

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

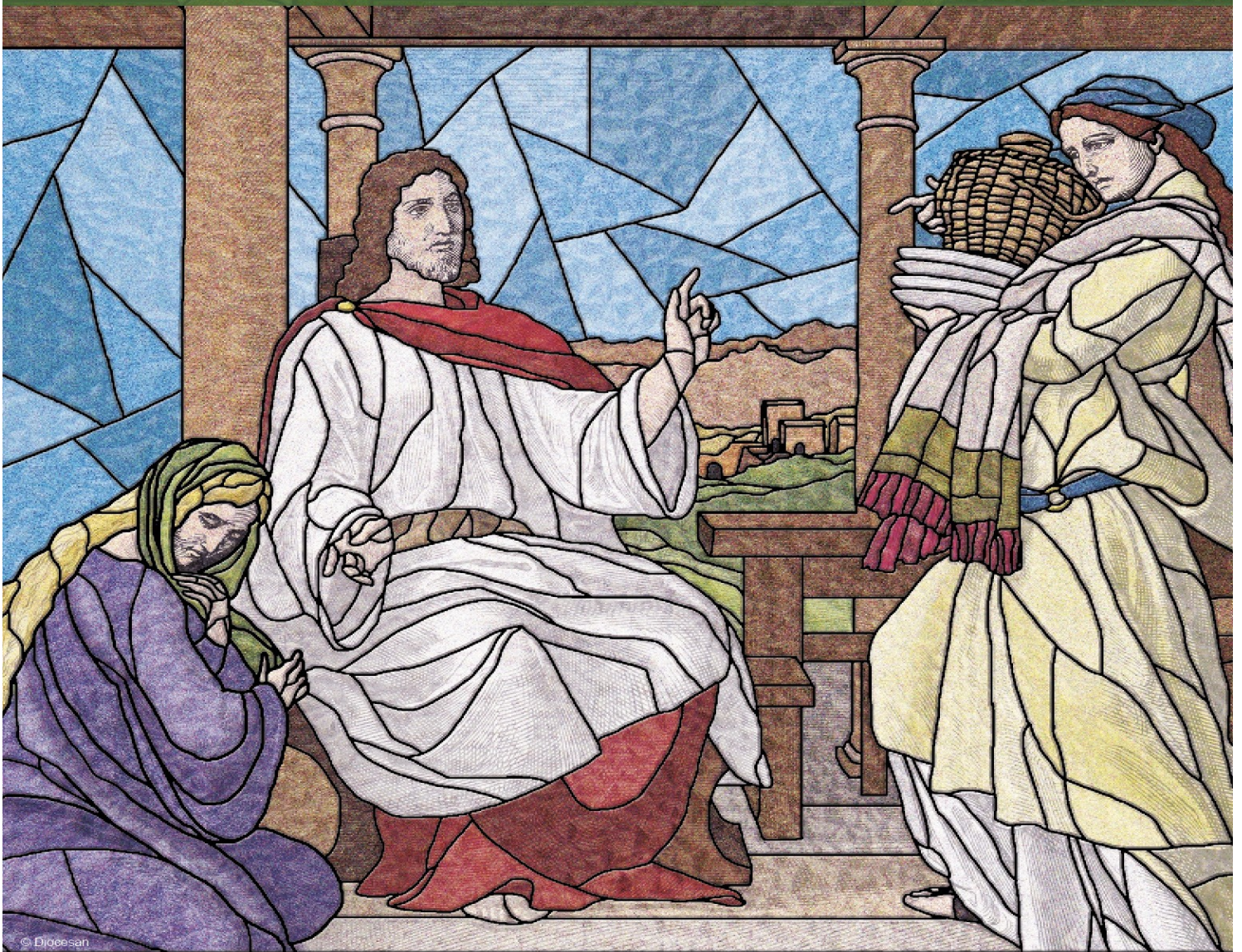
July 17, 2022

16th SUNDAY

Ordinary Time

“There is need of only one thing.

Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.” *Luke 10:42*



Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 16

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

Sunday, July 17

8:15 a.m. St. John's Parish Family

Sunday, July 17

10:30 a.m. Robert A. Lotz
(Rita Lotz)

Monday, July 18

6:30 p.m. Joseph & Jessie Ritzel
(Joan Ritzel)

Tuesday, July 19

9:00 a.m. Dr. William & Ellen Schlitzer
(Mary Hauck)

Wednesday, July 20

9:00 a.m. In Celebration of Kathleen
Hohman's 100th Birthday
(Family)

Thursday, July 21

9:00 a.m. Thomas & Eve Francis
(Francis Family)

Friday, July 22

9:00 a.m. Erika Stangl Seasock
Joe & Dorothy Stangl
& Michael Felker

Saturday, July 23

5:00 p.m. Mary, Frank, Robert Holdyk
(Paul & Joanne Buber)

Sunday, July 24

8:15 a.m. Anna Kurtek
(Kurtek Family)

Sunday, July 24

10:30 a.m. Earl & Florence Tropp

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday we hear the familiar Gospel reading of Martha and Mary. As Jesus is a guest in their home, Martha is preoccupied with the tasks of hospitality while Mary sits and listens to Jesus, giving Him her undivided attention. Jesus says that Mary has chosen "the better part." She does not allow herself to be overwhelmed by the responsibilities and worries of life, but keeps herself focused on Jesus.

But it would be too simplistic to conclude that the daily work of life is less important than a life of prayerful contemplation. (I sometimes wish I were called to contemplative life in a monastery, but that wasn't God's plan for my life.) Notice that the Gospel of Martha and Mary is paired with our first reading: the story of Abraham providing hospitality for three travelers, who mysteriously announce that Abraham's wife Sarah will have a son. If we continue reading Genesis, we learn that the three visitors are in fact angels. They have even been interpreted as a manifestation of God Himself. Viewing the story from a Christian perspective, the three visitors have been seen as the Trinity. (You have probably seen a picture of the famous icon by Andrei Rublev: a depiction of Abraham's three visitors, sometimes called the "Old Testament Trinity.")

The point is that, like Martha and Mary, Abraham (unknowingly) performed an act of hospitality for God Himself. Our responsibilities in life, the daily work of life, is not unimportant, or something to simply be endured while we await the next break. The daily work of life is a way of serving our Lord. The challenge is to keep our attention on Him.

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.

Next Week's Readings

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(July 23/24)

Reading I: Genesis 18:20-32

Reading II: Colossians 2:12-14

Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

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

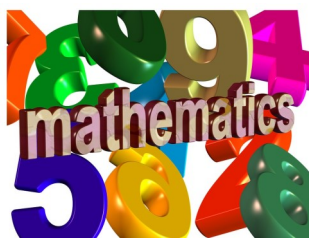
Sheri Post • Robert Kline • Joanne Schultz • Gerald Hudock



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.

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 rolney@allentowndiocese.org



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

Cemetery Burial Plots & Regulations

Burial Plots

Because tragedy can strike at anytime ... when clear thinking and action can be sacrificed to the moment's need ... we want to remind our parishioners and friends that St. John the Baptist Cemetery offers its services whenever that need occurs.

Grave Lots \$ 600.00 each which includes Perpetual Care

Regulations / Guidelines

The following are guidelines established by St. John's Cemetery Committee ...

- * Shrubs are not permitted on cemetery grounds
- * Flowers or plants may be planted in the ground, but must remain within 12 inches of base of memorial. **NO Perennials** are permitted.
- * All artificial decorations must be removed within 14 days after specified holidays which are: Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, July 4, Christmas, etc.
- * **Placing of artificial flowers in the ground is forbidden — doing this creates many problems during cutting season.**
- * All rubbish is to be taken with you or placed in available receptacles located at top of cemetery
- * Please refrain from placing any tombstone in or on the grounds for one year after a death to allow the ground to settle back to its natural state.

