

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

November 27, 2022



Advent

~ a time for preparation ~



Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 26

5:00 p.m. St. John's Beneficial Society

Sunday, November 27

8:15 a.m. Kelly Jo Messina
(Ellamae Krusnoskie)

Sunday, November 27

10:30 a.m. Mildred & Ed Deiter
(Joan & Dave Deiter)

Monday, November 28

6:30 p.m. St. John's Parish Family

Tuesday, November 29

9:00 a.m. Clair & Margaret Fry

Wednesday, November 30

9:00 a.m. Charles & Matilda Schaeffer
(Eleanor Schaeffer)

Thursday December 1

9:00 a.m. William Webber
(John & Annette Lisowski)

Friday, December 2

9:00 a.m. Special Intention

Saturday, December 3

5:00 p.m. Louise Delaney
(Kathleen Williams)

Sunday, December 4

8:15 a.m. Michael & Anna Fedock
(Donna & Jim Pugh)

Sunday, December 4

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

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

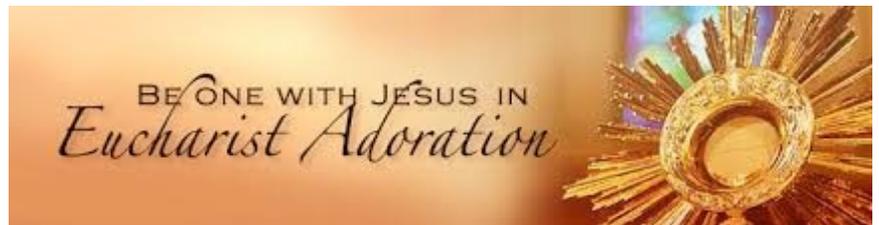
Advent is upon us as another Christmas quickly approaches. There is an urgency to Advent. As children, we get excited for Christmas and the days can seem agonizingly long as we wait for Santa. But, as we get older, every year seems to go more quickly until we reach a point when we wonder how it got to be this time of year so quickly and we panic at everything that needs to be done in the next four weeks.

Perhaps we need to apply this sense of urgency to our relationship with Christ as we anticipate His coming – not simply the celebration of His past coming on Christmas, but the reality of His future coming, whether the Second Coming at the end of the world, or simply the moment when I meet Him face-to-face upon my own death. Not only does every Christmas seem to come faster each year of our lives, but each Advent truly does bring the coming of Jesus *one year closer*. Only God knows how many more Advents I have left to prepare for His coming.

However, our Lord does not want Advent to cause us to panic. Like children waiting for Christmas, we should be filled with joy and anticipation. All that we do to grow closer to our Lord, to overcome sin and grow as human beings, should be motivated not by fear but by love.

In Christ,

Fr. Bobbin



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 will be 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.

Next Week's Readings

Second Sunday of Advent
(December 3/4)

Reading I: Isaiah 11:1-10

Reading II: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

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

Sheri Post • Robert Kline • Chuck Majestic • Tyler Wilson
Tom Jefferson • John Morgalis • Elaine Grapsy

Upcoming Events

December

| | | | |
|-------|------------|--|--------------|
| 2 | 7:00 p.m. | First Reconciliation Rehearsal | Church |
| 3 | 11:00 a.m. | First Reconciliation | Church |
| 4 | 9:10 a.m. | Parent Meeting for Eucharist | L.H. |
| 4 | 10:30 a.m. | Little Children’s Sunday School..... | L.H. |
| 4 | 6:30 p.m. | Confirmation Class..... | L.H. |
| 4 | 2:00 p.m. | Advent Reflection | Church, L.H. |
| 7 | 6:30 p.m. | Catholic Women’s Christmas Party | Blu Tavern |
| 7 | 7:00 p.m. | Mass—Immaculate Conception of BVM | Church |
| 8 | 9:00 a.m. | Mass—Immaculate Conception of BVM | Church |
| 8 | 5:15 p.m. | Mass—Immaculate Conception of BVM | Church |
| 10/11 | | Catholic Women’s Union Cookie Sale | L.H. |
| 11 | 9:10 a.m. | Community Meeting..... | Church |
| 11 | 10:30 a.m. | Little Children’s Sunday School..... | L.H. |
| 14 | 8:00 p.m. | St. John’s Beneficial Society Mtg. | F.R. |
| 20 | 7:15 p.m. | Men’s Fellowship Mtg. | F.R. |

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

Candles

All Candles

In Memory of Mary Ann Holley
by Deborah Purcell

Liturgical Min. Schedule

December 3—5:00 p.m.

