

# 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 18, 2026

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



I HAVE SEEN  
*& testified that He is the*  
SON OF GOD

JOHN 1:34

**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, Jane Baker, Brenda Helt, Beth Ann Clark*

**Deceased:** *Carol Ann Rhoades*



## Mass Intentions

### 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)

### Monday, January 19

6:30 p.m. Brian Eckley  
(Paul & Bernadette Gombola)

### Tuesday, January 20

9:00 a.m. Josephine Cavanaugh  
(Ed & Mary Jane Hahner)

### Wednesday, January 21

9:00 a.m. William & Marie Flynn

### Thursday, January 22

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

### Friday, January 23

9:00 a.m. John Gerace  
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

### Saturday, January 24

5:00 p.m. Mary Ann Holley  
(Deborah & Mark Purcell)

### Sunday, January 25

8:15 a.m. Rose Kauffman  
(Julian & Nora Chiplonia)

### Sunday, January 25

10:30 a.m. Thomas Bartashus  
(Nativity Baseball Team)

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Last week we started looking at the first sacrament, Baptism, by first trying to understand original sin. When we come into this world, we inherit a human nature that is damaged. We are not in the right relationship with our Creator.

But God loves us and wants to get us back. He wants to adopt us into His family and welcome us home into eternal life someday. Jesus makes this possible by His death and resurrection. How? Because Jesus was perfectly obedient to His Father (even though it got Him in trouble with the authorities, leading to His death). Adam and Eve disobeyed God. We disobey God when we sin. Jesus saves us by His perfect obedience. His death and resurrection makes it possible for us to be freed from original sin, forgiven for any and all personal sins, and welcomed into heaven.

But how does this happen? How can our Lord's death and resurrection, which happened two thousand years ago in another part of the world affect me today? The answer is Baptism. When we are baptized, we are each joined to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Original sin is "washed away" (even though we still struggle with its effects) and God the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us. This means we literally have divinity in us. We share in God's own nature, which means we can be His adopted sons and daughters. We become members of His family, the Church. We are destined for eternal life.

Yet, Baptism is no guarantee of heaven. It is a commitment to *live like* a son or daughter of God. Baptism is the beginning of life as a disciple of Jesus, striving to imitate Jesus, *the* Son of God.

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.

## March for Life

Pennsylvanians for Human Life (Schuylkill/Carbon Chapter) is sponsoring a bus trip to the March for Life in Washington, DC on **Friday, January 23, 2026**. The theme is "Life is a Gift." The bus will depart from the St. Clair Walmart at 7:00 am. Those who are unable to participate in the march and rally will have the option to spend the day in prayer at the National Shrine. One stop will be made on the way home for a buffet dinner. The bus will return to St. Clair at approximately 10:00 pm. A donation of \$25 is asked to help defray the cost of the bus. For more information or to register, please call or text Dana at 484-645-5613.

## Next Week's Readings

**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
(January 24/25)

**Reading I:** Isaiah 8:23-9:3

**Reading II:** 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

**Gospel:** Matthew 4:12-23

## Upcoming Events

### January

22	7:30 p.m.	Summer Festival Mtg.....	L.H.
25	12:30 p.m.	Music Ministry Luncheon .....	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.
24	after 5 p.m.	Mass Wine & Cheese Social .....	L.H.
26	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.

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

## Parish Retreat

Our second annual **Parish Retreat**, "Watering the Seeds," will be held on Saturday, **March 21**, in Longinus Hall, beginning at 9:00am and concluding with the 5:00pm Mass. Consider joining us for a day of talks, prayer, reflection, and fellowship. Lunch will be included. It is necessary to register in advance. **RSVP by March 10** by calling or emailing the rectory. We ask a \$10 registration fee to help cover the costs of lunch and supplies. Please see Fr. Bobbin with any questions.

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

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 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** is **Thursday January 22nd at 7:30pm in Longinus Hall** (weather permitting) We of course welcome anyone to join our festival planning committee, 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. Any committee member can relay this information or you can call or text Shanna Deibert.

Our **Summer Festival dates** are **July 17 & 18** please mark your calendars! We are so excited to kick off planning such a huge event for our church and hopefully make it our best year yet! Thank you again for your support!

