



# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

*Established in 1841*

10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901

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**26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**

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**Pastor:** *Rev. David J. Loeper*

**Deacons:** *Luis R. Visot and Lawrence Lonergan*



**Pastoral Assistant:** *Bobby Rienzo*

**Parish Council President:** *Robert Bechtel*

**Choir Director/Organist:** *David Derbes*

**CCD Coordinator:** *Lucilla Kochol*

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**Rectory** (570) 622-5470

**Rectory Fax** (570) 622-4589

**Russell Building** (570) 628-3002

**E-mail** stjbparrish@comcast.net

**Website** SaintJohnPottsville.org

**Nativity BVM High School** (570) 622-8110

**Assumption BVM Elementary** (570) 622-0106

**St. Joseph Center** (570) 622-4638

 **Facebook** St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish Family

 **Instagram** stj\_b\_parrish

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## **Cemetery Information**

John Consugar (570)-449-1675

St. John's Rectory (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.

## **New Parishioners**

Please call the Rectory for an appointment to register.

**Bulletin Deadline** Tuesday prior to publication.

## **Sick Calls**

Please notify the parish office

## **Sacrament of Marriage**

Please call the Rectory one year in advance.

## **Sacrament of Baptism**

First Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m.

Second Sunday during 10:30 a.m. Mass

Baptismal Preparation for Parents **MUST**

precede the Baptism

Please contact Father Dave for an appointment.

## **Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator**

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC,LPC

Direct Telephone: (800) 791-9209

## **Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection & Catholic Human Services**

Office of Safe Environment

Pamela Russo, MSW, MS

610-871-5200, Ext. 2204

[prusso@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org)

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

In our first reading for this Sunday the Lord speaks to Israel through the prophet Ezekiel and tells them that the wicked who turn from sin shall live. Paul's letter to the Philippians in the second reading tells them to live in unity taking Jesus as their example of humility and in Matthew's gospel Jesus tells the parable of the two sons whose father asks them to work in the vineyard. The first son refuses but later obeys.

God our Father calls each of us, daughters and sons, to participate in his work. Will we go to his vineyard? Even if we have said, "No ten times, we can turn around!" With the Father's help we can turn from disobedience to obedience – from sinfulness to grace. God our Father waits patiently and is always welcoming. In love, God waits for us to turn to Him.

Father Dave

### MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, September 28 – 9:00 a.m.

ELEANOR POTHERNG, 7th Anniv.  
(George Pothering)

Tuesday, September 29 – 9:00 a.m.

BILL SCHWEIKERT SR. (Bill Schweikert)

Wednesday, September 30 - 9:00 a.m.

JOHN & LORRAINE TASSO

Thursday, October 1 – 9:00 a.m.

ANNETTE LIEBERMAN (Lucia Mandell)

Friday, October 2 – 9:00 a.m.

PATRICK MURPHY (Lynne & Charlie Bressi)

Saturday, October 3 – 5:00 p.m.

BETH THOMAS RESNECK (Pat Santee)

Sunday, October 4 – 8:15 a.m.

DOROTHY PARSICK (John & Joyce Gerace)

Sunday, October 4– 10:30 a.m.

GEORGE MINCHHOFF &

ELIZABETH DORNSIFE (Rita Lotz)

### CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM – IMO Barbara Scott Forney by Jennifer Daubert

St. Joseph – IMO Joseph E. Rosenberger

by Joe & Barbara Wollyung

Tabernacle – IMO Charles Daubert by Jennifer Daubert

Sanctuary

1. Special Intention by Jennifer Daubert

2. Special Intention for Blessings by Jennifer Daubert

3. IMO Kristen Cuff by Jennifer Daubert

4. IMO Charles Forney by Jennifer Daubert

Guardian Angels

1&2. IMO George L. Klassen Jr. by Family

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How does your parish respond to the Lord's call to work in his vineyard?

What care does the vineyard need today?

