

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

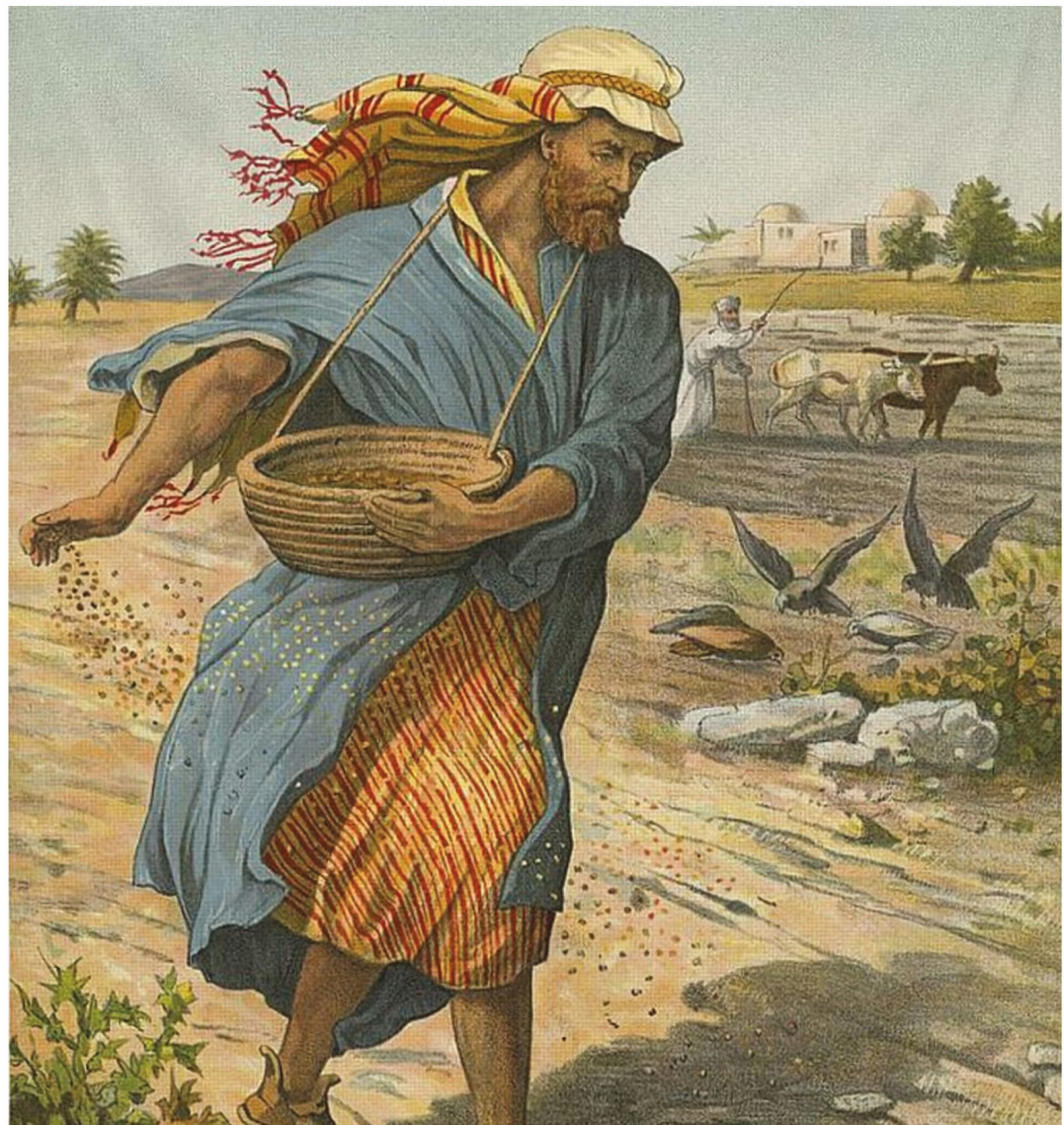
10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • [www.saintjohnpottsville.org](http://www.saintjohnpottsville.org)

June 13, 2021

## 11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

This is how it is with the kingdom of God;  
it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land...  
and the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how.

