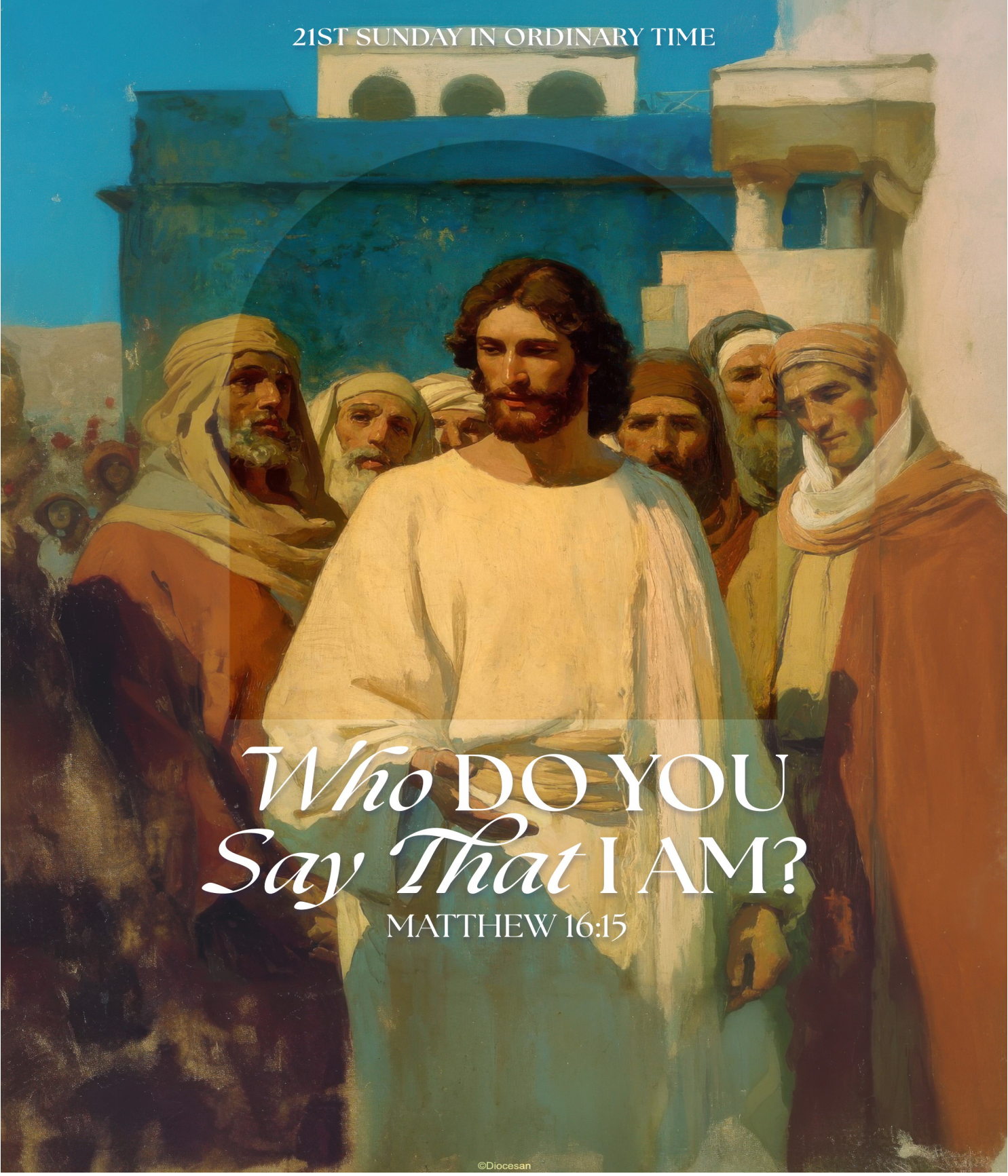


St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

August 23, 2026

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A religious painting depicting Jesus Christ in the center, wearing a white robe, surrounded by several apostles in traditional robes and head coverings. They are standing in front of a building with arches under a blue sky. The painting has a soft, painterly style with visible brushstrokes.

*Who DO YOU
Say That I AM?*

MATTHEW 16:15

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, Carol Lasco.* **Deceased:** *Cecelia Burns*

"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, August 22

5:00 p.m. Jack Scheetz
(Pat, Missy, Amy Scheet)

Sunday, August 23

8:15 a.m. Joseph Garland
(Garland & Kurtek Families)

Sunday, August 23

10:30 a.m. Helene Johansson
(Joyce Gerace)

Monday, August 24

6:30 p.m. David G. Derbes
(Lucilla Kochol)

Tuesday, August 25

9:00 a.m. Francis Wetzel
(Jim & Donna Pugh)

Wednesday, August 26

6:30 p.m. St. John's Parish Family

Thursday, August 27

6:30 p.m. Rita Gemmell
(David & Kaitlin Chiplonia)

