

# 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"He has done all things well.  
He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

MR 7:37

## St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts. • Pottsville, Pa. 17901

[www.saintjohnpottsville.org](http://www.saintjohnpottsville.org)

September 5, 2021

**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](mailto: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

### Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office.

### New Parishioners

Please call the rectory for an appointment to register.

### 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.

### Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

(800) 276-1562

### Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., N.C.C., L.P.C.  
(800) 791-9209

### Office of Safe Environment

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](mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org)

## Mass Intentions

**Monday, September 6 — NO MASS**

**Tuesday, September 7**

9:00 a.m. Dave Musket &  
Christopher Figuerido  
(Paul & Bernadette Gombola)

**Wednesday, September 8**

9:00 a.m. Thomas & Eva Francis  
(Francis Family)

**Thursday, September 9**

9:00 a.m. Philomena Carroll  
(Family)

**Friday, September 10**

9:00 a.m. George Hahner Jr.  
(Hahner Family)

**Saturday, September 11**

5:00 p.m. Lorraine & John Tasso  
(Scott Williams)

**Sunday, September 12**

8:15 a.m. Joseph & Philomena Ryan  
(Jim & Donna Pugh Family)

**Sunday, September 12**

10:30 a.m. T. Mary Rinaldo  
(Family)

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Wouldn't it be wonderful to win the lottery and never have to work again? A lot of people dream of this... but, deep down we know that this would not make us happy, much less solve our problems. It seems appealing to give up a job or career and live a life of leisure. But we would quickly start to feel bored, empty, and unfulfilled.

As human beings created in God's image and likeness, we are made for work. This truth is reflected in the creation story in Genesis. God creates human beings in His image and puts them in the Garden of Eden to care for it. Work was part of human life *before* original sin messed everything up, making work unpleasant and laborious. Work is part of who we are. It is one way we reflect God, the Creator, the ultimate Worker. We need productive, meaningful, purposeful activity in our lives. Many people discover this when it is time to retire and they find themselves looking for ways to stay busy: caring for grandchildren, volunteering, etc.

As we observe Labor Day, our faith reminds us of the value and dignity of work. We can approach our own responsibilities in life with a renewed effort and care. Labor Day also reminds us to pray for those who are unemployed or who struggle to find the career path that is meant for them.

*In Christ,  
Fr. Bobbin*



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

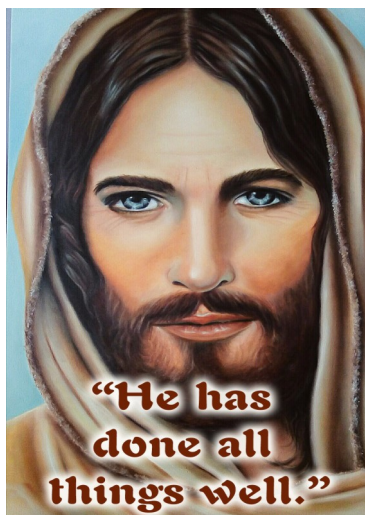
## Next Week's Readings

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (September 11/12)

**Reading I:** Isaiah 50:5-9a

**Reading II:** James 2:14-18

**Gospel:** Mark 8:27-35



## 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 • Brian Eckley*

### Deceased

*John Hudock • Janet Bartholomew Whitaker • Sharon Lonergan*

**Labor Day.** On this Labor Day weekend we pray that our society acknowledge the need for just wages for all workers in family. We also pray especially for those workers and their families who struggle from paycheck to paycheck.

# Upcoming Events

## September

8	8:00 p.m.	St. John’s Beneficial Society Meeting .....	F.R.
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 Group .....Zoom  
Meeting ID: 824-780-6433  
Password: Mary



