

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

August 25, 2024

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

Saturday, August 24

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

Sunday, August 25

8:15 a.m. Michael Klembara
(Anita Klembara)

Sunday, August 25

10:30 a.m. John Wollyung
(Joseph & Suzanne Wollyung)

Monday, August 26

6:30 p.m. Ann Lowe
(Jim, Kate, Karli Blackwell)

Tuesday, August 27

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

Wednesday, August 28

9:00 a.m. William & Marie Flynn

Thursday, August 29

9:00 a.m. Michael Klembara
(Anita Klembara)

Friday, August 30

9:00 a.m. Mary Tamburelli Hilbert
(Herb Tamburelli)

Saturday, August 31

5:00 p.m. Josephine Kochol
(Tony & Lucilla Kochol)

Sunday, September 1

8:15 a.m. Dec. of Bartholomew
& Lorenz Families
(Frances Lorenz)

Sunday, September 1

10:30 a.m. Dec. of John & Gretchen
Lieberman Family
(Lieberman Family)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

As we journey through the Historical Books of the Old Testament, last week we came to the defeat and exile of God's People first by the Assyrians, then by the Babylonians. This brings us to the end of the Deuteronomistic History (the books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings). By 587 BC the leaders, upper classes, and skilled people of Judah were exiled to Babylon (which means they lost the *Promised Land*), the holy city Jerusalem was destroyed, the Temple (God's dwelling with His People) was destroyed, and there would no longer be a king in the line of David ruling God's people. From now on, the Chosen People would be ruled by foreign empires. Last week we ended with the question: why would God allow this? It seemed like God's plan of salvation was over.

Around the time of the Babylonian Exile, prophets like Isaiah and Ezekiel taught the Chosen People that the God of Israel was not *defeated* by these foreign empires. Quite the opposite. God was *using* these enemy nations to punish His people for their infidelity to the covenant. This means there is hope for the future. By repenting and turning back to God, the people would be restored. Isaiah predicts a return from exile as great as the Exodus from Egypt. Eventually there would be a new king in the line of David (a "Son of David" or Messiah) who would rule in Jerusalem, which would become the source of salvation for the entire world.

While the Deuteronomistic History ends with the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon, we can now turn to another collection of Old Testament Historical Books: the "Chronicles' History." This is made up of the books of 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah. Much of the history recounted in these books is the same as in the Deuteronomistic History. But Ezra and Nehemiah take us beyond the Babylonian Exile and recount the return to Judah. In 537 BC the Persians conquered Babylon and allowed the conquered peoples to return to their homelands. God's people returned to Judah, rebuilt Jerusalem and the Temple, and renewed their fidelity to the covenant with God. However, they were not independent. Judah was a province of the Persian Empire. So there was no king. Hope for a future king – a Messiah – continued to grow.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

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.



Next Week's Readings

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
(August 31/September 1)

Reading I: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
Reading II: James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

*Sheri Post • Robert Kline • Tony Kochol • Tom Jefferson • Drew Schaeffer • Shawn Matz • Miriam Tirjan • John Bernetsky
Joanne Mestishen • Carolyn Leinheiser • John Fredericks*

Upcoming Events

August

29 7:00 p.m. Festival Wrap-Up Mtg..... R.B.

September

3 7:00 p.m. Building Committee Mtg..... L.H.
 8 9:00 a.m. CCD Parent Mtg. L.H.
 8 10:30 a.m. Sunday School..... L.H.
 8 4:00 p.m. Chronic Pain Support L.H.
 9 7:00 a.m. Parish Council L.H.
 11 8:00 p.m. St. John’s Beneficial Society Mtg F.R.
 18 7:00 p.m. Catholic Women’s Union Mtg L.H.
 19 6:30 p.m. Scripture Study L.H.
 22 9:00 a.m. CCD Community Mtg L.H.
 22 10:30 a.m. Sunday School..... L.H.
 22 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class..... L.H.
 26 6:30 p.m. Scripture Study L.H.
 29 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class..... L.H.

