

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

July 19, 2026

I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH **IN PARABLES**

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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, Charles Reber, Cecelia Burns., Thomas Muldowney, Dottie Kull, Carol Lasco*

"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, July 18

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

Sunday, July 19

8:15 a.m. Erika Stangl Seasock
(Dorothy & Joe Stangl
& Michael Felker)

Sunday, July 19

10:30 a.m. M/M Dominic Maccarone
& Son
(Natalie Setlock Family)

July 20 to July 24 — NO MASSES

Saturday, July 25

5:00 p.m. Mary Ellen Cross
(Lou Cross &
Marlo Cross Lipko)

Sunday, July 26

8:15 a.m. Anna Kurtek
(Steve & Jan Kurtek)

Sunday, July 26

10:30 a.m. Joseph A. Orlowsky
(Joe Orlowsky)

Next Week's Readings

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(July 25/26)

Reading I: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

Reading II: Romans 8:28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52



Flowers at the Altar

The flowers at the altar this weekend
are donated

In Memory of Erika Stangl Seasock
by
Bob & Susan Hahner

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

As we continue to look at the Sacrament of Confession, we need to say something about preparation. Sometimes people will come to the sacrament and admit that they don't really know what to say. Perhaps they come because they feel obligated or because they know it's important to go to Confession, but they really aren't sure what to confess.

Before going to Confession it is important and helpful to do a good examination of conscience. Many of us are all too aware of our faults and struggles. We know quite well what we need to bring to Confession. But for some, it may be helpful to read through an examination of conscience in preparation for Confession. There are many different versions. They can be found in some prayer books and pamphlets and, of course, online. They give a list of questions (usually along the lines of the Ten Commandments) to help us become aware of our faults and areas for growth. They may prompt us to think about parts of our lives that we wouldn't otherwise think about.

It is helpful for any and all of us to do a good examination of conscience before going to Confession. When we struggle with particular faults that we have to mention in Confession over and over again, we can fixate on these faults and be blind to other areas of our lives where we need forgiveness or growth.

I would also mention that, even though it is important to prepare well for Confession, there may be some occasion when you have an opportunity to go to Confession and you don't feel prepared. I would advise: go to Confession anyway. Always err on the side of receiving God's forgiveness and the graces of the sacrament!

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

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.

Church Cleaning Crew—Thank You

We thank our Church Cleaning Group for doing a wonderful job cleaning our beautiful church including Longinus Hall and the Chapel. Your time, effort, and dedication are greatly appreciated. Because of your generosity, our church remains a welcoming and beautiful place for worship. May God bless you for your service. Those volunteering their time and talent this month: *Michelle Ambrose, Sandy Frinzi, Phyllis Hess, Liz Kleckner, Ray Petrilla, Theresa Skrobak*. The more the merrier — newcomers are always welcome — please call the rectory if interested or just show up at our next cleaning in August.

Wine & Cheese Social

Please join us in Longinus Hall after Mass **Saturday July 25th** for a Wine & Cheese Social. Stop in for a beverage (wine, beer, non-alcoholic options) and snacks, and mingle for awhile with fellow parishioners.

Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop

Drop Off — Saturday, July 25th — 9 a.m. until noon.

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

Puzzles, Knick Knacks, Kitchen Items, Purses, Small Appliances, Candles, Toys, Games, Jewelry, Tablecloths, CD's, DVD's, Bake-ware, Phones, Vintage items, Candles, Holiday decorations.

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

ONLY ONE DROP-OFF DATE on Saturday, July 25th from 9 a.m. until 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. Questions — Call the parish office 570-622-5470 ext. 3



Assumption BVM School

Assumption BVM School, Pottsville, is the Catholic school serving not just the students of Schuylkill County, but your parish. Our students receive a values-based education rooted in the Gospel, allowing them to build a strong moral compass, self-discipline and a foundation for ethical decision making. Our curriculum is excellent and provided with the strong support of our faculty and administration. Our students learn and practice the Catholic faith.

