

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

December 4, 2022



Mass Intentions

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)

Monday, December 5

6:30 p.m. Ralph Thomas
(Family of R.W. & J. Thomas)

Tuesday, December 6

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

Wednesday, December 7

9:00 a.m. St. John's Parish Family

Immaculate Conception of BVM

Wednesday, December 7

7:00 p.m. Mary Ann Holley
(Debbie & Mark Purcell)

Thursday December 8

9:00 a.m. George Sauers
(John & Barb Powers)

5:15 p.m. John Wollyung
(Eleanor Schaeffer)

Friday, December 9

9:00 a.m. Ann Franko
(Tony & Lucilla Kochol)

Saturday, December 10

5:00 p.m. George A. & Dolores Lynn
(Dave, Bob, Joan Marie & Tony Lynn)

Sunday, December 11

8:15 a.m. Mary Catherine Neithamer
(Brother Chuck & Family)

Sunday, December 11

10:30 a.m. Deceased of Anthony
Schaeffer Family
(Eleanor Schaeffer)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

We congratulate our students who just received First Penance this Saturday, December 3, as they continue to prepare for First Communion in the spring. This week we celebrate a holy day, the Immaculate Conception of Mary. We are reminded that this is a holy day of obligation because the Church recognizes that this day is important enough for all Catholics to pause and join together in celebrating this mystery of our faith. By a special grace of God, Mary was preserved from original sin and all sin so that she could offer a totally pure "yes" to God on behalf of all humanity. None of us are completely free of sin, but God has given us a great treasure in the Sacrament of Penance. Following the example of our young people who just celebrated First Penance with preparation and enthusiasm, the Advent season calls us to revisit Confession, no matter what we might have to confess or how long it may have been since our last Confession.

On another note... As you have noticed, our altar servers are now wearing white vestments for Mass. Typically, altar servers wear either a cassock and surplice or an alb. The red vestments worn by our servers were something of a liturgical anomaly, so I decided to switch to albs for the servers. An alb is a plain white vestment worn by clergy and other liturgical ministers. It is a reminder of the "white garment" we receive in Baptism as a sign of our Christian identity. The word *alb* comes from the Latin word for "white." With the alb, the servers wear a cincture (the rope used as a belt) in the color of the day or season, currently violet for Advent.

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.

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 • Janice Rehnert
Elaine Grapsy • Kathleen Hohman • Tom Jefferson

Upcoming Events

December

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

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.

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

Third Sunday of Advent (December 10/11)

Reading I: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Reading II: James 5: 7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11



Weekly Collection

November 26/27\$3,945.92
Poverty Relief \$978.00

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

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Kathy Bowers by Joan Bowers
2. Special Intention

St. Joseph

1. IMO Scott Bowers by Joan Bowers
2. IMO Rita Foley by Ellen Foley

Sanctuary

IMO Catherine Schaeffer by Eleanor Schaeffer

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Sr. Mary Anna Heffron by Paul & Bernadette Gombola
2. IMO Anna & Martin Heffron by Paul & Bernadette Gombola
3. IMO Paul & Mary Gombola by Paul & Bernadette Gombola
4. IMO Rita Foley by Ellen Foley

Liturgical Min. Schedule

December 10—5:00 p.m.

Reader: Lucilla Kochol

Euch.Min.: Hermine Murphy

Server: Connor, Cooper, Cole Felty

Cantor: Mary Bound

December 11— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Bill Gianfagna

Euch.Min.: John Corbacio

Server: Lukas & Finley McNamara

Cantor: Ed Brahler

December 11— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Ray Petrilla

Euch.Min.: Debbie Herb

Servers: Leah & Jude Scheidel

Cantor: Dave Derbes

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

Be Reconciled. As we approach the sacrament of reconciliation during this Advent time we reflect on how God willingly forgives and pardons us. In our families, we ask for the grace to forgive and to ask for forgiveness. We especially ask for this grace with family members where there have been long term unresolved issues.

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.



Catholic Women's Union Installation of Officers.

St. John's Catholic Women's Union installed officers for the next term.

President: Dorothy Stangl

Vice President: Karla Garland

Treasurer: Donna Moyer

Secretary: Barbara Munster.

Pictured left to right: Donna Moyer, Barbara Munster, Father Bobbin, Dorothy Stangl, Karla Garland.

Catholic Women's Union 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.

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 10th** after 5 p.m. Mass and **Sunday, December 11th** after 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Masses.



Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Lighten the load.

An abbot writes, "Your gift helps ease our worldly burdens and allows us to continue living out our mission of seeking God and serving the Church." Donations to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection help hundreds of U.S. religious communities to provide for their aging members. Please give generously.

HOPE



Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation

Masses

Wednesday, December 7—7:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 8—9:00 a.m. & 5:15 p.m.

