

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

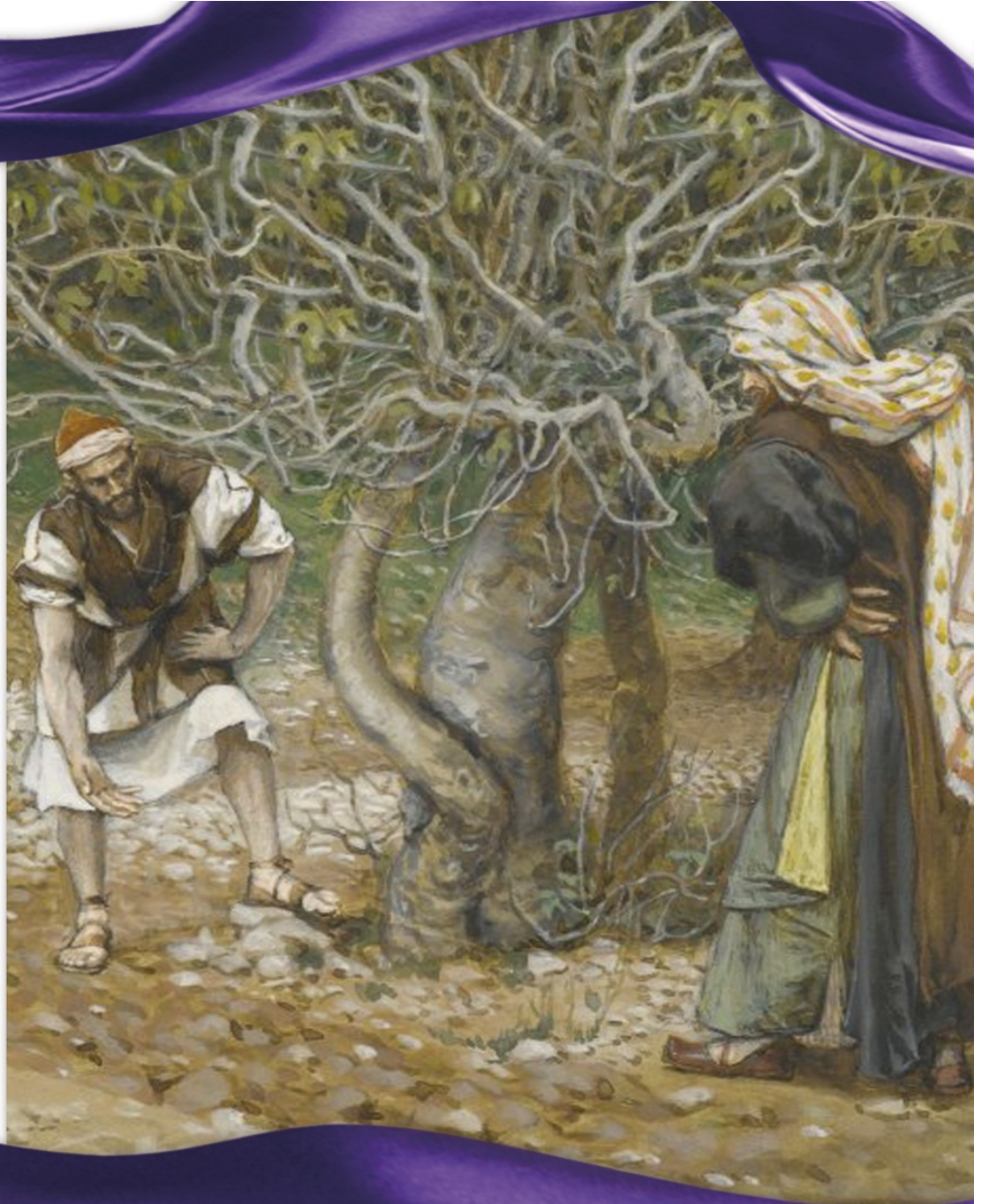
10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • [www.saintjohnpottsville.org](http://www.saintjohnpottsville.org)

March 23, 2025

“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



3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF  
**LENT**

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, March 22

5:00 p.m. M/M Peter Samkavitz  
M/M Edward Orzechowski  
(M/M Joseph Orzechowski)

### Sunday, March 23

8:15 a.m. Deceased of Bartholomew  
& Lorenz Families  
(Frances Lorenz)

### Sunday, March 23

10:30 a.m. Michael Maccarone  
(Christine Maccarone)

### Monday, March 24

6:30 p.m. Robert Porter Jr.  
(Steve & Jan Kurtek)

### Tuesday, March 25

9:00 a.m. Christopher Garrell  
(Knarr & O'Donnell Fam.)

