

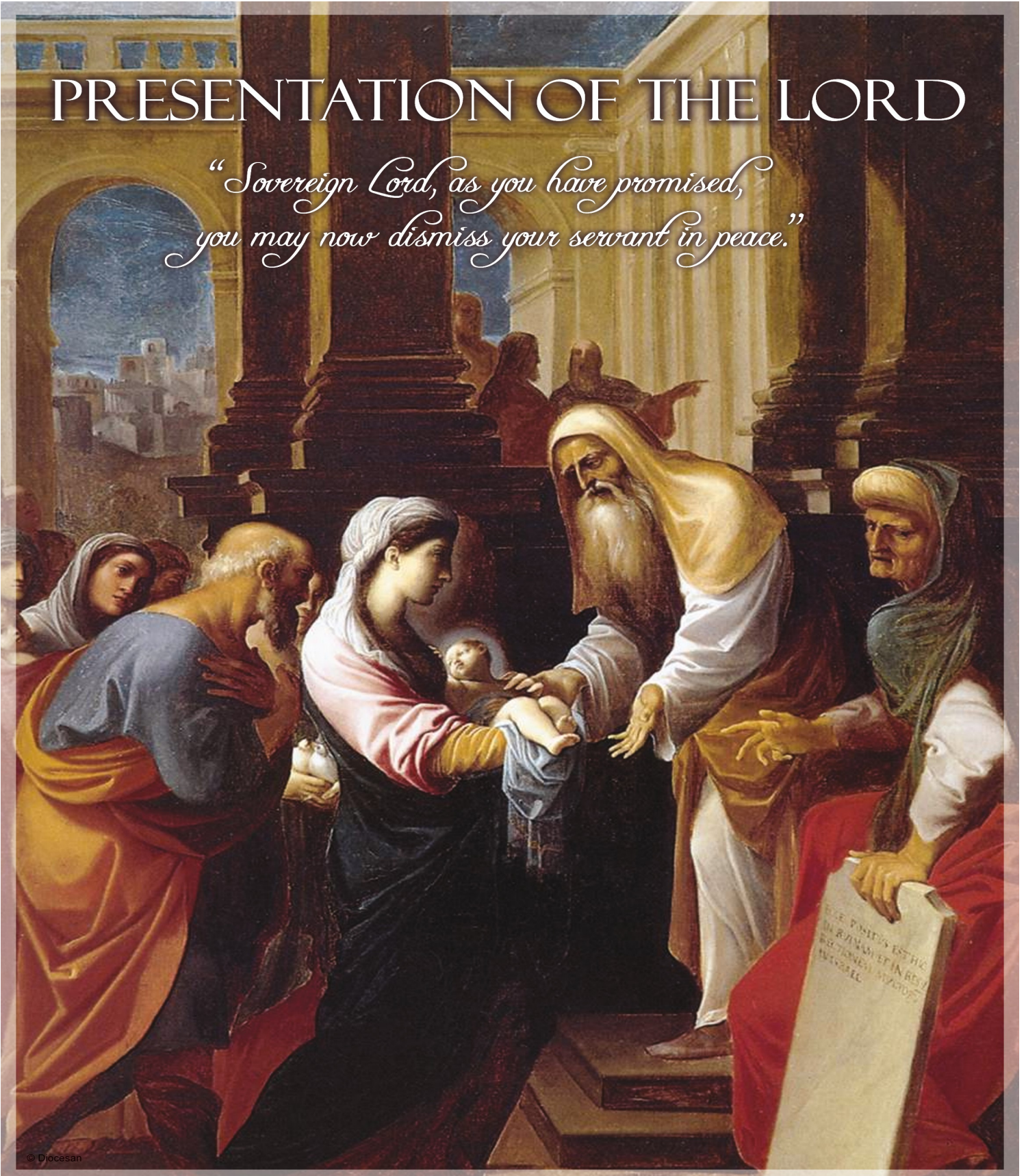
# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

