over 300 deployed. If you can help with the project, please send donations to Nativity BVM High School. For more info, please contact Mrs. Sabol at the school.
This is a listing of items needed:
Snacks - Powder Drink Mix for Water (electrolytes) - Beef Jerky - Slim Jim's - Nuts - Sunflower Seeds - Peanut Butter Packets (individual serve) - Hard Candy - Gum - Pretzels - Peanut Butter Filled Pretzels - Trail Mix - Dried Fruit.
Personal Care Items - Toothpaste - Stick Deodorant - Dude Wipes - Lip Balm with SPF - Large Heavy-duty Body Wipes - Travel Tissue Packs - Cotton Swabs - Medicated (Gold Bond) Foot Powder - Hand Sanitizer (small,personal size).

Green and Gold Happenings. In the month of December we will hold our Gift Card Calendar Fundraiser. If you would like to donate a $25 gift card or make a $25 donation, if you would be greatly appreciated. Calendars are being sold for $10 each. We are also getting ready for our big fundraiser - the $20,000 raffle. Tickets are $100 and only 550 tickets will be sold. If you are interested in selling them, please let Mrs. Yaneck in the office know. For every five tickets you sell, you will redceive a chance to win a $400 tuition award.

Open House for potential students for the 2027-2028 school year on **Sunday, December 6th** beginning at 3:00 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. For questions, please contact the school at 570-622-8110 or jdaubert@nativitybvm.net

Neighboring Events

Spaghetti Dinner. sponsored by St. Patrick Church on Sunday, December 6th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. or sell out. Eat in or Take Out ... 313 Mahantongo St., Pottsville. Cost $12.. platter includes pasta with our homemade sauce, two meatballs, salad, bread. Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase. For more information call 570-622-1802.

Parish Council

Please approach any Parish Council Member listed below and ask that a question, concern, etc. be brought up at the next meeting on December 14 at 7 p.m.

Elected Members
Vince Balulis
Chris Black
Ann Blankenhorn
Bob Burns
Kenneth Cooper
John Crane
Shanna Deibert
Tara DeStefano
Kelley Eroh
Darla Fabiani
Heidi Gorski
Charles Kustan
Barbara Munster
Frank Murphy
Missy Scheetz
Michelle Stone
Gretchen Witman
Kay Wollyung
Marianne Wollyung

Appointed Members
John Consugar
Tina Seiger

Ex-Officio
Father Kevin Bobbin
Deacon Robert Reiley
Ray Petrilla
Ed Brahler

Family Matters. Thanksgiving. We give We give thanks on this day for the many blessings God has bestowed on our families and on our parish community. We also are mindful of those who have less than we do and strive to help those who have less than we do and strive to help those most in need.

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.



November 22, 2026

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Ez 34:11-12, 15-17 | 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28 | Mt 25:31-46

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

Over the past several weeks, we have heard proclamations of the eternal kingdom of God, drawing our eyes forward to what is prepared for us after this life. This Sunday, we are invited to gaze upon Christ the King, who has conquered sin and death in order to welcome us into that eternal kingdom. To further understand his kingdom, we are called to meditate on what kind of king Christ is. Our first reading gives us a glimpse of his divine kingship. Christ does not rule or govern from afar; instead, we have a shepherd-king who tends to the needs of the sheep. As our king, Christ is present to us, his people, in ways that are intentional, sacrificial, and relational. This passage reminds me of Pope Francis' direction to a group of French priests in 2013 that they should be "shepherds with the 'smell of the sheep.'" Christ knows and loves us intimately, and he calls us into a relationship in which we are adopted sons and daughters of the Father.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Through our baptism, we have been invited into Christ's mission as priest, prophet, and king. By our participation in his kingship, we are charged with caring for the needs of others as Christ cares for us. In today's Gospel, Christ describes the judgment that we will receive according to how we have cared for others. It is a judgment not meant to frighten us, but to remind us of our call to love as we are loved. In our communities, our families, and as the Body of Christ in the Church, we are meant to reflect the life-giving love of the Trinity, in which there is a constant giving and receiving of love. We receive God's overwhelming love and mercy through the sacraments, and we reflect it to others by allowing his love to flow out through our lives and actions, thus extending his reign in the world.

SERVE

Today's teaching from Matthew 25 forms the foundation for what the Church has named the Corporal Works of Mercy. Complemented by the Spiritual Works of Mercy, these are concrete ways that we can serve the physical and spiritual needs of our neighbors. This week, consider choosing one work of mercy to which you can dedicate your time as we approach the Advent season.