

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

September 24, 2023



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous? Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Matthew 20:15-16

Mass Intentions

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)

Monday, September 25

6:30 p.m. Mary Ann Holley
(Mark & Deborah Purcell)

Tuesday, September 26

9:00 a.m. Joseph Toomey
(Sons, Dan, Jim, John)

Wednesday, September 27

9:00 a.m. Anne Lowe
(Whitecavage Family)

Thursday, September 28

6:00 p.m. Eleanor Pothering, 10th Anniv.
(Time Change) (George Pothering)

Friday, September 29

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

Saturday, September 30

5:00 p.m. Theresa & Jim Brennan
(Joan & Dave Deiter)

Sunday, October 1

8:15 a.m. Charles & Mary Kutch
(Pat Kutch & Family)

Sunday, October 1

10:30 a.m. George Minchhoff &
Elizabeth Dornsife
(Rita Lotz)

Next Week's Readings

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(September 30/October 1)

Reading I: Ezekiel 18:25-28

Reading II: Phillippians 2:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

A good way to inspire one's faith is to reflect on the saints. I draw your attention to the variety of saints commemorated this week.

Tuesday, September 26: Saints Cosmas and Damian. They were a pair of early Christian martyrs. They remind us of the great courage and sacrifice that our ancestors exhibited for Christ.

Wednesday, September 27: St. Vincent de Paul. He was a French priest who died in 1660, known for founding the Congregation of the Missions (the "Vincentians"). Today many parishes have "St. Vincent de Paul Societies" to provide material assistance for the local poor.

Thursday, September 28: There are two commemorations today. St. Wenceslaus was king of Bohemia in the 900's. A great Christian ruler, he died a martyr. St. Lawrence Ruiz and his companions were martyred for the faith in Japan in the 1600's. St. Lawrence is the first martyr from the Philippines.

Friday, September 29: Today is the feast day of the archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael.

Saturday, September 30: St. Jerome. He was the great biblical scholar of the early Church, known for translating the Bible into Latin. He reminds us of the dedication we should have for the Sacred Scriptures.

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



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*

Upcoming Events

September

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.

October

1	9:15 a.m.	CCD Parent Mtg.	L.H.
1	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School	L.H.
1	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class	L.H.
8	8:00 a.m.	First Reconciliation Class	L.H.
12	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
15	9:15 a.m.	CCD Community Mtg.	L.H.
15	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School	L.H.
18	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg.	L.H.
22	8:00 a.m.	First Reconciliation Class	L.H.
22	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class	L.H.
26	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
29	8:00 a.m.	First Reconciliation Class	L.H.

L.H. = Longinus Hall F.R. = Rectory Fellowship Room R.B. = Russell Building



Weekly Collections

September 16/17\$3,359.60

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&2. IMO Mary Ann Holley
by Deborah & Mark Purcell

St. Joseph

1&2. IMO Mary Ann Holley
by Deborah & Mark Purcell

Sanctuary

IMO Mary Ann Holley
by Deborah & Mark Purcell

Guardian Angels

1&2. IMO Mary Ann Holley
by Deborah & Mark Purcell
3. IMO George L. Klassen Jr.
by Family
4. IMO Joseph E. Rosenberger
by Barbara Wollyung

Liturgical Min. Schedule

September 30— 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Lucilla Kochol

Euch.Min.: Gerry Schwartz

Server: Sacristan

October 1 — 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Ann Blankenhorn

Euch.Min.: John Corbacio

Servers: Maggie & Rhyann Brennan

October 1— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Vince Balulis

Euch.Min.: Justina Majestic

Server: Lukas & Finley McNamara

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.

Parish Ministries

In the coming weeks we will highlight the many groups and ministries that contribute to the life of our parish and invite you to consider if our Lord is calling you to volunteer. Our existing groups and ministries all could use new members. Each week we will feature a different category of parish activities. Representatives from those groups will be available in the back of church after Masses to answer questions and invite new volunteers.



DO YOU HAVE A LOVED ONE IN THE HOSPITAL?

