

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Do to others as
you would have them
do to you.”

Luke 6:31



Mass Intentions

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)

Monday, February 24

6:30 p.m. St. John's Parish Family

Tuesday, February 25

9:00 a.m. Josephine Toomey
(Sons, Dan, Jim, John)

Wednesday, February 26

9:00 a.m. Bill Lecher Jr.
(Bonnie Knapp)

Thursday, February 27

9:00 a.m. John & Lorraine Tasso

Friday, February 28

9:00 a.m. Robert Kline
(Mary & John Bound)

Saturday, March 1

5:00 p.m. Robert Carestia
(Joan Bowers)

Sunday, March 2

8:15 a.m. Donald & Nancy Doyne
(Don & Joanne Doyne)

Sunday, March 2

10:30 a.m. Bob Orłowski
(Joe Orłowski)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

In our long journey through the Bible, we are on the last part of the Old Testament, the Wisdom Literature. Today we come to the Book of Ecclesiastes, also called by its Hebrew name, Qoheleth. Both of these words mean something like "assembly." The name Ecclesiastes is a form of the Greek word that means "church." Here "assembly" is probably being used to describe this book as a collection of knowledge or wisdom or experience.

Having said that, Ecclesiastes is one of the most unusual books of the Bible. The author ponders the meaning of life. He investigates the pursuit of pleasure, wisdom, and labor, only to conclude that everything is "vanity." Time is monotonous and cyclical. All things are fleeting. The book seems to conclude: "What's the point of anything?" Ecclesiastes hardly seems to look at life from a perspective of faith. What are we supposed to learn from this book? Why is it in the Bible?

For one thing, Ecclesiastes gives us a much-needed wake up call, especially in our day and age when many people tend to be materialistic and less inclined toward faith. The book reminds us that nothing in this world can fully satisfy us. That is because we were not made for this world. Our lives in this world are a journey to something greater. At the same time, Ecclesiastes is not all negative. It does affirm the basic goodness of life. It calls us to an appreciation for, a responsible use of, and even enjoyment of God's creation.

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.



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.

Next Week's Readings

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(March 1/2)

Reading I: Sirach 27:4-7

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Gospel: Luke 6:39-45

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

For our Deceased

Mary Zambo, Martha Golden, Angie (Pfeil) Hamm

Upcoming Events

February

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

1	5:45 p.m.	Lenten Dinner Volunteer Mtg.....	L.H.
2	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.
2	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
5	9:00 a.m.	Ash Wednesday—Mass	Church
5	5:15 p.m.	Ash Wednesday—Mass	Church
7	4-7 p.m.	Lenten Fish Dinner	R.B.
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	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church
12	8:00 p.m.	St. John's Beneficial Society.....	F.R.
13	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
14	4-7 p.m.	Lenten Fish Dinner	R.B.
16	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.
16	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
19	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church
19	7:30 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg.....	L.H.
20	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
21	4-7 p.m.	Lenten Fish Dinner	R.B.
26	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church
27	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
28	4-7 p.m.	Lenten Fish Dinner	R.B.
29	9:00 a.m.	Parish Retreat	L.H. & Church
30	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.

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

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

SCRIPTURE STUDY

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

Weekly Collection

February 15/16 \$3,027.03

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

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Donald & Nancy Doyne by Don & Joanne Doyne
2. IMO Frank & Rose Boris by Richard Naffin

St. Joseph

1. IMO Babe Heller by Barb Wollyung & Family
2. Special Intention by Stan & Heidi Gorski

Sanctuary

IMO Baby Robbie Doyle by Family

Guardian Angels

1. IMO George L. Klassen Jr. By Family
2. IMO Rita Mae Switzler by Stan & Heidi Gorski & Family
3. IMO Mary & Julian Chiplonia by Julian & Nora Chiplonia
4. IMO Donald Lubinsky by Rick & Michelle Stone

Liturgical Min. Schedule

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

March 1 — 5 p.m. Mass

Reader: Patty O'Neill

Euch.Min.: Raymond Petrilla
Michael Ambrose

Server: Ryan Grabowski

Cantor: Dave Derbes

March 2— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Jennifer Daubert

Euch.Min.: Heidi Gorski, Jeff Naffin
Servers: Michael, Spencer Prestileo
Jackson Daubert

Cantor: Vincent Prestileo

March 2 — 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Lucilla Kochol

Euch.Min.: Janet Daubert
John O'Neill

Servers: Maggie & Rhyann Brennan

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

Weekend Sacristan:

Ryan Grabowski

Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshipping 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

Be Reconciled. As we approach the sacrament of reconciliation during this Lenten time we reflect on how God willingly forgives and pardons us. In our families, we ask for the grace to forgive and to ask for forgiveness. We especially ask for this grace with family members where there have been long term unresolved issues.

