

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

September 17, 2023



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?”

Matthew 18:32-33

Mass Intentions

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)

Monday, September 18

6:30 p.m. Ralph Thomas
(Mike & Trish Madara Fam.)

Tuesday, September 19

9:00 a.m. Francis, Paul, Elmer Lotz

Wednesday, September 20

9:00 a.m. John & Lorraine Tasso

Thursday, September 21

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

Friday, September 22

9:00 a.m. Ramon Grapsy
(Grapsy Family)

Saturday, September 23

5:00 p.m. Sue Louise Klem Moore
(Joe Moore Jr.)

Sunday, September 24

8:15 a.m. Deceased of Lorenz
& Bartholomew Family
(Frances Lorenz)

Sunday, September 24

10:30 a.m. Josephine Parsick
(Joanne Schultz
& Debbie Herb)

Next Week's Readings

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(September 23/24)

Reading I: Isaiah 55:6-9

Reading II: Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16a

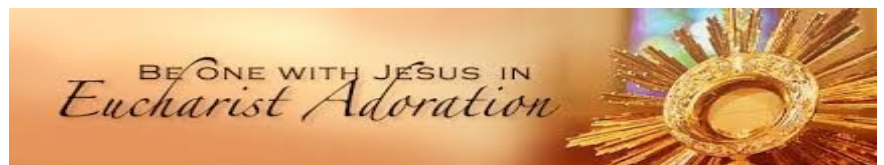
Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday afternoon Bishop Schlert is celebrating the annual diocesan wedding anniversary Mass at the cathedral. It is a good reminder to pray for the well being of marriage in our society. As our culture accepts alternative definitions of marriage that deviate from God's plan, and as a multitude of factors weaken people's willingness to make lifelong commitments in today's society, we are grateful for the example of the many couples – many of you – who have been living your marital commitment for many years. Congratulations to anyone celebrating a significant anniversary this year.

Perhaps today we can remember all engaged couples in our prayers, as well as recently married couples, that they experience God's grace helping them through the challenges of life. We also pray for those whose marriages have ended in divorce, that God will open new paths forward for them. And we pray for those who are widowed, that our Lord consoles them and eases their loneliness with many good relationships with family and friends.

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.

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 • Christine Kurtek • Dominic MacCarone • Mary Zambo
• Drew Schaeffer

For our Deceased

Carl Wiest • Theresa Chapman

Upcoming Events

September

17	8:00 a.m.	First Reconciliation Class	L.H.
19	6:30 p.m.	Fundraising/Events Planning	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	10:30 a.m.	Little Children's Sunday School.....	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

Weekly Collections

September 9/10\$4,886.00

Parish Improv.&Repairs . \$1,562.00

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

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Josephine Cavanaugh
by Hahner Family

2. IMO Ronald Pillo
by Steve & Chris Zanis

St. Joseph

1&2. IMO Leo A. Leinheiser Sr.
by Miriam Tirjan

Sanctuary

IMO Leo A. Leinheiser Sr.
by Miriam Tirjan

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Amelia Minchhoff Androsko
by Joanne Wood

2. IMO Emily Leinheiser
by Miriam Tirjan

3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy
by Joan Grapsy Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

September 23— 5:00 p.m.

Reader: John Crane

Euch.Min.: Frank Murphy

Server: Sacristan

Cantor: Tina Seiger

September 24 — 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Michelle Ambrose

Euch.Min.: Bob Bechtel

Servers: Lukas & Finley McNamara

Cantor: Amy Joyce

September 24— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Jen Daubert

Euch.Min.: Debbie Herb

Server: Jackson Daubert

Cantor: Ensemble

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 by **September 18th**. We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on **September 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). 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.

St. John's Catholic Women's Union

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 20th 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. Join us!

Please Note: 2023 Dues are now due!



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 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

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



Baptized in Christ

On August 20th, we celebrated the glorious baptism day of **Leighton Jaymes Florence Gardner**, daughter of Christian and Samantha (Jansson) Gardner. She became a new creation in Christ in the waters of Holy Baptism and is now joined to us by the gifts of faith, hope and charity. We warmly welcome Leighton into our parish family.

