

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • [www.saintjohnpottsville.org](http://www.saintjohnpottsville.org)

December 14, 2025 • Third Sunday of Advent

*Joy*



*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](mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org)

#### Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

1-800-276-1562      [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org)

#### Diocese of Allentown Website

[www.allentowndiocese.org](http://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, Beth Ann Clark*

**For our Deceased:** *Laurita Buehler, Bill Pugh*

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, December 13

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

### Sunday, December 14

8:15 a.m. Bill Lecher Jr.  
(Mom & Dad)

### Sunday, December 14

10:30 a.m. Wellington Daubert  
(Janet Daubert)

### Monday, December 15

6:30 p.m. John Wollyung  
(Marianne Wollyung)

### Tuesday, December 16

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

### Wednesday, December 17

9:00 a.m. Catherine & James Smith  
(Linda & Martin Smith)

### Thursday, December 18

9:00 a.m. Robert & Rita Lotz

### Friday, December 19

9:00 a.m. George Hahner Sr.  
(Scott Hahner)

### Saturday, December 20

5:00 p.m. Tony Kochol  
(Reene Reddington)

### Sunday, December 21

8:15 a.m. Jerry Hudock  
(Diane Hudock & Children)

### Sunday, December 21

10:30 a.m. Frances & Rocco  
Maccarone  
(Maccarone Family)

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Last week we started to look at the last book of the Bible, Revelation. We noted that this book is not some secret code that predicts the end of the world or events in history. Rather, it is another way of presenting the Gospel message, using a unique style known as apocalyptic literature.

Why would the Gospel be presented in this way? Revelation is believed to have been composed by the Apostle John, the same John who is the source of the Gospel According to John, and three of the New Testament letters. It has been suggested that John is writing to a Christian community facing persecution. Therefore, he writes in a way that is highly symbolic. Even though Revelation does not predict *future* events in history, it does refer to certain *contemporary* events. For example, the use of the number 666 corresponds to the name *Nero*, the first Roman emperor to persecute Christians. (In Hebrew, the letters of the alphabet are also used as numbers. The letters of Nero's name add up to this number.)

Speaking of symbolic numbers, Revelation uses the number 7 a lot. This is the number of perfection or fulfillment. Half of 7 is three-and-a-half. This number refers to a time of tribulation. Take note when some equivalent of three-and-a-half is used in Revelation and other biblical books.

One of the most important keys to understanding Revelation is that it is very liturgical. The book describes John's visions received on the *Lord's Day*, Sunday. He describes the worship of God in heaven. This points to the ultimate fulfillment of the Gospel: the victory of good over evil and eternal worship of God in heaven.

In Christ,  
Fr. Bobbin

## Retired Fund for Religious



**They gave their lives in service — now they need your help.** For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying, and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation — it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

## Next Week's Readings

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
(December 20/21)

**Reading I:** Isaiah 7:10-14

**Reading II:** Romans 1:1-7

**Gospel:** Matthew 1:18-24

## 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.

## Upcoming Events

### December

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

### January

4	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class .....	Chapel/LH
4	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children's Liturgy .....	L.H.
4	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class .....	L.H.
11	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class .....	Chapel/L.H.
11	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children's Liturgy .....	L.H.
25	TBD	CCD Class—All Grades .....	Providence Place

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



## Advent Penance Service

**Monday, December 22nd – 7:00 p.m.  
at St. Clare of Assisi Church in St. Clair**

The Parishes of St. John the Baptist, Holy Cross, St. Clare of Assisi and St. Patrick are invited to celebrate together the Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Clare of Assisi Church. The priests will be available until the last confession is heard.

## Going to Confession

The Church designates this Advent Season of preparation as an important time to receive the sacrament of Penance also known as the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In this sacrament, we examine our life and we seek forgiveness for those things, those actions that keep us from letting the Lord more deeply in our heart.



### Confessions at St. John's are as follows:

Thursday,	December 18:	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Monday,	December 22:	12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday,	December 23:	4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

## 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 — Monday to Thursday.**

## Weekly Collection

**December 6/7 .....\$4,748.00**

**Parish Dues .....\$1,077.00**

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

## Candles

### BVM

1. IMO Jane Mooney  
by Julian & Nora Chiplonia
2. IMO Mary Chiplonia  
by Julian & Nora Chiplonia

### St. Joseph

1. IMO Vera C. Hudak  
by Becky Weiss
2. IMO George Hahner Sr.  
by Hahner Family

### Sanctuary

IMO M/M Richard H. Weiss  
by Becky Weiss

### Guardian Angels

- 1&2. IMO John Wollyung  
by Barb Wollyung & Family
3. IMO Julian Chiplonia  
by Julian & Nora Chiplonia
4. IMO Francis Mooney  
by Julian & Nora Chiplonia

## Liturgical Min. Schedule

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

**December 20 — 5:00 p.m. Mass**

**Reader:** Bill Gianfagna

**EM:** Sharon Snyder, Heidi Gorski

**Server:** Heidi Gorski

**Cantor:** Lucilla Kochol

### December 21— 8:15 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Ann Blankenhorn

**EM:** Joseph Palmieri, Ray Petrilla

**Servers:** Colin McGinley

Finley McNamara

**Cantor:** Tina Seiger

### December 21—10:30 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** John Crane

**EM:** Gerry Schwartz, Frank Murphy

**Servers:** Maggie & Rhyann Brennan

**Cantor:** Dave Derbes

**Weekend Sacristan:** Ryan Grabowski



## Christmas Mass Schedule

### Christmas Eve Masses

Wednesday, December 24

4 p.m. (Children's Mass)

(Preludes & Carols at 7:30 p.m.)

8 p.m. Mass

### Christmas Day Mass

Thursday, December 25 -- 10:00 a.m.

