

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

August 22, 2021

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?"
Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe
and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

Jn 6:67-69



Mass Intentions

Monday, August 23

9:00 a.m. Ted Casey
(Bill & Sally Casey)

Tuesday, August 24 — No Mass

Wednesday, August 25 — No Mass

Thursday, August 26

9:00 a.m. Scott A. Glunz
(Saturday Night Choir)

Friday, August 27 — Mass Time Change (in Main Church)

11.15 a.m. St. John's Parish Family

Saturday, August 28

5:00 p.m. John & Margaret Kasinecz
(John & Barb Powers)

Sunday, August 29

8:15 a.m. Bill & Marie Flynn

Sunday, August 29

10:30 a.m. John Steffan Jr.
(Steffan Family)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Today's second reading is one that makes us very uncomfortable (Ephesians 5:21-32). We recoil when we hear Paul say "Wives should be subordinate to their husbands... For the husband is head of his wife..." We probably try to brush these words aside as merely a product of Paul's unenlightened time and culture. But we must always remember never to take Scripture out of context. Paul is *not* saying what a lot of people think he's saying.

Notice the first verse of the reading: "Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ." Paul is very clear that the relationship between husband and wife is to be mutual, a relationship of equality. This is very different from the way marriage was looked at in his time and culture! And he is clear that this relationship must be understood in light of Jesus Christ. By reading the whole passage, we see that Paul is making a comparison between marriage and the relationship between Jesus and His Church. Jesus loves the Church (us) so much that he died for us. He gave 100 percent of Himself for us. The Church reflects this love back to Jesus. The Sacrament of Matrimony is a sacred sign of this. Paul tells husbands (who represent Jesus) to "love your wives, even as Christ loved the church." In other words, husbands should strive to love their wives as radically as Christ loves us, even to the point of death. Paul tells wives (who represent the Church, the Bride of Christ) to be subordinate to their husbands. What does this really mean? It means wives should *allow their husbands to love them as radically as Christ loves us!* Wives should receive this love and reflect it back. Again, we must keep the first verse in mind: the relationship is one of mutual self-giving and receiving.

Our society needs the witness of Christian marriage, reflecting the love of Christ. We pray that more people will understand and be attracted to the truth, beauty, and goodness of God's plan for marriage and the family.

*In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin*

Next Week's Readings

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Aug. 28/29)

Reading I: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

Reading II: James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 17

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



Year of Real
PRESENCE
CENTERED IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*Taste and see
the goodness
of the Lord.*

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

Addiction in Families. We pray for those who are burdened with an addiction, that they may find the strength to overcome their dependency and find a fulfilling relationship with God.

Upcoming Events

August

23	7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Holy Hour.....	Chapel
29	9:00 a.m.	Confirmation Parent Meeting.....	L.H.
30	7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Holy Hour.....	Chapel

September

2	7:00 p.m.	First Friday Eve Holy Hour.....	Church
9	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
12	9:15 a.m.	CCD Parent Meeting	L.H.
13	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting	L.H.
13	7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Holy Hour.....	Church
16	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
19	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
20	7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Holy Hour.....	Chapel
22	7:00 p.m.	Building Committee Meeting.....	L.H.
23	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
26	11:30 a.m.	CCD Meeting & Family Picnic.....	R.B.
27	7:00 a.m.	Eucharistic Holy Hour.....	Chapel
30	7:00 p.m.	First Friday Eve Holy Hour	Church

L.H. = Longinus Hall F.R. = Rectory Fellowship Room R.B. = Russell Building

Tues. 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men’s GroupZoom
 Meeting ID: 824-780-6433
 Password: Mary



Weekly Collection

August 21/22\$5,470.00
Assumption \$882.00

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

Candle Donations

BVM

1. IMO Cathy Bowers by Joan Bowers
2. IMO Marjorie Angelo by Frank Angelo

St. Joseph

1. IMO Charles Bowers by Joan Bowers
2. IMO Marjorie Angelo By Frank Angelo

Sanctuary

IMO Harig Family by George Harig

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Martin & Anna Heffron by Paul & Bernie Gombola
2. IMO John F. Sninsky by Stan & Geri Grabowski
- 3&4. IMO Marjorie Angelo by Frank Angelo