Friday, August 28

9:00 a.m. Adam Swider
(Rebecca & Kamal Fahim)

Saturday, August 29

5:00 p.m. Michael Klembara
(Anita Klembara)

Sunday, August 30

8:15 a.m. John Gerace
(Barbara Kasper Family)

Sunday, August 30

10:30 a.m. Margaret Pfluger
(Orlowsky Family)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

We've been talking about the Sacrament of Confession for some weeks now, but there are a lot of important things to understand. Today consider the key ingredients of the sacrament. In order for any sacrament to "work" certain key elements need to be present. For example, water and saying the correct words for Baptism; bread and wine and the correct words said by a validly-ordained priest for the Eucharist...

For the Sacrament of Confession, the key ingredients are a validly-ordained priest who says the words of Absolution. (We'll get to this later.) And, on the part of the penitent, three things: the confession of sins, contrition, and a firm purpose of amendment. We already said a lot about the confession of sins. What are the other two things?

Contrition simply means sorrow, or regret for one's sins. Of course, there can be different degrees of sorrow. *Imperfect* contrition means to be sorry out of fear of punishment. *Perfect* contrition means sorrow because we don't want to hurt someone we love, i.e. God. Hopefully we want our love for God to grow to the point of perfect contrition. But even imperfect contrition is "enough" for a valid Confession.

A firm purpose of amendment means we do not intend to repeat the same sins (or any sin). If you apologize for something but you have every intention of doing it again, you're not really sorry! (This is common sense... or perhaps not.) But, there's a problem. Most of our sinfulness is habitual. We tend to struggle with the same faults over and over again. We confess the same sins, knowing we will probably repeat them again. Does this mean God can't forgive us? No, a firm purpose of amendment means, even though we might know that we will probably fall into the same sins, we do not *want* to. That's good enough for God. He knows we need His help to overcome our sinfulness.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on September 17, 24, October 8, 15, 22, and 29. Join us in person in Longinus Hall 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.

OCIA ... Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

....is for anyone who desires to enter the Catholic Church or complete his or her initiation into the Church (i.e. people who are baptized Catholic but have not received Communion and/or Confirmation). If you or someone you know is interested, please call the rectory.

Next Week's Readings

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
(August 29/30)

Reading I: Jeremiah 20:7-9

Reading II: Romans 12:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

BWAC—Because We Are Catholic

Parish Goal: \$15,796.00
Total Committed: \$10,862.67
Total Collected: \$9,687.67
Number of Donors: 71

Upcoming Events

August

23 after Masses	Coffee & Donuts	L.H.
23 11:30 a.m.	CCD Parent Mtg.	Church

September

9 8:00 p.m.	St. John's Beneficial Society Mtg	F.R.
12 3-7 p.m.	Grilled Stickies Pick-up	L.H.
13 10:00 a.m.	CCD Mass	St. Patrick's
13 10:30 a.m.	Catholic Woman's Union 100th Anniv./Social.....	L.H.
13 8-10 a.m.	Grilled Stickies Pick-up	L.H.
13 12-1 p.m.	Grilled Stickies Pickup.....	L.H.
15 6:30 p.m.	Ladies of the Rosary	L.H.
16 7:00 a.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg	L.H.
17 6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
20 10:00 a.m.	CCD Mass.....	St. Patrick's
24 6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
26 after Mass	Wine & Cheese	L.H.
27 after Masses	Coffee & Donuts	L.H.
27 9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.

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

Tuesdays 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men's Group..... F.R.

Weekly Collection

August 15/16 \$ 5,637.40
Imp.&Rep. \$869.00
Assumption..... \$876.00

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, or **CUT** your envelopes.

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Helen & Maurice Mirabella by Christine Maccarone
2. IMO Hilda Burns by Peggy Smith

St. Joseph

1. IMO Thomas Burns by Peggy Smith
2. IMO Michael Maccarone by Christine Maccarone

Sanctuary

Special Intention
by Bill & Sally Casey

Guardian Angels

- 1&2. Special Intention by Jule Quandel
- 3&4. Special Intention by (Anonymous)

Liturgical Min. Schedule

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 29— 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Patricia O'Neill

EM: Heidi Gorski, John O'Neill

Server: Heidi Gorski

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

August 30— 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Lawrence Steficek

EM: Jeff Naffin, Barbara Munster

Servers: Maria Neifert

Rhyann Brennan

Cantor: Dave Derbes

August 30— 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Joseph Palmieri

EM: Ray Petrilla, Gerry Schwartz

Servers: Jackson Daubert

Sophia Palmieri

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

Sacristan: R.J. Post

Registration for 2026-2027 CCD School Year

Children ages three to six are welcome to join our **Sunday Pre-school** program. We will have classes twice a month starting in September until May in Longinus Hall from 10:30am to the end of Mass. We ask for you to stay during class if your child is not yet toilet trained.

