

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

August 8, 2021

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will live forever;
and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

Jn 6:51



Mass Intentions

Monday, August 9

9:00 a.m. Kathleen Oler
(James Brentari)

Tuesday, August 10

9:00 a.m. M/M Robert Porter
(Bob & Mary Porter)

Wednesday, August 11

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

Thursday, August 12

9:00 a.m. Noel Glunz
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

Friday, August 13

9:00 a.m. Marie Fitzpatrick
(Donna Bound Steidle)

Saturday, August 14

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

Sunday, August 15

8:15 a.m. Charles Rinaldo Sr.
(Chuck Rinaldo Family)

Sunday, August 15

10:30 a.m. Edward & Peggy Petrovich
(Derbes Family)

Next Week's Readings

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Aug. 14/15)

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

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 15:20-27

Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

**"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."
John 6:51**

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

This past Friday, August 6, the Church celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration. Recall the moment in the Gospels when Peter, James, and John were with Jesus on the mountain and the three Apostles caught a glimpse of Jesus' divinity. Jesus became radiant and was seen talking with the great Old Testament figures Moses and Elijah. This experience lasted only for a moment, but the three Apostles were overwhelmed and uplifted by it. One of the traditional interpretations of the Transfiguration is that it was meant to strengthen Peter, James, and John, who would soon have to witness the crucifixion and death of Jesus.

God also gives us "Transfiguration experiences." For me, retreats are a kind of "Transfiguration experience." For example, just recently six graduates from Bethlehem Catholic High School, all in college now, came to visit me and spend the day here for an alumni retreat. We shared talks, discussion, meals, and prayer. The day left me feeling uplifted and almost overwhelmed with gratitude. And I know it did the same for my students. I'm sure that coming up the mountain (literally here in Pottsville) and being in our beautiful church added to their experience.

I mention this today because it is important to look for those "Transfiguration experiences" in our lives. Some are major, maybe even life-changing. But many are more subtle, like the peace and joy that comes from a good conversation when you really "connect" with someone. These experiences remind us of God's presence with us. They can renew us and strengthen us. We need this as we live in a society and world where there is much negativity, much to discourage us, much to cause us to doubt ourselves or our faith.

As Christians, we need to live in reality and face the challenges of this world. But we do so with peace and confidence because we know that God's saving work continues in our lives and in our world. Sometimes God gives us reminders of this in the form of what I'm calling "Transfiguration experiences." How has Jesus given you a glimpse of His glory on the mountain?

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

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

Retirement Years

The retired members of our families are so important to our communities. They share their gifts and talents — babysitting their grandchildren, volunteering in schools and at community activities. They willingly share their wisdom and time with others. Our parish salutes our retirees and their generous spirit!

Upcoming Events

August

9	7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Holy Hour.....	Chapel
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 GroupZoom
Meeting ID: 824-780-6433
Password: Mary



Catholic Women’s Union—Fundraiser

St. John’s Catholic Women’s Union are sponsoring a Chicken BBQ or Pulled Pork Dinner on Saturday, August 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the former Pizza Hut Parking Lot in Yorkville. Pre-Sale tickets available before and after all Masses August 7/8 in the back of church. Cost—\$10.00. Please contact any Catholic Women’s Union member or call the Rectory for more information 570-622-5470 ext. 3.

Neighboring Events

Basket Auction sponsored by Holy Family Parish in Minersville on Sunday, August 22 at the Parish Center at Hillcrest. Doors open 11 a.m.; Auction begins 2 p.m. Browne and Bid on Friday, August 20 from 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, August 21 from 4 to 8 p.m. Large table items—55” TV, Money Tree, Lottery Tree, Chromebook, and many other theme baskets. Food available on Saturday and Sunday. For more information please the parish office 570-544-4741.

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

July 31/August 1\$5,10900
Parish Dues\$1,046.00

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

Candle Donations

BVM

1. IMO Ronald C. Kriston by Eleanor Kriston
2. IMO Raymond Frank by Jack & Susan Minnichbach

St. Joseph

1. IMO M/M Richard Weiss by Becky Weiss
2. Special Intention by Chris Black

Sanctuary

IMO Leo & Dorothy Lotz by Ron & Pat Lombel

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Ruth Minnichbach by Jack & Susan Minnichbach
2. IMO Howard Minnichbach by Jack & Susan Minnichbach
3. IMO R.J. Post by Bob & Irene Post
4. Health of Sheri Post by Bob & Irene Post

Liturgical Ministers Schedule

August 14—5 p.m. Mass

Reader: Heidi Gorski
Euch. Min.: Gerry Schwartz
Servers: Alyssa Sheriff, Luke Garvey

August 15—8:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Bob Bechtel
Euch.Min.: John Corbacio
Servers: Madison & Caden Wright

August 15—10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Frank Murphy
Euch.Min.: Ray Petrilla
Servers: Ethan & Ryan Grabowski

Church Cleaning

We are looking for a group of volunteers to clean our church at least once a month in addition to the light cleaning that is done weekly. If you would like to help, please call the rectory. We are also looking for someone willing to coordinate the group.

