

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

April 12, 2026 • Divine Mercy Sunday

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the  
Heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us,

**I Trust In You!**



**DIVINE  
MERCY**

**Pastor**..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*  
**Deacon**.....*Robert A. Reiley*  
**Parish Council President** ..... *John Crane*  
**E-mail**.....johncrane1@mac.com  
**Choir Director/Organist** .....*David Derbes*  
**CCD Coordinator**..... *Tina Seiger*  
**Rectory** ..... (570) 622-5470  
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**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

#### Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

1-800-276-1562      www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

#### Diocese of Allentown Website

www.allentowndiocese.org



## 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.

## Communion for the Homebound

If you or a family member, friend, or neighbor who is a member of St. John is confined to home, a nursing home or assisted living facility because of illness, age, or disability and would like to receive Holy Communion` on a monthly basis, please call the rectory. We traditionally visit the sick and homebound on or around the first Friday of the month. Please help us meet the spiritual needs of our homebound parishioners.

### 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:** *Sherri Post, Tom Jefferson, Kathy Vicic*

**For our Deceased:** *Mark McCormick*

**"Note: We will keep names on the prayer list for a period of three months. Please let us know if you would like your name or your family member's name to remain on the list longer."**

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, April 11

5:00 p.m. John & Bertha Kralick  
& Tarris Family  
(Paul & Joanna Buber)

### Sunday, April 12

8:15 a.m. Jerry Hudock  
(Diane Hudock & Children)

### Sunday, April 12

10:30 a.m. Deceased of Messer  
& McGovern Families  
(Family)

### Monday, April 13

6:30 p.m. Matthew Halsey  
(Joseph, Sonya, Joe Halsey)

### Tuesday, April 14

9:00 a.m. Frank & Josephine Brozana  
(Don & Joanne Doyne)

### Wednesday, April 15

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

### Thursday, April 16

9:00 a.m. John Fredericks  
(Paul & Bernie Gombola)

### Friday, April 17 NO MASS

### Saturday, April 18

5:00 p.m. David G. Derbes  
(Dan & Hermine Murphy)

### Sunday, April 19

8:15 a.m. Jim Pugh Jr.  
(Jim & Donna Pugh)

### Sunday, April 19

10:30 a.m. Ann Murphy Koch  
(Family)

### Next Week's Readings

3rd Sunday of Easter  
(April 18/19)

Reading I: Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33

Reading II: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Gospel: Luke 24:13-25

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Before Easter we were looking at the Sacrament of Confirmation. In Confirmation, the Holy Spirit comes to us in a new way to "complete" our Baptism, helping us live up to our identity as God's sons and daughters and disciples of Jesus.

The graces we receive in Confirmation include the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (see Isaiah 11:1-3). *Fear of the Lord* helps us recognize our total dependence on God and keep Him at the center of our lives. *Knowledge* helps us grasp truths of faith. *Understanding* helps us make connections among truths of faith, seeing how things fit together. *Counsel* helps us make good decisions, especially when it is difficult. *Fortitude* helps us do the right thing when it is difficult. *Reverence or piety* helps us recognize God's presence (in the sacraments, in other people, etc) and respond accordingly. *Wisdom* helps us see things from God's perspective and know the real value of things.

These gifts are real but they do not work like magic. We need to make the effort to live as disciples of Jesus. When we do, we realize just how much the Holy Spirit comes to our assistance!

In Christ,

Fr. Bobbin

## SCRIPTURE STUDY

### Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study

... will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on **April 23, May 14 & 21**. 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.

### Readers, Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.

Please consider if our Lord is calling you to one of these roles. Our current liturgical ministers are sometimes spread very thin, especially in the summer, making it difficult to fill the schedule. If you might be interested in one of these roles, please see Fr. Bobbin.

### Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest, call forth vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from our diocese and our families. Inspire men to imitate Christ, the Eternal High Priest, in sacrificial service to your Church. Move the hearts of men and women to offer themselves wholly to You in poverty, chastity and obedience. Send them as laborers for Your harvest. Inspire the faithful to support them with prayers and sacrifice. Raise up holy families who foster openness to your call. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

**CRS Rice Bowl. Thank You!** Together, we changed lives this Lent through CRS Rice Bowl. Thank you for being a part of this effort! The Rice Bowl boxes can be dropped off at the rectory or placed in the boxes by the upper side door of church or donate online at [crsricebowl.org/donate](http://crsricebowl.org/donate).

## Upcoming Events

### April

12	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
15	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women’s Union Mtg .....	L.H.
19	9:00 a.m.	CCD .....	L.H.
19	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children’s Liturgy.....	L.H.
23	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.
26	after Masses	Coffee & Donuts .....	L.H.
26	9:00 a.m.	CCD .....	L.H.
26	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children’s Liturgy.....	L.H.

### May

2	5:00 p.m.	First Holy Communion .....	Church
3	10:30 a.m.	CCD/Rosary/May Procession.....	Church/Grotto
7	7:00 p.m.	Summer Festival Mtg.....	RB
12	7:00 p.m.	Ladies of the Rosary .....	L.H.
14	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.
16	after Mass	Wine & Cheese .....	L.H.
17	after Masses	Coffee & Donuts .....	L.H.
20	6:00 p.m.	Catholic Women’s Union .....	L.H.
26	after Mass	Coffee & Donuts .....	L.H.

L.H. = Longinus Hall F.R. = Rectory R.B. = Russell Building

Tuesdays 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men’s Group..... F.R.

<><><> MARK YOUR CALENDARS <><><>  
 SUMMER FESTIVAL—July 17/18, 2026

## Weekly Collection

**April 4/5.....4,951.26**

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 Frank & Josephine Brozana by Don & Joanne Doyne
2. Dec. McGovern & Purcell Family by Family

### St. Joseph

1. Dec. Messer & Schultz Family by Family
2. IMO George Hahner Jr. by Hahner Family

### Sanctuary

Special Intention

### Guardian Angels

1. Donald Lubinsky by Rick & Michelle Stone
2. IMO Tom & Kayoka Stone by Rick & Michelle Stone
- 3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy by Joan Grapsy Family

## Liturgical Min. Schedule

### Third Sunday of Easter

**April 18 — 500 p.m**

**Reader:** Lucilla Kochol

**EM:** Ray Petrilla, Sharon Snyder

**Server:** Ray Petrilla

**Cantor:** Dave Derbes

**April 19 — 8:15 a.m. Mass**

**Reader:** Bob Bechtel

**EM:** Joe Palmieri, Heidi Gorski

**Servers:** Finley McNamara

Colin McGinley

**Cantor:** Amy Joyce

**April 19 — 10:30 a.m. Mass**

**Reader:** Sean Crane

**EM:** John Crane, Gerry Schwartz

**Servers:** Callie & Cole Felty

**Cantor:** Ensemble

### Weekend Sacristan

Ryan Grabowski

## Grotto Flowers

Just a reminder when placing flowers at the Blessed Mother Grotto located behind the church, please Do Not use glass or any breakable vases or containers for your flowers. Sometimes the wind knocks them over and the glass is shattered in the area. Please use plastic or an unbreakable material. Thank you.



## Catholic Women’s Union– Meeting



Women of all ages are invited to join the Catholic Women’s Union. Learn how you can become involved with the Catholic Women’s Union by joining us on **Wednesday, April 15th at 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall.** Meet the members and learn how you can be part of this unique organization. We share ideas and light refreshments are served. We work to raise money for our parish and have fun doing it. We also share in fellowship by sharing in a Spring and Fall Auction, Christmas Party, and the Covered Dish Dinner. Your ideas, friendship and membership are always welcomed.





# Divine Mercy

## PRAYER

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!  
[Repeat 3x]

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.  
[Repeat 3x]  
Amen.

