

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

September 14, 2025 • Exaltation of the Holy Cross



BY YOUR *Holy Cross*
**YOU HAVE REDEEMED
THE WORLD**

Pastor..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*
Deacon.....*Robert A. Reiley*

Parish Council President *John Crane*
E-mail.....*johncrane1@mac.com*
Choir Director/Organist*David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator..... *Tina Seiger*
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

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

1-800-276-1562 www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

Diocese of Allentown Website

www.allentowndiocese.org



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.
- ◆ A holy hour in the **main church on the eve of First Friday** from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. This will be a formal holy hour ending with Benediction. Father will be available for Confessions.

Communion for the Homebound

If you or a family member, friend, or neighbor who is a member of St. John is confined to home, a nursing home or assisted living facility because of illness, age, or disability and would like to receive Holy Communion` on a monthly basis, please call the rectory. We traditionally visit the sick and homebound on or around the first Friday of the month. Please help us meet the spiritual needs of our homebound parishioners.



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: *Sherri Post, Tom Jefferson, Doug Broughton, Kathy Vicic, Joanne Kitsock, Jane Baker*

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 13

5:00 p.m. Paul Filiac
(Mary Ann Filiac)

Sunday, September 14

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

Sunday, September 14

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

Monday, September 15

6:30 p.m. Catherine Schweikert
(Bill Schweikert)

Tuesday, September 16

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

Wednesday, September 17

9:00 a.m. Angela Hamm
(Bill & Kathy Gianfagna)

Thursday, September 18

9:00 a.m. Lorraine & John Tasso

Friday, September 19

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

Saturday, September 20

5:00 p.m. Bob Porter, 1st Anniv.
(Mary Porter)

Sunday, September 21

8:15 a.m. Mary Ann Holley
(Deborah & Mark Purcell)

Sunday, September 21

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

Next Week's Readings

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(September 20/21)

Reading I: Amos 8:4-7

Reading II: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Let me pause our look at the New Testament to put in writing what we've been saying about parish security these last few weeks.

Although it is unfortunate to have to worry about security, it is the prudent thing to do, and it can give us the peace of mind we need to celebrate the Lord's Day joyfully and reverently. Just a reminder: the main front doors of the church will remain locked, leaving just two points of entrance: the lower side door outside Longinus Hall, and the upper side door into the main body of the church. Keep in mind that after Mass, or in the event of an emergency, it is always possible to exit church from any door.

We would like to assemble a security team consisting of a couple people for each weekend Mass. The team members would greet people entering through the two side doors (allowing them to see who is in church). They would take turns keeping an eye on unlocked door(s) during Mass and checking the exterior of the church. If there is a problem or any cause for concern, team members would be able to call for help or give warning. *No one will ever be asked to put him/herself in harm's way.* Team members will simply be the congregation's eyes and ears.

Thank you to those who have already expressed a willingness to be part of the security team. Please let me know if you are interested. The sooner we collect enough people to cover all Masses, the sooner we can fully implement our security plan.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 16, 23, and Nov. 13. 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.

Holy Cross—Ember Days

His Excellency, Most Reverend Bishop Alfred A. Schlert, asks the clergy and the faithful of the Diocese of Allentown to celebrate the Ember Days for the Season in support of the pro-life movement in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and in solidarity with those participating in the Pennsylvania March for Life on Monday, 22 September 2025 in Harrisburg.

Ember Days are quarterly observances with three days (Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday) set aside to pray in gratitude for the blessings of the season and human labor. There are twelve Ember Days in all. In particular, the Holy Cross Ember Days are a special time "to thank God for the gifts of nature, to teach men and women to make use of them in moderation, and to assist the needy." Fasting and abstinence would follow the current laws of the Church, with abstaining being from all meat, and fasting would be one full meal a day, with the allowance of two smaller meals that do not equal the main meal, and no eating between meals.

The Holy Cross Ember Days for the 2025 are as follows: Wednesday, September 17, 2025, Friday, September 19, 2025, and Saturday, September 20, 2025.

Upcoming Events

September

14	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
15	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council	L.H.
17	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg	L.H.
18	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
21	9:00 a.m.	CCD—Service Project.....	L.H.
21	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School & Children's Liturgy	L.H. & Chapel
25	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
28 after Masses		Coffee & Donuts	L.H.
28	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.

October

5	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	L.H.
5	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School & Children's Liturgy	L.H.
11	after Mass	Wine & Cheese Social	L.H.
12 after Masses		Coffee & Donuts	L.H.
12	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.

