



# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts. • Pottsville, Pa. 17901

[www.saintjohnpottsville.org](http://www.saintjohnpottsville.org)

## First Sunday of Lent

### March 6, 2022

**Parochial Administrator** .....*Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*  
**Deacon** .....*Lawrence Lonergan*

**Parish Council President** .....*Robert Bechtel*  
**Choir Director/Organist** .....*David Derbes*  
**CCD Coordinator** .....*Lucilla Kochol*

**Rectory** .....(570) 622-5470  
**Rectory Fax** .....(570) 622-4589  
**E-mail** .....[stjbparish@comcast.net](mailto:stjbparish@comcast.net)  
**Russell Building**( .....(570) 628-3002  
**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 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](mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org)

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, March 5

5:00 p.m. Lorraine & John Tasso  
(Kathleen Williams)

### Sunday, March 6

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

### Sunday, March 6

10:30 a.m. Francis & Verna Sauer

### Monday, March 7

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

### Tuesday, March 8

9:00 a.m. Catherine Bortzel

### Wednesday, March 9

9:00 a.m. Deceased of Bohr Family

### Thursday, March 10

9:00 a.m. Albert & Regina Schmidt

### Friday, March 11

9:00 a.m. Bertha Bullock

### Saturday, March 12

5:00 p.m. R.J. Post  
(Bob & Irene Post)

### Sunday, March 13

8:15 a.m. Clara Becker  
(Catholic Women's Union)

### Sunday, March 13

10:30 a.m. John & Lorraine Tasso

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

I would like to use this week's message to make you aware of a serious and costly maintenance issue. Between the church and the rectory there is a high stone wall that is in need of repair. Over time water has destabilized the area behind the wall and caused it to bulge outward. Although there is no imminent danger of collapse, this problem must be fixed properly so that it does not become even more serious and costly in the future.

I am grateful to the members of our Building Committee who have discussed this problem at length over several meetings from last summer to the present. Numerous professionals have looked at this problem from every angle. After an engineering site survey in the near future, we will finalize a plan for fixing the wall and have a better estimate of the cost.

I am sharing this issue with you now because, 1. We will need to have a fund-raising component to the project so as not to depend too heavily on our parish's savings to pay for the repairs; 2. You are most likely unaware of this problem since the wall is not located in a public area.

When plans for the repairs are finalized, we will provide you with more details, perhaps in the form of a short presentation at Masses. I wanted to share this with you now so it is not a surprise when the time comes. As always, I am most grateful for all that you do to support our parish, both spiritually and materially.

*In Christ,  
Fr. Bobbin*



## Next Week's Readings

### Second Sunday of Lent

(March 12/13)

**Reading I:** Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

**Reading II:** Philippians 3:17-4:1

**Gospel:** Luke 9:28b-36

## Eucharistic Adoration

A holy hour takes place in the **chapel every Monday evening** (unless announced otherwise) from **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

*Patricia Thomas • Sheri Post • Gary Bradley*

### For our Deceased

*Dorothy Letcavage • John Dougherty • Ralph Thomas*

## Daylight Savings Time

Don't be late for Mass next Sunday!  
Turn your clocks ahead on March 13th.



# Upcoming Events

## March

6	9:15 a.m.	CCD Parent Meeting .....	L.H.
6	10:30 a.m.	Little Children’s Sunday Pre School.....	L.H.
6	4:30 p.m.	Encounter the Power of the Gospel .....	L.H.
6	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class .....	L.H.
9	6:30 p.m.	Stations of the Cross .....	Church
9	8:00 p.m.	St. John’s Beneficial Society Mtg. ....	F.R.
10	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.
11	4-7 p.m.	Lenten Dinners.....	R.B.
13	9:00 a.m.	Blessings Baskets .....	L.H.
13	4:30 p.m.	Encounter the Power of the Gospel .....	L.H.
16	6:30 p.m.	Stations of the Cross .....	Church
16	7:30 p.m.	Catholic Women’s Union Mtg.....	L.H.
17	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.

**L.H. = Longinus Hall F.R. = Rectory Fellowship Room R.B. = Russell Building**  
 Tues.7:15 p.m.Weekly Men’s Group .....Zoom  
 Meeting ID: 824-780-6433 ..... Password: Mary

Father Bobbin and the St John’s Adult Formation Team are working hard to offer three ways to make this Lent a holy and spiritually uplifting experience.

### Prayer

The Lenten Companion – Year C (Ascension Press) video program both in person and on Zoom once a week for 6 weeks with Father Toups. Father will guide us to get to know Jesus in a personal way and experience His love this Lent.



