

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

May 14, 2023 • Sixth Sunday of Easter

Happy Mother's Day

Her children
rise up and call
her blessed.

Proverbs 31:28



Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 13

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

Sunday, May 14

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

Sunday, May 14

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

Monday, May 15

6:30 p.m. Ralph Thomas
(Steve & Kate Zagar)

Tuesday, May 16

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

Wednesday, May 17

9:00 a.m. John Kutch
(Tony & Maryann Lascala)

Wednesday, May 17

7:00 p.m. Joseph Wollyung
(Joseph & Suzanne Wollyung)

Thursday, May 18

9:00 a.m. M/M Peter Samkavitz
M/M Edward Orzechowski
(Joseph & Eleanor
Orzechowski)

5:15 p.m. Calvin Hoy
(Keck Family)

Friday, May 19

9:00 a.m. Anthony J. Gaburick
(living intention)
Mucha & Williams Family

Saturday, May 20

5:00 p.m. Charles & Scott Bowers
(Joan Bowers)

Sunday, May 21

8:15 a.m. Cathy Mooney Troup
(Nora Chiplonia)

Sunday, May 21

10:30 a.m. Matthew Yenilaitus Family
(Tina Zambo)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

This Thursday we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord, a holy day of obligation. Please be sure to join us for Mass Wednesday evening or Thursday. The Ascension is a beautiful celebration that reminds us that Jesus has not actually left us but, quite the opposite, He can now be closer to each of us than could ever be possible when He was walking around in His risen body. The Ascension brings us to the final part of the Easter season, the days when we anticipate the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

On Saturday five men will be ordained deacons for our diocese on their way to becoming priests next year. It is a blessing to have five new deacons, eventually priests, in one year. But, unfortunately, this is the exception. We continue to lose more priests to age and health than we are gaining. Continue to ask God for an increase of priests. Remember to consider volunteering to take the vocation crucifix home for a week.

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.



Ascension of the Lord

Holy Day of Obligation

Masses: Wednesday, May 17—7 p.m.
Thursday, May 18— 9:00 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.

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

*Sheri Post • Robert Kline • Chuck Majestic • Tony Kochol
Tom Jefferson • Theresa Chapman • Josephine Gallagher*

For our Deceased

Bishop Edward Cullen, Richard Lowe

Upcoming Calendar

May

17	7:00 p.m.	Ascension Thursday Mass	Church
18	9:00 a.m.	Ascension Thursday Mass	Church
18	5:15 p.m.	Ascension Thursday Mass	Church
18	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
19	4-7 p.m.	Yard Sale	R.B.
20	9-12 noon	Yard Sale	R.B.
21	10:30 a.m.	Little Children's Sunday School	L.H.
23	7:00 p.m.	Building Committee/Vision Committee	R.B.
24	6:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union 'Covered Dish'	L.H.
25	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
25	7:30 p.m.	Summer Festival Mtg.....	F.R.

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

Weekly Collections

May 6/7\$4,454.00
Easter\$10,744.00

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. Special Intention
2. IMO Mary Hahner by Hahner Family

St. Joseph

1. IMO Nancy Doyne by Don & Joanne Doyne
2. IMO Josephine Brozana by Don & Joanne Doyne

Sanctuary

IMO Joseph Rosenberger by Barb Wollyung & Family

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Catherine Schaeffer by Maria Schaeffer
2. IMO Matilda Schaeffer by Eleanor Schaeffer
- 3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy by Joan Grapsy & Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

May 20 — 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Heidi Gorski

Euch.Min.: Dan Murphy

Server: Aleksander Gorski

Cantor: Joanne Matina

May 21 — 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Vince Balulis

Euch.Min.: Rob Wiscount

Servers: Luke & Jude Scheidel

Cantor: Ed Brahler

May 21 — 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Ray Petrilla

Euch.Min.: John Matulevich

Server: Ryan Grabowski

Cantor: Dave Derbes

SCRIPTURE STUDY

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

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.**

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 Deacon Lonergan, or call the rectory. We will arrange a mutually convenient time to meet for training.

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 the rectory or email Larry Lonergan at larrylonergan130@gmail.com by **May 22nd**. We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

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
IMO Charles Lorenz
IMO Dorothy Parsick
IMO Paul & Dorothy Rosenberger
IMO Erika Stangl Seasock
IMO Margaret Zelinsky
Living & Deceased of St. John's
CYO Program

Thank you for supporting our bulletin this month!

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

Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop — May 19 / 20 —

Friday, May 19 from 4 to 7 p.m. and **Saturday, May 20** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Russell Building — 9th & Schuylkill Ave. Pottsville

Don't miss it! If you like yard sales, this is the place to be. Various items including ... knick-knacks, dishes, kitchen items, appliances, jewelry, holiday decorations, framed prints, special Vintage Section and much, much more, plus food is available for purchase. Something for everyone! Join us! Call the Rectory office 622-5470 ext 3 for more information.

Desserts/Baked Goods needed—If you would like to donate a dessert, please drop off at the times listed above or call the rectory 622-5470 ext 3. Please individually wrap or bag all dessert items to be sold.



**** SAVE THE DATE **** **Summer Festival—2023** **July 14 & 15** **... More details to follow ...**

Next Summer Festival Meeting
Thursday, May 25—7:30 p.m.
In the Rectory Fellowship Room



Summer Festival — Pot Luck Stand

We are still seeking new items for the Pot Luck stand for the Summer Festival. We need more than 150 adult or children prizes. Prizes can be gift cards, household items, kids puzzles, crafts, toys, etc. We thank those who have already donated and thank you for all future donations. Bins are available in the back of church for donations. Any questions or to schedule a drop off, please contact Maureen Derbes at 570-691-5098.