Church Cleaning Crew Thank You

We thank our Church Cleaning Group for doing a wonderful job cleaning our beautiful church including Longinus Hall and the Chapel.

Everything looks just perfect! Those volunteering their time and talent this month:

Michelle Ambrose, Sandy Frinzi, Liz Kleckner, Debbie Kibilus, Ray Petrilla, Theresa Skrobak, Joanne Wood.

The more the merrier — new-comers are always welcome — please call the rectory if interested or just show up at our next cleaning on October 8th.

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.

Diocesan News ...

Men's and Women's Cursillo Weekends

Cursillo has been a powerful means of spiritual growth for Catholics throughout our diocese as well as Catholics around the world for decades. We are pleased to announce this year's weekends are as follows:

Men — Thursday Evening, September 21 to Sunday afternoon September 24

Women — Thursday Evening, September 28 to Sunday afternoon October 1

(Must be 18 years of age to attend)

Where: Mariawald Renewal Center in Mohnton

For more information call or text: Beth Pawlik: 610-781-2935 or Michael Pavlik: 610-781-4400

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 held **October 6-8** 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.

Assumption School News ...

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.



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 Boscov's store

PASSES ... \$5.00

Are available after all Masses on the following weekends:

September 30/October 1 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 Boscov's on the following dates: **Sept. 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 p.m.

October 18—8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Little Saints Sunday School

Little Saints Sunday School operates during Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass from September to May in Longinus Hall for approximately 45 minutes twice monthly. Our program is for children ages 3—6 years of age and need to be toilet trained. If you have a child that is not yet toilet trained or younger than 3, you can still have them participate. We simply ask that you remain with your child for class. Our program uses the curriculum Catholic ABC's which is a fun, engaging curriculum designed to build a strong beginning foundation of faith and the knowledge that God loves us. If you would like your child to join our pre-school program, please fill out the registration form using the link below. You must have a Google email to use this link. Otherwise, you will need to fill out the registration form below and return it to the rectory or the collection basket at Mass.

<https://forms.gle/CwkM9hy3g1cn9oHr8>

Parents will be provided the dates of class upon registering.

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Current Age: _____

Parent Names:

Mother: _____

Father: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Any Allergies: _____



Neighboring Events

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning. We are hiring! Part-time Teacher Aide positions are available. As we move into a larger building and expand our school age program, we are in need of additional staffing. With growth comes the need for more help! Please contact Principal Bob Giba at one of the following: bgiba@stjosephctr.com or 570-622-4638.

Theme Basket & Prize Auction. ... sponsored by St. Patrick's Church, 319 Mahantongo St.... Shop & Drop on Sept. 16 from 2 to 5:30 p.m.; Sept. 17 from 8:30 to 1 p.m.; Sept. 20 & 21 from 5 to 7:30 p.m., Sept. 23 from noon to 6 p.m.; Sept. 24 from 8 a.m. to noon. Drawing will be on Facebook live on Saturday, Sept. 24 at 1 p.m. (Food will be sold on Sept. 23)

Cash Bingo. ... sponsored by Holy Family Parish of Minersville on Sunday, Sept. 17 at the Parish Center at Hillcrest. Admission \$25 for 20 games with prizes of \$100 each. Food, specials, and tickets for 50/50 drawing available. Doors open 11 a.m.; Bingo begins 1 p.m. Tickets available at the door.

M & J Big Band. Come join us for an evening of fun! Saturday, Sept. 23 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Holy Cross Parish Center, 99 Lombard St. in New Philadelphia. Tickets \$15 per person; \$15 per couple or reserve an entire table at a reduced rate of \$10 per person. Tables of 6, 8, 10 are available. Food and drink (including limited alcoholic beverages) will be available for purchase.

Basket Auction... sponsored by St. Charles Borromeo Parish on Sunday, September 24 at 1115 Walnut St. in Ashland. Shop & Drop on Sept. 16, 17, 23, 24. Auction starts on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 2 p.m. Top Prize is \$1,000 Cash. Please call the Parish Office for more information 570-875-1521.

