

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

July 3, 2022

INDEPENDENCE DAY

GOD BLESS AMERICA



Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 2

5:00 p.m. Dorothy Rosenberger
(Paul Rosenberger)

Sunday, July 3

8:15 a.m. Laverne Yackel
(Jim & Leah Donovan & Family)

Sunday, July 3

10:30 a.m. Deceased of the Yenilaitus
Family
(Mary Zambo)

Monday, July 4

9:00 a.m. Lucillamae Fanelli
Time Change (Lucilla Kochol)

Tuesday, July 5

9:00 a.m. Deceased of Bohr Family

Wednesday, July 6

9:00 a.m. Bertha Bullock

Thursday, July 7

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

Friday, July 8

9:00 a.m. David Musket
(Hazelton Boscov's Employees
& Kim Gormley)

Saturday, July 9

5:00 p.m. Ed Smith
(Grandchildren)

Sunday, July 10

8:15 a.m. Susan Legase
(Sandi, Sheri, RJ III,
Bob & Irene Post)

Sunday, July 10

10:30 a.m. Joanne Gustitis Kressel
(John & Annette Lisowski)

Next Week's Readings

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(July 9/10)

Reading I: Deuteronomy 30:10-14

Reading II: Colossians 1:15-20

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Pastor's Message

Dear Parishioners,

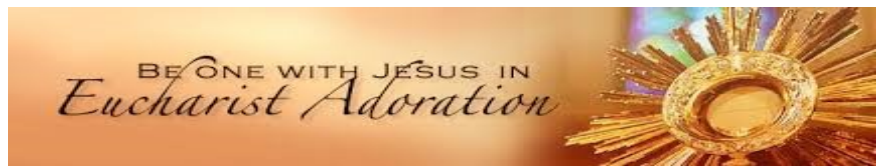
Happy Independence Day! We celebrate and give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in the United States which, unfortunately, are not shared by all people in our world.

As we celebrate our freedom, however, our faith calls us to have a proper understanding of what true freedom is and the responsibility that is necessarily joined to it. The popular understanding of freedom is that freedom is the ability to choose whatever one desires. Freedom is so valued in our culture, and this understanding of freedom is so ingrained in us, that we tend to look at everything through the biased lens of whether it promotes or restricts this type of freedom. For example, the overturning of *Roe vs. Wade* is taken by many as an "attack" on the ability to "choose." But real freedom is not simply the ability to choose whatever one wants. In fact, this is a false notion of freedom that can actually do harm and even lead one into a kind of slavery.

The person who is truly free is the one who *knows what is good, desires what is good, and can move toward that good* without being hindered by obstacles. For example, according to the popular 21st century American understanding of freedom, if I want a third donut for breakfast, I should be perfectly free to choose it, and this choice is good in and of itself. However, if I am authentically free, I know that my health is a much greater good than satisfying a craving for the pleasure of multiple donuts. Furthermore, I know that good health is important not just for myself but also because I have responsibilities to other people in my life and to society. I know that certain foods promote good health, and I have a stronger desire for those foods than for multiple donuts. (This example is not autobiographical, by the way.)

This Independence Day we pray that more people in our society understand the difference between a false, self-centered type of freedom, and true freedom, which is rooted in truth and oriented toward the common good.

*In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin*



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.

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 • Joanne Schultz

For our Deceased

Janet Weis Bartholomew

Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop — Drop Off

Look around your home for any items you wish to donate to our next Yard Sale. You'd be surprised what you might find . Here are some suggestions:

Decorations for Fall, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Puzzles, Knick Knacks, Kitchen Items, Purses, Small Appliances, Candles, Religious items, Toys, Games, Jewelry, Tablecloths, CD's, DVD's, Bakeware, Phones, Vintage items.



DO NOT donate the following: Plastics, VHS tapes, Glasses, Cups, Televisions, Bedding, Computers, Monitors, Keyboards, Books, Clothing, Large Furniture, Stuffed Animal Toys, Large Christmas Trees.

ONLY ONE DROP-OFF DATE on **Saturday, July 9th from 9 a.m. to noon** at the Russell Building. No items will be accepted before or after this date. Do not leave articles at the door or in the parking lot. Call the parish office 570-622-5470 ext. 3 for more information.