## Weekly Collection

**August 28/29 .....\$4,117.99**

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

## Candle Donations

### BVM

1. Special Intention
2. IMO Philomena Carroll by Family

### St. Joseph

1. IMO James Cavanaugh by Hahner Family
2. Special Intention

### Sanctuary

IMO John & Tillie Sninsky by Stan & Geri Grabowski

### Guardian Angels

1. IMO Lorraine & John Tasso by Joan Bowers
2. Special Intention
- 3&4. Special Intention by Charles & Patricia Miller

## Liturgical Ministers

### Schedule

#### September 11 — 5 p.m. Mass

**Reader:** Frank Murphy  
**Euch.Min.:** Gerry Schwartz  
**Servers:** Leah & Justice Scheidel

#### September 12 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

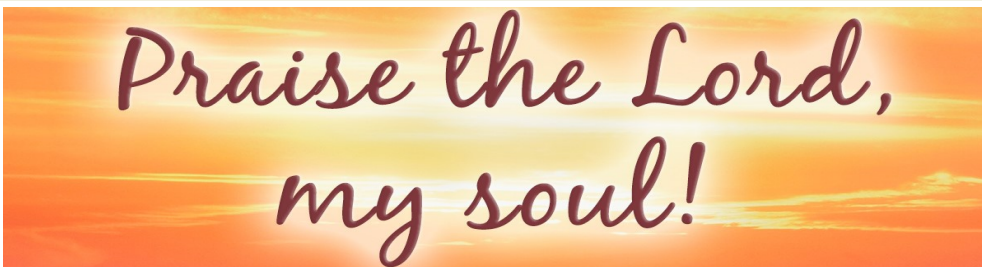
**Reader:** Bob Bechtel  
**Euch.Min.:** Charlie Miller  
**Servers:** Riley Doyle

#### September 12 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Jennifer Daubert  
**Euch.Min.:** Nick Quinn  
**Servers:** Helena Fredericks

## Banns of Marriage

II—Caitlin Goodman and Christopher Hippeli



## National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children.

Join us and groups across the country to pray for the babies who were lost to abortion and for all people who have been wounded by abortion in any way. This event will take place on Saturday, September 18th at 1 p.m. at St. Jerome new cemetery, 501 Jerome St., Tamaqua. (Use this address for GPS). Memorial is located near the top of cemetery to the left. Some chairs will be available, but we suggest bringing lawn chairs just in case. Event will be held rain or shine — will be cancelled if thunderstorms. For more information please contact Cheryl Keifer 484-866-3835 or SJ123CherishLife@gmail.com. For information about this national event, visit



## 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).



## Curiosity Shop / Yard Sale -- Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the August Curiosity Shop/Yard Sale. Thank you also to all those who purchased items, donated baked goods, or volunteered to work at the sale. We are very grateful for all your support!

Special thank you to *Joe & Maureen Kurtek* for making and donating the delicious bean soup.

Our Volunteers *Chris Black, Kate Blackwell, Mary Bound, Ann Burns, Janet Daubert, Millie Fredericks, Karla Garland, Pat Klassen, Lucilla Kochol, Jan Kurtek, Carol Lasco, Frances Lorenz, Charlene Lesher, Patty O'Neill, Reene Reddington, Carol Rehnert, Eleanor Schaeffer, Rosann Sitkus, Theresa Skrobak, Barbara Wollyung.*

Our Bakers *Chris Black, Mary Bound, Millie Fredericks, Donna Kern, Jan Kurtek, Frances Lorenz, Hilda Maley, Marie McMurtrie, Carole Quirin, Rosann Sitkus, Linda Smith, Kathy Vicic*

**Total Profits: \$ 1,141.00**

**And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.  
Mark 7:32,35**

# E U C H A R I S T

## *Sacred Meal, Sacrifice, Real Presence*

Christ is alive and fully present in the Eucharist. Join us as we delve into the "source and summit" of our Faith with Bishop Robert Barron's DVD-based program: Eucharist: Sacred Meal, Sacrifice and Real Presence. This spiritual study will give you a deeper understand of the precious gift of Christ's body, blood, soul and divinity that you can receive at each and every Mass. Please join us on October 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in Longinus Hall. Sign up in the back of church on September 11/12 and 18/19 or call the rectory 570-622-5470 or email the rectory (with your name and phone number) at stjbparrish@comcast.net by September 20th.

