

# 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 8, 2024

# 23<sup>RD</sup>

## SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### The Healing of a Deaf Man

*“He has done all things well.  
He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”*

Mark 7:37



## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, September 7

5:00 p.m. Paul Rosenberger  
(Janet Thomas)

### Sunday, September 8

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

### Sunday, September 8

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

### Monday, September 9

6:30 p.m. M/M Thomas Francis  
(Francis Family)

### Tuesday, September 10

9:00 a.m. Theresa Chapman  
(Bob & Kay Wollyung)

### Wednesday, September 11

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

### Thursday, September 12

9:00 a.m. Marie & Frank Morano  
(Janet Daubert)

### Friday, September 13

9:00 a.m. Paul Filiac  
(Reene Reddington)

### Saturday, September 14

5:00 p.m. M/M Edward Orzechowski  
(M/M Joseph Orzechowski)

### Sunday, September 15

8:15 a.m. Julian & Mary Chiplonia  
(Julian Chiplonia)

### Sunday, September 15

10:30 a.m. Harry, Paul, Loretta Boyer  
(Pat Kutch)

## Message from Father Bobbin

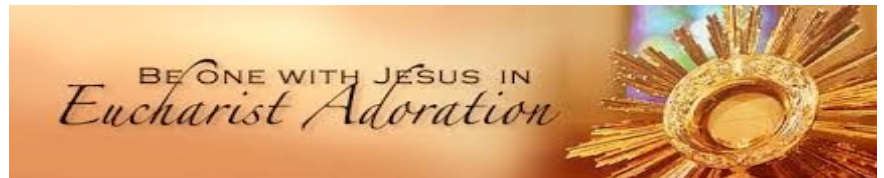
Dear Parishioners,

In our tour of the Old Testament, we conclude our look at the Historical Books. The books of Judith and Esther are similar to the books of Ruth and Tobit which we commented on last week. They are colorful short stories about main characters who demonstrate fidelity to God under difficult circumstances. In their respective stories, Judith and Esther each save the Chosen People from danger and persecution. Judith demonstrates great courage in leading her people to victory over the enemy. Esther is also a model of courage, as well as prayer.

The two remaining Historical Books are 1 and 2 Maccabees. These are two independent books (not two volumes of one continuous book) which tell of events late in Old Testament history, closer to the time of Jesus. Remember that, in this stage of Old Testament history, the Chosen People were no longer independent. They were ruled by one foreign empire after another. In the second century BC, a line of Greek rulers called the Seleucids were in charge. They tried to force Greek culture and religion on the Jewish People, going so far as to desecrate the Temple in Jerusalem and persecute the Jewish People who resisted. The books of Maccabees are named for Judas Maccabeus, the leader of the Jewish resistance, who successfully drives out the Seleucids and cleanses the Temple. The rededication of the Temple is commemorated by the feast of Hanukkah.

Next time we will start to look at another group of Old Testament books: the prophets.

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

**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
(September 14/15)

**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

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

### Upcoming Events

#### September

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 p.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.

### Candles

#### BVM

1. IMO Philomena Carroll by Family
2. On Occasion of our 53rd Wedding Anniversary by Barb & Al Munster

#### St. Joseph

1. IMO Clarence Morgans by Herb Tamburelli
2. IMO Francis Bercher by Joan Bowers

#### Sanctuary

IMO Charles Bowers by Joan Bowers


#### Guardian Angels

1. IMO Beth Resnick by Barb Wollyung
2. IMO Harold Bercher by Joan Bowers
3. IMO Lorraine Tasso by Joan Bowers
4. IMO Debbie Bowers by Joan Bowers

## 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](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.



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

#### 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### September 14— 5 p.m. Mass

Reader: Heidi Gorski

Euch.Min.: Dan & Hermine Murphy

Servers: Lukas & Finley McNamara

Cantor: Dave Derbes

#### September 15— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Michelle Ambrose

Euch.Min.: Mike Ambrose  
Jeff Naffin

Server/Sacristan: Ryan Grabowski

Cantor: Dave Derbes

#### September 15— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Vince Balulis

Euch.Min.: John Crane  
Ray Petrilla


Server: Gabe Scheidel

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

### 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.



### New Altar Servers

We invite any boys and girls currently finishing fourth grade or older to consider becoming altar servers. Parents, please speak with Father Bobbin or call the rectory. We will arrange a mutually convenient time to meet for training.