Volleyball Camp

Nativity Green Wave Volleyball Team for the Little Girls Volleyball Camp for girls entering 3rd through 8th grade on **July 11, 12, 13, 14** at Nativity High School Gymnasium. Girls in grades 3, 4, 5 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.; girls in grades 6, 7, 8, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$75.00. Camp includes ... individual instruction, team concepts, competitions, and t-shirt. Instructions by Nativity coaching staff, former and current Nativity players. Please call Jennifer Daubert at 570-622-8110 for more information.

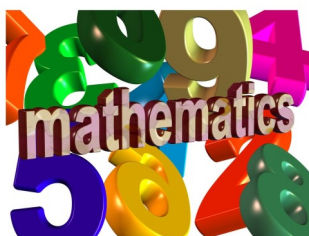
Soup Kitchen Cooks/Servers Needed

Provide a welcoming, respectful environment for the homeless and those in need. Individuals are needed to serve a meal at the Pottsville Area Kitchen once a month. Meals are served Monday through Thursday from 5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. and Sundays at 12:00 P.M. Currently, we are providing grab and go meals and follow CDC guidelines. All volunteers must complete background checks, trainings and forms. For more information please contact Terry Alexander 570-617-2957 or terry-pak@comcast.net or Bob Olney at 610-435-1541 ext 327 or



Neighboring Events

Bleenie Sale. Sponsored by St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Ashland. Pre-orders are strongly encouraged and due by Tuesday, July 12th ... NO EXCEPTIONS ... Pick up on Saturday, July 16th at 1115 Walnut St. in Ashland in the courtyard alongside the church. Time for pre-order pick up is 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost .. \$1.25 each or 12 for \$14.00. Please call the parish office at 570-875-1521 to place your order today! All proceeds benefit St. Charles Borromeo Parish.



Math Teacher Needed

Assumption BVM School is seeking a Full-time Middle School Math Teacher. Please send application, resume, certification and clearances to Assumption BVM School to the attention of Mrs. Teresa Keating, 112 South 7th Street, Pottsville, PA 17901

Weekly Collection

June 25/26\$4,408.05
Peter's Pence \$933.00
Improv.& Repairs\$4,327.00

Thank you for your sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving. Also, Thank you for using your Improvements & Repairs envelopes to help us meet the maintenance needs of our parish.

Candles

BVM

1. In Honor of the Blessed Mother by Barb Munster
2. Healing of Denise by Mary Zambo

St. Joseph

1. IMO George Hahner Jr. by Hahner Family
2. St. John's Parish Family

Sanctuary

IMO Charlie Schaeffer
by Eleanor Schaeffer

Guardian Angels

1. In thanksgiving by Barb Munster
2. In thanksgiving for sweet Baby James by John & Barb Powers
3. IMO Frank & Josephine Brozana by Don & Joanne Doyne
4. IMO Donald & Nancy Doyne by Don & Joanne Doyne

Liturgical Min. Schedule

July 9 —5:00 p.m.

Reader: Lucilla Kochol
Euch.Min.: Ray Petrilla
Servers: Emma Lieberman
Cantor: Mary Bound

July 10— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Bob Bechtel
Euch.Min.: George Forney
Servers: Luke Schane
Cantor: Dave Derbes

July 10— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Mary Matulevich
Euch.Min.: Frank Murphy
Servers: Ethan & Ryan Grabowski
Cantor: Joanne Matina



Baptized in Christ

On June 19th we celebrated the glorious baptism day of **William Anthony Bechtel**, son of Robert & Emily (Birks) Bechtel. William was baptized by his uncle Rev. David Bechtel. William became a new creation in Christ in the waters of Holy Baptism and is now joined to us by the gifts of faith, hope and charity. We warmly welcome him into our parish family.

Welcome to St. John's

This week we welcome **Nicholas Galanti** to St. John's Parish Family. Warmly welcome Nicholas into our parish family with a big dose of St. John's hospitality.

Family Matters

Fourth of July – let freedom ring. We give thanks to God today for the many rights and responsibilities that come with our freedom as citizens. As a parish family we give thanks to God for our freedoms, especially our right to worship on this Independence Day.