Children in grades first to third are invited to join **Children's Liturgy** during the 10:30 am Mass. This is held in the Chapel. They will learn more about the Mass and the weekend scripture readings. Children will return to Mass with their parents after the offertory.

Children in grades first through eight grade attending public school, charter or virtual school should be registered for **CCD prep classes** to be eligible to receive their sacraments of initiation.

We could always use volunteers to help as teachers or aides. If you are interested please call the rectory and contact either Tina Seiger or Lucilla Kochol.

Registration can be completed in three ways. Paper forms are located on the table in back of the church.

Google links listed below. You will need a Google email account.

Scan the QR code using your phone's camera.

Google Link to Children's Liturgy:

<https://forms.gle/5JNVENiUUgCaL5py6>



Google Link to Sunday Preschool :

<https://forms.gle/q599pzT6n8KWNCb5A>



Google Link to CCD registration:

<https://forms.gle/ujXmaw61S3THka6g6>



Catholic Women's Union — 100th Anniversary

Please join us for a Special Mass on **Sunday, September 13, 2026, at 10:30am** as we joyfully celebrate Catholic Women's Union 100 years of service to the Church. Together, we will give thanks and pray for continued blessings in the years ahead. All are welcome to celebrate this special occasion with us in Longinus Hall after Mass for Coffee and Doughnuts.

Catholic Women's Union Fundraiser

The CWU Penn State Ye Olde Diner World Famous **"Grilled Stickies"** will be available for **pickup in Longinus Hall** on:

Saturday, September 12th from 3 to 7 p.m.

Sunday, September 13th from 8 to 10 a.m. & 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Plain \$9.00 — Nut \$12.00 — Apple \$12.00.

For more information, please contact Kelley Eroh 610-413-0192 or St. John's Rectory 570-622-5470 ext. 3

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning Is Hiring!

Now Hiring at St. Joseph Center for Special Learning! St. Joseph Center in Schuylkill Haven is seeking caring, dedicated individuals to join our mission of serving children and adults with diverse abilities in a faith-filled, supportive environment. We are currently hiring for a **full-time Special Education Teacher**, **full-time Direct Service Worker** for our Adult Program, **part-time Administrative Assistant**, **part-time Behavioral Health Support**, and **part-time Teacher Aide** positions. If you're looking for a rewarding career where you can make a meaningful difference every day, we'd love to hear from you. To learn more or apply, please visit our website or contact us at **(570) 622-4638**.

Diocesan News & Events

Red, White & Blue Mass on 9/11

Join the Diocese of Allentown for a special **Red, White & Blue Mass** honoring those who serve our communities and our nation. On **Friday, September 11**, Bishop Alfred Schlert will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at 8:46 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena in Allentown. The 8:46 start time commemorates the moment the World Trade Center's North Tower was struck on September 11, 2001. There will also be a reception at 10:00 a.m.

Police, firefighters, first responders, health care workers, members of the military, legal professionals, elected officials, and their families are warmly invited to attend. Those who serve are encouraged to wear their uniforms.

Following Mass, join us for a light reception and remarks from Sr. Deirdre (Dede) Byrne, M.D., U.S. Army Colonel, renowned surgeon, and consecrated religious.

RSVP to stewardship@allentowndiocese.org.

Bus to PA March for Life

A bus is scheduled for the Pennsylvania March for Life taking place at Harrisburg State Capitol Building on **Monday, September 21**. Before departure, there will be an optional Mass at 7:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church located 1817 1st Street, Bethlehem PA 18020. Bus Departure is at 8:00 a.m. from Sacred Heart Church. Please park 1814 Second Street in Bethlehem, PA across from church parking lot (in school chain linked fence).

Time permitting, we might enter the PA Capitol to visit politicians or grab a bite to eat at cafeteria. Bus will return around 4:00 p.m. to Sacred Heart Church; we will make a gas station stop to grab a bite to eat and use restrooms. You may also bag a lunch.

Email andrewazan3rd@gmail.com to reserve a seat. Include rider's names and mobile number. Payment is \$20.00 per rider. Pay in advance with checks made out to Sacred Heart. Mail checks to Andrew Azan: PO Box 3278, Bethlehem, PA 18017. Please bring \$5.00 for bus driver tip, which we will collect on the way home.

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."

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.

HELP NEEDED

My name is Anthony J. Gaburick. I suffer from a nerve disease that requires treatments for me to stay functional. My treatments are out of town in places such as Allentown, West Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre and Wyomissing. I'm looking for drivers who can help me get to these treatments. Doctors will not allow me to drive myself to and from treatments. If anyone is interested in driving me, please contact the church rectory. I'll be very grateful for your help!