We are different. You have a choice for your children. You can choose Catholic education. It is more affordable than you think! Now accepting applications for most grades for the 2026-2027 school year. Call us: 570 622 0106

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning Is Hiring!

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning is seeking compassionate and dedicated individuals to join our team. We are currently hiring for full-time Direct Support Professional positions, along with part-time opportunities for a Behavioral Support Specialist and Administrative Assistant. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about these opportunities, please call SJC at **570-622-4638** and ask to speak with Bob Giba. Join us in making a difference in the lives of children and adults with special needs.

Cash & Gift Card Bingo

Join St. Joseph Center for Special Learning on **Sunday, August 16th**, for a fun-filled event at the Center—302 Randel St. in Schuylkill Haven. Doors open 11:30 a.m.; Bingo begins 1 p.m. Enjoy cash and gift card games, delicious food raffles, and a chance to win our \$1,000 Jackpot Game. Proceeds benefit the St. Joseph Center School and Adult Programs, helping us continue our mission of serving children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Purchase your tickets at tinyurl.com/sjcbingo or call 570-622-4638 for more information. We hope to see you there!

Weekly Collection

July 11/12\$6,185.20
Improv.&Repairs.....\$1,250.00

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

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Thelma Brennan
by Joan Kline
2. IMO John & Anne Hopkins
by Rick & Michelle Stone

St. Joseph

1. IMO Tom & Ann Stone
by Rick & Michelle Stone
2. IMO Leo & Dorothy Lotz
by Ron & Pat Lombel

Sanctuary

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

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Donald M. Lubinsky
by Rick & Michelle Stone
2. IMO Thomas & Kayoko Stone
by Rick & Michelle Stone
3. IMO Marcello Sockolosky
by Rick & Michelle Stone
4. IMO Joan Wassell
by Rick & Michelle Stone

Liturgical Min. Schedule

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 25— 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Francis Mozloom

EM: John Crane, Heidi Gorski

Server: John Crane

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

July 26— 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Janet Daubert

EM: Ann Blankenhorn, Bob Bechtel

Servers: Colin McGinley
Maria Neifert

Cantor: Vincent Prestileo

July 26—10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Bill Gianfagna

EM: Frank Murphy, Joseph Palmieri

Servers: Rhyann Brennan
Callie Felty

Cantor: Ed Brahler

**IF YOU PULL UP THE WEEDS
YOU MIGHT UPROOT
THE WHEAT ALONG WITH THEM**

Festival Patrons**\$500.00**

Ed & Carole Quirin
 Maria Rowlands
 Joe & Nancy Schlitzer
 Joe & Sherri Souchak

\$350.00

James & Angela Toomey

\$250.00

Paul & JoAnna Buber

\$200.00

Charles & Patricia Miller
 Frank & Annie Murphy
 Judith Williams

\$150.00

Gorski Family

\$100.00

Dave & Alice Bechtel
 Sandy & Joe Frinzi
 Donna & John Kalovcak
 Keith & Mary Jo Laslow
 Lieberman & Tamulonis Law
 Joseph Liptok
 Frances Lorenz
 Dan & Hermine Murphy
 Mary B. Porter
 John & Gayle Rehnert
 Bill, Kelly, Brady, Briar Rhoads
 Tamalavage Family

\$75.00

Fetterolf Family

\$50.00

Ed & Jane Baker
 Ann Blankenhorn
 Joan M. Bowers
 Kathy Brahler
 Dolores Brophy
 Catholic Women's Union
 DeArment's
 The DeWald's
 Tom & Cindy Elison
 Mildred Fredericks
 Paul & Bernie Gombola
 Stan & Geri Grabowski
 Heenan Family
 Carl & Kathy Hughes
 Barbara & Bruce Krupa
 Patricia Kutch
 Eric & Jennifer Lieberman
 Ron & Pat Lombel
 Christine Maccarone
 Patricia & Phillip Markovich
 John & Susan Minnichbach
 John & Bernice Petock

Festival Patrons**\$50.00**

Robert & Irene Post
 JP & Barb Powers
 Nick & Maria Quinn
 Charles & Kathleen Reber
 David & Mary Ann Shoopack
 Karin & Mike Sirbaugh
 Martin & Linda Smith
 Dianne Stoudt
 Robert & Gretchen Witman
 Barbara Wollyung
 Jeff & Linda Zwiebel

\$40.00

Mary Beth Harvey
 Theresa Skrobak

\$35.00

Mary Ann Filiac
 Henry Minnig

\$33.00

Ted Gurecki Jr.

