

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

September 1, 2024

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"You disregard God's commandment
but cling to human tradition."

MR 7:8



Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 31

5:00 p.m. Josephine Kochol
(Tony & Lucilla Kochol)

Sunday, September 1

8:15 a.m. Dec. of Bartholomew
& Lorenz Families
(Frances Lorenz)

Sunday, September 1

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

Monday, September 2

No Mass / No Adoration

Tuesday, September 3

9:00 a.m. Martin J. Carroll Jr.
(M/M Anthony Carroll)

Wednesday, September 4

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

Thursday, September 5

9:00 a.m. Mary Lescavage
(Nancy Lescavage)

Friday, September 6

9:00 a.m. Richard Lowe
(Joe & Rose Meeskerl)

Saturday, September 7

5:00 p.m. Paul Rosenberger
(Janet Thomas)

Sunday, September 8

8:15 a.m. Joseph & Philomena Ryan
(Donna & Jim Pugh)

Sunday, September 8

10:30 a.m. Margaret Pfluger
(Joe Orłowsky)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

As we journey through the Bible, we've spent the last month or so on the Historical Books of the Old Testament. There are three groups of Historical Books: 1. the Deuteronomic History (Joshua to Kings), 2. the Chronicler's History (Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah), and 3. miscellaneous.

We've looked at the first two groups. Which "miscellaneous" books remain? The books of Ruth, Tobit, Judith, and Esther are entertaining short stories about the characters for whom the books are named. Some of what we find in these books may be "historical fiction," that is, stories *based on* real people and events, rather than history strictly speaking. They teach lessons about God's divine providence, being faithful to God, the role of prayer and living a good life, and so forth.

The Book of Ruth is a very short story about a woman (Ruth) who is *not* a member of the Chosen People. She goes out of her way to care for her mother-in-law who is left widowed. Ruth puts her faith in the God of Israel, marries into the Chosen People, and becomes the great-grandmother of King David.

The Book of Tobit is a very colorful (and even comical) story about two righteous people who experience great suffering. Tobit is blinded. Sarah is cursed by a demon: she marries several times only to have the demon kill her husband on their wedding night. Assisted by the angel Raphael (in disguise), Tobit's son Tobiah sets off on a quest to heal his father's blindness. The stories about Tobit and Sarah converge as Tobit is healed and Sarah is freed from the demon. The marriage of Tobiah and Sarah creates the perfect happy ending to the story.

The remaining books next week...

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

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.



Next Week's Readings

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
(September 7/8)

Reading I: Isaiah 35:4-7a

Reading II: James 2:1-5

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

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 • Tony Kochol • Tom Jefferson • Drew Schaeffer • Shawn Matz • Miriam Tirjan • John Bernetsky
Joanne Mestishen • Carolyn Leinheiser • John Fredericks*

Upcoming Events

September

3	7:00 p.m.	Building Committee Mtg.....	L.H.
8	9:00 a.m.	CCD Parent Mtg.	L.H.
8	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.
8	4:00 p.m.	Chronic Pain Support.....	L.H.
9	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council	L.H.
11	8:00 p.m.	St. John’s Beneficial Society Mtg	F.R.
18	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women’s Union Mtg	L.H.
19	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
22	9:00 a.m.	CCD Community Mtg	L.H.
22	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.
22	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
26	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
29	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.

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

Tuesdays 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men’s Group..... F.R.

Weekly Collection

August 24/25\$ 4,763.00

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

Please **do not use tape or staples to seal your offertory envelopes**

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Joseph Brahler by Kathy Brahler
2. IMO Cathy Bowers by Joan Bowers

St. Joseph

1. Special Intention
2. IMO Joseph Brahler by Kathy Brahler

Sanctuary


IMO James Cavanaugh by Hahner Family

Guardian Angels

- 1&2. IMO Joseph Brahler by Kathy Brahler
3. For Marcus & Gabby by Neil & Frances Manus
4. For Amanda by Neil & Frances Manus

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on September 19, 26, October 10, 17, November 7 and 14. Join us in person in Longinus Hall or at home on Zoom (*Please email Father for the Zoom link: kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org). Fr. Bobbin's Scripture study attempts to give an overview and background for the books of Sacred Scripture to be of help with personal reading and study, Bible study groups, and getting more out of hearing the Word proclaimed at Mass. All are welcome.



