

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10th & Mahantongo Sts. • Pottsville, Pa. 17901

www.saintjohnpottsville.org

Pastor..... *Rev. David J. Loeper*
Deacons*Luis R. Visot and Lawrence Lonergan*

Pastoral Assistant.....*Bobby Rienzo*
Parish Council President*Robert Bechtel*
Choir Director/Organist*David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator..... *Lucilla Kochol*

Rectory(570) 622-5470
E-mail..... stjbparish@comcast.net
Nativity BVM High School.....(570) 622-8110
Rectory Fax.....(570) 622-4589
Assumption BVM Elementary.....(570) 622-0106
Russell Building(570) 628-3002
St. Joseph Center.....(570) 622-4638

Cemetery Information

St. John's Rectory.....(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

Tuesday 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

First Sunday of each month..... 11:30 a.m.
Second Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Mass
Baptismal Preparation for parents must precede the Baptism.
Please contact Father Dave for an appointment.

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC (800) 791-9209

Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection & Catholic Human Services

Office of Safe Environment
Pamela Russo, MSW, MS
610-871-5200, Ext. 2204
prusso@allentowndiocese.org

Epiphany of the Lord • January 3, 2021



Established in 1841

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 4

9:00 a.m. Theresa Lynch
(Rick Naffin)

Tuesday, January 5

9:00 a.m. George Connors
(Larry Steficek)

Wednesday, January 6

9:00 a.m. John Lieberman IV
(Friends of John)

Thursday, January 7

9:00 a.m. Bertha Bullock

Friday, January 8

9:00 a.m. Margaret Gallagher Moyer
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

Saturday, January 9

5:00 p.m. Sara Blackwell
(John & Joyce Gerace)

Sunday, January 10

8:15 a.m. Marie Fitzpatrick
(Ed & Gerry Schwartz)
10:30 a.m. Bill Stoppi
(Joe & Maureen Kurtek)

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

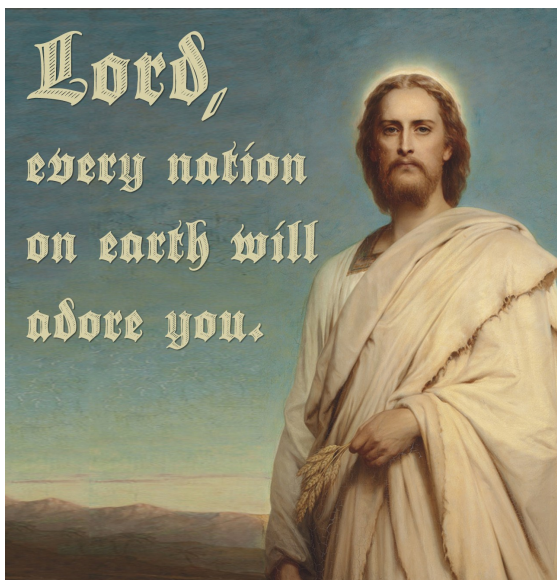
The voices of the prophet Isaiah, the apostle Paul, and the Three Kings — Balthazar, Caspar, and Melchior — resound today in one joyful chorus.

Isaiah joyfully foretells of the light that emerges from darkness at the coming Christ. St. Paul reminds his listeners that, whether Gentile or Jew, they are all part of one body of Christ, of the church. And in this Sunday's gospel, the Three Wise Men visit the Christ Child bearing gifts to pay Him homage.

All three of our readings today are reminding us that Christ, our Light, has come to dispel the darkness of sin and death and to remain with us forever.

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Dave



Next Week's Readings

Baptism of the Lord
(January 9/10)

Reading I: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Reading II: Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

Pray

For Our Sick

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.

Helen Hufnagle

For a New Year

O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises, thank you for the gift of a new year.

May it be a time of grace for us,
a time to grow in faith and love,
a time to renew our commitment
to following Your Son, Jesus.

May it be a year of blessing,
a time to cherish our family and friends.

May it be a time to renew our efforts at work,
as we embrace our faith more fully.

Walk with us, please, in every day
and every hour of this New Year,

that the light of Christ might shine through us,
in spite of our weaknesses and failings.

Above all, may we remember this year
that we are pilgrims on the sacred path to You.

Amen.

Upcoming Events

January

18	7:00 p.m.	Holy Hour/Adoration and Confession.....	Church
31	9:00 a.m.	CCD Classes	School
31	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.

