

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

August 3, 2025

18th Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Pastor..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*
Deacon.....*Robert A. Reiley*

Parish Council President*Darren DeArment*
E-mail.....dbd269@gmail.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, Doug Broughton, Kathy Vicic, Joanne Kitsock, Jane Baker*

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 2

5:00 p.m. Scott Bowers
(Scott Williams)

Sunday, August 3

8:15 a.m. Francis & Verna Sauers

Sunday, August 3

10:30 a.m. Yenilaitus Family
(Zambo Family)

Monday, August 4

6:30 p.m. Thomas & Eva Francis
(Francis Family)

Tuesday, August 5

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

Wednesday, August 6

9:00 a.m. Carol Tamburelli
(Francis Tamburelli)

Thursday, August 7

9:00 a.m. Robert Crosby
(Frank & Mindy Chambers)

Friday, August 8

9:00 a.m. Ed & Marie Glunz
(Family)

Saturday, August 9

5:00 p.m. Charles Bowers
(Nancy Riegle)

Sunday, August 10

8:15 a.m. William Lecher Jr.
(Mom & Dad)

Sunday, August 10

10:30 a.m. Richard Setlock
(Natalie Setlock & Sons)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

We looked briefly at the Gospels of Matthew and Mark these last few weeks. Today we move on to the Gospel According to Luke.

Luke was not one of the twelve Apostles, but a coworker of the Apostles. He is mentioned in Paul's letters. Luke is also the author of Acts of the Apostles. He narrates part of Acts in the first person. As a companion of Paul, Luke was a witness to some of the events in Acts. He is believed to have been a physician.

The introduction to Luke's Gospel clearly states his intention. He recognizes that others have already written about Jesus (Matthew and Mark?) but he wants to do his own investigation, relying on eyewitness testimony, and write about the events surrounding Jesus in "an orderly sequence" to assure his readers of the truth of the Gospel.

Luke's Gospel is the longest. Although it is one of the Synoptic Gospels (i.e., it is very similar to Matthew and Mark), about half of Luke's Gospel is unique, containing material found in none of the other Gospels. Consistent with the belief that Luke was a physician (an educated person), his Gospel is a refined work of literature. Unlike Mark, whose language is very simple, Luke writes in a very high-quality Greek.

More on the features of Luke's Gospel next time...

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin



Flowers at the Altar

The flowers at the altar this weekend
are donated
In Memory of Edward & Marie R. Glunz
&
The 50th Wedding Anniversary
of Ed & Gerry Schwartz

New Altar Servers

We invite any boys and girls currently finishing fourth grade or older to consider becoming altar servers. Parents, please speak with Father Bobbin or call the rectory. We will arrange a mutually convenient time to meet for training.



Next Week's Readings

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(August 9/10)

Reading I: Wisdom 18:6-9

Reading II: Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

Gospel: Luke 12:32-48

Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., will be on **Tuesday, October 7, 2025**, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The Pilgrimage program begins at 10:00 am with arrivals and guided tours, followed by time to visit the over 80 chapels and oratories that make up "Mary's House." There will also be a youth holy hour in the Crypt Church, keynote speakers (English and Spanish), and a Rosary Pilgrimage in five languages with beautiful music by our Diocesan Choir. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available throughout the day. The day will end with Mass in the Great Upper Church at 3:00 pm celebrated by Bishop Schlert.

NEW CCD and Sacramental Preparation Registration

Parents of children in grades 1st through 8th please fill out the CCD registration using the QR code. If your child has been previously enrolled from years past, it is not necessary to do this link. Any **new students in public school grades 1-8** should fill out this form. Students in **parochial school** whose child is in third or eighth grade that are to receive a sacrament this coming school year please use this QR code to register your child. You may also call the rectory at 570-622-5470 and speak with Miss Kochol to register your child.



Share Your Catholic Faith

We are in search of CCD teachers, OCIA instructors and preschool teacher assistants. Are you the person we are looking for? You do not need a teaching degree. Just the desire to teach. We need someone who loves their faith, desires to know more and to share the Catholic faith with others.

We have a great preschool and CCD staff. We are a small staff and need to grow our numbers because we have more families with children joining our church all the time. We also have people joining the faith that are adults or young people that would be better served by Order of Christian Initiation of Adults -OCIA (the former RCIA). We need instructors to help these candidates become full members of the Church.

Preschool has many wonderful parents helping as teachers, but we do need a Teacher Assistant to help with the busy hands and feet of our students. We are hoping a high school student would be a perfect fit. You can use this experience on a resume or for community service hours at your school.

We can support you with guidance and training. Please prayerfully consider helping the children and adults of our community come into full communion with the Catholic faith and our parish family. Please contact Tina Seiger or Lucilla Kochol at the rectory to volunteer.

Catholic Women's Union Fundraiser

Our 2024 Penn State Ye Olde Diner World Famous "Grilled Stickies" was a huge success last year We are hoping to sell even more this year. Members will be taking orders after Masses on the weekends of ... **August 9/10 and August 16/17**. Pick up date is September 10th at the Russell Building. Plain \$9.00 — Nut \$12.00 — Apple \$12.00.

