

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

May 4, 2025



*3rd Sunday of Easter*



## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, May 3

5:00 p.m. Paul Filiac  
(Paula, Mike, Emily  
Lorence)

### Sunday, May 4

8:15 a.m. Charles & Matilda  
Schaeffer  
(Eleanor Schaeffer)

### Sunday, May 4

10:30 a.m. Clare & Alexander Alfonsi  
(Patty Semanchick)

### Monday, May 5

6:30 Thomas & Eva Francis  
(Francis Family)

### Tuesday, May 6

9:00 a.m. Xenia Pristas  
(Mike Lehan)

### Wednesday, May 7

9:00 a.m. William Lecher Jr.  
(Robert & Diane Koval)

### Thursday, May 8

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

### Friday, May 9

9:00 a.m. Brown Family  
(Frank & Mindy Chambers)

### Saturday, May 10

5:00 p.m. Living & Deceased  
Mothers of St. John's  
Parish Family

### Sunday, May 11

8:15 a.m. Living & Deceased  
Mothers of St. John's  
Parish Family

### Sunday, May 11

10:30 a.m. Living & Deceased  
Mothers of St. John's  
Parish Family

## Next Week's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Easter (May 10/11)

Reading I: Acts 13:14, 43-52

Reading II: Revelation 7:9, 14b-17

Gospel: John 10:27-30

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

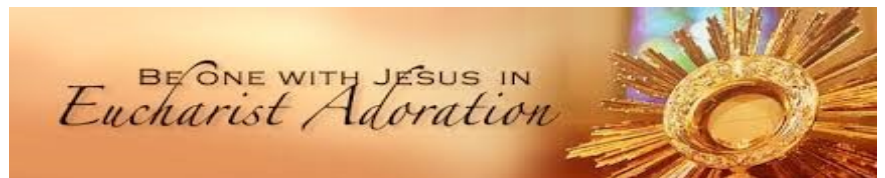
As we celebrate the Easter season, we are reminded that the sacraments are at the center of the Christian life. Jesus has risen and lives among us today. The sacraments are the most special ways in which we encounter the risen Jesus in our lives.

We congratulate the young people of our parish family who have received the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil, along with those who have received Confirmation last Wednesday, and those who have received First Communion this weekend. We congratulate all of the godparents, sponsors, parents, and teachers who have accompanied these young people to the sacraments.

We are also invited to a deeper appreciation for the Sacraments of Healing. Confession is not just for Lent, to help us prepare for Easter. It is an outpouring of God's mercy that we can turn to all the time. We are reminded that the 10:30 Mass on May 18<sup>th</sup> will be our Anointing Mass. Please call the rectory to register if you or a family member would be an appropriate recipient of Anointing of the Sick (serious illness, advanced age, anticipating surgery).

Finally, we pray for those who will celebrate Sacraments of Vocation this Easter season and beyond: couples preparing for Matrimony, and the men about to be ordained priests and deacons, especially here in our diocese.

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.

## 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

### For our Deceased

His Holiness Pope Francis

## Upcoming Events

### May

4	9:00 a.m.	CCD Parent Mtg .....	L.H.
4	11:30 a.m.	Lenten Dinner Wrap-Up Mtg.....	L.H.
11	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School (last class) .....	L.H.
15	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.
18	10:30 a.m.	Healing Mass .....	Church
21	6:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union 'Cover Dish' .....	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.

<><><> MARK YOUR CALENDARS <><><>

SUMMER FESTIVAL—July 18/19, 2025

## SCRIPTURE STUDY

**Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study:** will be offered **Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on May 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.

## Congratulations

Our parish warmly welcomed the following who were baptized at the Easter Vigil and also received Holy Communion and Confirmation.

**Emma Catherine Scheifley**  
**Ivy Ann Vengen**  
**Tegan Marie Vengen**



We also welcomed the following who was received into the Church through a Profession of Faith and received Holy Communion and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil.

**Addison Leigh Smith**

Congratulation to you and your families!

## Pray the Rosary

Recite the rosary daily during the month of May, which is dedicated to the Blessed Mother. There is no prayer more pleasing to Our Lady and more efficacious in asking for her intercession.