The HIPPA privacy protection act prohibits the release of patient information admitted to hospitals or nursing homes. Each facility interprets HIPPA differently which often precludes the sharing of this information with your pastor.

In the event of a loved one being hospitalized or admitted to a long term care facility, an authorized family member should inform the parish office.

If Father's schedule permits he will visit your loved one. Remember the number of our priests in the area have dwindled. If it is an EMERGENCY, we will have a priest attend to your loved ones needs in a timely fashion. Please do not wait until the last possible moment to contact a priest. Please also note that patients admitted through the Emergency Room are not asked to specify a religion/priest/or parish.

A Family member needs to inform the parish office.

**"The Lord is near
to all who call upon
Him."**



Flowers at the Altar

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

In Memory of
Mary Ann Holley
by
Deb & Mark Purcell

Bulletin Boosters

IMO Carl Bartholomew
IMO Harold Bartholomew
IMO Robert Berger
John & Mildred Fredericks
Fr. Don Henry
IMO M/M Herbert Henry
IMO Joanne Hepler
IMO Kathleen Hohman
IMO Clare & Linda Houser
MO Charles Lorenz
IMO Dorothy Parsick
IMO Erika Stangl Seasock
IMO Margaret Zelinsky
Living & Deceased of St. John's
CYO Program

*Thank you for supporting our
bulletin this month!*

Family Matters

Long Term Illness. In your prayers this week, left up to God all those of our parish who are experiencing long term or chronic illness. We also ask God's guidance and support for their families. May they all find peace and comfort of heart as they face their daily challenges.

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.

Nativity BVM School News ...

The 2022 Green Wave Volleyball team was recognized for earning the 2022-2023 U.S. Marine Corps/American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Team Academic Award for the 3rd straight year. This award honors volleyball teams throughout the nation that maintain a year-long GPA of 3.3 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Liturgy to open Spirit Week will be held on Tuesday, October 10th 2023 and will also include Student Government Induction. Retreats have been scheduled with the first opportunity on September 28th (Junior Retreat) at St. Charles Seminary. The March for Life on October 16th will provide the second opportunity and the Freshmen retreat will be held on Thursday, October 26th. Other retreat dates are set for second semester.

Homecoming 2023

With a change in venue for our home football games for the 2023 season, our yearly Homecoming Tailgate is on hold this year. However, our Homecoming 50/50 is a huge fundraiser for the school and a favorite of our alumni, therefore, we will continue with this yearly tradition!

Details for the Homecoming Game:

Friday, October 13, 2023 vs. Shenandoah Valley

Site: North Schuylkill Stadium (new location of all Green Wave Home Football Games), Ashland.

Kickoff: 7 PM; Drawing to be held at half-time of football game

Contact Nativity High School at 570-622-8110 for tickets or more information

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 Bosco's store

PASSES ... \$5.00

Are available after all Masses on the following week-ends:

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 Bosco's on the following dates: **Sept. 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30**

October 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 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!

Diocesan News ...

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.

Neighboring Events

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

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.

Holy Hour ... Knights of Columbus, Schuylkill Assembly 923, on October 5th at 7 p.m. at St. Cecelia Chapel, 29 S. Catawissa St. in Mahanoy City for help in obtaining new members to the priesthood. The Holy Hour will be conducted by Father Leo J. Maletz and the members of Schuylkill Assembly 923. All are welcome and you need not be a member in order to attend.

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.

Fall Basket Raffle ... sponsored by St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, 600 W. Mahanoy St. in Mahanoy City on Sunday, October 8th; Raffle at 2 p.m.; Shop and Drop on October 5, 6, 7 from 6 to 7 p.m. Food for sale each night of shop and drop and the day of the drawing. Hundreds of dollars in prizes, plus Cash and Lottery Prizes

Back from the Dead Tour

St. Clare of Assisi & Holy Cross Parishes are sponsoring a bus trip to the Seton Shrine in Emmitsburg, MD for the Back from the Dead Tour on Friday October 20th.

