

# 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 17, 2026 • Seventh Sunday of Easter



*7th Sunday  
of Easter*

**Pastor**..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*  
**Deacon**.....*Robert A. Reiley*  
**Parish Council President** ..... *John Crane*  
**E-mail**.....johncrane1@mac.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

#### Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

1-800-276-1562      www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

#### Diocese of Allentown Website

www.allentowndiocese.org



## 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.
- ◆ A holy hour in the **main church on the eve of First Friday** from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. This will be a formal holy hour ending with Benediction. Father will be available for Confessions.

## Communion for the Homebound

If you or a family member, friend, or neighbor who is a member of St. John is confined to home, a nursing home or assisted living facility because of illness, age, or disability and would like to receive Holy Communion` on a monthly basis, please call the rectory. We traditionally visit the sick and homebound on or around the first Friday of the month. Please help us meet the spiritual needs of our homebound parishioners.

### 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:** *Sherri Post, Tom Jefferson, Kathy Vicic*

**"Note: We will keep names on the prayer list for a period of three months. Please let us know if you would like your name or your family member's name to remain on the list longer."**

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, May 16

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

### Sunday, May 17

8:15 a.m. Robert Doyle Sr.  
(Kitty & Sheila Moser)

### Sunday, May 17

10:30 a.m. George & Dolores Lynn  
& Jacqueline Kost  
(George, Joan Marie, Bill & Dave)

### Monday, May 18

6:30 p.m. John Fredericks  
(Ed & Gerry Schwartz)

### Tuesday, May 19

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

### Wednesday, May 20

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

### Thursday, May 21

9:00 a.m. Tony Kochol  
(Joyce Gerace)

### Friday, May 22

9:00 a.m. Eugene Rossi  
(Lucilla Kochol)

### Saturday, May 23

5:00 p.m. Bertha & John Kralick  
(Mirabella Family)

### Sunday, May 24

8:15 a.m. Francis Lorenz  
(Living Intention)  
(Kelley Eroh)

### Sunday, May 24

10:30 a.m. Earl & Florence Tropp  
Martin J. Kern  
(John & Bernice Petock)

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Among the seven sacraments, we have been looking at the Eucharist. This would be a natural place to look at the Mass, which is a huge topic. Perhaps the Mass will be a future bulletin series.

Let's consider a few things about the Eucharist besides the Mass. We receive the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We normally receive Communion at Mass, although Holy Communion can be brought to people who are sick or homebound by a priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister, using a very brief prayer service.

The word "communion" means to be united. When we receive Communion we are intimately united to Jesus. As we discussed last week, Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist: His Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. The closest we can be to Jesus in this life is to literally consume Him in the Eucharist. Holy Communion is also an expression of our unity with each other as the Church, God's family, the Body of Christ. When we receive Communion we are publicly professing that we are members of the Church by Baptism, we fully profess the Catholic faith, and we are striving to live by the teachings of our faith.

This has very serious implications for receiving Holy Communion in a worthy manner. Because Communion intimately unites us to Jesus, we need to first meet Him in the Sacrament of Confession if we are aware of any serious sin on our conscience. If we had a falling out with a friend or a serious argument with a family member, would we expect to just go on as normal without first reconciling?

Because receiving Communion is a way of professing our faith, it would not be proper for people who are not Catholic, or for those who are in an irregular relationship with the Church, or for those who do not strive to accept and live by the teachings of our faith to receive Communion. To do so would be to express something that is not true. The Church's intention is not to exclude people, but to protect the meaning of what we are doing when we celebrate the Eucharist and receive Holy Communion.

In Christ,  
Fr. Bobbin

### Readers, Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.

Please consider if our Lord is calling you to one of these roles. Our current liturgical ministers are sometimes spread very thin, especially in the summer, making it difficult to fill the schedule. If you might be interested in one of these roles, please see Fr. Bobbin.

## SCRIPTURE STUDY

### Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study

... will be offered Thursday evening 6:30-7:30 on **May 21**. 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.

