

# 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 29, 2024

## 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name  
who can at the same time speak ill of me.  
For whoever is not against us is for us.”

Mk 9:39-40



## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, September 28

5:00 p.m. Eleanor Pothering  
(George Pothering)

### Sunday, September 29

8:15 a.m. Jean Meyer  
(Todd Bildheiser)

### Sunday, September 29

10:30 a.m. Theresa & Jim Brennan  
(Joan & Dave Deiter)

### Monday, September 30

6:30 p.m. St. John's Parish Family

### Tuesday, October 1

9:00 a.m. Carol Artz  
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

### Wednesday, October 2

9:00 a.m. Lou Ann Boyer  
(Tony & Lucilla Kochol)

### Thursday, October 3

9:00 a.m. Charles & Matilda Schaeffer  
(Eleanor Schaeffer)

### Friday, October 4

9:00 a.m. Dorothy Brown  
(Pat Trabosh)

### Saturday, October 5

5:00 p.m. Lynn & Post Families  
(Tony, Joan Marie, Dave, Bob)

### Sunday, October 6

8:15 a.m. David & Bastina Nicastro  
(Julian Chiplonia)

### Sunday, October 6

10:30 a.m. Ernest Zambo  
(Mary Zambo & Children)

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

In our journey through the Bible, we have started talking about the Old Testament prophets. Let's look at these books in roughly chronological order. Among the earliest prophets are Amos and Hosea. Both prophets lived in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC. Both were active in the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

Recall that, after the time of Solomon, there was conflict among the 12 tribes of Israel. Ten tribes split away and became the Northern Kingdom (Israel), leaving only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin as the Southern Kingdom (Judah). It is important to keep in mind that the holy city Jerusalem, the Temple, and the king ruling in the line of David were in Judah, while the Northern Kingdom set up its own king and counterfeit religion.

At the time of Amos and Hosea, the Northern Kingdom was prospering. This led the people to believe God was pleased with them. But the prophets warned that this was far from the truth. They call out the people for their infidelity to the Covenant with God. Unless the people change their lives, things will end in disaster. This came true around 721 BC when the Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel. More on Amos and Hosea next week...

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.
- ◆ 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.

## Next Week's Readings

**27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
(October 5/6)

**Reading I:** Genesis 2:18-24

**Reading II:** Hebrews 2:9-11

**Gospel:** 10:2-16

## 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 • Tony Kochol • Tom Jefferson • John Fredericks*

### For our Deceased

*Robert Porter*

### Upcoming Events

#### September

29 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class..... L.H.

#### October

6 9:00 a.m. CCD Parent Meeting ..... L.H.

6 10:30 a.m. Sunday School..... L.H.

6 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class..... L.H.

10 6:30 p.m. Scripture Study ..... L.H.

16 10:00 a.m. 2025 Mass Book Opens ..... L.H.

16 7:00 p.m. Catholic Women’s Union Mtg ..... L.H.

17 6:30 p.m. Scripture Study ..... L.H.

20 9:00 a.m. CCD Community Mtg. .... L.H.

20 10:30 a.m. Sunday School..... L.H.

20 2:00 p.m. Paint n’ Sip..... L.H.

27 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.

### Weekly Collection

September 21/22 .....4,061.00

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&2. IMO Raydell Wychunas by Helen Heimbaugh

#### St. Joseph

1. IMO Joseph E. Rosenberger by Barb Wollyung  
2. IMO George Hahner Jr. by Hahner Family

#### Sanctuary

Special Intention

#### Guardian Angels

1.&2. IMO John Heimbaugh by Helen Heimbaugh  
3. IMO Albert Wychunas by Helen Heimbaugh  
4. Living & Deceased of St. John’s Catholic Women’s Union

## SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered **Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on October 10, 17, November 7 and 14.** 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.



#### Congratulations

We congratulate Deacon John Matulevich on his ordination to the permanent diaconate. Deacon John will be serving St. Clare of Assisi and Holy Cross parishes.

#### Thank You

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the parishioners of St. John the Baptist for the many kind words, cards, gifts, and the meet and greet for my Ordination. Most importantly, I want to thank everyone for the many prayers throughout my Formation. Please know I will remember you in my prayers.

Go with God, Deacon John

### Liturgical Min. Schedule

#### 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**October 5 — 5 p.m. Mass**

**Reader:** Lucilla Kochol

**Euch.Min.:** Gerry Schwartz

**Server/Sacristan:** RJ Post

**Cantor:** Dave Derbes

**October 6 — 8:15 a.m.**

**Reader:** Ann Blankenhorn

**Euch.Min.:** Bob Bechtel

Jeff Naffin

**Servers:** Finley & Lukas McNamara

**Cantor:** Tina Seiger

**October 6 — 10:30 a.m.**

**Reader:** Jen Daubert

**Euch.Min.:** Debbie Herb

Justina Majestic

**Server:** Jackson Daubert

**Cantor:** Marianne Wollyung

### 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.



## Diocesan Blood Drive in Honor of St. Januarius

From now until December 16th, the Diocese of Allentown is partnering with Miller-Keystone Blood Center to help alleviate the national blood shortage, serving accident, trauma, and burn victims, as well as premature babies and cancer patients. The drive also celebrates St. Januarius, patron saint of blood banks and blood donors. Donors will receive a St. Januarius medallion blessed by Bishop Schlert. For more info please call 800-223-6667 ext. 2

## Family Matters

**Teachers.** Teachers shape the lives and minds of the children of our families. We ask God to bless all of our teachers — those who teach in our schools, in our community and in our parish. May God give them wisdom and patience daily in their service to our children.