**"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain  
to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength,  
honor and glory and blessing."**

— Revelation 5:12

## Weekly Collection

**April 26/27 .....\$4,206.03**

**Improve.& Repairs .....\$1,533.00**

## Candles

### BVM

1. IMO Helen LaScala  
by Diane Schweikert
2. IMO Susan DeJesus  
by Steve & Jan Kurtek

### St. Joseph

1. IMO Susan DeJesus  
by Steve & Jan Kurtek
2. IMO James Schweikert  
by Diane Schweikert

### Sanctuary

IMO M/M Francis LaScala  
by Diane Schweikert

### Guardian Angels

1. IMO Marie Delaney Norris  
by Diane Schweikert
2. Special Intention  
by Diane Schweikert
- 3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy  
by Joan Grapsy & Family

## Liturgical Min. Schedule

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

#### May 10—5:00 p.m. Mass

**Reader:** Janet Daubert

**Euch.Min.:** Bob Wollyung

**Server:** Gabriel Scheidel

**Cantor:** Lucilla Kochol

#### May 11— 8:15 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Ann Blankenhorn

**Euch.Min.:** Heidi Gorski

**Servers:** Cooper & Cole Felty

**Cantor:** Dave Derbes

#### May 11— 10:30 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Vincent Balulis

**Euch.Min.:** John Crane

**Servers:** Maggie & Rhyann Brennan

**Cantor:** Tina Seiger

**Weekend Sacristan:** Connor Felty

**Then he opened  
their minds to  
understand the  
Scriptures.**

## 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.

## 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.

## Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are visiting our beautiful church, please know you are most welcome!

If you have questions or are interested in joining our parish family, please call the rectory 570-622-5470.

## 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."*

## Summer Festival 2025 ..... July 18 & 19 .....

The Summer Festival Committee is very excited to announce this year's scheduled entertainment!

**Friday evening 7/18** Our very own **Dave Derbes** will entertain us with some of our favorite relaxing acoustic tunes! Dave has been a wonderful staple and donates his talent to our festival entertainment every year, we are truly blessed!

**Saturday evening 7/19** we are shaking things up and bringing a blast from the past celebration with **MICHELE AND THE LOST BOYS!** Former members of the band Sapphire: Michele Scribbick, Eric Ziegmont, Bill Adams, and Jim Oakum will bring us all your favorite hits from the 50s, 60s, 70s & 80s! Bring a lawn chair, your dancing shoes, or enjoy our shaded seating, listening to everything from Elvis, to Kiss, to Cyndi Lauper- and so many fun toe tapping tunes in between and more! They will play 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. .... **mark those calendars now!**

We are also excited to announce a few new food additions as follows ....

A fantastically savory **Pig Roast** thanks to Don Tassone! Roasted on site-we can't wait! The **Atomic Kitchen** vintage food truck will join us with amazing vegan options, impossible sliders, mushroom Swiss sandwiches, bubble teas, boba tea and more! Parishioners and food truck owners **Vince Balulis and Megan Homovich** will help add new and fun food options to our festival food line up! More announcements to come, please stay tuned!

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## Mid Summer Festival Pot Luck Prizes Needed (less than 100 days)!

The Mid Summer Festival will be here before you know it! We are asking for donations for our **Pot Luck Stands**, 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 wish, please include your name so we can keep track of those making prize donations.

**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!



## Attention — All Readers, Servers, and Eucharistic Ministers ...

Please let us know your plans for **June & July** so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. Please call or email the rectory before **May 16th**. We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

## New Altar Servers

We invite any boys and girls currently finishing fourth grade or older to consider becoming altar servers. Parents, please speak with Father Bobbin or call the rectory. We will arrange a mutually convenient time to meet for training.



## Thank You Department

**Dramatic Stations of the Cross.** Thank you to all who participated in our Dramatic Stations of the Cross.

Cast & Crew - *Michael Ambrose, Mary Bound, Connie Brown, Rosa Ciarvella, Sandy Clauser, Nick Galanti, Dylan Herb, Kerry Herb, Landon Herb, Zach Herb, Paul Herb, Phyllis Hess, Denise Logan, Kelly Miller, Matt Miller, Mackenzie Miller, Anthony Potteiger, Bernard Potteiger, Gerard Potteiger, Jerome Potteiger, Claudia Rittle, Joe Rittle, Danielle Rozetar, Hallie Rozetar, Missy Rozetar, Chritine Rutecky, Tina Seiger, Addison Smith, Rick Smith, Steward Steckley, Larry Steficek, Jared Terraciano, Tegan Vengen, John Vuksta, Vanessa Wagner.*

Jesus: portrayed by *Vincent Balulis* — Narrator: *Debbie Herb* — Director: *Rick Smith*