### Wednesday, March 26

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

### Thursday, March 27

9:00 p.m. Brian Eckley  
(Barbara Kasper)

### Friday, March 28

9:00 a.m. Louis Fanelli  
(Tony & Lucilla Kochol)

### Saturday, March 29

5:00 p.m. John Dalton Sr.  
(Hoy & Dalton Family)

### Sunday, March 30

8:15 a.m. Josephine & Frank Brozana  
(Don & Joanne Doyne)

### Sunday, March 30

10:30 a.m. Maria Weiss  
(Janina Alsorhan)

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

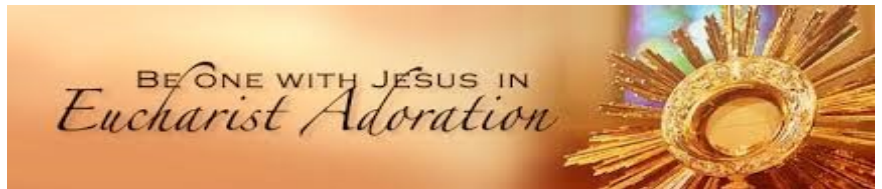
As we resume our tour of the Bible, we have only two books left in the Old Testament. Today we come to the Song of Songs, also called the Song of Solomon. This relatively short book is a collection of love poems. They seem to be arranged to form a story. It has even been suggested that the book is a drama or play with three characters: the bride, the bridegroom, and the chorus.

The Song of Songs is another very unique biblical book. It does not explicitly mention God. It does not seem to refer to the usual Old Testament themes, like the Covenant, God's Law, or salvation history. But the Song of Songs has always been part of the canon of the Bible and has received a lot of commentary in Christian times.

The key to this book is recognizing that it can have more than one level of meaning. On the surface, it celebrates marital love between husband and wife. On another level, it speaks of God's love for His people, continuing the biblical tradition of seeing God as bridegroom and His Chosen People as bride. It is also possible to see the bridegroom as the future Messiah, and the bride as God's people. In Christian times (especially in the Middle Ages) it has also become popular to see the bridegroom as God and the bride, not as God's people collectively, but as an individual believer in relationship with God.

In the New Testament, there are no direct quotes from the Song of Songs but Jesus uses the image of a wedding in some parables (see Matthew 22:1-14; 25:2-13). A wedding banquet is an image for the Kingdom of God. St. Paul describes the relationship between Jesus and the Church in terms of marriage (Ephesians 5:21-33). The Bible comes to a close with the Book of Revelation using wedding imagery in which Christ is the Bridegroom and His people is the Bride.

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.

## Next Week's Readings

**Fourth Sunday of Lent** (March 29/30)

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

**Reading II:** 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

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

## 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*  
• *Mary Jean Morgalis* • *Helen Heimbaugh*

### Upcoming Events

#### March

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.

#### April

1	6:30 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice .....	Church
2	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross.....	Church
4	4-6:30 p.m.	Lenten Fish Dinner.....	R.B.
6	9:00 a.m.	CCD Parent Meeting .....	L.H.
6	4:30-6 p.m.	Soup & Scripture.....	L.H.
6	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
8	6:30 p.m.	Dramatic Stations Practice .....	Church
9	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross.....	Church
10	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.
11	4-6:30 p.m.	Lenten Fish Dinner.....	R.B.
13	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School .....	L.H.
13	7:30 p.m.	Dramatic Station Presentation .....	Church
14	7:00 p.m.	Penance Service.....	Church
16	7:30 p.m.	Catholic Women’s Union .....	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

March 15/16 ..... \$4,369.03  
Parish Improv.&Repairs . \$1,515.00

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

### Candles

#### BVM

1. IMO Thomas & Anne Stone by Rick & Michelle Stone
2. IMO Jeanette Hauptly by Bill & Denise Hauptly

#### St. Joseph

1. IMO Edward Lubinsky by Rick & Michelle Stone
2. IMO Alfred Hauptly by Bill & Denise Hauptly

#### Sanctuary

IMO Marjorie Angelo  
by Frank Angelo

#### Guardian Angels

- IMO Mary E. Miller  
by Katelynn & Jon Miller
2. Health & Welfare of Erika Hauptly by Bill & Denise Hauptly
  - 3&4. IMO Ronald Kriston by Joan Grapsy Family

## SCRIPTURE STUDY

**Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study:** will be offered **Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on March 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](mailto: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 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.