## 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 ... **Monday, September 9th**

### Elected Members

Vincent Balulis  
Ann Blankenhorn  
Michael Brennan  
Bob Burns  
John Crane  
Michelle Darhun  
Darren DeArment  
Tara DeStefano  
Heidi Gorski  
Sr. Mary Jane Hahner  
Michael Hummel  
Reene Reddington  
Melissa Scheetz  
Michelle Stone  
Gretchen Witman  
Kay Wollyung  
Robert Wollyung

### Appointed Members

Lucilla Kochol  
John Consugar

### Ex-Officio

Father Kevin Bobbin  
Deacon Larry Lonergan  
Deacon Luis R. Visot  
Ed Brahler

## Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are visiting our beautiful church, please know you are most welcome!

If you have questions or are interested in joining our parish family, please call the rectory 570-622-5470.

## 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."*

## Neighboring Events

**Breakfast.** Sponsored by St. Clare of Assisi Parish on Sunday, September 8th from 8 –11:30 am in the Immaculate conception Social Hall on Diener's Hill in St. Clair. Adults \$10; Children \$5. Scrambled Eggs, Home Fries, Pancakes, French Toast, Bacon, Sausage, Ham, Toast, Orange or Apple Juice, Coffee or Tea.

**Meat Bingo** sponsored by St. Clair of Assisi Parish on Sunday, September 22nd at the St. Clair Lions Club, 259 McCord Ave. in St. Clair. Doors open 12 noon; Bingo starts 2 p.m. Pre-Sale \$20; at the door \$25. For more information please call 570-429-0370.

**Cash Bingo** sponsored by Holy Family Parish of Minersville on Sunday, September 29th at the Parish Center at Hillcrest. Doors open 11 a.m.; Bingo begins 1 p.m. Your \$25 admission give you 20 games with \$100 cash prizes! Specials and a 50/50 drawing available for additional cost. Kitchen will be open! Pre-sale tickets available in the Parish Office or by contacting Cheryl 570-617-0973. All pre-sale tickets will be entered into a special Door Prize drawing. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

### POSITION AVAILABLE

Immediate opening for a part-time Parish Secretary at Most Blessed Trinity, Tremont to prepare church bulletin, answer phones, schedule Masses, Altar servers and appointments, maintain parishioner database, do filing, MS Office email and letters. Prior Church experience beneficial; reliable person with positive attitude needed. The Church will help with required clearances. Please email resumes and references to [mbtparish2008@hotmail.com](mailto:mbtparish2008@hotmail.com)

### DRIVERS NEEDED

Catholic Charities is looking for one or two part-time drivers for its food truck mission. Hours are Monday through Thursday, approximately 10am to 3pm. The truck is loaded and unloaded at Holy Family Parish Hall, located in Minersville, PA and the truck serves various communities each day in Schuylkill County. A standard PA Drivers license, a clean driving record and background clearances are required. Basic truck maintenance experience is also helpful. Anyone interested in the position should contact Andrea Kochan Neagle, Catholic Charities Managing Director, at [aneagle@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:aneagle@allentowndiocese.org) or call 610-435-1541 ext. 5334.

### 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

## 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.

### Attention — All Readers, Servers, and Eucharistic Ministers ...

Please let us know your plans for **October & November** so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. Please call or email the rectory by **September 16th**. We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

**ANNUAL DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS**

Married couples from across the Diocese are invited to renew their vows and thank God for the gift of the Sacrament of Marriage during the Annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass. The Mass, celebrated by Bishop Alfred Schlert, will take place in the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena on Sunday, September 22nd. Doors open at 2 p.m. Please visit the following link to register and for more info: <https://www.allentowndiocese.org/anniversarymass> Contact Rhady Tulloch, Director of Marriage and Family Life, with questions: [rtulloch@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:rtulloch@allentowndiocese.org).

**RETRouvaille: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE Retrouvaille:**

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program will be held on October 4 - 6 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:stambroseoffice@comcast.net).

**PENNSYLVANIA MARCH FOR LIFE**

Assemble on the steps of our state capitol in Harrisburg on Monday, September 23 for the 2024 PA March for Life. There will be a concert at 10am, a rally at 11am, and marching will begin at 12. For more information or to register for updates, visit <https://marchforlife.org/pennsylvania/>.