Thank you to everyone who has come forward to help me with transportation to my medical appointments. Your help is so very appreciated. I am truly grateful. Thank you again!

Families Matter

As we begin this new school year our parish prays that parents will support their children's efforts to reach their full potential. We pray that their children give their best effort in their studies, to develop their relationships with friends, and grow in their faith life.

Neighboring Events

97th Anniversary of the Dedication of Mary Queen of Peace The Society of Mary Queen of Peace of Pottsville, a private association of the Christian Faithful recognized by the Diocese of Allentown, warmly invite all to a special Mass on **Tuesday, August 25 at 6 p.m.** at Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Chapel, 730 N. Centre St. in Pottsville.

Mary Queen of Peace is a historic Catholic chapel that is currently being preserved as a sacred place of prayer. Dedicated in 1929, the chapel has stood for nearly a century as a beacon of faith for families throughout Schuylkill County, many of whom still have deep connections to the chapel.

The Anniversary Mass will be a meaningful and hopeful opportunity to come together in prayer, give thanks for the generations who built and sustained Mary Queen of Peace, and support the continued preservation of this beloved chapel.

All are welcome to attend Mass on this special occasion, with fellowship immediately following. For more information, please visit maryqpeace.org or search for Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Chapel, Pottsville, Pa. on Facebook.

Basket Raffle ... sponsored by Holy Cross Parish in New Philadelphia. Shop & Drop Hours: Friday, August 22nd from 4:30-7:30 p.m.; Sunday, August 23rd from noon to 2 p.m.] Tickets will be drawn on Sunday, August 23rd at 2 p.m. All winners will be notified by phone.

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, Ray Petrilla, Theresa Skrobak, Joanne Wood.* Newcomers are always welcome — please call the rectory if interested or just show up at our next cleaning in July.

Bosco's
FRIENDS
HELPING
FRIENDS
ONE DAY ONLY
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026 - SHOP 8AM - 11PM
25% OFF*
LOWEST SALE PRICES
SHOPPING PASS
Enjoy 25% off* your purchase in-store or online. Not valid with other discounts or promotions. Present this pass at checkout to receive your discount.
Valid Wednesday, October 21, 2026 only.
\$5 DONATION PER PASS

PASSES ... \$5.00

St. John's will be available at Bosco's on the following dates:

Presale

10 a.m.—1:30 p.m.—Sept. 17

10 a.m.—2 p.m.

August 25, 27, 28, 29; Sept. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30; Oct. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20.

11 a.m.—2 p.m.

Sept. 12; Oct. 17

12 noon to 3 p.m.

Aug. 23, 30; Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27; Oct. 4, 11, 18.

October 21—8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Thank you in advance for your support!

If anyone would like to help, please contact Sandy at 570-739-1630 ...
Just leave a message



Saint Peter depicted by Peter Paul Rubens holding the Key of Heaven while vested in the pallium - Museo del Prado, Public domain

August 23, 2026

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 22:19-23 | Rom 11:33-36 | Mt 16:13-20

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

In today's second reading, St. Paul reflects in awe over the "depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God." God's judgments are inscrutable, his ways unsearchable, he goes on to say. While on our own, we cannot know the depth of who God is and the beauty of his plan for us, we have been given access to this knowledge by the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel, Peter is able to grasp that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God," not by "flesh and blood," but by a revelation from our heavenly Father. The Church that is still led by Peter's successor continues to be guided by the Spirit into the fullness of truth. (Jn 16:13) As individual believers, we, too, have received the Spirit in our hearts. By living in communion with our Holy Father and by seeking to listen to the Spirit who also speaks into the depths of our hearts, we can rest assured that we are in a "sure spot" where we can receive all that the Lord wishes to reveal to us about what it means to live in him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today's Gospel demonstrates that Christ desired to place Peter – and his successors – as the visible head of his Church. Yes, God willed from the beginning to leave his Church with a leader who could safeguard the quintessential confession of Christ as the "Son of the living God," but there's more to it than this. Peter is given *keys to the kingdom of heaven*. And what are keys for if not to open doors? In a very real way, the mission of our Holy Father is to open up access to God's kingdom, and there are many examples of this. On World Mission Sunday in 2011, Pope Benedict said, "The proclamation of the Gospel is intended for all peoples." And Pope Francis, speaking at World Youth Day in 2023, emphasized that the Gospel is for todos, todos, todos – everyone, everyone, everyone, without exception. As we pray for our Holy Father and the immense task with which he has been entrusted, let us work in our own way to ensure that the doors of our churches, the way to the kingdom of heaven, remain open for all.

PRAY

As we reflect on the gift that Jesus left us by making Peter and his successors the visible head of his Church on earth, take some time to pray for our Holy Father and his intentions. You can pray along with the Pope at the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (a site which contains a short video of the Pope's monthly prayer intention and other prayer resources) at www.popesprayer.va.