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, May 24th at 6 p.m. in Longinus Hall**. A "Covered Dish Dinner" 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 Dinner. Your ideas, friendship and membership are welcomed. Join us!



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.



First Holy Communion

We congratulate our boys and girls who received Eucharist for the first time on Saturday, May 6th.

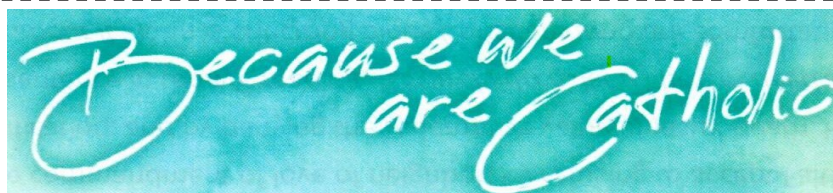
We also congratulate their families and teachers who brought them to this point in their lives.

Front Row:

Marcel LeBlanc, Taylor Fanelli, Gabrielle Wright, Isabella DeWald, Gabriel Scheidel

Back Row:

Father Bobbin, Amelia Jones, Elise Lipton, Madelyn McGinley, Charlotte Welsh, Julia Urban, Lucilla Kochol



DIOCESE OF
ALLENTOWN

ANNUAL APPEAL On this Mother’s Day weekend please remember all mothers in every circumstance, Mothers who give tirelessly of themselves, who are managing busy schedules, dealing with outside influences and may have fallen upon hard times and have come to our Diocese for assistance. For questions, visit the Appeal website at BecauseWeAreCatholic.org.



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.



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.

Flower Donations

If anyone wishes to memorialize flowers in the sanctuary for the weekend Masses for a living or deceased intention, please call the Rectory 570-622-5470 ext. 3

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.

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.

We wish to thank the following members who will be completing a three-year term on the Parish Council. They **are not eligible** to be nominated for a second three-year term.

John Consugar, Darren DeArment, Patty O'Neill, Nick Quinn

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

Term expires 2024

Joseph Gerchak, Joseph Kurtek, Nannette Major, Al Norkus, John Powers

Term expires 2025

Michael Brennan, John Crane, Heidi Gorski, Sr. Mary Jane Hahner, Michael Hummel

President: Kevin McNamara

1st Vice-President: Darren DeArment

Nomination Ballot

I Nominate:

(a) _____

(a) _____

(a) _____

Please return to the Rectory or Collection Basket by Friday, June 2nd.

Nativity BVM School News ...

Baccalaureate Mass will be celebrated on May 31st @ 7 PM in the gym with Bishop Schlert as the Main Celebrant. Graduation ceremonies will be held in the school gymnasium beginning at 7 PM on June 1st (tickets are required). Our closing of school Mass will be held on June 6th.

Members of the Art Club and Mrs. Schwenk represented Nativity at the Block of Art in Downtown Pottsville the weekend of April 29th.

Nativity students participated in the City of Pottsville's annual Arbor Day ceremony held at Charles Baber Cemetery on April 28th. This event was featured with an article in the Pottsville Republican newspaper.

Nativity's Interact Club held its bi-annual Blood Drive through the American Red Cross at the school on May 1st.

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



May 14, 2023 | Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 | 1 Pt 3:15-18 | Jn 14:15-21

Written by
 THE
 FAITHFUL
 DISCIPLE

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

I know a few people whose method of book buying is to read the last few pages of a book first. They want to know if buying, or reading, the book is going to be worth it. As an avid bibliophile I find this to be something I could never do, but I understand their impulse. After all, it makes sense to want to have some kind of assurance that the journey one is taking – whether physical, spiritual, or literary – has a decent “payoff,” as it were. In today’s Gospel, Jesus promises his disciples that when he leaves he will provide “another Advocate” for them. We see this truth in action in the first reading, as with the laying on of hands by the apostles, those who had been baptized in Jesus’ name “received the Holy Spirit.” Christ’s life, death, and resurrection not only conquered death and brought us new life, it made way for the Holy Spirit who has come to dwell among and within us. The Lord has not left us alone. So while we may have a sense of what the sequel to our journey is, we trust the author of our story to help us write the ending of this one.

STUDY In order to truly live the Word and spread it to others as Jesus commanded, we must be familiar with the Scriptures. The *Word on Fire Bible*, featuring the Gospels only, is well-designed and includes commentary from Bishop Robert Barron as well as Church Fathers and recent saints and Catholic authors.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The love of God and the gift of faith from the Holy Spirit brought the earliest disciples, and us, to the journey – to our own story of a life of discipleship. And while the Bible is indeed “a book,” it is also a compilation of books, letters, and events, and more, that give words to a living history of salvation that began before time and is outside of time and eternal. The Good News cannot be contained in pages – it must be lived, shared, and loved. And yes, it is good to know how it ends, but even that pales in relation to the joy and worthiness of the reading and living of the Word. That is for us to experience, and to share! As much gratification as there is in sharing our favorite new bestseller, we need to double and revamp our efforts when it comes to the Gospel. Give it away freely, to everyone, and shout out the ending. Jesus Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! And the Holy Spirit sets us free to love him and one another.