February

5	9:30 a.m.	First Friday Adoration	Church
11	7:00 p.m.	Christ Life: Sharing Christ Series begins	L.H.
15	7:00 p.m.	Holy Hour/Adoration and Confession.....	Church
17		Ash Wednesday	

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

Tues.	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Men’s Group	Zoom
		Meeting ID: 824-780-6433	
		Password: men	
Wed.	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Rosary	Facebook
Sat.	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Rosary	Facebook
		Facebook Page: St. John The Baptist Catholic Parish Family	

January Holy Hour

Our monthly evening holy hour will take place on Monday, January 18 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Confessions will be offered for the first half hour. Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be accompanied with light piano instrumental worship hymns.



Christ Life: Sharing Christ

Our third series in the Christ Life parish mission will begin Thursday, February 11 and run for seven consecutive weeks through Thursday, March 25.

This series is open to those who completed the Following Christ series in the fall. Please call or email the rectory to sign up.



Weekly Collection

December 20.....\$ 4,138.00
December 27.....\$ 4,463.26
Improvements & Repairs... ..\$ 885.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving.

Candle Donations

BVM IMO M/M Vincent Doyle (Family)

BVM The Most Abandoned Soul in Purgatory

St. Joseph IMO Gloria Bechtel

St. Joseph IMO Josephine Cavanaugh (Hahner Family)

Sanctuary Parishioners of St. John’s

Guardian Angels Special Intention

IMO Leo & Dorothy Lotz (Ron & Pat Lombel)

Guardian Angels Special Intention (2)



This Week’s Cover Photo

Marcel LeBlanc, Michael Prestileo, Gabe Scheidel, Spencer Prestileo, Hope Scheidel, Rosa Ciarvella, Mallory LeBlanc, Nora Scheidel, and Ella Grabowski star in last year’s Christmas pageant.



2020 Deceased

Joseph Brahler
 Anastasia Bulino
 Paul Burns
 James Champion
 Mary Chiplonia
 Viola DiRenzo
 Catherine Dusel
 Christopher Figueiredo
 Marie Fitzpatrick
 Noel Glunz
 Scott Glunz
 Eugene Gustitis
 Jean Hill
 Linda Houser
 Thomas Hughes
 Joseph LeBlanc
 Robert McNamara
 Mary Muldowney
 Dorothy Parsick
 Erika Stangl Seasock
 Esther Smith
 Thomas Williams
 Joseph Wollyung

Please take a moment to remember those who have been laid to rest during the past year and their surviving families.

Lent 2021

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 17.

Wednesday Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross with Exposition and Benediction will begin Wednesday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church.

Friday Fish Dinners

Our Fish Dinners will be take-out only beginning Friday, February 19.

Lenten Companion Journal

Similar to Advent, we are offering a Lenten Companion Journal from Ascension for your spiritual enrichment. [Please call or email the rectory to reserve your copy.](#)

The Ascension Lenten Companion: A Personal Encounter with the Power of the Gospel which is 224 pages long, featuring daily entries, each offering a word, a scripture passage, a short meditation, prayers, original sacred artwork, and a journal prompt.

Often in our spiritual lives we think we're asking for too much, but in reality we are asking for too little. God wants to give us more, but we aren't asking for it. He wants to help us overcome our weaknesses, help us stop falling into the same old patterns — he wants to give us freedom. This Lent, ask God to give it to you so you can arrive at Easter more healed, fulfilled, and transformed than ever before.

Fr. Mark Toups, an experienced spiritual director, leads readers inward to invite the Lord to heal those areas where they need it most. He follows the same format that more than a hundred thousand people enjoyed in Advent with his popular Rejoice! journals. Readers will receive daily guidance as well as supplemental videos, to help enter more deeply into Lent and remain focused throughout the season.

Pope Francis proclaims Year of St. Joseph

In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special “Year of St Joseph,” beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

Saint Joseph, in fact, “concretely expressed his fatherhood” by making an offering of himself in love “a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home,” writes Pope Francis, quoting his predecessor St Paul VI.

And because of his role at “the crossroads between the Old and New Testament,” St Joseph “has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people”. In him, “Jesus saw the tender love of God,” the one that helps us accept our weakness, because “it is through” and despite “our fears, our frailties, and our weakness” that most divine designs are realized. “Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser,” emphasizes the Pontiff, and it is by encountering God’s mercy especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that we “experience His truth and tenderness,” – because “we know that God’s truth does not condemn us, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us”.