## 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: *Sandy Frinzi, Phyllis Hess, Debbie Kubilus, Ray Petrilla, Theresa Skrobak, Joanne Wood.*

The more the merrier — newcomers are always welcome — please call the rectory if interested or just show up at our next cleaning on October 12th.



## Mass Intention Book

The Mass Intention Book for the year 2025 will open **Wednesday, October 16th to Tuesday, October 22nd**

**Masses can be scheduled from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 16th in Longinus Hall.**

All other Mass intentions can be scheduled by calling the rectory, placing in the collection basket or email.

### **Three Masses ONLY**

The remaining dates will be used to schedule previously requested Masses as well as keep dates open for those deceased in 2025.

## Neighboring Events

**Harvest Fest 2024** at St. Mary Church, 94 Walnut Rd., Hamburg on Friday, October 4 (4-9 pm) and Saturday, October 5 (12-9 pm). Friday Music by Flamin' Dick & the Hot Rods Oldies Band (6-9 pm) Saturday Music by the Golden Tones Polka Band (1-4 pm); Polka Mass 4:30 pm, the Northkill Creek Band (6-9 pm). Homemade foods, fun, activities, ongoing entertainment and games for all ages, rock wall and bungee jump, kids' games, hay rides, corn maze, first responders, bingo, many great theme baskets, raffles, and more. Free admission, plenty of parking, indoor & outdoor seating, no coolers or food. More info call 610-562-7657 or [www.stmaryhamburg.org](http://www.stmaryhamburg.org). Facebook.

**Music & Dance** sponsored by St. Clair of Assisi and Holy Cross Parishes on Saturday, October 5th from 7 to 9 p.m. at Holy Cross Parish Center, New Philadelphia. Music by the M & J Orchestra. Tickets \$15 per person; \$25 per couple or reserve an entire table at a reduced rate of \$10 per person. Tables of 6, 8, or 10 available. Food & drink (including limited alcoholic beverages) will be available for purchase. Call the rectory 570-429-0370 to reserve your seat/table.

**Homemade Shoo Fly Pie & Pie Crusts** made by members of St. Mary's Church Choir in Ringtown. Wet Bottom Pie—\$9.00; Crust—\$3.00. Pick up at St. Mary's Church Rectory on Tuesday, October 8th from 10 a.m. to noon. **Deadline to Order is Thursday, October 3rd.** Call the parish office at 570-889-3850.

**Spaghetti Dinner** sponsored by St. Patrick's Church, Pottsville on Sunday, October 6th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or sell out). Eat in or take out at the parish center. Spaghetti platter includes pasta, homemade sauce, two meatballs, salad, bread. Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase.

**Spaghetti Dinner** sponsored by Holy Family Parish of Minersville on Sunday, October 13th. Adults \$13 and \$8 children. Dinner includes pasta, meatballs, sauce, roll, salad, dessert, and drink. Eat in or take out. **Pre-orders only.** Order your meal by Monday, October 7th at noon by calling 570.544.4741 ext 1.

**St. Joseph Center for Special Education.** Join St. Joseph Center for Special Learning on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> for an unforgettable evening at Mountain Valley Seasons Restaurant, celebrating our 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Diamond Gala! Celebrate this milestone with us as we embrace the theme, "Imagine the Possibilities." Enjoy an elegant night of inspiration, entertainment, and community, where together, we'll dream of a future full of endless opportunities. Don't miss this special event! Visit [www.stjosephctr.com](http://www.stjosephctr.com) for more details.

**Drivers Needed.** Catholic Charities is looking for one or two part-time drivers for its food truck mission. Hours are Monday through Thursday, approximately 10am to 3pm. The truck is loaded and unloaded at Holy Family Parish Hall, located in Minersville and the truck serves various communities each day in Schuylkill County. A standard PA Drivers license, a clean driving record and background clearances are required. Basic truck maintenance experience is also helpful. If interested, contact Andrea Kochan Neagle, Catholic Charities Managing Director, at [aneagle@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:aneagle@allentowndiocese.org) or call 610-435-1541 ext. 5334.



**SPEAKERS:**



DEACON HAROLD BURKE-SIVERS



FATHER WADE MENEZES

**MEN ALIVE IN CHRIST ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

*Spirit of Jesus, Renew Us*

Catholic men of the Diocese of Allentown, we invite you to renew and strengthen your faith at our annual Men's Conference. Embrace the mission of the Church and deepen your relationship with God through a powerful day of community, Sacraments, and talks from nationally renowned speakers.