For more information, please contact Joan Deiter 570-622-1381 or St. John's Rectory 570-622-5470 ext. 3.



Thank You Department



We thank our many volunteers who de-weeded, planted flowers, etc. around our parish properties. Your time and talent is greatly appreciated. (Our volunteers are very humble and do not want any name recognition).

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.

Weekly Collection

July 26/27\$4,099.03

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

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

Because We Are Catholic

Parish Goal: \$15,709.00

Total Collected: \$8,688.00

No. of Donors: 68

All Candles

In Loving Memory of:
William (Hic) & Veronica Schmitt
by Schmitt Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 9 — 5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Michelle Ambrose

EM: Michael Ambrose

Janet Daubert

Servers: Finley McNamara

Gabe Scheidel

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

August 10 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Ann Blankenhorn

EM: Bob Bechtel, Jeff Naffin

Servers: Maggie & Rhyan Brennan

Cantor: Vincent Prestileo

August 10 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Joseph Palmieri

EM: Ray Petrilla, Debbie Herb

Servers: Sophia Palmieri

Colin McGinley

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

Weekend Sacristan: Ryan Grabowski

"Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."



Saint of the Day — St. Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney—Feast Day: August 4th

Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney, known as John in English, was born May 8, 1786 in Dardilly, France and was baptized the same day. He was the fourth of six children born to Matthieu and Marie Vianney. John was raised in a Catholic home and the family often helped the poor and housed St. Benedict Joseph Labre when he made his pilgrimage to Rome.

In 1790, when the anticlerical Terror phase of the French Revolution forced priests to work in secrecy or face execution, young Vianney believed the priests were heroes. He continued to believe in the bravery of priests and received his First Communion catechism instructions in private by two nuns who lost their convents to the Revolution.

At 13-years-old, John made his first communion and prepared for his confirmation in secrecy.

When he was 20-years-old, John was allowed to leave the family farm to learn at a "priestly-school" in Écully. There he learned math, history, geography and Latin.

As his education had been disrupted by the French Revolution, he struggled in his studies, particularly with Latin, but worked hard to learn.

In 1802, the Catholic Church was reestablished in France and religious freedom and peace spread throughout the country.

Unfortunately, in 1809, John was drafted into Napoleon Bonaparte's armies. He had been studying as an ecclesiastical student, which was a protected title and would normally have exempted him from military services, but Napoleon had withdrawn the exemption in some dioceses as he required more soldiers.

Two days into his service, John fell ill and required hospitalization. As his troop continued, he stopped in at a church where he prayed. There he met a young man who volunteered to return him to his group, but instead led him deep into the mountains where military deserters met. John lived with them for one year and two months. He used the name Jerome Vincent and opened a school for the nearby village of Les Noes' children.

John remained in Les Noes and hid when gendarmes came in search of deserters until 1810, when deserters were granted amnesty. Now free, John returned to Écully and resumed his ecclesiastical studies. He attended a minor seminary, Abbe Balley, in 1812 and was eventually ordained a deacon in June 1815.

He joined his heroes as a priest August 12, 1815 in the Couvent des Minimes de Grenoble. His first Mass was celebrated the next day and he was appointed assistant to Balley in Écully.

Three years later, when Balley passed away, Fr. John Vianney was appointed parish priest of the Ars parish. With help from Catherine Lassagne and Benedicta Lerdet, *La Providence*, a home for girls, was established in Ars. When he began his priestly duties, Fr. Vianney realized many were either ignorant or indifferent to religion as a result of the French Revolution. Many danced and drank on Sundays or worked in their fields. Fr. Vianney spent much time in confession and often delivered homilies against blasphemy and dancing. Finally, if parishioners did not give up dancing, he refused them absolution. He spent 11 to twelve hours each day working to reconcile people with God. In the summer months, he often worked 16-hour days and refused to retire.

His fame spread until people began to travel to him in 1827. Within thirty years, it is said he received up to 20,000 pilgrims each year. He was deeply devoted to St. Philomena and erected a chapel and shrine in her honor. When he later became deathly ill but miraculously recovered, he attributed his health to St. Philomena's intercession.

By 1853, Fr. Vianney had attempted to run away from Ars four times, each attempt with the intention of becoming a monk but decided after the final time that it was not to be.

Six years later, he passed away and left behind a legacy of faith and was viewed as the champion of the poor.

On October 3, 1873, Pope Pius IX proclaimed Fr. Vianney as "venerable" and on January 8, 1905, Pope Pius X beatified him. St. John Vianney was canonized on May 31, 1925. His feast day was declared August 9 but it was changed twice before it fell to August 4.

St. John Vianney would often say: "Private prayer is like straw scattered here and there: If you set it on fire, it makes a lot of little flames. But gather these straws into a bundle and light them, and you get a mighty fire, rising like a column into the sky; public prayer is like that."

Prayer of St. John Vianney

I love You, O my God, and my only desire is to love You until the last breath of my life.

I love You, O my infinitely lovable God, and I would rather die loving You, than live without loving You.

I love You, Lord and the only grace I ask is to love You eternally...

My God, if my tongue cannot say in every moment that I love You, I want my heart to repeat it to You as often as I draw breath.