The Back from the Dead Tour is a walk through the grounds of the Seton Shrine where participants will experience the Saints come back to life for one evening. Cost which includes the ticket is \$35.00 per person. Bring your own brown bag dinner. For more details and reservations, please call St. Clare of Assisi Rectory ... 570-429-0370.

Holy Land Pilgrimage 2024 sponsored by St. Ambrose Parish in Schuylkill Haven ... to Israel from October 2-10, 2024. Cost is \$4,500 which includes airfare, first-class hotels, daily breakfast and dinner, round trip transportation to JFK Airport, basic tour and sightseeing, tips and gratuities, taxes, and entrance fees. There will be opportunities to join in the celebration of Mass at different churches each day or to explore the religious shrine on your own during Mass. Cities on the itinerary include Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Jericho, and Nazareth. You will be visiting the Church of the Nativity, Qumran and the Dead Sea, Mount of Beatitudes, Garden of Gethsemane, the Western Wall, and many other places. On your last day in Jerusalem, you will walk the Via Dolorosa and celebrate Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. If you are interested or want more information, please visit [https://www.barefootexcursions.com/group/Holy%](https://www.barefootexcursions.com/group/Holy%20Land)

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





September 24, 2023

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 55:6-9 | Phil 1:20c-24, 27a | Mt 20:1-16a

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Today's readings should bring us great joy. They are a reminder that our Lord may have high standards, but he is also "generous in forgiving" and "near to all who call upon him." In the Gospel, we hear the parable of the laborers in the vineyard. Some work all day while others arrive at the last hour. However, all are paid the same. Similarly, we can all receive God's heavenly reward – whether we are faithful Catholics since birth or converts in our final hour. This parable may evoke mixed feelings for those who see themselves as the laborers who have toiled all day and wonder why their reward is not greater. But rather than making us jealous, this parable should make us rejoice: How wonderful that everyone has the opportunity for everlasting life with the Lord! And what great comfort to know that if we falter and lose our way, it is never too late to return to God.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Sometimes, knowing that we are the recipients of God's bountiful mercy, we can be tempted to lead a life focused mostly on worldly pleasures. To paraphrase St. Augustine: Make me holy Lord ... just not yet! Of course we know this isn't the right attitude or approach to life, but it's certainly tempting. Let's return to the message of the Gospel for a moment. Yes, the Lord is generous in giving all the workers the same wage. But perhaps equally as important is that we are called to be workers in the Lord's vineyard, and what an honor and privilege that is! Serving in the Lord's kingdom here on earth is not drudgery; it is life-giving and fills us with God's love and grace. Let us recall the words of St. Paul in today's Letter to the Philippians. Although he longs to "depart this life and be with Christ," he knows that staying here on earth means "fruitful labor for me." Let us also strive to keep our eyes on the Lord and labor in his field for as long as we are able.

PRAY The first reading from Isaiah reminds us that the Lord works in ways we can't understand: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord." Let us ask God this week for the fortitude to reorient our thoughts and ways to his will, not ours, so as to "conduct [ourselves] in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ."

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 Week

Saint Vincent de Paul

September 27

St. Vincent de Paul was born in the 16th century and lived on a small farm in Gascony, France. He worked herding his family's livestock as a child and entered seminary at age 15. He was ordained at age 19 but since he was too young to be a pastor, he continued his theological studies. Although he initially hoped priesthood would afford him a comfortable life, he had a change of heart while hearing the confession of a dying servant. From then on, he sought to fulfill the spiritual needs of the poor in France. He eventually became the leader of the Vincentian community, whose members devoted themselves to the service of the poor in small towns and villages. Throughout his life he established confraternities of charity, organized fundraisers for missionary projects, founded hospitals and seminaries, and ransomed slaves. He also had a particular passion for training priests by conducting retreats. Vincent started out as a hard and rough man but became tender and sensitive to others' needs. Let us be uplifted by the example of St. Vincent de Paul, who allowed himself to be transformed by Christ in both character and deeds. May we follow his example and seek to serve those in need in whatever capacity God may be calling us to.

