

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

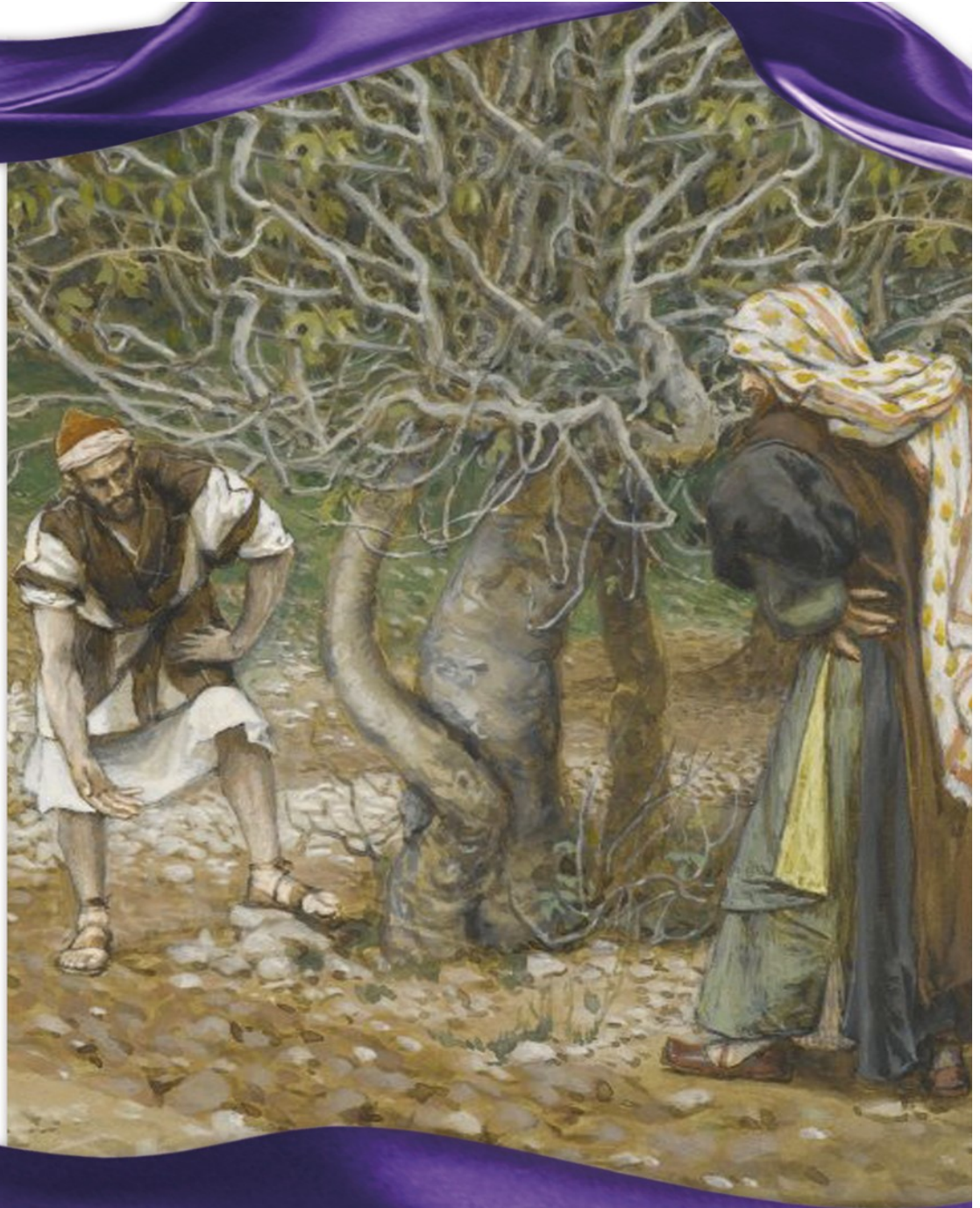
10th & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • www.saintjohnpottsville.org

March 20, 2022

“Sir, leave it
for this year
also, and I shall
cultivate the
grounds around
it and fertilize it;
it may bear fruit
in the future.
If not you can
cut it down.”

Luke 13:8, 9

The Vine Dresser and
the Fig Tree
by James Tissot, circa 1890s



3RD SUNDAY OF

LENT

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 19

5:00 p.m. Ed Smith
(Grandchildren)

Sunday, March 20

8:15 a.m. Joseph Wollyung Jr.
(Joseph & Suzanne Wollyung)

Sunday, March 20

10:30 a.m. Ernest Zambo
(Mary Zambo & Family)

Monday, March 21

6:30 p.m. Joseph & Jessie Ritzel
(Joan Ritzel)

Tuesday, March 22

9:00 a.m. Mary Ann Holley
(Jeanette McGovern)

Wednesday, March 23

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

Thursday, March 24

9:00 a.m. John Hohman
(Kathleen Hohman Family)

Friday, March 25

9:00 a.m. Sharon Lonergan
(Jim & Kate Blackwell)

