

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

January 26, 2025

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Today this scripture
passage is fulfilled
in your hearing.”

Luke 4:21



Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 25

5:00 p.m. Virginia & Barney Comfort
& Karen Comfort
(Chris & Jared Black
& Brian Comfort)

Sunday, January 26

8:15 a.m. Mary Ann Holley
(Deborah & Mark Purcell)

Sunday, January 26

10:30 a.m. Bill Lecher Jr.
(Mom & Dad)

Monday, January 27

6:30 p.m. Robert Porter Jr.
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

Tuesday, January 28

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

Wednesday, January 29

9:00 a.m. Josephine Cavanaugh
(Rick Cavanaugh)

Thursday, January 30

9:00 a.m. Francis & Verna Sauers

Friday, January 31

9:00 a.m. Gerald Hudock
(Russell & Susan
Zimmerman)

Saturday, February 1

5:00 p.m. Charles Bowers
(Kathleen Williams)

Sunday, February 2

8:15 a.m. Rita Lotz
(John & Joyce Gerace)

Sunday, February 2

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

Next Week's Readings

Presentation of the Lord
(February 1/2)

Reading I: Malachi 3:1-4

Reading II: Hebrews 2:14-16

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

For the past few months we have been taking a tour of the prophetic books of the Old Testament. We have one left: the Book of Daniel.

Daniel is considered one of the four major prophets with Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, although Daniel is considerably shorter. The story is set in the time when the Babylonians established rule over Judah in the years before the destruction of Jerusalem. Daniel and his companions are taken to Babylon as hostages, where they are challenged to be faithful to God in a pagan country.

The book has apocalyptic qualities, such as the role of dreams and the prediction of future events when good will triumph over evil. In chapter 2, Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream about a statue that represents a succession of pagan empires (Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome). In the end, a stone taken from a mountain without a hand being put to it (suggesting divine action) destroys the stature.

The book also contains the familiar stories of Daniel and his companions surviving the fiery furnace after refusing to participate in pagan worship (chapter 3), Daniel surviving the lion's den (chapter 6), and a vision of the coming of the Son of Man (7:13-14), which Jesus Himself will refer to (see Mark 14:62).

The theme that runs through the Book of Daniel is the clash between true worship and false worship and the challenge of being faithful to God when living in a pagan environment.

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.



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 • Tony Kochol • Tom Jefferson • Doug Broughton
• Angie (Pfeil) Hamm • Mary Zambo

For our Deceased

Leona Buber

Upcoming Events

January

26 9:00 a.m. CCD Community Mtg L.H.

February

2 10:30 a.m. Sunday School..... L.H.

2 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class..... L.H.

9 9:00 a.m. CCD Parent Mtg L.H.

13 6:30 p.m. Scripture Study L.H.

15 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Retreat..... Nativity BVM

16 10:30 a.m. Sunday School..... L.H.

19 7:00 p.m. Catholic Women’s Union L.H.

20 6:30 p.m. Scripture Study L.H.

23 9:00 a.m. CCD Community Mtg L.H.

23 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class..... L.H.

27 6:30 p.m. Scripture Study 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

January 18/19 \$3,418.06

Improv. & Repairs \$1,454.00

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 John J. Carroll Sr.

by Family

2. IMO M/M Vincent Doyle

by Family

St. Joseph

1&2. IMO Mary Ann Holley

by Deborah & Mark Purcell

Sanctuary

IMO Mary Ann Holley

by Deborah & Mark Purcell

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Josephine Cavanaugh

by Hahner Family

2,3,4. IMO Mary Ann Holley

by Deborah & Mark Purcell

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered **Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on February 13, 20, 27, March 13, 20, 27, April 10, 24, May 8 and 15.** Join us in person in Longinus Hall or at home on Zoom (*Please email Father for the 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.

Live Streaming Mass

A suggestion was made at parish council to resume live streaming Sunday Mass for the benefit of our homebound parishioners, to help them be more connected with our parish family. If anyone has the knowledge and ability to do this and would be willing to take this on as a project, we would be grateful to hear from you.

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.

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!

