

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

August 15, 2021

## ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

*"My soul proclaims  
the greatness of  
the Lord; my  
spirit rejoices in  
God my savior."*

Luke 1:46-47



The Assumption  
of the Virgin by  
Giovanni Battista Salvi  
da Sassoferrato  
17th Century

## Mass Intentions

**August 16 to August 20 — NO MASSES**

### **Saturday, August 21**

5:00 p.m. George & Sadie Post  
(Bob & Irene Post)

### **Sunday, August 22**

8:15 a.m. Jack Scheetz  
(Pat, Missy, Amy Scheetz)

### **Sunday, August 22**

10:30 a.m. Eve & Ray Grapsy  
(Joan Grapsy)

## Next Week's Readings

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Aug. 21/22)

**Reading I:** Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

**Reading II:** 1 Corinthians 15:20-27

**Gospel:** Luke 1:39-56



## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

This year the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15, falls on a Sunday. Besides giving us a break from all the “green” Sundays in Ordinary Time, it makes us pause and think about what exactly we're celebrating and why this holy day is so important that it supersedes the normal Sunday Mass.

The Assumption is our belief that Mary did not experience death the same way we do: something associated with fear and sadness, the deterioration of the body and the separation of body and soul. Instead, at the end of her earthly life, Mary peacefully entered heaven body and soul. This says something about Mary. As the Mother of Jesus and the perfect disciple of Jesus, Mary is the first human being to experience eternal life in all its fullness. Like Jesus, she is already in heaven with a glorified body.

The Assumption also says something about us. When we die, body and soul are separated. The soul is hopefully enjoying eternal rest with God, but the body is returning to dust like all material things. But this is not the way it's meant to be. As human beings, we are made of body and soul. The body is part of who we are. As we profess in the Creed, we look forward to the resurrection of the body at the end of the world. In some way we cannot possibly understand right now, God will resurrect and glorify our bodies and we too will live eternally, body and soul together in a new creation. The Assumption of Mary is a sign of hope for us.

If this seems a little too distant and abstract, we might think about our hope for eternal life and our future resurrection when we are confronted with death, sickness, disability, and even the limitations of age. Thanks to our Lord and the Blessed Mother, we have a future awaiting us beyond our wildest imagination.

*In Christ,  
Fr. Bobbin*



*Year of Real*  
**PRESENCE**  
CENTERED IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST

## 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** Susan Cook • Patricia Thomas • Sheri Post

**Parents of Young Children.** We pray for parents of young children — that they can survive today's challenges well and that God continues to strengthen them in responding to the ever-changing needs of their little ones.

## Upcoming Events

### August

16	7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Holy Hour.....	Chapel
18	7 p.m.	Catholic Women’s Union Mtg.....	L.H.
20	4-7 p.m.	Yard Sale .....	R.B.
21	9-12 noon	Yard Sale .....	R.B.
23	7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Holy Hour.....	Chapel
30	7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Holy Hour.....	Chapel

**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

## Yard Sale—Curiosity Shop

Friday, August 20 from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, August 21 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon  
Russell Building at 9th & Schuylkill Ave. Pottsville

Don’t miss it! If you like yard sales, this is the place to be. Various items including ... knick-knacks, dishes, kitchen items, appliances, jewelry, holiday decorations, framed prints, special Vintage Section and much, much more, plus food is available for purchase. Take Out Only. Something for everyone! Join us! Call the Rectory office 622-5470 ext 3 for more information.

Desserts/Baked Goods needed—If you would like to donate a dessert, please drop off at the times listed above or call the rectory 622-5470 ext 3. Please individually wrap or bag all dessert items to be sold.

## 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, August 18 at 7 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, and the Covered Dish Party. Your ideas, friendship and membership are welcomed. For more information call St. John’s Rectory: 622-5470.

## Neighboring Events

**Parish Picnic** sponsored by Holy Cross Parish in New Philadelphia on Saturday, August 28 from 4 to 10 p.m. at the Social Hall, 99 Lombard St. Ethnic Food—Bleenies, Pizza, Burgers, Hot Dogs, Adult Beverages, Games, Basket Auction, Music and much more. For more information please call the parish office 570-277-6800.

**Bus Trip** sponsored by St. Ambrose Parish in Schuylkill Haven from October 5 to 7 to Gettysburg, Emmitsburg, MD and Washington D.C. Itinerary includes battlefield tour exploring Catholicism and the Civil War, visits to the National Shrine Grotto and the National Shrine to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and concludes with the Year of Real Presence Diocesan Pilgrimage at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. For more information please call the parish office 570-385-1031 ext. 1.