Our first church cleaning will take place Saturday, August 14 at 8:00 a.m.

Please join us!

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.

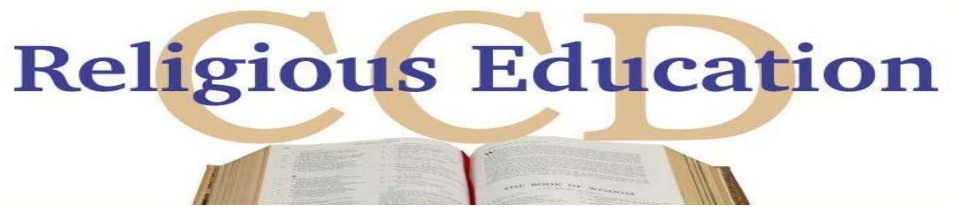
Welcome New Parishioners

This week we welcome **Vincent Balulis** and daughters, **Julia** and **Jillian**, to St. John's Parish Family. Vincent is employed by Pa. Dept. of Human Services. Julia and Jillian attend Pottsville Area School District.

Warmly welcome the Balulis Family into our parish family with a big dose of St. John's hospitality.

Moving? Relocating?

Have you moved, changed your phone or email address? If so, please contact the Rectory Office 570-622-5470 ext. 3. Help us update our records. Thank you.



St. John's CCD Program

Attention Parents!

Here is the quick and easy way to register for CCD & Pre-School for the 2021/2022 school year. Also take these parent surveys to give your input into our programs.

St. John's CCD Input Survey- Parents of students grades 1st - 8th grade.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdVXIBSsM-0j2IYBSm0lvMJ_ZqhIXx6Kp3CrBm4EBp9ZNaltA/viewform?usp=sf_link

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

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdGC5hVnwp3qANuWWAWvDo8A3DwzOjzbECJSxKmDv8WleV0Ow/viewform?usp=sf_link

St. John's Pre-School Input Survey -Parents of students ages 3 to 5 and potty trained.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdqIO04nYKV9Y09CYRG4Z9UMFD-ttYbx6AFnrXwsZ_bMaRX_Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

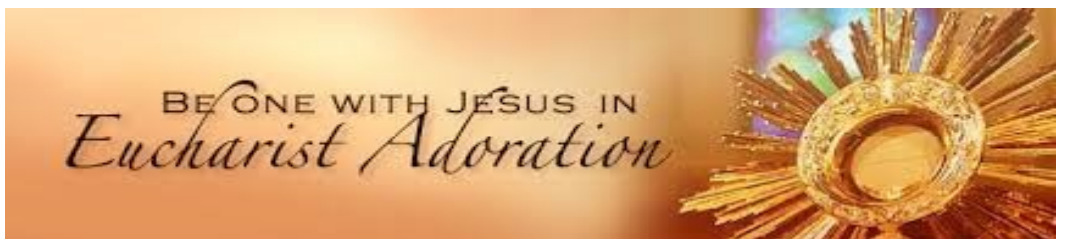
Pre-School Registration - Parents of students ages 3 to 5 and potty trained.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0S8wxRaEH9t9I5XbhSCfv9KLXUfHGy1WPR-_sNkcl-kaZnQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Also keep in touch and in-the-know using our Facebook Page: St. John the Baptist Catholic 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 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 8, 2021

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

1 Kgs 19:4-8 | Eph 4:30—5:2 | Jn 6:41-51

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

We have apps that monitor our sleep and calories, and remind us to get our steps in. Short on time? We order takeout or subscribe to a meal service. Yet, despite these modern conveniences, I would guess that most of us don't sleep enough or consistently eat well. And we pay the price, whether in the short or long term. Enter Elijah, who had reached his limit physically and mentally. Yet after an angel provided him food and drink, Elijah found the strength to walk 40 days and 40 nights. Impressive! But that's God for us! And in the provision of his Son, we have food and drink - bread from heaven - that not only sustains us for our journey on earth but offers the possibility of eternal life. This is our belief; this is what Jesus says to us. And that alone can give us strength, and hope, even when we're having an "Elijah" moment. For at each and every holy Mass, Jesus invites us to the table, offering us food that not only sustains but also transforms us. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord, indeed!

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Just as a good night's sleep and proper nutrition help us function our best, the Word of God and the Eucharist, and our communal life of faith, provide the spiritual nourishment we need as we strive to be imitators of God in our daily lives, as Saint Paul says. As we partake of Christ in the Eucharist, perhaps we can say a prayer of thanksgiving and ask Jesus to help us grow in the ways of love that Paul outlined: kindness, compassion, and forgiveness toward the people we encounter. It could mean letting go of a grudge, becoming more conscious of the needs of others, listening respectfully to someone with whom we disagree, or perhaps forgiving ourselves. The Holy Spirit will guide us.