**Dramatic Stations Choir:** *Michelle Ambrose, Katie Blackwell, Mary Bound, Janet Daubert, Bernadette Davenport, David Derbes, Barbara Fox, Bob Hahner, Sharon Kolenick, Rosemary Lynn, Justin McClure, Deb O'Connor, Jane Petrilla, Barbara Powers, Vincent Prestileo, Carol Rehnert, Vivian Rupert, Christine Schaeffer, Ed Scheetz, Pat Scheetz, Sue Scheetz, Natalie Setlock, Barb Skelding, Marianne Wollyung.* Soloist—*Vivian Rupert.*

**Holy Thursday—Washing of Feet.** Thank you to those who volunteered on Holy Thursday. You helped our parish family visualize the actions of Jesus at the Last Supper.

*Michelle Ambrose, Vince Balulis, Ann Blankenhorn, Bob Hahner, Dan & Hermine Murphy, Larry Steficek*

**Church & Chapel Decorating.** Thank you to all who helped to create the decorations and decorate our church so beautifully for Easter.

*Mary Bound, Sandy Frinzi, Bob Hahner, Chris Maccarone, Hermine & Danny Murphy, Deacon Robert Reiley, Steward Steckley, Father Bobbin*

**Choir, Musicians, Cantors.** Thank you to *Michelle & Mike Ambrose, Mary Bound, Dave Derbes, Barbara Fox, Lucilla Kochol, Joe Piel, Barbara Powers, Vincent Prestileo, Ed & Sue Scheetz, Pat Scheetz, Marianne Wollyung*

**Lenten Dinners.** Thank you to our **Co-Ordinators** *Kelley Eroh & Kim Searle*, our **Chefs** *Joe Palmieri & Rick Smith*, our **Kitchen Volunteers** who helped prepare, serve, set up and cleaned up for our Lenten Dinners.

*Alice Bechel, Rosa Ciarvella, Nate Delling, Christine Eagan, Sandy Frinzi, Mike Hummel, Gwenth Lieberman, Lauren Lieberman, Fran Lorenz, Samie Malia, Hunter-Rian Nothaft, Sophia Palmieri, Donna Pugh, Nick Quinn, Carole Quirin, Carol Rehnert, Ryan Seiger, Tina Seiger, Emily Scheidel, Theresa Skrobak, Addison Smith, Beth Smith, Dave Steffan, Ivy Vengen, Tegan Vengen.*

**Thank you to everyone who patronized the dinners.**

**Bakers.** Thank you to our very talented bakers who made or purchased those delicious desserts week after week:

*Abigail Anthony, Janet Daubert, Joan Deiter, Marie Doyle, Millie Fredericks, Sr. Mary Jane Hahner, Mary Beth Harvey, Pat Kutch, Frances Lorenz, Christine Maccarone, Hilda Maley, Maria McMurtrie, Barb Munster, Jane Petrilla, Mary Porter, Carole Quirin, Pat Scheetz, Rosann Sitkus, Ellen Zane*

**Church Cleaning Group.** Thank you for doing a wonderful job cleaning our beautiful church for Easter also including Longinus Hall and the Chapel. Everything looked just perfect!

*Sandy Frinzi, Phyllis Hess, Debbie Kubilus, Ray Petrilla, Theresa Skrobak*

**Statue Covers.** A special thank you to *Sandy Frinzi* for making the various Lenten statue covers.

**Banners.** A special thank you to *Bob Hahner* for making the Lenten Banners.

Despite our very best efforts, we invariably misspell, misplace or omit the name of an important person ... **YOU!** We apologize if we have done this.

## Cemetery News ...

After a long winter the grass is starting to grow and the flowers are trying to bloom, which means maintenance at St John's cemetery #2 will be happening once again. Now is the time to plan for the upcoming year. If any parishioner has any ideas, complaints, or compliments for the cemetery please contact the rectory with the information. It will then be passed onto the cemetery committee for consideration in the upcoming months.

Practically everyone at St. John's Parish either has, or knows someone whose final resting place is in our cemetery, and it is up to us to make sure the grounds are the best they can be.