February 2, 2025

## PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

*“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.”*



## Mass Intentions

### 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)

### Monday, February 3

6:30 p.m. Charel Porubiansky  
(David, Dominic, Cooper  
Chiplonia)

### Tuesday, February 4

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

### Wednesday, February 5

9:00 a.m. Dominic Maccarone  
(Christine Maccarone  
& Mary Anne Fasick)

### Thursday, February 6

9:00 a.m. Mary Kratzel  
(Evelyn McGuire)

### Friday, February 7

9:00 a.m. Judy Green  
(M/M David Wartella)

### Saturday, February 8

5:00 p.m. Joe Brahler, 5th Anniv.  
(Kathy Brahler & Family)

### Sunday, February 9

8:15 a.m. Mary Louise Hornberger  
& Dot Ryan  
(Crystal Pugh)

### Sunday, February 9

10:30 a.m. Leonard Yenilaitus  
(Mary Zambo)

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

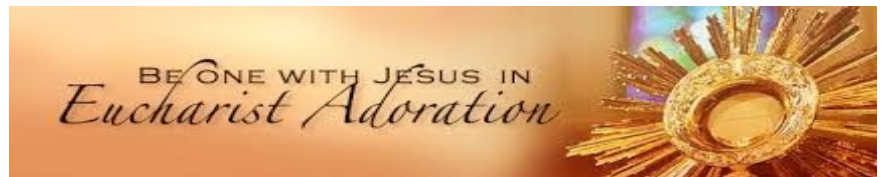
In our tour of the Bible, we now come to a new collection of books. To refresh your memory, the Old Testament has four parts, three of which we've looked at: the Pentateuch, the Historical Books, the Prophets, and the Wisdom Literature.

Let's look at the Wisdom books. In the Bible, these books come before the Prophets. But when I teach the Bible, I always save the Wisdom books for last because they are very different from anything we have seen so far. Unlike the Pentateuch, Historical Books, and Prophets, the Wisdom Literature does not focus much on history. Nor does it contain many commandments, laws, or rules. The Wisdom books are much more reflective. They ponder the "gray areas" of life.

Where did the Wisdom books come from? Israel's wisdom tradition was passed down through families. Wisdom is associated with age and experience. Elders passed down wisdom through the generations. Israel's wisdom tradition was also passed down by the king. One of the king's responsibilities was to collect and pass down wisdom. Much of the Wisdom Literature is associated with King Solomon as the author, or at least the collector.

There are seven Wisdom books: Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, Sirach, Wisdom, the Song of Songs, and the book of Psalms. We will look at each of these books in this order because they show a development of Israel's wisdom tradition from earlier times up to around the time of Christ.

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.

## Next Week's Readings

### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

(February 8/9)

**Reading I:** Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8

**Reading II:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

**Gospel:** Luke 5:1-11

## 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*

### Upcoming Events

#### February

2	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.
2	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
3	6:30 p.m.	Adult Faith Formation Mtg .....	F.R.
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 25/26 .....\$4,784.03  
Catholic Relief Services ..\$1,061.00

### Candles

#### BVM

1. IMO James Cavanaugh Sr. by Tray Family
2. IMO Lorrie Cunningham by Tray Family

#### St. Joseph

1. IMO Robert Becker Family by Mary Porter
2. Deceased of Becker Family by Mary Porter

#### Sanctuary

IMO James Cunningham Jr. by Tray Family

#### Guardian Angels

1. IMO Magdalena Fleischhutt by Mary Porter
2. IMO David Zanis by Steve & Chris Zanis
3. IMO Ronald Pillo by Steve & Chris Zanis
4. IMO Edward & Gladys Kuperavage by Steve & Chris Zanis

### Liturgical Min. Schedule

#### 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### February 8 — 5 p.m. Mass

**Reader:** Bill Gianfagna

**Euch.Min.:** Michael Ambrose

**Servers:** Jackson Daubert

Ryan Grabowski

**Cantor:** Lucilla Kochol

#### February 9 — 8:15 a.m.

**Reader:** Janet Daubert

**Euch.Min.:** Heidi Gorski

**Servers:** Lukas & Finley McNamara

**Cantor:** Dave Derbes

#### February 9 — 10:30 a.m.

**Reader:** Michelle Heenan

**Euch.Min.:** Debbie Herb

**Servers:** Gabriel Scheidel

Connor Felty

**Cantor:** Marianne Wollyung

**Weekend Sacristan:** Connor Felty

## 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 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.



### Feast of the Presentation of the Lord ... February 2nd

Forty days after the birth of a child, the people of Israel presented the newborn to the Temple. The gospels say that the parents of Jesus obeyed this law. Forty days after our celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Church remembers His Presentation in the Temple.