Diocesan Pilgrimage / Bus Trip. Please join us on **Tuesday, October 7th** for a Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Bus departs from St. John's 6 am. Pilgrimage program begins at 10 am with arrivals and guided tours, followed by time to visit the over 80 chapels and oratories that make up "Mary's House." Throughout the day, there will be guest speakers and confessions available. The Rosary will be said before we end the day with Mass celebrated by Bishop Schlert at 3 pm. The Basilica has a cafeteria; pilgrims can pack a lunch or purchase one. Lunches at the Basilica cafeteria are approximately \$8 to \$10 with à la carte items also available. On the way home, we will stop at the Broadway Diner in Baltimore for dinner. The diner has an extensive menu (<https://broadway-diner.res-menu.com/menu>); please bring cash since the diner has requested that there will only be one check for our reservation. Cost for the trip is \$50 which includes transportation, driver tip, plus a Shrine donation. This bus trip is for **adult parishioners**. To register, please call 570-622-5470 or email John's Office at stjbparish@comcast.net

March for Life

Pennsylvanians for Human Life (Schuylkill/Carbon Chapter) is sponsoring a bus trip to the Pennsylvania MARCH FOR LIFE on **Monday, September 22nd** in Harrisburg. Departure from the St. Clair Walmart at 8:00 am with a stop at St. Mary's Parish in Hamburg for 9:00 am Mass with Bishop Schlert before proceeding to Harrisburg. A donation of \$20 is requested to help defray the cost of the bus. Arrival back at Walmart will be mid/late afternoon. For more information or to register, please call or text Kathleen at 570-249-0519. If you are unable to attend but would still like to support this important effort, please consider sponsoring another attendee.

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.

Weekly Collection

August 31.....\$4,020.06
September 6/7.....4,202.95
Dues.....\$1,074.00

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 Leona Buber
by Christine Maccarone
2. IMO Maurice Mirabella
by Christine Maccarone

St. Joseph

1. IMO Michael Maccarone
by Christine Maccarone
2. IMO Frank & Rose Boris
by Keith & Margaret Rose Naffin

Sanctuary

IMO Josephine Cavanaugh
by Hahner Family

Guardian Angels

- 1&2. IMO Marjorie Angelo
by Frank Angelo
- 3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy
by Joan Grapsy

Liturgical Min. Schedule

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 20th—5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Heidi Gorski

EM: Sharon Snyder, Debbie Herb

Servers: Cooper & Cole Felty

Cantor: Dave Derbes

September 21st— 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Lucilla Kochol

EM: Bob Bechtel, Neff Naffin

Servers: Maggie & Rhyann Brennan

Cantor: Dave Derbes

September 21st —10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Michelle Heenan

EM: Ray Petrilla, Frank Murphy

Servers: Kyle & Preston McCormick

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

Weekend Sacristan: R.J. Post

Second Collection

The second collection next weekend, **September 20/21** will be taken up for the Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza. Please be generous!

Attention — All Readers, Servers, and Extraordinary 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 **before September 16th**. We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

Bulletin Boosters

IMO Carl Bartholomew
IMO Harold Bartholomew
IMO James J. Bartholomew
IMO Robert Berger
IMO Rita Bartholomew Foley
John & Mildred Fredericks
Fr. Don Henry
IMO M/M Herbert Henry
IMO Joanne Hepler
IMO Clare & Linda Houser
MO Charles Lorenz
IMO Charles & Matilda Schaeffer
IMO Charlie & Catherine Schaeffer
IMO Erika Stangl Seasock
IMO Theresa Bartholomew Sencak
IMO Janet Bartholomew Whitaker
IMO Margaret & Guy Zelinsky
Living & Deceased of St. John's
CYO Program

Thank you for supporting our bulletin this month!

Family Matters

School Year Beginning. As we begin this new school year our parish prays that parents will support their children's efforts to reach their full potential. We pray that their children give their best effort in their studies, to develop their relationships with friends, and grow in their faith life.

Sunday School Registration ... 2025-2026 ... Ages 3-6

Children ages three to six are welcome to join our pre-school program. We will have classes twice a month starting in September until May in Longinus Hall from 10:30 a.m. to the end of Mass. We ask that you stay during class if your child is not, yet toilet trained.

Children's Liturgy ... 2025-2026 ... Grades 1-3

Children in grades first to third are invited to join Children's Liturgy also held during the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Chapel. They will learn more about the Mass and the weekend scripture readings. Children will return to Mass with their parents after the offertory.

Please register by filling out this form that you can cut out and return it to the rectory. Or use the Google link below. To use the link, you will need a Google email account.

Google Link to Children's Liturgy: <https://forms.gle/bbqrfdV2SmS1g3NXA>

Google Link to Preschool : <https://forms.gle/FXXN9UwNU7o3xsLx7>

Please circle one below:

Little Saints Preschool Registration

Children's Liturgy

Parent's Name: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: - _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Any Allergies: _____

Circle how you can help: teacher helper snacks

Praise, Worship & Adoration.

An Evening with the Ensemble Sunday, October 19th from 6 to 7 p.m.