Jesus, King of Mercy, We trust in You.

### Divine Mercy Sunday—April 12th

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in church from 1:00—3:00 p.m. concluding with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction at 3:00. Father will also be available for Confessions 1:00—2:00 p.m. Join us for any part of the afternoon to celebrate God's mercy and pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

### Diocesan Events ...

**St. Monica Ministry Holy Hour of Petition and Hope** will take place at St. Theresa Church (1408 Easton Road, Hellertown) on **Tuesday, April 14 at 6:00pm**. Presiding will be Rev. Patrick Lamb, pastor of Queenship of Mary Parish, Northampton. Please come join in prayer for the return of Catholics who have left the Church. For more information on the St. Monica Ministry, please call the St. Theresa rectory at 610-838-7045 or email Celeste at [StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com](mailto:StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com)

**Rachel's Vineyard Retreat.** Join us for an intimate spiritual journey for anyone seeking healing after abortion. In a safe, supportive, non-judgmental environment, you can focus on this painful time in your life and enter into the process of healing. Through scripture readings, guided meditations and activities flowing from the meditations, you can experience God's compassion and forgiveness. For registration information contact: Carol Swavely, MA, OSF at 1-866-3RACHEL (Toll free) or 610-435-1541ext 5341. You may also email Carol at [cswavely@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:cswavely@allentowndiocese.org). **The retreat will be held April 24-26, 2026. Deadline for registration is April 17, 2026.**

**Retreat to Fatima and Lourdes with Fr. John Frink .** Take a pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes from June 7, 16, 2026 under the spiritual direction of Fr. John Frink. Click this link: <https://www.206tours.com/cms/frfrink/> to view detailed itinerary, pricing information, and to book.

## Summer Festival — Pot Luck Stand

We are in need of potluck prizes for our Summer Festival stand! There are a few easy ways to help donate. We have an Amazon wish list again this year. Go to [Amazon.com/registries](https://www.amazon.com/registries), search St John The Baptist Potluck, when purchasing an item it will default to ship to Fred Maley- you may send your items there for convenience or if you would prefer to ship to your own address and place item in the donation bin in the back of the church. Any questions, concerns, or to arrange drop off please call Shanna 570-617-4769.

If you'd like an even easier route, and have a smart phone or tablet, open your camera and hold over top and focus on the QR code box - a small link will pop up- tap on it and it will take you right to our Amazon wish list!

Gift cards are also a fantastic way to help! Any denomination and anyplace you love! They can be placed in the collection basket or please call Shanna Deibert 570-617-4769 to arrange for drop off or pick up. Thank you again for your continued generosity!!



## Assumption BVM School News ...

Assumption BVM's HSA will host its **Annual Cash & Gift Card Bingo** on Sunday, April 19, at St. Ambrose's Parish Center. Doors open at 11:30 AM, and bingo begins at 1:00 PM. Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of exciting games, great prizes, and delicious food. Advance tickets are \$35 and will be \$40 at the door. Purchase online at [www.tinyurl.com/abvmHSAbingo](http://www.tinyurl.com/abvmHSAbingo), email [ABVM.BINGO@gmail.com](mailto:ABVM.BINGO@gmail.com), or call/text (610) 618-0539 for tickets and information.

## Neighboring Events ...

**35th Annual Golf Classic** sponsored by St. Joseph Center for Special Learning on **Friday, May 15** at Mountain Valley Golf Course. Join us for a day of food, fellowship, and golf in support of the students and adults we serve. Those who register by April 6 will receive 10% off their registration. When registering online, use code **SJGOLFLCLASSIC** to receive the discount. For more information or to register, please visit [www.stjosephctr.com](http://www.stjosephctr.com) or call **570-622-4638**.

**16th Annual Golf Tournament** sponsored by St. Patrick Church on **Saturday, May 16th** at Hidden Valley Golf Course in Pine Grove. Registration is Saturday, May 16th at 7 am; Shotgun start at 8 am. Early Bird Special price by April 30th is \$85. Please call Debbie at 570-622-1802, ext. 0 for more information.