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."

2024 Contribution Record

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



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.



Nativity BVM High School

Gift Card Bingo sponsored by Nativity Green & Gold Booster Club on **Sunday, March 9th** at Nativity BVM High School. Doors open 11 a.m.; Bingo begins 1 p.m. Refreshments available for purchase. For more information please call the school at 570-622-8110.

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

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!

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 RTUL-LOCH@allentowndiocese.org.



LENTEN DINNERS

Our Lenten Dinners will begin March 7th
from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Russell Building.

Dinners will be dine-in or take-out.

More details to follow



Volunteers Needed ... If you can help on Fridays during Lent, please let us know. Students (12 and over) always welcome (excellent idea if you need service hours). New faces always welcomeperhaps you are new to the parish and are looking for a way to get involved ... call the rectory 570-622-5470 ext. 3.

Organizational Meeting for Volunteers ...will take place on Saturday, March 1st in Longinus Hall after 5 p.m. Mass.

Homemade Desserts Needed ... *"St. John's is famous for their delicious homemade desserts."* Each year we look forward to these delicious desserts. If you would like to make Jello, Pudding, Pies, Cakes, Cup Cakes, or anything you can dream up, we will greatly appreciate it. Please make your favorite dessert and drop it off at the Russell Building on Thursdays or Fridays during Lent.

Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Committee News for February 2025

Happy New Year to everyone. And we hope you've all been finding ways to stay healthy during these winter months.

Just some updates from the Parish DMI Committee. Since we last communicated with you over the October 26/27 weekend, we've made a lot of progress with creating our Parish Priority Plan.

A quick review. In that bulletin announcement, we mentioned that we've created 3 general Priorities for our Parish to focus on. Faith Formation, Enriching our Sunday Mass Experience, Outreach and Evangelization (with an emphasis on young families)

To date, we've had 2 separate Focus group meetings. And we would like to say **Thank You** to the following parishioners who participated our Focus Group meetings. Their ideas and input have been of great importance and assistance. For our Enriching our Sunday Mass Experience Focus Group; Bob Burns, Deacon Bo Reiley, Chuck Kustan, Aubrey Peters, Jason Prestileo, Dave Derbes, Heidi Gorski And in our Outreach & Evangelization Focus group; Mike Scheidel, Jennifer Daubert, Ken Cooper, Marianne Wollyung, Bob Hahner, Mary Fetterolf .

We had our final Focus Group meeting on February 19th.

The Focus Groups have helped us to identify the Goals we want to accomplish for the Listed Priorities. The ultimate goal of this year long planning, is to enrich all of our parishioners' spiritual journeys at St. John the Baptist Church. The completed action plan should be done by no later than April 1st. We expect to have the plan shared in the bulletin, our website and Facebook, sometime soon after Easter. Have a good day, and Blessed Lenten season.

Neighboring Events

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning Fundraiser. Join us on Saturday, March 1, at 7 p.m. with the Reading Royals at Santander Arena in Reading. \$5 from each ticket purchased through our link benefits SJC! Bring your family and friends, and if you'd like to sit with other SJC families, select seats in or around **Section 107**. Purchase tickets at fevo-enterprise.com/event/Stjoseph2025. We hope to see you there!

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 you 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.

February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 | 1 Cor 15:45-49 | Lk 6:27-38

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

“Love your enemies” may be one of the most oft-quoted verses of Scripture. We tend to think of it as a moral principle to guide us in our dealings with people who rub us the wrong way. But do we ever consider what it tells us about God? After all, Jesus, who is God himself, speaks it. God tells us to love our enemies because *God* loves his “enemies” – that is, those who freely choose to oppose his plan of life and love. On the cross, Jesus forgave and prayed for the people who sought to kill him *while they were crucifying him*. But his mercy was not confined to that time and place alone; he died for each of us who, whenever we sin, refuse to love him. If we get this into our heads and our hearts – “God loves and forgives *me*” – we can begin to rest in his embrace like children confident in the unconditional love of their father’s heart.