### Next Week's Readings

27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME(October 4/5)

**Reading I:** Isaiah 5:1-7

**Reading II:** Philippians 4:6-9

**Gospel:** Matthew 21:33-43

### PRAY FOR OUR SICK / DECEASED

We remember in prayer those who are ill. We commend to our Divine Lord all of our aged people and those residing in nursing homes.

**Sick:** *John Kutch.* **Deceased:** *Scott Glunz*

Bring your pets to receive a blessing on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the Russell building parking lot. You don't want to miss this! See Bobby outside or our Facebook page for more information.

Blessing of the  
Animals

### ADORATION on MONDAY EVENINGS



The church is open 7 to 8 p.m. on Mondays for quiet prayer and private devotion in front of the exposed Blessed Sacrament. Stop by for as little as 15 minutes or stay for the full hour. Confessions will **NOT** be offered this week due to Parish Council.

### WEEKLY COLLECTION

**September 19/20: \$ 4,232.13**

*We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving.*

## NEW! FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

*"WHERE THE LORD'S PRESENCE IS HONORED, REVERENCED AND ADORED IN EUCHARISTIC ADORATION, THE WHOLE CHURCH IS LIFTED UP AND STRENGTHENED."*

The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which venerates and honors the heart of Jesus, became widespread through St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in 1675 within the octave of the Feast of Corpus Christi. When Jesus spoke to St. Margaret Mary and revealed the beauty and mercy of his heart to her, he spoke of several promises for those who reverence his heart, including an abundance of graces, blessings and even the conversion of the most hardened hearts. The 12 Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus made to St. Margaret Mary are:

- I will give them all the graces necessary for their state in life.
- I will establish peace in their families.
- I will comfort them in their trials.
- I will be their secure refuge during life, and, above all, in death.
- I will shed abundant blessings on all their undertakings.
- Sinners will find in my heart an infinite ocean of mercy.
- Lukewarm souls will become fervent.
- Fervent souls will rapidly grow in holiness and perfection.
- I will bless every place where an image of my heart shall be exposed and honored.
- I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts. The names of those who promote this devotion will be written in my heart, never to be blotted out.
- I promise thee, in the excessive mercy of my heart, that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months, the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in my disgrace nor without receiving their sacraments; my divine heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.



We will be honoring the First Friday Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on **October 2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** starting with Mass at 9 a.m., Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 9:30 a.m., Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 12 p.m., Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 p.m., Evening Prayer and Benediction at 4:30 p.m. See Bobby to sign-up for an hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament or sign up here by using your phone's camera or on our Facebook page.

**We need 2 adorers for every hour.**



--- ATTENTION ---

### YOUNG ADULTS & YOUNG FAMILIES

Please like the Facebook page

*"Schuylkill County Catholic*

*Young Adults and Young Families."*

The purpose of this group is to connect one another across parishes and form a young adult community in our area.

Please 'like' our **St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish Family** page. We currently have 700 likes.



Help us get to  
1000 Likes!

### **R. C. I. A.**

#### Rite of Christian Initiation of 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!

**Christ Life: Following Christ** starts October 8. Make sure we have received your form. Over 45 parishioners are participating. There are still a few more spots! See Bobby ASAP.

## MASS INTENTION BOOK

The Mass Intention Book for the year 2021 will open  
Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Masses can be scheduled from  
10 to 11:30 a.m. on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>  
in Longinus Hall.

Tuesday to Thursday at the Rectory.

(All COVID-19 Precautions will be in place.)

Masses can also be scheduled by mailing your intentions to the rectory or by calling the rectory 622-5470 ext 3

### **THREE MASSES ONLY**

- additional Mass requests may be sent to the Missions. The remaining dates will be used to schedule previously requested Masses as well as keep dates open for those who will be deceased in the year 2021.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

### September

- 27 CCD – 9-10:15 a.m.
- 28 Adoration – 7 to 8 p.m. in Church
- 28 Parish Council – 7 p.m. – L.H.
- 29 Men's Gospel Reflection – 7 p.m. – Zoom

