

# 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 10, 2023



## 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Again, [amen,] I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father.”

*Matthew 18:19*

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, September 9

5:00 p.m. James & Lillian Connelly  
(Derbes Family)

### Sunday, September 10

8:15 a.m. Sadie Post & Susan Legase)  
(Sandi & Sheri Post)

### Sunday, September 10

10:30 a.m. Living & Deceased of  
Zambo Family  
(Grandchildren)

### Monday, September 11

6:30 p.m. John Wollyung  
(Kathleen Schweiker)

### Tuesday, September 12

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

### Wednesday, September 13

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

### Thursday, September 14

9:00 a.m. Calvin Hoy  
(Patricia Evitta)

### Friday, September 15

9:00 a.m. Chick Tamburelli  
(Herb Tamburelli)

### Saturday, September 16

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

### Sunday, September 17

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

### Sunday, September 17

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

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

A new school year has begun for many of us. A new year of religious education and preparation to receive the sacraments is also beginning. Even if you are not in school or in some way involved in school or religious ed, September is a good time for a fresh start.

Consider reading (or watching or listening to) something to learn more about our faith. Remember that we have books and CDs available right in our church, in the two kiosks and in our small library in Longinus Hall. Take a moment to stop and look at what is available and take something home. If you have time to read the newspaper or check social media, you can read a few pages of a Catholic book everyday.

September is also the time when we put out a special invitation to consider RCIA: the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. RCIA is for anyone who is not of the Catholic faith or who has never been fully initiated into the Catholic faith and feels called to the faith. If you or someone you know is inclined toward the Catholic faith – even if you are not completely sure you want to commit – please let us know and we will work with you. RCIA can be adapted to each person's needs and circumstances.

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.



## Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults



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.

## Next Week's Readings

**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
(September 16/17)

**Reading I:** Sirach 27:30-28:7

**Reading II:** Romans 14:7-9

**Gospel:** Matthew 18:21-35

## 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 • Josephine Gallagher  
Tom Jefferson • Theresa Chapman • Christine Kurtek • Dominic  
Maccarone • Mary Zambo • Drew Schaeffer*

## Upcoming Events

### September

10	9:15 a.m.	CCD Parent Meeting .....	L.H.
13	8:00 p.m.	St. John's Beneficial Society .....	F.R.
14	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.
17	8:00 a.m.	First Reconciliation Class .....	L.H.
20	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg.....	L.H.
24	9:15 a.m.	CCD Community Mtg .....	L.H.
24	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
28	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	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 Beth Resnick  
by Barb Wollyung
2. Ann Lowe  
by John & Barb Powers

### St. Joseph

1. IMO David Zanis  
by Steve & Chris Zanis
2. IMO George Zanis  
by Steve & Chris Zanis

### Sanctuary

- IMO Pauline Zanis  
by Steve & Chris Zanis

### Guardian Angels

1. IMO Kathleen Norkus  
by John & Barb Powers
2. IMO Gladys Kuperavage  
by Steve & Chris Zanis
3. IMO Edward Kuperavage  
by Steve & Chris Zanis
4. Buehner Family  
by Grabowski Family

# SCRIPTURE STUDY

**Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study:** will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on **September 14, 28, October 12, 26, November 9 and 16**. 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.

## Catholic Women's Union—Fundraiser

St. John's Catholic Women's Union are sponsoring a Chicken BBQ or Pulled Pork Dinner

on **Saturday, September 23rd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in the Parking Lot next to Dunkin in Yorkville. Pre-Sale tickets available before and after all Masses September 9&10 and September 16&17 in the back of church. Cost—\$13.00. Please contact any Catholic Women's Union member or call the Rectory for more information 570-622-5470 ext. 3.



# WE SHALL NEVER FORGET.



9.11.2001

## Liturgical Min. Schedule

### September 16— 5:00 p.m.

**Reader:** Carleigh Palmieri  
**Euch.Min.:** Gerry Schwartz  
**Server:** Sophia Palmieri  
**Cantor:** Mary Bound

### September 17 — 8:15 a.m.

**Reader:** Ann Blankenhorn  
**Euch.Min.:** Ray Petrilla  
**Servers:** Ryan Grabowski  
**Cantor:** Ed Brahler

### September 17— 10:30 a.m.

**Reader:** Janet Daubert  
**Euch.Min.:** John Crane  
**Server:** Connor, Cooper, Cole Felty  
**Cantor:** Joanne Matina

### **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 the rectory or email Larry Lonergan at [larrylonergan130@gmail.com](mailto:larrylonergan130@gmail.com) by **September 18th**. We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

## Parish Council—New Members—2023

### **VINCENT J. BALULIS**

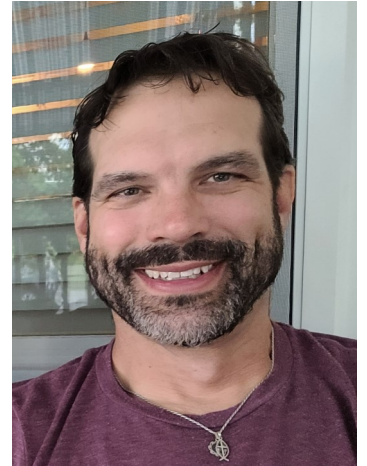
**Address:** 1530 W. Norwegian St., Pottsville

**Occupation:** Case Worker

**Length of time in parish:** 2 years

**Experience and activities:** Catechist for seven years; Bible School volunteer with Make A Wish for ten years; Reader; Eucharistic Minister; Altar Server with past and present parishes; Income Maintenance Caseworker with Dept. of Human Services since 2008.