✠ Mk 4:26-27



## Mass Intentions

### Monday, June 14

9:00 a.m. Joseph & Jessie Ritzel  
(Joan Ritzel)

### Tuesday, June 15

9:00 a.m. T. Mary Rinaldo  
(Chuck Rinaldo)

### Wednesday, June 16

9:00 a.m. Alfred & Rita Halsey  
(Joseph, Sonya, Joe Halsey)

### Thursday, June 17

9:00 a.m. Francis & Mary Burns

### Friday, June 18

9:00 a.m. Bonnie Brennan  
(Pat Lombel)

### Saturday, June 19

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

### Sunday, June 20

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

### Sunday, June 20

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

## From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

As this will be my last Pastor's message here at St. John's, it's quite appropriate that the agrarian images are used throughout the readings today. As I will be moving to St. Mary's which is actually situated on farmland, it's quite appropriate.

In the first reading Ezekiel speaks for the Lord who will take a shoot from the seeder and plant it on the mountain heights of Israel where it will bear fruit. The second reading Paul writes to the Corinthians that we walk by faith not by sight. And in Mark's gospel Jesus describes the Kingdom of God using parables of a wheat field and a mustard seed.

Jesus speaks his word to the crowds in parables because that is how they are able to understand. And of course the agrarian image that he uses would have been quite familiar to the people of this time. Although farming is dependent on many variables the farmer has no control over, the seed of faith planted on our hearts is totally in our control. The seed of faith is in our hearts and grace helps it to bear fruit. However, will we take the time to weed and cultivate and will we take the time to water so that the seed of faith can grow.

As I will leave St. John's on Tuesday, I wish to thank all of you as a parish family for an amazing twenty-three years as your Pastor. When I came here in 1997 it was my first pastordship and you, as a parish family, made me feel most welcome and took me under your wings and molded me as a Pastor and shepherd of your flock.

I am sure as Father Bobbin will arrive on Tuesday that you will welcome him with the same loving and kind spirit that you gave to me twenty-three years ago. Please know that you will be in my prayers and please keep me in yours as I begin this new phase in my life. And if you're somehow south of Pottsville on 61, please stop in to say hello.

*Sincerely in Christ,*

*Father Dave*

## Next Week's Readings

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time (June 19/20)

**Reading I:** Job 38:1, 8-11

**Reading II:** 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

**Gospel:** Mark 4:35-41



## Pray

### For our Sick

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.

*Susan Cook • Patricia Thomas*

### 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.

## Upcoming Events

### June

- 14 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour/Adoration, Music, and Confessions.... Church
- 16 7:00 p.m. St. John’s Catholic Women’s Union .....L.H.
- 19/20 after Masses Welcome Father Bobbin .....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

June 5/6 .....\$5,282.00

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

Please **do not** use **tape** or **staple** to seal your offertory envelopes.

### Peter’s Pence Collection

Next week we will take up the Peter’s Pence Collection, which is a way to support the Universal Church and the work of the Holy See, including helping Pope Francis with the funds to carry out his charitable works. These works benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Please be generous. For more information, visit [www.peterspence.va/en.html](http://www.peterspence.va/en.html).



### Holy Hour/Adoration, Music, and Confessions

Celebrate the Year of Real Presence on Monday, June 14th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. for an evening of worship before the Blessed Sacrament. Light piano instrumental worship music will be interspersed with periods of prayerful silence. Confessions will be available for the first half hour.



### Welcome Father Bobbin

We will welcome Father Bobbin next weekend, June 19/20 in Longinus Hall after all Masses. Wine and Cheese will be available after 5 p.m. Mass; Coffee and Donuts after 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Masses. Please join us. All are welcome!