**Bosco's**  
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**ONE DAY ONLY - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024**  
**SHOP 8AM - 11PM**

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**100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION**  
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For more details visit [boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends](http://boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends)  
\*Exclusions Apply

**PASSES ... \$5.00**

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

**Presale**

**10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**September 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27**

**October 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 18**

**11 a.m. — 4 p.m.**

**September 14, 21, 28; October 12, 19**

**12 noon to 3 p.m.**

**September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

**October 6, 13, 20**

**4 to 9 p.m. — October 17**

**10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 9 p.m. — October 21**

**8 a.m. to 11 p.m.—October 22**

*Thank you in advance  
for your support!*



September 8, 2024 | 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

My first thought upon reading today's Scriptures is that by healing the deaf man, Jesus is fulfilling what God had said he was going to do since the time of the prophet Isaiah: "making the eyes of the blind see and opening the ears of the deaf," as we heard in the first reading. And indeed this is what Jesus did. But when I re-read the Gospel I was intrigued by the line: "[Jesus] took him off by himself away from the crowd." Jesus had a reputation as a healer and a teacher, so it stands to reason that he healed people in front of the crowds often. Why, then, does Jesus remove the man from the crowd? In a commentary on this passage, Bishop Robert Barron suggests that Jesus removed the man from the crowd as a way of demonstrating that the loud and boisterous voices of the crowd could make it hard to hear when God is speaking to us. Even though this man was deaf and was not able to hear Jesus' words, the crowds were a distraction, and a barrier to intimacy and communion. Doesn't this same thing happen to us from time to time? The voices in our world that compete for our attention can make it difficult to hear God's word. But it can be done, and the rewards are great. God is present with us; let's make an effort this week to focus in on the things in our lives that point us toward God and ready ourselves to receive his grace.

## GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears and looked up to heaven before healing the deaf man. By this action, Jesus is doing the will of the Father, which is to bring healing. Let's consider the question about competing voices in our lives and what we can do about it. For starters, we can carve out a time every day to quiet our hearts so we can hear the "still, small voice of God." Away from the crowd, we can put our whole being into truly hearing God's voice and asking for the help we need to be in right relationship with him. He longs to give us what we need but we must be open to receiving his gifts and his peace. If we are "tuned into" God, we can hear his Word clearly and speak that Word to others with conviction.

**PRAY** For me, there is no better way to spend quiet time with our Lord than Eucharistic adoration. Prayer and devotion in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament transforms and heals. Give it a try.



**SPEAKERS:**



DEACON HAROLD BURKE-SIVERS



FATHER WADE MENEZES

**MEN ALIVE IN CHRIST ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

*Spirit of Jesus, Renew Us*

Catholic men of the Diocese of Allentown, we invite you to renew and strengthen your faith at our annual Men's Conference. Embrace the mission of the Church and deepen your relationship with God through a powerful day of community, Sacraments, and talks from nationally renowned speakers.

We are excited to equip you with the tools you need to go forth as strong Catholic men, invigorated by the fire of the Holy Spirit!

**JOIN US:**  
October 19, 8:00am - 3:00pm  
St. Joseph the Worker Church  
1879 Applewood Drive  
Orefield PA 18069

Register here: 

Contact:  
Mark McDevitt, markmcd@outlook.com

Sponsored by the Diocese of Allentown's Commission for Men

## MEN ALIVE IN CHRIST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, October 19th at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Orefield. We invite you to renew and strengthen your faith, embrace your relationship with God through a powerful day of community, Sacraments, and talks from nationally renowned speakers. We are excited to equip you with the tools you need to go forth as strong Catholic men, invigorated by the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Please take advantage of the Early Bird and bring a son, brother, father, or friend! Regular Admission \$35; Early Bird Special (until 9/9/2024) \$25; Students (HS & College) \$15.

The Men's Conference is an enjoyable day with good meals, inspiring speakers, good fellowship, and a chance to go to confession and attend Mass celebrated by the bishop at the end of the day. We will carpool from St. John's. Call the rectory or Bill Gianfagna 570 573-0105 if you are interested in going.

**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@allentowndiocese.org

# WE SHALL NEVER FORGET.