### 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.

### 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.



## Baptized in Christ

We celebrated last weekend the glorious baptism day of **Cole James Downey**, son of Richard and Gina (Toomey) Downey. He became a new creation in Christ in the waters of Holy Baptism and is now joined to us by the gifts of faith, hope and charity. We warmly welcome Cole into our parish family.

## Family Matters

**Young Adults.** We pray for the young adults of our parish who are often overlooked. May they increase in their faith and may the Holy Spirit continue to provide guidance in life's journey.

## 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 Catholic Women's Union

Women of all ages are invited to join the Catholic Women's Union. Learn how you can become involved with the Catholic Women's Union by joining us on **Wednesday, February 19th, at 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall.** Meet the members and learn how you can be part of this unique organization. We share ideas and light refreshments are served. We work to raise money for our parish and have fun doing it. We also share in fellowship by sharing in a Spring and Fall Auction, Christmas Party, and the Covered Dish Dinner. Your ideas, friendship and membership are welcomed. Join us!



## Nativity BVM High School

**Head Girls Softball Coach.** Head coaching experience preferred. Interested candidates should send resume, certifications and all clearances to: Nativity BVM High School, Attn. Mrs. Lynn Sabol, Principal, One Lawton's Hill, Pottsville, Pa. 17901 or email [Isabol@nativitybvm.net](mailto:Isabol@nativitybvm.net).

## Assumption BVM School

**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](mailto: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](http://www.weloveourcatholicsschools.com) to see SJC celebrate the spirit and joy of Catholic education. Please dance, sing, and **VOTE by February 23<sup>rd</sup>**! 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.

**Soup Sale** sponsored by Holy Family Parish of Minersville. Options include chili, vegetable beef, potato, bean and ham, stuffed pepper, and macaroni & cheese. Single serving \$5; quarts \$10. Orders due by February 4th; Pickup is February 8th. Please call Rosalie at 570-544-2172 or Jean at 570-640-0140 to place your order.

**M & J Big Band** sponsored by Holy Cross & St. Clare of Assisi Parishes. M&J Band is an 18-piece big band to provide musical listeners with the great big band and jazz hits. Join us on Saturday, February 22nd at Holy Cross Parish Center, 99 Lombard St. in New Philadelphia from 7 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person; \$25 per couple OR reserve an entire table at a reduced price of \$10 per person. Tables of 6, 8, 10 are available. Snacks and drinks available for purchase. To reserve your seat, please call 570-429-0370.



## Saint Blaise

Saint Blaise was the bishop of Sebastea and a doctor. The first known record of the saint's life comes from the medical writings of Aëtius Amidenus, where he is recorded as helping with patients suffering from objects stuck in their throat. Many of the miraculous aspects of St. Blaise's life are written of 400 years after his martyrdom in the "Acts of St. Blaise."

Saint Blaise is believed to begin as a healer then, eventually, became a "physician of souls." He then retired to a cave, where he remained in prayer. People often turned to Saint Blaise for healing miracles.

In 316, the governor of Cappadocia and of Lesser Armenia, Agricola, arrested then-bishop Blaise for being a Christian. On their way to the jail, a woman set her only son, who was choking to death on a fish bone, at his feet. Blaise cured the child, and though Agricola was amazed, he could not get Blaise to renounce his faith. Therefore, Agricola beat Blaise with a stick and tore at his flesh with iron combs before beheading him.