REFLECT Think about the ways the Mass transforms you.

It may be something subtle - the spirit of consolation and the feeling that things are right in your world - or you may have been particularly moved by the readings, homily, music, or silent prayer. Tell someone about it!



St. Clare of Assisi

St. Clare of Assisi was born in Assisi on July 16, 1194, as Chiara Offreduccio, the beautiful eldest daughter of Favorino Sciffi, Count of Sasso-Rosso and his wife Ortolana. Tradition says her father was a wealthy representative of an ancient Roman family and her mother was a very devout woman belonging to the noble family of Fiumi. As a young girl, Clare dedicated herself to prayer. At 18-years-old, she heard St. Francis of Assisi preach during a Lenten service in the church of San Giorgio and asked him to help her live according to the Gospel. On Palm Sunday in 1212, Clare left her father's home and went to the chapel of the Porziuncula to meet with Francis. While there, Clare's hair was cut off and she was given a plain robe and veil in exchange for her rich gown.

Clare joined the convent of the Benedictine nuns of San Paulo, near Bastia, under Francis' orders. When her father found her and attempted to force her back into his home, she refused and professed that she would have no other husband than Jesus Christ. In order to give her the greater solitude she desired, Francis sent Clare to Sant' Angelo in Panzo, another Benedictine nuns monastery.

Clare's sister Catarina, who took the name Agnes, joined her at this monastery. The two remained there until a separate dwelling was built for them next to the church of San Damiano. Overtime, other women joined them, wanting to also be brides of Jesus and live with no money. They became known as the "Poor Ladies of San Damiano." They all lived a simple life of austerity, seclusion from the world, and poverty, according to a Rule which Francis gave them as a Second Order. St. Clare and her sisters wore no shoes, ate no meat, lived in a poor house, and kept silent most of the time. Their lives consisted of manual labor and prayer. Yet, they were very happy, because Our Lord was close to them all the time.

San Damiano became the center of Clare's new order, which was then known as the "Order of Poor Ladies of San Damiano." For a brief period of time, the order was directed by St. Francis himself and by 1216, Clare became the abbess of San Damiano. Ten years after Clare's death, the order became known as the Order of Saint Clare.

While serving as the leader of her order, Clare defended them from the attempts of prelates to impose a rule on them that more closely followed the Rule of Saint Benedict than Francis. Clare was so devoted and dedicated to Francis that she was often referred to as "alter Franciscus," or another Francis. She encouraged and aided the man she saw as a spiritual father figure, and took care of him as he grew old. Following Francis' death, Clare continued to promote her order, fighting off every attempt from each pope trying to impose a rule on her order that would water down their "radical commitment to corporate poverty."

In 1224, an army of rough soldiers from Frederick II came to attack Assisi. Although very sick, Clare went out to meet them with the Blessed Sacrament on her hands. She had the Blessed Sacrament placed at the wall where the enemies could see it. Then on her knees, she begged God to save the Sisters. "O Lord, protect these Sisters whom I cannot protect now," she prayed. A voice seemed to answer: "I will keep them always in My care." In that moment, a sudden fright struck the attackers and they fled as fast as they could without harming anyone in Assisi.

St. Clare became sick and suffered great pains for many years, but she expressed that no pain could trouble her. So great was her joy in serving the Lord that she once exclaimed: "They say that we are too poor, but can a heart which possesses the infinite God be truly called poor?"

On August 9, 1253, Pope Innocent IV declared Clare's rule would serve as the governing rule for Clare's Order of Poor Ladies. Two days later, Clare died at 59-years-old. Her remains were placed in the chapel of San Giorgio while the church dedicated to her remains was being built. At Pope Innocent's request, the canonization process for Clare began immediately, and two years later in 1255, Pope Alexander IV canonized Clare as Saint Clare of Assisi.

The construction of the Basilica of Saint Clare was finished in 1260, and on October 3, 1260 Clare's remains were transferred there and buried beneath the high altar. Nearly 600 years later, her remains were transferred once again to a newly constructed shrine in the crypt of the Basilica of Saint Clare. Her body is no longer claimed to be incorrupt.

The Order of Poor Ladies was officially changed to the Order of Saint Clare in 1263 by Pope Urban IV. St. Clare was designated as the patron saint of television in 1958 by Pope Pius XII, because when St. Clare was very ill, she could not attend mass and was reportedly able to see and hear it on the wall in her room. She is also the patroness of eye disease, goldsmiths, and laundry. Clare is often pictured carrying a monstrance or pyx, to commemorate the time she warded off the soldiers at the gates of her convent with the Blessed Sacrament. St. Clare's feast day is celebrated on August 11.

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