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 Father Bobbin at St. John’s Rectory 622-5470.

Banns of Ordination

Mr. John A. Matulevich, a member of Saint John the Baptist, Pottsville, has been called to the Order of the Deacon by His Excellency, Alfred A. Schlert, D.D. Bishop of Allentown. Mr. John A. Matulevich will be ordained at the Cathedral of Saint Catherine of Siena, Allentown, on Saturday, the 14th day of September 2024.

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.

Liturgical Min.Schedule

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time September 7— 5 p.m. Mass

Reader: Carleigh Palmieri
Euch.Min.: Joe Palmieri
Frank Murphy
Server: Sophia Palmieri
Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

September 8— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Jeff Naffin
Euch.Min.: John Corbacio
Janet Daubert
Server/Sacristan: Connor Felty
Cantor: Amy Joyce

September 8— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Mary Matulevich
Euch.Min.: John Matulevich
John Crane
Servers: Cole & Cooper Felty
Cantor: Dave Derbes

Parish Council—New Members—2024

ROBERT BURNS

Address: 11 Harmony Hill, Cressona

Occupation: Masonry Contractor

Length of time in parish: Lifelong

Experience and activities: St. John's Beneficial Society; St. Bernard's Beneficial Society

Why I Wish to Serve: I would like to try to keep our parish thriving.



TARA DeSTEFANO

Address: 11 Yorktowne Road, Pottsville

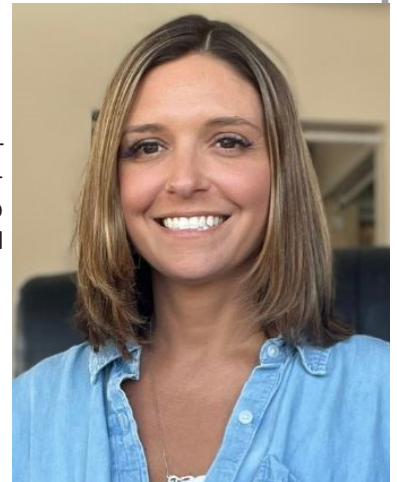
Occupation: Deputy Director at the Highway Safety Network

Length of time in parish: 10 years

Experience and activities: Throughout my time at St. John's, I participated in various parish activities such as volunteering at the parish picnic, serving meals at the Pottsville Soup Kitchen, participating in Adult Faith Formation, and Coffee & Donuts. I was also a member of the parish Leadership Team in 2019. Outside of the parish I am the President of the Pottsville Football Boosters and spend my free time cheering on my son, Luke, on the football and baseball fields.

Why I Wish to Serve:

I wish to serve because I love our parish and want to be an active members. I appreciate the direction the parish has been moving and want to contribute to it as well.



MELISSA SCHEETZ

Address: 708 Pinewood Circle

Occupation: Teacher

Length of time in parish: Lifelong

Experience and activities: I have been deeply involved in my church throughout my life, participating in various activities and events that unite our community. Over the years, I have been a member of the annual Homecoming committee and enjoy the celebrations which are an excellent time for reunion and reflection. I have also actively contributed to the Christmas bazaar, helping to organize and run this event that spreads joy and supports our church's mission. Additionally, I have had the privilege of serving on the parish council, where I worked with others to guide and support our congregation's growth and spiritual development.

In addition to my involvement, I have dedicated over 20 years to working as a nanny, providing care and support to the children and their family. This experience has been gratifying, allowing me to nurture and guide young minds during their formative years. Moreover, I have spent 13 years teaching, where I have had the opportunity educate and inspire students, fostering their academic and personal growth.

Why I Wish to Serve: Serving on the parish council is a significant opportunity for me to give back to a community that has been a cornerstone of my life. My lifetime involvement in the church has given me a profound appreciation for its role in fostering faith, fellowship and service. By serving on the parish council, I hope to contribute to the strategic planning and decision-making processes that ensure our church thrives and supports its members.