In another tale, Blaise was being led to the prison in Sebastea, and on the way came across a poor old woman whose pig had been stolen by a wolf. Blaise commanded the wolf return the pig, which it did -alive and uninjured - to the amazement of all.

When he reached Sebastea, the woman came to him and brought two fine wax candles in an attempt to dispel the gloom of his darkened cell.

In the Middle Ages, Blaise became quite popular and his legend as a beast tamer spread. He was then referred to as the "saint of the wild beast."

Many German churches are dedicated to Saint Blaise, sometimes called Saint Blasius.

In Great Britain, the village of St. Blazey got its name from Saint Blaise, and a church dedicated to the saint can be found in Decon hamlet of Haccombe, near Newton Abbot.

There is a Saint Blaise's Well in Kent, and the water is believed to have medicinal properties. A Blessing of the Throats ceremony is held every February 3 at Saint Etheldreda's Church in London and Balve, Germany.

A Catholic middle school was named after Saint Blaise in Bradford, West Yorkshire. The name was decided upon when the link between Bradford and the woolen industry was connected to the way St. Blaise was martyred: with woolcomb.

Saint Blaise is often depicted holding two crossed candles in his hand, or in a cave with wild animals. He is also often shown with steel combs. The similarity of the steel combs and the wool combs made a large contribution to Saint Blaise's leadership as the patron saint of wool combers and the wool trade.

**Feastday:** February 3

**Patron:** of throat illnesses, animals, wool combers, and wool trading

**Death:** 316

### Prayer to St. Blaise

O glorious Saint Blaise, who by thy martyrdom has left to the Church a precious witness to the faith, obtain for us the grace to preserve within ourselves this divine gift, and to defend, without human respect, both by word and example, the truth of that same faith, which is so wickedly attacked and slandered in these our times. Thou who didst miraculously cure a little child when it was at the point of death by reason of an affliction of the throat, grant us thy powerful protection in like misfortunes; and, above all, obtain for us the grace of Christian mortification together with a faithful observance of the precepts of the Church, which may keep us from offending Almighty God. Amen.

February 2, 2025

## Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Mal 3:1-4 | Heb 2:14-18 | Lk 2:22-40

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

Mary and Joseph bring their 40-day-old infant Jesus to the temple in order to fulfill the Mosaic law. There, they are met by Simeon and Anna, the faithful prophets who have spent their lives waiting for the coming of the King of Glory. These many years of waiting were like the “refiner’s fire” which the prophet Malachi describes in the first reading. Refined like gold by prayer and fasting, Simeon and Anna are prepared to meet their Lord. And in this moment, the Old and New Testaments meet and the fulfillment of the Old is foreseen. Imagine the splendor of the moment when they finally laid their eyes on this king of light and glory – the culmination of a lifetime of hope, prayer, and preparation. Overcome with peace and joy at seeing his Lord, Simeon declares, “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace,” for he had seen the glory of God.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

Have you ever marveled at the beauty of a shiny, gold ring? Gold has long been regarded as one of earth’s greatest treasures, yet the gold we admire today doesn’t emerge in its pure, radiant form. To produce such beauty, gold must first undergo a process of intense refinement. A crude material is exposed to extreme heat to be melted and purified – until something of profound value emerges. Like gold, we, too, must be forged in fire to be made pure and holy. This is one way we can understand the prophet Malachi’s words. The “fires” we experience in our lives are not without purpose – God is purifying us so that one day we may live with him in eternity. He isn’t afraid of our “crude material”; rather, he gazes upon us with such intense love that our own beauty is revealed. As we undergo personal purification, let us stand in holy confidence like Simeon and Anna, witnessing to the truth that it is through the refiner’s fire that we are brought to glory.

### **REFLECT**

We can become discouraged, feeling that our prayers are unanswered or that a life devoted to Christ is too difficult. When these moments arise, consider the prophets Simeon and Anna, who gave their lives in quiet devotion, trusting in God’s promises. Pray Simeon’s canticle, meditating on the glorious gift we have been given in our salvation, and the promise that even in the darkest of days a bright and shining light awaits us.



**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