**Summer Festival Committee** ... Michelle Ambrose, Ed Brahler, Sandy Clauser, Michelle Darhun, Shanna Deibert, Chrissy Eagan, Sandy Frinzi, Rik Jochems, Maria Mason, Joe Palmieri, Ray Petrilla, Jason Prestileo, Donna Pugh, Rick Smith.



## Weekly Collection

Solemnity of Mary .....	\$1,976.00
January 4/5 .....	\$5,625.09
January 11/12 .....	\$4,859.71
Dues.....	\$2,073.00

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&2. IMO Mary Ann Holley  
by Deborah & Mark Purcell

### St. Joseph

1. IMO Raymond Frank  
by John & Susan Minnichbach  
2. IMO Howard Minnichbach  
by John & Susan Minnichbach

### Sanctuary

IMO Pat Mason  
by Maria Mason

### Guardian Angels

1,2,3. IMO Pat Mason  
by Maria Mason  
4. IMO M/M Vincent Doyle Family  
by Family

## Liturgical Min. Schedule

### 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### January 24 —5:00 p.m. Mass

**Reader:** John Crane

**EM:** Sharon Snyder, Ray Petrilla

**Server:** Ray Petrilla

**Cantor:** Lucilla Kochol

#### January 25 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Bob Bechtel

**EM:** Jeff Naffin, Heidi Gorski

**Servers:** Callie & Cole Felty

**Cantor:** Dave Derbes

#### January 25 —10:30 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Michelle Ambrose

**EM:** Justina Majestic, Mike Ambrose

**Servers:** Kyle & Preston McCormick

**Cantor:** Marianne Wollyung

**Weekend Sacristan:** RJ Post

**Donated by:**

Dave & Alice Bechtel  
 Robert Bechtel  
 Ann Blankenhorn & Family  
 Kathy Brahler & Family  
 Mary Beth Brahler  
 Dolores Brophy  
 Paul & JoAnna Buber

Joe & An Burns  
 Frank & Mindy Chambers  
 Julian & Nora Chiplonia  
 Sandy Clauser  
 Catherine Cooper  
 Kent & Tammy Cooper  
 John & Carol Crane  
 Louis Cross  
 Joan & Dave Deiter  
 The Donovan's  
 Mike & Kim Downey  
 Family  
 Don & Joanne Doyne  
 Janet Daubert  
 Tom & Cindy Elison  
 Vince & Darla Fabiani  
 Fetterolf Family  
 Mary Ann Filiac & Paula, Mike, Emily Lorence  
 Sandy & Joe Frinzi  
 Anne Gaburick

Anthony J. Gaburick  
 Karla Garland  
 Joyce Gerace & Family  
 Stan & Heidi Gorski & Sons  
 Ted Gurecki Jr.  
 Children, Dorothy, Butch, Lois, Carolyn, Bob  
 William Hauptly  
 Theresa Hossler  
 Diane Hudock & Children  
 Mike & Tiffany Hummel  
 John Jefferson  
 Sue & Rik Jochems  
 Kalovcak Family  
 Tara DeStefano  
 Grace M. King  
 Daniel & Donna Kluchinsky  
 Lucilla Kochol  
 John & Kathy Kostick  
 Steve & Jan Kurtek  
 Pat Kutch  
 Lecher Family  
 Joanne & Ed Leffler  
 Eric & Jen Lieberman  
 John B. Lieberman III  
 Ron & Pat Lombel  
 Frances Bartholomew Lorenz

