

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

February 16, 2025

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

And raising his eyes toward
his disciples he said:
“Blessed are you who are poor,
for the kingdom of God is yours.”

Luke 6:20



Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 15

5:00 p.m. George S. & Sadie Post
(Bob & Irene Post)

Sunday, February 16

8:15 a.m. Scottie Glunz
(Karen Lenard)

Sunday, February 16

10:30 a.m. John Crane Sr.
(John Crane & Family)

Monday, February 17

6:30 p.m. Dominic Maccarone
(Christine Maccarone &
Mary Ann Fasick)

Tuesday, February 18

9:00 a.m. Rita Lotz
(Tony & Lucilla Kochol)

Wednesday, February 19

9:00 a.m. Mary Hahner
(Ed Hahner)

Thursday, February 20

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

Friday, February 21

9:00 a.m. Xenia Pristas
(Kristen Cesari & Family)

Saturday, February 22

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

Sunday, February 23

8:15 a.m. Timothy Haley
(Jean Marie Thomas)

Sunday, February 23

10:30 a.m. John B. Lieberman IV
(Lieberman Family)

Next Week's Readings

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(February 22/23)

Reading I: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

We're looking at the seven Wisdom books of the Old Testament. Last week we started with the Book of Proverbs, which represents a very early and "traditional" understanding of wisdom: concrete, practical, based on lived experience. Today we move on to a completely different book: Job.

The Book of Job challenges the traditional understanding of wisdom, particularly with regard to the problem of the suffering of the innocent. It was only late in Old Testament history that God's people began to understand the reality of an afterlife, heaven and hell, where the good would be rewarded and the evil punished and everything would be set right. So, throughout the Old Testament, even to the time of Jesus, people tended to believe that God rewarded and punished in this present life. The good would be rewarded with long life, good health, children, and material prosperity. The other side of the coin was that, if someone died young, suffered afflictions, or was unable to have children, God must be punishing that person for something he (or a parent) was guilty of.

We all know from experience that this is obviously not the case. Innocent people suffer. Guilty people sometimes get away with their wrongdoing. This is the issue that the Book of Job addresses. Job is an imaginative story (possibly based on a real person) in which a perfectly righteous, innocent man loses everything. God agrees to test Job when Satan makes the accusation that the only reason Job is good is because God gives him so many blessings. The book is a very long, somewhat tedious series of monologues by Job and three "friends" who try to explain why Job is suffering. The three "friends" basically hold to the traditional understanding of reward and punishment and accuse Job of holding to some unconfessed sin to explain why he is suffering. Job maintains his innocence.

Not surprisingly, the Book of Job does not solve the question of why God permits the innocent to suffer. It is partly a divine mystery that calls for humility and acceptance. The best response comes later: the suffering and death of Jesus. God Himself takes on the evil of the world to conquer it.

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.



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 • Karla Garland*

For our Deceased

Mary Zambo

Upcoming Events

February

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.

March

2	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.
2	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
8	6:00 p.m.	Family Jeopardy Night	L.H.
9	9:00 a.m.	CCD Parent Mtg	L.H.
10	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council.....	L.H.
12	8:00 p.m.	St. John’s Beneficial Society.....	F.R.
13	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
16	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.
16	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.

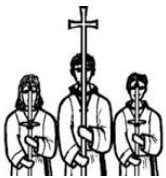
L.H. = Longinus Hall F.R. = Rectory Fellowship Room R.B. = Russell Building
Tuesdays 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men’s Group F.R.

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered **Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on February 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). 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.

Parish Retreat

Renewed in Faith, our first **parish retreat**, will be held on **Saturday, March 29**, 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 19** by calling the rectory. We ask a \$10 registration fee to help cover the costs of lunch and supplies. Please see Fr. Bobbin with any questions.



New Altar Servers

We invite any boys and girls currently finishing fourth grade or older to consider becoming altar servers. Parents, please speak with Father Bobbin or call the rectory. We will arrange a mutually convenient time to meet for training.

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.