\$30.00

Grabowski Family
 Diane Hudock
 Mary Jo Nabholz
 Joe & Eleanor Orzechowski
 Dorothy & Joe Stangl
 Larry Steficek
 Wartella Family
 Bob & Kay Wollyung

\$25.00

Brennan Family
 Jim Brentari
 Ken & Tammy Cooper
 Janet Daubert
 Jennifer Daubert
 Barbara Ann Dietz
 Marie Doyle
 Grace King
 Greg Lieberman Family
 Hal J. Messer
 Jack & Aggie Messner
 Frances Brahler Mickey
 M/M A.J. Munster
 Ann Marie Souchak
 Peggy Stoppi
 Bruno M. Tassone
 Michael & Elizabeth Tyson
 Daniel & Anne Marie Wachter

\$23.00

Ted Gurecki

\$20.00

Ron & Donna Dermo
 James & Laura Kramer

Festival Patrons**\$20.00**

Tina Seiger
 Natalie Setlock
 Rick & Michelle Stone
 Christine Tray

\$10.00

John & Joanne Mestishen
 Harriet Pfeffer
 Mary Ann Schweikert

Festival Sponsors

Hahner Bros. Inc. — Chance Books
 Joanne & Don Doyné - Ketchup & Mustard
 Anne & Tony Ganurick - Hot Dogs & Buns

Festival Sponsors

Band Sponsor \$100.00 each

Coke Sponsor \$ 50.00 each

Ice Cream \$ 25.00 each

Pizza Sponsor \$ 50.00 each

Band (1) - Paul & JoAnna Buber

Band (1) - Joe & Denise Gerchak

Band (1) - Mary B. Porter

Band (1) - Ellen & Jay Zane

Band (1) - Marianne Wollyung

Bleenie Mix (1) — Paul & JoAnna Buber

Bleenie Mix (9) - Frank Angelo

Coke (1) - Robert & Elizabeth Reiley

Coke (2) - John Bosche

Ice Cream (1) — Jim & Carolyn Orlowsky

Pizza (1) - Jim & Carolyn Orlowsky

Pizza (1) - Daniel & Anne Marie Wachter

Pizza (1) - Joanne & Ralph Wood

Special Basket Table

Alexa Power Me Up - Rosann, David, Tyler

Amika Hair Care -Shanna Deibert/Linda Murphy

Bath & Body - Barb Munster

Bath & Body - Michelle Heenan

Bicycle - John & Mary Jean Morgalis

Christmas in July - Lucilla Kochol

Dog Bskt. - Linda & Bob Stock

Dog Care - Karen Muncy

Family Fun Nite - Ann Blankenhorn

Italian - Cathy Cooper

Knoebel's - Gerry Schwartz

Lottery - Nora Chiplonia

Lottery (2) - Prezelski's

Painting - Father Bobbin

Picnic - John & Patty O'Neill

Pink Girl - DeStefano's

Pod & Petal Florist

Time for Me - Chris Black

Wine - Luis R. Visot

Wine - Gianfagna's (3)

Celebrate America 250th

—Sandy & Joe Frinzi

Neighboring Events ...

Annual Parish Festival sponsored by St. Joseph the Worker Parish, at St. Ann's Picnic Grove, Rear 49 N. Line St. in Frackville on July 31 from 3 to 10 p.m. and August 1 from 12 to 11 p.m. Food, Music and Fun! Gift Card Auction (in hall), Raffle Tickets, Homemade Food including Bean Soup, Bleenies, Halushki, Hot Dogs, Pierogies, Hamburgers, Baked Goods, Soda, Water, Ice Tea. Bar with adult beverages. Entertainment on Friday—Sakes Alice from 7 to 10 p.m.; Saturday Another Side from 7 to 11 p.m. Come join the fun!

