

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

March 2, 2025

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“No disciple is superior
to the teacher; but when
fully trained, every disciple
will be like his teacher.”

Luke 6:40



Mass Intentions

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)

Monday, March 3

6:30 p.m. David Keating
(Lisa Schlitzer & Family)

Tuesday, March 4

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

Ash Wednesday, March 5

9:00 a.m. Dominic & Josephine
Pileggi
(Janet Daubert)

5:15 p.m. Timothy Haley
(Marie Balulis)

Thursday, March 6

9:00 a.m. Josephine Welsh
(M/M David Wartella)

Friday, March 7

9:00 a.m. Daniel Keating
(Lisa Schlitzer & Family)

Saturday, March 8

5:00 p.m. Joe Brahler
(Kathy Brahler)

Sunday, March 9

8:15 a.m. Fred & Marie Eagan
(John & Chris Eagan)

Sunday, March 9

10:30 a.m. George L. Post
Edward & Peggy Post
(Bob & Irene Post)

Next Week's Readings

First Sunday of Lent (March 8/9)

Reading I: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Reading II: Romans 10:8-13

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

We have been looking at the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament. Next we come to the Book of Sirach. At 51 chapters, it is one of the longest books in the Bible, and the last of the Wisdom books in the order that these books appear in the Bible. Sirach is considered something of a summary of, or reflection on, the Old Testament from the perspective of wisdom. Sirach is a highly literary work that has similarities to the Book of Proverbs.

It is often very difficult for scholars to determine when a book of the Bible was written. But Sirach can be dated very precisely. It was written around 200 BC, give or take a few years. It was then translated from Hebrew to Greek by the author's grandson after 132 BC. This is very late in Old Testament history, approaching the time of Christ. This was a time when the Greeks were in charge of much of the Ancient Near East. The Greeks intentionally spread their culture and religion to all the lands they ruled. This created a situation in which many of the Jewish people were becoming assimilated to Greek culture, sometimes to the point of forsaking their own faith. The message of Sirach is that wisdom is found in God's Law, the Torah, which is at the heart of God's covenant with His people.

Sirach reflects back on Old Testament salvation history and many of the important figures in Israel's history. But Sirach is not completely resistant to Greek influences. The book praises *people*, which is a new concept in the Old Testament tradition. Previously, only God received praise. But Sirach praises the great figures of the Old Testament for what God has done through them.

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

Upcoming Events

March

1	5:45 p.m.	Lenten Dinner Volunteer Mtg.....	L.H.
2	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.
2	2:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice.....	Church
2	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
3	7:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice.....	Church
5	9:00 a.m.	Ash Wednesday—Mass	Church
5	5:15 p.m.	Ash Wednesday—Mass	Church
7	4-6:30 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.
9	2:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice.....	Church
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	4-6:30 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.
16	2:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice.....	Church
18	6:00 p.m.	Building Committee Mtg.....	L.H.
19	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross.....	Church
19	7:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice.....	Church
19	7:30 p.m.	Catholic Women’s Union Mtg	L.H.
20	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
21	4-6:30 p.m.	Lenten Fish Dinner.....	R.B.
26	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross.....	Church
26	7:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice.....	Church
27	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
28	4-6:30 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.

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

February 22/23\$5,968.03

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. Health of King Family by Grace King

St. Joseph

- 1. IMO George Hahner Sr. by Hahner Family
- 2. IMO Francis Mooney by Julian & Nora Chiplonia

Sanctuary

For Joshua Milligan by Steward Steckley

Guardian Angels

- IMO Elizabeth Brahler by Frances Brahler Mickey
- 2. IMO Joseph Brahler by Frances Brahler Mickey
- 3. IMO Mark Mickey by Frances Brahler Mickey
- 4. IMO Nancy Brahler Newton by Frances Brahler Mickey

Liturgical Min. Schedule

First Sunday of Lent

March 8 — 5 p.m. Mass

Reader: Raymond Petrilla
Euch.Min.: Sharon Snyder
Servers: Lauren & Megan Goodman
Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

March 9— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Frank Murphy
Euch.Min.: Debbie Herb
Servers: Connor, Cooper, Cole Felty
Cantor: Dave Derbes

March 9 — 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Carleigh Palmieri
Euch.Min.: Bill Gianfagna
Servers: Preston & Kyle McCormick
 Sophia Palmieri
Cantor: Tina Seiger

Weekend Sacristan: Connor Felty

SCRIPTURE STUDY

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

Dramatic Stations of the Cross

Join us as we continue to tell our story. All ages welcome! Speaking, Non Speaking and Stage Crew needed. Make this be the year you become part of the Dramatic Stations of the Cross gang!



