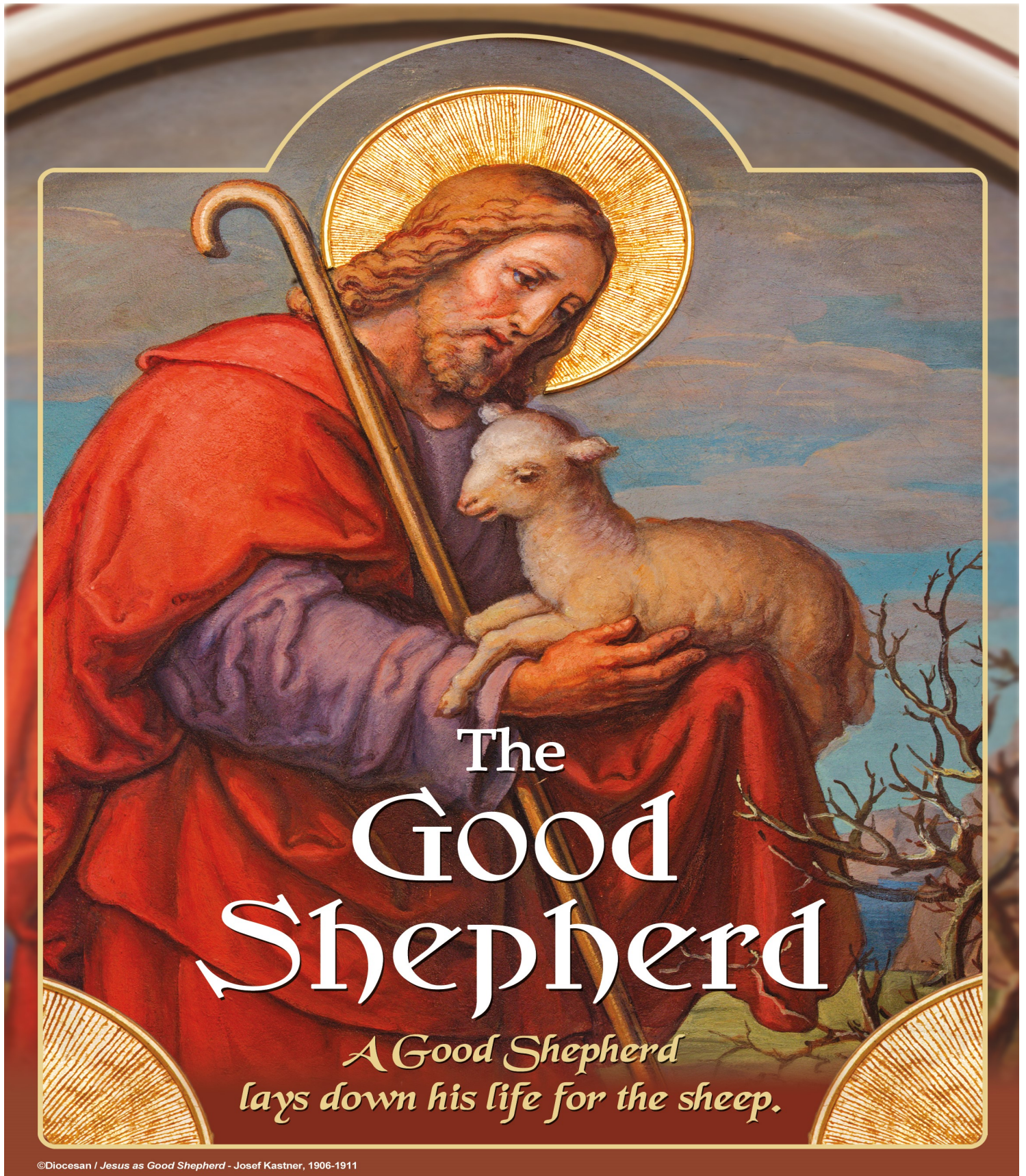


St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

May 11, 2025



Mass Intentions

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

Monday, May 12

6:30 p.m. Mary & Joseph Lescavage
(Linda & Martin Smith)

Tuesday, May 13

9:00 a.m. Porter & Becker Families
(Mary Porter)

Wednesday, May 14

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

Thursday, May 15

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

Friday, May 16

9:00 a.m. Rita Lotz
(John & Joyce Gerace)

Saturday, May 17

5:00 p.m. Mary Ellen Cross
(Lou Cross
& Marlo Cross Lipko)

Sunday, May 18

8:15 a.m. John Kutch
(Pat Kutch & Family)

Sunday, May 18

10:30 a.m. Dominic Maccarone Jr.
(M/M Robert Minneci)

Next Week's Readings

Fifth Sunday of Easter

(May 17/18)

