

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

November 30, 2025 • First Sunday of Advent

Hope



Advent

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 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)

Monday, December 1

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

Tuesday, December 2

9:00 a.m. Donna Bound Steidle
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

Wednesday, December 3

9:00 a.m. John Gerace
(Pat Klassen)

Thursday, December 4

9:00 a.m. Leo A. Leinheiser Jr.
(Peg Zacko)

Friday, December 5

9:00 a.m. Dr. William & Ellen Schlitzer
(Mary & Ed Hauck)

Saturday, December 6

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

Sunday, December 7

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

Sunday, December 7

10:30 a.m. Deceased of the
John & Gretchen
Lieberman Family
(Lieberman Family)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

As we tour the New Testament, we spent the last six weeks taking a brief look at the letters of Saint Paul. But there are other letters in the New Testament besides those attributed to Paul.

Following Paul's letters is the Letter to the Hebrews. We do not know for certain who wrote Hebrews. It is a lengthy letter that is not really a letter. It is more like an academic paper. Hebrews is a theological reflection on Jesus as our High Priest who saves us by His sacrifice on the cross. It explains how Jesus fulfills Old Testament worship.

Finally, there is a group of seven letters known as the Catholic Letters. The word *catholic* means "universal." (This is likely just a catch-all name for this group of letters.) They include two letters attributed to Peter, three letters attributed to John, the Letter of James, and the Letter of Jude. Most of these letters are quite brief and, like Paul's letters, address a variety of topics that pertain to living the Christian life. See, for example, James 5:14-15 for a description of what we know today as the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

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.)

Chosen, Blessed, Shared

Retired and Infirm Priests of the Diocese of Allentown. 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 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, 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 priest from all 5 counties of the 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

Second Sunday of Advent
(December 6/7)

Reading I: Isaiah 11:1-10

Reading II: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Upcoming Events

November

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	6:00 p.m.	Ladies of the Rosary.....	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.
17	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

Ladies of the Rosary

Women's Fellowship is now the **"Ladies of the Rosary"**. Join us on **Thursday, December 11th** at 6 p.m. in Longinus Hall, the eve of Our Lady of Guadalupe's feast day, for our Mexicano Potluck Theme. Sign-up in the back of church for a menu item to share. We will hear a talk on Our Lady of Guadalupe and recite the Rosary. You may bring a friend.



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!



1st Sunday of Advent

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Mildred Deiter
by Joan & Dave Deiter
2. IMO Carl Wiest
by Steve & Chris Zanis

St. Joseph

1. IMO Edward Deiter
by Joan & Dave Deiter
2. IMO Ronald Pillo
by Steve & Chris Zanis

Sanctuary

- IMO David Zanis
by Steve & Chris Zanis

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Gladys Kuperavage
by Steve & Chris Zanis
2. IMO Edward Kuperavage
by Steve & Chris Zanis
3. IMO Rick Pugh
by Fred & Hilda Maley
4. IMO Marcy, Mindy, Michael Pinder
by Fred & Hilda Maley

Liturgical Min. Schedule

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6 — 5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Janet Daubert

EM: Debbie Herb, Sharon Snyder

Servers: Maggie & Rhyan Brennan

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

December 7— 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Jeff Naffin

EM: Ann Blankenhorn

John Corbacio

Servers: Finley McNamara

Luke Lieberman

Cantor: Vincent Prestileo

December 7—10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Michelle Ambrose

EM: Michael Ambrose

Justina Majestic

Servers: Callie & Cole Felty

Cantor: Dave Derbes

Weekend Sacristan: Connor Felty

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.



Catholic Women's Union Christmas Cookie Sale



Homemade Christmas Cookies to benefit St. John's Catholic Women's Union will be available in Longinus Hall on the following dates ... **Saturday, December 13th** after 5 p.m. Mass and **Sunday, December 14th** after 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Masses.

Prices: \$7.00 and \$8.00 per dozen
Peanut Rolls—\$13.00 per pound

Christmas Wafers "Oplatki"

For centuries on Christmas Eve, families in Poland, Lithuania, Czech Republic and Slovakia have practiced a beautiful tradition. It is the breaking and sharing of the Oplatek — Christmas Wafer. Oplatek taken from the Latin word oblatum, meaning Sacred Bread, has been the symbol of Christianity and Jesus Christ our bread of life since the Last Supper. The host or hostess leads in a special prayer and distributes an oplatek to the participants. Each person breaks off a piece of the other's oplatek and continues until they have exchanged good wishes and blessings with everyone.