## SCRIPTURE STUDY

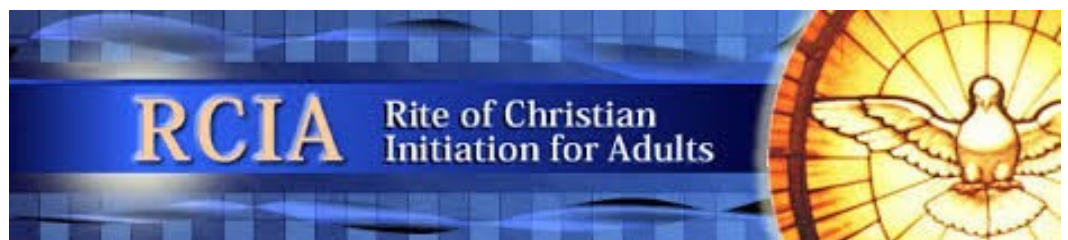
### Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study

... 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](mailto: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.



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.

## Parish Council

Please approach any Parish Council Member listed below and ask that a question, concern, etc. be brought up at the next meeting on Sept. 13.

### Elected Members

Bob Bechtel  
Darren DeArment  
Joseph Gerchak  
Heidi Gorski  
Joseph Kurtek  
Eric Lieberman  
Nannette Major  
Kevin McNamara  
Al Norkus  
John Powers  
Nick Quinn  
Melissa Scheetz  
Martin Smith

### Appointed Members

John Consugar  
Lucilla Kochol  
Patty O'Neill

### Ex-Officio

Ed Brahler  
Father Dave Loeper  
Deacon Larry Lonergan  
Deacon Luis R. Visot

## 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  
IIMO M/M James Loeper  
MO 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*

# Religious Education

## A Family of Faith

We are happy to announce a new direction for the faith formation of the parish youth grades first through eight. Our new CCD program is called, A Family of Faith by the Sophia Institute.

We are moving away from the classroom model and forward to a family catechesis model. The Catholic Church has long believed that the parents are the first teachers of their children. A small group of parishioners have agreed to volunteer their time and talents to help teach parents the lessons their children will learn in the home.

You may be wondering, "Why did we change from our previous model?" We did this for two reasons. First, we did not have the number of teachers needed to maintain the current classroom model. Second, we surveyed the parents and it revealed a reality we have to face in a different way. While most people wanted to remain with the current model, the reality is 87% of parents are not able to volunteer. Also, out of 23 respondents, 22 of them want to be more involved in their child's religious education. Therefore, the choice needed to be made to help our parents teach their children the faith.

Here are the details of how we will run this program.

- \* There will be 18 meetings for the entire school year; September through May.
- \* **Parent Meetings** will be held in Longinus Hall from 9:15am -10:15am and at that time one parent is needed to attend.
- \* The second meeting will be a **Community Meeting**. We will have fun doing activities, games, trivia and special projects to reinforce the lessons learned at home. The whole family is welcome to attend these community meetings.
- \* **All parishioners are always invited to join us for our community meetings.** If your child is homeschooled, attends a local catholic school, or is only starting preschool you are welcome to join us. Dates of community meetings will be posted in the bulletin. Also, grandparents, relatives, and any interested parishioners are welcome to check out what is going on. Our meetings are for the **WHOLE PARISH COMMUNITY!**

## Neighboring Events

### ChristLife—Discovering Christ

Left can be overwhelming. Too many worries, too many places to be, too many items on the to-do list. Do you ever wish for some way—any way—to slow down and really consider what it's all about?

*Discovering Christ* is for anyone who is curious. Enjoy a delicious dinner and listen to a thought-provoking talk that is designed to explore the meaning and purpose of your life. After the talk, you can share your thoughts in a small group (and talk as much or as little as you wish). It's all done in a warm, friendly, and judgement-free environment.

*Discovering Christ* will take place at Holy Family Parish of Minersville's Parish Center at Hillcrest Hall on **Monday evenings September 20 to November 1 from 6:15 to 8:45 p.m.** and a daytime retreat on Saturday, October 23. Register at 570-544-4741 (parish office).

### Soccer Challenge for Kids

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #0431 of Pottsville to be held at Nativity BVM High School soccer field on September 12th at 1 p.m. Rain date is September 19th. Registration at 12 noon at the field. Children between ages of 9 and 14 are eligible to participate. All participants must bring a copy of their Birth Certificate with them as proof of age. This copy cannot be returned. For more information please contact Tom Kurtek, Chairman of the event.



