

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

October 4, 2026



ST. FRANCIS

Pastor *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*
Deacon *Robert A. Reiley*

Parish Council President *John Crane*
E-mail johncrane1@mac.com
Choir Director/Organist *David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator *Tina Seiger*
Rectory (570) 622-5470
Rectory Fax (570) 622-4589
E-mail stjbparrish@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

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

1-800-276-1562 www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

Diocese of Allentown Website

www.allentowndiocese.org



Communion for the Homebound

If you or a family member, friend, or neighbor who is a member of St. John is confined to home, a nursing home or assisted living facility because of illness, age, or disability and would like to receive Holy Communion on a monthly basis, please call the rectory. We traditionally visit the sick and homebound on or around the first Friday of the month. Please help us meet the spiritual needs of our homebound parishioners.

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: *Sherri Post, Tom Jefferson, Fr. John Schweikert.*

Deceased: *Joan Grapsy, Thomas Elison*

"Note: We will keep names on the prayer list for a period of three months. Please let us know if you would like your name or your family member's name to remain on the list longer."

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.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 3

5:00 p.m. Charlie & Catherine Schaeffer
(Maria Schaeffer)

Sunday, October 4

8:15 a.m. Joseph Burns
(Rossi Family)

Sunday, October 4

10:30 a.m. Frank Nicastro
(Julian & Nora Chiplonia)

Monday, October 5

6:30 p.m. John Fredericks
(Joyce Gerace)

Tuesday, October 6

9:00 a.m. Andrew Walcott
(Ronald & Mary Ellen Reddinger)

Wednesday, October 7

9:00 a.m. Rita Gemmel
(Ken & Sharon Rossi)

Thursday, October 8

9:00 a.m. Ernie Zambo
(Zambo Family)

Friday, October 9

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

Saturday, October 10

5:00 p.m. Evelyn Tropp
(Shawn & Karen Schmitt)

Sunday, October 11

8:15 a.m. Gerry Hudock
(Sue & Russ Zimmerman)

Sunday, October 11

10:30 a.m. Deceased of Lenard &
Walkusky Family
(Karen Lenard)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

We have been discussing the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. All seven of the sacraments originate with Jesus. The Church, over the centuries, has specified exactly how the sacraments are to be celebrated.

The Gospels tell us that Jesus healed many people and that He gave the Apostles the power to heal. Or, to be more accurate, it is not the Apostles but Jesus who heals *through* His Apostles and their successors, the bishops and clergy today. The Letter of the Apostle James tells us: "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the priests of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven." (James 5:14-15). Even from the beginning of Christianity, the key elements of the sacrament were present: the need for a priest, anointing with oil, and prayer for the sick, bringing spiritual (and sometimes physical) healing.

Notice that both of the healing sacraments, Confession and Anointing, are functions of the priesthood. Deacons cannot celebrate these sacraments. Like Confession, Anointing can be celebrated anywhere: in church, in someone's home, in a hospital, in a nursing home. Anointing can be celebrated during Mass, or it can be celebrated in a chaotic hospital emergency room, giving only the bare essentials of the sacrament. Next week we will look at how the sacrament is celebrated step-by-step.

In Christ,

Fr. Bobbin

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture: is offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 pm, October 8, 15, 22, and 29. Join us in person in Longinus Hall or at home on Zoom (*Please email Father for the Zoom link: kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org.) Father 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.

Praise, Worship, Adoration

St. John's music ensemble invites you to an opportunity to praise the Lord with uplifting, contemporary Christian music and traditional hymns. We will end with a blessing. This event is open to all, and we welcome children and families. Come and be renewed!

**Sunday, October 25th from 6 to 7 p.m.
in the main Church.**

Next Week's Readings

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(October 10/11)

Reading I: Isaiah 25:6-10a

Reading II: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Upcoming Events

October

4	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
4	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School	L.H.
4	10:30 a.m.	Children's Liturgy.....	Chapel
4	1:00 p.m.	Blessing of Animals.....	R.B.
8	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
10	11 am-7 pm	BBQ Chicken Dinner	R.B.
11	11 am-3 pm	BBQ Chicken Dinner	R.B.
11	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
15	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
18	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
18	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School	L.H.
18	10:30 a.m.	Children's Liturgy.....	Chapel
21	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg.	L.H.
22	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
25	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
25	after Mass	Coffee & Donuts	L.H.
25	6:00 p.m.	Adoration Service	Church
29	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.

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

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

Mass Intention Book

The Mass Intention Book for the year 2027 will open ...

