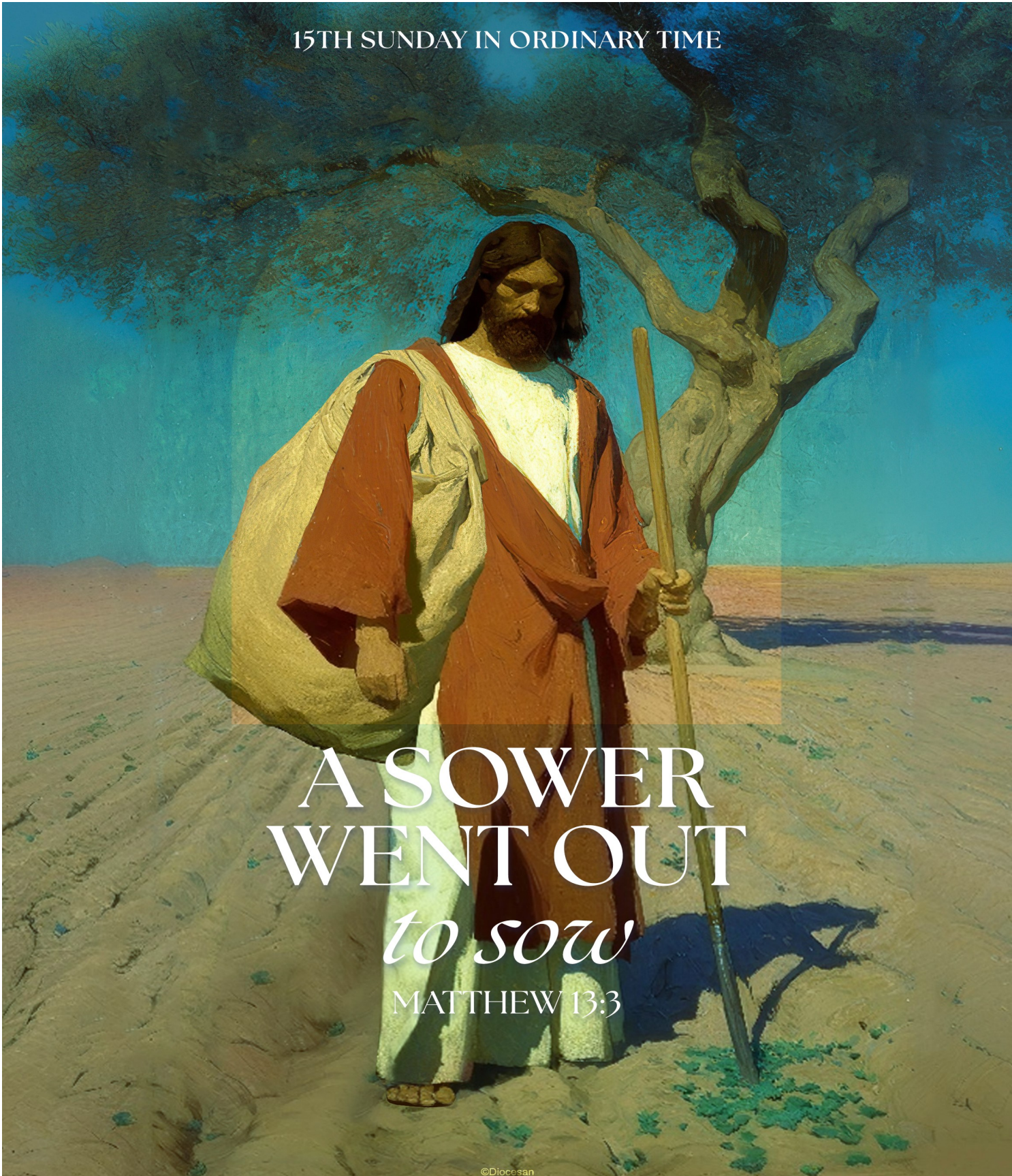


St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

July 12, 2026

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



A SOWER
WENT OUT
to sow
MATTHEW 13:3

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, Charles Reber, Cecelia Burns., Thomas Muldowney, Dottie Kull, Carol Lasco*

"Note: We will keep names on the prayer list for a period of three months. Please let us know if you would like your name or your family member's name to remain on the list longer."

Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 11

5:00 p.m. Cathy Bowers
(Scott Williams)

Sunday, July 12

8:15 a.m. Robert Doyle Sr.
(Frank & Lucy Kaczynski)

Sunday, July 12

10:30 a.m. Maurice & Helen Mirabella
(Chris Maccarone)

Monday, July 13

6:30 p.m. Thomas & Eva Francis
(Francis Family)

Tuesday, July 14

9:00 a.m. Mary Zambo
(Zambo Family)

Wednesday, July 15

9:00 a.m. John Wollyung
(Marianne Wollyung)

Thursday, July 16

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

Friday, July 17

9:00 a.m. Joseph & Jean Ritzel
(Joan Ritzel)

Saturday, July 18

5:00 p.m. Ed Smith
(Family)

Sunday, July 19

8:15 a.m. Erika Stangl Seasock
(Dorothy & Joe Stangl
& Michael Felker)

Sunday, July 19

10:30 a.m. M/M Dominic Maccarone
& Son
(Natalie Setlock Family)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

The last couple weeks we've been talking about when to go to Confession. Today let's consider *where* to go to Confession. The reality is: Confession is available anywhere you see a priest. When asked, priests will hear confessions just about anywhere, anytime. God's mercy is infinite and His forgiveness is widely available through the sacrament. Speaking for myself, I try never to refuse a request for Confession unless I absolutely can't at that moment. It's that important.

Normally we go to Confession in a confessional or at a station set up for Confessions. If you would like a longer period of time to go to Confession, you can even make an appointment with a priest. (More on this later.) Here at St. John, our confessional is set up for everyone to go to Confession anonymously. Many parishes have confessionals where one can choose to sit in front of the priest and go face-to-face. While this has its advantages and many people like face-to-face Confession, we need to keep in mind that Confession is not a conversation; it is a sacrament, a ritual, which is normally meant to be kept brief and to-the-point. Face-to-face Confession, while a legitimate option, runs the risk of giving people the impression that Confession is a type of counseling or spiritual direction, which it is not. (Again, we'll come back to this.)

The bottom line is: there are almost no limits on when or where we can receive the Sacrament of Confession. Jesus is always out searching for the lost sheep.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

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.

Baptismal Preparation

Before your youngest members are baptized, parents are asked to come for Baptismal Preparation. It is preferable that this be done **before** your baby is born. Please call Father Bobbin to arrange for this important preparation. Bap-



Next Week's Readings

16h Sunday in Ordinary Time
(July 18-19)

Reading I: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Reading II: Romans 8:26-27

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

Because We Are Catholic

St. John the Baptist, Pottsville—Report Date: June 29, 2026

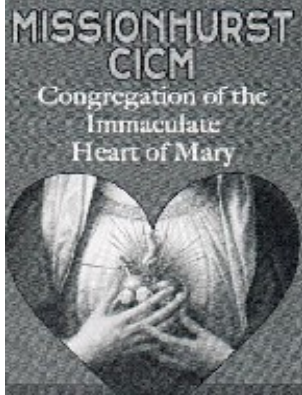
Parish Goal: \$15,796.00

Total Committed: \$10,352.67

Total Collected: \$8,902.67

Number of Donors: 66

Missionhurst—CICM (Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary)



This weekend, **July 11/12**, we are pleased to welcome our visiting missionary, Father Emmanuel Manadona, who will share with us the work of the Church in serving God's people around the world. We thank him for joining our parish community and ask for your prayers for his mission. Please extend a warm welcome and consider supporting this important ministry.

Missionhurst—CICM was founded in 1862 by a Belgian priest, Fr. Theophile Verbist, initially for the evangelization of China.

Inspired by Father Verbist's example, Missionhurst priests and brothers have been first to proclaim the Good News in places where the Gospel is not preached or lived, with a particular emphasis on the care of the poor and the most vulnerable.

Today, Missionhurst—CICM missionary priests and brothers continue this long tradition of caring for God's poorest and most neglected in many parts of the world. CICM missionaries are prepared to stay, live among the people, share in their privation, and participate in the day-to-day effort needed to achieve life-long spiritual and material changes.