Parish Council—New Members—2024

MICHELLE STONE

Address: 384 Ridge Road, P.O. Box 301, Cumbola

Occupation: Business Office / Human Resource Assistant

Length of time in parish: 3 years

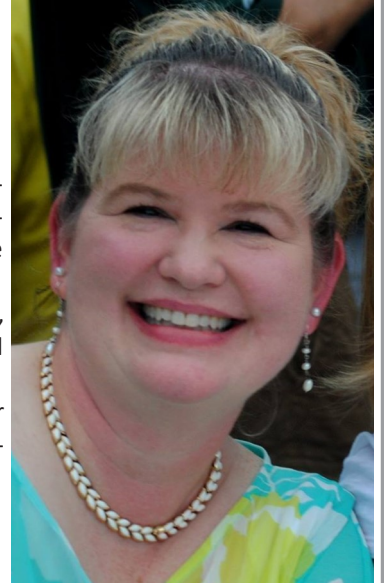
Experience and activities: I have a Catholic school background having attended Holy Cross Elementary School and Nativity BVM High School. I am a proud alumni of Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary and Kindergarten Education. Currently I am employed by the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 as a Business Office/Human Resource Assistant.

I was an active participant in my sons' education during their time at St. Stephen's Regional School, St. Ambrose School, and Nativity BVM High School, having served on multiple committees and boards and volunteered in various capacities during each of their 14 years of Catholic education.

I am currently a member of the Disciple Makers Index Committee for our parish. I am also a 33-year member of the Holy Cross (formerly Sacred Heart) Rosary Society and a 20-year member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Pottsville.

Why I Wish to Serve:

As a newer member of the parish, I feel that I can offer a fresh perspective. I can share what my family and I were looking for when we were searching for a new parish to call home and why we chose St. John's. Our Catholic faith is especially important, and I want to ensure that the St. John's Parish Family continue to grow and stand strong for generations to come. I look forward to developing a stronger St. John's Parish community.



GRETCHEN LIEBERMAN WITMAN

Address: 1335 Howard Ave., Pottsville

Occupation: Clinical Social Worker

Length of time in parish: 45+

Experience and activities: Personally, my husband Robert and I have 3 adult children and a new grandson. We value family and friends so we spend most of our time with them. Professionally, I've worked as a social worker in agency, hospital, schools, and private practice setting. I've worked for the IU Schuylkill Technology Center as a school social worker since 2007 and also provide counseling in my private practice that I opened in 2002. In my spare time I enjoy reading historical fiction, gardening, travel, and I enjoy sports!

Why I Wish to Serve: St. John's has been a central part of my life since childhood. I believe strongly in giving back and service to one's community, especially as part of my faith. As a member of Parish Council, I'd like to help the young members of our parish (children / teens) get involved and experience the blessings of our faith community.



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, Liz Kleckner, Ray Petrilla, Lisa Schlitzer, Theresa Skrobak, Joanne Wood.

The more the merrier — newcomers are always welcome — please call the rectory if interested or just show up at our next cleaning on September 14th.



Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop — September 6 & 7

Friday, September 6 from 4 to 7 p.m. and **Saturday, September 7** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Russell Building — 9th & Schuylkill Ave. Pottsville

Don't miss it! If you like yard sales, this is the place to be. Various items including ... Christmas decorations, knick-knacks, dishes, kitchen items, appliances, jewelry, various holiday decorations, framed prints, special Vintage Section and much, much more, plus food is available for purchase. Something for everyone! Join us! Call the Rectory office 622-5470 ext 3 for more information.

Desserts/Baked Goods needed—If you would like to donate a dessert, please drop off at the times listed above or call the rectory 622-5470 ext 3. Please individually wrap or bag all dessert items to be sold.