**CRS Rice Bowl. Paying It Forward As A Lead Mother in Nigeria.** In Nigeria, over 25 million people are experiencing extreme food insecurity due to climate change, poverty and conflict. Because of violence in their hometown, Amina and her family were forced to flee and start life over again in a new village. Learn how Amina’s participation in a Catholic Relief Services program helped her prepare nutritious meals for her family and support other families in her community to overcome the challenges of hunger and malnutrition. Visit [csrricebowl.org/week-2](http://csrricebowl.org/week-2) to read this week’s Story of Hope.

### Liturgical Min. Schedule

#### Fourth Sunday of Lent

#### March 29 — 5 p.m. Mass

**Reader:** Michelle Heenan  
**Euch.Min.:** Dan & Hermine Murphy  
**Servers:** Lauren & Megan Goodman  
**Cantor:** Lucilla Kochol

#### March 30— 8:15 a.m.

**Reader:** John Crane  
**Euch.Min.:** Debbie Herb  
Joseph Palmieri  
**Servers:** Maggie & Rhyann Brennan  
**Cantor:** Dave Derbes

#### March 30 — 10:30 a.m.

**Reader:** Vincent Balulis  
**Euch.Min.:** Michael Ambrose  
Justina Majestic  
**Servers:** Preston & Kyle McCormick  
**Cantor:** Ensemble

**Weekend Sacristan:** Ryan Grabowski

## 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: *Michelle Ambrose, Darla Fabiani, Sandy Frinzi, Phyllis Hess, Lisa Schlitzer, Theresa Skrobak, Beth Smith, Joanne Wood*

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

## Email Addresses

To enhance our ability to timely communicate with all parishioners regarding upcoming events and activities, we are asking that you email the rectory at [stjbp@comcast.net](mailto:stjbp@comcast.net) with your email address(es) for family members and the name associated with the email address.

## Family Matters

**Household Chores.** If God is in the ordinary activities of our lives, then He must be around when we are doing the household chores. We pray today for all those engaged in spring cleaning, regular weekend chores and all those mundane activities that make up family life.

## 2024 Contribution Record

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

**The Lord  
is Kind  
and Merciful.**



## 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. Consider making this devotion a part of your Lenten observance.

## Adult Soup & Scripture Evening

Soup and Scripture is back! Join us on **Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** from 4:30pm to 6pm in Longinus Hall. Homemade Chicken Rice Soup, bread and butter will be served. Scripture will be based on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent readings. All are welcome. Sign-ups in back of church or use QR code. Must have a Google email to use. Childcare is available.



**Soup & Scripture**

## Dramatic Stations of the Cross—Practices & Presentation

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! Call Debbie at [570.691.8874](tel:570.691.8874) with any questions.

### Practice Dates:

March 26—7 p.m.	April 6—6:30 p.m.
April 1—6:30 p.m.	April 13—7:30 p.m.— Presentation

## Assumption BVM School. We're Hiring!

Are you a dynamic and innovative educational and faith leader with a strong commitment to Catholic education, Catholic values, and academic excellent in Schuylkill County? ABVM is seeking a dedicated Principal to guide our students, staff, and community in faith, excellence, and service. We are looking for a leader who: \* Has a passion for education \* Inspires excellence in others \*Nurtures a faith-centered school community.

Apply today or share with someone who would be a great fit!

Apply using the link or QR code below:

<https://allentowndiocese.isolvedhire.com/jobs/1437702>



**Annual Cash & Gift Card Bingo.** The Assumption BVM Home & School Association invites you to join us at our 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL CASH & GIFT CARD BINGO (w/ \$1,000 CASH JACKPOT) on **Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** at St. Ambrose Parish Center, Schuylkill Haven. Doors open at 11:30 AM and bingo begins at 1:00 PM. Advance tickets - \$35; at door tickets - \$40. Email or call to purchase advance tickets and secure your spot: [abvm.bingo@gmail.com](mailto:abvm.bingo@gmail.com) / (570) 590-0503. For more info,

## Nativity Happenings

**Century Club Benefit.** Everyone is welcome to attend and help support Nativity BVM High School as we hold our 2025 Century Club Benefit on **Saturday, April 5, 2025** at Mountain Valley Golf Course in Barnesville. The Golden Cross Society recipients will be inducted at the dinner. Cost \$150 per person. Cocktail hour at 6:00 PM, dinner at 7:00 PM, induction of the Golden Cross Society members and dancing will follow. For information, or to purchase tickets, please contact Jenn Daubert at Nativity BVM High School at 622-8110. The Golden Cross Society inductees for this year are Drs. Michelle and Richard "Rick" Adams, Frank Angelo '64, Diane Chaklos Yaneck, Vincent "Vince" Zimerofsky '92.

## LENTEN DINNERS

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 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.