Joseph is also a father in obedience to God: with his ‘fiat’ he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to “do the will of the Father.” Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, he “cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption,” as St John Paul II said, “and is truly a minister of salvation”.

At the same time, Joseph is “an accepting Father,” because he “accepted Mary unconditionally” — an important gesture even today, says Pope Francis, “in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident.” But the Bridegroom of Mary is also the one who, trusting in the Lord, accepts in his life even the events that he does not understand, “setting aside his own ideas” and reconciling himself with his own history.

Joseph’s spiritual path “is not one that explains, but accepts” — which does not mean that he is “resigned.” Instead, he is “courageously and firmly proactive,” because with “Holy Spirit’s gift of fortitude,” and full of hope, he is able “to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments.” In practice, through St. Joseph, it is as if God were to repeat to us: “Do not be afraid!” because “faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad,” and makes us aware that “God can make flowers spring up from stony ground.” Joseph “did not look for shortcuts but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it.” For this reason, “he encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak”.

In his letter, Pope Francis notes how, “Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds [Morning Prayer]” he has “recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary.” This prayer, he says, expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph,” on account of its closing words: “My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power.”

Prayer for the Year of St. Joseph

Holy Saint Joseph, guardian of Jesus Christ, husband of the Blessed Mother and patron of the Catholic Church, we pray to you for guidance this “Year of St. Joseph” proclaimed by Pope Francis.

You have showed us by your loving ways the value of work and the joys of fatherhood. By teaching God’s Son to do the will of His Father you have given us the path to do the same. By your example, you have encouraged us to accept others as they are, without exception.

To you Saint Joseph, our Heavenly Father entrusted his only Son, Jesus Christ, to your tender care and upbringing. In you, our Blessed Mother Mary placed her love and trust. Through your mentoring, Jesus Christ became a man.

We praise you and ask of you to defend us and our loved ones from every evil and guide us with your grace and mercy.

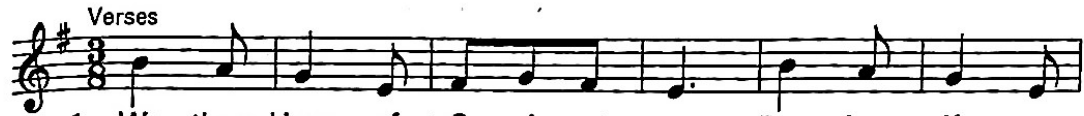
Amen.



ENTRANCE

WE THREE KINGS

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1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; Bear - ing gifts we
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold I bring to
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: In - cense owns a
4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a life of
5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and



1. tra - verse a - far Field and foun - tain, Moor and moun - tain,
2. crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er, Ceas - ing nev - er
3. De - i - ty nigh; Prayer and prais - ing Glad - ly rais - ing,
4. gath - er - ing gloom; Sor - rowing, sigh - ing, Bleed - ing, dy - ing,
5. Sac - ri - fice; "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ial"



1. Fol - low - ing yon - der star. O star of won - der,
2. O - ver us all to reign.
3. Wor - ship him, God on high.
4. Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
5. Sounds through the earth and skies.



star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright; West - ward



lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13



¶ Lord, ev - 'ry na - tion on earth will a - dore you.

OFFERTORY

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THE FIRST NOWELL

Verses

1. The first No - well, the an - gel did say,
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star
 3. And by the light of that same star

1. Was to cer - tain, poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 2. Shin - ing in the east, be - yond them far;
 3. Three wise men came from coun - try far;

1. In fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep,
 2. And to the earth it gave great light,
 3. To seek for a king was their in - tent,

1. On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 2. And so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 3. And to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

RECESSIONAL

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AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD

1. As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing
 2. As with joy - ful steps they sped To that low - ly
 3. As they of - fered gifts most rare At that man - ger

1. star be - hold, As with joy they hailed its light,
 2. man - ger - bed, There to bend the knee be - fore
 3. rude and bare; So may we with ho - ly joy,

1. Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, So, most gra - cious
 2. Him whom heav'n and earth a - dore; So may we with
 3. Pure and free from sin's al - loy, All our cost - liest

1. Lord, may we Ev - er - more be led to thee.
 2. will - ing feet Ev - er seek the mer - cy - seat.
 3. trea - sures bring, Christ! to thee, our heav'n - ly King.