*I BELIEVE  
THAT I SHALL SEE  
THE GOOD THINGS  
OF THE LORD IN THE  
LAND OF THE LIVING*

### 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 2027**

***Bob Burns, Tara DeStefano, Melissa Scheetz, Michelle Stone, Gretchen Witman***

**Term Expires 2028**

***Christine Black, Kenneth Cooper, Kelley Eroh, Charles Kustan, Barbara Munster, Marianne Wollyung***

**President: John Crane**

**1st Vice-President: Heidi Gorski**

**2nd Vice-President: Kay Wollyung**

**Past President: Darren DeArment**

=====

### Nomination Ballot

**I Nominate:**

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to the Rectory or Collection Basket  
by Friday, June 5th**

### Weekly Collection

**May 10/11 .....\$4,178.00**

**Dues.....\$1,140.00**

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

### Candles

**BVM**

1&2. IMO John Fredericks  
by Millie Fredericks

**St. Joseph**

1. IMO Joseph Wollyung Sr.  
by Wollyung Family  
2. IMO John Fredericks  
by Millie Fredericks

**Sanctuary**

IMO John Fredericks  
by Millie Fredericks

**Guardian Angels**

All 4 Guardian Angel Candles  
IMO John Fredericks  
by Millie Fredericks

### Liturgical Min. Schedule

**Pentecost**

**May 23— 5:00 p.m.**

**Reader:** Janet Daubert

**EM:** Frank Murphy, John O'Neill

**Server:** Frank Murphy

**Cantor:** Dave Derbes

**May 24— 8:15 a.m. Mass**

**Reader:** Jeff Naffin

**EM:** Joseph Palmieri

Ann Blankenhorn

**Servers:** Maggie & Ryan Brennan

**Cantor:** Tina Seiger

**May 24 —10:30 a.m. Mass**

**Reader:** Bill Gianfagna

**EM:** Raymond Petrilla, Heidi Gorski

**Servers:** Callie & Cole Felty

**Cantor:** Marianne Wollyung

**Weekend Sacristan:** Connor Felty

### Catholic Women’s Union– Meeting

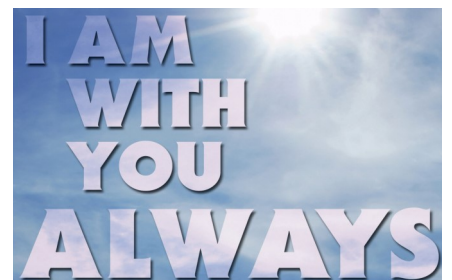


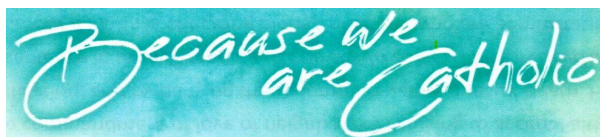
Women of all ages are invited to join the Catholic Women’s Union. Learn how you can become involved with the Catholic Women’s Union by joining us on **Wednesday, May 20th at 6 p.m. in Longinus Hall.** Our ‘Covered Dish’ will be featured. Meet the members and learn how you can be part of this unique organization. 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 always welcomed.

### St. John’s Ensemble

**... will play/sing at 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 24th.**

The purpose of this ministry is to serve the parish at Mass, singing liturgical hymns, using contemporary instruments like the guitar, keyboard, drums or other instruments, and using contemporary music arrangements.





### Because We Are Catholic Annual Appeal 2026



Many thanks to those who have made a pledge. Making a six-month pledge allows you to maximize the amount that you may give by making monthly payments. For example, a \$120 gift may be set up with six \$20 installments. Remember, every gift counts, no matter how big or small. Your generosity supports children and families in our own community and throughout the Diocese of Allentown.

You can make your gift only at [www.BecauseWeAreCatholic.org](http://www.BecauseWeAreCatholic.org).

### Summer Festival — Pot Luck Stand

We are in need of potluck prizes for our Summer Festival stand! There are a few easy ways to help donate. We have an Amazon wish list again this year. Go to [Amazon.com/registries](https://www.amazon.com/registries), search St John The Baptist Potluck, when purchasing an item it will default to ship to Fred Maley- you may send your items there for convenience or if you would prefer to ship to your own address and place item in the donation bin in the back of the church. Any questions, concerns, or to arrange drop off please call Shanna 570-617-4769.



If you'd like an even easier route, and have a smart phone or tablet, open your camera and hold over top and focus on the QR code box - a small link will pop up- tap on it and it will take you right to our Amazon wish list!

Gift cards are also a fantastic way to help! Any denomination and anyplace you love! They can be placed in the collection basket or please call Shanna Deibert 570-617-4769 to arrange for drop off or pick up. Thank you again for your continued generosity!!