**Why I Wish to Serve:** I would like to be more involved with the parish and the local community, especially with the younger members of our church and community and those in most need .. elderly and disabled.



### **ANN BLANKENHORN**

**Address:** 2132 West End Ave., Pottsville

**Occupation:** VP Practice, Education & Safety, Reading Hospital – Tower Health

**Length of time in parish:** 14 years

**Experience and activities:** Pottsville Area School District School Board VP; Finance Chair completing my second four year term in December; Previous experience in community Boards with a Mental Health suicide preventor focus; Progressive leadership experience within my professional career leading and collaborating diverse group and teams; booster club leadership roles when my boys were in school – organizing and fundraising.

**Why I Wish to Serve:**

As I am completing my final year of school board, I chose not to run, however, I want to continue to serve within my community and I feel this is a wonderful opportunity to be involved and give back in any way I can.



### **MICHELLE DARHUN**

**Address:** 1713 Mahantongo St., Pottsville

**Occupation:** Licensed Practical Nurse

**Length of time in parish:** lifelong

**Experience and activities:** I was baptized at St. John's; attended St. John's School; coached St. John's CYO Volleyball; served on St. John's CYO Board; participated in many activities for our parish including baked goods for Christmas Bazaar, Lenten Dinners, Parish Festival. I have been a nurse for 36 years and enjoy gardening, cooking, baking and being active.

**Why I Wish to Serve:** I have been participating in activities and events at St. John's my entire life. Recently someone mentioned to me about serving on Parish Council. I thought about it and decided it was something I would like to do to continue to help our parish.



## Parish Council—New Members—2023

### **REENE REDDINGTON**

**Address:** 1881 Third Ave.

**Occupation:** Retired

**Length of time in parish:** 41 years

**Experience and activities:** I was employed by Mazzuca Enterprises Inc. for over 30 years until retirement; I have been involved in many parish activities including yard sales, Christmas Bazaar, Summer Festival, Lenten Dinners, and the Event Planning Committee.

**Why I Wish to Serve:**

I want to contribute to our parish family in faith and fellowship.

### **KAY WOLLYUNG**

**Address:** 6 Rosewood Drive, Pottsville

**Occupation:** Retired

**Length of time in parish:** 59 years

**Experience and activities:** Attended St. Pat's Elementary; Nativity BVM High School; Married Joseph Mattea (deceased 1995); two children Scott & Lisa; now married to Bob Wollyung; early years raising children and involved in school activities and local clubs; later years was a full-time travel coordinator.

**Why I Wish to Serve:** Now that I am retired, I will have time to be more involved in other activities.



### **ROBERT B. WOLLYUNG**

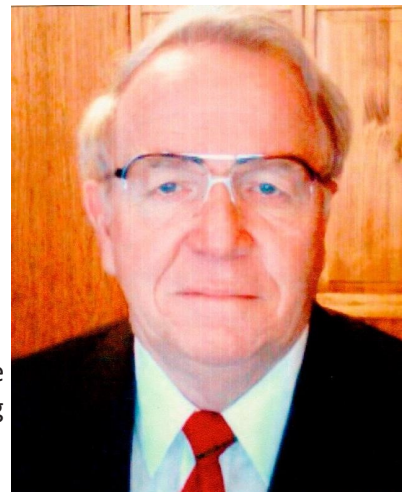
**Address:** 6 Rosewood Drive, Pottsville

**Occupation:** Retired

**Length of time in parish:** 28 years

**Experience and activities:** Attended St. John's Elementary; Nativity BVM High School; served four years in the U.S. Navy; Pa. State Policeman 16 years; Franklin County Sheriff; Married 50 years to first wife Patricia (deceased); remarried Kay (Mattea); Choir Member; Eucharist Minister; Reader.

**Why I Wish to Serve:** I have always been active in church activities and believe I have the time and ability to serve on this Council as I did serve on Corpus Christi in Chambersburg for several years.