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

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

Weekly Collection

August 17/18\$3,937.75
Assumption\$1,130.00

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

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Charles & Elizabeth Tamburelli by Herb Tamburelli
2. IMO Chick Tamburelli by Herb Tamburelli

St. Joseph

1. IMO Jim Wollyung by His Family
2. For Joseph Manus by Neil & Frances Manus

Sanctuary

For Zacarias by Neil & Frances Manus

Guardian Angels

- 1&2. IMO Mark Mickey by Frances Brahler Mickey
- 3&4. IMO Nancy Brahler Newton by Frances Brahler Mickey

SCRIPTURE STUDY

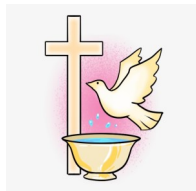
Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on September 19, 26, October 10, 17, November 7 and 14. Join us in person in Longinus Hall or at home on Zoom (*Please email Father for the Zoom link: kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org). Fr. Bobbin's Scripture study attempts to give 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.


Banns of Ordination

Mr. John A. Matulevich, a member of Saint John the Baptist, Pottsville, has been called to the Order of the Deacon by His Excellency, Alfred A. Schlert, D.D. Bishop of Allentown. Mr. John A. Matulevich will be ordained at the Cathedral of Saint Catherine of Siena, Allentown, on Saturday, the 14th day of September 2024.

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST

We celebrated on August 11th the glorious baptism day of **Jamison Robert Doyle**, son of Daniel and Alexandra (Sheidy) Doyle. He became a new creation in Christ in the waters of Holy Baptism and is now joined to us by the gifts of faith, hope and charity. We warmly welcome Jamison into our parish family.





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 Father Bobbin at St. John’s Rectory 622-5470.

Liturgical Min. Schedule

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 31— 5 p.m. Mass

Reader: Heidi Gorski

Euch.Min.: Gerry Schwartz
Bob Wollyung

Servers: Michael & Spencer Prestileo

Cantor: Dave Derbes

September 1— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Michelle Heenan

Euch.Min.: Sharon Snyder

Server/Sacristan: R.J. Post

Cantor: Tina Seiger

September 1— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Jen Daubert

Euch.Min.: John Matulevich

Justina Majestic

Server: Jackson Daubert

Cantor: Dave Derbes

Parish Council—New Members—2024

ROBERT BURNS

Address: 11 Harmony Hill, Cressona

Occupation: Masonry Contractor

Length of time in parish: Lifelong

Experience and activities: St. John's Beneficial Society; St. Bernard's Beneficial Society

Why I Wish to Serve: I would like to try to keep our parish thriving.



TARA DeSTEFANO

Address: 11 Yorktowne Road, Pottsville

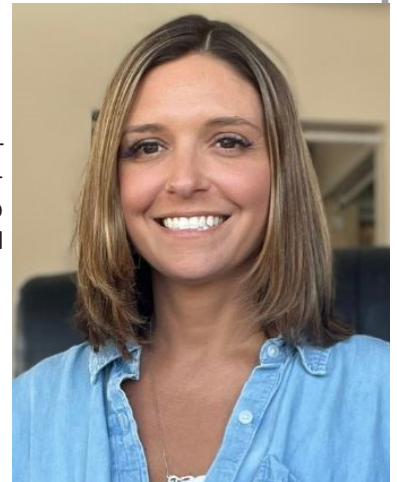
Occupation: Deputy Director at the Highway Safety Network

Length of time in parish: 10 years

Experience and activities: Throughout my time at St. John's, I participated in various parish activities such as volunteering at the parish picnic, serving meals at the Pottsville Soup Kitchen, participating in Adult Faith Formation, and Coffee & Donuts. I was also a member of the parish Leadership Team in 2019. Outside of the parish I am the President of the Pottsville Football Boosters and spend my free time cheering on my son, Luke, on the football and baseball fields.

Why I Wish to Serve:

I wish to serve because I love our parish and want to be an active members. I appreciate the direction the parish has been moving and want to contribute to it as well.



MELISSA SCHEETZ

Address: 708 Pinewood Circle

Occupation: Teacher

Length of time in parish: Lifelong

Experience and activities: I have been deeply involved in my church throughout my life, participating in various activities and events that unite our community. Over the years, I have been a member of the annual Homecoming committee and enjoy the celebrations which are an excellent time for reunion and reflection. I have also actively contributed to the Christmas bazaar, helping to organize and run this event that spreads joy and supports our church's mission. Additionally, I have had the privilege of serving on the parish council, where I worked with others to guide and support our congregation's growth and spiritual development.