The second collection this weekend will be taken up for Missionhurst—CICM

Assumption BVM School,

Assumption BVM School, Pottsville, is the Catholic school serving not just the students of Schuylkill County, but your parish. Our students receive a values-based education rooted in the Gospel, allowing them to build a strong moral compass, self-discipline and a foundation for ethical decision making. Our curriculum is excellent and provided with the strong support of our faculty and administration. Our students learn and practice the Catholic faith.

We are different. You have a choice for your children. You can choose Catholic education. It is more affordable than you think! Now accepting applications for most grades for the 2026-2027 school year. Call us: 570 622 0106

Attention — All Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, and Servers

Please let us know your plans for **August & September** so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. Please email or call the rectory by **July 13th** We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

HELP NEEDED

My name is Anthony J. Gaburick. I suffer from a nerve disease that requires treatments for me to stay functional. My treatments are out of town in places such as Allentown, West Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre and Wyomissing. I'm looking for drivers who can help me get to these treatments. Doctors will not allow me to drive myself to and from treatments. If anyone is interested in driving me, please contact the church rectory. I'll be very grateful for your help!

Thank you to everyone who has come forward to help me with transportation to my medical appointments. Your help is so very appreciated. I am truly grateful. Thank you again!

Weekly Collection

June July 4/5\$4,469.00

Dues.....\$1,035.00

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

Candles

BVM

1. Special Intention by Maureen Derbes
2. IMO Edward J. Buber Jr. & Leona A. Buber by Paul & JoAnna Buber

St. Joseph

1. IMO Edward & Mary Buber by Paul & JoAnna Buber
2. IMO George Hahner Sr. by Hahner Family

Sanctuary

IMO Catherine Schaeffer
by Maria Schaeffer

Guardian Angels

1. Health of Family by Maureen Derbes
2. IMO Gene & Tess Scheuren by Paul & JoAnna Buber
- 3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy by Joan Grapsy Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 18— 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Patty O'Neill

EM: Frank Murphy, Danny Murphy

Server: Frank Murphy

Cantor: Dave Derbes

July 19— 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Jeff Naffin

EM: John Corbacio, Bill Gianfagna

Servers: Rinley McNamara
Rhyann Brennan

Cantor: Dave Derbes

July 19—10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Ray Petrilla

EM: Michael Ambrose

Barbara Munster
Servers: Luke Lieberman
Gabriel Scheidel

Cantor: Mariann Wollyung

Sacristan: RJ Post

July 12, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Is 55:10-11 | Rom 8:18-23 | Mt 13:1-23

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

If you're anything like me, you probably hear today's Gospel and immediately try to identify yourself with one type of seed Jesus talks about: the seed that fell on the path, the seed that fell on rocky ground, the seed among thorns, or the seed in good soil. But have you ever stopped to wonder why the sower is throwing seeds so haphazardly? This is worth meditating on, too. I believe it says to us that God is generously offering his grace and his mercy to everyone equally, in all places, at all times. But we aren't all in a place where we are open to receive that gift. In those moments when we feel as though we're not bearing the fruit that we hope to, perhaps it's time to examine our spiritual surroundings and see if there is something we can change that might help us to be more receptive to God's grace. Perhaps it's as simple as checking out a faith-sharing group that can help us tend our spiritual soil so it is ready to receive what God is doling out.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Our first reading from Isaiah speaks of the power and efficacy of God's word, comparing it to the rain and snow that come down and water the earth, making the soil fertile, helping the seed to grow into a bountiful harvest that can be made into bread that nourishes. What we grasp from all of this is that God's word bears fruit *over time*. As evangelizers, it's important to consider that we often won't see fruit right away when sharing God's word with others. That word must take root, grow, and be cultivated. This process will take time, but the long-term fruit is worth our sustained and patient effort as we nurture relationships of accompaniment with others.

