

# 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 27, 2022

Then let us  
celebrate  
with a feast,  
because this  
son of mine  
was dead,  
and has come  
to life again,  
he was lost, and  
has been found.

*Luke 15:23, 24*

The Return of the Prodigal Son  
by Barolomé Esteban Murillo,  
circa 1670



4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF  
**LENT**

## Mass Intentions

### 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)

### Monday, March 28

6:30 p.m. Clair & Margaret Fry

### Tuesday, March 29

9:00 a.m. Earl & Florence Tropp

### Wednesday, March 30

9:00 a.m. Joan Steficek  
(Ed & Gerry Schwartz)

### Thursday, March 31

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

### Friday, April 1

9:00 a.m. Francis & Mary Burns

### Saturday, April 2

5:00 p.m. George A. & Dolores Lynn  
(David, Tony, Bob,  
Joan Marie Lynn)

### Sunday, April 3

8:15 a.m. James Siket  
(Frances Lorenz)

### Sunday, April 3

10:30 a.m. Ralph Thomas  
(St. John's Ministers of  
Hospitality—Jack, Bill, Jo e,  
John)

## Next Week's Readings

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
(April 2/3)

**Reading I:** Isaiah 43:16-21

**Reading II:** Philippians 3:8-14

**Gospel:** John 8:1-11

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Do you want to know something about Lent? It's a set-up. It's designed to make you fail.

Most of us start Lent with the best of intentions. We make plans to give something up, to add something to our prayers, and most importantly, we plan to work on that fault that seems to keep us weighed down like an anchor. We start Lent with a lot of enthusiasm and motivation.

The problem is, six weeks is a really long time to sustain our efforts. The enthusiasm quickly wears off and our Lenten plans become a burden. Perhaps by around Week 3, we start to slip up a little. We find ways of compensating for our Lenten sacrifices, our added prayers become routine, and we slip back into our old faults. Then comes the discouragement.

This is not necessarily a bad thing. The clue lies in the Scripture readings for daily Mass. The readings from Ash Wednesday on reflect the typical Lenten themes of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, the call to conversion, and the need to carry our cross with Jesus. However, starting in the fourth week of Lent (halfway through the season, right about the time we start slipping up and getting discouraged), we read the Gospel According to John in order. John's Gospel is all about unfolding the identity of Jesus.

Right about the time we start to lose confidence in our ability to change during Lent, we are re-introduced to our Savior. Lent isn't so much about improving ourselves – much less by our own efforts. It's about coming to a mature realization of the power of sin in our lives and the fact that we cannot save ourselves. We need help. This disposes us to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection. It helps us appreciate our Savior and what He does for us. It opens us to new experiences of the liberating power of our Baptism into the Paschal Mystery as we celebrate Easter.

*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.

Join us on **Thursday, March 31st** for 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:

*Patricia Thomas • Sheri Post • Gary Bradley • Robert Kline*

**For our Deceased:** *John Kutch*



# Upcoming Events

## March

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 19/20 ..... \$ 4,465.45**  
**Improv. & Repairs ..... \$1,303.00**

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. IMO Ronald Kriston  
by Joan Grapsy & Family

### St. Joseph

1&2. IMO Joseph Brahler  
by Kathy Brahler

### Sanctuary

IMO Joe Wollyung  
by Family

### Guardian Angels

1,2 3. IMO Pat Mason Sr.  
by Maria Mason  
4. Health of Nancy Brahler Newton  
by Frances Mickey

## Liturgical Min. Schedule

### April 2— 5:00 p.m. Mass

**Reader:** Carol Lasco  
**Euch.Min.:** Nick Quinn,  
Gerry Schwartz  
**Servers:** Emma Lieberman  
**Cantor:** Mary Bound

### April 3 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Bill Gianfagna  
**Euch.Min.:** Rob Wiscount  
Jeff Naffin  
**Servers:** Emma Seiger  
**Cantor:** Tina Seiger

### April 3 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Frank Murphy  
**Euch.Min.:** Justina Majestic  
Mary Modesto  
**Servers:** Leah & Jude Scheidel  
**Cantor:** Dave Derbes

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.