Weekly Collection

February 8/9.....\$3,637.06
Improv. & Repairs.....\$1,191.00

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 Scottie Glunz by Karen Lenard
2. IMO Mary Hahner by Hahner Family

St. Joseph

- 1&2. IMO Pat Mason Sr. by Maria Mason

Sanctuary

- Intentions of Homebound Parishioners by Messer Family

Guardian Angels

1. Special Intention
2. IMO Marjorie Angelo by Frank Angelo
- 3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy by Joan Grapsy & Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 22 — 5 p.m. Mass

Reader: Vincent Balulis

Euch.Min.: Jeff Naffin

Servers: Lauren & Megan Goodman

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

February 23 — 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Heidi Gorski

Euch.Min.: Debbie Herb

Servers: Luke Schane
Gabe Scheidel

Cantor: Tina Seiger

February 23 — 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Bob Bechtel

Euch.Min.: Janet Daubert

Server: R.J. Post

Cantor: Ensemble

Weekend Sacristan: R.J. Post

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
 MO 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!*

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.

Family Matters

Elderly—helping out

Please give your time to the elderly, for they have given us theirs. May the Lord give us the eyes to see their needs and the strength to help them. May we use our ears to hear them and our time to listen. We ask the Lord to bless them and keep them worry free as they peacefully enjoy their retirement.

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."

Family Jeopardy Night-Bible/Catholic Trivia

Let's have some family fun on Saturday, March 8th from 6pm to 7:30pm in Longinus Hall. Menu includes baked potatoes, chili, hot dogs, snacks, and drinks. Sign-ups in back of church or use QR code. Must have a Google email to use. Childcare is available.



Jeopardy

Pot Luck Stand Summer Festival

We are still in search of someone or group of people to help organize and run our Potluck Stand at the Summer Festival. We will offer assistance and guidance. Unfortunately, if we do not get any volunteers we will not be able to have the Potluck Stand. It is such a popular stand loved by many; it is also one of the most profitable stands at the festival. Please consider possibly volunteering! For more information please call the rectory 622-5470 ext. 3 or Shanna Deibert 570-617-4769.



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 lsabol@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.) Thank you for your help in making our Fuel Raffle a success!

Save the Date! Assumption BVM's Home & School Assoc. will host its **Annual Cash & Gift Card Bingo** on **Sunday, April 6, 2025**, at St. Ambrose's Parish Center. Doors open at 11:30 AM, and bingo begins at 1:00 PM. Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon with exciting games, great prizes, and delicious food. More details to come—we hope to see you there!

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!

Diocesan Events

Men Alive in Christ Half Day Lenten Reflection, "What Good is Hope." Catholic men, we invite you to renew and strengthen your hope and trust in Christ Jesus at our annual half day Lenten Reflection on **Saturday, March 1st** from 8am-12pm at St. Catherine of Siena parish in Reading, PA. Embrace your mission live virtuous masculinity, and deepen your relationship with God through a powerful morning of men's fellowship, Sacraments, and talks from our Bishop and two other speakers. We are excited to equip you with the tools you need to go forth as hopeful Catholic men, imitating Christ, and invigorated in the fire of the Holy Spirit! Contact Mike Akins at makins46@hotmail.com or text 610-914-0382

Women's Lent Retreat. "A Time of Forgiveness & Healing." The Bishop's Commission for Women invites all women of the Diocese to a contemplative day of community, prayer, and reflection. Join us on **Saturday, March 8th** from 8:30am to 3:30pm at St. Mary's in Kutztown: 14833 Kutztown Road in Kutztown. Auxiliary Bishop Chylinski of Philadelphia will give the keynote address, with an additional talk by Denise (De) Yarrison from <https://youaremadenew.com/> and Hope's Garden. Bishop Schlert and Auxiliary Bishop Chylinski will celebrate Mass. The fee is \$35. Continental Breakfast and Lunch are included. Contact RTULLOCH@allentowndioocese.org.

Neighboring Events

M & J Big Band sponsored by Holy Cross & St. Clare of Assisi Parishes. M&J Band is an 18-piece big band who provides 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.