Liturgical Ministers Schedule

August 28—5 p.m. Mass

Reader: Bill Gianfagna
Euch.Min.: Frank Murphy
Servers: Jude Scheidel

August 29—8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Janet Daubert
Euch.Min.: George Forney
Servers: Bennett McNamara
 Lukas McNamara

August 29—10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Jennifer Daubert
Euch.Min.: Mary Modesto
Servers: Megan, Kelly, Lauren Goodman

WISHLIST

Father Bobbin’s Wish List

Since I arrived very many of you have kindly offered help or asked if there is anything I need. Now that I have been here a couple months, I am getting a better sense of some of the needs of our parish. As I notice things, or as things are brought to my attention, I will add them to this ongoing “Wish List” of small (well, mostly small) jobs. If you see something you would like to help with, please let us know!

1. Weeding / gardening (as much or as little as you can do).
2. Manage any flowers in the church and chapel (remove old, help keep things neat, etc.)
3. Manage food pantry (put donated items in closet; organize; alert us when it is time to deliver to Catholic Charities)
4. Manage kitchen area in Longinus Hall; keep clean and organized; restock supplies or alert us when supplies are needed.

Neighboring Events

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.

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.

Everything looks just perfect! Those volunteering their time and talent:

Michelle Ambrose, Sandy Frinzi, Judy Meseravage, Ray Petrilla, Lisa Schlitzer, Theresa Skrobak, Joanne Wood.

Annual Diocesan Anniversary Mass

Married couples around the Diocese will be invited to renew their vows and thank God for the gift of the Sacrament of Marriage during the annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, September 19. Bishop Alfred Schlert will celebrate the Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Catharine in Allentown at 11:00 AM on Sunday, September 19, 2021. The Mass will also be livestreamed on AD Today and the Diocese of Allentown Facebook page.

The Mass will fulfill your Sunday obligation. Please register to attend below!

If you have questions, email: steward-ship@allentowndiocese.org or call toll free 1-800-831-4443.

All are welcome to join in by watching the Mass at one of the following:

AD Today:
<https://www.ad-today.com/>

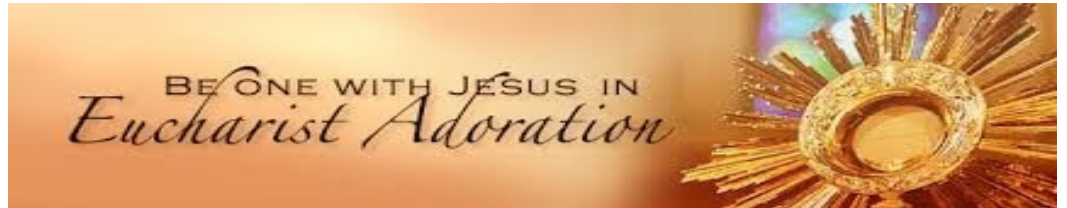
YouTube:
<https://m.youtube.com/user/DioceseofAllentown>

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofAllentown/>

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study

... will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on September 9, 16, 23, October 7, 14, 21, 28, and November 18. Join us in person in Longinus Hall (usually) or at home on Zoom (*Please email Father for the Zoom link: kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org). Fr. Bobbin's Scripture study attempts to give an overview and background for the books of Sacred Scripture to be of help with personal reading and study, Bible study groups, and getting more out of hearing the Word proclaimed at Mass. All are welcome.



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.



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.