Homemade Shoe Fly Pie & Pie Crusts ... sponsored by St. Mary's Church Choir in Ringtown. Deadline to order is Wednesday, Sept. 27th; Pick-up at St. Mary's Church Rectory in Ringtown on Tuesday, October 3rd from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Call the Parish Office at 570-889-3850.

Harvest Fest '23 ... at St. Mary Church, 94 Walnut Road, Hamburg on Friday, October 6 (4-9 p.m.) and Saturday, October 7 (12-9 p.m.) Music, homemade ethnic food, activities, ongoing entertainment and games for all ages including bungee jump & rock wall, hay rides, bounce house, bingo, theme baskets, quilt & cash raffles, corn maze & more! Free admission, plenty of parking, no coolers, no BYOB/F. Questions: 610-562-7657 ext. 0 or www.stmaryhamburg.org or Facebook.

Mass for Persons with Disabilities

Let us gather as a community of faith! You are cordially invited to Mass with Bishop Alfred Schlert in celebration of persons with disabilities. Join us on September 21st at 6 p.m. at St. Thomas More Church in Allentown. All are welcome!



September 17, 2023

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 27:30—28:7 | Rom 14:7-9 | Mt 18:21-35

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Forgiveness. It seems like a relatively simple *concept*, doesn't it? We ask our merciful Father for it every day when we pray the Our Father: "... forgive us our trespasses..." Then reality hits, as we remember the second part of that phrase: "...as we forgive those who trespass against us ..." *As we forgive others.* Oh, that long, hard road of forgiveness! Easier said than done. Sometimes those old sayings have some merit, don't they? And when we look at today's readings, there is nothing cryptic about them: forgive *not seven times but seventy-seven times*, let go of wrath and anger, forgive your brother and sister *from your heart*. Yes, forgiveness is a simple concept, but it's not easy. Perhaps the answer is to re-read today's Scriptures and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the strength to put in the hard work if there is someone in our lives to whom we need to offer our heartfelt forgiveness.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Bishop Robert Barron, in his *Word on Fire Bible* on the Gospels, has four suggestions related to this Gospel on how to become "a better forgiver." The one that stood out to me immediately is "forgive offenses quickly." Don't let them fester and "settle deeply into your psyche." This seems like very sage advice because we can all have a tendency to "stew" about things that are bothering us, which rarely makes them better. Bishop Barron's other suggestions are: Pay attention to your own sins, go to confessions regularly, and offer forgiveness through a concrete act or sign. Which brings us back to the simplicity of it all: God will always forgive us, so we must always forgive others. Doesn't it make sense that to live in the house of our merciful Father, we must emulate him and have loving hearts rather than vengeful hearts?

PRAY Examine your heart and take a hard look at whether you are holding on to a wrong that was committed against you. Take it to God in prayer. The more we open our hearts to forgive others, the more at peace we can be. Ponder the last words of today's reading from Sirach:

*Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor;
remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.*

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*
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

Saint of the Day

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

(1887-1968)

Feast Day—September 23

Did the World War II American flyer really see Padre Pio in midair, preventing the bombing of his village below? Did Pio actually “bilocate” in Italy, the Holy Land, even America, as countless witnesses testified? Or “read hearts” before penitents spoke? What of the *stigmata*, Christ’s wounds imprinted on Padre Pio’s hands, feet, and side? John Paul II, who as a young man visited Pio, never mentioned these extraordinary elements at the canonization. Instead, the pope spoke of “trials accepted with love,” referring perhaps to sanctions restricting Pio’s faculties for hearing confessions and celebrating public Mass, imposed because of criticism, later discredited, sent to the Vatican; of Pio’s offering his sufferings in union with Jesus’ passion for a suffering world; of his continual availability to sinners seeking direction and absolution; of Padre Pio’s prayer that blossomed in charity, especially through his “House for the Relief of Suffering,” a healthcare facility that anticipated by decades today’s holistic partnering of medical science and spirituality. Finally, how comforting for us “ordinary” Christians, this extraordinary saint’s most frequent advice: “Pray, hope, and don’t worry!”