## 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 **September 11**.

### Elected Members

Vincent Balulis \*  
Ann Blankenhorn \*  
Michael Brennan  
John Crane  
Michelle Darhun \*  
Darren DeArment  
Joseph Gerchak  
Heidi Gorski  
Sr. Mary Jane Hahner  
Michael Hummel  
Joseph Kurtek  
Nannette Major  
Kevin McNamara  
John Powers  
Reene Reddington \*  
Kay Wollyung \*  
Robert Wollyung \*

### Appointed Members

Lucilla Kochol  
John Consugar

### Ex-Officio

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

\* Denotes new members

## Second Collection 9-17-23

Our second collection next weekend, September 17th, will be taken up for the victims of the fires in Maui, Hawaii. Please be generous!

## 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."*

## Happy Grandparents Day.

Please remember in your prayers the many grandparents in our parish and communities.

*"Grandparents are a treasure...*

*...the elderly are those who transmit history to us, who transmit doctrine, who transmit the faith and give it to us as an inheritance."*

*~ Pope Francis*

## Assumption School News ...

School began on Monday, August 28, 2023 with opening prayer in the school yard, followed by a special Backpack Blessing. Our staff and students are so excited for all the great happenings at Assumption BVM and the year ahead!

We would like to express our sincere thanks to our volunteers who have assisted in getting us ready for school! Your help is greatly appreciated! If you are looking to give of your time and talents, ABVM would like to talk to you! Please give us a call at 570-622-0106.

**Fundraisers:** ABVM is selling **Save Around coupon books** in the month of September. Each book costs \$25 and contains coupons to local and national establishments. The school will earn 50% profit from each book sold. Please consider purchasing a book to help us out!

ABVM will be holding a **Gift Card Calendar Raffle** for the month of October. This fundraiser will directly benefit the school and its students. The calendars are \$10.00 each and are good for all 31 drawings during the month. Calendars can be purchased from any ABVM family or from the school (570-622-0106, eschoepflin@assumptionbvmschool.net). Purchase and money are due in the office by September 30, 2023. Thank you for your help in making our Calendar Raffle a success!

**Tours and Enrollment:** While enrollment continues to grow, we do have spaces available in some of our grades. It is not too late to make the switch to ABVM. Give us a call to find out what we can offer your children in their faith and educational formation! Tours are available daily at 3:00 pm by appointment.



**PASSES ... \$5.00**

available after all Masses on the following weekends:  
**September 30/October 2 and October 7/8, 14/15**  
 Passes are also available at the parish rectory Monday to Thursday 622-5470.

**PRE-SALE** for St. John's will be available at Bosco's on the following dates: **Sept. 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30**  
**October 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18**  
**Weekdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**2nd Saturdays 12 to 5 p.m.**  
**3rd & 4th Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**Sundays 12 to 3 pm**  
**October 18—8 am to 11 pm**

**Thank you in advance for your support!**

**ONE DAY ONLY - OCTOBER 18, 2023**  
**SHOP 8AM - 11PM**

**DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:**

• **25% OFF DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS\***

• **REGISTER TO WIN A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD**  
At every Bosco's store

**100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION**

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

**Parish Council President** ..... *Kevin McNamara*  
**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)  
**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](mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org)



September 10, 2023 | Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 33:7-9 | Rom 13:8-10 | Mt 18:15-20

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

Years ago, I was asked to take in a hound dog and I was happy to do so, but it wasn't until I brought the dog home that I discovered how adamantly opposed my husband was to the idea. When asked, he had never said "no," but he thought I should just know he didn't want the dog. Obviously, we needed to work on our communication skills! Proper communication and what it means to love in relationship are what come to mind when I hear the start of today's Gospel. Jesus is instructing us on what to do when another angers, hurts, or offends us. Not surprisingly, it doesn't include calling our sister or best friend to vent, or posting about it on social media, regardless of how vaguely we word the situation. Instead we are to go to that person directly and "tell him his fault between you and him alone." If they listen, we have won them over. How many times have others hurt us but we never bother to tell them? How often do we simply assume the other person knows they have done us wrong? We owe it to one another to be honest and upfront – to give the other person a chance to apologize and us a chance to extend forgiveness. We also owe it to one another to be willing to receive *them* in charity, open-hearted, when they come to us to speak of *our* faults.

**PRAY** Witnessing to Christ in today's world sometimes feels overwhelming or hopeless. Spend some concerted time in prayer with the words from today's psalm: "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

### GO EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In the same way that the Gospel addresses speaking truth to another and "winning them over," the prophet Ezekiel recounts the Lord's instruction to him that he has a duty to "speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way." This, of course, was the role and mission of the prophets. To make known the word and law of God and call the people to respond. A prophet warned, counseled, taught, and encouraged. They called the people to obedience to God, denouncing idolatry, injustice, and empty rituals. Jesus himself came as priest, prophet, and king and by our baptism, "the whole People of God participates in these three offices of Christ and bears the responsibilities for mission and service that flow from them." (CCC 783) Through the centuries, people have tried to do this in various ways – from passing laws to standing on street corners with signs. But let's remember that even as we are meant to "speak out," we are also meant to listen. We too must be re-converted to the truth when we sin; we too must be dissuaded from our wicked ways. This is how we best fulfill our prophetic mission.