### Fasting

Not the latest diet fad, but a powerful, spiritual experience of fasting with other parish members to draw you closer to the Lord.

### Almsgiving

... is part of the Catholic Lenten tradition. The Adult Formation team is giving the parish an opportunity to help the homeless in Schuylkill County in several ways .

#### ◆ Blessing Bags

There is a tent set up at the back of church to help the homeless in our county through the faith-based ministry, Servants to All. There are tags on the tent showing the various items that are most needed for those who are homeless. Please consider taking one or more of the tags homes and returning the items to the tent so that ‘Blessing Bags “can be made and delivered to those in the streets of our city and county. Please join us April 2, 2:30 – 4: 30 pm in Longinus Hall to put the donations in waterproof bags ready to be distributed. Sign up at the back of church if you can help in April.

#### ◆ Blessing Blankets

Simple no sew blankets will be assembled to help the homeless on March 13th from 9 to10:30 a.m. in Longinus Hall. No sewing experience is needed. Please bring sharp material scissors if you have them. Sign up to help make the blankets in the back of church or on our Facebook page.

## Knights of Columbus Schuylkill Council 431

... will be collecting monies at the doors of church to benefit St. Joseph Center for Special Learning next weekend March 12 & 13. Please be generous!



## Weekly Collection

**February 26/27 .....\$4,520.20**

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 Erika Stangl Seasock by Eleanor Schaeffer
2. IMO Joseph Brahler by Kathy Brahler

### St. Joseph

1. IMO Joseph Brahler by Kathy Brahler
2. IMO George Hahner Sr. by Hahner Family

### Sanctuary

IMO Joseph Brahler by Kathy Brahler

### Guardian Angels

1. M/M Richard Weiss by Becky Weiss
2. IMO Marjorie Angelo by Frank Angelo
3. IMO Eleanor O’Brien by John & Susan Minnichbach
4. IMO Howard Minnichbach by John & Susan Minnichbach

## Liturgical Min. Schedule

### March 12— 5:00 p.m. Mass

**Reader:** Carol Lasco  
**Euch.Min.:** Nick Quinn  
**Servers:** Vincent Prestileo

### March 13 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Michelle Ambrose  
**Euch.Min.:** Joyce Gerace  
**Servers:** Madison & Caden Wright

### March 13— 10:30 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Mary Matulevich  
**Euch.Min.:** Paul Herb  
**Servers:** Kelly & Lauren Goodman

## Parish Photo Directory

It has been at least ten years since our last photo directory. We hope to produce an updated one in 2022. We would like to form a small committee to take on this project. If you are interested, please call or email the rectory.

## Operation Rice Bowl

Encounter Lent. Join our faith community – and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States – in a life-challenging Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl.

**Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl Boxes located at the back or front exits.**

## Touchless Holy Water Dispensers

Thank you to St. John's Catholic Women's Union for their donation of the touchless holy water dispensers which are located at the front door of church and at the baptismal font in the back of church. A few drops of holy water will be dispensed when placing fingertips under dispenser.

## Welcome New Parishioners

This week we welcome **John & Lauren Urbanski** and their newborn son, **John**, to St. John's Parish Family. John is a police officer and law student and Lauren is a nurse practitioner. Warmly welcome the Urbanski Family into our parish family with a big dose of St. John's hospitality.

## 2021 Contribution Record

You can request a copy of your 2021 Contribution Record by calling the rectory Monday thru Thursday ... 570-622-5470 ext. 3



## Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held every **Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.** during Lent in the Church starting on March 9th. Consider making this devotion a part of your Lenten observance.

## Confirmation Prayer Sponsors

Our 8th graders are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 7th. Please consider supporting this important decision by praying for our candidates.



# SCRIPTURE STUDY

## Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study:

will be offered **Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on March 10, 17, 24, April 21, 28, May 12, 19, and 26.** Join us in person in Longinus Hall (usually) or at home on Zoom (\*Please email Father for the Zoom link: [kbobbin@allentowndioocese.org](mailto: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. *If Nativity BVM High School is closed or dismisses early for winter weather, we will not meet.*



## Join us as we .... Encounter the Power of the Gospel

This program includes an inspirational journal and engaging videos featuring reflections by the presenter Fr. Mark Toups. Join us and experience real spiritual formation and growth from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

## Date / Time / Location

The Sundays in Lent beginning March 6th from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in Longinus Hall or via ZOOM during the week.