Liturgical Min.Schedule

Presentation of the Lord

February 1 — 5 p.m. Mass

Reader: John Crane

Euch.Min.: Gerry Schwartz

Raymond Petrilla

Server: RJ Post

Cantor: Dave Derbes

February 2 — 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Bob Wollyung

Euch.Min.: Debbie Herb

Bob Bechtel

Servers: Michael & Spencer

Prestileo

Cantor: Vincent Prestileo

February 2 — 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Jennifer Daubert

Euch.Min.: Sharon Snyder

Jeff Naffin

Servers: Jackson Daubert

Luke Schane

Cantor: Dave Derbes



Flowers at the Altar

The flowers at the altar this weekend are donated

In Memory of
Mary Ann Holley
by
Deborah & Mark Purcell

Welcome to St. John's

This week we welcome **Mark & Carol McCormick** and their children, **Kyle & Preston**. Kyle is a sophomore at Nativity BVM High School and Preston is in 8th grade at Assumption BVM School. Warmly welcome the McCormick Family into our parish family with a big dose of St. John's hospitality.

Bulletin Boosters

IMO Carl Bartholomew
IMO Harold Bartholomew
IMO James J. Bartholomew
IMO Robert Berger
IMO Rita Bartholomew Foley
John & Mildred Fredericks
Fr. Don Henry
IMO M/M Herbert Henry
IMO Joanne Hepler
IMO Clare & Linda Houser
IMO Charles Lorenz
IMO Erika Stangl Seasock
IMO Theresa Bartholomew Sencak
IMO Janet Bartholomew Whitaker
IMO Margaret Zelinsky
Living & Deceased of St. John's
CYO Program

*Thank you for supporting our
bulletin this month!*



Catholic Schools Week Prayer ...

January 26th

God of all creation, we know you care for all of us and desire only what is good for us. Please guide those who make policy decisions and laws that affect all of us, that these decisions will work for the good of the most vulnerable in our society. Help us to have the courage to speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Nativity BVM High School

Open House and Registration. Registration for the 2025-2026 school year at Nativity is scheduled for **Sunday, January 26** from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the school. Faculty, staff, administration and coaches will be available to answer questions. Tours of the school will be given and tuition assistance drawings will be available that afternoon for those who register. Please contact Jennifer Daubert @ 570-622-8110 with any questions.

Head Girls Softball Coach. Head coaching experience preferred. Interested candidates should send resume, certifications and all clearances by January 25th to: Nativity BVM High School, Attn. Mrs. Lynn Sabol, Principal, One Lawton's Hill, Pottsville, Pa. 17901 or email lsabol@nativitybvm.net.

Assumption BVM School

Catholic Schools Week begins **Sunday, January 26th**. We offer an educational opportunity that combines the faith and teachings of the Catholic Church with academic excellence. We take our role very seriously to raise up both saints and scholars. We will open our books to enroll new families for the 2025-2026 school year on January 26th beginning at 1 p.m. at our Open House which will run from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Fuel Raffle sponsored by Assumption BVM School ... \$500 worth of fuel for the winter months (oil, gas, coal, etc.). Please note that you do not have to live in the Schuylkill County area to participate in this raffle. This fundraiser will directly benefit the school and its students. Tickets are \$10.00 each (small games of chance license #9762). Drawing held on February 20th. Chances available from any Assumption BVM family or the school (phone 570-622-0106 or email: eschoepflin@assumptionbvmschool.net.) Thank you for your help in making our Fuel Raffle a success!

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning is making a Joyful Noise! We are participating in the **MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE**, an online lip dubbing competition to raise funds for our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Allentown, and SJC needs your help! Visit www.weloveourcatholicsschools.com to see SJC celebrate the spirit and joy of Catholic education. Please dance, sing, and **VOTE by February 23rd**! All voting proceeds benefit our school. Thanks for making St. Joseph Center for Special Learning a winner!

Neighboring Events

Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by St. Patrick Church in Pottsville on Sunday, February 2nd from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm (or sell out) at 313 Mahantongo St. Spaghetti platter includes pasta with our homemade sauce, two meatballs, a salad, and bread. Cost is \$11 per platter. Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase.

Church Cleaning Crew

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, Phyllis Hess, Debbie Kubilus, Ray Petrilla, Theresa Skrobak, Joanne Wood.*

If you would like to volunteer, join us on the second Saturday every month.

Family Matters

Youth. It might be hard for you to imagine ... but, the teens of our parish today are the future of our church. We pray this week that the Lord guide them during their years of change and growth.

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!

2024 Contribution Record

You can request a copy of your 2024 Contribution Record by calling the rectory Monday thru Thursday ... 622-5470 ext 3.