**"Where is God Calling You?"** Everyone needs a vocations retreat! Join us for a day of prayer, contemplation, and community on April 12th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Church In Kutztown (ages 18-38). Whichever vocation you're discerning (priesthood, married life, consecrated life, or single life), we're here to support you. This retreat will allow you to encounter speakers from all these callings and give you a space to listen to God's voice in exploring your vocation. For information and to register, contact Zelenda Hodgskin at [zhodgskin@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:zhodgskin@allentowndiocese.org)

**Women's Retreat.** Find help in overcoming addictions and unhealthy attachments on this healing retreat ... April 11-13 ... at Malvern Retreat House in Malvern. A weekend-long retreat for women impacted by addiction. Participants will be immersed in witness talks, discussions, Catholic in Recovery meetings, sacraments & fellowship. Register online by [www.catholicinrecovery.com/events](http://www.catholicinrecovery.com/events).

**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 25.** 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 12 from 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm or April 13 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. **All candy MUST be pre-paid.**

**Homemade Shoo Fly Pie & Pie Crusts** made by members of St. Mary's Church Choir in Ringtown. Wet Bottom Pie \$9.00; Crust \$3.00. Pick up at St. Mary's Church Rectory, Ringtown on Tuesday, April 8th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. **Deadline to Order is Wednesday, April 2nd.** Call the parish office at 570-889-3850 and leave a message with your name and phone number and your order or call Marie at 570-889-3825.

**34th Annual Golf Classic Tournament.** St. Joseph Center for Special Learning is hosting its 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic tournament on May 16<sup>th</sup> at Mountain Valley Golf Course. Sponsor and/or join us for an adventurous day of food, fellowship and, of course... golf! For more information, please visit [www.stjosephctr.com](http://www.stjosephctr.com) or call 570-622-4638.

March 23, 2025

## Third Sunday of Lent

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

Meaningful human relationships rarely last if only one party makes an effort to maintain a connection. The same is true in our relationship with God. In the scene recorded in today's first reading – arguably one of human history's "Top Ten" most important events – God takes the initiative, but the encounter is two-sided. God causes the bush to burn and Moses approaches; God calls Moses and he responds, "Here I am!"; finally, Moses asks God his name and God reveals himself as "I am who am." Moses' cooperation with God throughout is essential for them to arrive at this monumental revelation which would allow Moses (and, by extension, all of the Israelites) to call upon God by name. Despite our many technological achievements, a free, generous, loving response to God's initiative is still the only "fruit" we can bear for him that he cannot procure himself. This is the fruit which the fig tree in Jesus' Gospel parable is meant to produce. If we truly desire and seek this relationship, God will reveal himself to us so that, no matter our stage or state of life, we can bear this fruit *even now*.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

In his encounter with God, Moses exhibits an exemplary combination of boldness and humility which teaches us how we should approach our relationship with God. This is our "roadmap" which will help us fertilize the "ground" of our hearts. Consider Moses' bold, inquisitive spirit: "I must go over to look at this remarkable sight," and his prompt response to God's call: "Here I am!" Consider the audacity Moses must have had to ask God for his name. At the same time, however, consider his humility in removing the sandals from his feet and hiding his face before the majesty of God. The God who revealed himself to Moses is the same God who invites us into relationship with him. We can and should have Moses' boldness to ask God to teach us about himself. But we should also approach God with a spirit of reverence and awe. Our humility will be the fertile soil that God can use to make us his intimate friends and his representatives before others.

### **LISTEN**

Sometimes we have habits or attitudes that prevent us from hearing God's voice. Like Moses removing his sandals, choose something you can forgo this week (for example, social media or music in the car) so that you can hear and respond to the Lord. Make sure you dedicate your extra quiet time to talking to 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

**Festival Pot Luck Is Returning!!!**

As we gear up for our **Midsummer Festival**, we are once again asking for donations for our **Pot Luck Stands**, both Adult and Children. We thank you for your generosity in the past and hope we can count on your continued generosity.

**Gift Cards** are highly recommended and can be placed in the bins in the back of church or dropped in the collection basket—marked **POT LUCK**. We will also be utilizing our **Amazon Wish List** - it was very successful last year!

Prizes can also be placed in the bins in the back of church. Please remember we can only accept **NEW** or recently purchased boxed or wrapped items in their original package. Any old, used or opened items will not be used for prizes. If you like, please feel free to include your name so we can keep track of those who donated.

**Amazon** — go to [Amazon.com/registries](https://www.amazon.com/registries). Search by St. John the Baptist Pottsville under Gift List. When purchasing an item, it will default to ship to Maureen Derbes. You may ship your items directly there for convenience or ship to your home address and then place in bins in the back of church.

Any questions or concerns or to arrange drop off, please call Maureen Derbes at 570-691-6098. Thank you again for your continued generosity!