Saturday, March 26

5:00 p.m. Charles & Matilda Schaeffer
(Eleanor Schaeffer)

Sunday, March 27

8:15 a.m. R.J. Post
(Sandi, Sheri, RJ Post III)

Sunday, March 27

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

Next Week's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Lent
(March 26/27)

Reading I: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

Reading II: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

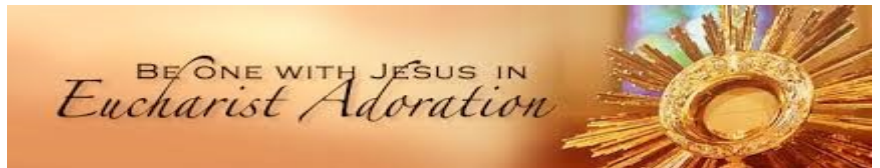
This Friday, March 25, is the Solemnity of the Annunciation. Although it is not a holy day of obligation, it is a major celebration that calls for our attention. And, yes, it is true that we are not obliged to abstain from meat on this particular Friday. In fact, Lenten sacrifices are *not* appropriate on a solemnity.

The Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38) is the moment when God became incarnate. The angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she was to become the mother of Jesus. When Mary accepted, the Holy Spirit came upon her and Jesus was conceived. Notice that we celebrate the Annunciation exactly nine months before Christmas.

The Annunciation reveals Mary's important role in God's plan of salvation. God could have saved us without Mary but, instead, He chose to ask for Mary's free consent before sending Jesus into the world. God does not force Himself on us, but waits for our free cooperation. Mary represents all of humanity in saying yes to God. Mary is a model for us, reminding us to try to live in harmony with God's will, saying yes to Him in the big decisions of life, as well as in the little everyday decisions.

Even if you do not attend Mass this Friday, put aside the Lenten sacrifices and consider doing something to celebrate the Annunciation. Consider dedicating some prayer time to Mary, asking her to intercede for the needs of the world (especially for the people of Ukraine) and to help us in cooperating with God's work of salvation.

*In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin*



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 • Robert Kline • John Kutch

For our Deceased

James Siket

Upcoming Events

March

20	11:30 a.m.	CCD Stations of the Cross/Community Mtg.....	Church
24	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
25	4-6 p.m.	Lenten Dinner	R.B.
30	6:30 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church

April

3	9:15 a.m.	CCD Parent Mtg.	L.H.
3	10:30 a.m.	Little Children’s Sunday Pre-School	L.H.
3	4:30 p.m.	Lenten Program	L.H.
6	6:30 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church
7	4:30 p.m.	Confirmation	St. Pat’s
8	4-6 p.m.	Lenten Dinner	R.B.
10	10:30 a.m.	Little Children’s Sunday Pre-School	L.H.
10	4:30 p.m.	Lenten Program	Church
10	7:00 p.m.	Dramatic Stations of the Cross	Church
13	6:30 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church

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

Weekly Collection

March 12/13\$4,475.73
Parish Dues \$621.00
Ukraine Collection.....\$1,531.75

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

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Carol Seigle
by Ellen, Millie & Barb
2. IMO Babe Heller
by Barb Wollyung & Family

St. Joseph

1. IMO George Hahner Sr.
by Hahner Family
2. IMO Joseph Wollyung Sr.
by His Family

Sanctuary

IMO Pat Mason Sr.
by Maria Mason

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Joe & Rita Sieck
by Barb Munster
2. IMO Pat Mason Sr.
by Maria Mason
3. In thanksgiving to my Guardian Angel
by Barb Munster
4. IMO Theresa Sencak & Janet Whitaker
by Fran Lorenz

MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

...on Monday, March 21, at 6:30pm in St. Clare of Assisi Church. The Celebrant of the Liturgy will be Father Phil Rodgers, Past State Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus. Our homilist is Father Jim Carroll, O.F.M., pastor of St. Mary’s Byzantine Church in Mahanoy City who has family in the Ukraine. All are welcome.

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 Touts. 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.



Liturgical Min. Schedule

March 26 — 5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Patty O’Neill
Euch.Min.: John O’Neill
Servers: R.J. Post

March 27 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Bob Bechtel
Euch.Min.: George Forney
Servers: Luke & Finley McNamara

March 27 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Jen Daubert
Euch.Min.: Debbie Herb
Servers: Jackson Daubert



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 for more information, to schedule a tour or shadow day for your student.

Bulletin Boosters

IMO Carl Bartholomew
 IMO Harold Bartholomew
 IMO Robert Berger
 IMO Edward Christ
 Mildred A. Fredericks
 Fr. Don Henry
 IMO M/M Herbert Henry
 IMO Joanne Hepler
 IMO Clare & Linda Houser
 IIMO M/M James Loeper
 MO Charles Lorenz
 IMO Dorothy Parsick
 IMO Dorothy Rosenberger
 IMO Erika Stangl Seasock
 IMO Margaret Zelinsky
 Living & Deceased of St. John's
 CYO Program

Thank you for supporting our bulletin this month!