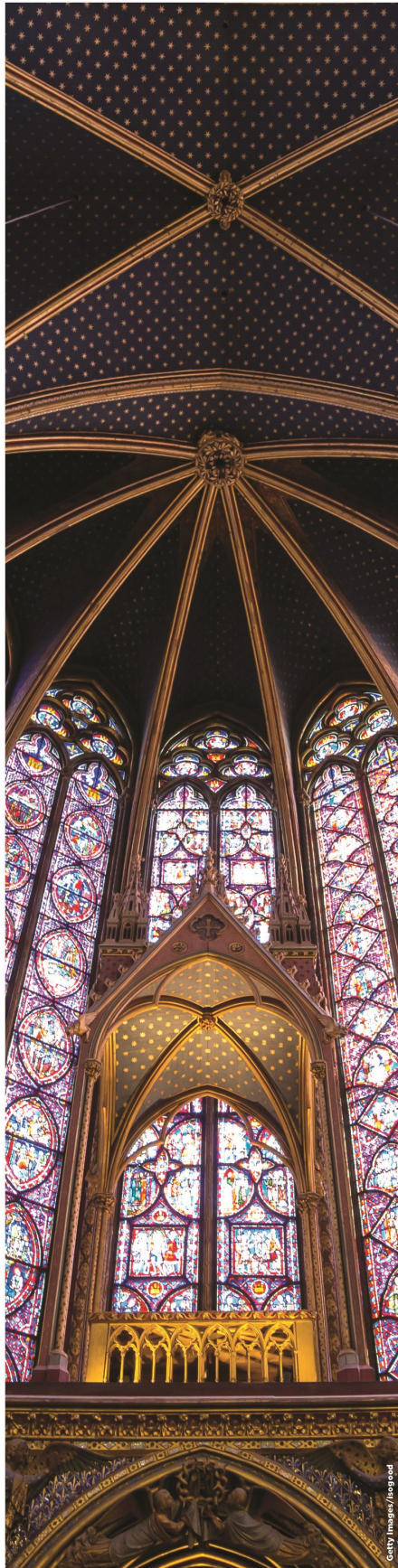
CCD Meeting Dates

September 12	9:15 to 10:10:15 a.m.	Parent Meeting	L.H.
September 26	11:30 a.m.	Community/Family Picnic	R.B.
October 3	9:15 to 10:15 a.m.	Parent Meeting	L.H.
October 24	11:30 a.m.	Community/Family Meeting	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-Family Meeting	L.H./Church
December 5	9:15 to 10:15 a.m.	Parent Meeting	L.H.
December 19	11:30 a.m.	Community-Family Meeting	L.H.

(L.H. = Longinus Hall R.B. = Russell Building)

Help Needed:

Helpers are needed for our newly revised CCD program. Any help will be greatly appreciated. What a great way to positively impact a young life! Please contact the rectory if you can help 570-622-5470.



August 22, 2021

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b | Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32 | Jn 6:60-69

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Have you ever felt nervous in standing up for something, or in taking a position on an issue? Even when the stakes are not particularly high, like a classroom debate over an author's meaning in her text or requesting that customer service fix a take-out order gone awry, it can be nerve-wracking for many of us to have this kind of engagement. It is especially difficult when we sense conflict. Why is that? Why do we care so much what others think of us? What about when the stakes are literally life or death? In today's first reading, Joshua is imploring the people to decide which god they will serve, and he boldly proclaims: "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." In the Gospel, some of Jesus' disciples reject his teachings and drift back to "their former way of life." Jesus asks the Twelve whether they, too, "want to leave." Simon Peter responds with the rhetorical question, "Master, to whom [else] shall we go?" Like Joshua, he is bold in his own pronouncement: "You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." Today's readings encourage and exhort us to go "all in" when it comes to discipleship. The implication is clear: it matters not what others think of us, or what attraction they might hold for us to acquiesce to them. God alone is the source of life, and the truth. He offers us a way - it's that simple. We simply must decide to serve him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

At times this commitment, this life of discipleship, is more difficult than other times. Faith is a personal and communal relationship with our Triune God, and just like our human relationships it requires attentiveness, and "[living] in love as Christ loved us." Just as a spouse or roommate can annoy us - being messy, hearing the same joke over and over, and don't get me started on who gets to control the remote! - we may get upset with God because our expectations are not met. But God is God, not "who we think God ought to be." Therefore, today's readings are an encouragement to remain steadfast when things are difficult, with St. Paul comparing the love of Jesus for the Church (all of us!) with the mutual love between a husband and wife. No one said it would be easy. Just as a good marriage requires communication, give-and-take, and large doses of forgiveness, so does our relationship with the Lord require prayer, confession, repentance, and thanksgiving.

ACTION Place Joshua's words on your refrigerator this week: "Decide today whom you will serve ... As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Brainstorm about how each member of your household can do that.