### Candle Donations

#### BVM

1. IMO Dolly Parsick  
by Joanne Schultz
2. IMO Richard Hallick Sr.  
by Richard Jr. & Brian Hallick

#### St. Joseph

1. For Zacarias & Neil  
by Neil & Francis Manus
2. IMO Richard Hallick Sr.  
by Richard Jr. & Brian Hallick

#### Sanctuary

Intentions of Michele Hanson  
by Bernice Petock

#### Guardian Angels

- 1&2. IMO Ramon Grapsy  
by Joan Grapsy
- 3&4. MO Robert Prokop  
by Peggy & Gene Ebling

**Diocese of Allentown  
Office of the Permanent  
Diaconate Formation**

Do you believe that God might be calling you to discern the Ordained Ministry of Christ the Servant, as a Permanent Deacon in the Diocese of Allentown? If so you and your family are invited to attend a COME AND SEE Event at Saint Joseph the Worker Parish Church on Friday Evening, June 25, 2021 at 6 p.m. Registration is required. Please register by emailing [jestewart@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:jestewart@allentowndiocese.org) or calling the Office of Permanent Diaconate Formation at (610) 332-0442 Ext. 2031.

**Personnel Assignments**

Bishop Schlert announced the following priest transfers, effective June 15:

**Fr. David Loeper** will become the new pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Hamburg.

**Fr. Kevin Bobbin** will be the new pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in Pottsville

**New Deacon**—Matthew Kuna will continue to work at the Cathedral Parish in Allentown

**New Priest**—Fr. Phillip Maas was ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, June 5th and is assigned to St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish in Sinking Springs

THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONS PRESENTS

# QUO VADIS

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



THEME

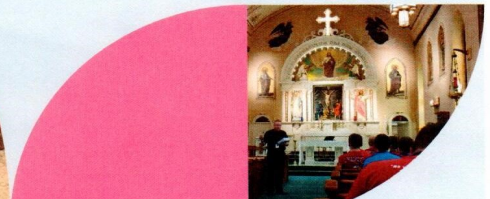
VOCATIONS  
CENTERED IN THE  
HOLY EUCHARIST

# FIAT DAYS



THEME

VOCATIONS  
CENTERED IN THE  
HOLY EUCHARIST



IMMACULATE  
HEART of MARY



**DESALES UNIVERSITY**

Meals and lodging provided  
Scholarships available

**SUN, JULY 18 TO  
WED, JULY 21, 2021**

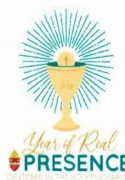
A retreat for high-school aged young men (14-18 years of age, including newly-graduated seniors) to participate in activities rooted in prayer and discerning their vocation in the Real Presence of the Most Holy Eucharist.

**Additional activities include:**

- Sports and daily games
- Outdoor Rosary procession and Mary crowning
- Eucharistic Adoration



Contact the Office of Vocations  
P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538  
Phone: (610) 437-0755 | Fax: (610) 433-7822  
Email: [vocations@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:vocations@allentowndiocese.org)



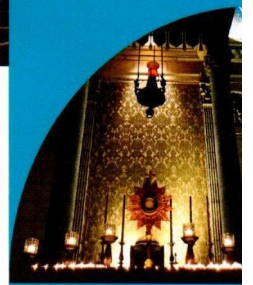
**REGISTRATION**

Early registration:  
\$100 before June 17

After June 21,  
registration \$150

**REGISTRATION  
DEADLINE JUNE 28**

No late registrations.  
No walk-ins.





## Saint Anthony of Padua

Saint Anthony was born Fernando Martins in Lisbon, Portugal. He was born into a wealthy family and by the age of fifteen asked to be sent to the Abbey of Santa Cruz in Coimbra, the then capital of Portugal. During his time in the Abbey, he learned theology and Latin.

Following his ordination to the priesthood, he was named guestmaster and was responsible for the abbey's hospitality. When Franciscan friars settled a small hermitage outside Coimbra dedicated to Saint Anthony of Egypt, Fernando felt a longing to join them.

Fernando eventually received permission to leave the Abbey so he could join the new Franciscan Order. When he was admitted, he changed his name to Anthony.

Anthony then traveled to Morocco to spread God's truth, but became extremely sick and was returned to Portugal to recover. The return voyage was blown off-course and the party arrived in Sicily, from which they traveled to Tuscany. Anthony was assigned to the hermitage of San Paolo after local friars considered his health.

As he recovered, Anthony spent his time praying and studying.

An undetermined amount of time later, Dominican friars came to visit the Franciscans and there was confusion over who would present the homily. The Dominicans were known for their preaching, thus the Franciscans assumed it was they who would provide a homilist, but the Dominicans assumed the Franciscans would provide one. It was then the head of the Franciscan hermitage asked Anthony to speak on whatever the Holy Spirit told him to speak of.