Parish Council

Please approach any Parish Council Member listed below and ask that a question, concern, etc. be brought up at the next meeting on **Monday, March 10th.**

Elected Members

Vincent Balulis
Ann Blankenhorn
Michael Brennan
Bob Burns
John Crane
Michelle Darhun
Darren DeArment
Tara DeStefano
Heidi Gorski
Sr. Mary Jane Hahner
Michael Hummel
Reene Reddington
Missy Scheetz
Michelle Stone
Gretchen Witman
Kay Wollyung
Robert Wollyung

Appointed Members

John Consugar
Tina Seiger

Ex-Officio

Father Kevin Bobbin
Deacon Robert Reiley
Ray Petrilla
Ed Brahler

Family Matters

Lenten Practices. The family that prays together, stays together. What better time than Lent to consider a family prayer time. Take time during this Lent to grow closer to Jesus and to each other.



Daylight Saving Time
Don't be late for Mass!
Turn your clocks ahead
at 2 a.m. on March 9th

Our Lenten Obligations

Church law considers every Friday and the season of Lent as penitential days and times. The practice of penance is a part of our faith and Christian life. When we do penance, we imitate Jesus, who Himself recommended it as necessary to His followers, and gave them the example of His prayer and fasting.

The Lenten obligation as determined for Catholics in the United States by our bishops, requires that fasting be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Who must fast? All Catholics who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The obligation ceases when one begins his/her 60th year on his/her 59th birthday.

Who must abstain? All Catholics who are 14 years and older.

What does fasting mean? The observance of fasting means that those obliged may take only one full meal on the day of fast. Two lighter meals (not equal to another full meal) may be taken to maintain strength according to one's needs.

What does abstinence mean? The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat, including poultry. Voluntary abstinence refers to refraining from lawful pleasures in a spirit of penance.

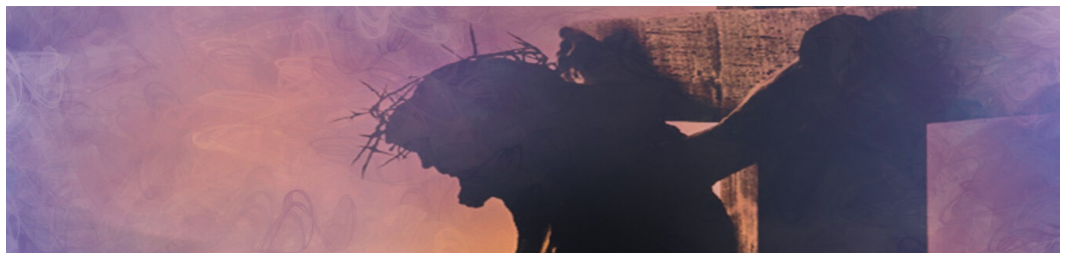
Can anyone be dispensed or excused from fast and/or abstinence? Individuals for a just cause may be dispensed by their pastor or by a priest with the faculty do so. In our Diocese all priests may dispense individuals who are committed to their pastoral care. Those who are ill or have a similar excuse from the observance of fast and abstinence. Catholics are reminded that they should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

Are there other obligations which we should fulfill? Catholics are obliged to fulfill what has been called their "Easter Duty." They are required to receive Holy Communion during the Easter time. In the United States this obligation can be fulfilled from the First Sunday of Lent until Trinity Sunday (March 9 until June 15, 2025). Those conscious of serious sin are reminded of the obligation to confess their sins at least once a year during this time. Catholics also are encouraged to make Lent a time of more intense prayer and to practice almsgiving and other works of charity. Parishes are encouraged to continue participation in Rice Bowl.



With the sign of ashes we begin our journey to Easter. With the sign of ashes we are summoned to live with Christ. We make a beginning with ashes on this day and we will end this season in the fire of the Easter Vigil.

Mass times: 9:00 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.



Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held every **Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. followed by Mass at 6:30 p.m.** during Lent in the Church **starting on March 12**. Consider making this devotion a part of your Lenten observance.

LENTEN DINNERS

Our Lenten Dinners will begin March 7th
from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the Russell Building.
Dinners will be dine-in or take-out.

Menu is as follows:

Baked Haddock **OR** “Chef Joe’s “Fish Special”. Meal includes: Macaroni and Cheese **OR** Chef’s “starch of the Week”, New England Clam Chowder, Side Salad, Chef’s “Vegetable of the Week”, Roll, Beverage and Dessert.