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.**



Stations of the Cross

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

Confirmation Prayer Sponsors

Our 8th graders are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please consider supporting this important decision by praying for our candidates. Confirmation will take place at St. Patrick's Church on April 7th at 4:30 p.m.



SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study:

will be offered **Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on March 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@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. *If Nativity BVM High School is closed or dismisses early for winter weather, we will not meet.*

St. John's Choir

St. John's Choir is welcoming new and current members to the choir to sing Saturday 5:00 p.m. Masses and special Masses. This is a very rewarding experience for anyone seeking to become more involved in our Parish Family. No prior singing experience or reading of music is required. Contact St. John's Rectory 570-622-5470 for more information.



St. John's Ensemble

The purpose of this ministry is to serve the parish at Mass, singing liturgical hymns, using contemporary instruments like the guitar, keyboard, drums or other instruments, and using contemporary music arrangements.

We invite **ANYONE** in the parish wanting to share his or her voice and musical gifts whether you are a beginner or more experienced. Arrangements are not complicated and songs are familiar.

You do not need to know how to read music to join us. We will teach anyone who has a willing heart.

Our goal is to play/sing once a month at one of the weekend Masses. This is a great way to participate in parish life and have fun with only a small commitment of your time.

Why not give it a try and give back to your parish family by sharing the gifts God has given to you? If interested please call the rectory 570-622-5470 ext 3.



Trout Rodeo & Basket Auction

Come have some "Reel Fun" at the Assumption BVM School Trout Rodeo & Basket Auction on Saturday, April 23rd at Stoyer's Dam in Schuylkill Haven. Pre-Registration available at Assumption BVM School or the Schuylkill Haven Rec by April 13th. Individual \$15, Family \$40 (Up to 2 adults, 3 children per household). Registration on April 23rd at the south side pavilion starting at 7:30 a.m. -Individual \$20, Family \$45 (Up to 2 adults, 3 children per household)

Basket Auction, Cash Ticket Drawing and 50/50 winners will be drawn at 2 p.m. Food, beverages, and baked goods will be available for purchase. Event is rain or shine. Bring the family out to reel in the fun!

More information can be found on our "Assumption BVM School" facebook and "Trout Rodeo & Basket Auction" event pages. For questions or registration forms, please contact Mrs. Tara Mengel at tmengel@assumptionbvmschool.net.

Neighboring Events

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.

Homemade Chocolate Easter Candy

Butter Cream, Coconut Cream or Peanut Butter Eggs - \$11 per box. *Sorry, no mixed boxes.* Proceeds benefit St. Patrick Parish – All orders are due by March 21. To place an order, please call the Parish Office at 570-622-1802, ext 0. Candy may be picked up in our Parish Center (313 Mahantongo St., Pottsville) during the Palm Sunday Weekend Bake Sale - April 9 from 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm or April 10 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. All candy MUST be pre-ordered and pre-paid. Call the parish office to place order (570) 889-3850—leave a message with your Name, Phone and your order.

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) ___ 3/25 ___ 4/8

Number of Dinners _____

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

TAKE OUT ONLY

Dinner 1

Entrée _____

Starch _____

Vegetable _____

Dinner 2

Entrée _____

Starch _____

Vegetable _____

Dinner 3

Entrée _____

Starch _____

Vegetable _____

Dinner 4

Entrée _____

Starch _____

Vegetable _____

Orders are due the Monday prior to each Friday dinner
 Pickup is **4 to 6 p.m.** on **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.

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

March 20, 2022

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15 | 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 | Lk 13:1-9

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

Several years ago, my family gave me a blueberry bush for Mother's Day. It has yet to produce a single berry. However, I can't bring myself to remove it, and today's Gospel encourages me to be patient (a Google search reveals that it can take several years for a blueberry bush to produce a harvest!). The parable of the fig tree shows us how patient God is with us. Like the fig tree, we may not bear fruit or feel as if we're growing spiritually, even as we enter the second half of Lent. Yet Jesus teaches us that if we nurture our faith through prayer and repentance of our sins, we can always grow and blossom. Like the gardener, we need to be patient with ourselves as God is patient with us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

It strikes me that in the parable of the fig tree, the gardener offered to cultivate *the ground around it*. Just as a tree needs light and water and a little individual TLC, it needs good soil. I think for us Catholics, that can be where our parish community and the broader Church come in. Through small actions such as greeting newcomers at Sunday Mass or volunteering in a parish ministry, we can become the fertile soil that nourishes not only our own faith, but that of the entire community. The 2021-23 Synod on Synodality invites us to share our faith and also to listen without judgment to the experiences of others. In doing so, we as a Church can grow stronger. As Pope Francis said in his opening prayer, "May this Synod be a true season of the Spirit! For we need the Spirit, the ever new breath of God, who sets us free from every form of self-absorption, revives what is moribund, loosens shackles and spreads joy."

STUDY Learn about the Synod on Synodality: www.usccb.org/synod. Check your parish bulletin to see how you can get involved.



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.....stjbparrish@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 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



The Feast
of the
Annunciation
of the LORD

Hail, 
favored one
The Lord is with
YOU.