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.

Family Matters

Honesty is the Best Policy.

Do you remember your mom and dad telling you to always tell the truth? What about those white lies or half-truths that sometimes slip out so easily? This week we pray for a respectful honesty in all of our dealings, especially within our own family. May we always model the truth, spoken in love to those around us!

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."

CYO Volleyball

Again this school year, Diocese of Allentown CYO Volleyball will be open to any girl who will be in grade 6, 7 or 8 this Fall who attends a Diocesan Elementary School or who is a member of the following Parishes: St. John the Baptist, St. Patrick, St. Ambrose, St. Clare of Assisi, Holy Family Minersville, Holy Cross, Most Blessed Trinity and St. Nicholas in Minersville. Practices and home matches for the season will be held at Nativity High School. Please see the link/scan code below for sign-ups. Do not hesitate to contact Amanda Bobella at Nativity High School with any questions at abobella@nativitybvm.net or 570-622-8110. <https://forms.gle/b2AmW4Gd4FakfwNG8>



Nativity BVM High School Host Families Needed.

Nativity BVM High School has accepted several wonderful international students from Spain, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Japan. These students are excited to begin school in late August, but are in need of loving host families. All types of families are eligible to host: empty-nesters, single people, families with children. Students speak good English, and they have their own spending money and insurance. Host families receive a generous monthly stipend. For more information, please contact mchallenger.educatius@gmail.com.

Assumption BVM School. We're Hiring! Are you a dynamic and innovative educational and faith leader with a strong commitment to Catholic education, Catholic values, and academic excellence in Schuylkill County? ABVM is seeking a dedicated Principal to guide our students, staff, and community in faith, excellence, and service. We are looking for a leader who: * Has a passion for education * Inspires excellence in others * Nurtures a faith-centered school community. Apply today or share with someone who would be a great fit! Apply using the link below or the QR code. <https://allentowndiocese.isolvedhire.com/jobs/1437702>



St. Joseph Center for Special Learning

Don't miss our **Saturday Night Fever Disco** on the evening of **Friday, September 6**, also at the Parish Center. This special night will kick off our 70th anniversary celebrations with live music by local favorite, The Boys Upstairs. We hope to see you there as we celebrate our mission and the incredible individuals we serve. Questions? Contact Monica Walborn at 570-622-4638.

Neighboring Events.

National Irish History Contest ... sponsored by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc (LAOH) for students in Grades 6 through 12. This year's topic is: **How the Irish affected the outcome of the American Revolution**. Students enrolled in parochial, private, public schools or who are home-schooled are eligible to participate. Students do not need to be Irish to participate in the LAOH National Irish History Contest. For more information, please contact Betty Murphy at betty@hanginghelper.com or 570-544-9848.

Basket Auction sponsored by Holy Family Parish of Minersville. Shop & Drop on Friday, August 8th from 5-8 p.m.; Saturday, August 9th from 4-8 p.m.; Sunday, August 10th from 11 am-2p.m. Tickets will be pulled at 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 10th. Great Prizes! Join us at Holy Family Parish Center at Hillcrest, 631 Minersville-Llewellyn Highway.

August 3, 2025

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23 | Col 3:1-5, 9-11 | Lk 12:13-21

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

A few years ago, I heard this witty but thought-provoking phrase: “You never see a U-Haul attached to a hearse” – a reminder that we don’t get to take our physical belongings with us when we die. This phrase came to mind as I read today’s Gospel. Jesus offers us a parable about the perils of placing our ultimate hope in amassing possessions. In our own lives, we might be challenged or inspired by the quiet example of people around us who demonstrate that material things aren’t what matter most. From individuals who lose their possessions but express gratitude for their physical safety to the child who hears about others in need and gathers up items from their own room to share, we glean gentle reminders that in the end, stuff is just stuff. Pondering this, what we’re left with is an invitation from Jesus to look inward: Where are our hearts in relation to our material possessions? Do we cling to them tightly, or do we hold them lightly? What does it mean to be “rich in what matters to God”?

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The antidote to our disordered attachment to material things is to cultivate Gospel simplicity. In sending his disciples out to spread the Gospel, Jesus often instructed them to “pack light”: “Take nothing for the journey, neither walking stick, nor sack, nor food, nor money ...” Jesus told his disciples (Lk 9:3). Instead, they were to go into the surrounding villages and rely on the hospitality of those they encountered to provide for all their needs. By carrying nothing with them, they learned to rely on God’s providence and to intentionally reach out to others from a place of vulnerability and humility, both necessary in sharing the Gospel. While we aren’t necessarily called to be itinerant preachers as the disciples were, we can take up Jesus’ call to “pack light” as we strive to share the Gospel with others in our daily lives.

REFLECT

What can we learn from the disciples about overcoming the temptation to think that we are self-sufficient, as if sharing the Gospel depends entirely on us, rather than his grace? How might we adopt a simpler lifestyle, so that others see in us a living witness to the fact that our hope is not here in this world, but in the life to come? Reflect about how to live Gospel simplicity more intentionally in your life this week, and what that might offer for your efforts to share the Gospel with others.