**In Memory of:**

Gloria Bechtel  
 Ruth Rescorla  
 Ann & Joel Hoepstine, Marian, Dolores, Jack Hirsch, Edith & Herman Blankenhorn  
 Joseph Brahler  
 Joseph & Elizabeth Brahler  
 Walter Kocur & Family, Glenn Stutzman  
 Edward J. Buber, Leona A. Buber, Edward & Mary Buber, Robert Holdyk & Family  
 John & Bertha Kralick, John & Joan Sarnosky, Gene & Tess Scheuren,  
 Deceased Members of Tarris Family  
 James & Emma Burns, John & Anne Simanavage  
 Chambers & Crater Families  
 Deceased of Chiplonia & Mooney Families  
 Carl & Barbara Weiss  
 Navitsky & Karpovich Families  
 Metmas & Mike Cooper, M/M John Letcavage  
 John & Jean Crane, Helen & Richard Bilinski  
 Mary Ellen Cross  
 Theresa & Jim Brennan, Mildred & Ed Deiter  
 LaVerne & Paul Yackel  
 Our Grandparents, Downey & Horvath Family  
 Leinheiser & Doyle Family  
 Donald & Nancy Doyne, Frank & Josephine Brozana  
 Wellington Daubert  
 Smith & Elison Families  
 Frank & Shirley Reed, Joe & Joanna Fabiani  
 Fetterolf & Faiola Families  
 Paul Filiac  
 Happy Birthday Jesus  
 Anthony S. Gaburick, William & Irene Williams, Joan Williams,  
 Greta & David Derbes, Patricia Derbes Ebling  
 Anthony S. Gaburick  
 Charles & Barbara Sheppo  
 John Gerace  
 Switzler & Gorski Families  
 Phyllis Gurecki  
 Carl & Ada Hahner  
 Alfred & Jeanette Hauptly  
 Fred Hossler Jr. & Sr.  
 Jerry Hudock  
 Nelle Hummel  
 Mary Jefferson  
 Al & Kay Lyman, Dick & Char Jochems  
 Kalovcak & Artz Families  
 Larry Kelly  
 Francis J. King  
 Elmer & Dorothy Huntzinger, Michael & Anna Warhola  
 Anthony & Joanne Kochol, Teresa & Joseph Fanelli  
 Connors & Kostick Families  
 Garland & Kurtek Families  
 Kutch, Boyer, Genovese, Drobek Families  
 Bill Lecher  
 Leffler & Bonan Families  
 Annette Lieberman  
 Annette Lieberman  
 Leo & Dorothy Lotz  
 Bartholomew & Lorenz Families

Donation of \$10.00 or more  
 for a Memorial Poinsettia.



**Donated by:**

Rosemary & Bob Lynn  
Christine Maccarone

Neil & Frances Manus  
Pat & Phil Markovich  
Maria Mason  
Jack & Aggie Messner  
Frances Brahler Mickey  
Patricia & Charles Miller  
Barbara Munster  
Babe Murphy  
Pauly Family  
M/M Joseph Orzechowski  
M/M Rick Oswald & Sona  
Harriet Pfeffer  
Joe & Judy Piel  
Mary Porter  
Bob & Irene Post & Family  
Jim & Donna Pugh  
Linda Ralston  
Charles & Cathy Reber  
Reene Reddington  
Butch & Sue Scheetz  
Pat, Missy, Amy Scheetz  
Mary Ann & Bill Schweikert  
Bill & Diane Schweikert

John & Diane Sabados  
Tina, Ryan, Emma Seiger  
Natalie Setlock & Family  
David & Mary Ann Shoopack  
Dolores Smith Family  
Martin & Linda Smith

Peggy Smith  
Dorothy & Joe Stangl & Michael Felker  
Steffan Grandchildren  
Larry Steficek  
Rick & Michelle Stone  
Peggy Stoppi  
Francis Tamburelli  
Bruno M. Tassone  
Mike & Elizabeth Tyson  
Chris Tray  
Lu8is R. & Virginia C. Visot  
Rebecca Weiss  
Barb Wollyung Family  
Wollyung Family  
Marianne, Chris & Rachel Wollyung  
Bob & Kay Wollyung