St. John's Ensemble invites you to an opportunity to praise the Lord with uplifting, contemporary Christian music and traditional hymns in our church on **Sunday evening October 19th ...**

Father Bobbin will start with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Scripture and singing to the themes of Praising God and God's Mercy. We will close with Benediction. Come share our love of music and faith and be renewed!



Flowers at the Altar

The flowers at the altar this weekend are donated ...

IMO of Mary Ann Holley
by Deborah & Mark Purcell

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.



Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop -- Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the September 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!

Our Volunteers

Kate Blackwell, Mary Bound, Kathryn Carroll, Cathy Cooper, Janet Daubert, Barbara Fox, Millie Fredericks, Karla Garland, Joyce Gerace, Mary Hauck, Pat Klassen, Lucilla Kochol, Jan Kurtek, Maureen Kurtek, Charlene Leshner, Frank Lorenz, Chris Maccarone, Carole Quirin, Reene Reddington, Carole Rehnert, Pat Scheetz, Theresa Skrobak, Linda Smith, Peggy Smith,

Our Bakers

Mary Bound, Janet Daubert, Millie Fredericks, Sr. Mary Jane Hahner, Frances Lorenz, Chris Maccarone, Hilda Maley, Carole Quirin, Pat Scheetz, Rosann Sitkus, Ellen Zane

Total Profits: \$ 1,783.70

Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshipping 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." Amen.

Catholic Women's Union-- Meeting

Women of all ages are invited to join the Catholic Women's Union. Learn how you can become involved with the Catholic Women's Union by joining us on **Wednesday, September 17th at 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall.** Meet the members and learn how you can be part of this unique organization. We share ideas and light refreshments are served. We work to raise money for our parish and have fun doing it. We also share in fellowship by sharing in a Spring and Fall Auction, Christmas Party, and the Covered Dish Dinner. Your ideas, friendship and membership are welcomed.



Diocesan Events.

Annual 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, to be celebrated Sunday, September 14, 2025 at 3 p.m. Doors will open at 2 p.m. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Alfred Schlert at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, 1825 West Turner St., Allentown, PA 18104. Register at <https://www.allentowndiocese.org/anniversarymass>

Retrouvaille: Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage. 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. Upcoming programs will be the weekend of **October 3 - 5** at the Family Life Center in Malvern, Pa.. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Retreat to Fatima and Lourdes with Fr. John Frink. Take a pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes from **June 7-16, 2026** under the spiritual direction of Fr. John Frink. Click this link: <https://www.206tours.com/cms/frfrink/> to view detailed itinerary, pricing information, and to book.

Neighboring Events

Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by St. Patrick Church, 313 Mahantongo St., Pottsville, on Sunday, October 5th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or sell out. Spaghetti platter includes: Pasta with our home-made sauce, two meatballs, salad, bread. Cost \$12.00 per platter. Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase.

**ONE DAY ONLY - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025
SHOP 8AM - 11PM**

DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:

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

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION

PASSES ... \$5.00

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

Presale

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sept. 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26
October 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 20, 21

10 a.m.—3 p.m.

Sept. 20, 27, October 18

11 a.m.—3 p.m.

October 11

12 noon to 3 p.m.

September 14, 21, 28
October 5, 12, 19

October 22—8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

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



Peter Paul Rubens, *Moses and the Brazen Serpent*, public domain

September 14, 2025

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Num 21:4b-9 | Phil 2:6-11 | Jn 3:13-17

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Although God had freed our ancestors in faith from their slavery in Egypt, today we find them grumbling against the Lord as they wander in the desert. Even after we've glimpsed so much of God's goodness, we, too, can begin to grumble in challenging moments of our lives. It's precisely then that we need to cling to faith. After serpents appeared and began to bite those who had grumbled against God, those who had been bitten only had to look at the serpent mounted on a pole and put their faith in God once again to be healed. Similarly, when we find ourselves in the trials of life, we need only look at the cross of Jesus with faith. "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." Amid the storms of our lives, we are called to put our trust in his cross, for through it we are saved and set free.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Paul tells us that God the Father "greatly exalted" Jesus for his humility in embracing the cross, and that ultimately, all creation will join the Father in glorifying Christ. We who know the gift of what Jesus did for us on the cross are called to praise him with our voices and our lives. We praise and glorify Christ first through our example. How might our day-to-day interactions give others a glimpse of the humble and self-emptying love of Jesus? Finally, think of the ways that knowing Christ's love has made a difference in your life. Has it made you more patient? Has it made you more hopeful? Think of ways that you could share this in conversation. Telling others about what God has done for you or the difference that he has made in your life is one way of exalting Christ.

PRAISE

Today, spend some time thanking and praising God for the gift of the cross and our salvation in Christ. You might wish to use this traditional prayer frequently used during the stations of the cross in Lent: "We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. Because, by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world."