Wednesday, October 14th to Wednesday, October 21st

Masses can be scheduled from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 14th 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 2027.

St. John's 'BBQ CHICKEN DINNER'

We are very excited to have Don Tassone in our kitchen once again! We are having a **BBQ Chicken Dinner** to help raise funds for improvements and repairs to the Russell Building. Take-out ONLY or delivery is possible in the Pottsville area. Dinner will include 1/2 a BBQ Chicken, roasted potatoes, cole slaw, and roll. Cost \$13.00.

Saturday, October 10th from 11 am to 7 pm; Sunday, October 11th from 11 am to 3 pm. Delivery accommodations — please call Don Tassone 570-573-3849.

For questions/ information please call Shanna Deibert 570-617-4769.

Pre-sale tickets will be sold in the back of church after Masses on the weekends of October 3/4.

Blessing of Animals

The Blessing of Animals for the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi will take place on **Sunday, October 4, 1:00 pm** in the Russell Building parking lot. All are welcome. There is no need to register in advance. If attending, please make sure your pets are secured!

Weekly Collection

Sept. 26/27\$4,429.20

Latin America\$1,025.00

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

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Marjorie Angelo

by Frank Angelo

2. Special Intention

St. Joseph

1&2. Peace

by Anonymous

Sanctuary

Peace

by Anonymous

Guardian Angels

All Guardian Angels

IMO Ted Casey

by Bill & Sally Casey

Liturgical Min. Schedule

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 10— 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Michelle Heenan

EM: John Crane, Sharon Snyder

Server: John Crane

Cantor: Dave Derbes

October 11 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Larry Steficek

EM: Ann Blankenhorn

Joseph Palmieri

Server: Sophia Palmieri

Cantor: Dave Derbes

October 11 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Vincent Balulis

EM: Justina Majestic, Ray Petrilla

Servers: Callie & Cole Felty

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

Sacristan: Connor Felty

Flowers at the Altar

(September 26/27)

In Memory of Mary Ann Holley

Donated by

Deborah & Mark Purcell

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday and Sunday, November 14 & 15

We are asking families to donate a **Theme Basket** with a suggested value of at least **\$25.00 Baskets must be completed and wrapped.** 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'** and **"Gift Cards"** 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 handmade by our very talented parishioners, **Specials**, and of course, delicious **Food** and our famous homemade **Baked Goods**.

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

Drop Off Dates & Times

Mondays, October 12, 19, 26 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, October 14, 21 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Baskets **CANNOT** be dropped off at the rectory.

Trunk or Treat — Saturday, October 24 — 1 to 3 p.m.

We are excited to have our Trunk or Treat event again this year! This will take place on **Saturday, October 24th from 1 to 3 p.m.** at the Russell Building parking lot.

A Trunk or Treat is when you park your vehicle in our lot, open the trunk and decorate it for Halloween and hand out your treats to all the trick or treaters. If you don't have a vehicle available, we can offer a space and chairs for you to hand out your candy or treats! Candy donations can also be accepted.

Everyone is welcome, including spectators! Light refreshments will be available and a prize given for the best dressed trunk!

There is a sign-up sheet for participating vehicles in the back of church. We want to ensure that we have enough interest. Join us!

Boscov's Friends helping Friends ... One Day Only ... Wednesday, October 21st ... Shop 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. 25% Off lowest sale prices. Shopping Pass .. \$5.00 donation per Pass.

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

Presale: from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on October 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20.

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on October 17, 12 noon to 2 p.m. on October 4, 11, 18. October 21st from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

....is for anyone who desires to enter the Catholic Church or complete his or her initiation into the Church (i.e. people who are baptized Catholic but have not received Communion and/or Confirmation). If you or someone you know is interested, please call the rectory at 570-622-5470.

Catholic Charities

Sharing Compassion, Serving in Faith, Spreading Hope

Services We Offer:

Professional Counseling Services

Pregnancy & Parenting Support

Immigration Legal Services

Supportive Services for Veterans & Families

Basic Need Services

Rural Support Services

Food & Nutrition Hubs

Food Pantry

Community Café Food Truck

Schuylkill County Office

99 Valley St.

New Philadelphia

570-628-0466

www.catholiccharitiesad.org

There is hope in the battle against pornography.

Educate yourself, protect yourself and your family, and seek help and healing. Explore the resources offered by:

1. Integrity Restored (integrityrestored.com)

2. The Diocese of Allentown's Lumen Christi Commission (ad-lumenchristi.org)

3. Or contact Fr. Bobbin for a confidential appointment.

Nativity BVM High School

Homecoming Football Game 50/50

Our annual Homecoming 50/50 Drawing is one of Nativity's biggest fundraisers of the year, and we are excited to continue this important tradition!