### Solemnity of Mary Masses

Wednesday, December 31 – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 1—10:00 a.m.



## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Congratulations to the following children  
who received the  
Sacrament of Reconciliation on  
Saturday, December 7th.

**Adalyn Ebling, Greyson Ward, Brinley Forney**

## 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 Date:** Wednesday, December 17, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in 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!



## Giving Tree Donations

Thank you for embodying the true spirit of giving. Your support brings hope, comfort, and happiness to those who need it most. We are truly grateful for your compassion and for helping us make this season brighter for so many.

## 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:** World Peace  
— *Let there be peace on earth,  
and let it begin with me.* May our families in our parish be a beacon of light and hope that peace can prevail in our communities and throughout the world.



The **Ensemble** will be playing/singing at the 8 pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

## Thank You—St. John's Catholic Women's Union

On behalf of our church, we extend our sincere gratitude for your generous donation in support for our new security system. Your contribution helps ensure a safe and welcoming environment for our parishioners and visitors.



### Thank You ...

We would like to thank *John Consugar, Evan Ritter, Colt Mason and George Shimko* for removing the flags from the veterans' graves in St John's cemetery in preparation for the winter.

### 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 21st after 10:30 a.m. Mass**

### 2026 Calendars

Church calendars for the New Year are available at the church exits. 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.

### 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."*

### 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

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

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

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



### Christmas Envelopes

The Christmas envelope again this year can be found in your recent envelope packet for December and January. There will be no special mailing of the Christmas envelope. If you do not receive regular envelopes or did not receive a Christmas envelope in the mail, they are available on the tables in the rear of church.

Once again, we ask for your generous support in the Christmas collection. May we suggest a **\$35.00** Christmas donation to the parish. If you can afford to give more, it is greatly appreciated. Once again, thank you for your continued generosity.

### Diocesan Events

**Closing Celebration of the Jubilee Year of Hope.** All are invited to attend the closing celebration for the Jubilee Year of Hope on Sunday, December 28, the Feast of the Holy Family, the same feast on which we began the Jubilee Year of Hope one year ago. The celebration will take place at the Cathedral Church of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown. At 2:00 PM there will be a choral presentation of *Vivaldi's Gloria* by the Cathedral Choir, beautifully interspersed with a Narrative Tour of the Cathedral Church, offering insights into the sacred art and architecture of the Cathedral in light of our diocesan history and mission. The Sacrament of Penance will also be available from 2-3pm. The closing Mass will be at 3pm, celebrated by Bishop Schlert.

**Surviving Divorce Program.** Give yourself the gift of encouragement for the new year. Register for the Divorce Recovery class, a national program created to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. Whether you are newly separated/divorced or still experiencing painful issues years later this program can help. Participants receive expert Catholic guidance to work through practical and emotional troubles brought on by the family breakdown. Topics covered include custody, court hearings and finances as well as the emotional ups and downs of anger, regret, and unforgiveness. Past participants have said they appreciate the program's deep insights of God's personal love for us and desire to heal us. This program has been running twice and three times per year since January 2023. Participants have consistently given it high marks on the end-of-class surveys.

Start date is January 12, 2026, and end date is March 16, 2026. Meetings are Mondays, 6:15 – 7:15pm for ten weeks. Location is St. Elizabeth of Hungary, 618 Fullerton Ave. Whitehall 18052 in the large Meeting room on the second floor of the parish office. The cost is free. To register, contact Jane Zingelman: jtzing@gmail.com.

### Neighboring Events

**Knight of Music Christmas Dance.** The Knights of Columbus, Council 431, is hosting a Christmas dance on Saturday, December 20th from 7 to 10 pm at the Holy Cross Parish Center, 99 Lombard St. in New Philadelphia — Featuring the Route 61 Band. Tickets \$10 in advance / \$15 at the door / BYOB. Proceeds support Knights of Council 431 activities, some of which are Coats for Kids, Wreaths Across America, Thanksgiving Meals and many other activities throughout the year. For tickets call Greg 570-449-2580 or Ron 570-294-6337 or Jerry 570-628-0786



Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

December 14, 2025

## Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10 | Jas 5:7-10 | Mt 11:2-11

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

One morning, I woke up feeling exhausted after a fitful night of sleep. I was achy and generally under the weather. Despite this, I made a to-do list because the day's work still needed to be accomplished. I was determined to not let this sickness interrupt my productivity, even though I *knew* I needed to rest. It occurred to me, then, that rest — and dependence on others and God — is sacred also. In today's psalm, we hear of the many ways the Lord provides: The *Lord* gives, the *Lord* raises, the *Lord* loves, the *Lord* protects, the *Lord* saves. We cannot accomplish our own salvation, but we can rest in the promise the Lord provides, and we can hope in the salvation offered in Christ. As we wait in joyful anticipation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, let us find time to rest in his Word and his presence, trusting that our salvation does not depend on us and has already come to fruition in Christ.

### GO EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As we saw in our psalm, God is the one who takes initiative, who provides for our salvation. In our work to share the faith with others, sometimes our task is simply to help others become aware of the ways God is providing for them by pointing out the signs of his action in their lives. When the disciples of John came to Jesus asking if he was “the one who is to come” or whether they should “look for another,” Jesus reminds them of the evidence all around them: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised. As we help others to see God's work in their lives, we are also leading them to greater faith and trust in him.

### REST

We are more able to see the signs of God's providence in our lives when we take time to reflect. Make time to rest in God's presence this week. This could mean stopping into a chapel for a couple minutes of quiet prayer, reflecting on Scripture using *Lectio Divina*, or reading the story of Christ's nativity in the Gospel. These simple practices will prepare our hearts to recognize Christ's presence and goodness at each moment of our lives.