Spaghetti Dinner hosted by St. Patrick's Parish on **Sunday, March 2nd** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or sell out) at the Parish Center, 313 Mahantongo St. in Pottsville. Platter includes pasta with our homemade sauce, two meatballs, salad, bread. Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase. Eat-In or Take-Out. Price is \$11.00 per platter.

Spaghetti Supper hosted by Holy Family Parish of Minersville in honor of Sister Mary Jane and Sister Catherine! Proceeds from the **Sunday, March 2nd** dinner will be used to send the Sisters on a pilgrimage to France. Cost is \$13 for adults and \$7 for children and includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad bar, roll, beverage, and dessert. Preorders only. Please order your meal by February 24th by calling Jean at 570-640-0140 or Rosalie at 570-544-2172.

Schuylkill Choral Society March Concert under the direction of Dr. Mark P. Thomas accompanied by Kimberly Breiner Stoudt on **Sunday, March 9th** at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church, Mahantongo St. in Pottsville. Mass in G, Franz Schubert & 7 Last Words of Christ, Theodore Dubois ... Two classics from the early and late Romantic period with the Anthracite Chamber Orchestra. Adults: \$15; Students K12 & Under \$10 can be obtained from any chorus member or by calling 570-628-3388.

Pilgrimage. St. Ambrose Church in Schuylkill Haven will be making a pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes while also visiting the great cities of Lisbon and Barcelona. Date are ... October 15 to October 25. The all-inclusive price is \$5,395. For complete details including the full itinerary, please visit stambrosehaven.com or call Barbara at 570-385-1031. An informational meeting will take place on Monday, February 24th at 6 p.m. If interested please email stambroseoffice@comcast.net or call Barbara at 570-385-1031. This is not a commitment but will help plan for refreshments at the meeting.

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!



February 16, 2025

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 17:5-8 | 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20 | Lk 6:17, 20-26

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

“It is so good to be poor, to have nothing, to await all from God!” These sentiments of the humble French religious sister St. Jeanne Jugan sum up the spirit of Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel. Jesus praises poverty, hunger, sadness, and rejection, but certainly not as ends in themselves; God does not take pleasure in our suffering! He does use our suffering, however, to awaken us to our need for him. Poverty can spur us to pursue *heavenly* goods, and thus Jesus assures the poor, “the kingdom of God is yours.” Hunger can cause us to seek God who alone can truly satiate our desires, and thus Jesus says to the hungry, “you will be satisfied.” Those who weep will laugh, Jesus says – so long as their sadness inspires them to seek happiness in the service of God and the joys of eternal life. For all of us, no matter our means or our circumstances, today’s Gospel is a reminder to allow everything – including our difficulties, disappointments, and unfulfilled desires – to turn our hearts to God and rely on his loving care.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

It can be difficult to practice the spirit of the Beatitudes (as the “blessings” in today’s Gospel are called) in the moment. Suffering, distress, and confusion easily divert our attention from God as we attempt to “make the problem go away.” Sometimes we are even tempted to give up, to turn aside from God, and to seek consolation in other things. This is exactly the opposite of what he wants for us, and for good reason! God knows that it is best for us to always rely on him. This is why, as today’s first reading explains, the man who trusts in the Lord is secure – “like a tree planted beside the waters ... it fears not the heat when it comes” – and fruitful – “its leaves stay green.” For those who trust in the Lord, help comes from the all-powerful, infinitely loving Creator of the universe. When we entrust ourselves to him, we have nothing to fear.

ACCOMPANY

Is there someone in your life who is struggling with fear, loneliness, anxiety, or sadness? Take time to pray with that person and, together, try to discover God’s invitation to a deeper reliance on him in the midst of the distress. These moments of suffering are never occasions for us to get “preachy.” Instead, accompany your friend and be a reminder of the hope we have in God.

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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

- Twelve
- Ground
- Region
- Blessed
- Rejoice
- Joy
- Reward
- Heaven
- Ancestors
- Prophets



SUNDAYKIDZ