## St. Teresa of Calcutta

Mother **Mary Teresa Bojaxhiu**<sup>[6]</sup> (born **Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu**, Albanian: [aˈɲɛzə ˈɡɔndʒɛ bɔjaˈdʒiu]; 26 August 1910 – 5 September 1997), honoured in the Catholic Church as **Saint Teresa of Calcutta**, was an Albanian-Indian Roman Catholic nun and missionary. She was born in Skopje (now the capital of North Macedonia), then part of the Kosovo Vilayet of the Ottoman Empire. After living in Skopje for eighteen years, she moved to Ireland and then to India, where she lived for most of her life.

In 1950, Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic religious congregation that had over 4,500 nuns and was active in 133 countries in 2012. The congregation manages homes for people who are dying of HIV/AIDS, leprosy and tuberculosis. It also runs soup kitchens, dispensaries, mobile clinics, children's and family counselling programs, as well as orphanages and schools. Members take vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience, and also profess a fourth vow – to give "wholehearted free service to the poorest of the poor.

Teresa received a number of honors, including the 1962 Ramon Magsaysay Peace Prize and the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize. She was canonized on 4 September 2016, and the anniversary of her death (5 September) is her feast day.

A controversial figure during her life and after her death, Teresa was admired by many for her charitable work. She was praised and criticized on various counts, such as for her views on abortion and contraception, and was criticized for poor conditions in her houses for the dying. Her authorized biography was written by Navin Chawla and published in 1992, and she has been the subject of films and other books. St. Teresa of Calcutta was canonized by Pope Francis on September 4, 2016 in a ceremony that was witnessed by tens of thousands of people, including 1,500 homeless people across Italy.

St. Teresa of Calcutta is the patron saint of World Youth Day, Missionaries of Charity and a co-patron of the Archdiocese of Calcutta, alongside St. Francis Xavier. Teresa and St. Francis Xavier were named co-patrons of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Calcutta.

Feastday: September 5  
 Patron: of World Youth Day  
 Birth: 1910  
 Death: 1997  
 Beatified: Pope John Paul II  
 Canonized: Pope Francis





JESUS CURING A DEAF MAN

Getty Images/Christine Kohner

Sept. 5, 2021

## Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 35:4-7a | Jas 2:1-5 | Mk 7:31-37

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

Our oldest son is deaf. I vividly remember watching him notice sounds for the first time in the days after his cochlear implant was activated: the “caw” of a crow, a doorbell, the low rumble of the furnace kicking in. Our job as parents was to provide a running commentary to help him understand the meaning of each sound that so many of us take for granted: “See the birds? That is a crow!” “Your dad is home.” “The heat is coming on.” I’m reminded of those early days when I read Mark’s account of Jesus restoring hearing to the deaf man. While most of us can hear, so often we take the sounds all around us for granted or relegate them to background noise – including the Scripture we hear at Mass each week. As Bishop Robert Barron writes, “This deaf man stands for all of us who do not hear the word of God, who have grown oblivious to it.” As we listen to today’s readings, we can ask Jesus to open our ears and our hearts to the word of God.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Mark spares no detail in describing Jesus’ encounter with the deaf man who had a speech impediment. Jesus places a finger in his ear and spits, touching his tongue, then utters the word “*Ephphatha!* (“Be opened”) Immediately, the man can hear and speak clearly. When listening to this reading, I often focus on the man’s hearing. But Jesus also cured the man’s speech impediment, which I think indicates we’re not supposed to just hear God’s word, we are to speak to it, and speak of it. Once we allow Jesus to open our ears and hearts to the Good News, sharing it will begin to come naturally. There may still be times when our Catholic tongues feel tied, but “Be strong, fear not!” Jesus will give us the words.

**ACTIONS** Next time you take a drive, listen to the day’s Scripture readings. Ask Jesus to open your ears and hearts to his words and show you how best to share them with others. And most teachers would agree: The more senses we engage, the more we take in. If you have trouble following the readings at Mass, open your missalette and read along silently.