

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

April 16, 2023

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**

Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 15

5:00 p.m. M/M William Bercher
(Scott Williams)

Sunday, April 16

8:15 a.m. William Haley
(Sons & Daughters)

Sunday, April 16

10:30 a.m. John D. Dalton Sr.
(Hoy & Dalton Family)

Monday, April 17

6:30 p.m. John Wollyung
(Frank Uhrin Family)

Tuesday, April 18

9:00 a.m. James J. Curran Jr.
(Theresa Schreffler)

Wednesday, April 19

9:00 a.m. Marie Murphy
(Family)

Thursday, April 20

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

Friday, April 21

9:00 a.m. Patricia Thomas
(Pat, Missy, Amy Scheetz)

Saturday, April 22

5:00 p.m. Virginia Comfort
& Barney Comfort
(Chris & Jared Black)

Sunday, April 23

8:15 a.m. Dot & Jack Ryan
(Crystal Pugh)

Sunday, April 23

10:30 a.m. Dr. David Harvey
(Mary Beth Harvey)

Next Week's Readings

Third Sunday of Easter
(April 22/23)

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

Reading II: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Message from Father Bobbin

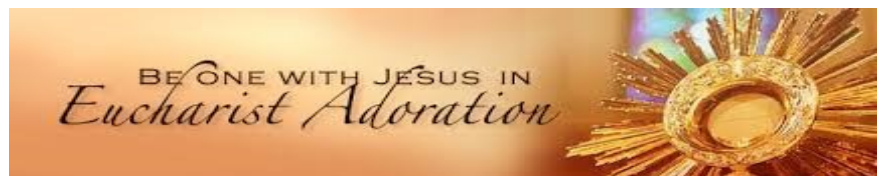
Dear Parishioners,

The Second Sunday of Easter has taken on a special significance as "Divine Mercy Sunday." Every year on this day we hear the Gospel of the risen Jesus appearing to the Apostles, first without Thomas on the evening of the resurrection and then, a week later (today), with Thomas present. It is unfortunate that this Apostle has become known as "doubting Thomas" because, in the end, he makes a beautiful act of faith in Jesus and the occasion is one of reconciliation.

Easter is all about reconciliation. Our faith is all about reconciliation. Jesus died and rose so we can be reconciled with God. This happens first by our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. But after Baptism, God in His mercy gives us another sacrament that reconciles us to Him when we fall into sin. On the very evening of Easter Sunday, when Jesus appears to the Apostles, He gives them the ability to forgive sins in His name: the sacrament of Confession.

Throughout Lent, my weekly message was about various aspects of Confession. And we tend to focus on going to Confession in Lent as a way to prepare for Easter. But perhaps one of the best ways to celebrate the Easter season is to meet the risen Jesus in Confession once again (and to make a habit of it), allowing the grace of Easter, God's unlimited mercy, to continually pour out upon us.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin



Eucharistic Adoration

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 will be 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.

Thank You

Our new Paschal Candle in the church sanctuary was donated ...
In Memory of Edward Smith
by wife Dolores Smith, Children & Grandchildren



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 • Robert Kline • Tom Jefferson
Chuck Majestic • Tony Kochol

Upcoming Calendar

April

16	8:00 a.m.	First Communion Class	L.H.
16	10:30 a.m.	Little Children's Sunday School	L.H.
18	12-9:30 p.m.	Dine-Out at DiMaio's	Orwigsburg
19	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg.	L.H.
20	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
23	9:00 a.m.	CCD Community Mtg.	Church
24	12:30 p.m.	Confirmation Rehearsal	Church
26	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Dinners Wrap-Up Mtg.	L.H.
27	4:30 p.m.	Confirmation	Church
29	9 am-noon	Yard Sale Drop Off	R.B.
30	8:00 a.m.	First Communion Class	L.H.
30	2:00 p.m.	Paint & Sip	L.H.

May

5	7:00 p.m.	First Communion Rehearsal	Church
6	5:00 p.m.	First Holy Communion	Church
7	9:00 a.m.	May Procession	Church
7	10:30 a.m.	Little Children's Sunday School	L.H.
11	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.

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



SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered **Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30** on **April 20, May 11, 18, 25**. Join us in person in Longinus Hall 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. When in doubt, call the rectory to check for a cancellation message.*

DO YOU HAVE A LOVED ONE IN THE HOSPITAL?

The HIPPA privacy protection act prohibits the release of patient information admitted to hospitals or nursing homes. Each facility interprets HIPPA differently which often precludes the sharing of this information with your pastor.

In the event of a loved one being hospitalized or admitted to a long term care facility, an authorized family member should inform the parish office.

If Father's schedule permits he will visit your loved one. Remember the number of our priests in the area have dwindled. If it is an EMERGENCY, we will have a priest attend to your loved ones needs in a timely fashion. Please do not wait until the last possible moment to contact a priest. Please also note that patients admitted through the Emergency Room are not asked to specify a religion/priest/or parish.

A Family member needs to inform the parish office.