St. John’s Paint n’ Sip

On November 20, twenty people (plus Father) participated in our first “Paint and Sip.” Thank you to Kim Searle for organizing the event and guiding everyone with patience and encouragement. We look forward to the next one soon!



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 Isabol@nativitybvm.net.

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 12th.**

Elected Members

Bob Bechtel
 Michael Brennan
 John Consugar
 John Crane
 Darren DeArment
 Joseph Gerchak
 Heidi Gorski
 Sr. Mary Jane Hahner
 Michael Hummel
 Joseph Kurtek
 Nannette Major
 Kevin McNamara
 Al Norkus
 Patty O'Neill
 John Powers
 Nick Quinn

Appointed Members

Lucilla Kochol

Ex-Officio

Father Kevin Bobbin
 Deacon Larry Lonergan
 Deacon Luis R. Visot
 Ed Brahler

Church Decorating

Your help is needed!!
 All are welcome to help decorate our church for Christmas. Please call the rectory if you can help or just show up on ...
Sunday, December 18th after 10:30 a.m. Mass

2023 Calendars

Church calendars for the New Year will be available next weekend. Please feel free to take one, but please make sure they are not wasted. We wish to thank the James E. Humphrey Funeral Home for taking care of this expense.



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. Catherine of Siena Parish, 2427 Perkiomen Ave., Reading, Pa. 19606
 Seminarian—Bobby Rienzo, 6329 Sauterne Drive, Macungie, Pa. 18062
 Sister Judith Baldino, 2405 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota, Fl. 34231
 Sister Barbara Jean Wojnicki, 2755 Holme Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19152
 Sister Maryanne Zakreski, St. Joseph Convent, 120 Hilldale Road, Cheltenham, Pa. 19012

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. **Oplatki are available at the Rectory.**



Holiday Food Baskets

Dear Parishioners,

There is a great need in our city and surrounding areas for the children and families this Christmas Season. I work at John S. Clarke Elementary. The Pottsville School District during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons gathers items for the holiday meals for our families in all three buildings. Due to many factors like the recent pandemic, inflation, etc., the need for holiday baskets has greatly increased. Some families had to do without our assistance for Thanksgiving. Knowing the need is greater than what the district employees can do themselves, I thought of the generous people of St. John's. I know that we strive to serve those in need. I am humbly asking for your assistance to gather more items for the holiday food baskets to assist our students and their families. Items needed are listed. All items can be placed in the bins at the back of church marked for John S. Clarke Donations. If you would like to donate a ham, turkey, cash or gift cards, please contact me personally 570-789-3453. Thank you in advance for your generosity to our community. May God bless you all.
 Tina Seiger

Canned Corn	Canned Fruit	Peanut Butter
Canned Carrots	Canned Cranberries	Jelly
Canned Green Beans	Cereal	Applesauce
Canned Peas	Stuffing	Mashed Potatoes
Canned Sweet Potatoes	Cookies	Hams
		Turkeys



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



December 4, 2022 | Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10 | Rom 15:4-9 | Mt 3:1-12

Written by
**THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE**

GROW AS A DISCIPLE
PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Harmony. It can seem so elusive in these times when our newsfeeds bombard us with reminders of what’s wrong with our world: war, political conflicts, hunger, injustice, violence. We may also experience discord in our homes or within our hearts. Perhaps that is why the beautiful imagery in Isaiah’s prophecy, where Isaiah envisions a world transformed by the coming of the Messiah, strikes a chord as we prepare for Christ’s coming: We picture the wolf lying beside the lamb, and the calf with the lion. All will be right with the world. As we reflect on the areas in our lives that lack harmony, we are reminded to focus on Jesus and the Father, the source of all good. Through prayer and reflection on our Advent readings, we can “prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”

GO EVANGELIZE
PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I have a “smart” alarm clock. To shut it off, I just have to say, “Alexa, turn off my alarm.” Easy, right? Well, too easy, it turns out, because lately I’ve slept right through the one-sided conversation. But it’s hard to miss John’s wake-up call: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” Perhaps, though, we’ve become complacent; we’ve heard it so often that we skip right past it. That can happen during Advent, this season of preparation and, yes, repentance. I love our family traditions – candy every day, in the morning!; our well-worn Nativity set; lighting the Advent candles; Christmas concerts and gatherings. None of those are bad, of course, but in the blur of the season we must be challenged by John the Baptist’s words to prepare not only our homes but our hearts for Christ’s coming. During this season, we can examine our lives to separate the wheat from the chaff, focusing on those things that bring us closer to the Lord and one another. As St. Paul encourages the Romans, “Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

PRAY St. Paul’s words above give us pretty clear instruction for how to live out our faith by welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us. Reflect on these words during daily Advent reflection this week: When have we welcomed others in our lives – and truly loved them? How can we do that for someone in the coming days?