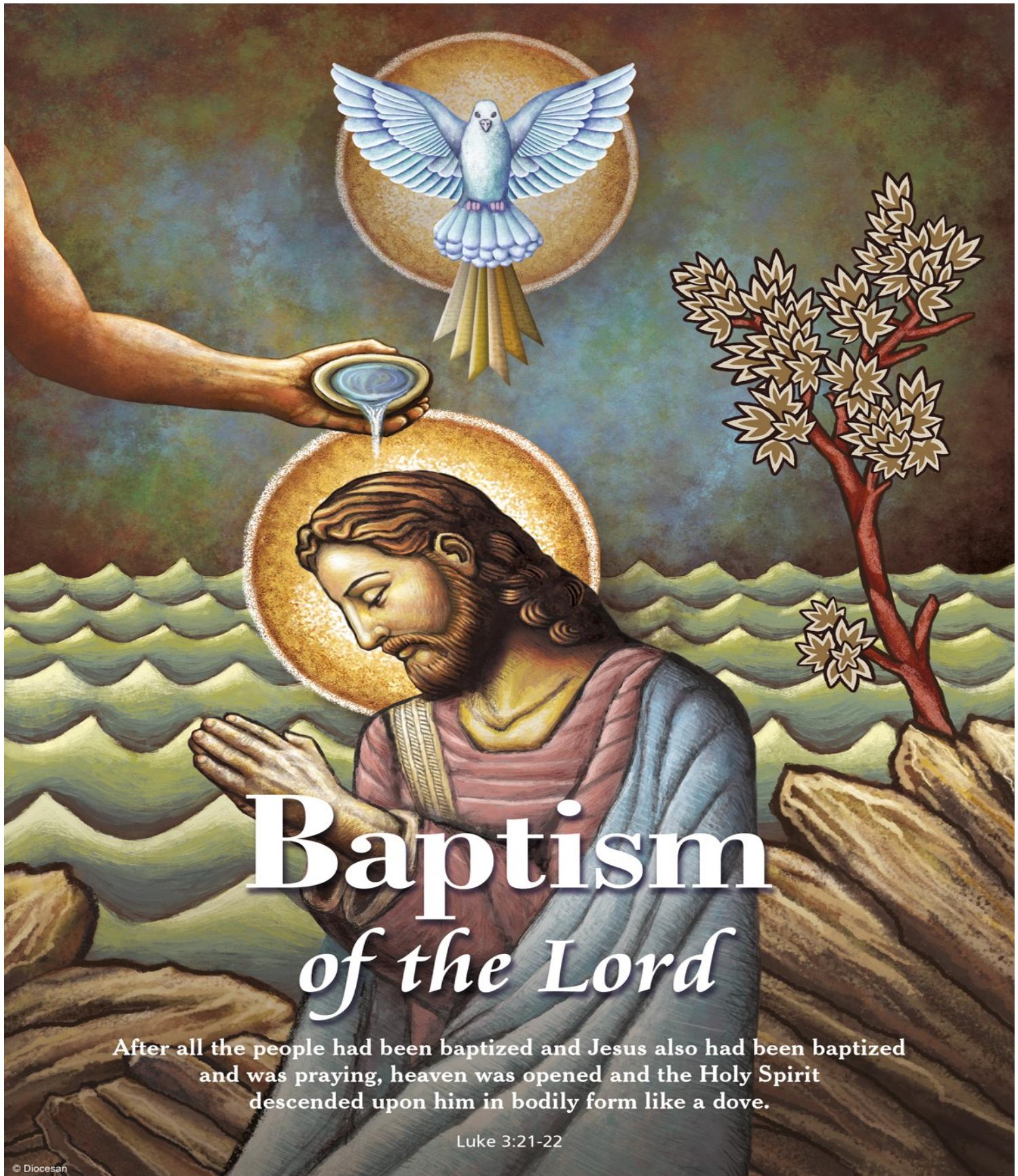


# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

January 11, 2026 • The Baptism of the Lord



**Pastor**..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*  
**Deacon**..... *Robert A. Reiley*  
**Parish Council President** ..... *John Crane*  
**E-mail** ..... [johncrane1@mac.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

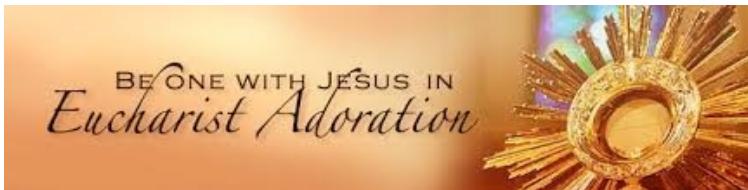
Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services  
P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538  
610-871-5200 ext. 2204  
prusso@allentowndiocese.org

#### Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

1-800-276-1562 [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](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, Jane Baker, Brenda Helt, Beth Ann Clark*

**Deceased:** *Carol Ann Rhoades*

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, January 10

5:00 p.m. Edward J.&Leona A. Buber  
(Paul & Joanna Buber)

### Sunday, January 11

8:15 a.m. Jane Doyne Sunday  
& Robert Doyne  
(Don & Joanne Doyne)

### Sunday, January 11

10:30 a.m. Dominic & Josephine  
Pileggi  
(Janet Daubert)

### Monday, January 12

6:30 p.m. George Hahner Jr.  
(Ed & Bill Hahner)

### Tuesday, January 13

9:00 a.m. Francis & Mary Burns

### Wednesday, January 14

9:00 a.m. Catherine Bortzel

### Thursday, January 15

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

### Friday, January 16

Henry Uckele  
(Pat, Missy, Amy Scheetz)

### Saturday, January 17

5:00 p.m. Harold Bercher  
(Kathleen Williams)

### Sunday, January 18

8:15 a.m. Christine Chiplonia  
(Julian Chiplonia)

### Sunday, January 18

10:30 a.m. Hannah Lisowski  
(Annette & John Lisowski)

## Next Week's Readings

**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
(January 17/18)

**Reading I:** Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

**Reading II:** 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

**Gospel:** John 1:29-34

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Today we close the Christmas season with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This is a good day to begin our look at the seven sacraments with the first sacrament, the gateway to all the others: Baptism.

What is Baptism all about? To appreciate Baptism and what it does, we need to understand something about *original sin*. Our first ancestors did something to disobey God, which caused a rupture in their relationship with God. That's what sin is. It damages our relationship with God. Unfortunately, this means we are all born into a human race that is in a damaged relationship with God. We did nothing to deserve this. We inherited it. Imagine two neighbors who have an argument and stop talking to each other. Will their children be likely to talk to each other? Not likely. The damaged relationship is passed on to the next generation.

Original sin is not just some theory or theological construct. It's been said original sin is the easiest Catholic doctrine to prove. Just look at the news. Why do we do bad things? Why do we suffer? Why is life so hard? Why do innocent people suffer from things like illness, accidents, or natural disasters? Why do we die? Why is it often so hard to be good? Why are we so weak in the face of temptations? Why do we often not think clearly and, instead, let our emotions get the better of us?

These are all signs that something is wrong. We are not in the proper relationship with our Creator: the God who is Goodness, Truth, and Love itself. The Good News is that God loves us and wants to heal our relationship with Him...

In Christ,  
Fr. Bobbin

## Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study

... will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on Feb. 12, 19, 26, March 12, 19, 26, April 9, 23, and May 7, 14. Join us in person in Longinus Hall or at home on Zoom (\*Please email Father for the Zoom link: [kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org](mailto: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.

## 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

### January

11	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class .....	Chapel/L.H.
11	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children's Liturgy .....	L.H.
15	7:00 p.m.	Ladies of the Rosary .....	L.H.
22	7:30 p.m.	Summer Festival Mtg.....	L.H.
25	TBD	CCD Class—All Grades .....	Providence Place

### February

1	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
4	7:00 p.m.	Ladies of the Rosary .....	L.H.
8	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class .....	Chapel/L.H.
8	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children's Liturgy .....	L.H.
12	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.
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—Blessing Blankets .....	L.H.
22	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children's Liturgy .....	L.H.
22	4:00 p.m.	Soup & Scripture.....	L.H.
22	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
26	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.

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

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



## Ladies of the Rosary

Our next meeting will be January 15th at 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall. We will have a guest speaker, Sarah DeArment, who will give a talk on Our Lady of Guadalupe. Please bring your rosary and a friend. If the weather is inclement, please check the St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish Family Facebook page or call the rectory at 570-622-5470 to listen to the cancellation of events by pressing #2.

## Catholic Women's Union - Christmas Cookie Sale – Thank You

The members of St. John's Catholic Women's Union would like to thank everyone who donated cookies or gave monetary donations, and those who supported us by purchasing treats at our *Annual Christmas Cookie Sale* held December 13/14. The Christmas spirit of giving came through with the wonderful generosity of those who donated cookies. The fundraiser was very successful despite the inclement weather! Thank you to the women on the Cookie Committee who gave of their time at this busy season and also anyone who worked at the sale. We are a small group of women, but we are mighty and strong in our efforts to raise money for the church.

St. John's Catholic Women's Union

## 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 Hazelton, 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!