POSITION AVAILABLE

Immediate opening for a part-time Parish Secretary at Most Blessed Trinity, Tremont to prepare church bulletin, answer phones, schedule Masses, Altar servers and appointments, maintain parishioner database, do filing, MS Office email and letters. Prior Church experience beneficial; reliable person with positive attitude needed. The Church will help with required clearances. Please email resumes and references to mbtparish2008@hotmail.com.

DRIVERS NEEDED

Catholic Charities is looking for one or two part-time drivers for its food truck mission. Hours are Monday through Thursday, approximately 10am to 3pm. The truck is loaded and unloaded at Holy Family Parish Hall, located in Minersville, PA and the truck serves various communities each day in Schuylkill County. A standard PA Drivers license, a clean driving record and background clearances are required. Basic truck maintenance experience is also helpful. Anyone interested in the position should contact Andrea Kochan Neagle, Catholic Charities Managing Director, at aneagle@allentowndiocese.org or call 610-435-1541 ext. 5334.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Married couples from across the Diocese are invited to renew their vows and thank God for the gift of the Sacrament of Marriage during the Annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass. The Mass, celebrated by Bishop Alfred Schlert, will take place in the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena on Sunday, September 22nd. Doors open at 2 p.m. Please visit the following link to register and for more info: <https://www.allentowndiocese.org/anniversarymass> Contact Rhady Tulloch, Director of Marriage and Family Life, with questions: rtulloch@allentowndiocese.org.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Blessed are they who mourn, they shall be comforted. Matt. 5:4

Announcing our Fall "Bereavement Support Group" at Immaculate Conception Parish. If you have lost a loved one through death and feel you need some support on your grief journey, please call to register. It is 6 sessions and we ask that you attend all 6 sessions.

Trained Grief Ministers are available. Registration is Required. No Charge.

The Dates are: Mondays, September 30, October 7, 14, 28 and November 4, 11 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Brogan Room at St. Joseph Rectory, 526 North St., Jim Thorpe. Light Refreshments will be served. SPACE IS LIMITED. Please register by September 15! To register, please call Immaculate Conception Parish at 570-325-2791.

PADRE PIO PILGRIMAGE

For those interested in attending the 1st Local Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Centre for Padre Pio on Friday, September 20, bus transportation will be available for a cost of \$25. Bus departs from St. Clare of Assisi in Saint Clair at 7AM and from St. Ambrose in Schuylkill Haven at 7:30AM. You must bring your own brown bag lunch. Departure from the Shrine as soon as the Pilgrimage concludes. To register or for more info, please contact Barbara at St. Ambrose church 570-385-1031 or stambroseoffice@comcast.net.

SCHUYLKILL CHORAL SOCIETY

Are you a singer? The Schuylkill Choral Society is holding OPEN AUDITIONS on Monday, September 9th and 16th at 7 p.m. at the 1st United Church of Christ, 110 PA 61, Schuylkill Haven (Use lower back entrance).

First Concert: Exultation—Traditional and Classic Christmas Carols with Strings, Brass, and Organ.

Saturday, December 7, 2024 - 7:00 PM at St. John's the Baptist Church, Pottsville
 Sunday, December 8, 2024 - 3:00 PM at First Methodist Church in Schuylkill Haven

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

Parish Council President..... *Darren DeArment*
E-mail..... *dbd269@gmail.com*
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



ONE DAY ONLY - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024
SHOP 8AM - 11PM

DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:

- **25% OFF DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS***
- **REGISTER TO WIN A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD**
 One Winner at every Boscov's store

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION
 For Shopping Passes or information, contact:

For more details visit boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends
*Exclusions Apply

PASSES ... \$5.00

St. John's will be available at Boscov's on the following dates:

Presale

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Sept. 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27
 October 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 18
 11 a.m.—4 p.m.
 August 31; Sept. 14, 21, 28; October 12, 19
 12 noon to 3 p.m.
 August 25; Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
 October 6, 13, 20
 4 to 7 p.m.— August 28
 12 noon to 4 p.m. — August 18
 3 to 6 p.m. August 29
 4 to 9 p.m. — October 17
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 9 p.m. — October 21
 October 22—8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Thank you in advance for your support!