In addition to my involvement, I have dedicated over 20 years to working as a nanny, providing care and support to the children and their family. This experience has been gratifying, allowing me to nurture and guide young minds during their formative years. Moreover, I have spent 13 years teaching, where I have had the opportunity educate and inspire students, fostering their academic and personal growth.

Why I Wish to Serve: Serving on the parish council is a significant opportunity for me to give back to a community that has been a cornerstone of my life. My lifetime involvement in the church has given me a profound appreciation for its role in fostering faith, fellowship and service. By serving on the parish council, I hope to contribute to the strategic planning and decision-making processes that ensure our church thrives and supports its members.



Parish Council—New Members—2024

MICHELLE STONE

Address: 384 Ridge Road, P.O. Box 301, Cumbola

Occupation: Business Office / Human Resource Assistant

Length of time in parish: 3 years

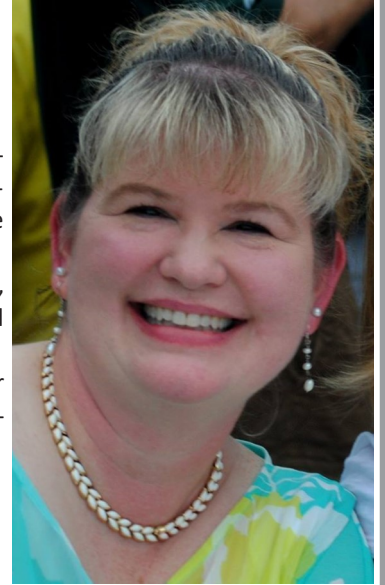
Experience and activities: I have a Catholic school background having attended Holy Cross Elementary School and Nativity BVM High School. I am a proud alumni of Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary and Kindergarten Education. Currently I am employed by the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 as a Business Office/Human Resource Assistant.

I was an active participant in my sons' education during their time at St. Stephen's Regional School, St. Ambrose School, and Nativity BVM High School, having served on multiple committees and boards and volunteered in various capacities during each of their 14 years of Catholic education.

I am currently a member of the Disciple Makers Index Committee for our parish. I am also a 33-year member of the Holy Cross (formerly Sacred Heart) Rosary Society and a 20-year member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Pottsville.

Why I Wish to Serve:

As a newer member of the parish, I feel that I can offer a fresh perspective. I can share what my family and I were looking for when we were searching for a new parish to call home and why we chose St. John's. Our Catholic faith is especially important, and I want to ensure that the St. John's Parish Family continue to grow and stand strong for generations to come. I look forward to developing a stronger St. John's Parish community.



GRETCHEN LIEBERMAN WITMAN

Address: 1335 Howard Ave., Pottsville

Occupation: Clinical Social Worker

Length of time in parish: 45+

Experience and activities: Personally, my husband Robert and I have 3 adult children and a new grandson. We value family and friends so we spend most of our time with them. Professionally, I've worked as a social worker in agency, hospital, schools, and private practice setting. I've worked for the IU Schuylkill Technology Center as a school social worker since 2007 and also provide counseling in my private practice that I opened in 2002. In my spare time I enjoy reading historical fiction, gardening, travel, and I enjoy sports!

Why I Wish to Serve: St. John's has been a central part of my life since childhood. I believe strongly in giving back and service to one's community, especially as part of my faith. As a member of Parish Council, I'd like to help the young members of our parish (children / teens) get involved and experience the blessings of our faith community.

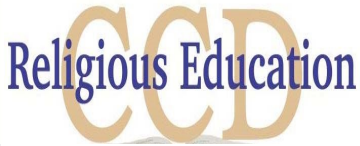


SCHUYLKILL CHORAL SOCIETY

Are you a singer? The Schuylkill Choral Society is holding OPEN AUDITIONS on Monday, September 9th and 16th at 7 p.m. at the 1st United Church of Christ, 110 PA 61, Schuylkill Haven (Use lower back entrance).

First Concert: Exultation—Traditional and Classic Christmas Carols with Strings, Brass, and Organ.