## 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."*



## Congratulations

... to **Andrew Smith**, the winner of the 66th Regional Spelling Bee. Andy is a parishioner and altar server at St. John's and a student at Assumption BVM School. Congratulations Andy!

## Church Cleaning Crew Thank You

We thank our Church Cleaning Group for again doing a wonderful job cleaning our beautiful church including Longinus Hall and the Chapel.

Everything looks great!

Those volunteering their time and talent this month:

*Sandy Frinzi, Debbie Kubilus, Judy Meseravage, Pattie Miller, Ray Petrilla, Theresa Skrobak, Mim Tirjan, Joanne Wood.*

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

## Welcome New Parishioners

This week we welcome **Kyle & Caitlyn Mannon** and their children **Finn** and **Kai** to St. John's Parish Family. Warmly welcome the Mannon Family into our parish family with a big dose of St. John's hospitality.



## 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 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](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. *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.

### Saint Paul Street Evangelization

Join St. Paul Street Evangelization ... "Whoever has encountered Christ, as the Samaritan woman at the well, cannot keep this experience to him/herself, but has the desire to share it, to bring Jesus to others." (Pope Francis) St. Paul Street Evangelization is a grassroots, non-profit Catholic evangelization organization, dedicated to responding to the mandate of Jesus to preach the Gospel to all nations by taking our Catholic Faith to the streets. As an on-the-street Catholic evangelization program, St. Paul Street Evangelization provides a non-confrontational avenue for you to share the Jesus Christ and the truth and beauty of the Catholic Faith with a hungry culture. Visit [www.streetevangelization.com](http://www.streetevangelization.com) today to learn more, join or start a local team, and find out how you can support Catholic evangelization.

### Neighboring Events

#### Schuylkill Choral Society Concert

... under the direction of Dr. Mark P. Thomas accompanied by Allison Kane ... "In Remembrance" on Sunday, March 27th at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Church, 3rd & Mahantongo Sts. Concert is sponsored by Lehigh Valley Health Network. For more info [www.schchoral.org](http://www.schchoral.org)



### 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: \_\_\_\_\_ 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 **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.



**LAETARE  
SUNDAY**

**REJOICE!**

March 27, 2022

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

Jos 5:9a, 10-12 | 2 Cor 5:17-21 | Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

Today we celebrate Laetare (which means “rejoice”) Sunday. As we mark the midpoint of Lent, we allow ourselves to look ahead with joyful anticipation of Jesus’ resurrection, even as we continue our practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Amidst these penitential practices of Lent, this day offers a reminder that we have reason for hope. The parable of the prodigal son shows us what hope looks like. When the father caught sight of his wayward son, he did not see the young man who made bad choices, wasted his inheritance, and disobeyed him. He looked at him with eyes of unconditional love, rejoicing that “he was lost and has been found.” That’s how Jesus viewed the sinners and tax collectors, and how the Father views us, his wayward sons and daughters, when we return to him in contrition and love. So as we continue our Lenten practices, let’s take time to give thanks for the goodness and mercy of God today, knowing that the Lord awaits us with open arms when we acknowledge our sinfulness and rely upon him for all that is good.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Is it me, or are some of the parables hard to figure out? The parable of the prodigal son is one we’ve heard over and over again, and resonates across ages and generations. Some of us may relate to the prodigal son and others to the dutiful brother. The parents and grandparents among us may have been in the father’s shoes at some point. What better time than Lent to reflect on what the story means to us at this point in our lives: Are we awaiting the return of a disaffected loved one? Are we in need of repenting for our own actions? The answer will be different for each of us, but we can rejoice in the fact that we are loved unconditionally by God wherever we are on our Lenten and life journeys. Our challenge is to open our hearts to that love; as we do so, we can’t help but be transformed and in turn share that love with others through friendship, service, and generosity. As St. Paul writes, “Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: The old things have passed away.”

**ACT** On Laetare Sunday, priests may wear rose-colored vestments as a symbol of joy. Carry this sense of joy into your day by placing roses at the table, bringing flowers to a friend, or calling someone with whom you’ve fallen out of touch.

**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** ..... stjbp parish@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