### October

- 1 Christ Life training – 7 p.m. – L.H.
- 2 First Friday Devotions – 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in Church
- 4 Blessing of Animals – 1:30 p.m. – R.B.
- 5 Adoration & Confession – 7 to 8 p.m. in Church
- 6 Men's Gospel Reflection – 7 p.m. - Zoom
- 8 Christ Life: Week 1 – 7 p.m. in Church

**Live Rosary webcast** on our **Facebook** page every night through October 7 for the 54-day novena for our nation.

\*\* L.H. – Longinus Hall

\*\* F.R. – Rectory Fellowship Room

\*\* R.B. – Russell Building

## MEN'S GOSPEL REFLECTION GROUP

Our *Men's Gospel Reflection Group* meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. on Zoom. We pray and reflect together on the upcoming Sunday's Gospel. We are eager to welcome new members. Call Bobby at the rectory.

## **Did You Know ?**

**Our bulletin is also available on our website !**

### CATECHISTS PRAYER

Gracious and all-loving Father, out of love for all people you spoke your Word who became flesh for our salvation. May your Word transform me so that the message of your Son, our Lord, may be echoed through my teaching. Allow me to guide the hearts of those whom I teach in such a way that they will enter more deeply into your way of truth and salvation. Grant me the insight needed to lead them to know, love, and serve you. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may they become hearers and followers of your Word, so that they might help transform the world to follow the way of life to which your Son has called us all, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

## CCD PROGRAM

We thank the following parishioners for accepting the challenge of spreading the "Good News" to our parish children:

<b>Lori Reedy</b>	<b>Grade 1 &amp; 2</b>
<b>Lucilla Kochol</b>	<b>Grade 3 &amp; 7</b>
<b>Beth &amp; Rick Smith</b>	<b>Grade 4 &amp; 5</b>
<b>Josette Peckman</b>	<b>Grade 6</b>
<b>Robert Hahner</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>

Please pray for our 61 students enrolled in our CCD Program this year.

## SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We appreciate advertisers who support St. John's by advertising in our bulletin. Please patronize their business and let them know you saw their ad in our bulletin.

**Roma** Pizzeria & Restaurant  
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- \* It's Advertising Concentrated in Your Neighborhood
- \* It Develops Good Community Relationships
  - \* It's Good For Developing Loyal Customers

# CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Our Annual Christmas Bazaar will take place ...

**Saturday and Sunday, November 14 & 15**

*'View & Drop' Preview weekend is November 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>.*

We are asking families to donate a **Theme Basket** with a suggested value of at least **\$25.00** in merchandise or gift certificates. If you would like to donate the items, we would be happy to put a basket together and wrap it for you. Be creative and come up with your own unique idea!

Homemade craft items are also very welcome.

*So many families donated baskets last year --- it was wonderful to see the spirit of St. John's shine through.*

Our **'Lottery Baskets & Lottery Frames** are always a huge success. If you would like to donate **lottery tickets** (any amount), please drop tickets off at the rectory or place in the collection basket at Mass.

As always, **Monetary donations** are greatly appreciated. and helping hands at the Bazaar are always welcome. If you can help or you have questions, please call the **Rectory 622-5470 ext. 3**

**Gift Cards / Certificates are especially needed.**

In addition to our many various **THEME BASKETS**, there will be beautiful **CRAFTS**, many of which are handmade, **SPECIALS**, and of course, delicious **FOOD** and our famous homemade **BAKED GOODS**.

**Baskets should be dropped off by October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Russell Building on the following dates:**

**October 7, 14, 19, 21, 26**

**4:30 to 5:30 p.m. ONLY**

**Baskets / Items for baskets  
CANNOT be dropped off at the Rectory.**

**WINE / CHEESE / SNACK BASKETS** If you would like to donate **Wine, Cheese, or Snacks** for our **Wine/Snack Baskets** for this year's Christmas Bazaar, please drop your donation off at the **Russell Building on the dates and times listed above.**

## **PECANS - PECANS**

St. John's Catholic Women's Union will be selling Pecans again this year at the Christmas Bazaar. For more information, please contact the rectory.