Food Sale sponsored by Holy Cross Parish in New Philadelphia on Friday, August 7th from noon to 4 p.m. or sellout ... eat in or take out ... at Holy Cross Church Kitchen, 99 Lombard St. in New Philadelphia. Menu includes: Bean Soup, Hamburgers, Chicken Patty Sandwich, Chicken Fingers, Pierogies, French Fries, Macaroni Salad, Desserts, Coffee and Beverages. All are welcome!

Basket Auction sponsored by Holy Family Parish of Minersville at the Parish Center at Hillcrest, 631 Minersville-Llewellyn Hwy. Shop and Drop: Friday, August 14th from 5 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, August 15th from 4 to 8 p.m.; Sunday, August 16th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets will be drawn at 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 16th. Come take a chance on our great prizes ... 55" TV, Money Tree, Lottery Tree, and many more prizes. See you there!

Boyer's Food Market's Caring & Sharing Program Is Moving Into the Boyer's App

Boyers Food Market has implemented a new Customer Rewards Program which will provide rewards, discounts, digital coupons, and support their preferred Caring Sharing program. *The physical key tags are no longer part of the Caring & Sharing program.* You'll need to load the "My Boyer's X-tra Savings" app on your phone.

You must be signed in to your My Boyer's X-tra Savings account to pick a non-profit. Sign in through the Boyer's mobile app, then choose your group from the Caring & Sharing list. Our parish is identified as "*Saint John The Baptist Church*" on the list of participating organizations. If you need a walkthrough, watch the short how-to-video for step-by-step instructions on picking your preferred non-profit. Found at <https://www.boyersfood.com/community.php> You can change and assign a different charity at any time.

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.

For more information please call St. John's Rectory 570-622-5470 ext. 3



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

There is hope in the battle against pornography.

Educate yourself, protect yourself and your family, and seek help and healing. Explore the resources offered by:

1. Integrity Restored (integrityrestored.com)
2. The Diocese of Allentown's Lumen Christi Commission (adlumenchristi.org)
3. Or contact Fr. Bobbin for a confidential appointment.

Moving? Relocating? Let us Know!

Have you moved, changed your phone or email address? If so, please contact the Rectory Office at 570-622-5470 ext. 3. Help us update our records!

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.

July 19, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Wis 12:13, 16-19 | Rom 8:26-27 | Mt 13:24-43

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

There have been moments in my life when I have not been able to find words for prayer, which leaves my efforts feeling unproductive and fruitless. But prayer's worth is not measured by the words we say. Prayer is the lifting of the mind and the heart to God. We place ourselves in the presence of God and allow our desires, our suffering, and our weakness to be transformed by his grace. In Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans he writes, "we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings." In prayer, we place our hope in that what we bring to God will be heard and magnified by his divine grace. And as Christians, we live with the intention of pleasing God, and we trust that God transforms our actions into something meaningful as well. As the mustard seed grows into a large tree or a small teaspoon of yeast enlivens an entire loaf of bread, God takes what we offer – regardless of whether or not we have the right words, or even any words at all – and transforms it into something extraordinary.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In the first reading, we are reminded of God's leniency in the face of justice. God's mercy does not mean a lack of accountability – Christ desires and commands that we love God and love our neighbor. But in his mercy, he does not condemn us for our sin but rather gives time for us to repent. As a Christian community, we are called to show that same mercy – that same patient forbearance with one another. By doing so, the love of God ripples across a community through acts of charity and compassion, making individuals feel known and cared for. In this kind of environment, like the birds who find rest in the branches of the large mustard bush, all who seek the Lord will find a welcome among God's people.

PRAY

Prayer is not only offered in word but also in sacrifice offered on behalf of another. Today, think of someone who needs your prayers. Bring their intention to God either in word or by offering a sacrifice on their behalf, not thinking about what is equal but what reflects God's mercy.