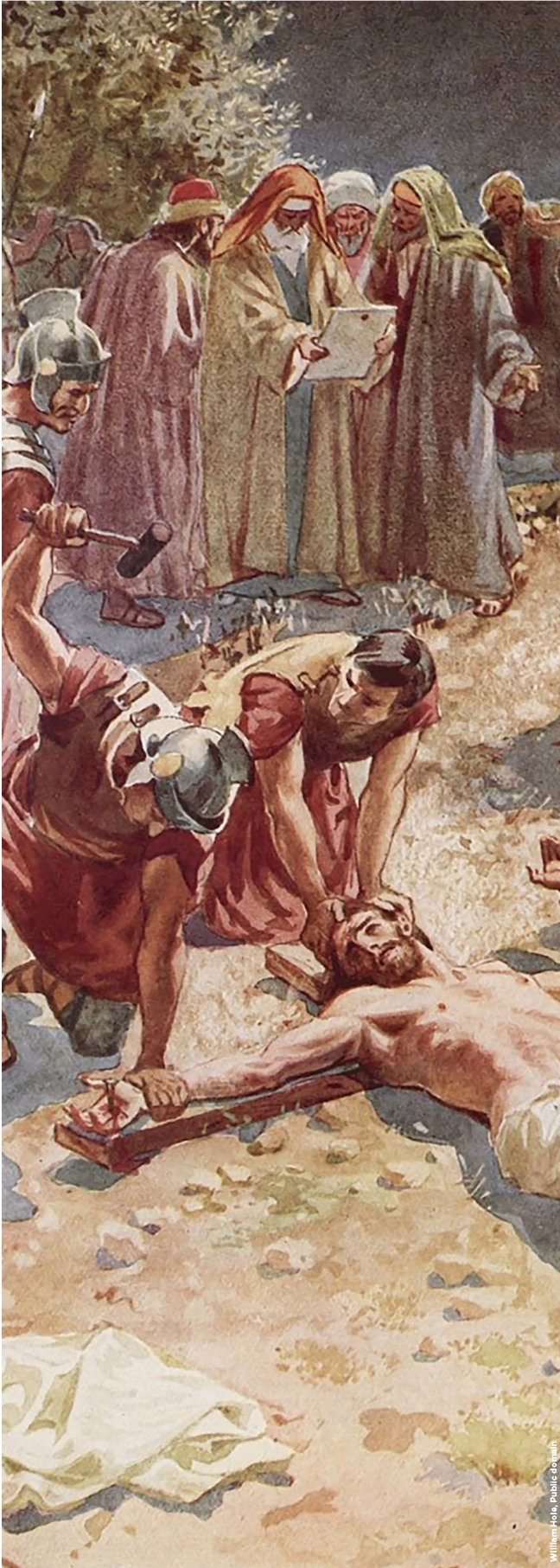
GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

If, as a child, you learned a musical instrument for which regular recitals were the norm, you know how many hours of practice are required for a few short minutes of performance. You know, too, that if you are well prepared, a musical composition which appeared impossible months before comes easily and naturally on the day of the recital. For most of us, loving our enemies as Jesus commands us to do appears far beyond our reach – impossible, in fact. But this kind of heroic love is nevertheless God’s call for us, and he will never deny us the grace we need to respond to his call. What’s required on our part is a willingness to practice. If we practice loving in small things even when it’s difficult – listening patiently to someone whose conversation bores us, for example, or taking on an extra chore without seeking recognition or thanks – we will be prepared for the day when God asks us to make an even greater act of love for his sake.

PRACTICE

This week, go out of your way to find opportunities to love even when it’s difficult. Do your best to be conscious of your intentions, even in the moment, by asking God for the grace to love generously and by offering your act of love to him.



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

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

- Love
- Enemies
- Bless
- Pray
- Offer
- Reward
- Children
- Kind
- Merciful
- Father



SUNDAYKIDZ