Reader: Patty O’Neill
Euch.Min.: John O’Neill
Server: R.J. Post

December 4— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Jeff Naffin
Euch.Min.: George Forney
Server: Ryan Grabowski

December 4 — 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Mary Matulevich
Euch.Min.: Joyce Gerace
Servers: Maggie & Rhyan Brennan

Advent Reflection

St. John the Baptist: The Advent Prophet

An afternoon of reflection, will be offered by Fr. Bobbin on **Sunday, December 4**, 2:00-3:30 in the main church, followed by snacks in Longinus Hall. Join us for prayer, talks, and Eucharistic Adoration.



RCIA is for anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic or in updating and deepening their understanding of the Catholic Faith. Are you interested in deepening your own faith? Or do you know anyone who has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic? Please invite them to join us. Have them call St. John’s Rectory, 622-5470, to register for the RCIA sessions. All are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions.

Communion to the Sick and Homebound

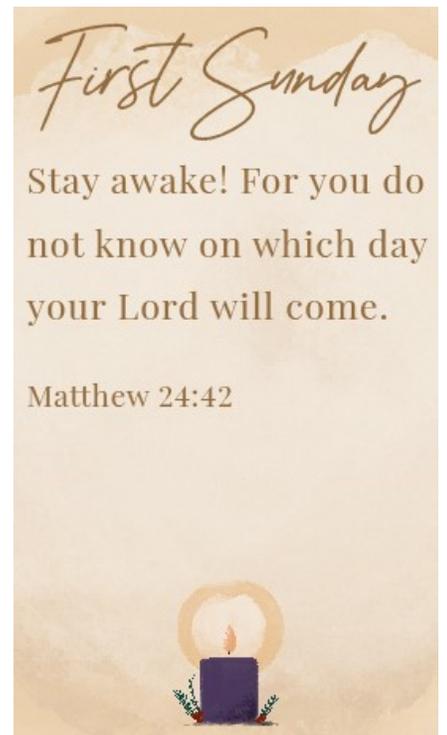
If you or a family member, friend, or neighbor who is a member of St. John is confined to home, a nursing home or assisted living facility because of illness, age, or disability and would like to receive Holy Communion` on a monthly basis, please call the rectory. We traditionally visit the sick and homebound on or around the first Friday of the month. Please help us meet the spiritual needs of our homebound parishioners.

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.

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."



Contemporary Music Ensemble

We are looking for new members! We are interested in both singers and instrumentalists. Commitment is minimal (2-3 hours per month) and musical experience/reading music is NOT required. Children and families are encouraged! We encourage parishioners who are interested in making a joyful noise to the Lord! Please email or call the rectory to join us! See you in the choir loft!

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. Please email or call the rectory for more information

Family Matters

Advent Season. Do you have a favorite custom for the Advent season? Have you considered starting a new tradition? Plan on using this activity as a way for your family to grow closer to Jesus in this time of preparation and waiting.

Pecans

The Catholic Women's Union still has pecans for sale. Mammoth Halves—\$15.00 per pound. Please call the Rectory for more info 570-622-5470.

HOPE

Advent

The word Advent is from the Latin *adventus* for "coming" and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas. Advent always contains four Sundays, beginning on the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, (November 30) and continuing until December 24. It blends together a penitential spirit, very similar to Lent, a liturgical theme of preparation for the Second and Final Coming of the Lord, called the *Parousia*, and a joyful theme of getting ready for the Bethlehem event.

Since the 900s Advent has been considered the beginning of the Church year. This does not mean that Advent is the most important time of the year. Easter has always had this honor. The traditional color of Advent is bluish purple which symbolizes the penitential spirit. Religious traditions associated with Advent express all these themes.

Advent Wreath



"Customarily the Advent Wreath is constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which are inserted four candles (advent candles). According to tradition, three of the candles are bluish purple and the fourth is rose. However, bluish violet or white candles (advent candles) may also be used".