**Cruise to the Caribbean** with St. Ambrose (Schuylkill Haven) on **August 19 to August 29** – Departing from NYC and traveling on the Norwegian Escape, we will be visiting San Juan, Puerto Rico; Philipsburg, St. Maarten; the U.S. and British Virgin Islands; and Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. There are cabin options for everyone. Optional bus transportation from St. Ambrose will also be available for an additional fee. For more information or to sign up, please reach out to Debbie Minnich at 484-934-1350.

## Join Us!

Calling all parishioners who love St. John's hospitality and/or Yuengling Lager Jogger!

Did you know that St. John's is right on the race route for the annual Yuengling lager jogger 5K race? This year's race will take place **Saturday morning, April 18<sup>th</sup>**, starting at 9 AM. Our parish family would like to extend a warm welcome to the thousands of individuals who pass our doors at this event.

You can get involved in the following ways: Donate gallons of water or donate your time by making fun, encouraging signs with your family. Or even better, come out to the parish steps on 4/18 with your signs, bells and whistles to cheer for the participants and hand out water.

Please consider coming out for some parish fellowship and showing our community some St. John's hospitality! On the date of the event, please arrive at the parish parking lot by 8:30 AM due to road closures.

Please email Susan Hahner ([susanhahner77@gmail.com](mailto:susanhahner77@gmail.com)) or call the rectory (Monday-Thursday) to sign up or donate! Please join us!



## Mustard Seedlings

**A Supportive Community for Moms from the newly pregnant to Pre-school parenting stage.** Join us Thursday morning, April 23, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in Longinus Hall . Kids age 0-5 are welcome to come enjoy provided toys! Home-schooled siblings are welcome to attend as well. Moms will enjoy a hot tea and some guided discussion as we move through our faith formation study about the life and works of St. Teresa of Avila. Bring a journal! Scan the QR code to connect with the group on Facebook.



April 12, 2026

## Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

Acts 2:42-47 | 1 Pt 1:3-9 | Jn 20:19-31

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

Can you imagine being Thomas and finding out that while you were gone from the Upper Room, the resurrected Jesus appeared to the other disciples? And then, according to the evangelist John, it was a full week later when Jesus returns to that room. If I were Thomas, I would probably be consumed with thoughts about how unfair the situation was – that I was being asked to believe without seeing while the other disciples were able to see the glorified Christ. And, of course, we don't know how Thomas reacted, except that he demanded to see and touch the wounds of Christ. We do know that when Christ returns he does not admonish Thomas, but offers his hands and his side to his disciple to touch. Christ responded to Thomas with mercy – inviting him into an encounter in a way that will draw him into deeper faith. And Christ also comes to us again and again and again, mercifully inviting us into relationship with him regardless of what we demand or how often we fall away.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

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

We do not have a right to God's mercy. Humanity willingly and intentionally turned away from God in the Garden of Eden, and we continue to do so today when we choose to sin and turn away from God. But God extends mercy to us as an undeserved gift, and he calls us to be merciful to others. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles tells us that the first Christians devoted themselves to the love of God and others, and they forged an avenue for mercy to be made present as they cared for one another by dividing their material goods "according to each one's need." We, too, are called to be merciful. We are called to look beyond what someone should be able to do on their own and be open to responding to their need in love. And as we show mercy to others, we remind one another of our dignity and worth. As with Thomas, Jesus does not focus on what we lack, but instead generously offers what is needed to draw us into relationship.

### **RECEIVE**

It can be just as hard to receive mercy as it is to extend it. In receiving mercy, we must admit that we are not capable of healing ourselves of all that keeps us from full communion with Christ. This week, pray for the grace to fully receive the mercy that God so lovingly offers, trusting that he desires to meet us where we are and draw us closer to himself.