St. John's Choir

St. John's Choir is welcoming new and current members to the choir to sing Saturday 5:00 p.m. Masses and special Masses. This is a very rewarding experience for anyone seeking to become more involved in our Parish Family. No prior singing experience or reading of music is required. Contact St. John's Rectory 570-622-5470 for more information.

St. John's Ensemble

The purpose of this ministry is to serve the parish at Mass, singing liturgical hymns, using contemporary instruments like the guitar, keyboard, drums or other instruments, and using contemporary music arrangements.

We invite **ANYONE** in the parish wanting to share his or her voice and musical gifts whether you are a beginner or more experienced. Arrangements are not complicated and songs are familiar. You do not need to know how to read music to join us. We will teach anyone who has a willing heart. Our goal is to play/sing once a month at one of the weekend Masses. This is a great way to participate in parish life and have fun with only a small commitment of your time. Why not give it a try and give back to your parish family by sharing the gifts God has given to you? If interested please call the rectory 570-622-5470.



Cemetery Burial Plots & Regulations

Burial Plots

Because tragedy can strike at anytime ... when clear thinking and action can be sacrificed to the moment's need ... we want to remind our parishioners and friends that St. John the Baptist Cemetery offers its services whenever that need occurs.

Grave Lots \$ 600.00 each which includes Perpetual Care

Regulations / Guidelines

The following are guidelines established by St. John's Cemetery Committee ...

- * Shrubs are **not** permitted on cemetery grounds
- * Flowers or plants may be planted in the ground, but must remain within 12 inches of base of memorial. **NO Perennials** are permitted.
- * All artificial decorations must be removed within 14 days after specified holidays which are: Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, July 4, Christmas, etc.
- * **Placing of artificial flowers in the ground is forbidden — doing this creates many problems during cutting season.**
- * All rubbish is to be taken with you or placed in available receptacles located at top of cemetery
- * Please refrain from placing any tombstone in or on the grounds for one year after a death to allow the ground to settle back to its natural state.



For more information please call St. John's Rectory 570-622-5470 ext. 3





January 26, 2025

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 | 1 Cor 12:12-30 | Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Late 19th-century English author G.K. Chesterton famously wrote, “Catholic doctrine and discipline may be walls, but they are the walls of a playground.” We can think of God’s commandments serving as rules governing primary school recess: by providing us with a structure in which we can explore, play, stumble, and get up again, they allow us to discover who God created us to be without wandering far from his love. The mosaic law that served the Jews in today’s first reading had given them the necessary parameters to live and grow within the covenantal relationship they had with God. Their unfaithfulness had led them astray, but upon their return from exile in Babylon they wept when hearing God’s word for the first time in generations. They knew the power of God’s commandments to keep them safe and secure in his love, and recognized all they had lost by wandering. Their sorrow was turned to joy in the knowledge that God rejoiced in their return to him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Just as Ezra “opened the scroll so that all the people might see it” in today’s first reading, Jesus also “unrolled the scroll” and then rolled it back up so that all might see *him*. Ezra held the law in his hands, Jesus is the fulfillment of the law in himself. Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel, “Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing,” were an infusion of new life breathed into a new creation by God who is outside of time. All things, all mistakes, all failures brought about in our human pride and disobedience were being refashioned into new brick and mortar to build God’s kingdom in and through Christ. Jesus, with his commandment to love one another as he loves us, gives us structure and a true freedom to discover who God created us to be, while helping us not wander far from this playground the Lord has given us. Knowing what holds us together, and relying on it to guide us, enables us to help build the kingdom even more for the glory of God and the good of others.

LEARN

Research a Catholic teaching you do not fully understand for example, why Catholics attend Mass on Sundays. Ask God for the light to see how this teaching is life-giving instead of life-limiting. If you have the opportunity, share what you’ve learned with someone.

Pastor..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*
Deacon..... *Robert A. Reiley*
Parish Council President..... *Darren DeArment*
E-mail..... *dbd269@gmail.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

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

S X W R E G I O N P O
 R S Y N A G O G U E V
 A T E A C H I N G S O
 B N J S S W O G I L R
 K Q E C U I Y S A S E
 N A R R A T I V E A T
 S A N O I N T E D B U
 D V Z L W E O G U B R
 Q F S L X S Q K H A N
 J Z E N Y S F L P T E
 Z H E A R I N G L H D

- Narrative
- Witness
- Teachings
- Returned
- Region
- Synagogue
- Sabbath
- Scroll
- Anointed
- Hearing



SUNDAYKIDZ