## Easter Duty — 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 6th until June 12, 2022). Those conscious of serious sin are reminded of the obligation to confess their sins at least once a year during this time.

Catholics are also 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.

### Neighboring Events

**Spaghetti Dinner** sponsored by St. Patrick Church on Sunday, March 6 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or sell out). Tale-out orders only at 313 Mahantongo St., Pottsville. Spaghetti platter includes pasta with homemade sauce, two meatballs, salad, bread. Cost—\$9.00. Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase.

**Homemade Shoo Fly Pie & Pie Crusts** made by St. Mary’s Church in Ringtown. Pick up at St. Mary’s Church Rectory in Ringtown on Tuesday, March 29th from 10 a.m. to noon. Deadline to order is Wednesday, March 23rd. Wet Bottom Pie \$8.00; Pie Crust \$3.00. Call the parish office to place order (570) 889-3850—leave a message with your Name, Phone and your order.

**Spring Fling Raffle** ... sponsored by St. Pauline Foundation, 1150 Chestnut St. in Kulpmont on Sunday, March 13 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Friday, March 18 from 12 noon to 6 p.m.; Saturday, March 19 11 a.m. to 5 p.m... \$20 sheet of 26 tickets .. Over 200 items .. Food available for purchase on March 18 & 19 only. Contact 570-259-9299 for more information.



### Assumption BVM School

Open enrollment at Assumption BVM School in Pottsville has begun for the 2022-2023 school year! Now accepting new students! Limited spots available in Kindergarten through Grade 8. Transportation is available from most neighboring districts. Please contact Mrs. Tara Mengel at 570-622-0106 or [tmengel@assumptionbvmschool.net](mailto:tmengel@assumptionbvmschool.net) for more information, to schedule a tour or shadow day for your student.

### Friday Lenten Dinner Pre-Order Form

All entrees include New England Clam Chowder, choice of starch and choice of vegetable.

**Choice of entrée**

- Baked Haddock ..... \$15
- 1 Lump Crab Cake ..... \$15
- 2 Lump Crab Cake ..... \$18
- Lump Crab Cake & Haddock Special ..... \$18
- Children’s Haddock ..... \$10
- Children’s Lump Crab Cake ..... \$10

**Choice of Starch**

Macaroni and cheese or baked potato

**Choice of Vegetable**

Stewed tomatoes or vegetable of the day (green beans/corn)

Date(s)    \_\_\_ 3/11       \_\_\_ 3/25       \_\_\_ 4/8

Number of Dinners \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Orders are due the Monday prior to each Friday dinner  
Pickup is **4 to 6 p.m.** on **3/11, 3/25, and 4/8** at the Russell Building  
Call/mail/deposit this form at the rectory or drop in the collection basket  
Need extra dinners? Attach a separate sheet of paper to this order form.

**TAKE OUT ONLY**

**Dinner 1**

Entrée \_\_\_\_\_  
Starch \_\_\_\_\_  
Vegetable \_\_\_\_\_

**Dinner 2**

Entrée \_\_\_\_\_  
Starch \_\_\_\_\_  
Vegetable \_\_\_\_\_

**Dinner 3**

Entrée \_\_\_\_\_  
Starch \_\_\_\_\_  
Vegetable \_\_\_\_\_

**Dinner 4**

Entrée \_\_\_\_\_  
Starch \_\_\_\_\_  
Vegetable \_\_\_\_\_

## LENT 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During the Season of Lent, the Church invites us to meditate on the Cross of Christ and His journey to Calvary. The biblical accounts of the Passion powerfully tell us of the trials, sufferings, and pains Our Lord bore for the forgiveness of our sins. They also communicate His enduring love for humanity.

A particular detail in the Gospel of John is worthy of our reflection, especially during our Diocesan Jubilee Year of the Real Presence. Saint John tells us that when the soldiers saw Our Lord expire on the Cross, one of them *“thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out”* (John 19:34). Certainly, this final blow to Our Lord’s Heart conveys that He truly died that Good Friday. However, the Fathers of the Church saw this to mean so much more. His ultimate sacrifice on the Cross gave birth to the Sacramental life of the Church: the cleansing waters of Baptism and the lasting nourishment of His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist. From that very place of His torture and death flowed the Sacraments that give us true life and sustain us along our earthly pilgrimage.