### Summer Festival — T-Shirts

If something new and exciting to add to your Summer Festival attire is what you have been looking for- the Summer Festival Committee is ready to deliver! We are offering St John's Summer Festival t-shirts for all to buy! You may have seen some of our committee members fashioning these fabulous shirts last year. The t-shirt brand is Comfort Colors- incredibly soft and very durable to last! It will be a one sided design on the front of the shirt - a beautiful drawing of our church and some fun festival food as well! The shirt was designed by a well loved local graphic design business Nora's Pawesome Tees! We will offer online ordering (for a small processing fee) or also for no fees, we will be doing some pre-sales in the back of church after Masses until 5/24- the shirts will be ready and delivered in June. There will be extras ordered to sell at the Festival but to be sure to get your specific size, we highly recommend doing the pre-sale. All shirts must be paid for at time of the order. The color of the shirts is Lagoon Blue—it's a shade of teal. We will have a sample shirt in the back of the church for everyone to see!

### Summer Festival T-Shirt

Please complete this order form, enclose in an envelope, drop in the collection basket along with the cost.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Size (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Adults: S—XL = \$23.00 / 2 XL: \$25.00 / 3 XL: \$27.00 / 4 XL: \$29.00 / Children: \$18.00

### 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.

### Catholic Charities

*Sharing Compassion, Serving in Faith, Spreading Hope*

- Services We Offer:
- Professional Counseling Services
- Pregnancy & Parenting Support
- Immigration Legal Services
- Supportive Services for Veterans & Families
- Basic Need Services
- Rural Support Services
- Food & Nutrition Hubs
- Food Pantry
- Community Café Food Truck

Schuylkill County Office  
99 Valley St.  
New Philadelphia  
570-628-0466  
[www.catholiccharitiesad.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesad.org)

### 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."*  
Amen.

# Because we are Catholic



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE of ALLENTOWN  
CELEBRATING 65 YEARS

Contributions to the **Because We are Catholic Annual Appeal** directly fund vital Community Services, Catholic Education, Vocations, and Parish Life programs across our Diocese.

To ensure your gifts are used as intended, these funds are held in a restricted Trust overseen by dedicated volunteer advisors from Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill counties.

As we celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the Diocese of Allentown, please enjoy this collection of new and "throwback" photos highlighting our shared journey!

## VOCATIONS

- Seminarian education and ongoing priestly formation.
- Training and support for the Permanent Diaconate.
- Discernment and outreach for young men and women considering the Priesthood or Religious Life.

**11.8%**  
OF APPEAL



DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN

Donate online at [BecauseWeAreCatholic.org](http://BecauseWeAreCatholic.org) • 800-831-4443



May 17, 2026

## The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11 | Eph 1:17-23 | Mt 28:16-20

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

This year, I cannot help but notice how kingdom-centric the readings for the Solemnity of the Ascension are. In our first reading, Jesus appears to his disciples for forty days after his resurrection and speaks to them about the kingdom of God. Our psalm beckons us to rejoice that God is mounting his throne – another kingdom image! Our second reading tells us that God has given Christ authority over “every principality, power, and dominion” – a clear sign that he is the one reigning over all. These references seem to be telling us that today’s feast is Jesus’ “coronation day” – the day he takes his rightful place at the right hand of the Father. From the moment Jesus ascends to heaven, he is reigning. What a consoling thought for us, who may at times find ourselves discouraged by our lives or the state of affairs around us. We have hope because we know that despite appearances to the contrary, Jesus reigns, and it is only a matter of time until the Father puts all things beneath Christ’s feet.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples – and us – to “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.” It’s a tall order – bringing every nation under the reign of Christ. But we needn’t be intimidated. The Ascension offers us hope, for – as the *Catechism* reminds us – “Jesus Christ, having entered the sanctuary of heaven once and for all, intercedes constantly for us as the mediator who assures us of the permanent outpouring of the Holy Spirit.” (667) Jesus ascended into heaven and now is constantly interceding for us before the Father, constantly pouring out his Spirit on us! In all our efforts to evangelize, we have that constant support and grace being sent our way to equip us for this work.

### **REFLECT**

Oftentimes, we think of the Ascension as Jesus leaving us after the end of his earthly ministry. But Jesus promises that he does not leave us, but rather, that he is always with us, “until the end of the age.” Spend some time this week reflecting on the ways that, having taken his seat at the right hand of the Father, Jesus is now ever-more present, pouring out his grace and his Spirit upon us at every moment.