**In Memory of:**

Yanushefsky & Lynn Families  
Bertha & John Kralick, Leona & Edward Buber, Rocco & Frances Maccarone,  
Michael Maccarone, Maurice & Helen Mirabella  
Esther Fernandez, Manus Family  
Family Members  
Pat Mason Sr.  
Conway & Messner Families  
Joseph & Elizabeth Brahler, Mark Mickey, Nancy Brahler Newton  
Quinn & Miller Families  
Barb & Charles Sheppo  
Paul Murphy Sr., Tim Murphy  
Minchhoff Family  
M/M Peter Samkavitz, M/M Edward Orzechowski  
M/M Herman & Helen DiSarro  
Otto L. Pfeffer  
William & Antoinette Piel, John & Ruth Ebling  
Robert Porter Jr., Porter & Becker Families  
R.J. Post Jr.  
Ryan, Pugh & Fedock Families  
Francis & Dorothy Legutko, Patricia & Freeman Ralston  
M/M John Clark, M/M Morgan Reber, Helen Heimbaugh  
Joseph & Rita Reddington  
Scheetz & Hummel Families  
Jack Scheetz, M/M Henry Uckele  
William & Elizabeth Ketner, William & Catherine Schweikert  
M/M Anthony LaScala, James Schweikert Sr., Joseph Schweikert,  
Margaret Connors, M/M Francis LaScala, Maria Delaney Norris, Angeline Hummel  
John & Bernice Sabados  
Dorothy & William Elison, Thelma & William Miller  
Maccarone & Setlock Families  
Shoopack & Sullivan Families  
Ed Smith  
Catherine & James Smith Family, Florence Lescavage Family,  
Mary & Joseph Lescavage  
M/M Thomas Burns, Ann, Bill, Paul  
Erika Stangl Seasock  
John & Juleanne Steffan  
Joseph & Joan Steficek  
Stone & Hopkins Families, Lubinsky & Tobin Families  
Drew Walcott, Bill Stoppi, Brown Family  
Elizabeth & Charles Tamburelli  
Bruno & Mary Tassone  
Dullard & Tyson Families  
Tray & Cunningham Families  
Visot & Calder Families  
M/M Richard H. Weiss  
Joe Wollyung, John Wollyung  
Joseph & Mary Wollyung, Joseph E. Rosenberger  
John Wollyung, Jeanne & Philip Marzullo  
Mattea & Wollyung Families

**Catholic Relief Services Collection**

Next week our parish will take up this collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ's love to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholicrelief](http://www.usccb.org/catholicrelief).



January 18, 2026

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 49:3, 5-6 | 1 Cor 1:1-3 | Jn 1:29-34

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

I have struggled when doing work that feels unseen. Has anyone noticed that the floors were mopped today? Do my students care about the feedback I provide on their writing? Does my supervisor notice the extra time I put into my work? In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist announcing Jesus as "the Lamb of God." John has been preparing for the coming of Christ and now that Jesus has arrived, his role is to step aside and encourage his followers to move their gaze toward Christ, the Messiah. Although we know John's name and his faithfulness, it would have been easy for him to assume that his work would have been forgotten — overshadowed by the signs and wonders of Christ himself. But in his humility, this is exactly what John seemingly wanted. His life and words were focused solely on proclaiming the coming of Christ. While I may have been tempted to say, "Please don't forget about what I did," John responded faithfully to God's call to preach and prepare for Christ's coming, without worry of receiving credit for his actions. And in our lives, too, what matters is not whether our work is appreciated or noticed, but whether our actions are in response to God's call to holiness.

## WITNESS

Consider the countless men and women who have gone before us who remained faithful to God's call. Their lives bear witness to their trust in God, in big and in small ways, sometimes visible, but often hidden. What simple acts of faithfulness are you being called to persevere in today? Recommit to practicing faithfulness in the big — as well as mundane — aspects of daily living.

**GO** **EVANGELIZE**

**PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS,  
ACCOMPANIMENT**

Despite not knowing whether his work would extend for years or decades, John the Baptist continued to lead others toward repentance. He did not know the full scope of his role in the plan of salvation, but he trusted in the voice of God. Like John, we are called to persevere in faithfulness to the work that God has called us to do, right where we are. When we persevere in our faith, living according to the teachings of Christ and our vocation, we give witness to the truth that the God who called us is worthy of our trust.

## 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.

## Assumption BVM School—Open House

Assumption BVM School will be hosting an Open House at our school on **Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026 from 11:30 a.m.** to 1:30 p.m. Visit us to see some of the students' work, student Science Fair projects, browse at our Book Fair and meet the teachers and students. We look forward to showing off our wonderful school.

## 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.