## Weekly Collection

December 20/21 ..... \$5,806.00

December 27/28 ..... \$4,263.00

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

## Candles

### BVM

- IMO Jane Doyne Sunday & Robert Doyne by Don & Joanne Doyne
- IMO Eleanore Forney by Heenan Family

### St. Joseph

- 1.&2. IMO Ramon Grapsy by Joan Grapsy Family

### Sanctuary

- IMO George Hahner Jr. by Hahner Family

### Guardian Angels

- IMO Josephine Cavanaugh by Hahner Family
- IMO Barbara Forney by Heenan Family
- For Erika Hauptly by William Hauptly
- In thanksgiving to my Guardian Angel by Barbara Munster

## Liturgical Min. Schedule

### 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### January 17 — 5:00 p.m. Mass

**Reader:** Patricia O'Neill

**EM:** John O'Neill, Gerry Schwartz

**Server:** Gerry Schwartz

**Cantor:** Dave Derbes

#### January 18 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Jeff Naffin

**EM:** Joseph Palmieri, Mike Ambrose

**Servers:** Sophia Palmieri  
Luke Lieberman

**Cantor:** Vincent Prestileo

#### January 18 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Janet Daubert

**EM:** Frank Murphy, Justina Majestic

**Servers:** Maggie & Rhyan Brennan

**Cantor:** Tina Seiger

**Weekend Sacristan:** Connor Felty

## A Note of Thanks

A big and heartfelt thank you to all the organizations and people who do so much to keep our parish alive and active. The following list is but a sample of what takes place in an organized way at St. John's. However, there are also a number of people who do the quiet, behind the scenes work. To all of them, our sincere thanks! We truly apologize if we missed any group. Let us continue to grow in all ways and keep the spirit of St. John's Parish alive for all to see and hear. May God continue to bless us.

Adult Faith Formation—Altar Servers—Bakers—Building Committee—Cantors—Catholic Women's Union—CCD Program—Cemetery Committee—Children's Liturgy—Choir—Choir Director/Organist—Christmas Bazaar—Christmas Pageant—Decorating Committee—Extraordinary Ministers—Finance Committee—Food Service—Giving Tree Helpers—Hospitality Ministers—Monthly Cleaning Crew — Outreach Program—Parish Council—Parish Staff—Readers—Sunday Pre-School—Yard Sales.

**Christmas Eve Liturgies** Our Christmas Liturgies were so enhanced with the talents of the following people. Thank you for sharing these talents with us ...

**Cantors** Amy Joyce, Jason Prestileo

**Instrumentalists** Bill Gianfagna, Megan Homovitch, Matt Maccarone, Jason Prestileo, Spencer Prestileo, Vincent Prestileo, Everett Walters, Marianne Wollyung

**Choir** Katie Blackwell, David Derbes, Karla Garland, Bob Hahner, Barbara Powers, Jill Prestileo, Butch & Sue Scheetz, Barb Skelding

**Organist** Dave Derbes

**Church Decorating** Our thanks to the following for decorating the church so beautifully for our celebration of Christmas: Father Bobbin, Mark & Ashley Anthony Family, Mary Bound, Sandy Frinzi, Ryan Grabowski, Bob Hahner, Liz Kleckner, Lucilla Kochol, Dan Murphy

**Giving Tree** You outdid yourselves again! The packages under our "Giving Tree" were overwhelming and beautifully wrapped. What a wonderful spirit of giving and caring. You have made Christmas happier for all, especially those receiving presents. Those helped were: Our Communion Calls –14; Catholic Social Agency –123; Cloud Home –4 Jewel Women's Center –46. Thank you to the following who helped deliver the gifts: Bob Hahner, Lucilla Kochol, Gerry Schwartz, Shay Family, Welsh Family

**Church Cleaning Crew** Those volunteering their time and talent in December: Michelle Ambrose, Sandy Frinzi, Phyllis Hess, Ray Petrilla, Lisa Schlitzer, Theresa Skrobak, Joanne Wood.

*Despite our very best efforts, we invariably misspell, misplace or omit the name of an important person ... YOU!  
We apologize if we have done this.*

## Christmas Pageant



Thank you to our parish children and families who participated in this year's Christmas Pageant. We are blessed to be able to keep this St. John's tradition alive!

Front Row, left to right: Daisy Deysher, Perrin Peters, Violet Miller, Greyson Ward, Philomena DeArment, Harlow Peters, Dalton Werner, Daniel Werner, Lily Deysher.

Back Row, left to right: Haley Maccarone, Alexis Werner, Mackenzie Miller, Kyla Maccarone, Mary Grace DeArment, Sloane Kurtek, Olivia Stump

## Summer Festival Pot Luck Stand —YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

As far off as it seems, we are already gathering plans for our Summer Festival! After holiday sales are the perfect place to grab great prizes for our Potluck Stand! It is so important for our Potluck Stand's success to start early, we will need lots of donated prizes! A tote will be placed in the back of church in January, or please tryout our super easy Amazon wish list which will send prizes to us directly! We also are in need of gift cards of any denomination to any of your favorite places, shops and restaurants! They can be placed in the collection baskets in a labeled envelope for Potluck. Any committee member can assist you or please call Shanna Deibert (570)617-4769.