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, Ray Petrilla, 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.

Diocesan Events

Women's Advent Retreat. The Bishop's Commission for Women invites all women of the Diocese to a peaceful day of community, prayer, and reflection this Advent season. Join us on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Allentown from 8:30am - 1:00pm. As Advent Women, we are called, like Mary Our Mother, to be bearers of Hope to our families and communities. Come, in this Jubilee Year of Hope, and rediscover your identity as a bearer of light in a world of darkness.

Space is limited, so please register as soon as possible. Learn more and register at <https://www.allentowndiocese.org/catholic-life/resources-women/womens-advent-retreat-2025>

Retreat to Fatima and Lourdes with Fr. John Frink Take a pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes from June 7-16, 2026 under the spiritual direction of Fr. John Frink. Click this link: <https://www.206tours.com/cms/frfrink/> to view detailed itinerary, pricing information, and to book.

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:

Monday, December 15th

Elected Members

Vincent Balulis
Chris Black
Ann Blankenhorn
Bob Burns
Kenneth Cooper
John Crane
Michelle Darhun
Darren DeArment
Tara DeStefano
Kelley Eroh
Heidi Gorski
Charles Kustan
Barbara Munster
Reene Reddington
Missy Scheetz
Michelle Stone
Gretchen Witman
Kay Wollyung
Marianne Wollyung
Robert Wollyung

Appointed Members

John Consugar
Tina Seiger

Ex-Officio

Father Kevin Bobbin
Deacon Robert Reiley
Ray Petrilla
Ed Braham

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.

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.

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.

Season’s Greetings

So many have been part of the lives of those who have served our Parish Family . During this Holiday Season, please remember the following:

Rev. David J. Loeper, 94 Walnut Road, Hamburg, Pa. 19526

Rev. Donald H. Henry, 4339 Kingston Loop, Sarasota, Fl. 34238

Rev. Matthew J. Kuna, St. Christopher Newman Ctr., 15207 Kutztown Rd., Kutztown, Pa. 19530

Rev. Robert F. Rienzo, Holy Guardian Angels Rectory, 3121 Kutztown Road, Reading, Pa. 19605

Sister Judith Baldino, 2405 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota, Fl. 34231

Sister Barbara Jean Wojnicki, 2755 Holme Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19152

Sister Maryanne Zakreski, Mt. St. Joseph Convent, 9701 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19118



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.

“It is the hour
now for you
to awake
from sleep.”

(Rom 13:11)

November 30, 2025

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

For many in the upper latitudes of the northern hemisphere, this is the darkest time of the year, the time when the duration of daylight is at its lowest. It's providential, then, that our first reading calls us to “walk in the light of the Lord!” Paul tells us that we do this by “throw[ing] off the works of darkness” and “put[ing] on the armor of light.” While we might not struggle with the vices listed in Paul's Letter to the Romans, each of us has our own struggles against sin. As we begin this Advent season, let us take time to do a thorough examination of conscience to discern areas of weakness and sin – those “works of darkness” Paul talks about – in our own lives. Then, consider taking up practices that help you to foster the opposing virtues to arm yourself against these temptations. As you grow in these virtues, you'll certainly be on your way up the mountain of the Lord and walking in his light!

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today's Gospel calls us to vigilance. Jesus tells us, “Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” While he is speaking about our need to be ready to meet the Lord when he comes at the end of our lives, it's also an invitation for us to always be ready to share our faith with others whenever the opportunity presents itself. As Scripture says, we should “always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you a reason for your hope.” (1 Pet 3:15) We never know the moment when someone will come to us in need of prayer, a word of encouragement, or with questions related to their own spiritual hunger. We must always be ready to meet them where they are and offer a word of hope.

PRAY

Take a moment to pray this week for those “divine appointments” – those individuals who might come your way – seeking encouragement or insight into the spiritual questions in their lives. Ask for the grace to be “awake” so that you're ready to meet them when they come. We can't always predict when these encounters will happen, but we can prepare ourselves to receive these persons as Christ and offer them our full attention and love.