Though he tried to object, Anthony delivered an eloquent and moving homily that impressed both groups. Soon, news of his eloquence reached Francis of Assisi, who held a strong distrust of the brotherhood's commitment to a life of poverty. However, in Anthony, he found a friend.

In 1224, Francis entrusted his friars' pursuits of studies to Anthony. Anthony had a book of psalms that contained notes and comments to help when teaching students and, in a time when a printing press was not yet invented, he greatly valued it.

When a novice decided to leave the hermitage, he stole Anthony's valuable book. When Anthony discovered it was missing, he prayed it would be found or returned to him. The thief *did* return the book and in an extra step returned to the Order as well.

The book is said to be preserved in the Franciscan friary in Bologna today.

Anthony occasionally taught at the universities of Montpellier and Toulouse in southern France, but he performed best in the role of a preacher.

So simple and resounding was his teaching of the Catholic Faith, most unlettered and the innocent could understand his messages. It is for this reason he was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XII in 1946.

Once, when St. Anthony of Padua attempted to preach the true Gospel of the Catholic Church to heretics who would not listen to him, he went out and preached his message to the fish. This was not, as liberals and naturalists have tried to say, for the instruction of the fish, but rather for the glory of God, the delight of the angels, and the easing of his own heart. When critics saw the fish begin to gather, they realized they should also listen to what Anthony had to say.

He was only 35-years-old when he died and was canonized less than one year afterward by Pope Gregory IX. Upon exhumation some 336 years after his death, his body was found to be corrupted, yet his tongue was totally incorrupt, so perfect were the teachings that had been formed upon it.

He is typically depicted with a book and the Infant Child Jesus and is commonly referred to today as the "finder of lost articles." St Anthony is venerated all over the world as the Patron Saint for lost articles, and is credited with many miracles involving lost people, lost things and even lost spiritual goods.

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Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

June 13, 2021

## Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 17:22-24 | 2 Cor 5:6-10 | Mk 4:26-34

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

Many years ago, I met someone whose attentive hospitality cast a seed in me that took root and enabled me to grow as a disciple of Jesus. At the meetings I attended with her, Sister Bridget would immediately greet everyone with a smile, outstretched hand, and, “Hello, I’m Sister Bridget; what’s your name?” You couldn’t help but feel at ease with her warm greeting, but it didn’t end there. Throughout the encounter, she remained just as positive and as completely present as she had in the beginning. Just like the parable of the man scattering seed in today’s Gospel, Sister Bridget didn’t know how the seed of God’s word would grow as she sowed it in her unique, joyful way. To her, maybe her graciousness was the smallest gesture. But the Lord allowed it to sprout and grow, yielding fruit and a bountiful harvest.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today’s Gospel verse within the Alleluia proclaims, “The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower. All who come to him will live forever.” By our baptism, we are called to continue the work of Christ, sowing the word of God in our world. This may seem an intimidating expectation for all of us who doubt that we have the expertise to “sow” God’s word. But in today’s Gospel, Jesus tells the crowds that the kingdom of God is like the smallest of seeds, that once sown, becomes the largest of plants. If we believe in Christ and “aspire to please him,” God can use our smallest gestures to sow his word in the world. We may not see how our small acts of kindness accomplish this. But if we scatter these “seeds” out of love for God, we can trust they will take root, grow abundantly, and call others to “come to him [and] live forever.”

**INVITE** What “seeds” of welcome can you scatter among those you encounter? Make your “random acts of kindness” regular, intentional acts that express God’s love. As St. Thérèse of Lisieux said: “Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love.”



**Pastor**..... *Rev. David J. Loeper*  
**Deacons**.....*Luis R. Visot and Lawrence Lonergan*

**Pastoral Assistant**.....*Bobby Rienzo*  
**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.

**Bulletin Deadline**

Tuesday 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**

First Sunday of each month..... 11:30 a.m.  
Second Sunday ..... 10:30 a.m. Mass  
Baptismal Preparation for Parents must precede the Baptism.  
Please contact Father Dave 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@allentowndioocese.org



“To what shall we compare the kingdom of God...?”