## Nativity BVM High School

### Theology Teacher—Full Time—Immediate Opening

Nativity BVM High School is accepting applications for the position of Theology Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. Minimum of Bachelor's Degree and Catechist Certification required. Interested candidates for the position should send resume, certifications and all clearances by May 2, 2025 to: Nativity BVM High School, Attn. Mrs. Lynn Sabol, Principal, One Lawton's Hill, Pottsville, Pa. 17901. Email: [Isabol@nativitybvm.net](mailto:Isabol@nativitybvm.net)

### 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 excellence 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 below or the QR code.  
<https://allentowndiocese.isolvedhire.com/jobs/1437702>



**Lottery Board Raffle.** Assumption BVM School will host a Lottery Board Raffle for the end of the school year. This fundraiser will directly benefit the school and its students. Chances are \$10.00 each and are good for all three drawings for an opportunity to win a Lottery Board valued at \$150.00 (SGOC #10109). **Drawing to be held May 27th.** Chances can be purchased from any ABVM family or from the school by calling 570-622-0106. Thank you for your help in making our Lottery Board Raffle a success!

**St. Joseph Center for Special Learning** is looking for a dedicated and compassionate **Teacher Aide** to join our team. This part-time position follows a school-day schedule and provides the opportunity to work hands-on with students of all abilities in a supportive classroom setting under the guidance of a teacher. If you are enthusiastic, patient, and eager to make a difference in the lives of our students, we would love to hear from you! For more information or to apply, contact **Principal Bob Giba** at [rgiba@stjosephctr.com](mailto:rgiba@stjosephctr.com) or call **(570) 622-4638**.

**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.

**Christmas In July Basket Raffle.** Mark your calendars! St. Joseph Center for Special Learning's annual **Christmas in July Basket Raffle** will be held on **July 26 & 27** at the **St. Ambrose / SJC Parish Center**. Come out and support a fun summer tradition filled with great prizes and community cheer! We're also accepting donations of new items for the raffle. Donations can be dropped off at SJC during school hours. Your generosity makes this event a success! Thank you for your continued support!

**Spaghetti Dinner** sponsored by St. Patrick's Parish ... Eat-In or Take-Out — **Sunday, May 4th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** (or sell out) at 313 Mahantongo St. Spaghetti platter includes pasta with our homemade sauce, two meatballs, a salad, and bread. Cost is \$11 per platter. Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase.

**St. Monica Ministry Holy Hour of Petition and Hope** will take place at St. Theresa Church, 1408 Easton Road in Hellertown on **Tuesday, May 13 at 6 p.m.** Presiding will be Rev. Christopher Zelonis, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Lehighton. All are invited to join us in praying for loved ones who have left the Faith. For more information, please mail [StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com](mailto:StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com).

**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** ..... stjbparrish@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



May 4, 2025

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 | Rev 5:11-14 | Jn 21:1-19

Written by  
 THE  
 FAITHFUL  
 DISCIPLE

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

Underlying Peter's simple statement in today's Gospel, "I am going fishing," is an ocean of sadness. This leader of the Apostles was once so eager and self-assured that he declared to Jesus, "Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you." (Mt 26:35) But we know the story: At the decisive moment, Peter yielded under pressure and three times denied that he even knew Jesus. Now, after witnessing his Master's arrest and execution, Peter, whom Jesus called to leave his nets to be a fisher of men (see Mt 4:19), returns to his old profession. And even there he sustains another failure: he can't catch any fish! Swimming to shore, the ever-impulsive Apostle discovers that Jesus had already procured fish for breakfast without his help. Imagine Peter's consternation: my vocation as an Apostle, my career as a fisherman, my professed willingness to die for the Lord – everything I thought I could hang my hat on – were pretense and illusion.

#### PRAY

Repetition is the mother of learning. Three times, Jesus asked Peter to renew his love – perhaps, in part, to convince Peter! This week, offer your heart to God as soon as you get up in the morning. You could even use Peter's words: "Lord, you know that I love you." By making this a habit, you invite God's grace and strength to make each day's actions fruitful.

#### GO EVANGELIZE

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

In our relationship with God, we are at times beset by the reality of our own weaknesses and apparent failures. But for Peter as for us, despondency does not have to have the final word. In one of the most intimate exchanges in the Gospels, Jesus heals Peter's self-inflicted wound. "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" the Lord asks three times. What Jesus desires from the Apostle is not eloquent declarations of courage; he wants Peter's love; he wants his heart: conscious of its frailty and humble enough to be led where it does not want to go. Neither Peter's day job nor his grandiose spiritual aspirations are useful to the Lord if Peter has not first surrendered himself to God. This is because only a heart which belongs to God and draws its strength from him can bear fruit for the kingdom of heaven. Such is likewise true for us, often so anxious about tomorrow or preoccupied with our attempts to "earn" God's love. Our primary responsibility, without which none of our other labors will be fruitful, is to give our hearts completely to him.