Attention

Readers, Servers, and Eucharistic Ministers ... please let us know your plans for **August & September** so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. Please call or email the rectory before **July 18th**.



RCIA is for anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic or in updating and deepening their understanding of the Catholic Faith. Are you interested in deepening your own faith? Or do you know anyone who has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic? Please invite them to join us. Have them call St. John's Rectory, 622-5470, to register for the RCIA sessions. All are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions.

Retrouvaille: Rediscover the Love in your Marriage

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. Upcoming weekend programs will be held August 19 - 21 and October 14 - 16 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

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

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."

Healthy Notes

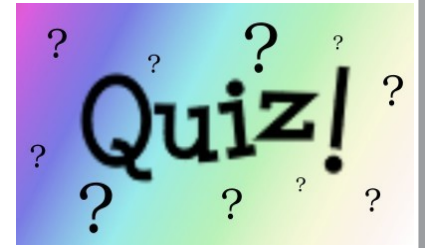
If you're watching your weight, don't overlook the calories from milk, cream, and sweeteners (including flavored syrups) that you add to your coffee or tea. As a recent study in the journal *Public Health* found, they can add up fast. On average, coffee drinkers who used "caloric add-ins" consumed an extra 69 calories a day, mostly from sugar, while tea drinkers consumed an extra 43 calories, compared with coffee and tea drinkers who drank the beverages "black". Over a year, that adds up to more than 25,000 extra calories for coffee drinkers and nearly 16,000 calories for tea drinkers, which could, at least in theory, lead to weight gains of 7 and 4 1/2 pounds, respectively.

*"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation."
... Isaiah 12:2*

What's Your Catholic I.Q. ?

- “Hail Mary, full of grace ... blessed is the fruit of thy _____, Jesus.”
(a) womb (b) apple tree (c) prayers (d) heart
- According to St. Augustine, _____ is “praying twice”.
(a) repeating the same prayer (b) the rosary (c) going to two Masses (d) singing
- Which traditional Catholic prayer is associated with a sacrament?
(a) Emancipation Proclamation (b) Pledge of Allegiance (c) Act of Contrition (d) Serenity Prayer
- Which saint from the Middle Ages is credited with introducing the rosary?
(a) Margaret (b) Dominic (c) Mother Teresa (d) Peter
- The Bible teaches that we should pray _____.
(a) when we need something (b) before bed (c) at church (d) always
- Elizabeth, the Blessed Virgin Mary’s cousin, was the one who first prayed the Magnificat, which says: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior.”
True / False
- Kyrie Eleison* means “Lord, have _____.”
(a) compassion (b) kindness (c) patience (d) mercy.
- This prayer, familiar to Catholics, is also prayed by many Protestant Christians.
(a) Sign of the Cross (b) Lamb of God (c) Our Father (d) Hail Mary
- The prayer book Jesus used as a Jewish boy was _____.
(a) the *Psalms* (b) the *Lectionary* (c) the *Interior Castle* (d) the *Imitation of Christ*
- Which prayer is also known as the Lord’s Prayer?
(a) Communion Rite (b) Our Father (c) Letter to the Corinthians (d) Gospel of John

(Answers can be found on page 7)



“THE HARVEST IS
ABUNDANT BUT
THE LABORERS
ARE FEW...”



St. Thomas

St. Thomas was born a Jew and was called to be one of the twelve Apostles. His birth and death dates are unknown, but his feast day is celebrated July 3. He lived before the formal establishment of the Catholic Church but is recognized as the patron saint of architects.

He was a dedicated but impetuous follower of Christ. When Jesus said He was returning to Judea to visit His sick friend Lazarus, Thomas immediately exhorted the other Apostles to accompany Him on the trip which involved certain danger and possible death because of the mounting hostility of the authorities.

At the Last Supper, when Christ told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them to which they also might come because they knew both the place and the way, Thomas pleaded that they did not understand and received the beautiful assurance that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

St. Thomas is best known for his role in verifying the Resurrection of his Master. Thomas' unwillingness to believe that the other Apostles had seen their risen Lord on the first Easter Sunday earned him the title of "doubting Thomas."