Reading I: Acts 14:21-27

Reading II: Revelation 21:1-5a

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

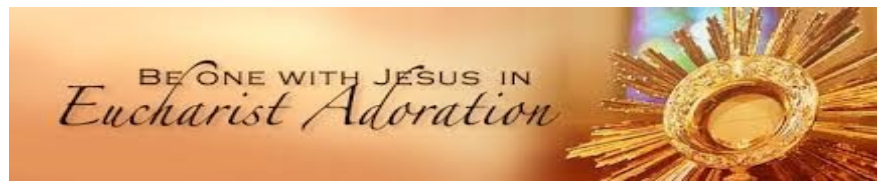
Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

We wish a happy Mother's Day to all of the mothers and grandmothers of our parish. The month of May, of course, is dedicated in a special way to the Blessed Mother. This is a good time to renew our attention to Mary in daily prayer. If our prayers tend to become routine, this month invites us to *really talk* to Mary, asking her intercession for ourselves and the needs around us. If you don't pray the rosary, now is a good time to start. If you do pray the rosary, this month is a good time to make a renewed effort to not let it simply become mindless repetition. The rosary is a meditative prayer that invites us to think about the mysteries in the life of Jesus, or perhaps the people or things we're praying for as we recite the words.

Mary is Mother of the Church. This month we can also ask her intercession for the universal Church as we welcome a new Holy Father. The Blessed Mother always loves and cares for her children.

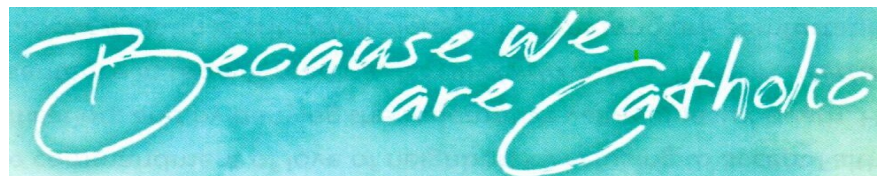
In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin



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.



The 2025 Because We Are Catholic Annual Appeal is underway! Our parish support is a vital part of this Diocesan-wide effort to serve children and families in our own community and throughout the Diocese of Allentown. You can make your gift today at www.BecauseWeAreCatholic.org. Thank you!

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, John Gerace

Upcoming Events

May

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 evening 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). 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.



First Holy Communion

We congratulate our boys and girls who received Eucharist for the first time on Saturday, May 3rd.

We also congratulate their families and teachers who brought them to this point in their lives.

First Communicants:

Henry Liddle and Abigail Anthony

Sacrament of Confirmation

Congratulations to the girls and boys of St. John's Parish Family who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday, April 30th by Bishop Alfred Schlert.



Front Row: Tina Seiger, Lucilla Kochol, Luke Lieberman, Ella Grabowski, Dean Ketner, Gabriel Lipton, Father Bobbin

Back Row: Vincent Balulis, Cole Felty, Jerome Urban, Thomas Welsh (Bob Hahner—not pictured)

Weekly Collection

May 3/4\$5,096.64

Thank you for your sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving.

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Philomena Carroll by Family
2. Special Intention

St. Joseph

1. IMO Leo Leinheiser by Family
2. IMO Mary Hahner by Hahner Family

Sanctuary

IMO Helen & Joseph Lescavage by Family

Guardian Angels

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

Liturgical Min. Schedule

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 17—5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Patty O'Neill

EM: John O'Neill, Bob Wollyung

Servers: Sophia Palmieri
Luke Schane

Cantor: Dave Derbes

May 18— 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Heidi Gorski

EM: Jeff Naffin, Bill Gianfagna

Servers: Lukas & Finley McNamara
Cantor: Vincent Prestileo

May 18— 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: John Crane

EM: Debbie Herb, Justina Majestic

Servers: Maggie & Rhyan Brennan
Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

Weekend Sacristan: Luke Schane



Baptized in Christ

On April 27th we celebrated the glorious baptism day of the following :

Audrey Rose Wollyung, daughter of Christopher and Rachel (Wood) Wollyung

and

Leo Pascal Martin, son of Tyronne and Kathleen (Clark) Martin.

They became new creations in Christ in the waters of Holy Baptism and are now joined to us by the gifts of faith, hope and charity. Warmly welcome them into our parish family.

Attention — All Readers, Servers, and Extraordinary 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.

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.

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!

* * * * *

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!



Thank You Dept.

New Book Stands

We thank **Mary Porter** for her donation of the two new book stands which will be used in the Church and Chapel. They were donated in memory of her husband, Robert Porter Jr.

New Chairs

We thank **St. John's Catholic Women's Union** for their donation of the new dining room chairs for the Russell Building.

Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Committee News for May 2025

Happy Spring to you all. The members of the DMI team hope that all of our parishioners have shaken the chill from a long and cold winter.

Since our last report to you in February, we have several items to tell you about. First, we finished conducting our third Focus Group meeting. That focus group talked about the Parish Priority of Faith Formation & Religious Education.

The parishioners who participated in the Focus group meeting were Gerry Schwartz, Tina Seiger, and Rick and Beth Smith. The DMI team members in attendance were Sarah DeArment, Michelle Stone, Ann Blankenhorn, John Crane, Frank Murphy, Dr. Bill Gianfagna and Father Bobbin.

After that meeting, we created the final Priority Plan for our Parish. And at the end of March, the report was successfully submitted to the Diocese. We will soon be sharing the Report with everyone via the bulletin, website and Facebook.

Currently, the DMI planning committee that’s put together the Priority plan is in its final stages, and a new committee has been established for the Implementation of Parish Priorities. It will be no surprise that the name of the new committee is the DMI Implementation team. The DMI Implementation team has briefly met on 2 occasions in April.

Our DMI team members should be acknowledged and thanked for the significant amount of time and effort they contributed to the planning process. The planning process required a lot of meetings (close to 20) within 12 months. We feel very strongly that our Parish Priorities will fit very well with our existing parishioners.

Happy Spring and we will keep in touch!

The DMI Planning Committee

Father Bobbin, Ann Blankenhorn, John Crane, Sarah DeArment, Dr. Bill Gianfagna, Frank Murphy, Michelle Stone

Parish Council Nominations

It is now time to nominate new members to the council to fill the places of those whose term has expired. The term of office is three (3) years with the possibility of a second consecutive term

Any parishioner who is at least 21 years old is eligible for nomination. You may nominate yourself or someone else. Please put nominations in the collection basket or mail your nomination to the rectory. When nominating, please don't choose just the most popular people, but choose people who will work for the parish.

The following should NOT be nominated as they are presently serving or finishing their term:

Term expires 2026
Vincent Balulis, Ann Blankenhorn, Michelle Darhun, Reese Reddington, Kay & Bob Wollyung

Term expires 2027
Bob Burns, Tara DeStefano, Melissa Scheetz, Michelle Stone, Gretchen Witman

President: *Darren DeArment*
1st Vice-President: *John Crane*
2nd Vice-President: *Heidi Gorski*

Nomination Ballot

I Nominate:

- (a) _____
- (a) _____
- (a) _____

Please return to the Rectory or Collection Basket by Friday, June 6th

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 to: Nativity BVM High School, Attn. Mrs. Lynn Sabol, Principal, One Lawton's Hill, Pottsville, Pa. 17901. Email: 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 or call **(570) 622-4638**.

34th Annual Golf Classic Tournament. St. Joseph Center for Special Learning is hosting its 34th Annual Golf Classic tournament on **May 16th** 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 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!

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.

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.



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 *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



May 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Written by
 THE
 FAITHFUL
 DISCIPLE

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

"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me." The spiritual riches contained in this line alone are enough to sustain us for a lifetime. First, we rejoice that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, calls us his own. We belong to him who, like the shepherds of bygone days, protects his sheep – capable of little in the way of self-defense – even at the cost of his own life. Also, among the distinctive marks of Jesus' sheep are that they hear his voice and follow him. Thus, to be part of Christ's flock involves not only being known by him, but knowing him and heeding his call. A sheep who has not attuned its ears to the voice of its shepherd is a lost sheep! Although the world's fertile meadows may look inviting, *not* to attune our ears to the voice of Christ means exposing ourselves to the dangers of a life apart from God. On the other hand, if we make our pilgrimage of life with him, we abide within the protective confines of his love until the day we follow him into the pastures of eternal life.

OBSERVE

Find an image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd online and spend 15 minutes praying about what you see. What is the Shepherd's attitude toward his sheep, and the sheep's attitude toward their Shepherd? What do we learn from this about *our* relationship with Christ?

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Frequently, our free will (something we do not share with sheep) gets in the way of our ability to heed the Shepherd's voice. For us, his voice is expressed in concrete ways: in his commandments, in the teachings and tradition of his Church, in the Scriptures, in our legitimate superiors, and in prayer. These are the means he uses to mark out the path he wishes us to follow. But this path always involves the cross, and our sheep-ish (pun intended) nature recoils at the sight of suffering. In today's second reading, however, St. John's vision offers the key to overcoming our resistance: "For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them." In other words, Jesus, our Divine Shepherd, is also a lamb who has tread the difficult way of the cross. He is *the* Lamb of God who offered himself in a sacrifice of perfect obedience to his Father's will. Thus, we do not embark along the way of obedience and suffering alone; Jesus walks before us to sustain and protect us along the way.