PRAY

There's a certain patience we must exercise when sharing God's word with others. When I find myself struggling with impatience – with myself or with others' slow progress – I often find solace in the prayer "Trust in the Slow Work of God" from Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ, particularly these lines: *Above all, trust in the slow work of God / We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay / We should like to skip the intermediate stages / And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability – and that it may take a very long time.*



Summer Festival

Friday, July 17 and Saturday, July 18 ... 5 to 9:30 p.m. each night

Advanced Ticket Sales

Why stand in line for tickets when you could be enjoying yourself ... **Advanced Food & Game Tickets** will be available before and after all Masses the weekend of **July 11/12**. Purchase \$9.00 worth of tickets in **ADVANCE** and receive \$1.00 worth of tickets **FREE!**



Basket Specials

Baskets should be **completed** and **wrapped**. Baskets can be **dropped off** at the Russell Building on **Wednesday, July 15 or Thursday, July 16**. Baskets **CANNOT** be dropped off at the rectory.)

Dedicated Workers Needed

Festival Stands.

There are a variety of stands that need help Games of Chance, Children's Games, Food Service, Ticket Stands, etc. Sign-up sheets to volunteer are located in the back of church ... add your name and phone number to one of the many areas.

ATTENTION DEDICATED WORKERS As the Summer Festival approaches, we wanted to share some quick information. If you volunteered for the 4:30-6:30 pm slot on either night, we ask that you arrive by 4:30 and report to the large dining room in the Russell Building. You will receive your ticket box there from Michelle or Michael Ambrose. From there you can go to your stand and familiarize yourself with what is needed. We are starting a pinch earlier to be better prepared and have less chaos at the opening of the Festival. Thank you so much for volunteering your time Any questions or problems please see Jason Prestileo or Shanna Deibert. We cannot wait to kick off one of our best festivals yet!

Set-Up and Take-Down

Your help is needed for the big job of set-up on **Wednesday** and **Thursday** evenings before the Festival, and **Friday** morning to prepare the grounds for the festivities, and **Sunday** for clean-up and take-down. Your help in these areas is essential. Sign-up sheets to volunteer are located in the back of church.

Music Entertainment

Friday, July 17th, we are so blessed to have our very own **Dave Derbes** once again entertain us. Dave is a festival staple bringing all our acoustic favorite relaxing tunes. Join us in kicking off a great weekend of friends, family and fellowship.



Saturday, July 18th, back by popular demand—"Michele & the Lost Boys". We are so excited to welcome back the former members of the band Sapphire—Michele, Eric, Bill and Jim. They will bring all our favorite hits from the 50's, 60s, 70s, 80s. Enjoy their amazing acoustic music in our shaded seating area or out on the dance floor. So many toe tapping tunes from 6 to 9 p.m. **Bar** area will be open until 9:30 p.m. both nights! We have the coldest beer, great wine selections and a variety of Smirnoff and wine coolers.

Bakers Needed

Desserts/Baked Goods needed—If you would like to donate a dessert, please drop off at the Russell Building on July 17th or 18th.

Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop Drop Off — Saturday, July 25th — 9 a.m. until noon.

Look around your home for any items you wish to donate to our next Yard Sale in August. (Dates in upcoming bulletin) You'd be surprised what you might find. Here are some suggestions:

Puzzles, Knick Knacks, Kitchen Items, Purses, Small Appliances, Candles, Toys, Games, Jewelry, Tablecloths, CD's, DVD's, Bakeware, Phones, Vintage items, Candles, Holiday decorations.

DO NOT donate the following: Plastics, VHS tapes, Glasses, Cups, Televisions, Bedding, Computers, Monitors, Keyboards, Books, Clothing, Large Furniture, Stuffed Toys, large Christmas trees.

ONLY ONE DROP-OFF DATE on **Saturday, July 25th from 9 a.m. until noon** at the Russell Building. No items will be accepted before or after this date. Do not leave articles at the door or in the parking lot. Call the parish office 570-622-5470 ext. 3 for more information.