This is significant for us as Catholics, especially as we try to bear our own share of the Cross in life. It could be a health issue, a financial burden, a loss of a family member, a strained relationship, or a sense of loneliness. Perhaps we are struggling to live out all that Christ commands us in Scripture and need help in living out the teachings of the Church. There is no way to avoid the difficulty of the Cross, but there is a way to bear it well.

Remember that the same Lord who exhorts each of us to *“take up his Cross and follow me”* (Mark 8:34) also gives us the invitation: *“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest”* (Matthew 11:28). We bear these crosses well by coming before Him—Who is truly present on every altar, in every monstrance, and in every tabernacle—and uniting ourselves to His Sacrifice and His Cross. From His Heart, He pours out for us every grace that we need to carry our burdens. In a special way, the Real Presence of Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist gives us the assurance that, no matter the cross or the difficulty we face, He bears it with us. He remains with us in this Sacrament. This truly is the center of our Catholic faith.


*Lenten Pastoral Letter*  
page 2

Throughout this Sacred Season, I invite you to be intentional about spending time with Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist, His Real Presence. Thank Him for the blessings in your life and lay before Him the burdens that weigh you down. Ask Him to help you carry these crosses. Please use Lent as an opportunity to make a good confession acknowledging where you have failed and asking for His Mercy. Draw close to the pierced side of Christ, even if it has been a while since you have encountered Him in the Sacraments.

On Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, we will gather as a diocesan family at the Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena for a Eucharistic Congress. This is an opportunity during this Lenten Season and our Jubilee Year of the Real Presence to re-center ourselves on the power of the Holy Eucharist through witness reflections, opportunities for the Sacrament of Penance and Eucharistic Adoration, and the celebration of Holy Mass. Our Eucharistic Congress will be an occasion to seek that *“fount of life”* that flows from His pierced Heart—and to unite our share in the Cross to His. I encourage you and your family to participate in this great day.

At the beginning of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, we pray: *“O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of Mercy for us, I trust in You.”* This Lent, I pray that each of us will draw closer to Our Lord in the Sacraments. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones before the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



X Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert  
Bishop of Allentown



March 6, 2022 | First Sunday of Lent

Dt 26:4-10 | Rom 10:8-13 | Lk 4:1-13

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

If you are anything like me, you may still be deciding what to give up or do for Lent even though we're already five days in. I know ... "Stop procrastinating!" Today's readings can help us enter more deeply into this season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. They are a reminder that Lent isn't primarily about us, as if it were a self-improvement project, but about taking the opportunity to go deeper into our relationship with God. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are ways of reducing distractions in our life and focusing on God's mercy, his sacrifice for us, and his generosity and love. I am one who likes to control things and make plans, so the readings challenge me to look beyond myself, beginning with prayer, and ask the Lord to help me grow in faith. Paul writes, "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Jesus exemplifies this dependence on God, allowing himself to be led to the desert by the Spirit. Each time the devil tempts him, he responds and in turn shows us how to respond: by turning to God and God's words, the source of our strength. As we choose how to observe the next 35 days, we are reminded to ask God to help us find those things that help draw us closer to him.

**ACCOMPANIMENT** Find an accountability partner for Lent who can help you stay the course these next 40 days. Perhaps you can pray together each day, or simply send a text sharing how God is working in and through you in this penitential season.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

**PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

What comes to mind when you picture a desert? I imagine sand, heat, thirst. It's more challenging to examine the landscape of my personal desert – barren places of prayer or too much focus on the details of everyday life. Lent, however, presents a rich opportunity to pause and reprioritize our lives based on Jesus' words in today's Gospel: "You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve." Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving can help us do that, reminding us of our dependence on God and helping us shift our focus from ourselves to God and others. How we observe and experience Lent will differ for each of us. Whatever our personal desert looks like, we can rest assured that God will help us find our way back to him.



Year of Real  
**PRESENCE**  
CENTERED IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*"The Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist is the Center of our Diocesan Life and Serves as a Constant Source of Nourishment."*

*Bishop Alfred A. Schlert*

As we celebrate the Year of the Real Presence, all are warmly invited to join us in this special celebration of the Holy Eucharist!

This Free Event includes:

- Coffee & Morning Snacks
- Featured Speakers on the Eucharist for Youth, Adults, and our Hispanic Community
- Bilingual Rosary
- Time for Adoration and Confession
- Personal Witness Talks
- Lunch
- Keynote Presentation on the Real Presence
- Mass Celebrated by Bishop Schlert

**Come celebrate the Holy Eucharist!**

**Saturday, March 19**

**9:00 am to 5 pm**

**at Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena**

**825 W. Turner St., Allentown**