Weekly Collection

July 9/10\$4,446.00
Improve. & Repairs\$5,977.00

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

Thank you for using your Improvements & Repairs envelopes to help us meet the maintenance needs of our parish.

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Erika Stangl Seasock by Dorothy & Joseph Stangl & Michael Felker

St. Joseph

1. IMO Joseph Brahler by Kathy Brahler
 2. IMO George Hahner Sr. by Hahner Family

Sanctuary

IMO Erika Stangl Seasock by Dorothy & Joseph Stangl & Michael Felker

Guardian Angels

1. Health of Karen C. by Chris Black
 2. IMO Joseph Brahler by Kathy Brahler
 3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy by Joan Grapsy & Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

July 23 — 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Frank Murphy
Euch.Min.: Sharon Snyder
Servers: Caden & Madison Wright
Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

July 24— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Ray Petrilla
Euch.Min.: Bob Bechtel
Servers: Lukas & Finley McNamara
Cantor: Dave Derbes

July 24— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Vincent Balulis
Euch.Min.: John Crane
Servers: Vincent Prestileo
Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

Bulletin Boosters

IMO Carl Bartholomew
 IMO Harold Bartholomew
 IMO Robert Berger
 IMO Edward Christ
 Mildred A. Fredericks
 Fr. Don Henry
 IMO M/M Herbert Henry
 IMO Joanne Hepler
 IMO Clare & Linda Houser
 IIMO M/M James Loeper
 MO Charles Lorenz
 IMO Dorothy Parsick
 IMO 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!*

Family Matters

Youth. It might be hard for you to imagine ... but, the teens of our parish today are the future of our church. We pray this week that the Lord guide them during their years of change and growth.

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**.

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."



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.

Parish Outreach

As members of one parish family, we try to be attentive to each other's needs and help each other when possible. We are looking for anyone who would be able and willing to assist senior parishioners with limitations by driving them to appointments or errands, etc. Please call the rectory if you are interested in being someone we can call upon to assist a fellow parishioner.

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.

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, July 20th at 7:00 p.m. in Longinus Hall**. 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, the Covered Dish Party plus other events. Your ideas, friendship and membership are welcomed. Join us!



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

European Relief Fund

This week our special collection supports the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your donation today helps restore the Church and build the future in more than 25 countries still struggling to recover from former communist rule. Funds from this collection support reconstruction, education, formation, and poverty outreach. Please be generous to the collection today. For more information, please visit www.usccb.org/ccee.



Henryk Siemieniacki, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

July 17, 2022

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gn 18:1-10a | Col 1:24-28 | Lk 10:38-42

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Are you a Martha or a Mary? For me, it depends on the day, but on first glance I'd say I relate more to Martha. When I plug in the vacuum and start handing out cleaning supplies, one of my sons invariably asks: "Is company coming over?" Even once they arrive, I'm often so busy with host duties that I don't really relax enough to truly connect with our guests! All of that said, I'm not sure Jesus is criticizing Martha or just talking about housework; rather, he addresses her as a friend. "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing." Mary, who sits at the feet of Jesus, shows us what matters most: our relationship with Jesus. It doesn't mean we won't get caught up in the busyness of entertaining or life in general. When that happens, however, Jesus' words can gently call us back to what matters: the way we live our life for Christ each day and prioritizing our relationship with him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

It's wedding season! I was recently talking to a friend whose daughter got married a few weeks ago. She and her daughter had spent months planning the wedding, of course, but the actual day went by "too fast," she said, her voice tinged with regret. Sometimes it seems life can be like that. We can get so caught up in the day-to-day that we forget to take a breath and savor each moment with friends and family. In today's readings, Mary shows us how to truly be present to Jesus by listening to his voice in prayer and reading his words in Scripture. Martha teaches us how to open our homes and our hearts through hospitality. We can learn from both of their examples, drawing strength from prayer and extending the peace of Jesus to others through hospitality and our everyday interactions.