We are in need of some volunteers to help organize and run our Potluck stand, we have guidance and help to assist you, just need some extra hands!

Our **first meeting** for Summer Festival 2026 is **Thursday January 22nd at 7:30pm in Longinus Hall** (weather permitting) We need you!!!! We of course welcome anyone to join our festival planning committee always , however, we also need thoughts, opinions, suggestions and concerns of our parish family! You do not need to be a committee member to help us improve our Summer Festival! We want to hear ideas, and also things you think could be better, please feel free to let us know. Any committee member can relay this information or you can call or text Shanna Deibert.

## Nativity Happenings

Nativity is currently accepting inquiries for enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year. Individual meetings, school tours and shadow days are being scheduled for possible enrollment. Please contact Mrs. Jennifer Daubert in the Development Office with any enrollment questions.

**Open House & Registration** for the 2026-2027 school year at Nativity is scheduled for **Sunday, January 25, 2026 from 1 to 3 pm** at the school. Faculty, staff, administration and coaches will be available to answer questions. Tours will be given and tuition assistance drawings will be available for those who register. Please contact Mrs. Jennifer Daubert @ 570-622-1810 with any questions.

## 2026 National March for Life, Washington, D.C.

Please consider attending the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. on Friday, Jan. 23. To learn more about this annual initiative, visit <https://marchforlife.org/national-march-for-life/>. A bus from St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, departs at 7:30 a.m. You may attend 6:30 a.m. Mass before departure. Cost is \$20 per rider. Please pay in advance to hold your seat. Checks should be made out to Sacred Heart Church and mailed to Andrew Azan 3rd, PO Box 3278, Bethlehem, PA 18017. Also include your name, email, and mobile number with the payment.

## Neighboring Events

**Soup & Haluski Sale** sponsored by St. Patrick Church on **Saturday, January 17th** from noon to 5:30 p.m. and **Sunday, January 18th** from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. or sell out, at St. Patrick Parish Center, 313 Mahantongo St. Choice of Soup: Vegetable Beef, Bean, Potato, Italian Wedding. For more information please call St. Patrick's Rectory at 570-622-1802.

## Toys and Crafts supplies needed!

A ministry for new mothers is coming to our parish in 2026, and we need help making the startup successful! If you have used or new toys for children age 0-5, please donate them to the drop off location at Farlow's Deli down the road. Or, scan the QR code to access the ministry's Amazon Registry featuring needed craft supplies.



## 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."*

## Moving? Relocating? Let us Know!

Have you moved, changed your phone or email address? If so, would you please contact the Rectory Office at 622-5470 ext. 3. Help us update records!

## St. John's Ensemble

Will sing/play on Sunday, January 25th at 10:30 a.m. Mass.

## 2025 Contribution Record

You can request a copy of your 2025 Contribution Record by calling the rectory Monday thru Thursday ... 622-5470 ext. 3.

**Attention — All Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, and Servers**  
Please let us know your plans for **February & March**, so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. Please email or call the rectory by **January 12th**. We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.





January 11, 2026

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## The Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 | Acts 10:34-38 | Mt 3:13-17

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

We hear in today's Gospel that at the moment of Jesus' baptism, "a voice came from the heavens, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'" We can hear these words as a simple proclamation of who Jesus is — the beloved Son of God — but also as a proclamation of who we are called to be: the beloved adopted sons and daughters of God. I sometimes forget that I am also called beloved. I mistakenly think that my value depends on my accomplishments or on my faithfulness, but the truth is that my status as beloved is due to being made in the image of my Creator. If I allow myself to absorb the full meaning of that, it will not only affect how I view myself but also how I relate to others. But Christ didn't come only to show us the truth about who we are. His coming also invites us to see one another as beloved. As Peter reminds us in our second reading, "God shows no partiality." May we strive to see the belovedness that God bestows on us and on all people.

### GO EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Jesus entered fully into our humanity, including entering into communion with each of us through our common baptism, to allow for us to one day share in the perfect exchange of love of the Trinity. Our call is to take on Christ's mission of love here on earth — to speak and act in a way that proclaims the truth of who God is and who he has made us to be. How can we remind our families, our neighbors, and even our enemies of their nature as beloved children of God? And by recognizing our own nature as beloved, we allow God's grace to flow through us. We then trust that God will make himself known as the source of love itself.

### REFLECT

Take time this week to reflect on what it means to be a beloved son or daughter of God. What would it be like to hear, "You are my beloved child, with whom I am well pleased"? Once we root ourselves in this truth we can ask ourselves, "What act of kindness, what consoling word might I offer, what goodness might I do for others around me to help them experience a glimpse of their own belovedness?" Then, do it!