## Weekly Collection

**August 14/15 .....\$3,609.66**  
**Imp. & Repairs .....\$1,265.00**

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

## Candle Donations

### BVM

1. IMO Deb Cherrybon  
by Barb Munster
2. IMO Msgr. Edward O’Connor  
by Scheidel Family

### St. Joseph

1. IMO Albie Yackenchick  
by Scheidel Family
2. Special Intention

### Sanctuary

IMO George Hahner Jr.  
by Hahner Family

### Guardian Angels

1. IMO Sheppo-Buehler Family  
by Barb Munster
2. IMO Marjorie Angelo  
by Frank Angelo
- 3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy  
by Joan Grapsy

## Liturgical Ministers

### Schedule

#### August 21—5 p.m. Mass

**Reader:** Heidi Gorski  
**Euch.Min.:** Jeff Naffin  
**Servers:** Stanley Gorski  
Aleksander Gorski

#### August 22—8:15 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Ann Blankenhorn  
**Euch.Min.:** Sharon Snyder  
**Servers:** Emma Lieberman  
Kaitlin Painter

#### August 22—10:30 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Dave Smith  
**Euch.Min.:** Janet Daubert  
**Servers:** Michael Prestileo  
Spencer Prestileo

## St. John's Choir

St. John's Choir is welcoming new and current members to the choir to sing Saturday 5:00 p.m. Masses and special Masses. This is a very rewarding experience for anyone seeking to become more involved in our Parish Family. No prior singing experience or reading of music is required. Contact St. John's Rectory 570-622-5470 for more information.

## Flowers at the Altar

Flowers at the altar this weekend are in memory of the Becker & Porter Families donated by Bob and Mary Porter.

## Welcome Visitors

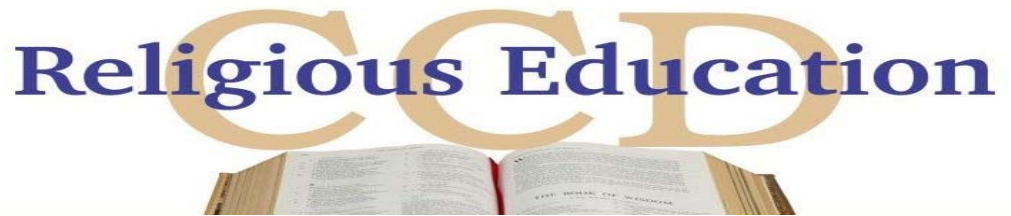
Thank you for worshipping with us today. If you are visiting our beautiful church, please know you are most welcome! If you have questions or are interested in joining our parish family, please call the rectory 570-622-5470.

## 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  
 IMO M/M James Loeper  
 IMO Charles Lorenz  
 IMO Dorothy Parsick  
 IMO Jeanne Rehnert  
 IMO Eugene & Rita Rehnert  
 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!*

# Religious Education



## St. John's CCD Program

CCD and Pre-School registration for the 2021-2022 school year is **due by August 22nd**.

**CCD Registration- Parents of students grades 1st- 8th grade.**

<https://forms.gle/fqByi3Gh6XAct8Su7>

**Pre-School Registration - Parents of students ages 3 to 5 and potty trained.**

<https://forms.gle/Rw8TMTpVaXYBbM987>

Also keep in touch and in-the-know using our Facebook Page: St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish Family.

## CCD Meeting Dates

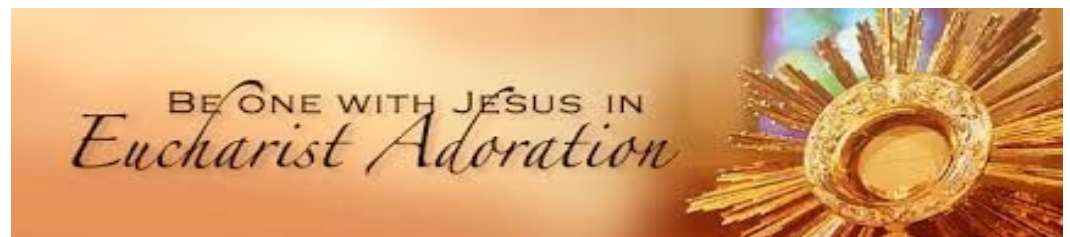
September 12	9:15 to 10:10:15 a.m.	Parent Meeting	L.H.
September 26	11:30 a.m.	Community/Families Picnic	R.B.
October 3	9:15 to 10:15 a.m.	Parent Meeting	L.H.
October 24	11:30 a.m.	Community/Families/Yuengling Park	L.H.
November 7	9:15 to 10:15 a.m.	Parent Meeting	L.H./R.B./Church
November 28	11:30 a.m.	Community-Families Meeting	L.H./Church
December 5	9:15 to 10:15 a.m.	Parent Meeting	L.H.
December 19	11:30 a.m.	Community-Families mtg.	L.H./Neighborhood

L.H. = Longinus Hall

R.B. = Russell Building



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.



## Eucharistic Adoration

Join us for a holy hour in the **chapel every Monday evening** (unless announced otherwise) from **7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** This will be 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.



