



In Honor of Our Mothers

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10th & Mahantongo Sts. • Pottsville, Pa. 17901

www.saintjohnpottsville.org

God took the fragrance
of a flower...

The majesty of a tree...

The gentleness of
morning dew...

The calm of a quiet sea...

The beauty
of the twilight hour...

The soul
of a starry night...

The laughter of a
rippling brook...

The grace of a bird
in flight...

Then God fashioned
from these things

A creation like no other,

And when his
masterpiece was through

He called it simply -
Mother.

~Herbert Farnham

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.....stjbparish@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.

Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office.

Bulletin Deadline

Tuesday prior to publication

New Parishioners

Please call the rectory for an appointment to register.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays4:15 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 - 11:30 am
Baptismal Preparation for parents must precede the Baptism. Please contact Father Bobbin for an appointment.

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

(800) 276-1562

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Wendy S. Krisak, 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

Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 7

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

Sunday, May 8

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

Sunday, May 8

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

Monday, May 9

6:30 p.m. David Musket
(Hazelton Boscov's
Employees & Kim Gormley)

Tuesday, May 10

9:00 a.m. Deceased of the Robert
Becker Family
(Mary & Bob Porter)

Wednesday, May 11

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

Thursday, May 12

9:00 a.m. Joseph Lescavage
(Nancy Lescavage)

Friday, May 13

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

Saturday, May 14

5:00 p.m. Samkavitz & Orzechowski
Family
(Joe & Eleanor Orzechowski)

Sunday, May 15

8:15 a.m. Mary Ann Holley
(Debbie & Mark Purcell)

Sunday, May 15

10:30 a.m. Deceased Zambo Family
(Zambo Family)

Next Week's Readings

5th Sunday of Easter

(May 14/15)

Reading I: Acts 14:21-27

Reading II: Revelation 21:1-5a

Gospel: John 13:31-33a, 34-35

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers and grandmothers of our parish. As you know, the month of May is traditionally dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church.

Just as we should not fail to show appreciation for our own mothers on Mother's Day, we should never fail to honor Mary. Many people, both Catholics and non-Catholics, question and even object to our devotion to Mary. But, from the cross, Jesus Himself gave us Mary to be our Mother. By honoring her, we honor Jesus. A genuine devotion to Mary will lead us closer to Jesus.

If our Blessed Mother is not a significant part of your spirituality, consider making a resolution in this month of May to acknowledge her presence with you each day. Take time to talk with her, sharing your concerns and asking her to take your prayers to her Son. Before long, you will experience her motherly love and care and the difference she makes in your life.

*In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin*



Year of Real
PRESENCE
CENTERED IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Eucharistic Adoration

A holy hour takes place 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.

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

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 • Robert Kline

For our Deceased

Gary Bradley, James Curran

Upcoming Events

May

12	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study.....	L.H.
15	10:30 a.m.	Little Children’s Sunday Pre School.....	L.H.
15	11:30 a.m.	May Procession.....	Church
18	6:00 p.m.	Catholic Women’s Union Mtg.....	L.H.
19	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study.....	L.H.
20	4 -7 p.m.	Yard Sale.....	R.B.
21	9—noon	Yard Sale.....	R.B.
26	9:00 a.m.	Ascension Thursday—Mass.....	Church
26	5:15 p.m.	Ascension Thursday—Mass.....	Church
26	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study.....	L.H.

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

April 30/May 1	\$4,586.00
Holy Land	\$1,242.00
Easter.....	\$9,740.00

Candles

BVM

1. Special Intention
2. Special Intention

St. Joseph

1. IMO Leo Leinheiser Sr. by Family
2. Health of Ben Dillow by Fred & Hilda Maley

Sanctuary

IMO Erika Stangl Seasock
by Dorothy & Joe Stangl & Michael Felker

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Catherine Schaeffer by Maria Schaeffer
2. IMO Matilda Schaeffer by Eleanor Schaeffer
3. IMO Nancy Doyne by Don & Joanne Doyne
4. IMO Josephine Brozana by Don & Joanne Doyne

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study:

will be offered **Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on 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). 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.

God Bless our Mothers

The Beatitudes for Mother

- Blessed are mothers** ... who did without for us, they will be rewarded.
- Blessed are mothers** ... who lost sleep when we were sick, they will find rest.
- Blessed are mothers** ... who taught us how to pray, they will share God's kingdom.
- Blessed are mothers** ... who comforted us, they shall be comforted.
- Blessed are mothers** ... who taught us right from wrong, they will know justice.
- Blessed are mothers** ... who showed us the Christian life by example, they will live forever.
- Blessed are mothers** ... who shared with us the meaning of peace, they shall know peace.
- Blessed are mothers** ... who taught us the importance of loving God and each other, they shall see God.

May God bless all Mothers and those who take the place of Mothers on this, their special day.

Liturgical Min. Schedule

May 14 —5:00 p.m.

Reader: Carol Lasco
Euch.Min.: Gerry Schwartz
Servers: R.J. Post

May 15— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Michelle Ambrose
Euch.Min.: Rob Wiscount
Servers: Lukas & Finley McNamara

May 15— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Ray Petrilla
Euch.Min.: Frank Murphy
Servers: Ethan & Ryan Grabowski

Attention

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 16**.