**\$14.00 lb – Mammoth Halves**



**TWO BIG DAYS**

**OCTOBER 14 & 15**

**9 A.M. TO 9 P.M.**

SHOPPERS GET  
**20%\***  
OFF  
OUR LOWEST  
SALE PRICES

WE GIVE  
**5%**  
BACK  
TO YOUR NON-PROFIT  
When chosen as a recipient  
by customers.

**ATTENTION: St. John's Shoppers  
NO SHOPPING PASS NEEDED TO SHOP**

**IN- STORE OR ONLINE**

At checkout just give "St. John the Baptist Catholic Church" Specify "Catholic" because in the past there have been some confusion due to other denominations with the same name and that is how we are registered. The church will receive 5% of total sales accredited to its name!

**2 Days of fun and FREE MONEY for the Church!**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**NEIGHBORING EVENTS**

**HARVEST FEST** ... at St. Mary Church, 94 Walnut Road, Hamburg, on **Friday Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 3 to 7 p.m.; **Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 3 to 7 p.m.; **Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Event limited to Great Food "To-Go" and Great Value Prizes. For the Prize listing (accepting chances via mail) & Food Order forms go to [www.stmaryhamburg.org](http://www.stmaryhamburg.org); Also 50-50 & Quilt chances. All pandemic precautions in place with no social gathering activities.

**SPAGHETTI DINNER** ... Drive or Walk-through ... sponsored by St. Patrick Church on **Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** from **11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** (or sell out). Cost \$8.00 which includes pasta with homemade sauce, two meatballs, salad & bread. Extra meatballs or just meatballs with

sauce \$6.00 for six (sold in half dozen). For more info call St. Pat's Rectory 622-1802.

## GROW+GO



September 27, 2020 | Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 18:25-28 | Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5 | Mt 21:28-32

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

I've always had a bit of a recalcitrant streak. Ask me to do something, and I'll happily oblige. Order me to do something, and I'll set my jaw. So, I can relate to the first son's knee-jerk reply when told (not asked) to work in the vineyard. "I will not." Yet, despite this initial reaction, the first son obeyed his father's command. He "changed his mind and went." I didn't see it at first, but this parable is not about a clash of wills but obedience - not blind obedience, but choosing to turn over our lives to the will of the Father. The longer version of Paul's Letter to the Philippians illustrates this beautifully, challenging us to imitate Jesus: "He humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." As human beings, we have the freedom to choose to place God's will and the needs of others before our own. It doesn't mean being a doormat, but rather having a healthy humility and willingness to "change our minds (and hearts)" to better conform to the example of Jesus. As the *catechism* reminds us in this gem about obedience: "The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just." (1733)

**PRAY** Need a spiritual jump-start? Pray the Daily Examen, an ancient practice from St. Ignatius Loyola of peacefully reflecting on the events of the day in order to detect the presence of God's Spirit and discern his will for you.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Have you ever kicked a bad habit, such as eating too many sweets, falling down the social media rabbit hole, or failure to floss? I've occasionally pulled it off (well, for a few days anyway), but I find it's much tougher to change habits of my mind and heart. In today's Gospel, the first son *changes* his mind, and his heart. This is what Jesus asks of us as well: a change of heart and mind toward love and obedience, wherever it is needed in our lives. For starters, it could mean taking a few moments to pray for guidance each morning before jumping full-speed ahead into our personal agenda. We can ask God to show us how to align our lives more closely with his will for us - through prayer, reading the Scriptures, and reflecting on areas in our lives that need an overhaul. Our "yes" to working in the vineyard begins by attending to what God has shown us, and leads us to even greater freedom in Christ.



1. Seek ye \_\_\_ first the king - dom of God and his
2. Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek, and
3. You do not live by bread \_\_\_ a - lone, but by



1. righ - teous - ness, And all these things shall be
2. ye shall \_\_\_ find; Knock, and it shall be \_\_\_
3. ev - 'ry \_\_\_ word That pro - ceeds from the



1. add - ed un - to you. }
  2. o - pened un - to you. }
  3. mouth \_\_\_ of \_\_\_ God. }
- Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

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