Saturday, December 7, 2024 - 7:00 PM at St. John's the Baptist Church, Pottsville
 Sunday, December 8, 2024 - 3:00 PM at First Methodist Church in Schuylkill Haven



CCD Registration for 2024/2025 School Year

Parents please register your child(ren) for Religious Education for the school year 2024-2025 using the Google Form link below. You must have a Google email account to use this form. Please contact Lucilla Kochol at the rectory if you do not have a Google Account to register.
<https://forms.gle/aajKRARUv54G3axG9>

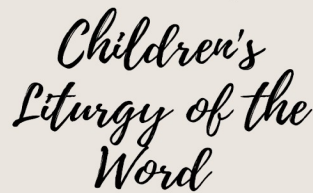
Sunday School Registration

All children ages 3 to 6 years old are welcome to join our Sunday School Program, Little Saints that starts in September and goes until May. We usually meet twice a month in Longinus Hall. A calendar will be provided upon registration. Class time takes place during the 10:30 mass.

Sunday School Registration Ages 3-6 <https://forms.gle/Ux27kPodx617XuLM9>



Children's Liturgy Grades 1-3



All children first to third grades are welcome to join our Children's Liturgy Program during the 10:30 mass. Children will learn about the readings for that weekend on an age appropriate level. More information will be received once your child is registered.

Please use the links below to register your child for the desired religious education program. You will need to use a Google email account to utilize the links. Or you can also call the rectory and register with our Director of Religious Education, Lucilla Kochol.

Children's Liturgy Registration Grade 1-3 <https://forms.gle/T1vAiug4bqPrF4Xu9>

Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop — September 6 & 7

Friday, September 6 from 4 to 7 p.m. and **Saturday, September 7** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Russell Building — 9th & Schuylkill Ave. Pottsville

Don't miss it! If you like yard sales, this is the place to be. Various items including ... Christmas decorations, knick-knacks, dishes, kitchen items, appliances, jewelry, various holiday decorations, framed prints, special Vintage Section and much, much more, plus food is available for purchase. 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.



Neighboring Events

HEALING MASS

Most Blessed Trinity Parish will host a Healing Mass on **Friday, August 30th at 7 p.m.** Our Celebrant will be Rev. Christopher Zelonis, Pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Leighton. Confessions begin at 6 p.m. Anointing with Holy Oil will take place after Mass.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Blessed are they who mourn, they shall be comforted. Matt. 5:4

Announcing our Fall "Bereavement Support Group" at Immaculate Conception Parish. If you have lost a loved one through death and feel you need some support on your grief journey, please call to register. It is 6 sessions and we ask that you attend all 6 sessions.

Trained Grief Ministers are available. Registration is Required. No Charge.

The Dates are: Mondays, September 30, October 7, 14, 28 and November 4, 11 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Brogan Room at St. Joseph Rectory, 526 North St., Jim Thorpe. Light Refreshments will be served. SPACE IS LIMITED. Please register by September 15! To register, please call Immaculate Conception Parish at 570-325-2791.

PADRE PIO PILGRIMAGE

For those interested in attending the 1st Local Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Centre for Padre Pio on **Friday, September 20**, bus transportation will be available for a cost of \$25. Bus departs from St. Clare of Assisi in Saint Clair at 7AM and from St. Ambrose in Schuylkill Haven at 7:30AM. You must bring your own brown bag lunch. Departure from the Shrine as soon as the Pilgrimage concludes. To register or for more info, please contact Barbara at St. Ambrose church 570-385-1031 or stambroseoffice@comcast.net.

Pastor *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*
Deacon *Lawrence Lonergan*

Parish Council President..... *Darren DeArment*
E-mail *dbd269@gmail.com*
Choir Director/Organist.....*David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator *Lucilla Kochol*
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@allentowndioocese.org



ONE DAY ONLY - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024
SHOP 8AM - 11PM

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- **25% OFF DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS***
- **REGISTER TO WIN A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD**
 One Winner at every Boscov's store

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION
 For Shopping Passes or information, contact:

For more details visit boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends
*Exclusions Apply

PASSES ... \$5.00

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

Presale

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 August 30, Sept. 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27
 October 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 18

11 a.m.—4 p.m.
 August 31; Sept. 14, 21, 28; October 12, 19

12 noon to 3 p.m.
 August 25; Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
 October 6, 13, 20

4 to 7 p.m.— August 28
4 to 9 p.m. — September 17
12 noon to 4 p.m. — August 18
3 to 6 p.m. August 29

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 9 p.m. — October 21
October 22—8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

*Thank you in advance
 for your support!*