Baptismal Preparation

Before your youngest members are baptized, parents are asked to come for Baptismal Preparation. It is preferable that this be done **before** your baby is born. Please call Father Bobbin to arrange for this important preparation. Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

Welcome to St. John's

This week we welcome **Charlene Preddie** to St. John's Parish Family. Charlene is originally from Trinidad and is currently enjoying her retirement. Warmly welcome Charlene into our parish family with a big dose of St. John's hospitality.

Banns of Marriage

I—Elizabeth Whitman
& Christian Mehl

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."

Moving? Relocating? Let us Know!

Have you moved, changed your phone or email address? If so, would you please contact the Rectory Office at 622-5470 ext. 3. Help us update records!

Why is May the month of Mary?



Among Catholics, May is most well-known as "Mary's Month," a specific month of the year when special devotions are performed in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Why is that? How did May become associated with the Blessed Mother? There are many different factors that contributed to this association. First of all, in ancient Greece and Rome the month of May was dedicated to pagan goddesses connected to fertility and springtime (Artemis and Flora, respectively). This, combined with other European rituals commemorating the new season of spring, led many Western cultures to view May as a month of life and motherhood. This was long before "Mother's Day" was ever conceived, though the modern celebration is closely related to this innate desire to honor maternity during the spring months.

In the early Church there is also evidence of a major feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated on the 15th of May each year. A tradition of devoting 30 days to Mary called Tricesimum, which was also known as "Lady Month," was established in the 18th century. After that, various private devotions to Mary quickly became widespread during the month of May. In 1945, Pope Pius XII solidified May as a Marian month after establishing the feast of the Queenship of Mary on May 31st. After the Second Vatican Council, this feast was moved to August 22, while May 31st became the feast of the Visitation of Mary. The month of May is one rich in tradition and a beautiful time of the year to honor our heavenly mother.

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.



May Procession



The CCD students will end their year by having a May Procession **after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 15th**. Families of the students are asked to bring a bouquet of flowers and their rosaries. **All parishioners** are invited to be part of the procession that will begin in the church. We will process from the back of church up 10th street and end at the Grotto. There, children will place bouquets of flowers and we will recite a decade of the

rosary, say the litany of Mary and make the Act of Consecration. Afterwards we will crown Mary. All will be invited to sing the chorus to Immaculate Mary. Please join us for this special Marian devotion!

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.



Neighboring Events

St. Ambrose Church, Schuylkill Haven is offering a trip on Thursday, May 12 to Baltimore, MD. Itinerary includes a tour and Mass at the Basilica of the Assumption, boxed lunch at Fort McHenry, a tour and tasting at Sagamore Distillery, and concludes with free time at the Inner Harbor and dinner at Phillips Seafood. Cost is \$190/person and includes transportation, meals, tours, taxes and gratuities. For more information, please call the Parish Office at 570-385-1031, option 1 or visit www.stambrosehaven.com/parish-trip-2022.



May 8, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Acts 13:14, 43-52 | Rev 7:9, 14b-17 | Jn 10:27-30

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

The divisiveness we see in our nation and our world is not new – it is rooted in our original sin. In the Old Testament, the Assyrians invaded the northern kingdom of Israel, forcing many of its citizens into exile and captivity. In the modern world, Russia invades Ukraine and millions of refugees flee. It seems as if this 2200-year-old adage is true: “Nothing is new under the sun!” (Ecc 1:9) Except for Jesus. Of him God says [spoiler for next week!], “Behold I make all things new.” (Rev 21:5) As we hear in today’s first reading, conflict between Jews and Gentiles forced Paul and Barnabas to leave Antioch. In contrast, John in Revelation envisions a world where “every nation, race, people, and tongue” stand before the Lord. For us as for them, Jesus is the path to the unity we desire. That’s not to gloss over real differences and even worse, the horror of war. However, it can be a reminder that no matter what else we do, we need to turn to the Lord first in prayer, asking him to guide us in our response; asking the Holy Spirit to help us see people of all nations, and indeed our very own neighbors, as our brothers and sisters.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Judging by the volume wars during our family television sessions, it seems that people have varying levels of ability to hear certain accents and types of voices. I wonder if this capacity to hear properly, or with the necessary level of attention, can sometimes apply to our ability to hear, really *hear*, the words of Jesus. Perhaps we’re too busy, or other preoccupations crowd out his voice. Today’s Gospel reminds us to tune back in. “My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me,” Jesus says. In the first reading, Luke describes the Gentiles who lived in Antioch and were “delighted” in hearing the Good News of salvation and who “glorified the word of the Lord,” spreading it “through the whole region.” Today and every day, we can emulate the early Christians by opening our ears (or eyes!) to the word of God through the Scriptures, and in turn sharing that light of salvation to all who need it.

PRAY Pray Pope Francis’ prayer for peace, found on the USCCB website: www.usccb.org/prayers/pope-francis-prayer-peace. Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

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