

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

November 23, 2025 • Christ the King

CHRIST THE KING



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.*

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 22

5:00 p.m. Dorothy & Joe Stangl
(Living Intention)
Wedding Anniversary

Sunday, November 23

8:15 a.m. Robert Doyle
(Kutch Family)

Sunday, November 23

10:30 a.m. Annette Lieberman
(Lieberman Family)

Monday, November 24

9:00 a.m. Philip & Jeanne Marzullo
(Time Change) (Marianne Wollyung)

Tuesday, November 25

6:30 p.m. Mary Hahner
(Time Change) (Mary Jane Hahner)

Wednesday, November 26

9:00 a.m. Greg Glunz
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

Thursday, November 27

8:00 a.m. St. John's Parish Family

Friday, November 28 — NO MASS

Saturday, November 29

5:00 p.m. Tony Kochol
(Carol Rehnert)

Sunday, November 30

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

Sunday, November 30

10:30 a.m. Angeline & Nick DeStefano
(Maccarone Family)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

We have been looking at the letters of Saint Paul in the New Testament. There are only three left: the First and Second Letters to Timothy, and the Letter to Titus.

Timothy and Titus were individuals (not communities). Paul's two letters to Timothy and his letter to Titus are called the Pastoral Epistles because Paul is writing to give advice to pastors – Church leaders. Timothy was a young coworker of Paul who is ordained to the priesthood by Paul himself (2 Timothy 1:6). He became the bishop of the Christian community in Ephesus, a major city in Asia Minor (present-day Turkey). Titus became the bishop of the Christian community on the island of Crete.

It is noteworthy that Paul's letters and other early Christian writings attest to the sacrament of Holy Orders and its three levels: deacon, priest, and bishop. These roles and the powers and responsibilities that come with them are certainly not some later invention. Although Paul addresses his letters to bishops, they speak to all of us with exhortations to live the Christian life and let all of our relationships be guided by our faith.

We should also note that it is believed the Second Letter to Timothy is Paul's last letter. Read the powerful final chapter of the letter, especially verses 6-8.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

Chosen, Blessed, Shared

Retired and Infirm Priests of the Diocese of Allentown.

Make sure to remember the retired priests of our Diocese by making a gift to the Endowment Fund for the care of retired priests. This special fund is used to directly support retired priests in good standing including the future costs of their healthcare, insurance, and housing and sustenance. Please return your gift using the envelope you received in the mail. These envelopes may be returned in the mail or in the collection basket at Mass. For more information visit the website www.weloveourpriests.org. Your generosity supports retired priests from all 5 counties of our Diocese!

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.

Next Week's Readings

First Sunday of Advent
(November 29/30)

Reading I: Isaiah 2:1-5

Reading II: Romans 13:11-14

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Give thanks to the LORD, who is good,
whose mercy endures forever.

Ps 106:1

Upcoming Events

November

23 after Masses	Coffee & Donuts	L.H.
27 8:00 a.m.	Thanksgiving Day Mass	Church
30 9:00 a.m.	CCD Class—Service Project	L.H.
30 10:30 a.m.	Sunday School / Children's Liturgy	L.H.

December

4 7:00 p.m.	Advent Scripture Reflection	Church
6 11:00 a.m.	First Reconciliation	Church
7 after 10:30 Mass	CCD Service Project	R.B.
7 10:30 a.m.	Sunday School / Children's Liturgy	L.H.
7 3:00 p.m.	Schuylkill County Chorus Concert	Church
7 6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class	L.H.
7 6:30 p.m.	Christmas Pageant Practice	Church
8 9:00 a.m.	Holy Day—Mass—Immaculate Conception	Church
8 5:15 p.m.	Holy Day—Mass—Immaculate Conception	Church
10 8:00 p.m.	St. John's Beneficial Society Mtg	F.R.
11 7:00 p.m.	Women's Fellowship	L.H.
13/14 after Masses	Catholic Women's Union 'Cookie Sale'	L.H.
14 9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
14 10:30 a.m.	Sunday School / Children's Liturgy	Chapel
15 7:00 p.m.	Parish Council	L.H.
16 6:30 p.m.	Christmas Pageant Practice	Church
24 4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Mass	Church
24 8:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Mass	Church
25 10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass	Church

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

Fr. Bobbin's Advent Scripture Reflection will be offered during the normal First Friday holy hour on **Thursday, December 4, at 7:00pm**. Please join us for a reflection on the Christmas stories in the Gospels and quiet prayer time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, concluding with Benediction. (Confessions will not be included in this holy hour.)

Catholic Women's Christmas Party

Attention Catholic Women's Union Members. Our Annual Christmas Party will take place on Wednesday, **December 3rd** at the Blu Tavern at 6 p.m. Menu choices: Roast Chicken with filling or Baked Haddock with Lemon or Roast Top Round of Beef with Gravy. We will also exchange a \$10.00 gift — please wrap your item. For more information please call Frances Lorenz at 570-544-2837.



Christmas Pageant—4 p.m. Mass—Christmas Eve

Any child 4 years or older who would like to take part in our Christmas Eve's Christmas Pageant may sign up by contacting Darren DeArment at 570-573-4321 or call the Rectory at 622-5470.



Rehearsal Dates: Sunday, December 7 and Wednesday, December 17, both from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the church.

No experience or special talents needed — please just bring your enthusiasm for Jesus and Christmas! We need children to sign-up and participate to carry on this wonderful tradition!