SERVE How can we show hospitality to those outside of our homes? Offer to make food for a funeral luncheon in your parish or prepare and serve food for those less fortunate at a shelter or soup kitchen.



ST. MARY MAGDALENE

Mary Magdalene, sometimes called **Mary of Magdala**, or simply the **Magdalene** or the **Madeleine**, was a woman who, according to the four canonical gospels, traveled with Jesus as one of his followers and was a witness to his crucifixion and resurrection.

She is mentioned by name twelve times in the canonical gospels, more than most of the apostles and more than any other woman in the gospels, other than Jesus's family. Mary's epithet *Magdalene* may mean that she came from the town of Magdala, a fishing town on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee in Roman Judea.

The Gospel of Luke lists Mary Magdalene as one of the women who traveled with Jesus and helped support his ministry "out of their resources", indicating that she was probably wealthy. The same passage also states that seven demons had been driven out of her, a statement which is repeated in Mark 16. In all the four canonical gospels, Mary Magdalene was a witness to the crucifixion of Jesus and, in the Synoptic Gospels, she was also present at his burial. All the four gospels identified her, either alone or as a member of a larger group of women which in-

cludes Jesus's mother, as the first to witness the empty tomb, and, either alone or as a member of a group, as the first to witness Jesus's resurrection.

For these reasons, Mary Magdalene is known in some Christian traditions as the "apostle to the apostles". Mary Magdalene is a central figure in later Gnostic Christian writings, including the *Dialogue of the Savior*, the *Pistis Sophia*, the *Gospel of Thomas*, the *Gospel of Philip*, and the *Gospel of Mary*. These texts portray Mary Magdalene as an apostle, as Jesus's closest and most beloved disciple and the only one who truly understood his teachings. In the Gnostic texts, or Gnostic gospels, Mary Magdalene's closeness to Jesus results in tension with another disciple, Peter, due to her sex and Peter's envy of the special teachings given to her. In the *Gospel of Philip*'s text she is described as Jesus's companion, as the disciple Jesus loved the most and the one Jesus kissed on the mouth, which has led some people to conclude that she and Jesus were in a relationship. Some fiction portrays her as the wife of Jesus.

The portrayal of Mary Magdalene as a prostitute began in 591, when Pope Gregory I conflated Mary Magdalene, who was introduced in Luke 8:2, with Mary of Bethany (Luke 10:39) and the unnamed "sinful woman" who anointed Jesus's feet in Luke 7:36–50. Pope Gregory's Easter sermon resulted in a widespread belief that Mary Magdalene was a repentant prostitute or promiscuous woman. Elaborate medieval legends from Western Europe then emerged, which told exaggerated tales of Mary Magdalene's wealth and beauty, as well as of her alleged journey to southern Gaul (modern-day France). The identification of Mary Magdalene with Mary of Bethany and the unnamed "sinful woman" was still a major controversy in the years leading up to the Reformation, and some Protestant leaders rejected it. During the Counter-Reformation, the Catholic Church emphasized Mary Magdalene as a symbol of penance. In 1969, Pope Paul VI removed the identification of Mary Magdalene with Mary of Bethany and the "sinful woman" from the General Roman Calendar, but the view of her as a former prostitute has persisted in popular culture.

Mary Magdalene is considered to be a saint by the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, and Lutheran denominations. In 2016 Pope Francis raised the level of liturgical memory on July 22 from memorial to feast, and for her to be referred to as the "Apostle of the apostles". Other Protestant churches honor her as a heroine of the faith. The Eastern Orthodox churches also commemorate her on the Sunday of the Myrrhbearers, the Orthodox equivalent of one of the Western Three Marys traditions.

Feastday: July 22

Patron: of contemplative life, converts, glove makers, hairdressers, penitent sinners, people ridiculed for their piety, perfumeries, pharmacists, sexual temptation, tanners, women

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

