

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

October 1, 2023



26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you.”

Matthew 21:31

Mass Intentions

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)

Monday, October 2

6:30 p.m. Patricia Thomas
(Kate & Steve Zagar)

Tuesday, October 3

9:00 a.m. Charlie & Catherine Schaeffer
(Maria Schaeffer)

Wednesday, October 4

9:00 a.m. Mary Ann Siket
(Rita & Ellen Foley)

Thursday, October 5

9:00 a.m. Mark Mickey
(John & Joyce Gerace)

Friday, October 6

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

Saturday, October 7

5:00 p.m. Frank & Josephine Brozana
(Joanne & Don Doyne)

Sunday, October 8

8:15 a.m. Elizabeth Haley
(Son & Daughters)

Sunday, October 8

10:30 a.m. Ernest Zambo
(Family)

Next Week's Readings

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(October 7/8)

Reading I: Isaiah 5:1-7

Reading II: Philippians 4:6-9

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

October is traditionally the month of the rosary. Although we think of the rosary as a prayer to Mary, it actually invites us to reflect on the mysteries of the life of Jesus as we ask Mary to intercede for us. If you don't already have a habit of praying the rosary, consider starting this month. Because the rosary is a repetitive, meditative prayer, it can be prayed while we are doing other activities (for example, driving) that leave our minds free for prayer and reflection.

As we pray each of the five decades of a rosary, we are invited to reflect on five mysteries of the life of Jesus. The Joyful Mysteries are about the events surrounding the birth of Jesus. It is traditional to pray the Joyful Mysteries on Mondays and Saturdays. The Joyful Mysteries are:

1. The Annunciation: Think about the angel Gabriel announcing to Mary that she will be the Mother of Jesus. Mary accepts this mission – without fully understanding it, but with trust in God – and participates in God's plan to save us. What is God asking of me today?
2. The Visitation: Think about Mary, now pregnant with Jesus, traveling to the home of Elizabeth and staying for three months to help. Mary is literally bringing the presence of Jesus to Elizabeth. Who will I bring Jesus to today?
3. The Birth of Jesus: Think about the Savior choosing to be born into our world in a very ordinary manner, virtually unknown to humanity. How is Jesus present in the ordinary circumstances of my day?
4. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple: Think about Mary and Joseph presenting the infant Jesus to God in the Temple according to Jewish custom. How do I practice my faith today?
5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple: Think about 12-year-old Jesus staying behind in the Temple because He knew He had a mission to fulfill from the Father. As an adopted son or daughter of the Father, do I live with a sense of mission? How do I fulfill it today?

We will look at the other mysteries of the rosary in the coming weeks.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin



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 Kurtak • Dominic Maccarone • Mary Zambo
• Drew Schaeffer*

For our Deceased

Jean Meyer

Upcoming Events

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.
15	2:00 p.m.	Paint N'Sip 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

Tuesdays 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men's Group F.R.



Weekly Collections

September 23/24 \$ 4,427.90

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. Special Intention

by John & Mary Jean Morgalis

St. Joseph

1. IMO Frank A. Tobin

by Rick & Michelle Stone

2. IMO Edward P. Lubinsky

by Rick & Michelle Stone

Sanctuary

IMO Joe Wollyung

by Barb Wollyung & Family

Guardian Angels

1. Living Members of Glunz Family

by Ed & Gerry Schwartz

2. Living Members of Schwartz Fam.

by Ed & Gerry Schwartz

3. Deceased of Glunz Family

by Ed & Gerry Schwartz

4. Deceased of Schwartz Family

by Ed & Gerry Schwartz

Liturgical Min. Schedule

October 7— 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Patty O'Neill

Euch.Min.: John O'Neill

Server: Connor Felty

Cantor: Joann Matina

October 8 — 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Bob Bechtel

Euch.Min.: Janet Daubert

Servers: R.J. Post

Cantor: Ed Brahrer

October 8— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: John Crane

Euch.Min.: Mimi Modesto

Server: Connor, Cooper, Cole Felty

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

SCRIPTURE STUDY

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

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.



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.

Featured next weekend, October 7/8: Liturgical Ministries: Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Altar Servers, Funeral Servers, Ministers of Hospitality, Choir, Cantors, Ensemble, Dramatic Stations.

Respect Life

The Gospel of Life

To all the members of the church, the people of life and for life, I make this most urgent appeal, that together we may offer this world of ours new signs of hope, and work to ensure that justice and solidarity will increase and that a new culture of human life will be affirmed, for the building of an authentic civilization of truth and love. ... Pope Paul II

All life has inestimable value, even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor are masterpieces of God's creation.
... Pope Francis

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.

Family Matters

Athletes and Sports.

Lord, we ask you to bless all our children who are involved in sports and athletic competition. Give them (and us) a right attitude about competition on and off the playing field. We ask that all be healthy and safe in their activities. We pray this week that all of our parish students and families give witness to the true values of sportsmanship through these activities.

Moving? Relocating?

Let us Know!

Have you moved, changed your phone or email address? If so, please contact the Rectory Office at 570-622-5470 ext. 3. Help us update our records!

Mass Intention Book

The Mass Intention Book for the year 2024 will open

Wednesday, October 18th to Tuesday, October 24th

Masses can be scheduled from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

on Wednesday, October 18th 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 2024.