The “Special Fish Options” are as follows:

- March 7: Amond Panko Crested Tilapia—Topped with almond herb panko crumbs
- March 14: Balsamic Glazed Salmon—Roasted with a sweet balsamic glaze
- March 21: Parmesan Cod—Baked with a crispy parmesan crust
- March 28: Stuffed Flounder—Stuffed with a crabmeat blend
- April 4 : Florentine Style Salmon—Baked with a creamy spinach topping
- April 11 : Crab Cakes



Prices are as follows:

- Adult meal with Fish --- \$19.00
- Adult meal without Fish --- \$14.00
- Child’s meal with Fish --- \$10.00
- Child’s meal without Fish --- \$ 6.00



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, Cookies, 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 Fridays during Lent.

Volunteers Needed ... Please let us know if you can help on Fridays; students (12 and over) always welcome (excellent idea if you need service hours). New faces always welcome ... perhaps you are new to the parish and are looking for a way to get involved ... Just call the rectory 570-622-5470 x 3.

50/50 Chances ... available at the door from the Catholic Women’s Union; drawing takes place at 7 p.m. each week.

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.



CRS Rice Bowl

Join us For CRS Rice Bowl’s 50th Anniversary! CRS Rice Bowl is celebrating 50 years of helping Catholic faith communities bring Lent to life and encounter God through our global family. During the 40 days of Lent, let us journey together through CRS Rice Bowl to meet people in Nigeria, Guatemala and Bangladesh who are rising above the challenges of hunger and malnutrition. Pick up your rice bowl from the back of church. Visit crsricebowl.org/join to share your Lenten prayer intentions.

Church Cleaning Crew Thank You

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:

Sandy Frinzi, Phyllis Hess, Liz Kleckner, Ray Petrilla, Theresa Skrobak, Beth & Rick Smith.

The more the merrier — newcomers are always welcome — please call the rectory if interested or just show up at our next cleaning.

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.

2024 Contribution Record

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

Attention — All Readers, Servers, and Eucharistic Ministers ...

Please let us know your plans for **April & May** so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. Please call or email the rectory before **March 17th**.

We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

For you are dust, and
to dust you shall return

GENESIS 3:19

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.

Neighboring Events

Monica Ministry. The next St. Monica Ministry Holy Hour of Petition and Hope will take place at St. Theresa Church, 1408 Easton Road, Hellertown on **Tuesday, March 11 at 6:00pm**. All are invited to bring their petitions before the Most Blessed Sacrament, invoking the particular intercession of St. Monica for their fallen-away loved ones. In this Jubilee Year of Hope, let us pray with renewed trust in Our Lord's mercy. For information, please email StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com

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.

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.

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!

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 Hazleton, 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!

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@allentowndioocese.org

Diocese of Allentown, Lumen Christi Commission

Safe Haven Sunday: Equipping the Family, Safeguarding Children

The family home is to be a safe haven. But the inappropriate use of technology in the home deprives it of this role, and is the greatest threat to the sanctity of marriages and families today. Pornography and other online threats are often one click away, and parents can feel overwhelmed with not knowing how to best protect their children in our fast-paced digital world.

Next weekend, March 8 and 9, the Diocese of Allentown is taking a bold step to help families by celebrating Safe Haven Sunday. This awareness day will provide access to practical resources that any caring adult can use to protect themselves and our young people from online risks.

Please join us with your prayers and presence as we prepare for this unique event. To learn more, please contact Rev. Allen J. Hoffa, Lumen Christi Commission at ahoffa@allentowndioocese.org

ASH WEDNESDAY.

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving: these disciplines, prescribed by Jesus himself in the Sermon on the Mount, along with strict instructions not to flaunt them in public to win recognition and praise (Matthew 6:1-18), have been embraced by all the saints at the beginning of every Lent for almost two thousand years. But mention Lent, and many react with a grimace or slight shudder—even now, years after official obligations have been reduced to a minimum! No wonder the Eastern Rite’s “Lenten Announcement” sounds surprising: “Let us receive with joy, O faithful people, the divinely inspired announcement of Lent! The Lenten Spring shines forth! Begin the fast with joy! Let us fast from passions as well as food, taking pleasure in the good works of the Spirit, and accomplishing them in love!” Saint John Chrysostom, whose feast is September 13, elaborates: “Do you fast? Give proof by your works.

If you see a poor person, take pity. An enemy, be reconciled. A friend gaining honor, don’t be jealous.” A positive approach! May the saints help us keep such a Lent!