This year's Homecoming Football Game against Shenandoah Valley will be held at St. Clair on **Friday, October 16th at 7 p.m.**

We greatly appreciate your continued support of Nativity and our 50/50 Drawing. Your participation helps make this fundraiser a success and directly supports our school and students. Please call us at 622-8110 to get your tickets.

Sports passes are also available in our Main Office. The cost is \$75 and is good for all home (non playoff) games all year long.

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning Is Hiring!

St. Joseph Center in Schuylkill Haven is seeking caring, dedicated individuals to join our mission of serving children and adults with diverse abilities in a faith-filled, supportive environment.

We are currently hiring for a **full-time Special Education Teacher, full-time Direct Service Worker** for our Adult Program, **part-time Administrative Assistant, part-time Behavioral Health Support**, and **part-time Teacher Aide**.

If you're looking for a rewarding career where you can make a meaningful difference every day, we'd love to hear from you. To learn more or apply, please visit our website or contact us at (570) 622-4638.

Neighboring Events ...

Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by St. Patrick's Church on Sunday, October 4th from 11 am to 2 pm (or sell out) at 313 Mahantongo St. in Pottsville. Platter includes: Spaghetti with our homemade sauce, two meatballs, salad, bread. Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase.

Shower of Roses Festival on October 4th at the Shrine of St. Therese, 1 E. Garibaldi Ave., in Nesquehoning. 11 a.m. Food Sales, 1 p.m. Mass, 2 p.m. Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 3:30 p.m. Recital of the Rosary, 4 p.m. Novena/Benediction and Rose Distribution. Ethnic Foods, Spaghetti Dinner, Raffle Tickets available. For information contact St. Joseph's Rectory 570-645-2664 or visit www.shrineofsainttherese.com.

St. Monica Ministry ... Holy Hour of Petition and Hope on Wednesday, October 7th at 5:30 p.m. at the Cathedral Church of St. Catharine of Siena, 1825 W. Turner St. in Allentown. The evening will include the Sacrament of Confession, Rosary of Supplication, Our Prodigals, Vespers, Benediction. For more info email StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com or call / text 484-554-2022.

Holly Jolly Holiday sponsored by St. Patrick Church on November 20th at the Dutch Apple Theatre in Lancaster. Cost \$125 which includes bus, buffet, tax, gratuity, and the show which must be paid by October 19th. For more information and details,

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, Darla Fabiani, Sandy Frinzi, Phyllis Hess, Ray Petrilla, Theresa Skrobak, Beth Smith, Joanne Wood*

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

Pray the Rosary

The month of October and May are dedicated by the Church to the Blessed Mother. There is no prayer more pleasing to Our Lady and more efficacious in asking for her intercession.

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.

Prayer for our Troops Around the World

"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior." Amen.

Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshiping 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.



October 4, 2026

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Is 5:1-7 | Phil 4:6-9 | Mt 21:33-43

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

I enjoy thinking about what it would have been like to hear Jesus' teachings as a first-century Jew. When Jesus calls out the current tenants of the vineyard as being unfaithful, disobedient servants, however, it may have left the crowd feeling a bit anxious. And really, Jesus could say this to each of us at times because, like the wild grapes in the vineyard, when left to our own devices we also have a tendency to fall into sin and produce unsavory fruit. But we also know that Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and he wants our lives in his vineyard to be characterized by that peace. Christ is not condemning, but he is the Son sent to call the tenants back into communion with the Father. He does the same with us too. In acts of great mercy, Christ continues to call us again and again – even after we reject him and turn away from him. Through the Church, the sacraments, the intercession of the saints, and the holy men and women who proclaim the Gospel today, God continues to seek us out so we might know the peace of fruitful service in his vineyard.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Christ longs to give us peace that surpasses all of our fears and anxieties, and he does so by inviting us to be good stewards of his created world and the community of believers. He invites us to work in the vineyard – to offer our gifts and talents to bring forth the fruits of love and joy that overflow from the work of the Holy Spirit within us. We do so with the assurance that salvation is not dependent on us. Our Father has sown the seeds and has prepared the vineyard; we are simply called to reap and preserve what he has brought into being. And so we trust in the overwhelming mercy of God and humbly accept the love and communion that we do not deserve.

REFLECT

Just as the landowner sent messengers to the tenants of the vineyard, God sends people to us to proclaim the Gospel. Who are those people in your life who are calling you to a deeper relationship with God? How can you open your heart to hear the message of love and peace that they are proclaiming?