Summer Festival

Festival Patrons

\$500.00

Ed & Carole Quirin
Maria Rowlands
Joe & Nancy Schlitzer
Joe & Sherri Souchak

\$350.00

James & Angela Toomey

\$250.00

Paul & JoAnna Buber

\$200.00

Charles & Patricia Miller
Frank & Annie Murphy
Judith Williams

\$150.00

Gorski Family

\$100.00

Dave & Alice Bechtel
Sandy & Joe Frinzi
Donna & John Kalovcak
Keith & Mary Jo Laslow
Lieberman & Tamulonis Law
Joseph Liptok
Frances Lorenz
Dan & Hermine Murphy
Mary B. Porter
Bill, Kelly, Brady, Briar Rhoads
Tamalavage Family

\$75.00

Fetterolf Family

\$50.00

Ann Blankenhorn
Joan M. Bowers
Kathy Brahler
Dolores Brophy
Catholic Women's Union
DeArment's
The DeWald's
Tom & Cindy Elison
Mildred Fredericks
Paul & Bernie Gombola
Stan & Geri Grabowski
Heenan Family
Carl & Kathy Hughes
Barbara & Bruce Krupa
Patricia Kutch
Eric & Jennifer Lieberman
Ron & Pat Lombel
Christine Maccarone
Patricia & Phillip Markovich

Festival Patrons

\$50.00

John & Susan Minnichbach
John & Bernice Petock
Robert & Irene Post
JP & Barb Powers
Nick & Maria Quinn
Charles & Kathleen Reber
David & Mary Ann Shoopack
Karin & Mike Sirbaugh
Martin & Linda Smith
Dianne Stoudt
Robert & Gretchen Witman
Barbara Wollyung

\$40.00

Mary Beth Harvey
Theresa Skrobak

\$33.00

Ted Gurecki Jr.

\$30.00

Diane Hudock
Joe & Eleanor Orzechowski
Dorothy & Joe Stangl
Wartella Family
Bob & Kay Wollyung

\$25.00

Brennan Family
Jim Brentari
Ken & Tammy Cooper
Janet Daubert
Jennifer Daubert
Barbara Ann Dietz
Marie Doyle
Greg Lieberman Family
Hal J. Messer
Jack & Aggie Messner
Frances Brahler Mickey
M/M A.J. Munster
Ann Marie Souchak
Peggy Stoppi
Bruno M. Tassone
Michael & Elizabeth Tyson
Daniel & Anne Marie Wachter

\$23.00

Ted Gurecki

\$20.00

Ron & Donna Dermo
James & Laura Kramer
Tina Seiger
Natalie Setlock

Festival Patrons

\$20.00

Rick & Michelle Stone
Christine Tray

\$10.00

John & Joanne Mestishen
Harriet Pfeffer
Mary Ann Schweikert

Festival Sponsors

Hahner Bros. Inc. — Chance Books
Joanne & Don Doyné - Ketchup & Mustard
Anne & Tony Ganurick - Hot Dogs & Buns

Festival Sponsors

If you would like to sponsor one or more of the following — please drop in the collection basket or mail to the rectory.

Band Sponsor \$100.00 each

Coke Sponsor \$ 50.00 each

Ice Cream \$ 25.00 each

Pizza Sponsor \$ 50.00 each

Band (1) - Paul & JoAnna Buber
Band (1) - Mary B. Porter
Band (1) - Ellen & Jay Zane
Bleenie Mix (1) — Paul & JoAnna Buber
Bleenie Mix (9) - Frank Angelo
Coke (2) - John Bosche
Ice Cream (1) — Jim & Carolyn Orlowsky
Pizza (1) - Jim & Carolyn Orlowsky
Pizza (1) - Daniel & Anne Marie Wachter
Pizza (1) - Joanne & Ralph Wood

Special Basket Table

Amika Hair Care -Shanna Deibert/Linda Murphy
Bath & Body - Barb Munster
Bath & Body - Michelle Heenan
Christmas in July - Lucilla Kochol
Dog Bskt. - Linda & Bob Stock
Family Fun Nite - Ann Blankenhorn
Italian - Cathy Cooper
Knoebel's - Gerry Schwartz
Lottery - Nora Chiplonia
Painting - Father Bobbin
Picnic - John & Patty O'Neill
Pink Girl - DeStefano's
Time for Me - Chris Black
Wine - Luis R. Visot
Wine - Gianfagna's (2)
TBD - Rosann, David, Tyler
Celebrate America 250th

—Sandy & Joe Frinzi