August 15, 2021

## Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab | 1 Cor 15:20-27 | Lk 1:39-56

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

There are very few things in this world that are perfectly united, though many attempts have been made, think peanut butter and chocolate, Batman and Robin. But there is one example, and that is the Blessed Virgin Mary is perfectly united with Jesus' life and redemptive work. Though fully human, she is completely without sin – she is, as we pray in echoing God's angel, "full of grace." Thus she shares, as we do, in Christ's heavenly destiny but with an immediacy that we do not have. Upon her death she was instantly assumed into heavenly glory, body and soul, as the first of all the faithful who will eventually join with Christ in eternity upon death and purification. In celebrating this great Solemnity, the Church celebrates what lies ahead for those of us who imitate Mary's total trust in God. She had complete faith in God and his promises, and is a living example of the power and generosity of our God. We can follow her lead, engaging in a life of witness (proclaiming God's greatness) and gratitude (have a rejoicing spirit) for the sake of the world.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Sometimes, when hearing or talking about Mary's *fiat*, I first see it as a "yes" in modern, human terms. "Yes, I'll serve on that committee." "Yes, I'll organize that party." "Yes, I'll stay late to finish that project." It doesn't take long for our little "yesses" to turn into an adamant "Noooooooooooo," also known as burnout. Thankfully, Mary's yes was far more than just an acquiescence to a small request – it was the commitment of her entire self to the choice God had placed before her. And she was rewarded with a special seat in heaven near her Son. In today's Gospel, Elizabeth immediately recognizes the true meaning of Mary's *fiat*: "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." What can we learn from Mary's example? We can learn trust. We don't need to sign up for every volunteer opportunity (though volunteering is a great and worthwhile thing to do), but we can say "yes" to what God is asking of us according to the gifts and graces he has given us. Through daily prayer and seeking the intercession of Mary and Jesus, we can grow closer to the Lord and prepare ourselves for the day we meet Jesus and Mary face to face.

### **PRAY** A lot of misunderstanding surrounds Catholic devotion to Mary.

We do not worship Mary – that is reserved for God alone. Yet we do revere her and honor her unique and important role in God's saving plan. Pray the Magnificat or the Rosary, paying close attention to their scriptural foundation and what was happening in the "stories" within those Scriptures.



## St. Helena

St. Helena was the mother of Emperor Constantine the Great and an Empress of the Roman Empire. Very little is known about Helena's early life, but it is believed she is from Drepanum (later known as Helenopolis) in Asia Minor and born into a poor family and lower class in the Roman culture of the day. St. Ambrose described Helena as a "good stable-maid."

Despite her background, Helena married Constantius Chlorus. With him she birthed her only son, Constantine, around the year 274. Nearly two decades later in 292, Constantius, now co-Regent of the West, got swept up in his rising stature and divorced Helena for Theodora, the step-daughter of Emperor Maximianus Herculius. It is believed he did this to advance his own reputation and advance his standing in the Roman society.

Constantine was forever loyal to his dear mother, whom he loved very much. As he grew and became a member of the inner circle, he never left Helena's side. Following the death of Constantius in 308, Constantine became Emperor and summoned his mother back into inner circle and the imperial court. Helena received the title of Augusta.

Constantine ordered all to honor his mother. He even had coins minted, bearing her image. Through her son's influence, Helena began to embrace Christianity. With her

title of Augusta Imperatrix, Helena was given free reign over the imperial treasury. She was tasked with locating relics of Christian tradition.

Between the years 326-328, Helena took a trip to the Holy Places in the Middle East. During her journey, Helena had many churches constructed, including the one at the site of Jesus Christ's birth - the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem and another at the site of his ascension - Church of Eleona on the Mount of Olives.

During this time Jerusalem was still being rebuilt after Titus' destruction. Around the year 130, Emperor Hadrian had a temple built over the site of Jesus' death. This temple was believed to be dedicated to Venus. Helena had this temple destroyed and chose a site in this location to be excavated. This led to the discovery of three crosses.

Tradition says Helena brought a woman near death to the crosses. There she had the woman place a hand on all three crosses. Nothing happened when she touched the first two crosses, but when she placed her hand on the third cross she suddenly recovered. Helena declared the third cross to be the True Cross. At this site, Constantine ordered the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to be built. Theodoret of Cyrus, an influential theologian, wrote that that during her search, Helena also discovered the nails of the crucifixion. She had one of the nails placed in Constantine's helmet and one in the bridle of his horse to aid him with their miraculous powers. Churches were built at these sites, as well.

Several of the relics believed to be found by St. Helena are located in Cyprus. Among these are parts of Jesus' tunic, pieces of the holy cross, and pieces of the rope used to tie Jesus to the cross. When Helena returned to Rome from Jerusalem in 327, she brought parts of the True Cross back with her. She stored these in her palace's chapel. They can still be seen to this day, though her palace has been converted to the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem.

St. Helena died around 330 with her dearly devoted son by her side. She was then buried in the Mausoleum of Helena outside of Rome. Her sarcophagus can be seen in the Pio-Clementine Vatican Museum.

St. Helena was renowned for helping not only individuals, but entire communities through her works of charity. She often sought out to help the poor and destitute. She would visit churches and leave them with rich donations. St. Helena was a very devout servant of God, so much so that one would easily believe her to have been a follower of Jesus Christ from birth. Through her influence and work, Christianity continued to spread throughout the known world.

St. Helena is the patron saint of new discoveries and her feast day is celebrated on August 18.

**Parochial Administrator** ..... *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**

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 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@allentowndioocese.org*