Paint 'n Sip

Enjoy a Sunday afternoon in Longinus Hall for our first Paint 'n Sip get together on **October 15th at 2:00 p.m.** Artist Kimberly Searle will guide us step by step. We will have all equipment necessary so that you can paint a lovely project plus light snacks and drinks available. Everyone is invited to bring their favorite snacks for sharing. BYOB! Sign-up sheets are available in the back of church. Cost is \$40.00 per person. All sign-ups with fee included should be returned to the rectory by Monday, October 9th so that needed planning can be done. For more information please call the rectory 570-622-5470 ext. 3.



Nativity BVM School News ...

Liturgy to open Spirit Week will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 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



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 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 Bosco's on the following dates: **Sept. 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!



Our Annual Christmas Bazaar will take place ...
Saturday and Sunday, November 11 & 12

We are asking families to donate a **Theme Basket** with a suggested value of at least **\$25.00** in merchandise, gift cards, or lottery tickets. If you would like to donate the items for a basket, we would be happy to put it 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 again!



Our '**Lottery Baskets**' and '**Lottery Frames**' and '**Wine Baskets**' are always a huge success. If you would like to donate Lottery Tickets (any amount), please drop off at the rectory or at one of our drop off days at the Russell Building. As always, monetary donations are greatly appreciated and helping hands at the Bazaar are always welcome. If you can help or have questions, please call the rectory 622-5470 ext. 3.

In addition to our many various **Theme Baskets**, there will be beautiful **Crafts**, many of which are hand-made by our very talented parishioners, **Specials**, and of course, delicious **Food** and our famous home-

made **Baked Goods**.

Baskets should be dropped off by **October 25th** at the Russell Building on the following dates:

Drop Off Dates & Times October 9, 11, 16, 18, 25 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

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

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.

Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by St. Patrick Church on Sunday, October 1st from 11 a.m. til 2 p.m. (or sell out) at the parish center 313 Mahantongo St.; Platter includes pasta with our homemade sauce, two meatballs, salad and bread. Cost is \$22 per platter. Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase.

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.

Beer and Wine Fall Festival will be held on Saturday October 7, from 5:30PM until 10:30PM, at St. Ambrose (302 Randel St., Schuylkill Haven). Admission is \$10. There will be local wineries, craft beers, food, and music by Another Side and Sapphire. Rain or shine.

America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally will be held at the Schuylkill Haven Island Park Pavilion on Saturday, October 14 starting at 12:00PM. Rain or shine. Bring a lawn chair and Rosary.





Getty Images/Leo Yang

October 1, 2023

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

I used to be something of a sugar fiend. So much so that one birthday, my then boyfriend (now husband) decided to forego flowers and bought me a jumbo-sized bag of Smarties candies instead. While I loved sugar, I eventually decided I didn't love how it made me feel. Now older and wiser, I reach for vegetables more often. It's not that I crave carrots, but I feel better eating healthy foods. It's what God intends for my body. Similarly, God intends for our souls to follow the laws he has ordained. But sometimes life gets tough and we suffer terrible wrongs or are grieving, and we feel like the Israelites in today's first reading, calling out, "The Lord's way is not fair!" Well, thank God for that! How lost would we be, if God treated us "fairly." Instead, he treats us with love and mercy; with justice. "He humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross," *for us*. If there is any encouragement in Christ, as Paul says, and we know there is, then being of the same mind and heart – attitude – of Christ, gets us through those moments of "unfair!" And we can follow Christ's commands, knowing he loves us more than anyone else could love us, and more than we can ever love him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

It's easy to talk a good game as Christians. We can all agree that it is right to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned and bury the dead, as the Corporal Works of Mercy instruct us. But when it comes to actually doing those things – **"humbly regard[ing] others as more important than [ourselves], each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others"** – we can find all sorts of reasons not to. Maybe our days are too busy or maybe we feel just the tiniest bit resentful at the idea of sharing something we've worked hard to earn. However, our words don't mean much without action. Jesus says as much in today's Gospel. If we are like the son who says yes but then does not go to work in the vineyard, we are not doing our Father's will. We are like the chief priests who are being bypassed on the way to heaven by "tax collectors and prostitutes" who heard the word of God and believed.

PRAY This week, let us look for ways to live out our faith. Rather than pray only with our words, let us pray with our actions. If you aren't sure where to start, pay special consideration to the verses from the second reading, highlighted above: "Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vain-glory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others."

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 Thérèse of the Child Jesus (1873-1897) Feast Day: October 1

"The cornerstone's dated 1872, but the stained glass is much later," explained the pastor, astonished when his visitor accurately dated it to just before the Great Depression, explaining, "The window for the Little Flower"—Thérèse's nickname—"gives it away." From her canonization in 1925, her statues and windows adorn most churches where European immigrants worshiped. Entering Carmel at fifteen, victim of tuberculosis at twenty-four, Therese proposed her "Little Way" to sanctity: doing ordinary tasks with extraordinary love. Thus "ordinary Catholics," many of whom had lost loved ones to tuberculosis, embraced her. Though she never left her cloister, this Carmelite's spiritual communion and devoted correspondence with missionaries earned her the title Patroness of Missions. Her autobiography, *Story of a Soul*, continuously in print since her death, chronicles her prayerful perseverance through doubt and caused her to be the youngest person ever named a Doctor of the Church. Countless physical healings and spiritual conversions testify to her fulfillment of her deathbed promise: "After my death, I will let fall a shower of roses. I will spend my heaven doing good upon earth!"