Weekly Collection

November 15/16.....5,013.03
Improve. & Repairs1,591.00

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Francis & Thelma Maley
by Fred & Hilda Maley
2. IMO Bernard & Gail Morris
by Fred & Hilda Maley

St. Joseph

1. IMO Russel & Jeannet Richards
by Fred & Hilda Maley
2. Living & Deceased of
St. John's Catholic Women's Union

Sanctuary

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

Guardian Angels

- 1&2. IMO Erika Stangl Seacock
by Dorothy & Joe Stangl
& Michael Felker
3. IMO Joe Wollyung Jr.
by Barbara Wollyung
4. IMO Mary Hahner
by Hahner Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

November 27—Thanksgiving Day

Reader: Lucilla Kochol
EM: Joseph Palmieri
Server: Sophia Palmieri
Cantor: Dave Derbes

First Sunday of Advent

November 29—5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Lucilla Kochol
EM: Dan & Hermine Murphy
Server: Heidi Gorski
Cantor: Dave Derbes

November 30— 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Bill Gianfagna
EM: Bob Bechtel. Michael Ambrose
Servers: Kyle & Preston McCormick
Cantor: Dave Derbes

November 30—10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: John Crane
EM: Frank Murphy, Joseph Palmieri
Servers: Sophia Palmieri
 Gabriel Scheidel
Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

Weekend Sacristan: Ryan Grabowski

The Giving Tree

Helping Those
in Need



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 29/30**. 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.

(Please Note: If more than one item is listed on the tag ... You are asked to get one item **ONLY**)

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 27th**

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.



St. John's Choir

St. John's Choir is welcoming new and current members to the choir to sing Saturday 5:00 p.m. Masses and special Masses. This is a very rewarding experience for anyone seeking to become more involved in our Parish Family. No prior singing experience or reading of music is required. Contact St. John's Rectory 570-622-5470 for more information.

St. John's Ensemble

The purpose of this ministry is to serve the parish at Mass, singing liturgical hymns, using contemporary instruments like the guitar, keyboard, drums or other instruments, and using contemporary music arrangements.

We invite **ANYONE** in the parish wanting to share his or her voice and musical gifts whether you are a beginner or more experienced. Arrangements are not complicated and songs are familiar. You do not need to know how to read music to join us. We will teach anyone who has a willing heart.

Our goal is to play/sing once a month at one of the weekend Masses. This is a great way to participate in parish life and have fun with only a small commitment of your time.

Why not give it a try and give back to your parish family by sharing the gifts God has given to you? If interested please call the rectory 570-622-5470.





Baptismal Preparation

Before your youngest members are baptized, parents are asked to come for Baptismal Preparation. It is preferable that this be done **before** your baby is born. Please call Father Bobbin to arrange for this important preparation. Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

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.

Family Matters

Parents Parenting Their Parents

Do you feel like a sandwich? Are you parenting teens or young adults and your own parents? We ask God's blessing patience and stamina as you continue to be a parent and support your own parents in their journey today.

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

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.



Neighboring Events

Schuylkill Choral Society presents 'A Victorian Christmas' under the direction of Dr. Mark P. Thomas accompanied by Kimberly Breiner Stoudt. Go back in time to an era that gave us some of the world's most popular holiday music! Saturday, December 6th at 7 p.m. at Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Schuylkill Haven and Sunday, December 7th at 3 p.m. here at St. John's.

Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by St. Patrick Church, 313 Mahantongo St., on Sunday, December 7th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (or sell out). Platter includes pasta with our homemade sauce, two meatballs, salad & bread. Cost \$12 per platter. Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase.

Rosary. Please join us at Mary Queen of Peace Chapel, 728 N. Centre St. in Pottsville for the recitation of the Rosary on Sundays from 3—5 p.m.

Help Needed A parishioner at Our Mother of Perpetual Help parish in Ephrata, PA is asking for prayers and the help of a truly selfless individual. Jody is in need of a living donor kidney transplant. Due to a genetic condition, both her kidneys are slowly failing. If you would like to learn more about the disease or the donation process, please contact her at: kidneyforjody@gmail.com.

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!

"Love God with all your being, and love others as I have loved you." His love is selfless, compassionate, forgiving, and unconditional. He is a King with a saving and liberating mission: freeing us from all types of bondage, enabling us to live peacefully and happily on earth, and promising us an inheritance in the eternal life of heaven.



November 23, 2025

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

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

2 Sm 5:1-3 | Col 1:12-20 | Lk 23:35-43

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

Since the birth of my oldest child, I have seen and heard many things about what I *should* do as a mother. I have heard everything from which products I should purchase to how I should help my child develop a healthy sleep routine. But my identity as a mother is not dependent upon any of these things; instead, it rests on my relationship with God as his beloved daughter and who he has called me to be as a mother. Those living at the time of Jesus were also trying to understand his identity as king according to their own expectations of what a king was meant to be. They certainly did not expect their king to be crucified by the Romans as we read about in our Gospel today. But Jesus did not come to rule as an earthly king. He *is* king because of his identity as the beloved Son of God, whose mission it was to offer his life for the salvation of all. Jesus did not allow society's understanding of a king to dictate how he lived his mission. Likewise, we must act confidently in accordance with the particular call that God has entrusted to us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I find it interesting that when David was anointed king of Israel, he is designated as a commander whose vocation it was to *shepherd* the tribes of Israel. Of course, now we also readily associate the term *shepherd* with Christ, the Good Shepherd who cares for his sheep. The notion of kingship and shepherding, therefore, seem to be intertwined. In the sacrament of baptism, each of us is invited to participate in Christ's mission as priest, prophet, and king. To join Christ in his mission as king, we must also lead lives of service in which we allow the love of God to generously flow through us by caring for others. Let us strive to be shepherds for those in our communities who are seeking to know Christ more intimately; let us participate in Christ's mission as king through humble service to others.

PRAY

Today, take a few minutes to pray for all leaders. Ask the Lord to guide them in their leadership to be good shepherds to all those who fall under their governance. As you participate in your local community and parish, ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to join in Christ's mission as king by serving those in need.