The rose candle is lit the third Sunday of Advent, for this color anticipates and symbolizes the Christmas joy announced in the first word of the Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice". For this reason the Third Sunday is

also called *Gaudete Sunday*, and rose color vestments are permitted.

The Advent Wreath represents the long time when people lived in spiritual darkness, waiting for the coming of the Messiah, the Light of the world. Each year in Advent people wait once again in darkness for the coming of the Lord, His historical coming in the mystery of Bethlehem, His final coming at the end of time, and His special coming in every moment of grace.

During Advent, family and friends can gather around the Advent Wreath lighting the appropriate candle(s), read from the daily Advent meditation and sing songs. The Church's official Book of Blessings also provides a blessing ceremony for the Advent Wreath which can be used in the absence of a priest.

Catholic Women's Christmas Party

Attention Catholic Women's Union Members. Our Annual Christmas Party will take place on Wednesday, **December 7th** at the Blu Tavern at 6 p.m. Cost is \$25.00.

Menu choices: Stuffed Chicken Breast with filling or Broiled Haddock with Lemon or Virginia Baked Ham. We will also exchange a \$10.00 gift — please wrap your item.

For more information please call the Rectory at 570-622-5470 ext. 3.

Boyer's Food Market Caring & Sharing Program ...

St. John's is now participating in Boyer's Caring and Sharing Program.

Here's How it works:

1. Use the scannable key tag and present it to the cashier, who will scan it and record with your order.
2. Boyer's will electronically accumulate all of our group members' purchases.
3. Boyer's will then rebate St. John's 1% of the total purchases (excluding tax, milk, and cigarettes). Rebates are issued twice per year.
4. It's an ongoing program—year over year, just use the key tag every time you shop at Boyer's.

The tags are available at the church exits after Masses. Please pick one up for your family to use. And if you have a neighbor that shops at Boyer's, maybe they'd like one too!



The Giving Tree

Helping Those
in Need



Last weekend a barren tree is 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 December 3/4. 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 December 3/4 weekend.

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

Chosen, Blessed, Shared

Retired and Infirm Priests Annual Fund. Thank you to those who have given so generously to the "Chosen, Blessed, Shared" annual fund. If you haven't given, it isn't too late to support the retired priests of our Diocese by making a gift. 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. Your generosity supports retired priests from all 5 counties of our Diocese.



First Reconciliation

On **Saturday, December 3rd at 11 a.m.**, our third grade children will celebrate the **Sacrament of Penance** for the first time. Please remember them and their families in your prayers as they learn to grow in acceptance of the great gift of God's forgiveness given to us in this important sacrament. First Reconciliation **practice** will take place on Friday, **December 2nd at 7 p.m.** in church.

Positions Available at Assumption BVM School

Assumption BVM School is seeking the following positions:

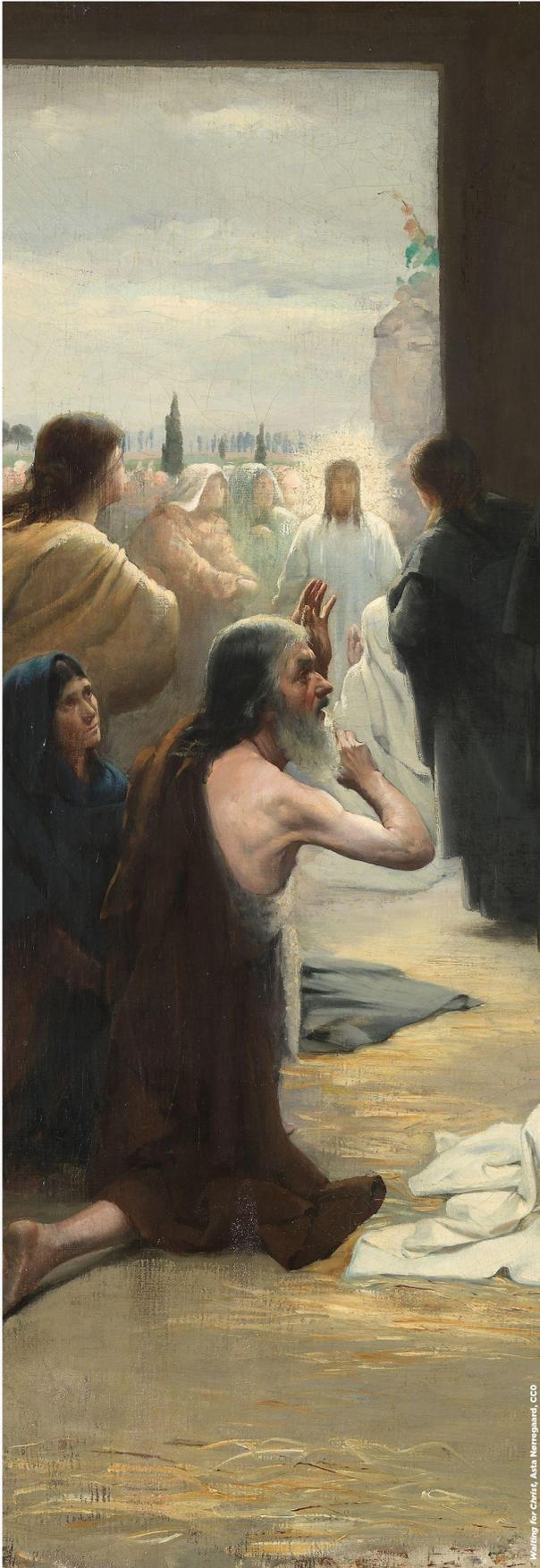
Full-time First Grade Teacher, full or part-time maintenance person and substitute teachers for the 2022-2023 school year. Please send application, resume, certification and clearances to Assumption BVM School to the attention of Mrs. Teresa Keating, 112 South 7th Street, Pottsville, PA 17901 or call 570-622-0106 for more information.

Positions Available at Nativity BVM High School

Music Teacher (Full or Part time) and Business Teacher (Part time)

Nativity BVM High School is accepting applications for the immediate openings of the above positions. Minimum of Bachelor's Degree and Teacher Certification required for both positions. Send resumes, certification and all clearances to Nativity BVM High School, Attn. Mrs. Lynn Sabol, One Lawton's Hill, Pottsville 117901 or lsabol@nativitybvm.net.





November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

Is 2:1-5 | Rom 13:11-14 | Mt 24:37-44

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Don't get me wrong. I love vacations and weekends away. But the night and day before? It's always a whirlwind of laundry, packing, and shopping for groceries and essential car snacks. I knew we were going away. I could have gotten my act together earlier. Next trip, I tell myself. Then the cycle repeats itself. Advent can be that way. This year's going to be the year! No rushing around, no crazy last-minute shopping, no stress: I'm going to study the daily readings, read that Advent devotional, settle into the season of waiting. Today's readings speak not only to procrastinators like me but also to the planners: Wherever we are on that continuum, Advent gives us an opportunity to ready our souls for Jesus' coming. It's less about what we do when than about preparing our hearts. Through prayer, study and the liturgies of this season, we can ask God to help us clean house within and prepare for Jesus' coming.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today is not only the first Sunday of Advent, but the first day of the liturgical year. Today's readings encourage us to prepare for Christ's coming. I love St. Paul's imagery: "Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us ... put on the Lord Jesus Christ." Just as we make resolutions for the new calendar year, Advent affords us an opportunity to start anew. However, the gift of our faith reminds us that we are not alone in this! We can seek the help of the Holy Spirit through prayer and turn to the accountability partners who sit in the pews next to us at Sunday Mass. We, in turn, can be a light to others through our words, attitudes, and actions. As we light our houses and light our Christmas trees this year, we can remember to put on the armor of light ourselves as we begin this holy season.

ACTION Even with the best of intentions, the holiday season can become busy. As you go about errands or prepare your home, make an effort to listen to Advent hymns or reflections.

Pastor..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*
Deacon.....*Lawrence Lonergan*

Parish Council President *Kevin McNamara*
Choir Director/Organist*David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator..... *Lucilla Kochol*
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



Advent is a time of
Hopeful longing, Joyful expectation,
Prayerful penance and Spiritual
Preparation.