We are excited to equip you with the tools you need to go forth as strong Catholic men, invigorated by the fire of the Holy Spirit!

**JOIN US:**  
 October 19, 8:00am - 3:00pm  
 St. Joseph the Worker Church  
 1879 Applewood Drive  
 Orefield PA 18069

**Register here:**



Contact:  
 Mark McDevitt, markmcd@outlook.com

Sponsored by the Diocese of Allentown's Commission for Men

## MEN ALIVE IN CHRIST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, October 19th at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Orefield. We invite you to renew and strengthen your faith, embrace your relationship with God through a powerful day of community, Sacraments, and talks from nationally renowned speakers. We are excited to equip you with the tools you need to go forth as strong Catholic men, invigorated by the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Please take advantage of the Early Bird and bring a son, brother, father, or friend! Regular Admission \$35; Early Bird Special (until 9/9/2024) \$25; Students (HS & College) \$15.

The Men's Conference is an enjoyable day with good meals, inspiring speakers, good fellowship, and a chance to go to confession and attend Mass celebrated by the bishop at the end of the day. We will carpool from St. John's. Call the rectory or Bill Gianfagna 570 573-0105 if you are interest-

## Land of Peace Mission—October 5/6

Next weekend our brothers and sisters representing the Land of Peace Mission—a nonprofit organization, will be with us speaking about the Christian situation in the Holy Land and selling Crucifixes, Religious Art Work, and Rosaries—all made of olive wood which is native to Israel and Bethlehem.

Since tourism has greatly depleted, Christian families in the Holy Land, who depend on tourists, have been greatly affected. The goal of this mission is to help the poor and needy families in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Sale of these goods will help them very much and also give you the opportunity to have "something" authentic from the Holy Land. Please browse and buy some articles. It is for a good cause and also a help to your personal devotion. See the website: [www.landofpeace.org](http://www.landofpeace.org).

## Diocesan Events ...

### RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE Retrouvaille:

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. The next program will be held on October 4 - 6 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

*Blessed are they who mourn, they shall be comforted. Matt. 5:4.* Announcing our Fall "Bereavement Support Group" at Immaculate Conception Parish. If you have lost a loved one through death and feel you need some support on your grief journey, please call to register. It is 6 sessions and we ask that you attend all 6 sessions. Trained Grief Ministers are available. Registration is Required. No Charge. The Dates are: Mondays, September 30, October 7, 14, 28 and November 4, 11 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Brogan Room at St. Joseph Rectory, 526 North St., Jim Thorpe. SPACE IS LIMITED. Please register by September 15! To register, please call Immaculate Conception Parish at 570-325-2791.

September 29, 2024

## Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nm 11:25-29 | Jas 5:1-6 | Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

Experience, education, and brainpower give parents wisdom and foresight. They can see the bigger picture and determine, for example, that eating an entire box of cookies will make their child sick – no matter how appetizing the cookies *appear*. God, likewise, has a perspective that is infinitely broader and deeper than our own. This divine perspective is the lens through which we must understand the strong language Jesus uses in today's Gospel. God is a Father who loves us unconditionally and who, like the parent who refuses a child unlimited sweets, knows the harm that sin causes his children in this life and in eternity. "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off." These words, meant to drive home a point for Jesus' disciples, remind us that God desires our good infinitely more than we do, and that this good is ultimately to be united with him for eternity. God *hates* sin in our lives because he *loves* us. If we believe this, no sacrifice will be too great for us as we strive to root out sin, grow in virtue, and follow Jesus with undivided hearts.

### GO EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Moses' exclamation in the first reading, "Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets!" remind us of the mission, given to us at baptism, to permeate the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by our words and example. This is what it means for us to be "prophets." But how do we *become* prophets? And how do we accomplish our task effectively? We begin by engaging in the process described above: leaving sin behind at all costs and embracing lives of virtue. As this process brings us closer to God – especially through prayer, but also through works of mercy – we become increasingly capable of seeing as God sees, making judgments according to his wisdom, and ordering the world around us according to his desires. Our words likewise become more powerful in leading others to Christ because they flow from our ever-deepening friendship with him.

**REFLECT** What corner of your life have you hesitated to give to God? What attitudes or habits have you been reluctant to invite him to transform? Ask him for the courage and perseverance to give these things over to him and, if needed, to bring them to confession. If you allow him, he will draw you closer to himself and you will become a "prophet" for others in the true sense of the word.



**Pastor**..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*  
**Deacon**..... *Robert A. Reiley*  
**Parish Council President**..... *Darren DeArment*  
**E-mail**..... *dbd269@gmail.com*  
**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



**Bosco's**  
**FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS**  
 IN-STORE & ONLINE

**ONE DAY ONLY - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024**  
**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 Boscov's store

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

**PASSES ... \$5.00**

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

**Presale**

**October 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 18**  
**11 a.m.—4 p.m. on October 12, 19**  
**12 noon to 3 p.m.**  
**September 29; October 6, 13, 20**  
**4 to 9 p.m. — October 17**  
**10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 9 p.m. — October 21**  
**8 a.m. to 11 p.m.—October 22**

*Thank you in advance for your support!*