Candles

BVM

1. For Kelsey Clauser & Baby by Sandy Clauser
2. For Rachael Kubick & Baby by Sandy Clauser

St. Joseph

1. IMO George Hahner Jr. by Family
2. IMO Barbara & Carl Weiss by Sandy Clauser

Sanctuary

IMO Barbara & Carl Weiss
by Sandy Clauser

Guardian Angels

- 1&2. IMO Ramon Grapsy by Joan Grapsy
- 3&4. Special Intention

Liturgical Min. Schedule

April 22 — 5:00 p.m.

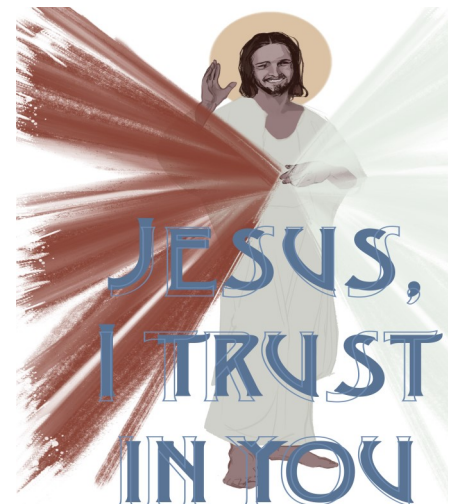
Reader: Heidi Gorski
Euch.Min.: Gerry Schwartz
Server: Aleksander Gorski
Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

April 23 — 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Ann Blankenhorn
Euch.Min.: Debbie Herb
Servers: Lukas & Finley McNamara
Cantor: Ed Braham

April 23 — 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Vince Balulis
Euch.Min.: John Matulevich
Server: Sophia Palmieri
Cantor: Dave Derbes



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

Rice Bowl

Thank You. Our community changes lives this Lent through CRS Rice Bowl, and we want to say Thank You! Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl at the church or donate online at crsricebowl.org/donate.

Bulletin Boosters

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

Thank you for supporting our bulletin this month!



Divine Mercy Sunday

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

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 3 x)

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.

St. John's Catholic Women's Union

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 19th at 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall**. A "Spring Auction" will be featured. 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 Party. Your ideas, friendship and membership are welcomed. Join us! **Please Note: 2023 Dues are now due!**



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.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

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, 1-866-3RACHEL (Toll Free) or 610-435-1541, ext. 373. You may also email Carol at carolswavely@ptd.net. The retreat will be held **May 19th – 21st, 2023**. Deadline for Registration is May 12th, 2023.



Dine-Out Event

Tuesday, April 18th at DiMaio's Mustard Seed Restaurant, on the Square in Orwigsburg from 12 Noon until 9:30 p.m. 10% of all dine-in and take-out proceeds will benefit St. John's Parish, specifically our Building Restorations and Repairs projects.

DiMaio's is a BYOB restaurant and reservations are accepted (570-366-3601). Check out the menu at www.dimaio mustardseed.com. We will also be conducting a Bake Sale during the Dine-Out event along with ticket sales for our raffle basket. Treat yourself to lunch or dinner and help support our fundraiser! Tell your friends and neighbors about the event!.



Baked Goods

Calling all Bakers for Donations ... looking for Baked Goods to sell on Tuesday, April 18th at DiMaio's. If you're willing to bake for the Dine-Out Event, it would be greatly appreciated! There will be sign-up sheets at the rear of the church, or contact Patty O'Neill at 570-573-2406 or via email pgoneill04@verizon.net. Baked goods can be dropped off at the Russell Building on Monday, April 17th from 2pm until 5:15pm, on Tuesday, April 18th from 9am to 10:30am, or directly at DiMaio's when you stop by for lunch, dinner or take-out. All types of baked goods would be appreciated, even candy! (Note: please mark if dessert contains any type of nuts).



Paint 'n Sip

Enjoy a Sunday afternoon in Longinus Hall for our Paint 'n Sip get together on **Sunday, April 30th at 2:00 p.m.** Artist Kimberly Searle will guide us step by step. We will have all equipment necessary so that you can paint a lovely project plus light snacks and drinks available. Everyone is invited to bring their favorite snacks for sharing. BYOB! Sign-up sheets will be available in the back of church. Cost is \$40.00 per person. All sign-ups with fee included should be returned to the rectory by Wednesday, April 19 so that needed planning can be done. For more information please call the rectory 570-622-5470 ext. 3.

Summer Festival Pot Luck Stand

We are seeking new or unopened items suitable for prizes for the Pot Luck Stand at this year's Summer Festival. We need both child and adult prizes. Bins will be available in the back of church for donations. For questions or more information, please contact Maureen Derbes 570-691-6098. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.



April 22nd Event

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

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, April 22nd, 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 small (3-5 oz) cups / Donate gallons of water / Donate your time by either ... Making fun, encouraging signs with your family, or even better ... show up at our parish steps on Mahantongo Street on 4/22 with your signs, bells and whistles to cheer for participants and hand out waters.

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

Call the rectory to sign up or donate. Thank you!

Neighboring Event

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning in Pottsville is hosting its 32nd Annual Golf Classic tournament on May 19th 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 call 570-622-4638 or visit www.stjosephctr.com.

Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop

Look around your home for any items you wish to donate to our next Yard Sale. You'd be surprised what you might find. Here are some suggestions:

Decorations for Fall, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Puzzles, Knick Knacks, Kitchen Items, Purses, Small Appliances, Candles, Toys, Games, Jewelry, Tablecloths, CD's, DVD's, Bakeware, Phones, Vintage items, etc.

DO NOT donate the following: Plastics, VHS tapes, Glasses, Cups, Televisions, Bedding, Computers, Monitors, Keyboards, Books, Clothing, Large Furniture, Stuffed Animal Toys, Large Christmas Trees.

ONLY ONE DROP-OFF DATE on **Saturday, April 29th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon** at the Russell Building. No items will be accepted before or after this date. Do not leave articles at the door or in the parking lot. Call the parish office 570-622-5470 ext. 3 for more information.

— May 19 / 20 —



Nativity BVM School News ...

Host Families Needed ... To encourage intercultural faith and learning, Nativity BVM High School invites students from all over the world to join the school. There are 10 international students looking to attend for the 2023-2024 school year and host families are needed. They can be families with kids, single people, single parents, or empty nesters. To learn more about being a host parent, contact Erin Freshour from Educatius at 616-301-4241.

Please consider hosting an international student! It provides additional funds to Nativity BVM High School, and past host families will tell you what a wonderful experience hosting an international student can be.

Nativity Happenings ... Nativity students attended the Youth Conference Project Share Out at Mahanoy Area High School on March 29th. Along with other high schools throughout the Schuylkill County area, Nativity presented their project (a Color Run to be held at the school on April 21st) for the 2022-2023 school year to promote a World of Understanding.

Nativity students participated in the Schuylkill County Youth Summit at Penn State Schuylkill Campus on March 30th. High school students throughout the county gathered to promote the Youth Summit's mission to engage, equip and support county youth to live well in the county as successful adults and citizens.

The Nativity BVM Century Benefit took place on Saturday, April 15 at Mountain Valley Golf Course. The following members of the Nativity community were inducted as new Golden Cross Society members at the dinner: Martin C. "Marty" Brennan '60; Judy Kostura; Charles Sophy '90; Cathy Winter; Rev. Christopher Zelonis '94.

Assumption BVM School Events

Trout Rodeo

Saturday, April 22nd from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. at S & A Trout Pond in Orwigsburg. Cost is \$15.00; prizes for tagged fish!

Cash & Gift Card Bingo

Sunday, April 30th at Hillcrest Hall in Minersville. Doors open 11 a.m.; Bingo begins 1 p.m. Advance Tickets \$35.00; at the door \$40.00. Only 300 tickets available. Admission Ticket includes 20 Regular games, 3 Special games, \$1,000 Jackpot game. Tickets can be purchased from any ABVM student, at the school, or at the door. Delicious food available plus 50/50. Everyone is required to purchase a ticket to enter ... must be 18 or older to claim prizes. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, please call 570-622-0106 or email tmengel@assumptionbvmschool.net

Taylor Swift Concert

Take your chance at winning TWO tickets to see TAYLOR SWIFT — the Eras Tour Concert!

Friday, May 12th at 6:30 p.m. at Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia. Floor level seating. Only 750 tickets available. Drawing is May 5th. To request chances, please email: tmengel@assumptionbvm school.net. Please include the number of chances you are requesting and a mailing address.

Pastor *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*
Deacon *Lawrence Lonergan*

Parish Council President *Kevin McNamara*
Choir Director/Organist *David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator *Lucilla Kochol*
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



April 16, 2023 | Sunday of Divine Mercy

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

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

"I'll believe it when I see it." We've all said this at some point, usually in response to hearing about someone unreliable doing something out of character. St. Thomas had the same reaction in today's Gospel when he wasn't there when the other disciples saw Christ for the first time since he rose from his tomb – "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Although Jesus helped Thomas with his unbelief, he blesses those who have not seen, but believe. Have any of us seen the nail marks in Christ's hands and feet, or the wound in his side? Do we see Christ's body and blood on the altar, or do we see only the gifts of bread and wine? Christ comes to us in ways we can understand initially – parables, bread and wine, the face of people we meet throughout our daily lives – but our faith in what we have not seen, in the great mystery of our salvation, is what makes us Christian.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In today's first reading, we hear reports of the lives of the first disciples soon after Pentecost: communal living, breaking bread together, prayer, selling of their property and possessions and redistributing among themselves according to individual needs. To our ears today, this idyllic community living seems almost incredible. Yet these first disciples were infused with the Holy Spirit, who enabled them to proclaim the Gospel and think of others before themselves. As Christ's disciples today, how are we behaving toward one another? If we truly are among those who have not seen and yet believe, let's act in full confidence. As we heard in the second reading, our faith is "more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire." We certainly aren't perfect, and our faith at times can be sorely tested, and yet this is our call: to share this faith by doing good works in Christ's name to make disciples and build the kingdom of God.

INVITATION

People often see Christ through the words and actions of others. This week, actively seek out opportunities to be the hands of Christ. What opportunities does your community have to practice corporal works of mercy?