Eight days later, on Christ's second apparition, Thomas was gently rebuked for his skepticism and furnished with the evidence he had demanded - seeing in Christ's hands the point of the nails. Thomas even put his fingers in the nail holes and his hand into Christ's side. After verifying the wounds were true, St. Thomas became convinced of the reality of the Resurrection and exclaimed, "My Lord and My God," thus making a public Profession of Faith in the Divinity of Jesus.

St. Thomas is also mentioned as being present at another Resurrection appearance of Jesus - at Lake Tiberias, when a miraculous catch of fish occurred.

This is all that we know about St. Thomas from the New Testament. Tradition says that at the dispersal of the Apostles after Pentecost this saint was sent to evangelize to the Parthians, Medes, and Persians. He ultimately reached India, carrying the Faith to the Malabar coast, which still boasts a large native population calling themselves "Christians of St. Thomas."

According to tradition, Thomas was killed in an accident when a fowler shot at a peacock and struck Thomas instead. Following his death, some of his relics were taken to Edessa while the rest were kept in what is now known as India. They can still be found within the San Thome Basilica in Chennai, Mylapore, India.

The relics taken to Edessa were moved in 1258 to Italy, where they can be found in the Cathedral of St. Thomas the Apostle in Ortona, Italy. However, it is believed that Saint Thomas' skull rests in the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian on the Greek Island Patmos.

In art, Saint Thomas is commonly depicted as a young man holding a scroll, or as a young adult touching the resurrected Christ's wounds.

Saint Thomas was mentioned in several texts, including one document called *The Passing of Mary*, which claims then-apostle Thomas was the only one to witness the Assumption of Mary into heaven, while the other apostles were transported to Jerusalem to witness her death.

While the other apostles were with Mary, Thomas was left in India until after her first burial, when he was transported to her tomb and he saw her bodily assumption into heaven, when her girdle was left behind.

In versions of the story, the other apostles doubted Thomas' words until Mary's tomb was discovered to be empty with the exception of her girdle. Thomas and the girdle were often depicted in medieval and early Renaissance art.

Feastday: July 3

Patron: of architects

Prayer to Saint Thomas the Apostle

Dear Saint Thomas,

You were once slow in believing that Christ had gloriously risen; but later, because you had seen him, you exclaimed: "My Lord and my God!" According to an ancient story, you rendered most powerful assistance for constructing a church in a place where pagan priests opposed it. Please bless architects, builders and carpenters that through them the Lord may be honored. Amen.

Pastor..... *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.

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

Answers to What's Your Catholic I.Q.

1. (a) Mary is called the "Mother of God" because she gave birth to the Son of God, Jesus
2. (d) Music is a priceless treasure in the Church. The Scriptures include praise and worship songs that date back to the days of Moses and King David.
3. (c) Catholics pray the Act of Contrition after they confess their sins in the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.
4. (b) the Rosary was revealed in 1208 to St. Dominic by the Blessed Virgin Mary. Dominic's preaching conversion to heretics was greatly aided by this powerful prayer. In time, "Medieval piety ... developed the prayer of the rosary as a popular substitute for the Liturgy of the Hours". Thus the Rosary served as a popular prayer for illiterate Catholics of the day who couldn't pray with the psalms like the monks.
5. (d) "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing"
6. False. Also known as the Canticle of Mary, the Blessed Mother prayed these words after Elizabeth called her "blessed" and said that the baby in her womb leapt for joy when Mary arrived.
7. (d) Jesus told a parable of a humble tax collector and an arrogant Pharisee. The tax collector prayed: "O God, be merciful to me a sinner."
8. (c) Many Protestant denominations pray the Our Father, as they rely exclusively on the Bible for their traditions, because all the Gospels describe how Jesus taught the Our Father to his disciples.
9. (a) "The Psalms both nourished and expressed the prayer of the Chosen People at Jerusalem and in the synagogues. Prayed by Christ and fulfilled in him, the Psalms remain essential to the prayer of the Church."
10. (b) The Lord's Prayer is truly the summary of the whole gospel, the most perfect of prayers. It is at the center of the Scriptures."