Saint Monica

Feast Day — August 27

Saint Monica, also known as Monica of Hippo, is St. Augustine of Hippo's mother. She was born in 331 A.D. in Tagaste, which is present-day Algeria.

When she was very young, she was married off to the Roman pagan Patricius, who shared his mother's violent temper. Patricius' mother lived with the couple and the duo's temper flares proved to be a constant challenge to young Monica. While Monica's prayers and Christian deeds bothered Patricius, he is said to have respected her beliefs.

Three children were born to Monica and Patricius: Augustine, Navigius, and Perpetua. Unfortunately, Monica was unable to baptize her children and when Augustine fell ill, Monica pleaded with Patricius to allow their son to be baptized. Patricius allowed it, but when Augustine was healthy again, he withdrew his permission. For years Monica prayed for her husband and mother-in-law, until finally, one year before Patricius' death, she successfully converted them.

As time passed, Perpetua and Navigius entered the religious life, but unfortunately Augustine became lazy and uncouth. This greatly worried Monica, so when Patricius died, she sent the 17-year-old Augustine to Carthage for schooling. While in Carthage, Augustine became a Manichean, which was a major religion that saw the world as light and darkness, and when one died, they were removed from the world of matter and returned to the world of light, which is where life comes from. After Augustine got his education and returned home, he shared his views with Monica, who drove him from her table. Though it is not recorded how much time passed, Monica had a vision that convinced her to reconcile with her wayward son. Monica went to a bishop, who told her, "the child of those tears shall never perish." Inspired, Monica followed Augustine to Rome, where she learned he had left for Milan. She continued her persuasion and eventually came upon St. Ambrose, who helped her convert Augustine to Christianity following his seventeen-year resistance.

Augustine later wrote a book called *Confessions*, in which he wrote of Monica's habit of bringing "to certain oratories, erected in the memory of the saints, offerings of porridge, bread, water and wine."

When Monica moved to Milan, a bishop named Ambrose told her wine "might be an occasion of gluttony for those who were already given to drink," so she stopped preparing wine as offerings for the saints. Augustine wrote: "In place of a basket filled with fruits of the earth, she had learned to bring to the oratories of the martyrs a heart full of purer petitions, and to give all that she could to the poor - so that the communion of the Lord's body might be rightly celebrated in those places where, after the example of his passion, the martyrs had been sacrificed and crowned." After a period of six months, Augustine was baptized in the church of St. John the Baptist at Milan. The pair were led to believe they should spread the Word of God to Africa, but in the Roman city of Civitavecchia, Monica passed away. Augustine recorded the words she imparted upon him when she realized death was near. "Son, nothing in this world now affords me delight. I do not know what there is now left for me to do or why I am still here, all my hopes in this world being now fulfilled." She was buried at Ostia, and her body was removed during the 6th century to a hidden crypt in the church of Santa Aurea in Ostia, near the tomb of St. Aurea of Ostia. In 1430, Pope Martin V ordered her relics to be brought to Rome and many miracles were reported to have occurred along the way. Later, Cardinal d'Estouteville built a church to honor St. Augustine called the Basilica di Sant'Agostino, where her relics were placed in a chapel to the left of the high altar. Her funeral epitaph survived in ancient manuscripts and the stone it was originally written on was discovered in the church of Santa Aurea in 1945.

Douglas Boin translated the tablet's Latin to read:

"Here the most virtuous mother of a young man set her ashes, a second light to your merits, Augustine.

As a priest, serving the heavenly laws of peace, you taught [or you teach] the people entrusted to you with your character. A glory greater than the praise of your accomplishments crowns you both - Mother of the Virtues, more fortunate because of her offspring."

Fun Fact

The city of Santa Monica, California is named after Monica, as were the "weeping" springs outside the city.

St. Monica Prayer

St. Monica, I need your prayers. You know exactly how I'm feeling because you once felt it yourself. I'm hurting, hopeless, and in despair. I desperately want my child to return to Christ in his Church but I can't do it alone. I need God's help. Please join me in begging the Lord's powerful grace to flow into my child's life. Ask the Lord Jesus to soften his heart, prepare a path for his conversion, and activate the Holy Spirit in his life. Amen.

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

*Simon Peter answered him,
"Master, to whom shall
we go? You have the words
of eternal life."*

